

# Rockaway Township Report



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

[www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org) Volume Seven, Issue Three - Summer 2018

## Inside This Issue

Mayor's Corner	1
Township POD Exercise	2
Mayor's Special Recognition	2
What's Happening	3
Tax Collector's Update	3
From the Police Department	4
Senior Picnic in September	4
Free Radon Test Kits	4
Public Works & Recycling Info	5
Stormwater Pollution	6

## Mayor's Corner



Welcome to the summer edition of the *Rockaway Township Report*. Please take a few moments to look over the informative articles and calendar, which will provide helpful information regarding the latest Township happenings and upcoming events. I first wish to congratulate all of the Rockaway Township residents who have graduated this season! Whether your fall plans include Morris Knolls High School, Morris Hills High School or college, I wish you a wonderful, fun and safe summer.

As we take to the outdoors and enjoy the wonderful summer weather, I urge all residents to be mindful of pedestrians and other vehicles while traveling our roads. It is so important to adhere to safe driving speeds and courtesy on our roads, while maintaining a calm demeanor behind the wheel. We all would like

this to be the safest community possible, which means looking out for one another – especially when we get on the road to enjoy the beautiful summer weather.

Residents are reminded to routinely check the Township website at [www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org) for updates regarding the Township's fun summer activities. Beach badges this summer will be \$25.00 each for Township residents only, one per household member. I am also thrilled that our summer playground program is in full operation this year! This wonderful program includes fun trips to Mount Hope Pond, Frog Falls and mini golf. The camp runs for six weeks beginning June 25, 2018,

and ends on August 3, 2018. Please contact the Rockaway Township Division of Recreation for details.

I will again be pleased to host the Senior Picnic on September 14, and I look forward to seeing and speaking with our seniors at this terrific annual event. In addition to the great food, camaraderie and festivity, I am pleased to announce that this year's Senior Picnic will feature live entertainment. I hope to see you all there.

I hope that you enjoy this issue of the *Rockaway Township Report*. Don't forget to like us on Facebook, and be sure to visit [www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org) for news and events. Have a great summer!



Members of the Rockaway Township Police Department attend the 2018 Memorial Day Parade.

## Township Employees Perform POD Exercise

**Did You Know:**  
Ground beef should be cooked to a minimum internal temperature of 155°F and poultry should be cooked to a minimum of 165°F at your summer barbecues to kill harmful bacteria like E. coli and salmonella



On April 24, the Division of Health and Emergency Management personnel led Township staff through a 'closed POD (point of distribution)' exercise in the Township. Through the exercise, which is designed to establish and test emergency preparedness capacities, staff picked up 'antibiotics' - Swedish fish candy - from the Morris County Office of Health Management. The closed POD plan was then tested at the Municipal Building, Police Department and volunteer fire departments, where all Township staff and first responders had a limited period of time to pick up 'antibiotics' for themselves and their families. County evaluators gave the exercise high ratings, and all Township staff performed their varied responsibilities exceedingly well.

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

## Mayor's Special Recognition

Mayor Dachisen wishes to congratulate the following employees on their retirements. On behalf of our residents and administration, thank you for your service!

James Timmins, Maintenance Worker I Grounds, Parks Department, hired September 11, 1989.

Laurie Sevret, Administrative Clerk, Fire Department, hired July 6, 1998

Bert Parks, Heavy Equipment Operator, Public Works Department, hired November 16, 1987.

Vincent Brennan, Captain, Police Department, hired February 12, 1990

Mayor Dachisen would like to welcome the newest additions to Rockaway Township's workforce. The Mayor hopes all have long, fulfilling careers in our community.

Katherine Fay, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Division of Health

Whitney Mongelli, Account Clerk, Fire Department

Paul Ostensen, Jr., Officer, Police Department

Girodano Matos, Officer, Police Department



## 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

- 8 Symphonics - 1940s through Today
- 15 Carnaby Street - British Invasion Hits
- 22 No Discipline - Reggae
- 29 Reminisce - 50s, 60s & 70s

### AUGUST

- 5 Thunder Hill - Country
- 12 Due South - New Country
- 19 Dave and the Waverunners - Jimmy Buffet Tribute
- 26 Cameos - Oldies

### UPCOMING TOWNSHIP PROGRAMS

#### JULY

- 19 Blood pressure screening  
Rockaway Township Municipal Building  
11:00am - 11:30am
- TBD Rutgers SAFETY Clinic for Volunteer Coaches  
Rockaway Township Municipal Building  
Visit [www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org) for information

#### AUGUST

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

#### SEPTEMBER

- 3 Labor Day  
Municipal Building Closed
- 14 Senior Citizen Resident Picnic  
Craigmear Recreation Complex  
10:00am - 2:00pm
- 20 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.

## Tax Collector's Update

The 2018/2019 tax bills will be issued and mailed around the second week of July 2018. If your mortgage company escrows for property taxes, they will receive the original bill from us and we'll mail you an advice copy. Please retain this copy for proof of property tax amounts when filing your income tax return for 2018.

The third quarter tax payment is due within 25 days of bill mailing (the actual date will be printed on your tax bill). To make your payments online, please visit [www.rockawaytownship.org](http://www.rockawaytownship.org) and select the online payment option. When paying your taxes online, please make sure to use the new account number assigned, located at the top left header section of your bill. If you have any questions, please contact the Tax Collector's office at 973-983-2822.

All payments must be received by 4:30pm on the last day of the grace period (the actual date will be printed on your tax bill) to avoid interest charges. Payments submitted after 4:30pm will be posted to the accounts as of the next business day.

The Tax Collector's office has recently converted to a new software program. The 2018 tax bills will have a new look and they will include new account numbers assigned by the new software program.

The 2017 Senior Freeze (property tax reimbursement) filing deadline is October 31, 2018 (unless the date is extended by the State). If you require any assistance in determining eligibility and/or to check status on filed applications, please call the State's hotline at 1-800-882-6597. If you require Homestead Credit assistance, please call the State's hotline at 1-888-238-1233.



Brady Gaeb lines up a shot at the Summer Playground program.

## From the Police Department

The school year has ended and summer is here, bringing with it enjoyable weather and days of family fun. We would like to remind everyone of the following safety tips:

### Bicycle Safety

- Wear a Bike Helmet
- Adjust your bicycle to fit
- Check your equipment
- See and be seen
- Control the bicycle
- Watch for and avoid road hazards
- Use verbal and non-verbal communications
- Avoid riding at night
- Know where to ride safely
- Follow the rules of the road



For more information, please refer to the following National Highway Safety Administration link:

[www.nhtsa.gov/Bicycles](http://www.nhtsa.gov/Bicycles).

Summer safety information may be found at: [www.cdc.gov/family/kids/summer/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/family/kids/summer/index.htm)

## The Mayor Invites You...

All Rockaway Township senior residents are invited to our Annual Senior Picnic, scheduled from 10:00pm - 2:00pm on Friday, September 14 at the Cragmeur Recreation Complex. Delicious food, live music 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 residents enjoy the 2017 Senior Picnic. This year's event takes place on Friday, September 14.

## Township Offers Free Radon Test Kits

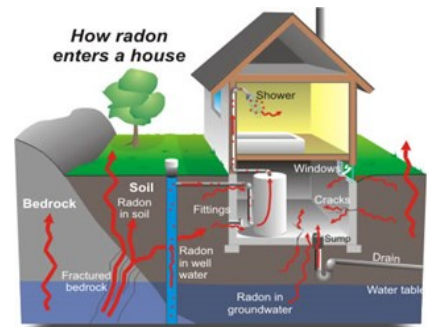
The Rockaway Township Division of Health provided a radon educational program to 42 residents at the Rockaway Township Public Library on June 25, and is offering free radon test kits to homeowners on a first come, first serve basis.

The free radon test kits – which are now available through the Division of Health – are part of a cooperative grant and promotion between the Division of Health and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). The effort is designed to bring increased awareness to residents regarding the risks of radon, and to offer the public resources for testing and potential mitigation. Approximately 200 radon test kits are available to Rockaway Township residents.

In conjunction with distribution of the free test kits, a radon awareness program was held on June 25, 2018, at the Rockaway Township Public Library. Rockaway Township Health Officer Peter Tabbot provided information to residents on radon risks, simple ways to detect radon gas, and how to mitigate the presence of radon in your home.

Radon is an odorless and colorless gas that can cause lung cancer. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths nationwide every year. Of the 4,700 annual lung cancer deaths in New Jersey each year, as many as 250 are due to radon.

To obtain a free radon test kit from Rockaway Township, residents should visit the Division of Health at the Rockaway Township Municipal Building, located at 65 Mt. Hope Road. For more information about radon risk, call the Health Department at 973-983-2848.



Graphic depicting ways radon enters a home.

## Public Works & Recycling: News You Can Use

### **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. 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, Mon-Friday from 7:30am - 3pm and Saturday from 7:30am - 11am. Call 973-347-8106 to make an appointment.

## Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

Please note some of the following elements of the *Stormwater Rules for Municipalities*, as established by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.



### What is Stormwater?

Stormwater runoff is generated from rain and snowmelt events that flow over land or impervious surfaces, such as paved streets, parking lots, lawns and building rooftops, and does not soak into the ground. The runoff picks up pollutants like trash, chemicals, oils and dirt/sediment that can harm our rivers, streams, lakes and coastal waters.

### What can we do to help?

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty.



### As a commercial property owner, it's important to know these local requirements to protect our waters:

- Dumpsters and other refuse containers that are outdoors or exposed to stormwater must be covered at all times and shall prevent the spilling, dumping, leaking or other discharge of liquids, semi-liquids or solids from the containers.
- Existing storm drain inlets on private property must be retrofitted when in direct contact with any repaving, repairing, resurfacing or direct contact with any reconstruction or alteration of



facilities. These retrofit standards can be found under *Attachment C - Design Standards for Storm Drain Inlets*, located under the stormwater section at:

[www.rockawaytownship.org/200/Engineering](http://www.rockawaytownship.org/200/Engineering)

- The spilling, dumping or disposal of materials other than stormwater to the municipal storm sewer system is prohibited.

### As a residential property owner, it's important to know these local requirements to protect our waters:

- All pet owners and keepers are required to immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on any property, public or private.
- Do not feed wildlife, such as ducks and geese, in public areas.
- Properly maintain yard waste: Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains. The owner or occupant of any property shall not sweep, rake, blow or otherwise place yard waste, unless the yard waste is containerized, in the street. Please follow the Township policies on yard waste found under our Recycle page at: [www.rockawaytownship.org/189/Recycle](http://www.rockawaytownship.org/189/Recycle)

Additional information can be found in the Solutions to Stormwater Pollution education brochure at:

[www.rockawaytownship.org/200/Engineering](http://www.rockawaytownship.org/200/Engineering)

We thank you for your assistance with the Stormwater Rules and Regulations.



Before and after: Newly installed accessible ramp at the Peterson Field Complex between the middle parking lot and field level.