



TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

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PHONE: 908-534-4051

WWW.READINGTONTWP.ORG

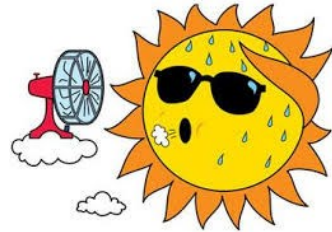
FAX: 908-534-5909

Dear Readington Residents:

As I write this, we are all living under a "Heat Dome", a catchy new meteorological phrase that can be translated as "it's really hot!" Though kids are off from school and families are away on vacation, Readington is still working every day and things are happening.

Stay cool, enjoy your summer, and, as always, feel free to contact me at mayor@readingtontwp-nj.org.

And don't forget to check out the Township website at www.readingtontwp.org.

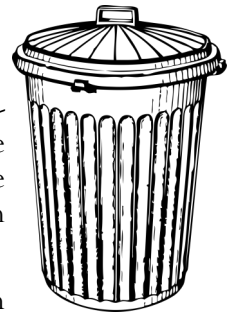


Till next time,
Betty Ann Fort

Talking Trash

By Mayor Betty Ann Fort

Trash. Garbage. Solid Waste. We all generate it, and we all need to find ways to dispose of it. Readington has a solution, and here are the answers to some questions I have been asked about Readington's program.



There are two options for household trash removal. The first option is the "pay-as-you-throw" program for curbside pick-up of household garbage. With this program, the Township awards a contract for curbside pick-up to the lowest responsible bidder. The current contract is with Raritan Valley Disposal/Republic Services (RVD). The contract amount is included in our Municipal Budget and is part of your tax levy. Each household purchases garbage stickers (\$1/sticker). One sticker is placed on each 25 lb. bag of household trash at curbside and pays for the "tipping" (dumping) fee at the transfer station which fluctuates with the market. Each household provides its own trash can.

Stickers may be purchased in sheets of 10 at Kings, Bishops, ShopRite in Branchburg and Flemington and Stop & Shop in Flemington. This option is the most economical for residents.

The second option is the cart program. RVD offers residents the option of a wheeled cart provided by RVD for a monthly or quarterly fee. Different size carts are available based on your household's needs, and costs vary according to size. You would be billed directly by RVD for this service, and the full cost of the cart and pick-up would be the responsibility of the property owner. This service is not subsidized under the Township's contract.



The best way to reduce the cost of trash pick-up is to take full advantage of the single-stream recycling program by using the 96 gallon cart provided by RVD to every property owner. By using this cart for glass, cardboard, plastics, newspapers, cans and junk mail, households can greatly reduce the amount of trash, and therefore the cost of pick-up.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at mayor@readingtontwp-nj.org. If you wish to change your service option, contact Raritan Valley Disposal/Republic Services at 908-730-7800.



...and Bears! Oh my!

Black bears are common in New Jersey and here are some things you can do to be "Bear Aware":

- NEVER feed bears
- Store garbage cans indoors (garage, shed)
- Remove bird feeders from April to December
- If you compost, use an enclosed container

If you suddenly come in close proximity to a bear:

- DO NOT RUN
- DO NOT MAKE EYE CONTACT
- Speak in a loud, assertive voice
- Clap your hands or make loud noises
- Wave your arms

For more info on black bears, go to www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/bearfacts.htm



NEW TRAFFIC SIGNS— SLOW DOWN!

By Mayor Betty Ann Fort

One of the responsibilities that Readington Township takes very seriously is keeping our residents safe. So when it was noticed that there were a higher than average number of motor vehicle accidents occurring at the intersection of County Route 523 and County Route 629 (Pleasant Run Rd./Stanton Rd./Springtown Rd.), we decided to take a look at what might be done to improve safety and reduce accidents at that intersection.

Last winter, Police Chief Sebastian Donaruma, Lt. Joe Greco and I met with Hunterdon County Engineer Tom Matthews to see what could be done. Mr. Matthews indicated that the intersection was on the County's list for future improvement, but that would not happen any time soon.

Several options were discussed and it was decided that improved signage to draw drivers' attention to the speed limit and encourage them to slow down would be a good first step. Chief Donaruma researched signs, and we decided to install large, solar-powered, flashing speed limit signs with changeable displays on both the northbound and southbound lanes of Route 523 as you approach the intersection. The signs let drivers know when they are traveling over the speed limit—45 mph— and offer brief messages, as well.

Just as deciding on the signs was a cooperative effort, so was installing them. The County and our Police Department selected the sites for placement of the signs, the County provided the metal mounting poles, and our Public Works Department (with the help of Readington Fire Co.'s tower truck) installed the signs.

The signs have been operational for a few weeks, and so far, people appear to be slowing down as they approach this intersection. We hope that the new signs, in conjunction with Special Officer Bob Marelli ticketing violators, will greatly improve safety at this busy intersection.