

Rockaway Township Report



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www.rockawaytownship.org

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Mayor's Corner



As we head into summer, our lake communities are in full swing! It is great to see so many of our residents out and about, enjoying the lakes, trails, parklands and recreational activities that Rockaway Township has to offer. We have had the chance to visit the Food Truck Friday events at White Meadow Lake, and they have been widely attended and a lot of fun for children and adults.

Administratively, my team accomplished a lot over the spring, including the finalization of collective bargaining with our two major labor unions, the promotion of two police officers to the position of Sergeant, completion of work on several hundred thousand dollars in Division of Health grants and the completion of much needed repairs to Township roadways.

Additional noteworthy events and milestones have taken place this spring in Rockaway Township, including the return of the Memorial Day Parade to

Rockaway Township, the Morris Knolls Boys Baseball Team's first state championship, the Kids Career Festival at the Rockaway Townsquare Mall, and the opening of several new businesses. In addition, the Township's Substance Abuse Alliance celebrated its 25th year educating our children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Though the spring has clearly been pretty eventful, summer also has a lot to offer, including:

- *Mt. Hope Pond*: badges are available for purchase in our Recreation Department
- *Peterson Field*: turf fields, basketball and tennis/pickleball courts are in full use
- *Garden Bros Circus*: This attraction at the Rockaway Townsquare Mall will feature entertainment, novelties, concessions and pony rides
- *New businesses at the Rockaway Townsquare Mall*: more information to come
- *Rockaway Township Day 2023*: Mark your calendar and plan to attend this event on August 19th at Camp Hudsonia, which promises to be fun for all residents

It is exciting to see many residents becoming actively engaged in the work of our community. My administration will continue to expand the Water Quality, Public Safety, and Recreation and Events Committees I created earlier this year. Some initial meetings have taken place, but it is my hope these advisory groups will begin making meaningful changes in our community as the year progresses.

The Township continues to recognize local businesses on our Facebook page, so please follow us to find out about how you may avail yourself of the services they offer. If you own a local business and wish to be recognized, please contact Dave Dyer, Director of Recreation, at 973-983-2841. If you have any questions about the activities detailed above or other Township events, please contact our staff at the Municipal Building. You may visit us at 65 Mount Hope Road or call 973-627-7200. Township business hours through Labor Day are Monday through Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm, and Friday, 8:30am to 1:30pm. Again, please follow Rockaway Township on Facebook, and make the Township one of your bookmarks. As always, I am honored to be your Mayor.

Joe Jackson
Rockaway Township Mayor

If you, your family or your community group wish to participate in one of the Township's semiannual clean up days, please contact the Township's Clean Communities Coordinator, Cara Sileno-Weiberth, at 973-983-2848

Please be advised that through September 1, 2023, Township municipal office hours are:

Monday through Thursday from 8:30am - 4:30pm
Friday from 8:30am - 1:30pm

Volunteers Make Rockaway Glitter

Rockaway Township held its semiannual Clean Communities Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 22. Pictured (clockwise from upper left); Rockaway Borough Mayor Thomas Mulligan and Rockaway Township Mayor Joe Jackson; Lana, Gwen and Samantha Trematore; Township Council Members Jonathan Sackett and Manny Friedlander; Division of Health employee Daniel McDonald and the Mt. Hope Pond cleanup crew.



Mayor's Special Recognition

Mayor Joe Jackson wishes to congratulate the following employees on their employment with Rockaway Township:

- Ryan Ritcher, Department of Public Works
- Kimberly Moylen, Division of Health

Mayor Jackson wishes to congratulate Edward Garcia of the Police Department on his retirement, and thanks him for his years of dedicated service to Rockaway Township's residents.

Mayor Jackson would like to recognize the Division of Health for successfully managing the \$274,735 Strengthening Public Health Capacities grant and the \$344,824 Enhancing

Local Public Health Infrastructure (ELC) grant. The grants have provided human resources and supplies to support the Division of Health's infectious disease/pandemic response, and also have defrayed a portion of the Division's salaries and expenses. Additional thanks to the Division of Health for making application for another round of Strengthening Local Public Health Capacities and ELC grant funding in June. Mayor Jackson would also like to recognize the Engineering Department for successfully applying for a \$25,000 Stormwater Assistance grant, which will assist the Township with Stormwater compliance.



Safe Grilling in the Summer

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



Defrost Safely

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

Marinating

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

Transporting

When carrying food to another location, keep it cold to minimize bacterial growth. Use an insulated cooler with sufficient ice or ice packs to keep the food at 40°F or below. Pack food right from the refrigerator into the cooler immediately before leaving home. Keep the cooler in the coolest part of the car.

Keep Cold Food Cold

Keep meat and poultry refrigerated until ready to use. Only take out the meat and poultry that will immediately be placed on the grill. When using a cooler, keep it out of the direct sun by placing it in the shade or shelter. Avoid opening the lid too often, which lets cold air out. Pack beverages in one cooler and perishables in a separate cooler.

Cook Thoroughly

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

Keep Everything Clean

Be sure there are plenty of clean utensils and platters. To prevent foodborne illness, don't use the same platter and utensils for raw and cooked meat and poultry. Harmful bacteria present in raw meat and poultry and their juices can contaminate safely cooked food.

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

Tax Collector's Update

Third quarter property tax payments are due on August 1, 2023. Please contact the Tax Collector's office if you need to know the payment amount. Homeowners should have received an estimated tax bill for the third quarter. A final tax bill will be released in late August or September.

Payment Information

Residents may now make partial tax payments online through the Township website. Any partial payment must be enough to cover all interest due at the time of payment. Any credit left will go toward the oldest principal balance. Please allow two business days for payment to process and for the account to be updated. If you have questions or are unsure about how to make a payment, please call the office.

For homeowners using their bank's website to generate a payment, please be aware that these are not electronic transfers between banks. Payments are in the form of material checks that are mailed to the Rockaway Township Municipal Building, so please allow enough time for the check to arrive. Your payment (check) is processed effective the date of receipt, and interest is charged accordingly. When using your bank's website for payment:

- Please review the account information and update if necessary.
- Please do not use Rockaway Township as your payer, but instead, be more specific. Please use Rockaway Township Tax Collector, Rockaway Township Sewer Maintenance and Rockaway Township Municipal Utility.
- Please provide as much information as possible so payments are applied correctly.
- Payments cannot be held for over 24 hours, so please make sure date of payment is appropriate or it will be returned to you.
- If you are making partial, blanket payments, please reach out to the office so we can note your account. This will better ensure payments are applied correctly.



White Meadow Lake Fire Company #5 is anticipating the arrival of its newest fire engine, made by Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton, Wisconsin. Our volunteers look forward to its arrival this month.

Public Works & Recycling

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, downed street sign or tree/limb in the road, please contact the Public Works Department at 973-983-2891, or call the Police Department after 3:30pm and on the weekends at 973-625-4000 to report these issues. The Public Works Department 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.

Microsurfacing & Chipsealing

This summer, the Public Works Department will continue preserving certain roadways by performing microsurfacing and chipsealing. Learn more about these processes by clicking [here](#) and by visiting [this website](#).

Recycling News

Receptacles to be Labeled



Residents occasionally call to report that their receptacles have not been collected. It is imperative 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, yard waste and bulk collections. If you haven't already done so, please visit www.rockawaytownship.org/189/Recycle and click on the 'Calendar' 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 'Wizard' and enter the material you are looking to dispose of. Click on the 'Drop Off 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).

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Left: Former Rockaway Township Mayors Michael Puzio and Louis Sceusi join Mayor Joe Jackson in presenting the Rockaway Township Iron Spirit Award to Les Wexler for founding and leading the Rockaway Township Substance Abuse Alliance over the last 25 years. Right: Mayor Jackson, joined by Program Development Specialist Brittany Bernstein and Health Officer Peter Tabbot, presents a proclamation to Kaitlin Roig-DeBellis, the Newtown, Connecticut elementary school teacher whose actions helped save her classroom of students from a gunman in 2012.



A Summer Message from your Fire Official



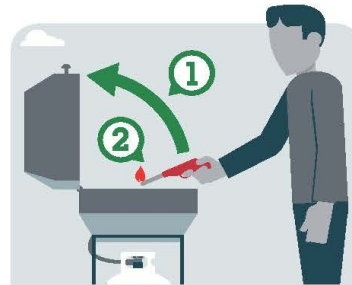
Stay fire safe this summer! Follow these grilling safety tips.



Only use your grill outside. Keep it at least 3 feet from siding, deck rails and eaves.



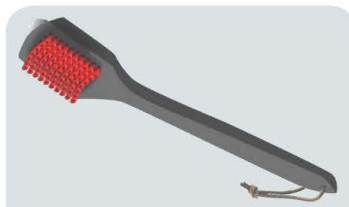
Keep a 3-foot safe zone around your grill. This will keep kids and pets safe.



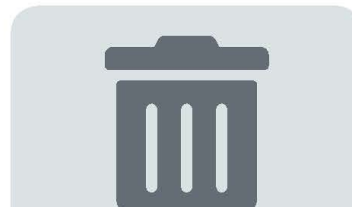
Open your gas grill before lighting.



Keep an eye on your grill, fire pit or patio torches. Don't walk away from them when they are lit.



Clean your grill after each use. This will remove grease that can start a fire.



Place the coals from your grill in a metal can with a lid once they have cooled.

Stay fire safe this summer!
For more information and resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.



Click here to add image.



Public Works & Recycling *(continued from page four)*

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 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. Call 973-347-8106 to make an appointment.

Bulk Collection

Once per month, residents may put out bulky items that

would not generally be placed at the curb with your regular household garbage. Items may include, but are not limited to: mattresses, box springs, couches, toilets, hot water heaters, dressers, end tables, etc. The collection is intended for disposing of a few pieces per month, not for emptying a house when moving – please consider obtaining a bagster or dumpster if you are cleaning out a house, as the bulk program does not cover that amount of debris.

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 (i.e., lumber, sheet rock, spackle, tile, etc.).

If you have a question regarding the suitability of items for bulk collection, either check the Waste Wizard at www.rockawaytownship.org/189 or call 973-983-2891. There is no additional fee for this – it is a service included in your taxes. Bulk collection is contracted to Waste Management and is picked up according to their collection schedule. Please see the link above to check your collection day(s). For items not accepted by bulk collection, please contact the Morris County MUA Transfer Station at 973-347-8106.

Grass – Cut it and Leave it

Remember to simply leave your grass clippings on the lawn when you mow. Grass clippings leave a natural and healthy fertilizer for a growing lawn. Try mulching as well. A mulching blade chops up grass clippings into fine pieces, which slip easily into the soil. These tips will also save money. You won't have to invest in fertilizer, since clippings left on the lawn recycle nutrients like nitrogen back into the soil. Clippings do not create thatch in the lawn. Thatch is formed from the accumulation of dead grass roots and stems, and the more you fertilize and water your lawn, the faster thatch accumulates.

Place grass for disposal in a reusable trash container labeled *grass*. It is collected weekly on the corresponding day of your recycling collection. Do not mix grass clippings with brush or leaves, as it will not be collected. Some leaf matter is expected but it must be segregated from the bulk of your leaf collection.

New Ramps & Crosswalks

The Departments of Engineering and Public Works (DPW) will soon begin ADA curb ramp improvements at intersections along Cathy's Lane and Old Middletown Road. Ahead of planned paving activities, the DPW and Engineering identified intersections within this neighborhood that are not compliant with accessibility standards. Approximately one dozen curb ramps will be installed with depressed curbing, truncated dome pads and landings. In addition, crosswalks and signage will be installed once the roadway is resurfaced, to improve pedestrian safety. Additional safety improvements are planned as the DPW carries out their paving program.

