

Rockaway Township Report



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

www.rockawaytownship.org

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Inside This Issue

Message from Administration	1
New Business Administrator	2
Workforce Acknowledgment	2
Update from Engineering	3
Police Promotions	3
Recognizing Businesses	4
Trick or Treat Safely	4
Dark Lake Spooktacular	4
What's Happening	5
Universal Oneness	5
Ford Faesch Fall Festival	5
Division of Health Events	6
Senior Center Restoration	6
Looking Back at Senior Picnic	7
Tax Collector's Update	7
Public Works Updates	8
Fire Safety for Autumn Months	9
Recreation Events & Updates	10

Project Updates from Administration



Your Rockaway Township leadership team is actively working to improve infrastructure, obtain grant funding, preserve open spaces for your enjoyment, and promote economic development that preserves the character of our Township and increases the municipal ratable base for the benefit of you, our homeowners.

The Division of Health recently applied for, received and is managing \$795,000 in new grant funding. The Strengthening Local Public Health Capacities grant and Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure grant provide support for infectious disease control, social services, community engagement, preparedness and public health accreditation, and also are defraying a significant portion of routine budget items, like salary/wages and material expenses. In total, the Division of Health has applied for, received and managed \$1.74 million in grant funding over the last 3.5 years, a portion of which has saved money for taxpayers by offsetting regular operating expenses.

The Department of Public Works is pleased to report considerable savings in recent road improvements. A 4.3 mile section of Lake Denmark Road was cape-sealed, saving \$467,353 compared to milling and paving, extending the life of the roadway another 12 to 15 years. In addition, Carley's Way, Colleen Court, Elizabeth Lane, and portions of Split Rock Road and Durham Road were micro-sealed, saving \$202,176 compared to milling and paving, and extending the lifespan of these roadways eight to 10 years. The use of different road rehabilitation methods has enabled the Township to expand upon our annual Road Improvement Program, and during this year, alone, the Township restored 43,654 linear feet of roadway.

The Township Water Utility is also hard at work. The well house at the municipal well 10 location is presently under construction, with well 10 due to be installed in the coming months. Rehabilitation to the Green Pond water tank has begun, with completion

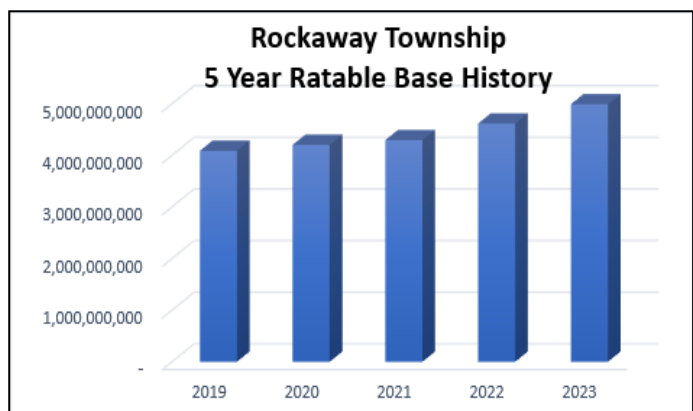
anticipated in mid-November. Additionally, the Queens Road water main replacement is slated to begin this year.

Rockaway Township endeavors to maintain property taxes while improving or expanding upon existing municipal services. Not only has the Township been successful in attaining alternate funding sources to execute municipal operations more efficiently and cost effectively, but has also been able to steadily grow its ratable base over the past several years, as depicted in the graph below.

This increase has been realized through the reexamination of the Township's master plan, as well as amendments to the municipal code that increase commercial interests, which will attract the types of businesses that best fit our community.

Thank you to our team for helping keep Rockaway Township a great place to live, work and play! As always, I am honored to be your Mayor.

Joe Jackson
Rockaway Township Mayor



Rockaway Township Welcomes Paula Cozzarelli as its New Business Administrator

At the August 8, 2023 meeting of the Rockaway Township Council, Mayor Joe Jackson and the Council appointed Paula Cozzarelli as the Township's Business Administrator upon the retirement of Patricia Seger, who served Rockaway Township for 12 years, including five years as Business Administrator.

'It's a tough position to fill and we are very happy that Paula applied for it,' stated Mayor Jackson. 'Her 20 plus years of experience in both large and small municipalities, as well as with water and sewer utilities, made her a top candidate,' he added.

Ms. Cozzarelli holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration and is a certified Qualified Purchasing Agent. She has served as Assistant Business Administrator and Director of Utilities for the Township of Parsippany and as Borough Administrator for the communities of Little Ferry and Pompton Lakes. During her career, Ms. Cozzarelli saved Parsippany taxpayers \$4.5M in

sewer rates through negotiations with the State, managed over \$15 million in capital projects, including those funded through Federal and State grants, and worked with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for the implementation of flood mitigation infrastructure through the federal grant program, *Rebuild By Design*.

Ms. Cozzarelli has served on the Whippany and Rockaway River Watershed Executive Boards, the South Bergen Joint Insurance Fund Executive Board, and has served as Commissioner of the Morris County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund. She is a member of the Pi Alpha Alpha National Honor Society for academic excellence and the New Jersey Municipal Managers Association.

'I am so thankful for the opportunity given to me to serve the residents of the Township of Rockaway,' stated Cozzarelli. 'It's such a dynamic town that offers

great services, a strong school system, beautiful open spaces and smart economic development.'

Ms. Cozzarelli is a life-long Morris County resident who grew up in Parsippany and now resides in Hanover Township with her husband Joe. They have three adult children, Alexa, Danielle and Tommy.



Special Recognition from the Township Administration

The Township's governing body and workforce wish to congratulate Business Administrator Patricia Seger on her retirement, and thank her for years of service to our residents.

Ms. Seger came to Rockaway Township as Assistant Business Administrator in January 2012 and became Business Administrator in October 2018. In this role, she worked tirelessly for the residents of Rockaway Township until her retirement on August 31 of this year. The entire Township team wishes Ms. Seger well in her retirement, which is certain to feature much time with her 13 grandchildren.

The Department of Administration recognizes the Department of Public Works for recently saving several

hundred thousands of dollars in road resurfacing projects. The Department of Administration also recognizes the Division of Health for applying for and receiving about \$800,000 in new grants during August and September. In addition, the Department recognizes the Department of Engineering for receiving a \$25,000 Stormwater Assistance grant from the NJDEP.

The Department of Administration congratulates the following individuals on their employment with the Township.

- Lisa Caruso, Office of the Clerk
- Robert Timmerman, Department of Public Works
- August Joy, Department of Public Works

- Brent Bloom, Department of Public Works
- Patrick Sheeran, Department of Public Works
- Nicholas Marchello, Department of Public Works
- David Conover, Department of Public Works
- Thomas Campbell, Department of Public Works
- Joe McMahon, Department of Public Works
- John Rodriguez, Department of Public Works
- Carrie LaRose, Division of Health
- Milena Brochhausen, Police Department



Update from Engineering, Zoning and Construction

Continued Senior Center Renovations

Utilizing partial funding from a Morris County Community Development Block Grant, the Township has started renovations to the basement of the Robert A. Galdon Senior Citizen Center, located at 91 Mt. Hope Road. This project represents the fourth phase of restoration to the Senior Center, following resurfacing of the parking area, replacement of the roof and recent first floor renovations. The basement renovation will include new flooring, new ceiling tiles, repair and painting of walls, a new door and windows, and ADA-compliant upgrades to the existing restroom facilities. Completion of the project is anticipated by December 2023.

Queens Road Area Infrastructure Improvements

Construction activities, similar to those that were performed recently on Kings Road, will soon begin on Queens Road, and are expected to last several months. The first phase of construction will involve replacement of the water main beneath the entirety of Queens Road, as well as Doreen Court, Carla Court and Lois Court. Once the water main replacement activities are completed, roadway improvements will begin, including drainage, curbing, curb ramps, driveway aprons and final mill/pave. The Township asks residents to please be mindful of the construction zones and detours, and thanks you in advance for your patience while the Township completes upgrades to the infrastructure within this area.

Fee Changes for Land Use Applications

Municipal fees associated with applications to the land use boards and Uniform Construction Code permit applications have recently been amended. These fees are user-based and are amended to better align with those charged by like municipalities. The revised fees will help to defray the cost of providing these services to the public, while still keeping the cost of development, renovation and conducting business in the Township affordable. These new fees may be found within Chapter 12 and Chapter 54 of the Township Municipal Code. Please look [here](#) to review the affected fees.

Renovations Slated for Ford Faesch House

The Township Council have awarded the bid for the next phase of renovations to the Ford Faesch House in Mt. Hope. The project, which is funded by the Morris County Historical Society, will include renovations to the structure's interior and ventilation system, and is anticipated to include restoration to some or all of the following features: windows, doors, wood floor finishing, walls and ceilings, stairs, ventilation system and limited lighting. In addition, the Township will soon be installing a well and septic system to serve this historically significant structure.

New Retail Development

- Xtreme Energy – an active, indoor playscape for all ages, featuring trampolines, spider wall, rope course and virtual reality – is under construction at the Rockaway Townsquare Mall. This new establishment will be located within the former Modell's Sporting Goods store, on the lower level of the mall beside the former Sears store. Xtreme Energy is anticipated to open by year's end.
- Construction is underway on a new outpatient dialysis center. The new facility will be located in the retail strip mall located adjacent to the ShopRite on Route 46 in Rockaway Township.
- Two new tenants are presently renovating and soon occupying the vacant office space within the Rock 80 Corporate Center, located at 100 Enterprise Drive. This property is opposite the Home Depot store on Mount Pleasant Ave.
- Rockaway Township's first cannabis facility, Holistic Re-Leaf, is soon expected to open. The establishment, presently under construction at 321 Mt. Hope Ave., will be licensed by the State and municipality as a retail cannabis dispensary, and construction is expected to be completed in early 2024.

Police Promotions

The Rockaway Township Police Department was proud to promote three of its members on August 25. Timothy Kepler was promoted to Lieutenant, and Clifford Gauthier and Christopher Hamilton were both promoted to Sergeant. Mayor Joe Jackson officiated the ceremony by administering the officers' oath of office, while family members helped swear in their loved ones.



Pictured (from left): Captain Robert Scherr, Sergeant Christopher Hamilton, Sergeant Clifford Gauthier, Mayor Joe Jackson, Lieutenant Timothy Kepler and Chief Martin McParland.

Recognizing Local Businesses

Supporting businesses within Rockaway Township benefits residents and store operators alike, providing convenient services and tax ratables. Following are the local businesses that the Department of Administration recognizes under the *Support Local Businesses* initiative:

Domenico's Pizza

13 Upper Mountain Ave.
Rockaway, NJ 07866
973- 627-9100

Markovski Landscaping & Tree Service

179 Route 46, Suite 15-175
Rockaway, NJ 07866
973-627-4161
www.markovskilandscapingandtreeservice.com

Enrique's Printing & Signs

441 U.S. Highway 46
Dover, NJ 07801
973-620-9499
www.enriquesprintingsigns.com

Going Going Gone by Dick's Sporting Goods

On Friday, September 8, Mayor Jackson joined store manager Jon Reyes and staff at a ribbon cutting for Going Going Gone by Dick's Sporting Goods store, located at 202 Enterprise Drive in the Walmart shopping plaza. Mayor Jackson congratulates the Going Going Gone team and encourages residents to support the store.



Remember These Tips for a Safe Halloween

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

For more information, visit [this website](#).

Calling All Ghouls...

Come to Dark Lake Spooktacular, jointly presented by the Rockaway Township Recreation Department and the Rockaway Borough Recreation Department. Dark Lake Spooktacular is a safe and fun event where children and families can walk around Parks Lake, trick or treat at decorated booths and tables from local families and businesses, and play at various attractions. The event is tentatively scheduled for 5:30pm - 8:00pm on October 28. Please check [here](#) in the coming days for more information!

What's Happening

OCTOBER

- 19th Flu Clinic*
Township Municipal Building
4:30pm - 6:30pm
- 21st Annual Fall Township Clean Up*
Multiple Locations
9:00am - 11:00am
- 21st Pickleball Doubles Tournament**
Peterson Field
Time TBD
- 28th Dark Lake Spooktacular
Parks Lake Walking Path
5:30pm - 8:00pm (tentative time)



NOVEMBER

- 2nd Flu Clinic*
Township Municipal Building
4:00pm - 6:00pm
- 10th Veterans Day
Municipal Building Closed
- 18th Free Rabies Clinic
Township Public Works Garage
9:00am - 12:00pm



- 23rd Thanksgiving &
24th Day After Thanksgiving
Municipal Building Closed



DECEMBER

- 1st Christmas Tree Lighting
Rockaway Township Gazebo
6:30pm (tentative time)
- 2nd Free Rabies Clinic
Township Public Works Garage
9:00am - 12:00pm
- 11th Menorah Lighting & Chanukah
Township Municipal Building
7:00pm (tentative time)
- 25th Christmas
Municipal Building Closed



* Registration required. Please call the Division of Health at 973-983-2848 for more information.

** Registration required. Please go [here](#) or call the Division of Recreation at 973-983-2841 for more information.

Universal Oneness Day

The men and women of the Rockaway Township Police Department were honored by members of the Hindu SwayamsevakSangh USA (HSS) organization on Tuesday, September 12 at Police headquarters. Members of the HSS were recognizing Raksha Bondhan, a centuries-old celebration of 'Universal Oneness Day.' This event includes a traditional gesture of thanking civic officials and first responders for protecting the local community, in which everyone is a part of the neighborhood.

Raksha Bondhan is symbolized by the tying of a 'Rakhi,' a sacred saffron thread, upon the wrist of the recipient, to represent the bond that person shares with their community. The ceremony was concluded with the sharing of traditional Hindu food and sweets.



Faesch House Fall Festival

Residents are invited to join the Historical Society of Rockaway Township for its Fall Festival on Sunday, November 5 from 1:00pm - 4:00pm. Historical talks, tours, games, crafts and children's story time will be featured. More details appear below!

Fall Festival

at the Ford Faesch House, 1772

Sunday,
November 5
Rain or Shine 1-4pm

Fun for Everyone!

- Children's Storytimes at:
1:45, 2:45, 3:45
- Historical Talks
 - Games with Prizes
 - Crafts
 - Tours of Ford Faesch Mansion
 - General Store Open for shopping



Parking Available at the Tilcon Parking lot.
GPS: 629 Mount Hope Road, Wharton, NJ 07885

For more information email: HSRTarchives@gmail.com
Visit our website and Facebook page: www.rockawaytownship.org www.facebook.com/HistoricalSocietyofRockawayTownship

From the Division of Health...

Litter impacts our quality of life, and is harmful to our environment and wildlife. Participate in Township cleanups, while educating others about litter prevention.

To become involved, call 973-983-2848 or email:

csileno@rockawaytownship.org



Clean Communities Clean Up Day

The Division of Health is pleased to announce its annual Rockaway Township Fall Clean Up Day, to be held from 9:00am - 11:00am on Saturday, October 21. The cleanup will take place at Mt. Hope Pond and Lake Ames.

All residents, youth groups, scouting groups, families and other community organizations are invited to help remove litter. Participants will receive T-shirts and promotional items, and non-profit groups are eligible for mini-grants for their participation. Volunteers will meet at their assigned location and will receive gloves and bags to facilitate the cleanup. Children under 18 years of age must be under parental supervision.

Pre-registration is required for the cleanup. At the time of registration, participants will be assigned to the Mt. Hope Pond or Lake Ames location. If you would like to register yourself, your family or an organization for the Annual Fall Clean Up, please contact the Rockaway Township Division of Health at 973-983-2848 by October 18, 2023.

Township Holds Flu Clinics

The Rockaway Township Division of Health will be holding its free annual flu clinics on Thursday, October 19, from 4:30pm - 6:30pm, and on Thursday, November 2, from 4:00pm - 6:00pm. Both clinics will be held at the Rockaway Township Municipal Building, 65 Mt. Hope Road.

Flu immunizations are free to Rockaway Township residents. Medicare recipients should

have their Medicare card in hand when making an appointment and should bring their card to the clinic. Registration is required for the flu clinics. Please call 973-983-2848 if you wish to register, or if you have any questions.

Free Rabies Shots for our Furry Friends

The Rockaway Township Division of Health will be offering two free rabies clinics for Township cats and dogs this fall. The first clinic will be held from 9:00am – 12:00pm on Saturday, November 18, and the second will be provided from 9:00am – 12:00pm on Saturday, December 2. The clinics will take place at the Rockaway Township Municipal Garage, located at 540 Green Pond Road. Dogs in attendance at the clinic must be leashed and cats must be in carriers.

Residents who plan to have their pets vaccinated can save time at the clinics by calling the Division of Health in advance. Staff will begin completing a rabies certificate over the phone, which will make your visit to the clinics shorter. For more information or to begin this process, please contact the Division of Health at 973-983-2848. Please help protect the community by vaccinating your dogs and cats!



Senior Center Gets Another Grant-Funded Facelift



A new round of interior restoration has begun at the Township's Robert A. Galdon Senior Citizen Center. The work, which includes cosmetic renovations, modest updates for Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance, and restoration to floors, walls, ceilings, windows and doors on the lower level, is anticipated for completion around the end of the year.

Most of the costs associated with this project will be paid by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from Morris County, and will augment several prior iterations of grant-funded restoration to the building's interior and property.

2023 Annual Senior Picnic: Celebration of our Residents

The Annual Senior Picnic was held at the Craigmear Recreation Complex on September 7. The weather was lovely, and nearly 300 senior residents attended. Many thanks to everyone who helped create another very successful Rockaway Township event! *Clockwise from upper right:* Council Members Jonathan Sackett, Rachael Brookes, Mary Noon and Manny Friedlander join Mayor Joe Jackson at the Senior Picnic; Mayor Jackson helps one of the Township's seniors celebrate her birthday at the picnic; Council Member Rachael Brookes and Township staff became wait staff for the day and served our seniors; Township seniors gather for a day of food, fun and festivity.



Tax Collector's Update

Fourth quarter 2023 property taxes are due November 1, 2023. The last day for payment is November 13, 2023. Please contact the Tax Collector's office if you need to know the amount due.

Residents in need of *Senior Freeze* (property tax reimbursement) assistance may call the State's hotline at 1-800-882-6597. If you require assistance with New Jersey's *Homestead Credit/ANCHOR* program, you may call the State's hotline at 1-888-238-1233.

Residents are reminded that annual *sewer maintenance bills* were mailed in late May and were due in June 2023. If you have any questions in reference to the above items, please feel free to contact the Tax Collector's office at 973-983-2822.

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 also allow two business days for the 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. Residents are reminded to please make the correct department payment in the appropriate portal.

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.

Cooperative Curbside Collection & Snow Removal

Leaf and Brush Collection

Leaves and brush are collected weekly through the end of the year. Items should be placed at the curb by 5:00am on your designated day, which may be found by searching the ReCollect calendar [here](#). Leaves must be placed in biodegradable paper bags or reusable containers labeled 'yard waste' only, *no heavier than 50 pounds* - neither plastic nor plastic biodegradable bags are accepted. *Landscape barrels may not be used.*

Brush must be placed curbside and bundled/tied in four foot lengths. No stumps or branches over six inches in diameter will be collected, and no dirt, rocks, concrete or garbage may be mixed in with yard waste. *All containers must be labeled.* Yard waste and recycling stickers are available at the Municipal Building, or you may call 973-983-2891. Leave your name, address and request for stickers and they will be mailed to you. *Do not place or blow loose leaves or brush into the roadway.*

Brush and leaves are also accepted from Rockaway Township residents at the McVeigh Recycling Center. Commercial landscapers, tree services and dump trucks may *not* dump leaves or brush at the recycling center. The McVeigh recycling center is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 7:00am - 5:00pm, and on

Saturdays from 7:00am - 3:30pm. Both Township recycling centers are closed on Sundays.

Inclement Weather/Holiday Collection

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

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

Plowing Policies

We have entered the fall months and winter isn't far away. Here are some tips to avoid snow plowing rage!

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

- Don't shovel sidewalk snow onto street – this is *also* a violation of Township Ordinances and creates a hazard
- Per Township Ordinance, residents have 24 hours to remove snow from sidewalks in front of their home
- If you wish to file a claim for damage to your vehicle caused by the use of Township equipment, you must have a police report
- Please help the Fire Department by shoveling out fire hydrants, keeping them free of snow and ice to ensure that rescue personnel have access in the event of a fire

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

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

Public Works: Road Improvements in the Township

The Department of Public Works reports that the following Township roads have been milled and paved:

- Calumet Avenue
- Hibernia Road (portion)
- Hilltop Drive
- Lakeview Court
- Upper Hibernia Road (portion)
- Willow Road

The following roads are scheduled for milling and paving:

- Cayuga Avenue (portion)
- Roundhill Drive
- South Brookside Drive/Lenape Avenue intersection (portion)

Please see page one for details about cost-saving road improvements and pavement preservation efforts.



Fall Fire Safety

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week 2023 takes place October 8 – 14. The timing of Fire Prevention Week is no coincidence. The Great Chicago Fire of 1871, during which 17,400 structures, 2,000 acres of land and over 250 people were lost, began on October 8, 1871. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge declared Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health and safety observance in our country.

The theme of this year's Fire Prevention Week is 'Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention.' The goal of this educational campaign is to remind all residents about simple but important actions they may take to keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking. These steps include:

- Turning pot handles toward the back of the stove
- Always keep a lid nearby when cooking - If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner
- Watch what you heat - Set at timer to remind you that you have something cooking
- Maintain a 'kid free zone' of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared



On September 9, White Meadow Lake Company #5 celebrated 60 years of professional volunteer service to the residents of Rockaway Township. In addition, they welcomed a new rescue boat and fire engine. Pictured at the 'end of the rainbow' is Engine 51. Best of luck and health to Company 5 and all of Rockaway Township's volunteer firefighters.

Cooking Safety

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

Cook with Caution

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire - oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains - away from your stovetop.



If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 911 or the local emergency number from outside the home.

FACTS

- ! The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ! Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.



Updates from the Division of Recreation

**Calling all ghouls!!
The Township will again partner with Rockaway Borough to present the Dark Lake Spooktacular on October 28. Check [here](#) for updates and details.**



Participate in the inaugural Peterson Pickleball Doubles Tournament on October 21. Registration open through October 12. Call 973-983-2841 to register!

The Division of Recreation invites you to participate in fun and fulfilling Township activities this fall. Please visit the Division of Recreation at the Rockaway Township Municipal Building, 65 Mt. Hope Road, for more information on our programs and activities.

Senior and Dial-a-Ride Walking Club

The Rockaway Township Senior and Dial-a-Ride Walking Club is open to interested residents. All participants must register and complete a release form, which may be obtained at the Division of Recreation. The Walking Club meets from 10:00am – 11:00am on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, weather permitting, at Parks Lake. Enjoy a lovely walk and socialize with friends. Plenty of benches line the Parks Lake path for relaxation or reading a book. Please contact Veronica Skewes, Dial-a-Ride manager, at 973-983-2839 for more information.

Meals-on Wheels

The Meals-on-Wheels Program provides nutritious food to homebound residents who are unable to cook for themselves. Staff of the Morris County Nutrition Project administers the program, and prepares and supplies the meals. Morris County residents may enroll in the Meals-on-Wheels program by calling the Morris County Nutrition Project at 973-285-6856.

The Rockaway Township Division of Recreation coordinates the Meals-on-Wheels program for Township residents and provides home delivery of meals. We always welcome volunteer drivers for the Meals-on-Wheels program, either for a permanent delivery schedule of one day per month or for substitute drivers to work on an as-needed basis. Meals are distributed from the Rockaway Township Municipal Building between 9:30am and 12:00pm. Volunteers must complete a volunteer application with the Division of Recreation. To do so, visit the Municipal Building at 65 Mt. Hope Road. For more information regarding this important program, please contact 973-983-2839.

Upcoming Events

The Division of Recreation has a number of upcoming recreational events for residents. The Township is excited to host its inaugural

Peterson Pickleball Doubles Tournament on Saturday, October 21. The tournament is open to Rockaway Township residents, only, with a suggested donation of \$30 per two-member team. All registration fees will be donated to a local charity.

Registration is open through October 12, at which time brackets and times will be determined. The tournament will feature rally scoring to 11 and double elimination. All Township residents are welcome as we look forward to a day of pickleball fun. To register, go [here](#). For more information, please call 973-983-2841 or [email](#).

Rockaway Township will be collaborating with the Morris County Clerk's office to provide residents with a convenient opportunity for a passport or a notarized document. The County Clerk's Passport Outreach program will be present at the Rockaway Township Municipal Building from 9:00am – 2:00pm on October 17 for passport applications, and the County Clerk's Notary Public Outreach program will be at the Municipal Building for the same window of time to provide Township residents with an easy way to have documents notarized. Walk-in visits are welcome for both services.

For more information about applying for a passport at this event, call 973-285-6161. To learn more about Notary Public services available on this date, call 973-285-6122. Residents may also visit [this website](#) for full details about the Notary Public Outreach event and [this link](#) for all necessary information regarding the Passport Outreach event.

Other upcoming events include the following:

- Rockaway Township will once again partner with the Borough of Rockaway to host the annual Dark Lake Spooktacular Halloween event on October 28.
- The annual Christmas tree lighting will be held on December 1.
- The annual menorah lighting will be held on December 11.

Details forthcoming for each of these fun family events. Please check [here](#) and the Township Facebook page for more information as the dates of these events draw near.