

Rockaway Township Report



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Mayor's Corner



The change of seasons to Autumn means something different for each of us. For some, it is the excitement of a new school year, a new football season or enjoying the beauty of nature. For my fellow residents of Rockaway Township, it marks not only the end of a season, but the end of an era.

We lost a great father, husband, grandfather, friend, neighbor, leader and Mayor with the

passing of Michael Dachisen. For decades, Mike served our community as Councilman, Council President and Mayor. He did more than serve the community in town hall – he served the people in their lives. I have heard stories from so many residents of how Mike took the time to listen to their needs, and to go above and beyond to help. He empathized with and truly cared about every one of them. During recent trying times, our municipal staff always knew “Mayor Mike” was there to support them. And, in some cases, to protect them.

I believe a man's life is judged by the impact and legacy they leave behind. I see Mike's legacy as one that fostered the spirit of community – a community which has become galvanized and strengthened in its common goal.

I see a town coming together as not seen in many years, which is what Mayor Dachisen wanted. As the Greek statesman Pericles said, “What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”

As Mayor until our public election is held on November 6, I intend to maintain the order of business for our town, and to do all I can to provide a smooth transition for our newly elected Mayor. As I do in my fulltime job, I will try to provide leadership through careful consideration of acceptable practices, law and common sense. I am available any evening after 6:00pm by phone, social media or email. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Mayor Adam Salberg

Halloween: Trick or Treat Safely

The Rockaway Township Police Department would like our residents to enjoy the many fun and exciting fall activities the season brings. With Halloween here, we would like to remind our residents to please be safe when trick or treating.

S - Swords, knives and similar costume accessories should be short, soft and flexible.

A - Avoid trick-or-treating alone – walk in groups or with a trusted adult.

F - Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.

E - Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.

H - Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and to help others see you. Always walk and don't run from house to house.

A - Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.

L - Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.

L - Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.

O - Only walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic, to stay safe.

W - Wear well-fitting masks, costumes and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips and falls.

E - Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.

E - Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Don't stop at dark houses and never accept rides from strangers.

N - Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.



Rockaway Township Police Department Honor Guard members attending a special dedication and unveiling of the Memorial Star.

Knock Out Opioid Abuse

As many residents know, New Jersey and the nation are in the throes of an opioid epidemic. In fact, an estimated 178 individuals die each day in the United States from opioid-related overdoses, and sadly, New Jersey is on pace to have more than 3,000 drug overdose deaths in 2018.

To combat this epidemic, October 6 was named Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day in New Jersey a number of years ago. Through this statewide initiative, volunteers spread the message about the potential for dependency on prescribed pain medicine and its link to heroin use in the United States. Awareness efforts are geared toward both prescribers and the public.

In an effort to educate residents and health practitioners, the Township's Public Health Nurses furnished the public and prescribers with helpful information to combat the opioid epidemic, including the following initiatives:

- Door hangers bringing attention to the risk and data related to opioid prescription and abuse were aimed at male youth athletes, who suffer a higher risk of prescription and abuse.
- Healthcare practitioners were provided information on safe prescribing practices, including door hangers describing the link between prescribed pain medications and heroin abuse in New Jersey's communities.
- Faith-based organizations received talking points for consideration in their respective sermons, and also were provided with informative door hangers to place in their organization's bulletins.
- Residents were reminded to utilize the community's Prescription Drop Box to safely dispose of prescription

medications. Rockaway Township residents may dispose of medications at the Township Police Department's Prescription Drug Drop Box, located at the Police Department, 65 Mount Hope Road, Rockaway.

Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day is a project of the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey in cooperation with the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse; the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Addiction Services; and the Community Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Morris, with help from thousands of volunteers across the state. Residents interested in volunteering to bring awareness to opioid addiction may sign up at www.drugfreenj.org/knockoutvolunteers.



About 180 individuals - around as many as pictured here - die each year in the United States from opioid-related overdoses.

CALLING ALL GHOULS...

ANNUAL COSTUME CONTEST & TRUNK OR TREAT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31 - 6PM-8PM

PETERSON FIELD, FLEETWOOD DRIVE

HAUNTED HOTLINE 973-983-2853

VEHICLES MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED AT REGISTER.COMMUNITYPASS.NET/ROCKAWAY



CHECK WWW.ROCKAWAYTOWNSHIP.ORG FOR MORE INFO!

Stay Warm Safely

The Construction Department wishes to keep residents safe. With the heating season just around the corner, it is recommended that you check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Also, it may be time to change your furnace filters and have your chimney inspected and/or cleaned.

If you are planning to install a pellet stove or wood burning stove to heat your home this winter, or perhaps are considering a standby or portable generator to have on hand in the event of an emergency, please contact the Construction Department regarding any permit requirements that may be applicable.

Please note that all home improvement contractors must be registered with the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs. Visit the Division of Consumer Affairs at www.njconsumeraffairs.gov to verify a contractor's registration.

The Construction Department is here to assist you in following state and municipal regulations. Should you require any help, please email construction@rockawaytownship.org or call 973-983-2809.

Food, Fun and Country Music at the 2018 Senior Picnic

The Annual Senior Picnic was held at the Craigmear Recreation Complex on September 14, and over 450 Township residents attended. Photos clockwise from upper left: Rockaway Township employees and Council members serve food to those in attendance; Members of the Township Council greet our seniors; Local and regional agencies provide literature and giveaways to residents; Friends enjoy lunch, laughs and live entertainment at the picnic.



Mayor's Special Recognition

Rockaway Township lost a longtime employee and consummate professional when Municipal Engineer James Lutz left the Township after 18 years of service. Jim could always be relied upon to manage projects, policies and personnel, as he supervised all staff in a diverse department that includes Engineering, Zoning, Planning and Construction services. We wish Jim and his family much luck and success as he embarks on the next chapter of his accomplished career.

The Mayor wishes to recognize the following employees for milestones in

their employment with Rockaway Township:

- Christina Clipperton, hired as Acting Municipal Clerk on July 25, 2018.
- Wade Ryerson, promoted to Police Captain on August 3, 2018
- Paul Reilly, promoted to Police Lieutenant on September 10, 2018
- Peter Lyasko, promoted to Police Sergeant on September 15, 2018
- Rafael Sanchez, promoted to Police Sergeant on September 15, 2018
- Jay Elko, retiring on November 1, 2018

The Mayor also wishes to thank all Township employees and volunteers who coordinated, set up, served food, met with residents, provided information, distributed prizes and cleaned up at the Annual Senior Picnic, held September 14 at the Craigmear Recreation Complex in Rockaway Township.



Important Seasonal Public Works & Recycling Updates

Leaf and Brush Collection

Leaves and brush are collected weekly through the end of the year. Items should be placed at the curb by 6:00am on your designated day, which may be found by searching the ReCollect calendar at www.rockawaytownship.org/189/Recycle. Leaves must be placed in biodegradable paper bags or reusable containers labeled 'yard waste' only, no heavier than 50 pounds - neither plastic nor plastic biodegradable bags are accepted.

Brush must be placed curbside and bundled/tied in four foot lengths. No stumps or branches over six inches in diameter will be collected, and no dirt, rocks, concrete or garbage may be mixed in with yard waste. *All containers must be labeled.* Brush and leaves are also accepted from Rockaway Township residents at the McVeigh Recycling Center. Commercial landscapers, tree services and dump trucks may *not* dump leaves or brush at the recycling center.

Inclement Weather/Holiday Collection

Should recycling collection be canceled due to inclement weather, your recyclables will be collected the next

scheduled pick up day. *There is no make-up day* when a route is canceled due to inclement weather. However, if your collection day falls on a holiday, there is *always* a make-up day. Please refer to the online ReCollect calendar (search by your home address) to see the date of the make-up collection.

Residents are also reminded to assist with snow and ice removal this winter. You may do so by parking off-street until plowing is complete, reporting ice conditions to 973-983-2891, shoveling out fire hydrants to ensure emergency access, and seeking a police report to file a claim regarding damage to your vehicle caused by Township equipment.

Plowing Policies

With winter upon us, here are some tips to avoid snow plowing rage!

- Park cars off the street
- Don't shovel driveways out to the street until plowing is complete
- Don't shovel driveway snow onto the street – This is a violation of Township Ordinances and creates a hazard

- Don't shovel sidewalks onto street – this is also a violation of Township Ordinances and creates a hazard
- Per Township Ordinance, residents have 24 hours to remove snow from sidewalks in front of their home
- If you wish to file a claim for damage to your vehicle caused by the use of Township equipment, you must have a police report

Avoid towing and impound charges: Township Ordinance 7-6.3(a,b) imposes temporary parking prohibition when snow has fallen and accumulated, at which point an emergency shall be declared until the snow has ceased and the streets have been plowed sufficiently. Any unoccupied vehicles may be towed and impounded at the owner's expense. Please cooperate with plow crews by parking off roads until plowing is complete. This will ensure safe, clean streets.

To report an ice condition, call 973-983-2891. To report a snow or ice related emergency off hours, please contact the Rockaway Township Police Department at 973-625-4000.

License and Vaccinate Pets

Residents are reminded that Rockaway Township's annual animal license renewal will soon take place. Residents meeting applicable State and Township pet vaccination requirements may license their pets for a period of either one or three years. The three-year option for licensing Rockaway Township pets, implemented in 2016, provides a convenience to residents and creates efficiencies in the licensing process, through which 4,200 dogs and cats are registered with the Township.

When renewing your dog and cat licenses for the 2019 calendar year, please remember these important requirements, which must be met regardless whether licensure is for a one or three year period:

- In accordance with New Jersey law, your pet's *rabies vaccination must be good through 10 months of the last year in the licensing period.* For instance, a one year 2019 license would require rabies vaccination that does not expire before November 1, 2019, and a three year license would require that the rabies vaccine does not expire before November 1, 2021.
- For your convenience, the Division of Health is providing free rabies clinics at the Public Works Garage on November 17 and December 1. Please see the Township Calendar at www.rockawaytownship.org for details.

- *Look over the entire license renewal form* when you receive it and *update as necessary* with current information.
- Remember to let us know if you no longer have your pet, whether it no longer resides in Rockaway Township or is deceased.
- Provide an *email address, microchip number and phone number*, if applicable.
- Payment may be made by *check or cash*, payable to *Rockaway Township*.

In accordance with Rockaway Township ordinances, all dog and cat licenses must be renewed by January 31. Late license renewal is subject to a late fee of \$5.00 per month, per animal.

Failure to license your pet(s) by April 1, 2019, may result in the issuance of a summons. The Division of Health appreciates your cooperation in this important public health matter.

Should you have any questions about the licensing program, please call the Division of Health at 973-983-2848.



What's Happening

NOVEMBER

- 15th Blood Pressure Screening
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
11:00am - 11:30am
- 17th Free Rabies Clinic
Rockaway Township Public Works Garage
9:00am - 12:00pm

DECEMBER

- 1st Free Rabies Clinic
Rockaway Township Public Works Garage
9:00am - 11:00pm
- 1st Historic Victorian Christmas
Ford-Faesch House, 629 Mount Hope Road
2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 7th Christmas Tree Trimming and Holiday Celebration
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
7:00pm - 9:00pm
- TBD Menorah Lighting and Chanukah Celebration
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
7:00pm - 9:00pm
- 20th Blood Pressure Screening
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
11:00am - 11:30am

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



Monuments Man Passes Away

Harry Ettlinger, longtime resident of Rockaway Township made famous as a World War II Monuments Man, passed away on October 21 at the age of 92. Mr. Ettlinger was best known as one of the only surviving members of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives effort, composed of 345 members of the allied military who saved billions of dollars worth of art and culturally significant items stolen from museums, churches and private collections by the Nazis.

For his efforts, Mr. Ettlinger received the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal and many other distinguished honors. Rockaway Township celebrated Mr. Ettlinger's accomplishments with a ceremony in 2015, attended by nearly 300 residents, as well as elected and military officials.



Fire Marshal Certified

Fire Marshal Craig Babcock was recently certified by the National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) as a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator. NAFI's objectives are to: promote excellence in the professional training, education and experience of fire and explosion investigators; provide a recognized and standardized system for the evaluation of the professional knowledge and qualifications of individual investigators; and recognize qualified fire and explosion investigators, analysis and/or practitioners in related civil and criminal litigation. Rockaway Township's Fire Marshal is tasked to investigate or cause to be investigated all fires in Rockaway Township, and Mr. Babcock may now be more easily recognized as an expert witness by the municipal court.

News from Engineering & Planning

Restoration to Richard Mine Road

The contract for Improvements to Richard Mine Road was awarded recently and construction is anticipated to begin this fall. This project is intended to mitigate recurring drainage issues and deterioration on Richard Mine Road between Coburn Road and a section just west of Rock Hollow Road.

The project includes stream cleaning activities, culvert replacement, drainage improvements and milling and paving activities, and is expected to take approximately 60 days. A detour along Coburn, Teabo and St. Bernard Roads is planned to facilitate this restoration, so please plan for temporary delays and lane closures along this section of Richard Mine Road. The Rockaway Township Engineering Department thanks you for your patience while improvements are

provided to this section of the Township.

Roof Replacement at Senior Center

Rockaway Township applied for and received a Community Block Development Grant (CBDG) from Morris County to repair the roof at the Township Senior Center, which has suffered deterioration. The contract has been awarded for this project and restoration is anticipated to begin this fall.

Retail and Wholesale Foods

A new dining establishment is coming to Rockaway Township. Miller's Ale House received Planning Board approval and will soon be breaking ground on a 7,202 square foot building, which will be located in the area of the Rockaway Townsquare Mall.

Expansion and addition to ShopRite, located within the Rockaway River

Commons retail area, is underway. Planning Board approval was granted for a 7,691 square foot addition to the rear of the establishment, as well as acquisition of a 9,379 square foot adjacent tenant space.

CIBAO Meat Products will soon open a newly renovated 94,000 square foot warehouse and processing facility along Green Pond Road. CIBAO Meat Products, operating for over 40 years in the Bronx, New York, looked to Rockaway Township for a larger facility to accommodate their growing business.

The facility is currently undergoing inspections from the United States Department of Agriculture and is expected to create approximately 75 new jobs once they are up and running.

In Memoriam: Mayor Michael Dachisen, 1960 - 2018

As Rockaway Township residents know by now, Michael Dachisen, beloved Mayor of Rockaway Township, passed away suddenly at his home in the Birchwood section of the Township on August 15. Services were held on August 20 and 21 in Randolph, NJ, where hundreds paid their respects to the Mayor, who was referred to as a 'true friend to many, many people' by a close family friend. Mayor Dachisen was 58.

Mayor Dachisen was born and raised in Rockaway Township and graduated from Morris Knolls High School. He was elected to the Township Council in 1997 and served as Councilman for 15 years, eventually serving as Council President. He became Mayor in 2012 when then Mayor Louis Scusi resigned to become a Superior Court Judge, and was elected to remain Mayor later that year. He was reelected in 2015 and planned to run again in 2019. Mayor Dachisen worked as a Systems Security Analyst for UPS for



22 years. He was a former volunteer fireman for Birchwood Company #4, and volunteered much of his time coaching hockey, softball and football for Rockaway Township.

Mayor Mike, as he was affectionately known by residents and Rockaway Township employees, alike, loved his dogs, his Harley Davidson motorcycle, his restored Corvette and cooking - but he was a family man who adored his wife, children and grandchildren.

Other than family, Mayor Dachisen perhaps loved nothing more than connecting with and serving the residents of Rockaway Township. This was evident to anyone who shared conversation or laughs with him at the dozens of community events he attended each year, or to those closest with him, who regularly saw him thoughtfully conducting the business of Rockaway Township.

Mayor Dachisen was a lifelong public servant, and was particularly proud of the Township's hard work in attaining grant support, improving infrastructure, utilizing technologies, realizing new efficiencies in government, and adding to Rockaway's expansive scope of municipal services. Said Police Chief Martin McParland, 'Mike's whole heart and soul was in serving his community.'

Mayor Dachisen is survived by his wife of 31 years, Catherine; daughter Leandra and her husband Alex Raybould; son Michael, Jr. and his wife Michelle; daughter Angela and her husband Joseph Pallay; son Derek and his wife Kimberly; and grandchildren Amelia, Elizabeth, Brady, Ryleigh and a granddaughter on the way. He is also survived by his parents, Stephen and Marion, and siblings Stephen, Jr. and his wife Pamela, Robert and his wife Kim, Darren, Sr. and his wife Mechele, and Lisa and her husband Franco Perrotti.



ALERT!!!

Changes to recycling schedule in 2019!

Check the Township website for your new schedule!

Tax Collector's Update

Fourth quarter 2018 property taxes are due November 1, 2018. Please visit www.rockawaytownship.org and see the Tax Collector's page for more information.

Homestead Benefits

Morris County homeowners should have received their 2016 Homestead Benefit Application packets from the NJ Division of Taxation around September 17, 2018. These applications are due to the State by November 30, 2018. If you have questions or require information regarding your application, contact the State directly at 888-238-1233 or visit www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/homestead/geninf.shtml.

Property Tax Reimbursement

The deadline for residents to file 2017 Senior Freeze (property tax reimbursement) applications is October 31, 2018. If you have questions regarding your application or qualifications, contact the State directly at 800-882-6597 or visit www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/index.shtml.