

Rockaway Township Report



65 Mt. Hope Road
Rockaway, NJ 07866
973-627-7200

www.rockawaytownship.org

Volume Five, Issue Two - Spring 2016

Inside This Issue

Mayor's Corner	1,4
The Hessians Are Coming!	2
Mayor's Special Recognition	2
Tax Collector's Update	2
Mining Monument	3
Engineering & Improvements	3
Rockaway: A Clean Community	3
New Officers for Rockaway Police	3
Protect Your Deck	4
Rockaway Roads: DPW Update	4
Zika Virus: What You Need to Know	5
Flag Hoisting at Ford-Faesch House	6
SOMETHING HERE	6
What's Happening	7
Primary Election Information	7
Free Seedlings for Residents	7
Spring Recycling News	8

Mayor's Corner: Budget Address



Every year our Township Council is required by law to adopt a Municipal Budget. The Mayor and administrative staff prepare recommendations in the form of a draft budget but the Council must ensure that the adopted budget satisfies the needs of the community.

Like prior years, where the focus has been on sustaining programs and services, the 2016 budget does just that, it maintains, and in a few areas, enhances current service levels. This year's budget reflects that continued effort and satisfies the operational objectives of each department while balancing the Council's goals of improving financial accountability and meeting the service demands of our residents and the infrastructure needs of our community.

The budget is divided into three categories including: Municipal Operations, Capital Improvement Program, and Utility. Municipal Operations and the Capital Improvement Program are supported by a variety of revenues. Revenue sources include current property taxes, state aid, and miscellaneous fees generated by municipal operations. The Utility is supported by billing users of the system and is self-funding.

The 2016 Municipal Budget including the capital improvement program totals \$40,268,576. The Township is within both State mandated appropriation and tax levy caps. Significant dollar increases are seen in debt service, accumulated sick and vacation, pension, snow removal, and insurance expenses. The increases in these five appropriations account for 96% of the total increase in the budget.

The Township has taken action over the past few years to limit tax increases while still preserving services in accordance with residents' expectations. These actions include reducing staffing levels, implementing a process of annual reassessment, limiting operating expenses, and modifying retirement health benefits for new hires. This trend has continued with the recent arbitration decision with the Township's Police Unions. The decision eliminated longevity, sick time payments, and retirement health benefits all for new hires.

Appropriations are the mechanism that allows local government to provide or deliver services to its residents. Significant dollar increases are seen health services of \$80,000 for gypsy moth suppression in the northern end of the Township and condominium reimbursement of \$44,000. Both the Morris County Joint Insurance Fund and the State Health Benefits Program have rate increases that must be funded as well.

Staffing costs cover approximately 60% of the total budget. Salary and wages in this budget total \$13.4 million. This

represents a decrease of 0.3% or \$42,252 under 2015 salary and wages. This is the result of collective negotiations with the White and Blue Collar Unions setting salary increases at 1.75% and an arbitration award with the Police Union setting salary increases at 1.8%. Other reductions in the budget include deferred charges of \$100,000 as the tax revaluation obligation has been satisfied and utilities of \$60,880 due to the recently low cost of oil.

In addition to these reductions, the Township has benefitted from changes in the health insurance law known as Chapter 78. The implementation of this law, passed by the State Legislature in 2011, increased the share of health benefit premiums paid by public employees. This change in the law results in health benefit cost savings to the Township of \$400,000 this year.

The Township continues to receive grants from the State and County government for infrastructure and other improvements including road resurfacing, preservation of the Faesch House, recycling, and clean communities. The Township has also strengthened its shared services with other local governments. These agreements include health services to the Town of Boonton and the shared municipal court arrangement with Mine Hill Township. These agreements generate revenue to the benefit of the local property tax payer.

(continued on page four)

The Hessians Are Coming!

You've learned in school that George Washington crossed the Delaware River to Trenton on Christmas Day 1776. His army surprised and captured about 1,000 Hessian soldiers hired by the British to help fight against the Colonies, and it was this success that led a demoralized Continental Army onto a path of victory.

So what happened to the Hessians? If you're a Rockaway Township resident, you might be surprised to learn that 35 of these Hessians left out of the history books and onto the iron ore producing lands of Mount Hope, Rockaway at the Ford-Faesch House.

At a time during the Revolutionary War when the Continental Congress could barely clothe, feed and shelter its own troops, a solution was devised to farm the Hessians out to Patriotic concerns as workers. One of the concerns was the Mount Hope Furnace, which was in need of workers to supply Washington's army with cannon, shot and hollowware.

For a time in 1777-1778 and again during 1782-1783, Hessians were sent up to Mount Hope. The latter group was primarily utilized to cut down trees and make charcoal for use in the Furnace. These Hessian prisoners of war were granted a wide berth of several miles in order to do their job, but if they were caught beyond the perimeter, they could be shot.



The Mount Hope Hessians worked for Faesch for 16 months. Overall, conditions at Mount Hope were far more preferable to the treatment at the army barracks in Philadelphia. Faesch provided better meals and housing. He paid the Hessians civilian wages and was even able to talk to them in their native German language.

There were two failed attempts by the Continental Army to incarcerate the Hessians due to an ill-advised proclamation. The first was quelled partly by the presence of Captain William Stevens, who was quartered at The Ford-Faesch House property and provided quality control of the ordnance being produced. *Captain Stevens can still be seen on-site occasionally during tours of the house.*

The saga of the Mount Hope Hessians continued, especially toward the end of the war, with escape attempts, a march to a jail in Rockaway village and a delicate negotiation between British, German and Continental forces for their release in what would undoubtedly be one of the first diplomatic agreements of our newly formed country.

This historic account, known as the "Hessian Session," will be re-enacted by the Historical Society of Rockaway Township for the public in October 2016 at the Ford-Faesch House. Please check the Rockaway Township website for updates.

From the Tax Collector

The 2016 second quarter property tax payments are due on May 1, with a 10 calendar day grace period. The last day to make payments without interest is May 10, 2016. To submit your payment online, please visit the Rockaway Township website at www.rockawaytownship.org

To receive email notifications and reminders from the Tax Collector's office, go to the Rockaway Township website, click on *Subscriptions* and register for the finance notifications. By subscribing, you will receive quarterly reminders of your property tax due dates and the annual sewer maintenance due date. You may also sign up to receive the Township's quarterly newsletter and other department updates. The 2015 Senior Freeze (Property Tax Reimbursement) filing deadline is June 1, 2016. If you need any assistance to determine eligibility or have any other questions, please call the State's hotline at 1-800-882-6597 or visit the State's website at www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/.

Mayor's Special Recognition

Mayor Dachisen would like to congratulate Lieutenant Robert Scherr who will be recognized by the Morris County Utilities Authority on May 20 for environmental excellence.

Mayor Dachisen congratulates Peter Tabbot, Rockaway Township Health Officer, for being recipient of the 2016 G. H. Cook (Rutgers University) Alumnus of the Year award, presented on May 1 in New Brunswick, NJ.

Mayor Dachisen would like to congratulate the Rockaway Township Technology/Website Committee, consisting of Bryan Coward, Lieutenant Rob Scherr, Erin Murray, Alison Stein, Amanda Smith and Pat Seger, for unveiling the new Rockaway Township website.



New Mining Monument

This spring, for his Eagle Scout project, Mike Nichols of Troop 113 completed a monument commemorating Rockaway Township's mining heritage at the municipal campus. The monument features an anvil mounted on a podium of railroad ties. This type of anvil was commonplace in blacksmith shops from the 1700s through the early 20th Century, and was used to shape wrought iron into tools and implements. Today, it symbolizes the strength and hard work of the craftsmen who forged our Township and our nation.

Mr. Joseph Melko of White Meadow Lake donated an authentic steel anvil for the project. Southard Salvage provided railroad ties for the monument pedestal and Joe Mason of Associated Artists donated the sign. Bryan Coward, Township Recreation Supervisor and Eagle Scout, himself, acted as mentor to Mr. Nichols as well as liaison to the Township for this project. The Rockaway Township Division of Recreation would like to congratulate and thank Eagle Scout candidate Mike Nichols of Troop 113.



Rockaway Township Historical Society member John Dunado, Mike Nichols, Mayor Michael Dachisen and Recreation Supervisor Bryan Coward (l to r) pictured with the new Township mining monument.

Rockaway: A Clean Community

Clean Up Day a Success

Rockaway Township held its Spring Clean Communities Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 16. The event drew 42 volunteers, who spent the morning cleaning picking up litter, recyclables and debris at Parks Lake, Copeland School, Stonybrook School and the athletic field behind Target. Clean Up Day was a great success, and the Township would like to thank participants for helping make a difference!

Environmental Excellence Award

Rockaway Township congratulates Lieutenant Rob Scherr, who will receive an award honoring environmental excellence from the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority during a brunch at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morris Township on May 20. Lieutenant Scherr is being recognized for the many litter cleanups he has conducted in Rockaway Township on his own time and of his own accord. Congratulations, Lieutenant Scherr!

Engineering & Improvements

Lake Denmark Road Improvements & Library Roof

Rockaway Township was awarded a NJDOT Grant in the amount of \$225,000 for the paving and repair of Lake Denmark Road Section Two. The project will continue with road improvements where Section One left off. This work will include minor drainage, full depth reclamation (FDR), paving, guiderail and striping. The work is scheduled to start this spring. In other news, roof rehabilitation and resurfacing at the Rockaway Township Library is out to bid, with construction anticipated to begin in the spring.

FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps

The Township is in receipt of revised preliminary FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM's) dated February 26, 2016. These maps are available for review by the public at the Municipal Building in the Engineering Department. FEMA maps flood hazard areas, including the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), which is the area that has a 1% greater chance of flooding in any given year.

In addition, FEMA has issued a Flood Hazard Mapping Status Report for Morris County, which the Township has made available at www.rockawaytownship.org. A 90-day appeal period will be initiated by FEMA through publication in a local newspaper. To view the Preliminary FIRM's online, go to <http://www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata>, or you may view paper copies of the preliminary FIRM's maps at the Municipal Building in the Engineering Department.

New Officers for Rockaway

The Rockaway Township Police Department would like to congratulate and welcome its new officers: P/O Kevin Shay, P/O Thomas Camel, P/O Greg Albert and P/O Nicholas Eresman. The Department would also like to congratulate Lieutenant Robert Scherr and Sergeant Jason Tozzi on their recent promotions.



Lieutenant Marie Romo receives an award from the St. Elizabeth Police Studies Institute for significant contributions to the NJ law enforcement community.

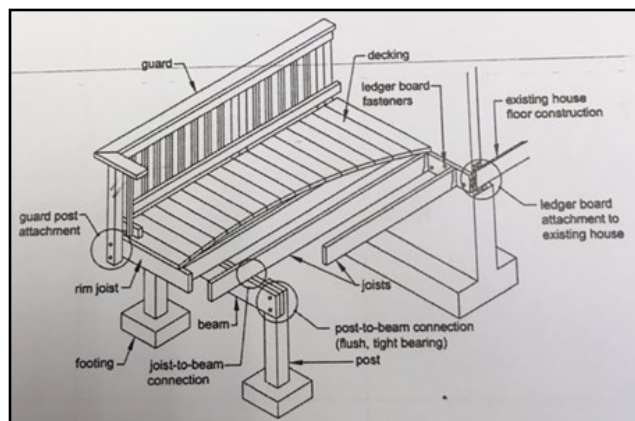
Scenes from the 2016 Easter Festival



Protect Your Deck

With spring here, we look forward to outdoor barbeques and parties on our decks. Please keep in mind that the average life of a typical wood-framed deck is between 25 and 35 years, depending on sun exposure. Here are a few things to look for to help keep your deck safe each year:

- Ledger board bolted to house – The ledger board is the most common area of failure on a deck. There have been many advancements in fastener technology for ledger boards.
- Bolts should be checked for tightness.
- Additional bolts may be added.
- Rusty bolts should be replaced.
- Deck rails, graspable rails and guard rails should be checked for splinters and guards, or spindles should be secure.
- Girder and joist Inspections – Often girders, beams and joists twist, cup and crack due to loss of moisture and natural aging.
- Deck boards splintering.
- Check with your local contractor to schedule a thorough inspection.



Mayor's Corner

(continued from page one)

The Township has been dealing with substantial commercial tax appeals for more than a decade. The adoption of the 2016 municipal budget continues an alternative approach to combat these crushing tax appeals by implementing a process of annual reassessment. It is also significant to note the Township has realized an increase in its total assessed value of \$23.5 million due to improving market conditions and new ratable growth.

The 2016 municipal budget calls for a rate increase of one and one half cents. Despite the cost saving measures mentioned here, the decision to increase taxes is carefully considered in context of the Township's long term fiscal health; especially in times of slow economic growth. The change in the municipal tax rate represents a \$46.71 municipal tax increase for a home assessed at \$300,000.

This year's budget maintains a prudent level of surplus in order to avoid potential spikes in future tax rates. The 2016 municipal budget, as presented, limits impacts to current service levels in a difficult operating environment. These services are being provided as best as can be in accordance with residents' expectations and contribute to the quality of life for all taxpayers in Rockaway Township.

In closing, I first want to thank the Administration and Finance Departments for their persistent effort at working on common goals, especially during these times. It does not go unnoticed or underappreciated. While it is a group effort that brings this document together, no one has dedicated more time or energy to its creation than Greg Poff and Lisa Palmieri.

Finally, to the Council, as individuals, you do not take the responsibility of being good fiscal guardians lightly. Your concern for the details and constructive guidance help validate this budget. As a group, you employ incredible leadership and a true sense of teamwork as we navigated through challenging issues to finalize our 2016 spending plan. Thank you for setting the example and having confidence in me and the Administration's ability to do the best for the Rockaway Township community and all its residents.

News from Public Works

Spring Has Sprung!

With the melting of snow and the onset of spring, you may notice some minor damage created as a result of snow plowing. If you notice that your asphalt berm has been damaged, please contact the Rockaway Township Public Works Department and leave your name and address and extent of the damage. A Supervisor will assess the damage, and your property will be placed on a list to be repaired as soon as weather and material permit.

Street Sweeping

Rockaway Township is pleased to announce the purchase of a new street sweeper. Every road in the Township will be swept one or more times, as necessary, over the course of the spring, summer and fall. Roads are swept systematically section by section, generally starting with areas surrounding bodies of

water to prevent run off into our waterways and natural resources. Please be assured your road will be swept. Unfortunately, with a Township this size, there is no way to effectively notify residents regarding a sweeping schedule. If your property permits, please park vehicles off road to allow the road to be swept in its entirety.

Dangerous Road Conditions

As a resident, you are the eyes and ears of our community. Should you see a dangerous road condition such as a pothole, collapsing storm drain, downed street sign or tree/limb in the road, please contact the Rockaway Township Public Works Department at 973-983-2891, or call the Police after 3:30pm and on the weekends at 973-625-4000 to report these issues. The Public Works Department sincerely appreciates your notifications, which help facilitate safer roads.

Zika Virus - What You Need to Know

Zika virus disease (Zika) is a disease caused by the Zika virus, which is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito. The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito. People usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital, and they very rarely die of Zika. For this reason, many people might not realize they have been infected. However, Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly, as well as other severe fetal brain defects. Once a person has been infected, he or she is likely to be protected from future infections.

Zika virus was first discovered in 1947 and is named after the Zika Forest in Uganda. In 1952, the first human cases of Zika were detected and since then, outbreaks of Zika have been reported in tropical Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands. It is believed that Zika outbreaks have probably occurred in many locations. Before 2007, at least 14 cases of Zika had been documented, although other cases were likely to have occurred and were not reported. Because the symptoms of Zika are similar to those of many other diseases, many cases may not have been recognized.

In May 2015, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) issued an alert regarding the first confirmed Zika virus infection in Brazil. On February 1, 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Zika virus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Local transmission has been reported in many other countries and territories. Zika virus will likely continue to spread to new areas. Specific areas where Zika virus is spreading are often difficult to determine and are likely to change over time. Residents with international travel plans are encouraged to visit www.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information for the most updated travel information.

Outbreaks of Zika virus are occurring in a number of countries and territories, and because the mosquitoes that spread Zika are found throughout the world, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises that it is likely that outbreaks will spread to new countries. On Feb. 1, 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern because of clusters of microcephaly and other neurological disorders in some areas affected by Zika. To date, Zika has not been spread by mosquitoes in the continental United States. However, lab tests have confirmed Zika virus in travelers returning to the United States and in some non-travelers who got Zika through sex with a traveler. Additionally, local transmission of Zika has been reported in US territories, including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

As of April 20, 2016, 388 travel-related cases of Zika virus have been reported in the United States. Eight of these cases were among New Jersey residents. It is very important to point out, however, that *no* cases of Zika virus among United States residents were locally acquired.

The CDC is the lead United States agency for Zika planning and response, and the CDC's Emergency Operations Center is activated at its highest level to respond to the Zika outbreak. CDC is working closely with public health partners, state health departments and local health agencies to alert healthcare providers and the public about Zika. Activities include posting of travel notices and other travel-related guidance; provision of diagnostic tests to state health laboratories; Zika case monitoring and reporting; guidelines to inform testing and treatment of people; research into effects of the disease; and working with partners around the world to develop a better understanding of Zika virus. Local mosquito control personnel are also working hard with surveillance activities. Please call the Division of Health at 973-983-2848 with any questions about Zika virus.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP
PRESENTS



Mining Museum-Phase I ***Grand Opening*** & Well House Dedication



at the Ford-Faesch Ironmaster's House
629 Mount Hope Road, Rockaway Twp.

GPS Coordinates: 40.9290° N, 74.5428° W

Saturday, May 7, 2016 1pm - 4pm

- Attend the **Grand Opening** of our new Mining Museum Room featuring artifacts, pictures & displays covering 300+ years of Rockaway Township mining.
- Join the celebration of the newly constructed well house by Scout Chaz Mizelle as part of his Eagle Scout Project.
- Be a part of our "Share Your Rockaway Township Memories" Project- the first step in our future oral history initiative. We all have stories to tell!
- Self-Guided Tours, Displays, Gift Shop, More!

FOR MORE INFORMATION & UPDATES:
rockawayhistory@verizon.net



Parking at Tilcon Parking Lot

Certified lifeguards are needed at Mt. Hope Pond for the 2016 season!
If you are interested, please contact Community Services at 973-983-2841

Second quarter taxes are due on May 1, with a 10 day interest free period
Please submit your tax payment online at Rockaway Township's website

Flag Hoisting at Ford-Faesch Ironmaster's House

On Sunday, February 14, the Rockaway Township Historical Society, American Legion Post 344, and The Boy Scouts of America held the 201st Anniversary Flag Hoisting at the Ford-Faesch Ironmaster's house.

The event commemorated the end of the War of 1812. The War of 1812 ended on February 18, 1815 and the event re-enacted the ceremonial flag hoisting which inspired Francis Scott Key to write the poem, "The Star Spangled Banner."



What's Happening

APRIL

- 30th Free rabies clinic
Rockaway Township Public Works Garage
9:00am - 11:00am

MAY

- 1st Summer playground registration opens
Rockaway Township residents only
Online registration through Community Pass
www.register.communitypass.net/rockaway
- 2nd Mount Hope Pond registration opens
Rockaway Township residents only
Online registration through Community Pass
- 7th Tree giveaway
McVeigh Recycling Center
65 Mount Hope Road
9:00am - 12:00pm
- 7th Well house dedication & miners museum grand opening
Ford Faesch House
629 Mount Hope Road
1:00pm - 4:00pm
- 11th Blood pressure screening
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
11:00am - 11:30am
- 26th Skin cancer screening*
Rockaway Township Health Clinic
419 Green Pond Road
6:00pm - 8:00pm
- 28th Opening day at Mount Hope Pond
Hours TBD
- 30th Memorial Day parade
Edith Drive & Fleetwood Drive
Check www.rockawaytownship.org for details
11:30am

JUNE

- 1st Health Education: Osteoarthritis vs. Rheumatoid Arthritis*
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
6:30pm - 7:45pm
- 8th Blood pressure screening
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
11:00am - 11:30am

JULY - AUGUST

- 3rd Summer Concert Series Begins
Park Lake Gazebo, Mt. Hope Road
Every Sunday through August 28, 3:00pm - 5:00pm
Rain location: Rockaway Townsquare Mall

* Pre-registration required for some Township events. Please call the appropriate department for information.

Primary Election Information

As everyone knows who owns a television, listens to the radio, reads the newspapers or simply logs onto their computer, we will be electing a new President in 2016. In order to vote, you must be registered. Eligibility requirements are: You must be a citizen of the United States; you must be a Morris County resident 30 days before the election; you must be 18 years of age on or before the next election; and you may not register if you are incarcerated, on parole or on probation. The last day to register to vote in this year's Primary Election is May 17, 2016.

When you register, you do not have to declare a party affiliation. However, you may declare a party affiliation at that time if you desire. If you have not declared a party prior to Primary Election day, you may vote but you must complete a Political Party Affiliation Declaration Form at your polling place on the day of the Primary Election. This declaration must be made before you will be permitted to vote. However, if you have declared your party affiliation in the past and desire to change it, this must be submitted to the Board of Elections at least 55 days before the Primary Election.

Primary Election nominates a candidate for a particular party for the General Election. You cannot cross party lines in the Primary Election – once you change parties, you will be affiliated with the new party. The General Election is the only time you can cross party lines. If you desire to return to "Unaffiliated" status, you must complete a Political Party Affiliation Declaration form. This may be confusing and residents are encouraged to contact the Township Clerk's office at 973-983-2834 or the Morris County Board of Elections at 973-285-6715 with any questions. Don't miss the opportunity to vote!



Primary Election Day is June 7, 2016, and polls are open from 6:00am until 8:00pm. Voting locations are listed on the face of your Sample Ballot. You may also check it online at www.morriselections.org.

Free Seedling Program

On Saturday, May 7, Rockaway Township will be making seedling trees available to residents free of charge (limit 5 per resident). The trees will be available for pick up between the hours of 9am and 12pm at the McVeigh Recycling Center. Please make sure you have the ability to plant the trees within several days of their distribution. The NJ Tree Recovery Campaign is designed to assist municipalities and residents by continuing to plant new trees in areas that were impacted by Superstorm Sandy. And other storm events. If you have questions about the seedling program, please contact the Department of Community Services.

Update from Rockaway Township Recycling

**The Rockaway
Gazebo
Committee
presents its
Summer Concert
Series at Park
Lake every
Sunday from
July 3 - August 28,
from 3pm - 5pm.
See our website
for more details!**

**Come to the well
house dedication
& grand opening
of the Mining
Museum at the
Ford-Faesch
Ironmaster's
House, 629
Mount Hope
Road, from
1pm - 4pm
on May 7!!**

Recycling News

We are a few months into the new recycling collection schedule. Many of the route collection days have changed and nearly all of the letter designations have changed (Routes A-F). If you haven't already, please go to www.rockawaytownship.org/189/Recycle, click on the *My Schedule* tab and input your home address. Here, you can view or print your personalized collection calendar and sign up for important alerts and reminders with Rockaway Township's *ReCollect App*. Not sure how to dispose of something? Click the tab for *Waste Wizard* and enter the material you are looking to dispose of. Click on the *Facilities* tab for information about our locations and hours of operation. For additional information, click on the *Print Flyers* tab to learn about single stream recycling, hazardous household waste drop off events and Rockaway Township's bulk clean-up and vegetative waste collections.

Single Stream Recycling

Curbside collection of recycling is 'single stream' or 'no sort.' This means you may put cans, bottles, newspapers and cardboard out together. For large amounts of cardboard, you may also break down smaller boxes and place in one large box (three max). Recycling may be placed in tote-style cans (preferred) filled to capacity or in regular garbage cans loaded no heavier than 50 pounds each. Please label all recycling cans (stickers available at Municipal Building free of charge). With various collections of garbage, recycling and vegetative waste picked up on the same day in some cases, it is very important to label your cans to ensure proper collection. All the crews collecting these various materials appreciate your cooperation in this matter. *Please note that recycling brought to our depots is not single stream and must be separated into commingled (cans and bottles), cardboard and newspaper.*

Leaf and Brush Collection will resume April to December weekly. Please visit the aforementioned website and input your address for a collection schedule. Leaves must be in either brown biodegradable bags or cans labeled *vegetative waste* (stickers available at the Municipal Building free of charge), and brush must be tied and bundled, no heavier than 50 pounds per bundle and cut no longer than four feet (branches max 6" diameter).

Grass Collection will resume April to October weekly. Check the aforementioned schedule for collection day and place at curb by 6:00am of designated day. Grass must be in either brown biodegradable bags or cans with a lid labeled *grass or vegetative waste*. Cans *must* be labeled. Cans may be no heavier than 50 pounds each, with three cans maximum.

Bulk Collection/Clean Up Week

Once per month, residents may put out bulky items that would not generally be placed at the curb with your regular household garbage. Items may include, but are not limited to: mattresses, box springs, couches, toilets, hot water heaters, dressers, end tables, etc. The collection is intended for disposing of a few pieces per month, *not* for emptying a house when moving.

There is a limit to the amount that may be placed curbside – generally 150 pounds per collection. Items must fit into the hopper of a garbage truck and must be able to be crushed. Items that are *not* acceptable include televisions, automotive parts, paint and building materials (hazardous household materials, sheet rock, spackle, tile, etc.). If you have a question regarding the suitability of items for bulk collection, either check the *Waste Wizard* or call 973-983-2891. There is no additional fee for this – it is a service included in your taxes. Bulk collection is contracted to Waste Management in 2016 and is picked up according to collection schedule. Please see the link above to check your collection day(s).

Inclement Weather/Holiday Collection

Should recycling collection be canceled due to inclement weather, your recycling will be collected the next scheduled pick up day. We will post cancellations of recycling pick up via the *ReCollect App* notifications system (see link above), on the Rockaway Township Facebook page, and through the Township website. *There is generally no make-up day* when a route is canceled due to inclement weather (exceptions may apply per the discretion of Rockaway Township Recycling). However, if your collection day falls on a holiday, there is *always a make-up day* – please refer to the 2016 Recycling calendar to see collection dates (see above to learn how to get your personalized collection calendar).

Grass – Cut it and Leave it

Grass clippings are a major part of New Jersey's municipal solid waste stream, and as with other highly recyclable materials such as aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, paper and certain plastic bottles, the recycling of grass clippings helps reduce the amount of waste being collected for disposal. As a New Jersey resident, you are already reducing the amount of landfilled waste by recycling a variety of materials. You can easily recycle the clippings generated each time you mow your lawn, and save time and money by doing so. Doing your part is simple – just leave the clippings on the lawn when you mow. Grass clippings provide a natural and healthy fertilizer for a growing lawn. For more information, see the *Recycling* section of the Township website.