



# SCUTTLEBUTT

Red Bank, New Jersey

SEPTEMBER 2024



## RED BANK BOROUGH WELCOMES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Red Bank Borough is thrilled to announce the hiring of Adriana Medina-Gomez as the Community Engagement Coordinator, a newly created position aimed at enhancing public engagement throughout the community. Adriana will officially join the Borough team on Monday, September 9th.

In this vital role, Adriana will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including managing the Borough's social media platforms and website, disseminating public information, and coordinating Borough events that focus on inclusivity such as Juneteenth, Pride in the Park and Hispanic Heritage Month. Additionally, she will assist Borough residents and visitors in navigating local government services and act as a liaison for numerous partners, non-profits, and businesses within Red Bank.

Adriana brings a wealth of experience to the position, having lived and worked in Red Bank for over 10 years. She attended Red Bank schools and has a proven track record in community engagement. Her bilingual skills in Spanish and English, combined with her deep ties to the community, make her an ideal fit for this role.

Adriana currently serves on several committees and councils, including the Red Bank Early Childhood Advisory Council, the Red Bank Hispanic Heritage Month planning committee, the Red Bank Juneteenth Committee, and the Red Bank Resource Network Provider Council. Her robust background in community advocacy is further demonstrated by her work with the Red Bank Police Department's Volunteer Translator program and her role in organizing Brookdale Community College's annual panel

on Employment Options for Undocumented/DACAmented students.

Adriana also holds a certificate in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility, and is certified in Mental Health First Aid for Trauma Clients. Her dedication to fostering inclusive and supportive environments is evident through her training sessions for service providers on effectively working with minorities and mixed-status families.



"We are very excited to welcome Adriana to our team," said Jim Gant, Borough Manager. "Her extensive experience and deep commitment to the Red Bank community will be invaluable as we work to enhance public engagement and foster a more inclusive environment for all our residents and visitors. Adriana is a seasoned Community Engagement professional – she is exactly what we were looking for, I truly look forward to what she will bring to this position. With over 35 applications, Adriana stood out in the pack."

Please join us in welcoming Adriana Medina-Gomez to the Red Bank Borough team. We look forward to the positive impact she will undoubtedly make in our community.

- Jim Gant, Borough Manager



**REMEMBERING 9/11** is a solemn occasion that serves as a reminder of the tragic events that unfolded on that fateful day. It is a time to honor the memory of the innocent lives lost, the brave first responders who risked their lives to save others, and the resilience of the American people in the face of adversity.

On this day, we come together to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. We honor their memory by reflecting on the impact of those events and the lasting legacy they



have left on our nation.

As we observe Remembrance Day, let us take a moment to remember the victims, their families, and all those who were affected by the attacks. Let us reaffirm our commitment to never forget the sacrifices that were made that day and to stand united against terrorism and hatred.

May we always remember the courage and strength shown by so many in the face of tragedy, and may we continue to honor their memory by striving for a better, more peaceful world.

*"By all these lovely tokens, September days are here. With summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer." - Helen Hunt Jackson*



### A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE CONCERNING TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS

The Borough of Red Bank collects taxes on behalf of several entities, including the county, county open space, county health tax, local district school, regional school, local municipal purposes, and the municipal library. While the borough has some control over the municipal budget, it does not control the budgets for schools, the library, or the county. The breakdown of collections is as follows: 35.30% for the local school, 25% for the regional school, 26.30% for the municipality, 11.70% for the county, and 1.98% for the library.

In 2024, the tax rate increases for various entities in the Borough of Red Bank were as follows:

- Library Tax Rate Increase (Set Statutorily): 10.98%
- County Tax Rate Increase: 6.61%
- Regional School Tax Rate Increase: 3.56%
- Local School Tax Rate Increase: 2.9%
- Municipal (Local Government) Tax Rate Increase: 2.9%

During this period, total taxable assessments within the borough rose by 4.83%. Property taxes are calculated based on these assessments, which should reflect the current market value as of October 1st each year. The borough's assessor conducts annual evaluations of each property.

For 2024:

- 160 parcels (3.8%) saw a decrease in assessment of at least \$500.
- 2,573 parcels (62.52%) had minimal changes, ranging between -\$500 and +\$500.
- 1,382 parcels (33.58%) experienced an increase in assessment of at least \$500.

If your property's assessment increase is consistent with the overall average, your taxes would increase by approximately 3.64%. The 1st and 2nd quarter preliminary tax bills were based on 50% of the prior year's taxes. The 3rd and 4th quarter final bills were adjusted to reflect the total tax obligation for the year.

For any questions about the assessment of a specific property, please contact our assessor, William Laird, who can provide detailed information on how property values are calculated.

There is also tax relief available for eligible seniors through the Senior Freeze program. To qualify, residents must be 65 or older, have lived in New Jersey for the past 10 years, owned their property for at least three years, and meet certain household income requirements. If eligible, the State will freeze your taxes at the base year amount, and any increase will be reimbursed by the State.

Additionally, you have the option to file a tax appeal with Monmouth County. The appeal is based on the assessment, not the tax amount, and can be done online for 2025. The deadline for filing is January 15th. New assessment cards will be mailed out in November. If your appeal is successful and your assessment is reduced, your tax obligation will decrease in 2025. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the tax or finance office.

*Ashlesha Deshpande, Tax Collector*

*Thomas X. Seaman, Finance Officer*

*William Laird, Assessor*

To learn more about annual reassessments please visit the link below:

<https://oprs.co.monmouth.nj.us/Oprs/GoogleWithUC/TiaraSearch.aspx>

To learn more about the process of appealing your assessed value please visit: <https://secure.njappealonline.com/>

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

- Director T. Walton, CPWM

### Brush Collection

The final brush collection of the season will take place in **October** as we transition to leaf collection. We encourage residents to take advantage of this service by placing their brush at the curb on the assigned collection date before the end of October.

After the brush collection concludes in October, our team will begin leaf collection from **November through December**. Leaf collection will continue through the fall, and we will do our best to ensure timely service.

Please remember the following guidelines when preparing your brush and leaves for collection.

- **Do not block fire hydrants:** Keep brush clear of fire hydrants to ensure they are accessible in an emergency.
- **Avoid storm drains:** Please do not place brush over storm drains to prevent any blockages or flooding.
- **Avoid painted yellow areas:** Brush should not be placed in areas painted yellow, as this could obstruct visibility or create safety hazards.

*"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall. " - F. Scott Fitzgerald*

Can we believe it's fall already?? Usher in the new season at the Red Bank Public Library. Our popular summer program, Junk Journaling for Teens, has now moved to alternating Thursday nights beginning on Thursday, September 5th at 5:00pm. Bridge Club resumes on Mondays at 12:00pm starting on Monday, September 9th; note that the Bridge Club will now be held in the RBPL Meeting Room and not at the Senior Center any longer. Also, the Townwide Yard Sale is back on Saturday, September 21st! The deadline for registration is Wednesday, September 18th, and the rain date for the event is Sunday, September 22nd, but the library does NOT make that call -- that is up to the individual sellers. The Yard Sale's proceeds benefit our RBPL Foundation. Please visit [www.redbanklibrary.org/calendar/townwideyardsale2024](http://www.redbanklibrary.org/calendar/townwideyardsale2024) for more information.

There are a couple of special programs being held at the

library in September. On Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30pm, join us for Money Concepts 101: Teaching Kids About Money. This is one in a series of free financial literacy programs hosted in partnership with First Atlantic Federal Credit Union. All are welcome, registration is strongly encouraged! There is also scheduled to be another Throwback Thursday talk; Mr. Anthony Setaro will be discussing Temperance, Prohibition and the Red Bank Rum Runners on Thursday, September 26th at 6:30pm. This is a hybrid event; please visit our website to register your attendance either virtually or in-person.

Note that the Red Bank Public Library will be closed from Saturday, August 31st through Monday, September 2nd for the Labor Day holiday weekend. Can't make it to the Library? Use the Library's 24/7 Library through our website to access eBooks, movies, TV shows, music, and learning opportunities at [www.redbanklibrary.org](http://www.redbanklibrary.org).

# SUBMIT YOUR PICTURE!

## 5TH ANNUAL RED BANK PUBLIC LIBRARY PHOTO CONTEST

**SHOW**  
people or places  
in Red Bank

**SNAP**  
a photo from any  
time period

**SHARE**  
with the Library  
before 10/7/24

**CAPTURE THOSE UNIQUE MOMENTS AND EXPRESS THE SPIRIT THAT MAKES RED BANK SPECIAL.**

**EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO [REDBANKLIBRARY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:REDBANKLIBRARY@GMAIL.COM)**

# RED BANK TOWNWIDE YARD SALE

**Saturday, September 21, 2024**  
**9 AM - 2 PM**

**It's back! Register as a seller with the Red Bank Public Library online or in-person\* at the Library for just \$10.**  
All proceeds benefit your local Library!

**Rain Date: Sunday, September 22, 2024**

*"And then the sun took a step back, the leaves lulled themselves to sleep, and autumn awakened." - Raquel Franco*



## EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

- 3-DAY SUPPLY OF WATER (1 GALLON PER PERSON, PER DAY)
- 3-DAY SUPPLY OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD
- FLASHLIGHT
- PORTABLE RADIO AND NOAA WEATHER RADIO
- EXTRA BATTERIES
- PHONE CHARGERS
- FIRST AID KIT WITH PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS
- MULTI-PURPOSE TOOL
- SANITATION AND PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS
- COPIES OF IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS
- EXTRA CASH

DEPENDING ON YOUR FAMILY'S NEEDS, YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO INCLUDE: EXTRA MEDICAL ITEMS, BABY SUPPLIES AND PET SUPPLIES.



## PETS PLANNING

- COME UP WITH SHELTER ALTERNATIVES THAT WILL WORK FOR BOTH YOU AND YOUR PET
- HAVE YOUR PET WEAR HIS OR HER COLLAR WITH RABIES AND IDENTIFICATION TAGS
- MAKE COPIES OF IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS FROM YOUR PET'S VETERINARIAN TO INCLUDE IN YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT
- ADD PLASTIC TRASH BAGS AND CLEANING PRODUCTS TO YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT TO PROVIDE FOR YOUR PET'S SANITATION NEEDS
- HAVE A CRATE OR PET CARRIER AVAILABLE IN THE CASE OF EVACUATION

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

ARE YOU READY?

## WATCH VS. WARNING

**WATCH:** Tropical Storm or Hurricane conditions are POSSIBLE

*Issued 48 hours in advance*

### WHAT TO DO:

- o Prepare your home for impact
- o Review your evacuation and communication plan
- o Fuel vehicles and go through your emergency supply kit
- o Monitor weather forecast and instructions from local officials

**WARNING:** Tropical Storm or Hurricane conditions are EXPECTED

*Issued 36 hours in advance*

### WHAT TO DO:

- o Finalize storm preparations to your home
- o Leave warned area immediately if directed by local officials
- o Continue to monitor weather forecast and updates from officials

## EMERGENCY PLANNING

### DEVELOP AN EVACUATION PLAN:

- Plan your primary evacuation route well ahead of time
- Establish an alternative evacuation route just in case
- Determine where your family will stay during the disaster
- Create a list of essential belongings you intend to bring
- Have a plan for your pets

### DEVELOP A COMMUNICATION PLAN:

- Establish a way to get in touch with loved ones
- Designate an emergency meeting place in the case your family becomes separated
- Appoint a friend or family member who is not affected by the storm to be a point of contact
- Have a way to receive the latest weather updates.



## AFTER THE STORM

- WAIT TO RETURN TO THE IMPACTED AREA UNTIL LOCAL AUTHORITIES DEEM IT SAFE.
- MAKE SURE THE MAIN ELECTRICAL SWITCH IS OFF BEFORE YOU RE-ENTER YOUR HOME.
- DO NOT DRINK OR USE TAP WATER UNTIL THERE IS CONFIRMATION THAT IT IS NOT CONTAMINATED.
- IF USING AN EMERGENCY GENERATOR, KEEP IT OUTSIDE. **NEVER** RUN THE GENERATOR IN THE HOUSE OR GARAGE.
- IF YOU COME ACROSS A FALLEN POWER LINE, STAY BACK AT LEAST 500 FEET AND NEVER TOUCH THE LINE.
- BEFORE THE CLEANUP PROCESS BEGINS, TAKE PICTURES TO DOCUMENT THE DAMAGE AND FILE AN INSURANCE CLAIM.

**RED BANK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL ?**

**VOLUNTEER**

**CALL : 732-530-2700**

**ASK FOR INFORMATION**

Images with Pixabay.com



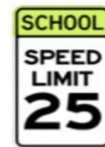
## BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY REMINDERS



### School's Back!

### Follow These Tips To Have A Safe School Year

- Always be Alert and Watch for Children
- Obey School Zone Speed Limits
- Pay Attention to School Crossing Guards
- Never Pass a School Bus Loading or Unloading
- Don't Go Around a Bus That has Lights Activated and Stop Sign Out
- Stop Far Back Enough to Allow Children to Safely Enter and Exit Bus
- Look Both Ways before Crossing the Street
- Remember to Stop and Yield to Pedestrians Crossing
- Remove All Distractions while Walking to School, including Earbuds when Crossing the Street



**BE SAFE. BE SMART.**

*"Come September, children return to school, grownups to work, and the brain to the head." - Roger Rosenblatt*





Red Bank Parks and Recreation Presents:



# ZUMBA

**CLASSES FOR ADULTS**

**at the Red Bank Senior Center**

**Tuesdays from 6:30 pm - 7:30pm**

**September 10, 17, 24 &  
October 1**

All fitness levels welcome.

Register now: [register.capturepoint.com/redbank](https://register.capturepoint.com/redbank)

**\$25**

**includes all  
classes**

[www.redbank.org](http://www.redbank.org) | 732-530-2782 | [recreation@redbanknj.org](mailto:recreation@redbanknj.org)

*"September's changing colors remind us to embrace the beauty of transformation." - Donna Henes*



*Borough of Red Bank*

**September 11, 2024**

# RED BANK 9/11 CEREMONY

**RIVERSIDE GARDENS PARK**

W. FRONT STREET, RED BANK, NJ

**AT 9:30 AM**

PLEASE JOIN US TO COMMEMORATE THE  
VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES.



**We Remember 9/11**

*"September 11 is one of our worst days but it brought out the best in us. It unified us as a country and showed our charitable instincts and reminded us of what we stood for and stand for." – Lamar Alexander*