

RANDOLPH

Quarterly

"Where Life is Worth Living"



VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2021

PUBLISHED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF RANDOLPH

Randolph Food Pantry

The Randolph Township Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department operates a food pantry throughout the year for township families and individuals who are in need.

For those who are able to donate, some of the items frequently requested include, but are not limited to, the following (only non-perishables please and also be sure to check expiration dates):

- Any kind of cereal and breakfast items
- Canned fish and meats
- Canned peas, green beans, kidney and wax beans
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Boxed mashed potatoes and canned potatoes
- Canned fruit and apple sauce
- Powdered milk

The pantry can also always use paper towels, toilet paper, dish detergent and bags to transport the deliverables to the families in need.

To meet the need created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the pantry is also accepting financial donations as well as store gift cards that will be used by township staff to purchase perishable items which would not normally be available in our pantry.

There is a donation bin in the foyer of the community center at 30 Calais Road. This bin is for food and grocery items, not financial contributions or gift cards. Donations should only be left during office hours – Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Residents needing to drop off items after office hours or those wanting to make financial contributions should coordinate with Community Services by calling 973-989-7084.

Residents requiring food assistance are encouraged to call 973-989-7084 during the hours listed above. A staff member will provide a checklist of available items from our pantry. Requested items will be bagged and available on a scheduled basis for those in need to either pick up from the Community Center or to have delivered by a volunteer.

Se recomienda a los residentes que requieran asistencia alimentaria que llamen al 973-989-7084, de 8:30 a.m. a 4:30 p.m. de lunes a viernes. Un miembro del personal proporcionará una lista de artículos disponibles de nuestra despensa. Los artículos solicitados se guardarán en bolsas y estarán disponibles de forma programada para aquellos que necesiten recogerlos en el centro comunitario o ser entregados por un voluntario.



Township Communications

If you are wondering how to stay informed about township news, programs, activities and more, please review the information below. The township provides this information through various media. If you have questions concerning the information below, please call the Township Manager's office at 973-989-7060.

Township Website – www.randolphnj.org includes news items as well as alerts when necessary. The website also includes information from all of the departments within the municipality. In addition to the township website, there are also websites for the Economic Development Committee (EDC), www.randolphjedc.com, and our local business connection, www.randolphlocal.com, where you can find a directory of many of the businesses located in Randolph.

Swift911 – this is an emergency notification system used by the township for things such as weather related information, water main breaks, road closures, etc. To sign up, visit the township website homepage and click on the icon on the right side. It will prompt you to add your emergency contact information. You can identify how you wish to receive the notification by adding your telephone numbers for calls and/or text messages, and your email address. All existing landline telephone numbers are already part of the 911 notification database. We encourage you to tell your friends and neighbors about Swift911 and how they can register.

Facebook – follow or like us, Township of Randolph, to see posts on events and emergency information. Some of the township committees such as the EDC and the Municipal Alliance Committee (MAC) also have Facebook pages.

Twitter and Instagram – follow us, @RandolphTwpNJ, to see information on events and emergency notifications.

Randolph News and Events Email – this is a weekly email sent to subscribers that includes information and upcoming events. To subscribe, visit the township website, click on the "Services" drop down menu and click on the white "Randolph News and Events" box to enter your email address.

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VISIT

www.randolphnj.org
for more information about
Randolph Township.

Like us on Facebook at
"Township of Randolph"
Follow us on Twitter &
Instagram @RandolphTwpNJ

THE LATE NIGHT DATES FOR
THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
AND COMMUNITY CENTER
ARE CURRENTLY
SUSPENDED.

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DOVER, NJ 07801
PERMIT NO. 273

Resident
Randolph, NJ 07869

RANDOLPH
Quarterly

Township of Randolph
Randolph, NJ 07869-3799

POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE
EMERGENCIES DIAL

9-1-1

(All numbers Area Code 973, unless
indicated otherwise)

MUNICIPAL OFFICES

Main Number	989-7100
Police Main Number	989-7000
Accounts Payable	989-7046
Animal Control	989-7050
Animal Shelter	543-9333
Assessor	989-7075
Building Department	989-7070
Clerk	989-7041
Engineering	989-7066
Finance	989-7045
Fire Department	989-7098
Health Department	989-7050
Manager	989-7060
Municipal Court	989-7056
Parks & Recreation	989-7081
Planning & Zoning	989-7080
Public Health Nurses	537-7118
Public Works	989-7066
Recreation Hotline	866-802-0837
Recycling/Solid Waste	989-7050
Senior Services	989-7084
Tax Collector	989-7047
Water & Sewer	989-7063

2020 ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR	
Christine Carey	985-2623
DEPUTY MAYOR	
Joanne Veech	328-7175

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mark Forstenhausler	886-7255
James B. Loveys	201-400-6747
Lou Nisiovicia	713-6004
Marie Potter	945-6310
Lance Tkacs	252-4586

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Stephen P. Mountain	989-7060
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WEBSITE

www.randolphnj.org

RANDOLPH SCHOOL
DISTRICT

Board of Education	361-0808
Center Grove	361-7835
Fernbrook	361-0660
Ironia	584-8588
Shongum	895-2322
Randolph Middle School	366-8700
Randolph High School	361-2400

OTHER HELPFUL
NUMBERS

Brundage Playhouse	989-7092
Chamber of Commerce	361-3462
County College of Morris	328-5000
Ironia Post Office	584-5659
Lakeland Bus	366-0600
Library	895-3556
Morristown Med. Center	971-8005
Mt. Freedom Post Office	895-2383
Motor Vehicle Commission	888-486-3339
N.J. Transit	800-772-2222
Randolph Lake	584-1358
Rescue Squad	366-7900
St. Clare's Hospital	989-3000

RANDOLPH *in brief...*

A Message from the Mayor

Dear Randolph Residents,

To our new residents who have chosen to make Randolph Township their new home, welcome. This truly is a great place to live!

As I continue to serve our community as Mayor for a second time, I would like to thank the residents who have supported me, the volunteers who have contributed so much, and the dedicated members of our Township Council who have selected me to serve as Mayor again this year. My family and I have lived in this outstanding community for 26 years and absolutely love Randolph Township!

I am proud that I have been able to volunteer my time on the Township Council and with the dedicated firefighters who protect our homes and lives in the event of a disaster. This past year has been especially challenging, but our volunteer chiefs have taken precautions to keep our firefighters healthy and able to respond. Every emergency call for help has been answered, and we can all sleep well while they are on watch. We are also blessed with a dedicated Rescue Squad whose members are always available to take action on a moment's notice.

Now that there is a COVID-19 vaccine, I encourage everyone to visit the Atlantic Health System website to book an appointment. It might take a few tries, but please be patient and try again. Also, other options are now available, so adding your name to wait lists may help. As Governor Phil Murphy said, "We strongly encourage everyone to join hundreds of thousands of their fellow New Jerseyans in preregistering to receive the vaccine and taking

another step toward ending this pandemic."

Our parks and trails will soon come alive with the sights and sounds that we have missed during the cold winter months. We will finally be able to get out and enjoy the fresh air and miles of hiking trails. Our new Veterans Community Park is now open. Please try to spend some time there and check out the 1/4-mile paved and lighted walkway loop. Our Community Garden has enjoyed a fantastic first year, and our Great Lawn with an amphitheater will hopefully soon host outdoor concerts. This is a fantastic addition to our township that was built on donated land and improved by using our Park and Recreation/Open Space Trust with no tax increase for our residents!

We look forward to 2021 as a year with the promise of better times. We hope that the COVID-19 pandemic will be eradicated and that we can all get back to the activities and social interactions that have been curtailed. Here's to a fantastic new year where we can all enjoy the many great things that Randolph Township has to offer.

Mark H. Forstenhausler
Mayor



From the Tax Office

Did you know? There are a number of property tax deductions/rebates available to homeowners who qualify.

The following programs are administered by the State of New Jersey:

Property Tax Reimbursement (Freeze)

This program is open to homeowners/mobile homeowners 65 or older, or receiving Social Security disability, and meet the qualifications. The State Treasury Department began mailing the 2020 applications in February 2021. For more information please visit state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/ or call 1-800-882-6597.

Homestead Rebate

This program is open to NJ residents who own and occupied their home as their principal residence and meet the qualifications. The State Treasury Department has announced that eligible taxpayers will be paid the 2017 benefit beginning May 2021. For more information please visit state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/homestead/geninf.shtml or call 1-888-238-1233.

The following program is administered by the Tax Collection Office:

Senior Citizen, Disabled Person or Surviving Spouse

This program is open to homeowners that meet the qualifications. For more information please visit state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/otherptr.shtml or call the Tax Collection Office at 973-989-7047.

The following programs are administered by the Tax Assessment Office:

Veteran or Surviving Spouse

This program is open to all veterans that meet the qualifications.

Property Tax Exemption for a 100% Disabled Veteran or Surviving Spouse

This program is open to totally disabled war veterans who meet the qualifications.

For more information please visit state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/otherptr.shtml or call the Tax Assessment Office at 973-989-7129.

From the Tax and Water/Sewer Department:

Automatic Payment Program for Taxes and Water/Sewer Accounts

If you are currently enrolled, please be sure to notify the Tax Department, in writing, when you have a change to your account number, email address or if you sell your home. If you wish to enroll in the program or for more information, please visit www.randolphnj.org or call 973-989-7047 or 973-989-7063.

Information Regarding Past Due Utility Charges

Under Executive Orders 190 and 229, no household in New Jersey can have its electricity, gas, or water service shut off for nonpayment. This moratorium on utility shutoffs is extended to at least June 30, 2021 and applies to all residential gas, electric, and water utilities for public, private, and municipal.

In addition, no electric, gas, or water utilities, public, private, or municipal shall collect any fee, interest, or charge for late or untimely payment. Nor can these late or untimely charges be put up for tax sale until at least June 30, 2021.

If you are having trouble affording your utility bills you can find help by dialing 2-1-1 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week for confidential referrals to local health and human service assistance or you may search the NJ 2-1-1 online database at www.nj211.org.

Important Dates for Primary Election June 8 | Polls open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

April 14: Last day to change party affiliation for June Primary

May 18: Last day to register to vote in the June Primary

June 1: Last day to apply for Mail-in Ballot application (formerly civilian absentee ballot) for June Primary. This is for those who have moved within Morris County or did not receive a Mail-in ballot.

At the time of publication (late February), the Morris County Board of Elections is planning for in-person voting for the Primary Election. However, this is subject to change should another Executive Order be issued. Updates will be posted on the township website, www.randolphnj.org.

Support Local Business this Spring!

COVID-19 impacted every aspect of our lives in 2020. In order to manage, we had to change routines, adapt to constantly evolving requirements and remain vigilant. The same was true for our local business community. The year 2020 was a very difficult one for many business owners, but with the community's support our local businesses adapted and persevered.

We are now entering the spring of a new year with a renewed sense of health, hope and prosperity. The challenge of COVID-19 is still present, but we have learned a lot in the past year and we expect 2021 to be better for all, including local business. To help make this expectation a reality, the Randolph Economic Development Committee (EDC) remains committed to supporting our local businesses and encouraging residents to do the same.

The retail and food service sectors of our local business community have been particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. This quarter we are focusing specifically on our local retail service businesses and restaurants. We encourage residents to remember that even though restrictions are still in place, our township boasts many excellent retailers, restaurants, pubs, diners, and caterers, all of which are open for business. These businesses have invested significant dollars to

adapt their operations for COVID-19 and to allow them to deliver their services safely to the community. All they need is your support.

As we move into the spring, we will have several opportunities to patronize our local retailers and eateries. In addition to celebrating holidays such as St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Passover, and Holi, the months also include sporting events like the College Basketball Final Four and professional recognition days such as Administrative Professionals Day. Generally, these celebratory days and events usually involve retail purchases and/or catered gatherings, special dinners, and festive visits to our local pubs and restaurants.

While these traditional celebrations and events may be a little different this year, the EDC urges you to consider ways to still involve our local business community. Order retail service through contactless pick-up or delivery options, take advantage of catering services for food trays, place a take-out order, or pick up some special treats to celebrate these events. Our many retail, food and catering establishments in town will work creatively with you to serve your need and would be most appreciative of the business! Visit our Randolph Local website, www.randolphlocal.com, to view a listing of many of the local retail and food service options.

Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet – National Prescription Drug Take Back Day – April 24th

The Randolph Police Department will again be participating in the Drug Enforcement Agency's National Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 24th. The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. Officers and the collection box will be outside at the ACME, 690 Millbrook Avenue from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.



Spring Bulk Collection Week April 26 – April 30

The spring bulk collection week begins Monday, April 26th. Items must be placed curbside by 6:00 a.m. on Monday. Please note the collection is simply an extension of your one-item-of-bulk-trash per weekly curbside collection service available to residents throughout the year.

Blue Diamond will be through each street one time for this collection and will not make return trips. Household trash must be clearly separated from your bulk items. Bulk items should not be placed in a box; loose items must be in trash cans or disposable bags. Latex paint cans must be dried out.

Items accepted include non-metal furniture, couches, mattresses, box springs, rugs/ carpeting (rolled and tied in 4 foot lengths). Items never collected during the bi-annual bulk collection and/or weekly curbside trash collection include all recyclable items (metal, paper, e-waste), prohibited items (hazardous waste, building materials, and items weighing more than 200 lbs.), and vegetative waste.

For more information on acceptable and unacceptable items, visit www.randolphnj.org.



Clean Communities Day and Paper Shredding Saturday, April 24th

Clean Communities

The Randolph Township Health Department is planning to hold the spring Clean Communities Day and paper shredding event! At press time, the details of the day's events are uncertain due to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines. As the event nears, more details will be available on the township website and other communication media. We appreciate your patience and your help in keeping our community clean and litter free!

Paper Shredding

As part of its Clean Communities Day, the Randolph Township Health Department will once again offer confidential paper shredding services to residents, free of charge, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on April 24th in the Municipal Building parking lot. Pandemic safety guidelines will be in effect. Residents must have their NJ Driver's License available as proof of residency. Residents will be required to follow the traffic pattern, park where directed, and remain in their vehicles. A Department of Public Works employee will assist residents with their items. Please note the following terms and conditions.

This shredding service is:

- For Randolph residents only
- Personal, confidential documents generated in the home only (not commercial or home-business generated)
- Limited to three file boxes per household (file box = 1.5 cu feet)
- Confidential documents do not include junk mail and store flyers or solicitations. Please separate this material from confidential documents.
- Documents must be free of any metal clips, rings or binders and should not include any CDs, x-rays, plastic file folders, etc.

Please call the Health Department at 973-989-7050 if you have any questions.

A Letter from the Superintendent

When our schools first closed and transitioned to fully remote instruction districtwide in the spring of 2020, we had no way of knowing what would happen for the fall term. However, we were prepared and determined to bring our students back to school safely to ensure the continuity of instruction. Thankfully, our district team's dedicated efforts in combination with the support of local and state health officials allowed us to welcome back our students for in-person learning on September 2.

It was unclear if athletics and other extracurricular opportunities would be able to continue during the pandemic. However, by following social distancing and related safety protocols, we were able to maintain most of our programs in a very substantive way. We had a total of five Conference Champions. Boys Soccer and Girls Soccer also won State Championships. Our football program had an equally impressive season, and our cheerleaders were able to use their talents to cheer our Rams on to victory.

Both Visual and Performing Arts as well as other extracurricular programs were also able to continue. Our band program invested in the right personal protective equipment to ensure they could still perform safely. Randolph High

School theater put a spin on one of Shakespeare's classic plays by performing a unique production of a *Mid-Quarantine Night's Dream*.

The ingenuity and creativity of our Performing Arts leaders kept these programs alive and thriving. In addition, all of our extracurricular activities were able to continue virtually. Fifteen of our Randolph High School students placed in the top ten at the Future Business Leaders of America regional competition. Our Randolph High School eSports team also made it to the National Semifinals. Student artists were able to continue to paint, draw, and create other brilliant works of art districtwide. There truly is so much that our programs accomplished in 2020.

All of these things are representative of the passion we have as a school community for our students. We faced many setbacks, but it did not deter us from our student-centered mission. I am excited and hopeful for what 2021 could be. Regardless of what we face, it's evident that there is nothing that can stop the love and devotion we have for every child in Randolph.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Fano

Randolph Police News

Overnight Parking in Streets

In Randolph, local ordinance 31-91 prohibits parking any vehicles on the streets of the township between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. daily. If you need to request permission for overnight parking, you must contact the Randolph Police Department and speak with the police dispatcher. Overnight parking requests will only be considered for short term temporary time frames in which the resident has a legitimate and justified need to park on the street. Examples of legitimate and justified needs are considered to be, but not limited to, driveway resurfacing/resealing, construction projects, and/or visitors from out of town who are staying at the home. Requests for overnight parking will not be considered and/or granted as a simple matter of convenience or for extended periods of time.

Street light out?

Did you know that most street lights throughout the township are maintained by JCP&L? If you notice a street light out, you can report the problem directly to JCP&L through a few clicks on their website. If you have difficulty through the website, you can always contact the Randolph Police Department's Support Services Unit at 973-989-7021 about a streetlight that is not functioning correctly. Properly working street lights are important for motorist, bicyclist, and pedestrian safety.

New Hires



Officer John Hertzberg grew up in Pompton Lakes. Upon graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served four years as a Field Radio Operator. Officer Hertzberg served in multiple countries including Spain, Haiti, Kuwait, and Syria. After serving, he began the alternate route program at the Morris County Police Academy where he was hired by the Randolph Township Police Department.



Officer Gerard Hardiman always had a desire to be in law enforcement, stemming from his exposure to the career early in life by his father (Retired Roxbury Township Police Captain Gerard Hardiman Jr.). Officer Hardiman grew up in Hackettstown where he went to high school, and subsequently attended Ramapo College of New Jersey where he obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology. Immediately upon graduating from college, Officer Hardiman was hired as a police officer with the Borough of Netcong and remained there for four years before being hired by Randolph Township.

Randolph Rescue Squad

Think Positive-Prepare for the Future

Randolph Rescue Squad (RRS) President Christopher Zelly is energetic and forward-thinking. During our January business meeting, he noted that the New Year is often a hopeful time. In his encouraging report he stated, "I am most proud of how our members – over 80 strong – came together to support one another during the highs and lows of 2020. We are proud of our achievements and improvements. We look forward to the year ahead. We know our work is far from over."

In 2020 we responded to 753 calls for health emergencies and vehicle accidents. There were also many transports. With COVID-19 a constant threat, sports stand-bys were infrequent. The Freedom Festival was cancelled. So we initiated Happy Birthday drive-bys. This new tradition resulted in joyful communication for both residents and squad members.

Thanks to Michele Dempsey, long time Squad member and lifelong resident, another tradition was born. The Squad sponsored by-appointment Blood Drives at Headquarters on August 20, October 29, December 29, 2020, and February 25, 2021. More than 200 units of urgently needed blood were donated, saving almost 700 lives. The next drive is scheduled for April 25.

Caution prevailed. We had no Officers Installation Dinner. We do have a strong team of officers for 2021: Christopher Zelly, president; Brenden Eschelbacher, vice-president; Rebecca Grossman, treasurer; Deanna Vaccaro, secretary; Justin Lash, board member-from-the-floor; Jim McConnell, member-at-large; Todd Houston, captain; Caitlin Costello, 1st lieutenant; Sheryl Madayag 2nd lieutenant; Eric McKee, Bryan Geiger, and Bryan Manfred, sergeants. The Squad values the support of the Township Council, in particular Mayor Mark Forstenhausler, Deputy Mayor Marie Potter, and Township Manager Steve Mountain.

THANK YOU for the continuing generosity of citizens, neighbors, and businesses during this stressful pandemic. It is heartwarming and makes it possible for us to continue providing quality, free-of-charge care. Most importantly, the RRS team welcomes your uplifting messages.

RRS remains energized in its role as a community service organization. Whether you are indoors or outside, be sensible, be vigilant, and be attentive. Practice "safety first". Look out for family, friends, associates, neighbors, and yourself. Wear a mask, wash your hands, use sanitizers, and observe social distancing. Stay safe. JOIN US!



Contact us:

- ✓ Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency. Provide a clear explanation of location and the type of emergency. Provide the crew with a list of the patient's medications
- ✓ To learn more about the RRS, to complete a membership application or to set up an interview, visit check www.RandolphRescue.org.
- ✓ To make arrangements for a drive-by or stand-by event, send an email to info@randolphrescue.org, or to Lieutenant Caitlin Costello at caitlin.costello@randolphrescue.org, or to Captain Todd Houston at captain@randolphrescue.org. It is best to make a detailed request with as much prior notice as possible and to be precise regarding the time frame and location.
- ✓ For information about training classes, call Captain Todd Houston at 862-881-2929 or email captain@randolphrescue.org
- ✓ For other questions, email info@randolphrescue.org.
- ✓ To reach RRS President Christopher Zelly, email christopher.zelly@randolphrescue.org.

Department of Public Works

Last fall the Department of Public Works hired two new employees. Austin Given was hired as a truck driver/laborer in the road division and Mark Woodward was hired as a fleet mechanic.



Randolph Library News

Seven NEW and Exciting Things at Your Library!

Libraries across the country are transforming how they serve their communities and Randolph Township Library, in keeping with the trend, is offering seven new services:

1. **MAIN App.** Visit the App Store to download this new app and have the resources of the MAIN libraries at your fingertips. You can check your account, request items, search for items, etc., from your phone.
2. **Auto-Renewal.** Fewer fines are a good thing! Eligible library items will automatically renew on their due date. An item is **eligible** for renewal if:
a) you have a renewal left on the item,
b) no one else has requested the item and
c) your library card is valid and in good standing.
3. **Lifestyle Blog.** “Your Library, Your Lifestyle” is our new blog that seeks to enhance your life through the use of our many, many resources. Recent highlights include “Save Money, Be Happy,” “Books on Looks,” “Binge-Worthy TV Shows,” “Cure the Clutter,” and much more! Visit www.yourlibraryyourlifestyle.com
4. **PressReader.** Our new digital newspaper and magazine platform offers over 7,000 items to enjoy as soon as they are available to the public. To access, visit our website www.randolphnj.org/library
5. **YouTube Channel.** Throughout our inaugural (YouTube) year, we’ve been adding content weekly. Our channel is now chock full of storytime and craft programs for children and a handful of programs for adults.
6. **CreativeBug.** Choose from thousands of award-winning arts & crafts video classes taught by recognized design experts and artists. Visit our website to take advantage of this opportunity!
7. **Universal Class.** Free online classes! Access to over 500 continuing education and personal development courses, both self-paced and instructor-led! Visit our website to access.

Children’s Programming

Spring is here and there’s a lot going on at the Randolph Library. While we still have restrictions in place for COVID-19 safety, many programs are available online including StoryBreak, our recorded story time, and a live Zoom Storytime. We also have weekly Preschool Play and Field Trip Fridays. Our Take It and Make It crafts and online contests continue to be very popular. There’s so much more going on so don’t miss out! Check out our website (www.randolphnj.org/library), Facebook page and YouTube Channel (Randolph Library) as well as our new blog, www.YourLibraryYourLifestyle.com.

One exciting event that will be taking place this spring is another StoryWalk. As we did in the fall, we laminate pages of a book and post them on stakes around the library grounds. It’s a fun way to get outside in the nice weather, take a walk, and read with your children. Be on the lookout for more details.

We’d like to thank Randolph PEACE (Partnership Endeavor for All Citizens' Equality) for organizing the donation of over 180 children’s books to add to the diversity of our library’s collection. You may have seen these books displayed in the Children’s Room. We know it’s important for children to be able to see people like themselves portrayed in a book in an affirming way. It’s also important for kids to see positive representations of others to encourage them to embrace our differences.

We will miss giving our kindergarteners tours of the library. However, every kindergarten child in Randolph is eligible for a library card. They will also receive a canvas bag to hold books, courtesy of the Friends of the Randolph Library, and a library card holder. Please check our website for details on how to apply for a card.

Of course the Summer Reading Club is just around the corner. The theme this summer is Tails and Tales. Be sure to watch for registration information.

The Historical Society of Old Randolph



Randolph’s unique history includes its importance to the Morris Canal, especially with the development of the iron and coal mining industries. The idea of the Morris Canal, conceived by George Maccullough of Morristown, was well supported by U.S. Senator and former Governor of New Jersey Mahlon Dickerson, co-owner of Randolph’s Dickerson Mine with his brother Jonathan.

Completed in 1831, the Morris Canal was originally designed to connect the anthracite trade from the Delaware River with New York’s Harbor, servicing as many New Jersey iron interests as possible. Randolph laid claim to approximately forty mines producing coal and ores of superior quality.

The Morris Canal aided Randolph economically as an employer for township residents including Charlie Sammis, Canal Toll Collector and Canal Tender for Dover’s Lock Number 5. William Pragnell’s boat yard in Dover built the *Dover of Dover*, and as the urban myth goes, it was the first boat to reach Newark via the Morris Canal. In addition to cargo, eventually a passenger ‘line boat’ was added.

In 1836, Major Ephraim Beach, who constructed the Morris Canal, became the contractor and engineer for the Morris and Essex Railroad Company; this was the “beginning of the end” for the Morris Canal. With the lack of water during the warm weather months, the frozen waterways during the winter months, and the decline of the iron industry in northern New Jersey after World War I, the Morris Canal stopped operating in 1924.

“New Jersey Drones and Workers – A Scene from the Morris Canal” is the picture from *Frank Lesley’s Illustrated Newspaper* of September 1885. It illustrated a Canal Boat Captain and his family who worked and lived on the canal, pulled along by mules [seen in the background], during which the canal was also a day trip excursion for vacationers who summered in Lake Hopatcong and Randolph hotels.

Submitted by Gail Hari, Randolph Township Historian, on behalf of the Historical Society of Old Randolph for the Randolph Museum.

Maintaining Good Mental Health in Difficult Times

An ongoing survey conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics and Census Bureau reports that approximately one-third of all New Jerseyans have experienced symptoms of anxiety or depression resulting from COVID-19 related issues. Unfortunately, one year later many are still experiencing these symptoms. There are many resources available, but often people are unaware of them or how to gain access.

The Mental Health Association of New Jersey is providing support services through the New Jersey Hope and Healing Crisis Counseling Program. Through this program, New Jerseyans can call the toll-free NJ Mental Health Cares help line at 866-202-HELP (4357) from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, seven days a week to reach a live, trained specialist who will provide confidential emotional support. The help line has access to interpreters fluent in 165 languages, and a texting option is available in English and Spanish. New Jerseyans can also text NJHOPE to 51684 to be connected with a specialist who can provide emotional support and referrals from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm daily.

COVID-19 Crisis Counseling Services provided by NJ Hope and Healing Crisis Counseling Program are available to help those affected by COVID-19. This service can be reached by calling 973-509-9777 ext. 151 Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm or by emailing gpalmer@mhaessexmorris.org.

The Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris highlights support lines to help citizens in emotional need:

Peer-to-Peer Support Line

The Peer-to-Peer Support Line is a ‘warm-line’ for non-crisis support, assistance and reassurance/understanding and is available 365 days a year from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm. This support line is manned by peer leaders who have made significant progress with their wellness and recovery and understand the challenges others may be facing. The Peer-to-Peer Support Line also serves as a vocational opportunity for consumers looking to return to the workplace. You can reach the Peer-to-Peer Support Line by calling 1-877-760-4987, 1-866-445-3902 or 1-800-381-2059. *To provide additional support in response to COVID-19, the 1-877-760-4987 warm line has extended hours, Monday-Friday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. ***This is not a crisis line.*** *If you are in crisis, call the psychiatric emergency service at your local hospital.*

Psychiatric Emergency 24 hour Crisis Hotlines:

- **St Clare’s Health: 973-625-6160**
- **Chilton Medical Center: 973-831-5078**
- **Morristown Medical Center: 973-540-0100**
- **Overlook Medical Center: 908-522-3586**
- **Newton Medical Center: 973-383-0973**

In addition to the above resources, residents in need are also encouraged to utilize NJ 2-1-1. NJ 2-1-1 is a confidential, multilingual information and referral service that offers a variety of issues including mental health services. To access these services, New Jersey residents can dial 211, text their zip code to 898-211 or email info@nj211.org. An access button for NJ 2-1-1 has also been conveniently added to the homepage of the township website, www.randolphnj.org. Residents can utilize NJ 2-1-1 to help themselves, family members, friends, or neighbors in need.

Parks, Recreation & Community Services

Senior Programs and Events

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

COVID-19 guidelines for the Dial-A-Ride program will be one person per vehicle for medical and four people per shift for shopping.

Shopping Bus:

Transportation to local shopping centers two days a week.

Monday ShopRite, Roxbury – 1st shift 9:00 a.m.; 2nd shift 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Walmart, Ledgewood – 1st shift 9:00 a.m.; 2nd shift 10:30 a.m.

Arrangements for transportation must be made by phone at least 24 hours in advance.

Medical Bus:

Transportation to and from doctor's office, within a 10-mile radius from the Municipal Building, 502 Millbrook Avenue. This service is available Monday – Thursday only. Appointments are available 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **It is best to call and schedule a ride as soon as you have made a medical appointment.**

To schedule a ride, please call 973-989-7084.

ACTIVITIES

All meet in the Senior Room at the Community Center on Calais Road.

- ✓ **Reservations are required for each program. If you are not registered, you will not be allowed into the program.**
- ✓ **Temperatures will be checked before entering the Senior Room and masks must be worn at all times.**
- ✓ **Based on COVID-19 guidelines in effect at the time, events may be cancelled or re-scheduled.**

Cards:

Meets on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday** – April 6th & 20th, May 4th & 18th, and June 1st & 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **You must bring your own cards.** Also bring your lunch and enjoy the day! **No transportation provided.** Maximum of 8 people.

Bingo:

Meets on the **2nd and 4th Tuesday** – April 13th & 27th, May 11th & 25th, and June 8th & 22nd from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$1.00 per card (please bring exact change). Maximum 8 people

Sewing:

Meets on the **3rd Friday** – April 16th, May 21st, and June 18th at 12:30 p.m. **No transportation provided.** Maximum of 8 people.

SPECIAL EVENTS

April – May – June

Movies: All show times will be at 1:00 p.m. in the Senior Room. **Registration required.** Maximum of 8 people.

April 1	“The War with Grandpa”
April 8	“Saving Mr. Banks”
April 15	“Sister Act”
April 22	“News of the World”
April 29	“The Secret: Dare to Dream”
May 6	“Sister Act 2”
May 13	“Confessions of a Shopaholic”
May 20	“Casablanca”
May 27	“Honest Thief”
June 3	“Judy”
June 10	“Calendar Girls”
June 17	“Bye Bye Birdie”
June 24	“The Unsinkable Molly Brown”

Other trips and events may be added; contact the Community Service Department at 973-989-7084 for more information and to register.

Township Making Tentative Plans for Fireworks/Freedom Festival

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of many events and gatherings in 2020, including the Freedom Festival and parade. The health and safety of our community and residents are always top priorities when planning events.

As we continue to adjust to the new “normal”, event planning for 2021 has included ways to bring back traditional Randolph events under the guidelines developed and allowed through Executive Orders of the Governor.

We are currently planning our Randolph fireworks display for Friday, July 2 (rain date Saturday, July 3). There will be further information in the upcoming months in terms of what activities will take place along with the fireworks.

We thank all our residents for their support and hope to be able to see everyone in a safe and appropriate manner this summer.

Artworks Studio

Fine arts instruction for ages Pre-K to Adult

As COVID-19 descended upon all of us, Artworks Studio closed its doors on March 14, 2020. But we didn't stop working! Artworks instructors kept their students busy with weekly "Out-of-the ArtBox Challenges" on Facebook. Participants were encouraged to create and post interesting works of art within defined parameters. Whether it was natural shadow formations or found object sculptures, it was a fun and educational experiment throughout the summer.

At first opportunity, Artworks began in-person outdoor fall workshops utilizing our beautiful Randolph Trails and Artworks Studio together for their "Hike-n-Seek Art Adventures." The kids and parents loved it!

Moving forward we are addressing ventilation at our studio by installing Air Scrubbers and further safety guidelines. With the vaccine program underway, the staff is devoted to an expedient re-opening, projecting in-class learning beginning in late spring. And instructors are busy planning Summer Camp as well! Stay tuned, we are very anxious and prepared to re-open and flourish in 2021.

For further information and updates, be sure to like and follow us on Facebook (Artworks Studio Randolph NJ).

For upcoming spring classes, workshops and summer camp information, please visit www.randolphnj.org/parks_and_recreation/artworks_classes or call the Randolph Parks & Recreation office at 973-989-7081.



Township Continues to Near Settlement on Affordable Housing Plan

This year the township expects to reach a settlement of its court mandated affordable housing obligation with Fair Share Housing Center and several of the remaining developers who have intervened in the matter. Last year the court approved settlements which were reached with two of the interveners (Toll Brothers and Canoe Brook).

The township’s team of professionals, with input from the Township Council, has spent the better part of four years in negotiations with the Fair Share Housing Center and developers/property owners who have filed motions to participate in the case (interveners). In addition to determining the number of units needed to achieve compliance, the discussions also focused on the suitability of proposed locations for development, building type and density, and availability/capacity of utility services to support the development. Under the terms of the court mandate, the township could not simply say “no” to the development, nor could it reject development proposals on the basis of concerns of over development, impacts on the school system and/ or public infrastructure such as roads. The settlement under consideration by the township contains the minimum density requirements and locations for the development that the court agreed to allow for in the process. Without a settlement, towns are unprotected from ‘builder’s remedy’ lawsuits – opening the community up to unlimited development without restriction by local zoning regulations.

Much of what the Township Council will be considering as part of the settlement is consistent with the draft plan presented to the public in June 2019 and updated on the township website in July 2019. Under the terms of the anticipated settlement agreement, the township will have a cumulative 643 unit (affordable) third round obligation for the period concluding in 2025. The settlement agreement will permit the township to apply credit for projects previously completed and not accounted for in prior obligation rounds as well as for bonus credits for which the township is eligible. The net number of total new affordable units which the proposed settlement will provide for under the plan is 254.

The settlement to be presented for the Township Council’s consideration will feature a combination of approaches for providing the units to be developed including overlay zoning, increased density provisions for existing zones and inclusionary zoning. Overlay zoning means that the township will, by ordinance, provide an overlay zone for designated property (already developed) which would allow the property’s owner to redevelop the property in the future with a higher density affordable housing project. Inclusionary zoning means rezoning property(s) to provide for an inclusionary set-aside (customarily 15%-20% of the total number of units in housing development) for affordable units. For example, if the set-aside was designated at 15% on a 100 unit development, 15 of the units would need to be set-aside as affordable units with the remaining 85 being market units.

As noted above, a major part of the township’s overall plan to satisfy its third round obligation involves property specific settlements with third party interveners. A summary of the projects covered in the recent settlement agreements is outlined below.

Canoe Brook – Block 44, Lot 25

This property is located off Dover Chester Road adjacent to the Gottesman Academy. The property owner is in a contract to purchase with Canoe Brook Development Corporation. Canoe Brook is proposing a 199 unit rental development (40 affordable units) on the 12 acre property.

Toll Brothers – Block 44, Lot 4

This property is located on Route 10 East (south side of Route 10) adjacent to the Randolph Business Campus. The property owner is in a contract to purchase with Toll Brothers. Toll is proposing a maximum 136 unit single family/for sale development (27 or 28 affordable units) on the 40 acre property.

The remainder of the township’s obligation will be made up through other projects noted in the settlement plan with Fair Share Housing Center. The plan identifies properties where the housing obligation can be met, but projects at these sites are not ready to proceed at this time. To view the overall settlement plan and other background information related to the township’s efforts to comply with the court’s housing requirements, residents are encouraged to visit the township website at https://www.randolphnj.org/government/affordable_housing.

Mulch

The delivery of fine shredded wood mulch will be available to residents from April through October. Each truckload contains approximately 6-8 cubic yards of mulch. If you are interested in having mulch delivered to your residence, please complete the order form below or visit the township website www.randolphnj.org to download and complete the form. Deliveries will be made every Thursday and Friday beginning the week of April 5th. There is a delivery charge of \$100 per truckload. No order will be processed without receipt of payment. As always, residents are welcome to pick up mulch free of charge at the Recycling Center on Sussex Turnpike. **Mulch is only available for pick up or delivery while supplies last.**

Mulch Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Delivery Location (i.e. rear of driveway, marked with sign, etc.)

COST OF DELIVERY PER LOAD: **\$100**

PRODUCT	NO. OF LOADS	TOTAL COST
Fine Shredded Wood		\$

Please make check payable to "Township of Randolph" and mail to:

Engineering Department
Randolph Township Municipal Building
502 Millbrook Avenue
Randolph, NJ 07869



Take the Confusion Out of Building Permits

Spring is upon us, and the outside is calling. As spring projects demand your attention, make sure you are keeping up to date with your building permits to avoid a headache in the future. Permits ensure that work on your property is done to code and is safe. Further, if trying to sell your property, you should confirm all previous home improvements have been properly permitted. If work is found to have been done without a permit it could cause the sale to be delayed or even lost altogether waiting for the proper permitting to be attained. For your reference, a list is published on the township website clarifying when a building permit is needed. If you have additional questions, please contact the Building Department at 973-989-7070.

Spring is the most tempting time to plan outdoor projects such as pools, decks, sheds, and fencing. Below are the factors to keep in mind when considering these outdoor projects.

- Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches deep is considered a swimming pool. This includes in-ground, above-ground and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas.
 - A building permit must be acquired before construction of a swimming pool.
- An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground, above-ground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa shall be surrounded by a barrier. There are certain design controls intended to provide protection against potential drownings and near-drownings by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs subject to this code. For the specific requirements such as the height, openings, gates, etc., please visit the township website at www.randolphnj.org.

- Fences up to six feet tall and not surrounding a swimming pool require zoning permits, not building permits. A building permit is required only when the fence surrounds a swimming pool.
- The construction or total replacement of any deck, porch or stoop which does not provide structural support for any roof or portion of building, and is not greater than 30 inches above grade level, is considered minor work. The issuance of a permit shall not be required before minor work may proceed. The owner, or an architect or contractor acting on behalf of the owner, shall, however, provide notice of the work to the enforcing agency before work begins. The owner or his agent shall additionally be required to file a permit application. The permit application with the fee shall be delivered within five business days from the date of notice.
- A construction permit for building work shall not be required for garden-type utility sheds and similar structures that are 200 square feet or less in area, 10 feet or less in height, and which do not contain a water, gas, oil or sewer connection. However, a zoning permit is necessary. A construction permit for electrical work shall be required, when applicable.
 - For sheds up to 200 square feet in area a zoning permit is required, but footings are not required.
 - For sheds over 200 square feet in area, both a building permit and footings are required.

Water and Sewer Project Update

Farm Road and Arnold Drive Sanitary Sewer Installation Project

The Farm Road and Arnold Drive Sanitary Sewer Installation Project is currently being designed by the Township Engineering Department. The project will consist of the extension of the active sewer on a portion of Arnold Drive to connect the ‘dry’ sewer line in Arnold Drive and Farm Road to allow the connection of 15 residents to the existing sanitary sewer system. Construction is anticipated to begin this summer.

Meadowbrook and CCM Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Upgrades

Plans and specifications for improvements to the existing Meadowbrook Pump Station and County College of Morris (CCM) Pump Station are currently being completed for permitting and construction. Improvements will include pump replacements and upgrades to equipment and overall infrastructure. Construction is slated for fall of 2021 for Meadowbrook Pump Station and winter of 2022 for the CCM Pump Station.

Fire Hydrant Replacement

The township continues to replace existing older fire hydrants with new ones that include the five inch Storz (quick connect) nozzles used by the Randolph Township Fire Department.

Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

As a public water system, Randolph Township is obligated to issue a yearly Consumer Confidence Report related to the public water system. This report includes all required testing information and results for Randolph Township’s water system as well as our water provider, the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority. The 2021 CCR will be posted on the township website beginning May 15th; visit http://www.randolphnj.org/services/water_quality_report

Sanitary Sewer Collection System

As many residents continue to work and educate remotely from their homes, the Township’s Water and Sewer Department reminds residents to be aware of the increased demands on both the township’s sanitary sewer and the water infrastructure. To assist our staff in maintaining the township’s sanitary sewer system including the sewer pump stations, we kindly request that all residents not dispose of items such as grease, Swiffer mops or wipes, sanitary napkins, baby wipes, diapers, or cloths into the sanitary sewer collection system. These items can cause extensive damage to sewerage pump station pumps, resulting in costly pump replacements and repairs. These items can also create blockages in the sewer collection lines and can result in sewerage back flowing into homes as well as into our stormwater conveyance systems and waterways. The township appreciates your anticipated cooperation.

Engineering

Stormwater Ordinance Update

The township recently updated its stormwater ordinance as required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to be consistent with the new Green Infrastructure (GI) standards promulgated by the NJDEP. Green Infrastructure includes measures to address increases in stormwater runoff by increasing infiltration, reducing runoff and improving water quality. The techniques used as part of GI include drywells, infiltration trenches and rain gardens. The ordinance changes make these required for larger projects; however, the township has been requiring them for years for small-scale projects. This ordinance update supplements the township’s previous stormwater ordinance to control stormwater pollution in accordance with the NJDEP regulations. Disregarding these ordinances and regulations can result in fines for residents.

These GI projects will improve water quality from development projects, but there are simple steps residents can take on a daily basis to do their part in protecting our water. Storm drains should not be used for the disposal of waste of any kind. Pollution from streets, parking lots and lawns wash into the storm drains that discharge to streams, ponds and lakes in town. Fertilizers, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste and grass clippings end up in our water. By sharing the responsibilities and making small changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of the stormwater and provide cleaner water for all.

The following are some easy things that residents can do to help protect our water:

- Limit the use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Properly use and dispose of hazardous products
- Keep pollution out of storm drains (newspapers, plastic bottles, paper, etc.)
- Clean up after your pets and dispose of properly in trash
- Don’t feed wildlife such as deer, ducks and geese
- Don’t litter and be sure to pick up any litter you see on properties and within the streets
- Dispose of yard waste properly

Contact the Engineering Department at 973-989-7066 with any questions.

Sump Pump and Roof Leader Discharges to Township Street & ROW

Residents are advised that sump pump, roof leader or drainage ditch discharges of groundwater or surface water to township roads and Rights-of-Way (ROW) are restricted per Township Ordinance Section 44-31. Where a storm sewer exists within 200 feet of the discharging property, the property owners must tie their discharge directly into the storm sewer, with the installation of the hookup or drain being inspected and approved by the Engineering Department. Where a storm sewer does not exist within 200 feet of the property, the property owner must contact the Engineering Department to determine if drywells or other drainage improvements are required to be installed to mitigate adverse impacts to the township’s roads or ROW. These required drainage connections or improvements are required to prevent runoff, flooding or icing problems on township roads. All connections to storm drains within the township roads and ROW require a Road Opening Permit, which can be obtained from the Engineering Department at the Randolph Township Municipal Building. Contact the Engineering Department at 973-989-7066 with any questions.

Spring Branch Collection

The township will be conducting the annual spring branch collection beginning the week of April 19th. All branches need to be placed curbside by this date as it will be a **ONE TIME ONLY** pick up. No return trips will be made. This collection usually takes four weeks to complete.

Branch collection is limited to **ONE LOAD** per property owner, approximately four cubic yards (roughly 5 ft. long x 4 ft. wide x 5 ft. high). Branches can be no longer than four feet in length and three inches in diameter. This does not include LEAVES, VINES, STUMPS, and BUILDING MATERIALS or any other non chippable items.

Loads larger than the guidelines listed above can be removed through the special brush collection policy by contacting the Engineering Office at 973-989-7066. There is a **\$150 FEE** for this additional service.

Street Sweeping

The Department of Public Works sweeps all of the township roads once the winter season is over. This operation takes approximately three months to complete. Please do not deposit any large debris along the edge of the roadway that may enter the storm drains or hinder the sweeping operation.

Zoning Q&A

- Q. What types of construction require a Residential Zoning Permit?**

A. Prior to the application for a building permit or the construction, erection, demolition or major alteration of any structure including, but not limited to fences, decks, pools, sheds, building additions and interior alterations, a Zoning Permit shall be secured from the Zoning Officer.
- Q. Can I store my commercial vehicles at my home?**

A. You may store one commercially registered vehicle if it is a standard size van or pickup. Anything larger must be garaged. Please call the Zoning Officer at 973-537-7128 for more details.
- Q. Can I store my RV or boat at my home?**

A. You may park such vehicles on your property as long as they are properly screened. Call the Zoning Officer for the regulations.
- Q. Can I sell my car from my home?**

A. You may sell only one car at a time and it must be located on your property.
- Q. Do I need a permit for a shed?**

A. You must get a zoning approval for any size shed. You must also get a building permit for a shed larger than 200 square feet.
- Q. Can I put my shed anywhere on my property?**

A. No, all freestanding accessory structures (i.e. pools, sheds, garages), must meet certain setbacks for your zone. Call the Zoning Officer for details.
- Q. Can garden sheds 100 square feet or less be placed closer to the property lines?**

A. Yes, each property may have one garden shed within the required setbacks up to five feet from a property line.
- Q. What hours may residents and landscapers operate lawn mowers?**

A. Lawn mowers with a muffler may be operated between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekends and legal holidays.
- Q. Can I use heavy machinery in my yard on the weekends?**

A. No, construction with heavy machinery is prohibited on weekends and at night. Tree clearing, earth moving, and demolition are included as well as all construction projects. The police will respond to any violations.
- Q. When do I need a lot grading permit?**

A. When land disturbance involves the construction of 1,000 square feet or more of new impervious area or 2,500 square feet or more of new soil disturbance, except for normal agricultural operations in connection with a farming operation. Contact the Engineering Department at 973-989-7066 for details.
- Q. Do I need a permit to cut down trees?**

A. Yes, contact the Planning Department at 973-989-7080 for details.
- Q. Are there any additional requirements if my property is located near a river, stream, lake or any freshwater wetland or transition area?**

A. Yes, NJDEP regulations limit the types of construction activities in these areas. It is recommended that residents review their proposed projects with the Engineering/ Planning staff in the early planning phases.
- Q. How far from my house must a pool be located?**

A. In addition to rear and side yard setbacks, pools must be at least 12 feet from the principle structure.