Rockaway Township Report

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Mayor's Corner

It is an honor to serve the citizens of Rockaway Township as Mayor. It is also an honor to go forward in the footsteps of Mayor Mike Dachisen. His record and legacy of public service to Rockaway Township may never be equaled. For at least the next 10 months, I become guardian of that legacy. It won't be easy, but I am committed to it.

Mike's priorities included improving our recreational infrastructure and our quality of life. This includes the basketball courts, Peterson Field, Parks Lake Gazebo and other valued destinations for our residents. I will do all I can to move those projects forward in the face of ever-changing needs and shifting priorities.

I had the privilege of serving on the Council when Mike was Mayor. For the most part during my term on the Council, Mike's vision, and the vision of the Council President and Council, were pretty much in synch. The last months of Mike's service as Mayor, however, marked a period in Rockaway Township's history that is sad and regrettable for each one of us.

I am not here today to blame or point fingers. I know that all members of the council are aware of the Faulkner Act and our Administrative Code, both of which explicitly define the different roles we play in Rockaway Township Government. My administration will stay within its bounds, and will properly exercise our authority in service to the people of Rockaway Township. I fully respect and acknowledge the role that the Council plays in our form of government, and expect that the Council and its individual members will also respect the role of the Mayor and Administration. I know that to serve the residents fully and properly, we have to return to times of cooperation between the Mayor and Council in governing Rockaway Township. The time for agendas and vendettas must end - and it must end here and now. I ask all parties involved to embrace a spirit of teamwork, because working together, there's no limit to what we can do for this town. Divided, however, we fall - and *fail* - the residents of our town.

There is much that needs to be done, and my administration will do everything possible to serve the needs of Rockaway Township's citizens. I also need *your* help, the citizens of

(continued on page two)

Michael Puzio is sworn in as Mayor by Township Attorney John Iaciofano, with help from Cathy Dachisen, widow of late Mayor Michael Dachisen. Looking on is wife Michele, sons Tyler and Michael, father-in-law Ernest Braun and mother-in-law Margaret Braun.

Mayor's Corner *(continued from page one)*

Rockaway Township, to help us in meeting the Township's needs. I encourage every citizen of Rockaway Township to contact me or our Business Administrator on any matter. My administration will be responsive and proactive.

It is important to remember that an administration is dependent upon the people who work for it, both staff and outside professionals. I regret that over the past several months, we have lost three talented and respected staff members in important positions. This includes our Business Administrator, Township Engineer and Tax Collector. Two of those positions have already been filled by promoting competent and respected professionals from within. However, we must work together to restore the image of Rockaway Township as a place where people want to work…a functional and productive place. I pledge that every appointment I make, both to advance staff and for outside professionals, will always serve the interest of the Township and its residents. I ask everyone to respect my appointments and nominations, knowing that they are made within the bounds of my position and in the best interest of Rockaway Township.

In conclusion, there are many that I wish to thank for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today. First, to my wife, Michele and our sons, who have supported me in my years of public service to this point, both as a member of the Council and as a member of the Board of Education. Secondly, I wish to thank Mayor Adam Salberg for his work as Mayor since October 1. Mayor Salberg took on a difficult job at a difficult time and deserves our thanks. Thank you again to Mayor Mike Dachisen for his years of service and commitment. Your shoes will be hard to fill, Mike.

Lastly, I want to thank you, the citizens of Rockaway Township, for all of your support, and want to tell you that I will do everything possible to earn your continued trust and support as we move forward. Thank you. I am humbled, and I am honored by your support and encouragement. We won't let you down.

Mayor Michael Puzio

Volunteer Appointments by the 2019 Council

Multiple volunteer appointments of the Rockaway Township Council are about to expire or are currently vacant, and the Council wishes to make the public aware of the available appointments and identify candidates to fill them. If you would be interested in serving in any of the appointed positions listed below, please go to www.rockawaytownship.org/DocumentCenter/View/5111/Council-Appointments-2019 and follow the instructions for consideration by the Township Council. Thank you for your interest!

Holiday Cheer in Rockaway Township

Rockaway Township held its Christmas tree trimming and holiday celebration on December 7 at the Township municipal building. Residents enjoyed a visit from Santa, hot cocoa, cookies and Christmas carols from the Morris Hills Choir. Pictured, left to right: Billy and Cecilia Uhler; Robin, Matt, Devlyn, Mica and Zoey Jenkins; Angela and Luciana Brown.

Members of the Township Council enjoy the tree trimming and holiday celebration on December 7. Pictured from left: Councilman Jack Quinn, Councilman Manny Friedlander, Councilman Jonathan Sackett, Councilman Joseph Jackson, Councilman Tucker Kelley, Council President Jeremy Jedynak and Councilman Victor Palumbo.

Residents are reminded that dog and cat license renewals are due to the Division of Health by January 31!

Winter Safety Reminders

Winter weather is here, and we would like to provide some safety tips for residents who wish to enjoy the many outdoor activities our area has to offer. Please be safe!!!

In General...

- Check the forecast. Weather can change quickly, so be prepared for anything. Carry backup clothing and supplies.
- Use the proper equipment. Be sure everything is in proper working condition before leaving home.
- Wear the proper attire. Use clothing and gear designed for the activity. Don't wear loose items that can be snagged or caught in equipment or machinery.
- Stay focused; commit 100% of your attention to the activity and the terrain. Rest when you are tired and hydrate often.
- Avoid alcohol. Don't drink before or during any outdoor activity. Alcohol cools the blood and decreases body temperature. It increases fatigue and impairs judgment.

Skiing & Snowboarding

- Stay on runs that are appropriate for your level of ability. Ski -run ratings can vary dramatically by area.
- Ski or snowboard in control at all times; maintain the ability to stop to avoid people or objects.
- Obey all posted signs and warnings. Do not cross ski area boundary lines.
- Do not ski or snowboard alone. Stay where others can see you in case you need assistance.
- Wear a helmet. Most ski areas require them; some rent them. Use goggles rather than sunglasses.
- Take breaks, stay well hydrated and avoid alcohol. Don't overdo it.

Sledding

- Never use roads unless they are blocked off from traffic.
- Avoid sledding directly into wooded areas, onto ice or into water.
- Be aware of sledders at the bottom and those returning up the hill. Wait until the path is clear before starting.

Ice Skating

- Skate in areas that have been approved and posted for ice skating.
- Avoid skating alone; stay where others can see you. Children should never skate unsupervised by adults.
- Remember that ice thickness is never consistent on lakes and ponds, and always beware of thin areas.
- Never skate after dark in dark areas.

Mayor's Special Recognition

Mayor Michael Puzio wishes to congratulate the following individuals on their employment or promotion.

- Patricia Seger, promoted to the position of Business Administrator on October 23, 2018.
- Allison Ferrante, promoted to the position of Municipal Engineer on October 23, 2018.
- Jonathan Walker, hired as Principal Civil Engineer on December 17, 2018.
- Probationary Patrol Officer David McAndrew, starting January 7, 2019.
- Probationary Patrol Officer Donald Reddin, starting January 7, 2019.
- Probationary Patrol Officer Michael Hafley, starting January 7, 2019.
- Probationary Patrol Officer Kevin Miller, starting January 7, 2019.
- Probationary Patrol Officer Brett Mitchel, starting January 7, 2019.

Mayor Puzio also wishes to congratulate the following members of the Rockaway Township Police Department on their retirements. Thank you for your dedicated service to our residents!

- Captain John Janosec, retiring with 34 years of service.
- Lieutenant Peter Reilly, retiring with 29 years of service.
- Sergeant Robert Wassmuth, retiring with 25 years of service.

Mayor Puzio congratulates the following members of the Rockaway Township Police Department on their promotions, all effective December 27, 2018. Thank you, and wishes for continued success!

- Lieutenant Robert Scherr, promoted to Captain.
- Sergeant Christopher Tom, promoted to Lieutenant.
- Sergeant Michael Dachisen, promoted to Lieutenant.
- Patrol Officer Thomas Takacs, promoted to Sergeant.

Changes Coming to 2019 Recycling Schedule!

In order to eliminate an excessive number of holiday 'makeup days' for the 2019 calendar year, the Township is shifting the recycling schedule back one week. This will cause some overlap issues from the 2018 calendar. In an effort to accommodate all recycling routes during this transition period, the recycling schedule will be jumbled. Please see the calendar below for your pick up day. *Starting January 14, 2019, normal recycling collections will resume for all routes*. Please visit www.rockawaytownship.org/189/recycle to view your personalized schedule.

To remain informed, sign up for the Township's ReCollect app to receive collection disruption alerts and reminders. Simply visit the link above and enter your home address to access recycling dates, print calendars, and to sign up for notifications and reminders. Residents can receive alerts via email, text message or phone call. As always, feel free to call 973-983-2891 with any questions or to request a printed copy of your collection schedule.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec. 30	Dec. 31 **F** (2018)	Jan. 1 **Township Offices Closed**	2 **B** (12/25 makeup)	3 **D**	4 **E**	5
6	7 **F**	8 **A**	9 **C**	10	11	12
13 **NORMAL SCHEDULE BEGINS!** ⇨	14 **A**	15 **B**	16 **C**	17 **D**	18 **E**	19
20	21 **Township Offices Closed**	22 **F** (1/21 makeup)	23	24	25	26
27	28 **A**	29 **B**	30 **C**	31 **D**		

What's Happening

JANUARY

1st New Year's Day
Municipal Building Closed

21st Martin Luther King Day
Municipal Building Closed

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

FEBRUARY

21st Blood pressure screening
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
11:00am - 11:30am

18th President's Day
Municipal Building Closed

MARCH

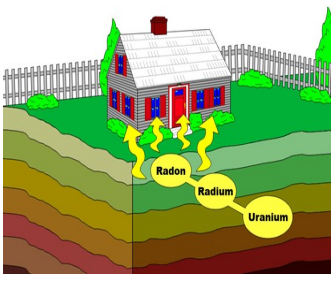
21st Blood pressure screening
Rockaway Township Municipal Building
11:00am - 11:30am

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

Free Radon Test Kits Through Division of Health

The Rockaway Township Division of Health is pleased to offer free radon test kits to Township residents. The test kits, available on a first come, first serve basis, were made possible through a cooperative grant and promotion with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

Radon is a colorless, odorless gas that is estimated to cause about 21,000 lung cancer deaths nationwide every year, and approximately 500 deaths each year in New Jersey. Northwest New Jersey experiences higher radon levels than some other parts of the country, so testing one's home is recommended.



There are simple ways to detect radon in your home, and the first step is a test from a vendor certified by the NJDEP. To obtain your free test kit, visit the Division of Health at the municipal building or call 973-983-2848 for more information.

Mayor Michael Puzio and Police Chief Martin McParland accept a generous gift of CPR/AED training mannequins from American Legion members Sean Hogan, Harry Shaw, Steve Cafone, Jeffrey Lucas, Squadron Adjutant Michael Woomer and Michael Barkley.

Faesch House West Wing Reconstruction Completed

The Ford-Faesch House west wing reconstruction was completed in December 2018, with support from the Morris County Historical Preservation grant program. The original west wing was removed during the 1800s, likely scavenged for stone, leaving just a bay window. Through this project, the structure was rebuilt as it stood in the late eighteenth century.

The Historical Society, in partnership with Rockaway Township, has applied for and has been awarded several grants since the early 1990s, which have helped stabilize and improve the Faesch House structure. The reconstruction of the demolished wing, however, marks a dramatic step toward using the building for more interpretive purposes.

The west wing was reconstructed using materials and methods consistent with those of the late eighteenth century, and the results are stunning. Keep an eye on the Township website for a chance to visit the Faesch House during one of the several events the Historical Society holds throughout the year.

The Ford-Faesch House, located at 629 Mount Hope Road, featuring the reconstructed West Wing on the left.

Public Works Winter Tips

Plowing Policies

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

- Park cars off the street
- To minimize multiple shoveling commitments, don't clear driveways near 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 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 the 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.

Street Lights

Street lights are maintained by Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L). As a courtesy, the Township can report a street light outage to the utility company if you provide us with the exact street address. Outages and street light issues may also be reported directly to JCP&L by dialing 800-662-3115 or by visiting www.firstenergycorp.com/service_requests/report-lighting-problem.html?form and completing their on-line form.

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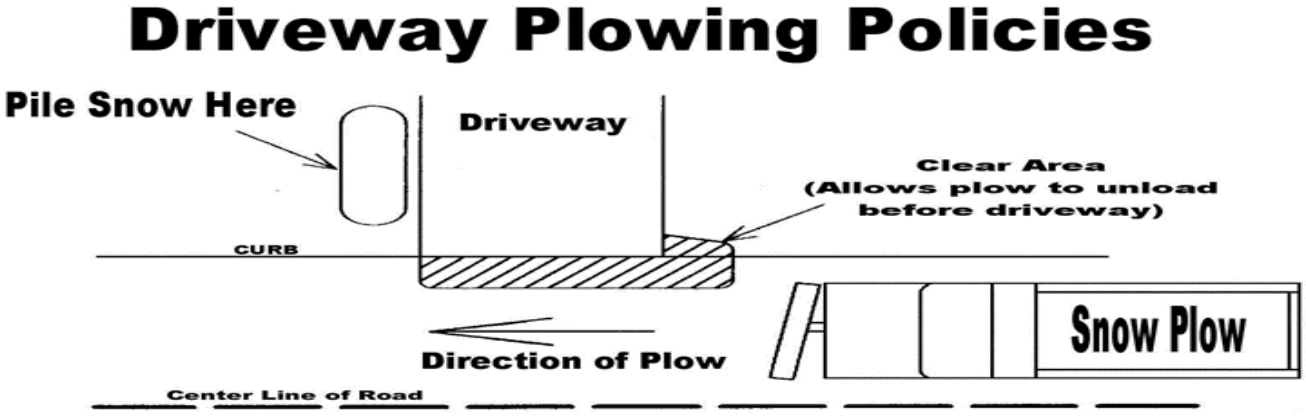
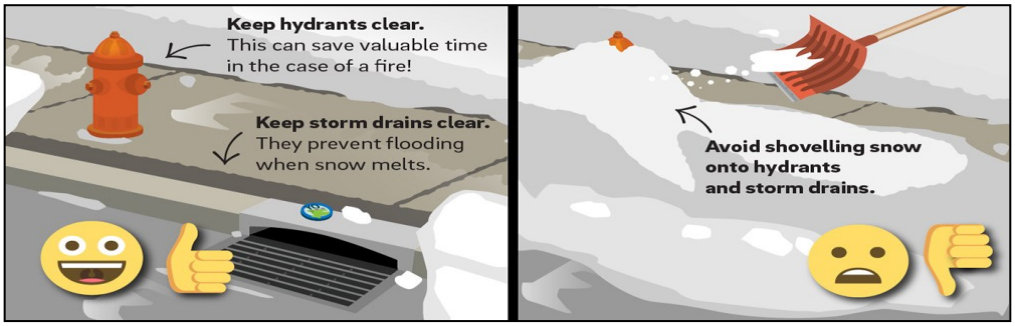
Proper Shoveling: Driveways, Sidewalks & Fire Hydrants

With winter here, the Rockaway Township Department of Public Works asks for your assistance in keeping our streets, sidewalks and fire hydrants clear of snow. Residents are reminded to shovel snow away from the street and fire hydrants when cleaning sidewalks, and to help neighbors who are elderly, handicapped or who have medical conditions. Please use the following guidelines when determining where to shovel snow when cleaning your driveway, or when clearing sidewalks and fire hydrants. The Department of Public Works thanks you in advance for your help!





New Mayor & Councilman for Township

Rockaway Township welcomed Michael Puzio as its new Mayor during a swearing in ceremony on the evening of November 20. Mayor Puzio ran unopposed in a special election on November 6 after the passing of Mayor Michael Dachisen in August. In his comments, Mayor Puzio lauded the legacy of the late Mayor and called for cooperation and progress among the entire governing body. Joe Jackson, a former member of the Board of Education and volunteer with the Township recreation program, was selected to fill Mayor Puzio's vacant Council seat.

Michael Puzio becomes Rockaway Township Mayor during a ceremony on the evening of November 20, and Joe Jackson is sworn in as Council-at-Large member at the Township Council meeting of November 27. Congratulations to Mayor Puzio and Councilman Jackson!

Your 2019 Governing Body

Mayor
Michael Puzio

Council President
Jeremy Jedynak

Council Vice President
Patricia Abrahamsen

Ward 1 Council Member
Victor Palumbo

Ward 2 Council Member
Jack Quinn

Ward 3 Council Member
Phyllis I. Smith

Ward 4 Council Member
Jonathan Sackett

Ward 5 Council Member
Emanual Friedlander

Ward 6 Council Member
Tucker M. Kelley

At Large Council Member
Joe Jackson

Public Works Winter Tips *(continued from page six)*

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 cancelations 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).

Christmas Tree Pick Up
The Township will offer curbside collection of Christmas trees twice in the coming weeks. Please place trees curbside by 6:00am on Tuesday, January 22 or Wednesday, February 4. Recycling crews will travel the entire town during the week following each of these dates, collecting trees.

There will be no designated day for collection, so please have your tree to the curb by the dates indicated above to ensure pick up. Trees should be bare and free from all decorations, lights and tinsel, and should not be contained in plastic bags. Please keep trees free from frozen snow banks, as trees frozen in the snow will not collected. If these curbside collection weeks are not convenient for you, we will also accept Christmas trees in the brush pile at the McVeigh Recycling yard during normal operating hours.

Senior Exercise!

Residents are reminded that the Department of Community Services offers Adult/Senior Exercise classes at the municipal building as follows:

- Healthy Bones classes are held Monday mornings from 10:00am - 11:30am. The entire session is $25.
- Yoga classes are held Tuesday mornings from 10:00am - 10:45am, and from 11:00am - 11:45am. The eight week session costs $25.
- Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program classes are held Friday mornings from 10:30am - 11:30am. The course is free to residents and $25 for non-residents.

For more information, please visit the Township Division of Recreation at www.rockawaytownship.org or call 973-983-2841 for more information.

Longtime Officers Retire from Police Department

The Rockaway Township Police Department said goodbye to three long-standing members at a December 20 retirement ceremony, held in the Township municipal building. All three officers were a fixture in our community for 25 - 34 years. Left: Police Chief Martin McParland congratulates Lieutenant Peter Reilly on his retirement. Center: Members of the Police Department honor their retiring officers. Right: Captain John Janosec describes some mementos that were presented to him by Captain Robert Scherr and the Police Department.

It's Not Too Late to Prevent the Flu! Tips for Staying Healthy this Season

The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get each year, but good health habits like covering your cough and washing your hands often can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu. There also are that can be used to treat and prevent flu. The tips and resources below will help you learn about steps you can take to protect yourself and others from flu and help stop the spread of germs.

Get vaccinated

Flu activity usually peaks between December and March, and the best way to protect yourself, your family and your co-workers is to get a flu shot. Flu vaccine is still widely available through venues like physicians, hospitals and pharmacies. Though the Rockaway Township Division of Health completed its series of flu clinics in November, there is a limited supply of vaccine left and residents may contact the Division of Health at 973-983-2848 to inquire about a flu shot.

Avoid close contact

Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick, too.

Stay home when you are sick

If possible, stay home from work, school and other activities when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading illness to others.

Cover your mouth and nose

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick. Flu and other serious respiratory illnesses, like whooping cough and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), are spread by cough, sneezing or unclean hands.

Wash your hands

Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. Remember to wash for at least 20 seconds, create a good lather and wash the back of your hands. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.

The Lost Art of… Handwashing

December 4-10 was National Handwashing Awareness Week, but when *isn't* it a good idea to bring attention to proper handwashing? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reminds us that handwashing is the number one way to prevent the spread of communicable disease. You can help yourself and others stay healthy by washing your hands often, especially at these key times:

- Before, during and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- When caring for someone who is sick
- When treating a cut or wound
- After using the toilet
- After changing diapers
- After touching an animal or animal waste
- After touching garbage
- After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing