

# Rockaway Township Report



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[www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org)

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## Mayor's Corner



I am honored to serve as Mayor for Rockaway Township. I have the privilege of working with motivated professionals who truly care for this beautiful town and for the residents who live and work here. As such, I was thrilled to announce a 0% tax rate increase this year. It is my duty to make sure your quality of living is the best that it can possibly be, and I will continue to be an advocate for each and every one of you.

I wish to congratulate all the Rockaway Township students who have graduated. Whether you are off to Morris Hills or Morris Knolls High School or college in the fall, I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer with your family and friends. There are many exciting events and projects going on within the Township this time of year, and I trust you find this issue of the Township newsletter helpful and informative.

I'm so pleased that we have been able to operate in a fiscally responsible way while continuing to make improvements in infrastructure. It is our responsibility to ensure the

safety of our residents. We are undertaking improvements to the Senior Center parking lot, including drainage, milling and paving, and we will be providing similar improvements to sections of Daniel Street and Richard Mine Road. Better still, the cost of these projects has largely been defrayed by grants from Morris County and the NJ Department of Transportation. We look forward to the completion of additional projects - some in progress and others forthcoming - that will benefit residents. These projects include:

- Handicap sidewalk ramp improvements
- New recreation field fencing
- New concession stand at Peterson Field
- Health Center renovation
- Richard Mine Road drainage improvements

- Township-owned dam improvements
- Municipal complex parking lot improvements
- Annual catch basin cleaning and repairs

It is of utmost importance to me that we also maintain the wonderful amenities Rockaway Township has to offer - please be sure to utilize the Township's plentiful natural resources this summer! I take great pride in the maintenance of our parks and lakes, so please visit Mount Hope Pond if you are looking to cool off on a hot day, or visit Parks Lake for a scenic walk. I urge you to take advantage of our recreation programs to ensure your children enjoy a healthy, active summer.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Rockaway Township Report*. Please remember to like us on Facebook and visit [www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org) for Township news and events.



The Relay for Life plaque, presented by organization co-chair Karen DeChristopher, is accepted by Council Vice President Dr. Alexander Gellman and Business Administrator Adam Brewer on behalf of Mayor Michael Dachisen.

## Public Works & Recycling *(continued from page six)*

**Bulk curbside pick-up is for a maximum of 150 pounds of household items, and not for moving purposes. Check the Waste Wizard or call 973-983-2891 to see which items are acceptable for bulk pickup, and check the ReCollect app to confirm your collection days.**

**Is there something you would like to see in this newsletter or other Rockaway Township communications? Do you have tips for helpful information or improved content? Please email [rockadm@rockawaytownship.org](mailto:rockadm@rockawaytownship.org) with your suggestions!**

There is *no make-up day* for yard waste collection.

Rockaway Township's McVeigh Recycling Center, located at 63 Mt. Hope Road, accepts leaves, as well as brush up to four inches in diameter. No grass is accepted. *No landscapers are permitted to use the recycling drop-off for brush, grass or leaves.*

### Paint

Rockaway Township recycling does not accept paint, stain, sealer or solvents. Latex paints may be disposed of with normal household garbage, but *only in the following manner:* Sand or kitty litter should be placed in the paint can, and the can should air dry with the lid removed until it is solid. It may then be disposed of. All other listed items must be taken to the Mt. Olive Transfer Station, located at 168 Gold Mine Road, Flanders. Call 973-347-8106 to make an appointment.

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 – please consider obtaining a bagster or dumpster if you are cleaning out a house, as the bulk program does not cover that amount of debris.

There is a limit to the amount that may be placed curbside – 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.). Lumber may be accepted if cut to four foot lengths and taped/tied into bundles, and if the bundles are no heavier than 50 pounds each (not to exceed 150 pounds per collection).

If you have a question regarding the suitability of items for bulk collection, either check the Waste Wizard at [www.rockawaytownship.org/189](http://www.rockawaytownship.org/189) 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 2017 and is picked up according to collection schedule. Please see the link above to check your collection day(s).

For items not accepted by bulk collection, please contact the Morris County MUA Transfer Station at 973-347-8106.

## Mayor's Special Recognition

Mayor Michael Dachisen is pleased to welcome the following new employees to Rockaway Township:

- Adam W. Brewer, Business Administrator
- Gary Kristoffersen, Construction Official
- Allison Ferrante, Principal Engineer
- Marcy Gianattasio, Deputy Municipal Clerk
- Jonathan Kazer, Sewer Repairer/Water Repairer
- Meredith McGee, Police Records Technician
- Bryan Petitt, Public Safety Telecommunicator

Mayor Dachisen wishes to acknowledge the Engineering and Community Services Departments for their work in planning and managing the resurfacing of the Senior Center parking lot. This work was made possible by a \$68,850 Community Development Block Grant, which Rockaway Township staff was successful in applying for. In addition, Mayor Dachisen wishes to acknowledge all staff who helped in the completion of the Peterson Field



Mayor Michael Dachisen, Director of Community Services Joe Fiorilla and members of the Rockaway Township Historical Society celebrate the west wing groundbreaking at the Ford-Faesch House on May 6.

Concession Stand renovation. The stand is open, receiving high volume use and getting rave reviews.

Finally, the Mayor wishes to acknowledge staff and volunteers who are hard at work planning the 2017 Senior Citizen Resident Picnic, scheduled for September 6 at the Craigmear Recreation Complex.



## What's Happening

### GAZEBO CONCERT SERIES

Rockaway Township residents are reminded to come out and enjoy the Annual Summer Concert Series, held every Sunday afternoon from 3:00pm - 5:00pm at the Parks Lake Gazebo on Mt. Hope Road. *In the event of inclement weather, the concerts will be held at the Rockaway Townsquare Mall (Macy's Lower Level). In the event of rain, please call the Recreation Hotline at 973-983-2853 to confirm location.*

### JULY

- 2 Soul Groove - Pop, R&B and Soul
- 9 Thunder Hill - Country
- 16 Jersey Sound - Oldies
- 23 Cameos - Oldies
- 30 Reeds, Rhythm and All That Brass - Big Band

### AUGUST

- 6 Due South - New Country
- 13 Desire - Oldies
- 20 Rave On - Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison and Other Legends
- 27 Cameos - Back by Popular Demand

### UPCOMING TOWNSHIP PROGRAMS

#### JULY

- 6 Blood pressure screening  
Rockaway Township Municipal Building  
11:00am - 11:30am
- 27 Rutgers Safety Course  
Rockaway Township Municipal Building  
Visit [www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org) for more information  
6:00pm - 9:15pm

#### AUGUST

- 17 Blood pressure screening  
Rockaway Township Municipal Building  
11:00am - 11:30am

#### SEPTEMBER

- 6 Senior Citizen Resident Picnic  
Craigmeur Recreation Complex  
10:00am - 2:00pm
- 20 Blood pressure screening  
Rockaway Township Municipal Building  
11:00am - 11:30am
- 15 Blood chemistry screening  
Lipid profile, CBC w/differential and CHEM23  
Rockaway Township Health Center, 419 Green Pond Road  
9:00am - 10:30am

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

## Tax Collector's Update

2017 property tax bills are scheduled to be mailed in July this year, and third quarter tax payments are due August 1. To receive updates and/or to submit your payment online, visit [www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org).

The 2016 Senior Freeze (property tax reimbursement) filing deadline is October 18, 2017, unless the date is extended by the State. If you need assistance in determining eligibility and/or to check status on filed applications, call the State's hotline at 1-800-882-6597.

If you need Homestead Credit assistance, please call the State's hotline at 1-888-238-1233.



## Breakfast with the Stars!

Township Administrator Adam Brewer and Community Services Director Joe Fiorilla honored legendary high school basketball coach Bob Hurley with the Mayor's Iron Spirit Award at the Rockaway Township Substance Abuse Alliance's Annual *Breakfast with the Stars* on June 1. The event, which is held at Copeland Middle School, is designed to bring former professional athletes, media personalities, musicians and others into the classroom to speak about positive choices.



## How Safe is Your Pool or Spa?

The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends that residential pool and spa owners adopt water safety steps to prevent children from accessing the water when there is no adult supervision, and that they are appropriately protected when an adult is available to supervise. By asking and answering these critical questions, you can gauge the effectiveness of your water safety measures and determine what steps must be taken to protect children from drowning and submersion injuries:

- Is there fence around the perimeter of your pool or spa?
- Are there self-closing and self-latching gates?
- Are door, gate or pool alarms in use?
- Does your pool have anti-entrapment drain covers that are compliant with the Pool and Spa Safety Act?
- Are all pool and spa covers in working order?
- Has the public pool or spa you use been inspected to ensure it is compliant with federal, state and local laws?
- Has someone in the family received training in CPR, first aid and emergency response? Has everyone learned to swim?
- Do you have basic lifesaving equipment on your pool deck?

For more pool safety tips, go to: [www.poolsafely.gov/parents-families/residential-pool-spa-owners/how-safe/#sthash.cENTfnudpuf](http://www.poolsafely.gov/parents-families/residential-pool-spa-owners/how-safe/#sthash.cENTfnudpuf)

## Mayor Dachisen Invites You...

All Rockaway Township senior residents are invited to our **Annual Senior Picnic**, scheduled from 10:00pm - 2:00pm on Wednesday, September 6 at the Craigmear Recreation Complex. Delicious food, music, door prizes and good fellowship will be offered to the Township's senior residents. Representatives from municipal departments, health agencies and area organizations will be present to meet with residents and to disseminate information regarding their services.

The Annual Senior Picnic is open to all Rockaway Township senior residents, and proof of residency will be required at the gate. No pets or children will be allowed in the park at this event. For additional information, please contact the Office of the Mayor at 973-983-2800. We look forward to seeing you there!



Rockaway Township employees serve food at the 2015 senior picnic.

**Remember to attend the Annual Summer Concert Series, held at the Parks Lake Gazebo every Sunday from 3:00pm - 5:00pm through August 27! Details may be found on page two of the Rockaway Report!**

## Opening Day is a Blast!

Children and adults alike enjoyed a special treat when members of the Army at Picatinny Arsenal provided a Howitzer salute to open the 2017 fishing season at Mt. Hope Pond. The program was organized by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of Rockaway Township and included many fun activities like face painting and campfire cooking, in addition to the traditional opening day fishing contest. The weather cooperated and the turnout was great. Those who attended had a wonderful time.



## Senior Lot Improvements

Rockaway Township awarded a construction contract for improvements to the Robert A. Galdon Senior Citizen Building parking lot. The project is largely being funded by a Morris County Community Development Block Grant, which municipal officials successfully applied for. Construction recently started on the project, and all work is anticipated to be completed by July 2017. The improvements include curbing, drainage, handicap sidewalk ramp, milling and paving.



## Open for Business: Peterson Field Concession Ready to Serve



Late spring snows caused the annual baseball/softball parade to be cancelled, and also delayed the construction and completion of the new concession stand addition at Peterson Field – but the recreation programs were able to use the remodeled facility in time for Memorial Day. The official ribbon cutting ceremony was also cancelled due to rain, but that didn't dampen the spirits of those who have been enjoying the attractive new facility.

The construction phase of this project, which began last November, is now complete, and the concession has already been utilized numerous times by several Township booster clubs. So far, the reviews are overwhelmingly positive. One special adjunct to this project was the involvement of Morris Knolls High School students during construction. The Township invited students from the school's Introduction to

Technology, Engineering and Design Class, who conducted a site visit with Mayor Michael Dachisen during construction, and also were provided a presentation regarding the scope of the work at the Township Municipal Building.

Township officials wish to thank Mayor Dachisen and the Township Council for their support of this project, as well as the Stakeholder Committee and Keith Hollings for developing the scope of the project. Additional recognition goes to Bill Lloyd and Kyle Hanson from El Associates, and Township staff members Joe Fiorilla, James Lutz, John Drew, Bryan Coward, Greg Poff, Valerie Schreck, Mel Streeter and the entire Construction staff for their daily attention to this project. Best wishes to all Township programs, players and spectators in using the new concession building!



## Barbecuing: Safe Grilling in the Summer

Now that the sun is shining brightly and we are firing up our barbecues on a routine basis, it's important to follow food safety guidelines to prevent harmful bacteria from multiplying and causing foodborne illness. Use these simple guidelines for grilling food safely!

### Defrost Safely

Completely defrost meat and poultry before grilling so it cooks more evenly. Use the refrigerator for slow, safe thawing or thaw sealed packages in cold water. You can microwave defrost if the food

will be placed immediately on the grill.

### Marinating

Meat and poultry can be marinated for several hours or days to tenderize or add flavor, but food should be marinated in the refrigerator, not on the counter. If some of the marinade is to be used as a sauce on the cooked food, reserve that portion of the marinade before putting raw meat and poultry in it.

### Cook Thoroughly

Cook food thoroughly to destroy harmful bacteria. Meat and poultry cooked on a grill

often browns very fast on the outside. Use a food thermometer to be sure the food has reached a safe internal temperature. Never partially grill meat or poultry and finish cooking later. Please adhere to the following minimum internal temperatures when cooking: Whole poultry - 165°F; Hamburgers - 155°F; Ground poultry - 165°F; Beef, veal & lamb steaks - 145°F; Roasts & chops - 145°F; Pork - 145°F.

For more information on safe summer food handling, contact the Division of Health at 973-983-2848.



**Cook ground beef to an internal temperature of 155°F to kill harmful bacteria like E. coli**

## Public Works & Recycling

### Public Works News

#### Scheduled Resurfacing

The Department of Public Works wishes to advise residents that the following streets are scheduled for paving.

- Archer Drive
- Charlottesville Road (base, overlay, chipseal)
- Hallvard Terrace
- Henderson Road
- Iroquois Ave.
- Irwin Place
- Lee Ave.
- Marilyn Place
- Oslo Drive
- Richards Ave.
- Robin Street (all - 2016 paving carry over)
- Seneca Ave.
- Snake Hill Road (Green Pond Road to bridge)
- Torden Place
- Upper Mountain Ave.(Omaha to White Meadow Road)
- White Birch Trail
- White Meadow Firehouse

#### 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.

#### Berm Repair

You may have noticed some minor damage created as a result of snow plowing this past winter. If you see damage to the asphalt berm in front of your property, please contact the Rockaway Township Department of Public Works, and leave your name and address and the extent of 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.

#### Recycling News

##### Receptacles to be Labeled

Residents occasionally call to report that their receptacles have not been collected. It is imperative that residents label their receptacles, identifying the commodity that is in it. Rockaway Township makes 'YARD WASTE' and 'RECYCLING' stickers available to residents at the Municipal Building. If you are unable to pick these stickers up, please call 973-983-2891, leave your name and address, and stickers will be mailed to you.

The drivers who collect recycling, yard waste and trash sincerely appreciate the labeling of waste

receptacles, as it eliminates the need for collectors to stop at every single receptacle, only to find that it doesn't contain the material they are collecting. In turn, it ensures proper collection for you.

#### Calendars

Collection schedules are available for recycling (Routes A-F), yard waste and bulk collections. If you haven't already done, so please visit [www.rockawaytownship.org/189/Recycle](http://www.rockawaytownship.org/189/Recycle) and 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 the Township's bulk clean-up and vegetative waste collections.

#### Single Stream Recycling

Curbside collection of recyclables is 'single stream' or 'no sort.' This means you may put cans, bottles, newspapers and cardboard out for collection together. For large amounts of cardboard, you may also break down smaller boxes and place them in one large box (three maximum).

Recyclables may be placed at the curb in tote-style containers (preferred) filled to capacity, or in regular garbage receptacles no heavier than 50 pounds each. No plastic bags or garbage may be mixed in with the single stream recyclables, and receptacles with plastic bags *will be rejected*. Please note that our recycling centers are *not* single stream, and recyclables must be separated into commingled (cans and bottles), cardboard and newspaper.

#### Grass, Leaf & Brush Collection

Brush and leaves are collected curbside weekly April through December. Please visit [www.rockawaytownship.org/189/Recycle](http://www.rockawaytownship.org/189/Recycle) and input your address for a collection schedule. Leaves must be in either brown biodegradable bags or cans labeled Yard Waste (stickers available at the Municipal Building free of charge), *no heavier than 50 pounds per can or bag*. Brush must be no more than six inches in diameter, and tied and bundled in manageable four foot lengths weighing no more than 50 pounds each.

Dirt, rocks, mulch, stumps, plastic bags and garbage are not accepted with yard waste. If your yard waste collection day falls on a holiday, your materials will be picked up the following week.

*(continued on page four)*

**Never miss your recycling or bulk collection day again! Visit the Township website to confirm your waste collection day. You may also sign up for weekly reminders, print a personalized calendar or download dates into your personal electronic calendar. You may now also download our recycling app onto your smartphone!**

