

# Rockaway Township Report



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

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## Mayor's Corner: Budget Message



Every year our Township Council is required by law to adopt a Municipal Budget. The Mayor and Administration prepare recommendations in the form of a draft budget however the Township 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 2017 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 our goals of improving 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 2017 Municipal Budget, including the capital improvement program, totals \$40,496,976. The Township is within both State mandated appropriation and tax levy caps. Significant dollar increases are seen in capital improvements, salaries and wages, and accumulated paid time off.

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.

Appropriations are the mechanism that allows local government to provide or deliver services to its residents. Contrary to what the public may have heard from political opportunists about the success of this budget being based on "luck" or "gimmicks," this budget is based upon good planning and significant reductions including:

- Legal services of \$20,000. The Morris Commons litigation continues to slow as the Township has been successful in resolving the water supply issue that has been at the heart of the case. It is anticipated the litigation may come to a conclusion this year;
- Snow removal of \$20,200. This represents the decreased cost of rock salt, which is now \$64.90/ton or 11% less than the 2016 unit price;
- Recreation administration of \$193,675. This reduction

represents the conclusion of the Township's relationship with Picatinny Arsenal for the funding of the aquatic park;

- Health insurance reduction of \$200,000. The Township continues to benefit from the implementation of Ch. 78, which increases employees' contributions to their health and prescription insurance (excluding retirees);
- Police pensions reduction of \$100,000. Pension obligations have decreased this year at a blended rate of -1.5%;
- Utilities of \$35,000. The continued low cost of oil allows the Township to reduce its appropriations for utilities for the second year in a row;
- Deferred charges of \$200,000. This appropriation has been satisfied and no longer needs to be budgeted; and
- Tax appeals pending of \$40,000. The appropriation for tax appeals pending is being decreased as the Township continues its implementation of the Township's annual reassessment program and does not need to budget for the total expense of a reassessment report.

The Township continues to receive grants from State and County government for infrastructure and other improvements including road resurfacing, preservation of the Faesch House, renovation of the Health Center, restoration of the Senior Center parking lot, recycling and Clean Communities.

*(continued on page three)*

## Scenes from the 2017 Easter Festival



## Public Works: News You Can Use

### ***Spring Has Sprung!***

Since snow has melted, you may observe 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 DPW and leave your name, address and 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 materials permit.

### ***Street Sweeping***

Every road in the Township will be swept one or more times as necessary over the course of 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. Please be assured your road will be swept.

Given the significant size of Rockaway Township, there is unfortunately no way to effectively notify residents of a sweeping schedule. If your property permits, please park vehicles off road when possible to permit sweeping of your road in its entirety.

### ***Dangerous Road Conditions***

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

## From the Tax Collector

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

2017 sewer maintenance bills will be mailed by May 22, 2017 and are due June 23, 2017. To submit your payment online please visit the Township website.

The 2016 Senior Freeze (property tax reimbursement) filing deadline is June 1, 2017 (unless the date is extended by the State). If you need any assistance to determine eligibility and/or to check status on filed applications, please 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.



## Mayor's Special Recognition

Mayor Dachisen would like to welcome our new clerk in the Department of Community Services, Susanne Jackson, and our new account clerk in the Finance Department, Tina Cullen.

Mayor Dachisen wishes to acknowledge representatives of the Department of Community Services and Engineering Department for their work in overseeing renovations to the Rockaway Township Health Center, which was completed in April. This work was facilitated by a \$79,340 Community Development Block Grant.

Mayor Dachisen wishes to acknowledge the Engineering and Community Services Departments for their work in planning and overseeing renovations to the Peterson Field concession stand. Work has been completed with a ribbon cutting anticipated for June 2017.

Mayor Michael Dachisen looks forward to the groundbreaking of the west wing of the Ford-Faesch House, a project 30 years in the making.

## Mayor's Corner: Budget Message

*(continued from page one)*

The Township has also strengthened its shared services with other local governments. This includes health services to Jefferson Township, expanded health services to the Town of Boonton, and our second year of a shared municipal court arrangement with Mine Hill Township. These agreements generate revenue to the benefit of the local property tax payer.

This year, the Township is leveraging the growth in fund balance by increasing the capital improvement appropriation by \$450,000. This has no impact on the proposed 2017 municipal tax rate. In addition, the increase in this appropriation has several benefits including:

- Allowing the Township to begin to fund its road resurfacing program substantially in cash, eliminating the need to borrow money for this ongoing expense;
- Reducing the Township's overall debt service and protecting against the anticipated increase in interest rates; and
- Providing flexibility in future budgeting by creating an appropriation that could be reduced in the event of extraordinary or unforeseen expenses.

It is also significant to note the Township has realized an increase in its total assessed value of \$13.8 million due to improving market conditions and new ratable growth. This increase in our ratables translates into more than \$100,000 of additional monies being budgeted as part of the tax levy. While additional tax revenue is being budgeted, there is no impact on the proposed 2017 municipal tax rate.

The 2017 municipal budget calls for no increase in the municipal tax rate. This year's "no increase" has been accomplished by careful planning and execution of that plan by me and my administration. This "no increase in municipal taxes" has used neither one-time budget gimmicks, nor is it being forced through as the result of an election cycle. This is a "Good Story" for Rockaway Township and these types of successes come over a period of time, requiring the cooperation of the Mayor, Administration and Council. Those who say something to the contrary either have a political ax to grind or are just ignorant of what it takes to run a \$40 million municipal corporation.

There has also been unfounded criticism about the amount of time the Township Council has to consider the 2017 municipal budget. The media has picked up on this complaint but has done nothing to verify its accuracy. In fact, the amount of time the Township Council has to consider the budget is established by State statute. The State mandates budget transmission to the governing body on February 17. The Township Council received a summary document on February 3 and the complete document on February 17 in accordance with the statute. The Township Council is required to introduce the budget by March 17 and adopt the budget by April 21, or by the next regularly scheduled meeting of the governing body. State law provides the governing body four weeks to review the budget document prior to introduction.

In addition, this year's budget maintains a prudent level of surplus in order to avoid potential spikes in future tax rates. The 2017 municipal budget, as presented, does not in any way impact current service levels. Our services are provided as best as can be in accordance with residents' expectations, while maintaining quality of life for all taxpayers in Rockaway Township.

In closing, I first want to thank the Administration and Finance Departments for their tireless effort at working on common goals. 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 caretakers lightly. Those of you that actively participate in the budget process by attending the work session, asking questions of our business administrator and chief financial officer, providing cost-effective suggestions throughout the year, and challenging those on the Council that provide no meaningful guidance, yield results like the budget presented to you this year. Thank you for setting the example and having confidence in myself and the Administration's ability to do the best for the Rockaway Township community and all its residents.

## Health Center is Renovated

Thanks largely to a \$79,340 Morris County Community Development Block Grant that municipal officials successfully applied for, the Rockaway Township Health Center, located at 419 Green Pond Road, received a significant interior facelift over the winter. The facility, which occupies space below the Hibernia branch of the Rockaway Township Public Library, includes exam rooms, receiving and waiting areas, storage space, offices, rest rooms and space for educational programming. The work consisted of necessary repair to floors, walls and ceilings, painting, cabinets, counters and other cosmetic restoration. It is anticipated that the Health Center will reopen in June 2017, with a ribbon cutting ceremony at a date to be determined.



*The remodeled kitchen at the Rockaway Township Health Center.*

## Rockaway Township Competitive Cheer Program Goes Big

RTCC Explosion, Rockaway Township's competitive cheer program, attended Battle at the Boardwalk on February 4-5, 2017 at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. Battle at the Boardwalk is a national cheerleading competition and a U.S. finals qualifier that hosts over 275 teams. The RTCC junior team, 15 girls from grades two through six, placed first in the Rec Performance Level I category, and won Grand Champions for the highest score across 20 competing teams. The team was awarded a banner and each girl received a Nationals champion gym bag. The RTCC program had a very successful season with both teams placing in 85% of their competitions.

RTCC Explosion combines cheer, dance, tumbling and stunting into a competitive cheer performance routine. The program is open to boys and girls grades two through 12. Tryouts for next season are May 22 – 24. Email [rtcompcheer@gmail.com](mailto:rtcompcheer@gmail.com) for more information or visit [www.rtcompcheer.com](http://www.rtcompcheer.com).



*Pictured from left: (floor) Payton Dimick, Danica Kritz, Cece O'Toole; (middle row) Ava Hernandez, Dezzarae DeJesus, Alyssa Soyer, Keara McGreevy, Samantha Carroll, Leah Caliendo; (back row) Estrella Arias, Lauren Delle, Liana Familia, Coach Tyler Joseph, Jordan Pickel, Nicole Porras, Taylor Christiansen. Missing: Coach Sam Wasko, Coach Julia Tironi.*

## Township Welcomes New Business Administrator

At its April 25 meeting, the Mayor and Council appointed Adam Brewer as new business administrator for Rockaway Township. The move comes after Gregory Poff, who served as business administrator in the Township for nearly 10 years, accepted a job as administrator for Sussex County.

"I am very excited to welcome Adam Brewer to Rockaway Township as our new business administrator," said Mayor Michael Dachisen. "We had numerous qualified applicants for this critical position, but Adam stood far ahead of the rest in terms of experience, qualifications and character. He will be a tremendous fit for Rockaway Township." Mr. Brewer was referred to as a "young rising star" in the field of government administration by the Canning Group, the firm the Township utilized to help vet candidates for the position.

Rockaway Township said goodbye to its former business administrator, Gregory Poff II, in April. Poff had served as the Township's business administrator since October 2007 and saw



*Rockaway Township looks forward to welcoming and working with Adam Brewer as its new business administrator.*

Rockaway Township through numerous projects and a significant changeover in professional staff. "Mr. Poff was offered a great opportunity as the Sussex County administrator and will be deeply missed," said Mayor Dachisen. "However, I have no doubt Mr. Brewer will hit the ground running and never look back."

Mr. Brewer, who is slated to start as Rockaway's business administrator on or about May 25, comes to the Township after approximately four years as township administrator for West Caldwell. In this position, Mr. Brewer has managed day to day operations; has provided oversight to all Township offices, departments and staff; and has overseen strategic and capital planning. He has served as the Township's Qualified Purchasing Agent and Public Information Officer, and has also participated in the Morris County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund.

Prior to his work as township administrator with West Caldwell, Mr. Brewer served six years as assistant township administrator with Montville Township, including nearly six months as interim township administrator. During his tenure with Montville, Mr. Brewer also served as Director of Social Services and Recycling Coordinator, and managed the Open Space acquisition program. Mr. Brewer also served as Youth Services Coordinator for Montville from 2002 through 2007.

Mr. Brewer graduated cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in psychology from Monmouth University, and earned a Master of Arts degree in clinical counseling psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He is a member of the New Jersey Municipal Managers Association and was the 2010 recipient of the Outstanding Service to Local Government Award for New Professionals. Mr. Brewer lives in the Town of Boonton with his wife, Denise, and their two children, Gwenyth (five) and Russell (nine months).

# What's Happening

## MAY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Frog Falls registration open & ongoing  
Online registration through Community Pass:  
<https://picatinny.armymwr.com/programs/frog-falls-water-park>
- 1<sup>st</sup> Summer playground registration open & ongoing  
Online registration through Community Pass:  
<https://register.communitypass.net/reg/>
- 1<sup>st</sup> Mount Hope Pond registration open & ongoing  
Online registration through Community Pass:  
<https://register.communitypass.net/reg/>
- 6<sup>th</sup> Faesch House west wing groundbreaking ceremony  
Ford-Faesch House, 629 Mount Hope Road  
10:30am - 1:00pm
- 6<sup>th</sup> Rockaway Township spring clean up day\*  
Lake Ames, Green Pond Road  
9:00am - 11:00am
- 16<sup>th</sup> Health promotion: Reducing cancer risk for women  
MMC Health Pavilion, 333 Mt. Hope Ave., 3rd floor community room  
7:00pm - 8:30pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Blood pressure screening  
Rockaway Township Municipal Building, 65 Mt. Hope Road  
11:00am - 11:30am
- 18<sup>th</sup> Skin cancer screening\*  
Rockaway Township Health Clinic, 419 Green Pond Road  
6:00pm - 8:00pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> Health promotion: Depression/anxiety and coping  
Robert A. Galdon Senior Building, 19 Mt. Hope Road  
1:00pm - 2:30pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> Hooked on fishing - not drugs: fishing contest  
Mount Hope Pond, Burnt House Garden Road  
8:00am - 11:00am
- 29<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day parade  
Starts at Edith Drive & Fleetwood Drive  
11:30am - 1:00pm

## JUNE

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Blood chemistry screening: CHEM23, lipid profile & FBS\*  
Rockaway Township Municipal Building  
9:00am - 10:30am
- 15<sup>th</sup> Blood pressure screening  
Rockaway Township Municipal Building  
11:00am - 11:30am

## JULY

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Summer Concert Series Begins  
Park Lake Gazebo, Mt. Hope Road  
Every Sunday through August 27, 3:00pm - 5:00pm  
Rain location: Rockaway Townsquare Mall
- 20<sup>th</sup> Blood pressure screening  
Rockaway Township Municipal Building  
11:00am - 11:30am

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

# Classroom to Construction

## Students Learn About Engineering & Construction

Local High School students from Morris Knolls were given an exciting opportunity to relate their classroom studies to an active local construction project. Township Engineer James Lutz



and Recreation Supervisor Bryan Coward provided a PowerPoint presentation about the Peterson Field concession



building addition project to students in the Introduction to Technology, Engineering and Design class. The students and teachers were provided with details and plans for the

project and were given an opportunity to ask questions. They also learned about real project-related construction issues that arise from the initial design.

After a day in the classroom, students visited the site at Peterson Field with Mr. Lutz to see the construction firsthand.

Mayor Michael Dachisen, Community Services Director Joseph Fiorilla and Assistant Business Administrator Patricia Seger were on site to talk with students and staff. The class trip



ended with a question and answer session at the Municipal Building, hosted by Business Administrator Gregory Poff, Mr. Lutz, Mayor Dachisen and teachers.



The Peterson Field concession stand project as of May 2. The ribbon cutting ceremony is slated for June 2017.

**The Rockaway  
Gazebo  
Committee  
presents its  
Summer Concert  
Series at Park  
Lake every  
Sunday from  
July 2 - August 27,  
from 3pm - 5pm.  
See our website  
for more details!**



**Come to the  
west wing  
groundbreaking  
and archeology  
presentation at  
the Ford-Faesch  
Ironmaster's  
House, 629  
Mount Hope  
Road, from  
10:30am - 1pm  
on May 6!**

## Update from Rockaway Township Recycling

### Recycling News

Recycling calendars, flyers and other useful items are available on the Township website. If you haven't already visited the site, please go to [www.rockawaytownship.org/189/Recycle](http://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. Full printouts of the bulk and recycling calendars, flyers and stickers for labeling your receptacles are also available in the Municipal Building lobby.

### 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** takes place weekly now through December. 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** takes place weekly now through December. 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 up to 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 2017 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 2017 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.

## Community Profile: Claire Basile

Claire Basile has contributed to the traffic safety efforts of our community by effectively monitoring a school crossing post located at a busy area in front of the Copeland Middle School in Rockaway Township. The school has approximately 850 students and becomes very chaotic and congested in the morning and afternoon during the start and dismissal times for this school.

In addition to her assignment – being vigilant and providing for the safe crossing of pedestrian students that are being picked-up and dropped-off by their parents – Claire also helps stop the flow of traffic so the many buses may depart the school campus in a timely and safe manner.

Claire has been employed by Rockaway Township for 11 years and is perhaps best known for being watchful while some of the buses are dropping off students in front of the school. Since Claire’s arrival, we have had a significant decrease in the number of complaints

that we receive regarding motorists passing a stopped school bus in that area. When this has occurred, Claire is foremost concerned for the safety of the students, and can always also be counted on to get a vehicle description and often a vehicle registration that she will pass along to the Police Department to rectify that particular safety concern.

While Claire is now approaching 85 years of age, no matter what the weather is like or the circumstances call for, she may always be counted on to show up at her crossing post. Claire loves being there, spending time and conversing with the students, and always looks forward to the beginning of the school year. In fact, she is on a first name basis with many of the students and staff at the school.

In conclusion, due to her dedicated work in the area of traffic safety along with the rapport she has developed with the community around Copeland School, we at the Rockaway Township Police

Department believe that Claire Basile is a Community Traffic Safety Hero!



*Claire Basile, our local traffic safety hero, staffing her post at Copeland Middle School.*



## Summer Gazebo Concert Series

The Rockaway Gazebo Committee proudly announces its annual Summer Concert Series. The concerts will be held every Sunday from July 2 through August 27 between 3:00pm and 5:00pm at the Park Lake gazebo. The concerts are free for all to attend. The gazebo concert series traditionally includes country western, swing, oldies, rock and roll and dance music. In the event of rain, concerts will be held at the Rockaway Townsquare Mall, near Macy’s.

## Police Officer Recognized for Service

The Rockaway Township Police Department would like to recognize Officer Hatzimihalis, who was nominated by the New Jersey Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving for outstanding and distinguished service to our community for DWI/DUI enforcement in 2016. Through his dedication and commitment, Officer Hatzimihalis helps save lives by preventing crashes.

## Senior Center Paving Project

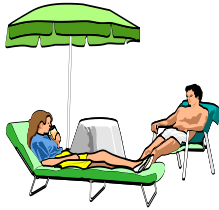
Rockaway Township is in receipt of a Morris County Community Development Block Grant for a parking lot paving project at the Senior Center, and has awarded a construction bid to AJM Contractors, Inc. The project includes drainage and curbing improvements, new handicap accessible sidewalk ramps, milling and paving.

Construction is anticipated to commence during the month of May. There will be closures to the side and lower parking lots at the Senior Center during the milling and paving operations, and limited access during drainage and curbing work. Township officials anticipate construction to be completed within two months. Thank you for your patience during this process.



*View of deterioration to the Senior Center parking lot. Grant-funded construction, commencing in May, will provide for necessary repairs.*

## May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month



As summer approaches and our attentions turn to outdoor activities, residents are reminded that sun safety and skin cancer awareness allows everyone to enjoy the many benefits the sun has to offer, while remaining protected. Just one blistering sunburn in childhood or adolescence more than doubles a person's chances of developing melanoma later in life. A little education about sun safety, particularly for youth and those who influence youth, is vital in raising awareness about staying safe in the sun. Here are some tips for helping stay safe while in the sun:

- Apply sun screen 30 minutes before exposure and reapply often.
- Seek structures that provide shade during peak sun hours.
- Choose sunglasses that are labeled as blocking 99% - 100% of UV rays.

- Check expiration dates on sunscreen. These products do expire!
- Wear a protective hat, especially while gardening or performing routine activities.
- Minimize daily sun exposure between the hours of 10:00am and 4:00pm.
- Use a broad spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30.
- To determine daily risk of sun exposure, find your daily UV index at [www.epa.gov/sunsafety](http://www.epa.gov/sunsafety).

Non-melanoma skin cancers are the most common form of cancer in the U.S. You can help decrease your risk by wearing appropriate sunscreen when you spend time in the sun. The Rockaway Township Division of Health is holding a free Skin Cancer Screening on Thursday, May 18, from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. Please call 973-983-2949 to register.

**Food is an attractive nuisance to many different animals, and increases our chances of unwelcome wildlife encounters**

## Wildlife & Litter: Something to Bear in Mind

Due to the presence of wildlife and Rockaway's significant amount of preserved open space, the Division of Health periodically receives calls regarding bears and other animals getting into residential garbage. Household garbage, especially that containing putrescible (food) waste, is attractive to wildlife and is often easily obtainable. Black bears, in particular, will eat a wide variety of items including human food, garbage, pet food and birdseed. Given a bear's potential to cause property damage and provide a nuisance, it is important to place garbage and other refuse in suitable receptacles with tight fitting lids.

In addition, receptacles should not be kept at curbside for longer than 24 hours.

Township officials recommend several additional techniques to prevent the attraction of wildlife with your waste:

- Store garbage containers near the *inside* wall of the garage or basement, or in a shed.
- Wash garbage containers with disinfectant solution at least once per week.
- Place garbage at the curb for collection in the *morning*, not the night before.
- Remove bird feeders between April 1 and December 1, when bears are most active.

- Do not place meat or sweet foods in a home compost pile.
- Clean outdoor grills thoroughly after each use.
- Consider purchasing a bear-resistant trash container. You may find information on such containers at: [www.njfishandwildlife.com/bearinfo.htm](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/bearinfo.htm) or [www.savenjbears.com](http://www.savenjbears.com).

The Rockaway Township Division of Health maintains educational brochures regarding bears and various other wildlife. Should you have any questions, please feel free to visit or contact the Division of Health at 973-983-2848.

## 2017 Primary Election Information



In order to vote in the June 6, 2017 primary election, you must be a registered voter, and the last day to register is May 16, 2017. 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 election date.

For more details regarding voting requirements,

where to vote, election results and confirmation whether you are a registered voter, go to [www.voters.njsvrs.com/PublicAccess](http://www.voters.njsvrs.com/PublicAccess).

Primary Election Day is June 6, 2017, 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 locations at the web address above or at [www.morriselections.org](http://www.morriselections.org).