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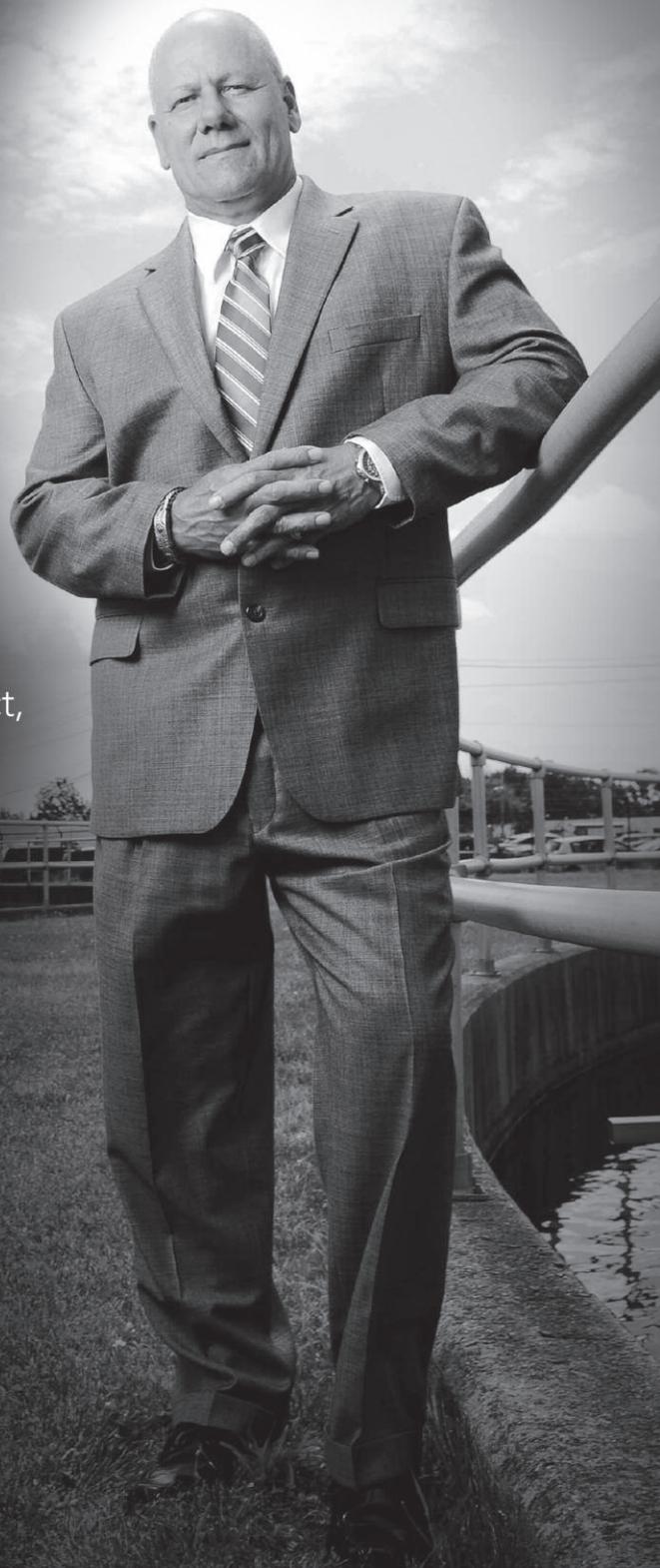


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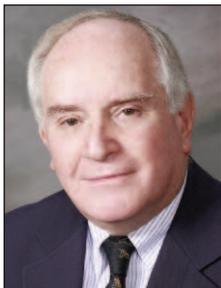
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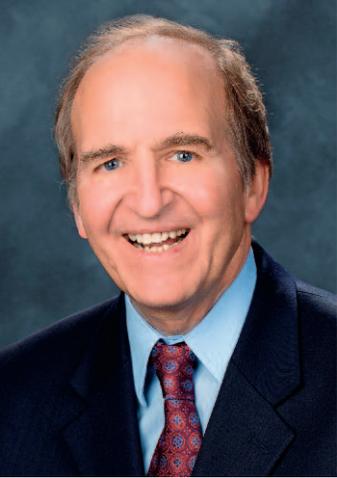
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FROM 222 WEST STATE STREET
BILL DRESSEL, LEAGUE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SPECIAL EVENTS PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON NEW JERSEY

Looking forward to 2014, the eyes of the world will be focused on our Garden State—not once but twice. New Jersey will host two colossal one-of-a-kind athletic events. On February 2, the first ever outdoor, cold-weather Super Bowl will kick-off at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford. And from June 14 through the 21, the 2014 Special Olympics U.S. Games will be held in Mercer County with the Opening Ceremonies at the Prudential Center.

Starting in February, the Super Bowl Host Committee has planned a week-long series of events on both sides of the Hudson. An estimated 400,000 visitors will participate in this slate of happenings. While only 82,500 will have tickets to the game itself, the rest will be enjoying festivities all around the metropolitan area. Hundreds of millions of dollars are expected to flow to local hotels, bars, restaurants, museums, theaters and entertainment venues.

[WE SALUTE ALL THE MUNICIPALITIES THAT WILL SOON BE PUTTING OUT THE WELCOME MAT FOR VISITORS, FROM FAR AND NEAR.]

Oh yeah! There's also going to be a football game. The media spotlight on Super Bowl XLVIII will provide an opportunity to show the world what makes New Jersey a world class destination.

According to the old saying, "Hospitality is making your guests feel at home, even when you wish they were." But in our state, it's a lot more than that. The tourism

industry, in a normal year, directly provides employment to over 300,000 New Jerseyans. Indirectly, tourism supports another 200,000 jobs. One of every 10 jobs in New Jersey is a result of tourism. The tourism sector reportedly generated \$34.7 billion in 2012, or 7 percent of the state economy. The Super Bowl will build on top of that.

In June, the Special Olympics U.S. Games will feature nearly 3,500 athletes competing in 14 Olympic-style sports, with the support of 1,000 coaches, 8,000 volunteers and an estimated 50,000 family, friends and spectators. And while there is no doubt that it will provide an economic boost to the area, the real value of the Games will be seen on the faces of the athletes, their families, the volunteers and all the fans of the Games.

The Special Olympics aims to give people with intellectual disabilities opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience success and joy. The athletes will share their gifts, skills and efforts with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the entire community. The U.S. Games will bring together citizens with and without intellectual disabilities to promote understanding, appreciation and acceptance.

We are proud of our state and of our people. And we salute all the municipalities that will soon be putting out the welcome mat for visitors, from far and near. ▲

NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES



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Cover by: Loriann Wong

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The number of people and small businesses that benefit from the Marketplace will ultimately be determined by each community's efforts to educate people and get them to sign up.

Helping Families Connect with Healthcare



By Raymond Hurd
Regional Administrator, Centers for
Medicare & Medicaid Services
(Regions 1 and 2), U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services

When the Affordable Care Act was signed into law in 2010, it carried with it a promise of expanding access to quality, affordable health coverage for millions of American families and small businesses.

The number of people and small businesses that benefit from the Marketplace will ultimately be determined by each community's efforts to educate people and get them to sign up. As trusted leaders in your communities, you are essential to the success of Marketplace enrollment efforts. By reaching out now to build coalitions and educate stakeholders, you are laying the groundwork for people to enroll in the Marketplace.

Benefits of the Law The law is already making health coverage stronger for the majority of Americans who already have it. More than eight out of ten Americans have already begun to experience the benefits of the Affordable Care Act with better coverage, including free wellness and prevention care like mammograms and cancer screenings. Three million young adults who didn't have coverage before now can stay on their parents' plans until age 26. But for the nearly two in ten Americans without health insurance, there is a new easy way to get affordable coverage.

The new Health Insurance Marketplace is now available, so New Jerseyans have a whole new way to shop for health insurance. All plans in the Marketplace cover essential health benefits, including physician visits, preventive care, hospital stays, and prescriptions. And many families and small businesses will qualify for a break on their monthly premiums.

Accessing Health Insurance The Marketplace is available on HealthCare.gov and CuidadoDeSalud.gov.

At these websites, you and your constituents can learn how the Marketplace works, who can apply for insurance, how to get insurance, how to lower your costs, and more. There are checklists and videos available to help your constituents prepare to apply and enroll. When they are ready to apply and enroll in a health plan, HealthCare.gov is the place for that, as well.

With a single application, your constituents can also find out if they qualify for Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare, the

Children's Health Insurance Program, or savings they can use right away to lower their health insurance premiums.

The first Marketplace open enrollment period ends March 31, 2014. Individuals should enroll by December 15, 2013, for coverage to be effective January 1, 2014. Starting in 2014, open enrollment is from October 15 through December 7 each year.

THE NEW HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE IS NOW AVAILABLE, SO NEW JERSEYANS HAVE A WHOLE NEW WAY TO SHOP FOR HEALTH INSURANCE.

To Learn More If your constituents have questions about what the Health Insurance Marketplace offers or how to apply, help is available. They can visit HealthCare.gov and click on the Help link in the upper right of the screen or use the online web chat on the website; or call the Marketplace Call Center toll-free at 1-800-318-2596, to speak with a trained customer service representative. TTY users should call 1-855-889-4325. They can tell the customer service representative if they need help in a language other than English.

Many of you are already engaged in conversations about the Affordable Care Act. Over the next few months, local officials across New Jersey can help take these efforts to the next level. Working together, we are on our way to a healthier America with better health insurance options and better health outcomes for all New Jerseyans. ▲

Clearing up the Facts

How to Access the Healthcare Marketplace



By Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary, U.S.
Department of Health
and Human Services

There has been a lot of confusion about some recent notices to consumers from insurance companies that sell coverage in the individual insurance market, and I'd like to clear up the facts.

Today, more than three out of every four Americans get insurance from an employer, Medicare, Medicaid, or the Veterans Benefits Administration. Americans who purchase insurance on their own, however, generally buy coverage in the individual insurance market.

Before the Affordable Care Act, coverage in the individual market often was unaffordable, had high co-pays or deductibles, or lacked basic benefits like maternity care, mental health services, and prescription drug coverage.

**HALF OF THE PEOPLE IN THE
INDIVIDUAL MARKET TODAY
QUALIFY FOR LOWER COSTS ON
MONTHLY PREMIUMS WHEN SIGNING
UP FOR COVERAGE THROUGH
THE MARKETPLACE.**



We will not stop improving the site until every American who wants it has access to quality, affordable coverage.

These plans also had high turnover rates, and often were not renewed at the end of a plan year. One study showed that more than half of enrollees in the individual market left their plan within a year.

The health care law is creating new protections for people in the individual market, as well as strengthening employer-based coverage. In the Health Insurance Marketplace, consumers will no longer be charged more because of gender or a pre-existing condition, recommended preventive services will be covered with no additional out of pocket cost, there will be caps on out of pocket costs, and plans will have to offer a basic package of ten categories of essential health benefits.

Some insurance companies that sell products in the individual market are making changes to their plans. Plans that were in place before the Affordable Care Act passed, and that essentially have not changed (benefits have not been cut or additional costs imposed on consumers) are exempt or "grandfathered" out of these basic requirements that ensure quality coverage. Those grandfathered plans can stay the same. Nothing has changed this fact, and that coverage can continue into 2014, so long as both the insurance company and the consumer agree that it will continue.

Some of less than five percent of Americans who currently get insurance on the individual insurance market have recently received notices from their insurance companies suggesting their plans may no longer exist. These Americans have a choice—they can choose a plan being offered by their insurer, or they can shop for coverage in the Marketplace. As insurers have made clear—they aren't dropping consumers; they're improving their coverage options, often offering plans that are more affordable.

Today, consumers have a choice of an average of 53 qualified health plans in the states where the federal government runs the Marketplace, including those in which it does so in partnership with states. Nearly all consumers live in states with average premiums below earlier estimates. More-

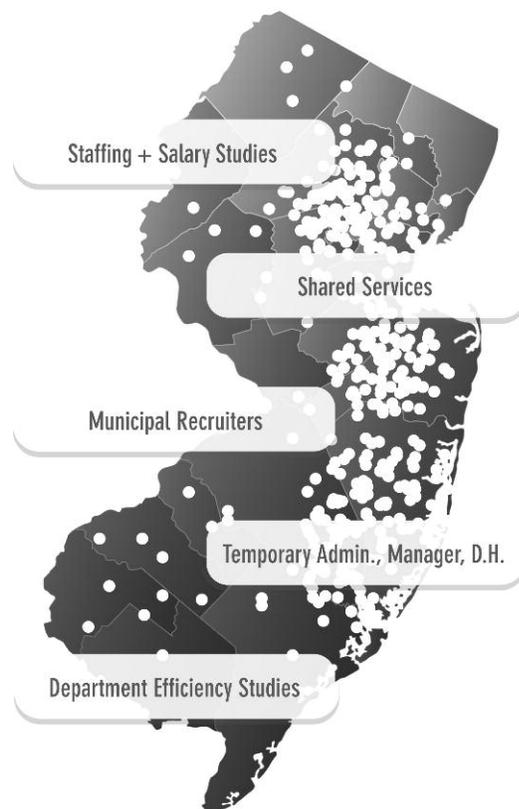
over, half of the people in the individual market today qualify for lower costs on monthly premiums when signing up for coverage through the Marketplace.

While the product is good, there is no denying the online experience on HealthCare.gov must be improved. We will not stop improving the site until every American who wants it has access to quality, affordable coverage.

Importantly, while the team is improving the site, we have opened up new pathways for consumers to apply for coverage through the Marketplace. There are four basic ways to apply for coverage: online at healthcare.gov, by mail, in person, or on the phone at 1-800-315-2596. Sign up by December 15 for coverage that starts January 1, 2014. Enrollment stays open until March 31. ▲

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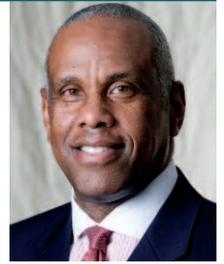


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• Most Towns Become Repeat Clients

Business Owners Need Clear Information about Township Requirements



By Frank Minor
Mayor, Logan Township

Being home to one of the largest commercial and industrial complexes in the Eastern United States creates both benefits and burdens for a municipality. Logan Township, nestled in the southwestern corner of Gloucester County, has certainly benefitted from the influx of millions of square feet of vibrant office, warehouse, distribution and industrial operations augmented with pockets of professional office and retail space.

An increasing number of companies have chosen to place their operations in Logan, particularly those in the food manufacturing, warehousing and distribution sector. There has also been a corresponding increase in smaller support, retail and service businesses locating within the township.

The companies differed tremendously in their level of understanding of land use, construction and zoning laws. We have savvy multi-national corporations creating regional distribution centers; mid-sized companies making their first leap into a larger, more efficient space; and many small start-up operations, with first time business owners.

The challenge facing our municipality was to find a way to introduce novice businesses to the framework of land use regulation, zoning and construction laws; while also providing a clear path forward for the more experienced businesses. The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for Logan is over 1,200 pages long. While this document works well as a guide for growth in our municipality, its attention to detail can be daunting to anyone other than a seasoned professional. We needed a brief, concise way to communicate the basic content of the UDO and direct businesses on how to meet its objectives.

Creating a Business Guide The result was a straightforward, simple document, which we titled "Business Guide: An Introduction and Overview for Doing Business in Logan Township."

Its four sections cover the answers to the following basic questions.

1) Is your business an approved use for the area in which you wish to locate? This section explains what zone districts are, the purpose of the various zone districts and how the various zones can be identified through the zoning map. We also address the basic functions of the township Planning and Zoning boards. We encourage business owners or representatives to contact staff members from the municipality. Our staff has been trained to interpret the business activities as described to them and to identify areas that are appropriate for the business, identify potential conflicts with our zoning codes and provide them with a path forward to address their needs.

2) Does your business need any approvals from the governing body or any of the township boards? Here we address items such as use variances and site plan approval. We also provide an overview of the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code. We stress the importance of using qualified architects and engineers during the planning phase to avoid duplications of costs and delays in final approval.

3) Does your business need building, fire, electrical or plumbing permits? In the third area we deal with the requirements of the township's Construction Office and Bureau of Fire. We explain the purpose and the difference between subcode review and inspections. We also describe the primary categories that require permitting and explain the process for obtaining a permit.

4) How can I contact each township department and board? Under this question we provide a list of municipal contacts that a business may need, including Gloucester County Economic Development contacts that can help guide businesses through the local and state incentive programs.

The result is a quick reference guide that both educates the less experienced business and provides a quick blueprint to follow for the more seasoned business people. ▲

THE CHALLENGE FACING
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**NEW JERSEY
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Bike Share Comes to Collingswood



By Joan Leonard
Commissioner,
& Cass Duffey Director,
Community Development,
Collingswood

For a town with subsidized composting and rain barrel programs, car sharing and an annual Green Festival—a bike share was an obvious addition to Collingswood.

A municipality already known for leading the way in eco-initiatives, Collingswood added a bike sharing program in 2008. A bike share is just what it sounds like—a program that allows residents to borrow bikes at a central location for a small fee. It helps reduce reliance on cars and makes it easier to reach public transportation and local destinations.

The trend of bike sharing is nothing new. Cities in Europe have had bike sharing programs for decades that minimize congestion, emissions and transportation costs. Closer to home, Drexel University and M.I.T. have developed bike share programs for use within their urban university settings. Based on these models the borough put together a plan to test out a bike share on a smaller scale that tapped its best resource—volunteers.

Collingswood's most successful programs—our Farmers' Market, Holiday Parade, May Fair—are some of the biggest events in the region and they rely on the energy of our citizens. We recommend that you find people that are passionate and let them give back. In Collingswood we have many people who want to see more green programs in town and they are willing to give of their time to make it happen. For the bike share program, we built on that.

Under the leadership and vision of Commissioner Leonard, the borough group sourced unclaimed bikes from the Collingswood Police Department and bikes donated from the public.

When someone donates a bike that is not in perfect condition, we repair; rather than recycle them. This way we get bikes for the program and keep bikes out of landfills. This vision is part of what makes our Bike Share program unique.

Space was made for a Bike Share garage just outside the town's wildly popular Farmers' Market. There hundreds of



Commissioner Joan Leonard stands with the original Bike Share volunteers.

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bikes have been painted green and readied for cyclists. And the cyclists were ready as well.

Since the start of the program, the Bike Share has put almost 400 bikes out into the community. Riders span a range of ages, but many members are eco-minded young professionals in their mid-20s to late 60s.

SINCE THE START OF THE PROGRAM, THE COLLINGSWOOD BIKE SHARE HAS PUT ALMOST 400 BIKES OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY.

The borough charges members a flat fee of \$25. The Bike Share operates like a library, in which residents borrow a bike and then return it to the Bike Share when done using it. Borrowing can be for a short or an extended period of time—as long as the participant continues to ride. The bike is taken home and used like a personal bike. The garage is open on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings and there's no charge to visit the mechanics throughout the year. Members can switch bikes as often as they choose.

Bike Share manager Joe Bonaparte is paid a small hourly fee, and the rest



Bike Share volunteer Gino Caffarella stands with a public air pump purchased with Bike Share funds.

of the mechanics are volunteers. Last year, the group arranged a "Beef, Beer, Bikes and Bowie" fundraiser that netted enough for two public air pumps and a repair stand at the garage. They're hoping for an even bigger success this year that will make it possible to expand the program. Bikes come in as donations faster than the group can use them and costs are relatively low. Our biggest expense is inner tubes.

Although upfront costs are small, the program does have some challenges. Bike thefts and membership renewals can be tricky. As the program grows, more space is needed as well. Communication with the Police Department is essential. To help assure safety, participants are required to sign a liability waiver and asked to wear a helmet and secure bikes with a lock.

Reducing the number of cars on our roads is another important goal of the Bike Share, but there's a community building element, too. Volunteers connect with dozens of residents and many of the interactions are meaningful. While most members sign up with the Bike Share looking for a recreational bike, to some it has meant much more.

For example, according to Bike Share manager Joe Bonaparte, one new member was going through a hard time. He was just getting to know about our town and the Bike Share was one of his first experiences with our community. He mentioned, with frustration, that he had no way to get around. When we told him the membership fee was just \$25, he was thrilled. The Bike Share volunteers found him a quality bike and he was grateful.

When volunteers next saw the man he was in better spirits. He said that because of the bicycle he had been able to get to therapy and medical appointments and he was thankful.

"There's something wonderful about seeing our green machines all over town—perched in the park, outside a store, zipping down streets. We're providing something that people can use and it helps the environment—but it's a true community project," said Collingswood Mayor James Maley.

Other towns have modeled programs after Collingswood's success as well. Residents of other municipalities have approached Bonaparte and Collingswood Commissioner Leonard for advice on getting a program started in their own town. With some guidance from Collingswood's organizers, Camden County launched their program in 2012.

Thinking ahead, Bonaparte has some big picture ideas. "More space, more organization, more bike lanes and every street should be rubberized asphalt." ▲

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Making the Most of a 'Tree Planting' Opportunity



By David Fried
Mayor, Robbinsville

In 2010 the New Jersey Turnpike Authority informed Robbinsville Township that it was planning to clear more than 200 acres of trees along a 23-mile stretch, between exit 7A and exit 8 in Mercer County. Turnpike officials told us that Robbinsville would be compensated for this loss of tree canopy under the New Jersey No Net Loss (NNL) Act, a statute that requires "state entities" to restore a loss of tree canopy of more than one-half acre that is the result of construction.

Though we regretted the loss of the trees, Robbinsville Township was happy to learn that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was going to pay to have 15,000+ trees planted, in three "phases," to replace the trees that were removed as part of the Turnpike's "6 to 9 Widening Program."

At first Robbinsville Township, a 20-plus square mile municipality of 13,700, was overwhelmed by the logistics of a tree planting project of this magnitude. We would need to plant more trees than our residents had planted within the past three years. The DEP's Community Forestry Bureau developed an Agreement with the township that, when signed, obligated both parties to complete the massive tree planting project within the time period provided in the statute.

As Mayor, I signed the agreement and wondered, "How are we ever going to pull this off?" Then I did what Robbinsville residents have always expected their Mayor to do. I rolled up my sleeves and immediately went to work. I called my staff, including Township Engineer Tim McGough and Superintendent of Public Works Dino Colarocco, and



We wanted our Lakeside Park to one day host a "Cherry Blossom Festival," so we planted 267 flowering cherries, in the same ratio as those in Washington, DC.



Trees were also be planted at all of Robbinsville's parks and public areas, and around township buildings. This photo shows a recent planting at Blakely Park.

asked them if the township had the resources and expertise to fulfill the Agreement.

I discovered that we had much of what was needed to complete the project. However, we did not have a designer/project manager or tree expert who could (1) take the township's tree planting ideas and put them on paper, (2) supervise the implementation of the plan during the tree planting phase and (3) help us navigate the bureaucratic NNL process. Robbinsville needed someone with the expertise to make the right decisions about tree species, location, tree health, and planting techniques. This person would also help us address questions that arose during tree planting.

We found that combination of expertise and quickly signed a shared services agreement with the Mercer County Soil Conservation District. Much to my surprise there are 15 Soil Conservation Districts (SCD) that cover the entire state. Each constitutes a "body politic" of the state, and together they are administered through the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Their mission is to provide technical assistance to communities on a wide range of natural resource issues, including forestry,

wildfire prevention, soil erosion, engineering, and conservation education. The Mercer SCD employs a Certified Tree Expert, Licensed Professional Engineer (PE), a wildlife biologist and most significant for our purposes, a trained forester.

I can say on behalf of myself and my staff that our local Soil Conservation District has provided outstanding assis-

tance to the township. If your municipality encounters a natural resource related problem, I highly recommend a call to your local Soil Conservation District representative. They can probably help you.

REPLACING THE 200 ACRES OF TREES THAT WERE REMOVED DUE TO THE TURNPIKE'S WIDENING PROJECT HAS BENEFITED OUR TOWN'S LANDSCAPE.

The Mercer SCD's forester, District Director Bill Brash sat down with us and listened to our concerns, needs and objectives for the tree planting project. He then developed a tree planting plan that met our requirements. The plan was ambitious, bold, inclusive, technically sound, and needs specific. We planned to add trees to the grounds of all four township schools, which were left nearly devoid of trees due to budget constraints during their construction.

Trees would also be planted at all of Robbinsville's parks and public areas,

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and around township buildings. A premium was placed on public areas where tree planting could restore lost natural habitats and reduce township maintenance costs. We also made replacing every vacant street tree a priority. I remember saying, "I want every homeowner to have a tree planted if they want one."

Our Superintendent of Public Works completed a needs assessment and targeted every location along township

streets where a shade tree was missing. Each location was listed and included in the planting plan. Township Engineer McGough wanted our Lakeside Park to one day host a "Cherry Blossom Festival," so a planting plan was developed to meet that objective. This terrific idea led to the planting of 267 flowering cherries, in the same ratio as those in Washington, DC.

The school plantings reflected each school's needs, but with flair. Mr.

Brash designed specific plans for each school. For example, Robbinsville High is home to the Ravens, whose colors are red and black. Thus, special consideration was given to red accent trees, such as red flowering dogwoods, horse chestnuts, and those

EVERY MUNICIPALITY CAN BENEFIT FROM DEVELOPING A RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS LOCAL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

with red fall color such as Blackgum and October Glory red maples. The Sharon School has Boomer the Blue Jay as its mascot. As a result, we planted trees that provide food for blue jays, including Pin Oak, English Oak and Sawtooth Oak, as well as evergreens which provide blue jay habitat.

Phase II of our tree planting project that began in 2012, includes a combination high school and middle school cross country trail that we hope will have state and even regional appeal. More than 2,000 trees are being planted in the development of the cross country course this year and we have plans to plant additional trees along the trail in Phase III, beginning in the spring of 2014.

Town officials have learned a lot over the past three years. Replacing the 200 acres of trees that were removed due to the Turnpike's widening project has benefited our town's landscape. Robbinsville's town officials and staff have worked to engage our residents in the tree planting process. My advice is to be inclusive in your tree planting efforts—include your school districts, plant your open spaces, create habitats and restore your street tree plantings.

Every municipality can benefit from developing a relationship with its local Soil Conservation District. I recommend that you get to know the services of your local SCD before you are faced with similarly daunting conservation-related tasks. ▲

The graphic features a warm, textured background with a collage of historical black and white photographs. The top left text reads "NJM celebrates 100 years of serving policyholders 1913-2013". Below this, a message of gratitude states: "NJM Insurance Company thanks the Garden State's residents, businesses, and local and state governments for providing such a welcoming environment over the past century." A large, handwritten-style "Thank you!" is written across the center. The bottom left contains the NJM logo with the tagline "Celebrating 100 Years 1913-2013" and the values "HONORING TRADITION • EMBRACING VISION" and "STEWARDSHIP • INTEGRITY • SERVICE". The bottom right shows a modern couple sitting on stone steps in front of a brick building.

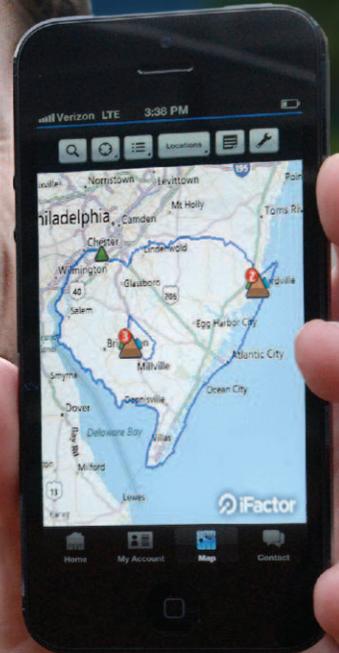
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Avalon Mayor Addresses Federal Officials

Why Beach Restoration Pays Off



By Martin L. Pagliughi
Mayor, Avalon

The discussion on storm mitigation efforts in the State of New Jersey is being heard throughout the United States. The federal government continues to write necessary checks to help New Jersey and New York recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy last year. I was invited to be the keynote speaker at the National Emergency Preparedness Month Fair in Washington D.C.

Key staff members from the United States Senate and emergency preparedness leaders from the greater Washington, DC region wanted to hear about Avalon's successful emergency management plan and our storm mitigation efforts. We also recognized this would be an outstanding opportunity to explain to key staff members why resiliency efforts on a national scale are an investment, not an expense, that will pay repeated dividends when the next major storm impacts our country's coastline. For us to be successful with that message, we needed to show why the federal government is the biggest stakeholder in this process.

Our discussion began with a fundamental principle of the Avalon philosophy: When a storm or disaster hits, local

leaders are the "cavalry." Municipalities cannot wait for national groups such as FEMA, the National Guard, or the American Red Cross to help our citizens. Instead, municipalities must embrace the fact that they truly are the first responders for storm events. We showed how and why every borough employee becomes an essential component of our response team, with clearly defined responsibilities. We also showed how we provide our employees with an opportunity days before a storm's arrival to take care of their own families, pets and properties so they can focus on the task at hand in Avalon.

The Avalon plan also includes essential pre-disaster, no cost contracts and agreements that will fast track Avalon to recovery following a major storm. Avalon has agreements in place with an offshore vocational high school to serve as our community's designated shelter. We also have agreements in place with world-renowned professional companies that will respond to Avalon first to remove debris, recover essential buildings, and provide transportation to our designated shelter before and after the storm.



Avalon Borough Mayor and Director for the Cape May County Office of Emergency Management Martin L. Pagliughi shares his insights into the value of federal hurricane recovery spending at the National Emergency Preparedness Month Fair at the Hart Senate Building in Washington, DC on September 20, 2013.

The Borough of Avalon also constructed its own pet evacuation trailer that travels to our designated shelter where pets can be cared for by their owners, out of harm's way. This shelter overcomes the objection of any resident who does not want to leave their property because they do not

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PROVIDE \$25 BILLION
IN ANNUAL FEDERAL
TAX REVENUE, WHICH
TRANSLATES TO \$215
IN TAX REVENUE FOR
EVERY DOLLAR THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
SPENDS ON BEACH
NOURISHMENT.**

have a safe place to go with their pet. It has worked marvelously, and was paid for through community donations. The Avalon Pet Evacuation Trailer is now in the New Jersey State Police inventory of emergency equipment. It is available for use elsewhere in the state, during an emergency that does not impact our borough.

We discussed how the Avalon plan can be replicated on a broader scale. I was appointed to be the Director of the Cape May County Office of Emergency Management in July, 2012. Just 108 days later, Hurricane Sandy came ashore in New Jersey. We were able to implement some fundamental components of our municipal plan on a county level, which helped the county's response. Since then, many of the personnel and sheltering issues have been addressed on the county level to help us be better prepared for the next storm event.

Here comes the important part. While addressing the attendees at the Fair, I recognized that many of the key staff members were from communities that do not have coastal protection issues. We needed to show why the federal government needs to take a greater interest and make more sig-

nificant investments in coastal resiliency. I feel the way to do that is with an honest discussion about dollars and cents, including discussion on the economic impact beaches have on our national tourism economy.

A report entitled "The Economic Value of Beaches—A 2013 Update," by James R. Houston, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, is an excellent place to start and serves as a tremendous resource for this conversation. A total of 10.2 percent of all jobs in the United States are tourism-related. Travel and tourism was a \$170 billion industry for the United States in 2012. And, coastal states in our country received 85 percent of U.S. tourist-related revenues, because beaches are popular destinations. Beach tourists provide \$25 billion in annual federal tax revenue, which translates to \$215 in tax revenue for every dollar the federal government spends on beach nourishment.

That message got the attention of the attendees at the Fair. We reinforced that message with a deliberate discussion on how Avalon uses local,

state, and federal dollars for an extensive, engineered beach and dune system in our community. This system worked remarkably well during Hurricane Sandy. These efforts, combined with Avalon's stringent building codes and regulations, resulted in the borough attaining a 25 percent flood discount from the Community Rating System. Avalon also became the only coastal community in New Jersey to be awarded an AAA bond rating from Standard and Poor's, in part due to our resiliency efforts.

Avalon welcomed the invitation to speak at the National Emergency Preparedness Month Fair as a way to get this important message out to federal officials. It is my hope that this message becomes consistent from all of our coastal partners in New Jersey. Together, with a unified voice, we can show Senate and Congressional leaders why an investment in coastal resiliency is simply that, an investment, that continues to fuel a major economic engine in the United States while providing for greater protection for the residents we are elected to serve. ▲

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Welcoming One of Our Own

By Suzanne M. Walters, President, NJLM;
Mayor, Stone Harbor Borough

From 1913 to 2006, New Jersey had a bit of a dry spell. For nearly a century, prior to the election of Senator Menendez, our Senate delegation didn't include a former Mayor. I'm happy to announce that with the election of former Newark Mayor and NJLM Executive Board Member Cory Booker, our state is now represented by two former Mayors!

Senator Booker will bring a unique skill set to the Senate. He was first elected to municipal office in 1998, when he won a seat on the Newark City Council. He quickly gained a reputation for personal involvement with a ten-day hunger strike to draw attention to the dangers of neighborhood drug dealing.

SENATOR BOOKER CAN COUNT ON HEARING FROM US ON ALL ISSUES IMPORTANT TO NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES.

After an unsuccessful run in 2002, he was elected Mayor of Newark in 2006. His early reforms included increasing the number of police officers and ending background checks for many city jobs, to help former offenders find employment in the city. He also refurbished police stations, improved city services, and expanded summer youth programs.

While Mayor, he reduced his own salary twice. His administration imposed a one-day-a-month furlough on non-uniformed employees for six months in 2010, and cut the salaries of those earning over \$100,000 a year by 2 percent.

Under his leadership, Newark more than doubled the rate of affordable housing creation. Newark also expanded parks and recreation spaces at a rate not seen in over a century. Senator Booker encouraged grassroots economic empowerment, and developed programs to support grandparents raising their grandchildren and reduce childhood obesity.

Faced with an economic recession, the Mayor created an inspector general's office that brought 19 successful indictments. He also adopted the management tool CitiS-TAT, which has improved government efficiency. For example, the number of missed garbage pickups dropped 60 percent and the city saved \$15 million in overtime expenditures for police.

When Cory Booker was elected Mayor, Newark faced a \$118 million deficit and the budget relied on one-time funding sources for a quarter of its revenue. Newark's 2013



Then Newark Mayor Cory Booker makes a presentation during the Annual League Conference in 2007.

budget proposes less total spending than when he took office in 2006—and less than 5 percent of it comes from one-time funding sources.

Senator Booker grew up in Harrington Park. While a student at Northern Valley Regional High School in Old Tappan he was selected to be a member of the 1986 USA Today All-USA High School Football Team.

At Stanford University, Senator Booker was elected Class President, while earning a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Master's in Sociology. He attended Oxford University on a Rhodes scholarship and graduated from Yale Law School, where he worked in free legal clinics for low-income New Haven residents. During his final year at Yale, he moved to Newark.

Senator Booker gained national attention in December, 2010, when a constituent used Twitter to ask him to send someone to shovel her elderly father's driveway. Senator Booker responded by tweeting; "I will do it myself; where does he live?" Others volunteered to help and 20 minutes later the driveway was clear.

Aside from starring in an Academy Award nominated documentary and an Emmy Award nominated Prime Time TV series, Senator Booker has faced many of the same problems that trouble municipal officials all around our Garden State.

It's good to know that with the election of Senator Booker, New Jersey Mayors have access to two former colleagues in the U.S. Senate. They can both count on hearing from us on all issues important to New Jersey municipalities. ▲



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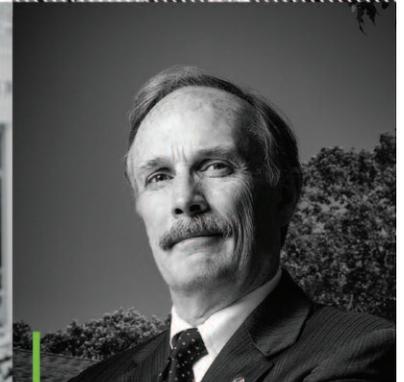
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Public Meeting Agenda Planning

Chatham Borough Creates an Organized Approach



By Bruce A. Harris, Mayor
& Robert J. Falzarano, Administrator,
Chatham Borough



Especially in small communities, elected officials are frequently volunteers who have full-time jobs in addition to their duties as a elected officials. One of the many challenges such elected officials face is knowing when to focus on the various matters that will come before the governing body for discussion or a decision. The more prepared elected officials are, the more efficient those meetings will be. Also, the quality of the decisions will be better.

In Chatham Borough, the mayor and council members receive a brief memo from the Borough Administrator each Friday (we call it the "Friday Memo") and a chart that maps out the topics to be discussed and actions to be taken at the next four or five council meetings (the Agenda Planner). They also receive correspondence and reports on various matters. Our two or three page Friday Memo gives a concise overview of the key developments for the week.

This article will describe the borough's Agenda Planner, a tool we have developed that helps the governing body and administration keep track of matters that are for decision and make sure that routine resolutions (such as approvals of annual festivals, annual fee reviews, etc.) are acted on in a timely manner. We have found this system to be extremely helpful, and believe a similar system would work well in both larger and smaller municipalities.

The Agenda Planner is a communications and an organization tool. It is formatted to mirror the standard

It is critical to determine whether the members of the governing body will have had adequate time to become knowledgeable about the matters to be addressed at the meeting.

	<u>23-Sep-13</u>	<u>28-Oct-13</u>	<u>11-Nov-13</u>
Resolutions - Appointments			
Executive Session - Paid Professionals		1. Sale of Vacant Property	
Discussion Items	1. Recycling Contract	1. Leaf Collection	1. Strategic Financial Management Plan
	2. Capital Project Update	2. Art Craft Show	
		3. Kiwanis Fund Raiser	
REPORTS			
Ordinances - Second Reading		1. Summit Ave. Easement	
		2. Hazardous Substances	
		3. Joint Court	
		4. Hazardous Substances	
Resolutions - Non - Routine			
CONSENT AGENDA			
Appointments			
Contracts	1. Joint Court	1. White Lights	
Finance			1. Sewer Rates
Law & Public Safety			2. Water Rates
Boards, Commissions & Committees			3. Parking Rates
Arts		1. Sculpture Extension	
Shared Services			
Personnel		1. Parking Enforcement Officer	
Taxes			
Recreation			
Other		1. Sale of Borough Land	
Ordinances - First Reading	1. Joint Court		
	2. Hazardous Substances		
	3. Summit Ave. Easement		
Executive Session			
	Contracts	Contracts	Personnel
	1. Telephone Audit	1. Park Mobile	1. 2014 Salaries
	2. Energy Aggregation	2. Property Easement	2. Professional Service
			Provider Evaluations
		Litigation	

The Agenda Planner provides an effective vehicle for the governing body and administration to communicate about the priorities of the various matters. More importantly, it allows the members of the governing body to know weeks in advance when matters will be discussed, so that they can prepare.

THE AGENDA PLANNER PROVIDES AN EFFECTIVE VEHICLE FOR THE GOVERNING BODY AND ADMINISTRATION TO COMMUNICATE ABOUT THE PRIORITIES OF THE VARIOUS MATTERS.

As new issues or emergencies arise, we frequently use the Agenda Planner as our guide for re-scheduling items for discussion. This way we avoid having meetings that become too long and ensure that enough time is allotted for a thorough discussion of all issues. Even some routine topics

order of business for council meetings. For Chatham Borough, that standard order starts with the usual preliminary items, such as the pledge of allegiance, statement of adequate notice, and roll call, and continues with proclamations and commendatory resolutions, discussion items, public hearings on proposed ordinances, resolutions to be discussed and voted upon, a consent agenda, ordinance introductions and the closed session. The Agenda Planner lists the specific items to be addressed in each category for the next four meetings. An example of the Agenda Planner is above.

As you know, there are many factors to consider when preparing a meeting agenda. You must consider when actions need to be taken and when decisions need to be made. What issues are likely to arouse significant public comment and input and the length of the meeting must also be taken into consideration. And, most importantly, you must determine whether the members of the governing body will have

had adequate time to become knowledgeable about the matters to be addressed at the meeting.



Pictured during a Chatham Borough Council meeting are Council Member Vicki Fife, Council Member Jim Lonergan, Mayor Bruce A. Harris, Council Member Jim Collander, Council Member John Holman and Council Member Gerald Helfrich.

require more time to be discussed, and we are able to plan accordingly. For example, if budget items are on the agenda, we might limit the number of other items on the agenda to ensure that we have adequate time to discuss each matter.

Using the Agenda Planner, the administration and the governing body can make sure that necessary materials are provided in a timely manner. Now that we use it, our meetings are more balanced. More importantly, we have found that we are able to handle more

topics at a given meeting, because the governing body is more prepared to discuss each matter and that the discussion is more focused.

Another benefit is that administration and our Borough Attorney know when resolutions and ordinances need to be drafted and circulated for review and comment prior to being placed on the agenda. We distribute draft meeting agendas five to seven days prior to each meeting, as well.

We also maintain an ongoing 12-month view version of the Agenda Planner. This allows us to schedule recurring annual resolutions that must be adopted to comply with statutory, regulatory or ordinance requirements. It also guides our long-range planning and helps ensure that required resolutions are not missed.

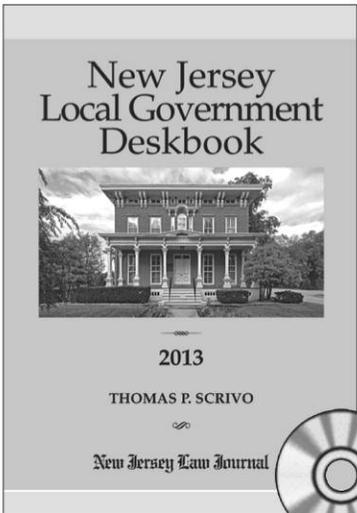
In addition the Mayor and Borough Administrator maintain a "pending items" list to keep track of items that will need to be addressed but require further research and development before being brought before the governing body for discussion and/or action.

By using the Agenda Planner, setting meeting agendas has become more collaborative. The administration, the mayor, the governing body and the Borough Attorney work together as a team to ensure that, throughout the year, everyone remains focused on the orderly accomplishment of the yearly goals. We are also more confident that things are done right and that is an achievement. ▲

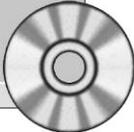
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New Records Management System Boosts Efficiency



By Nicholas Sacco, Mayor,
Christopher Pianese, Township Administrator
& Erin Barillas, Township Clerk,
North Bergen Township

The last few years have seen important changes in the way the Township of North Bergen manages records. During that time, we have embraced cloud-based technology to manage information. We also have reduced paper use in the Clerk's Office and other departments by using scanners, email, and a digital document management system.

Cloud-based storage Our move toward cloud-based technology was triggered, in part, by Hurricane Sandy. When Sandy inundated the township in October 2012, the hurri-

cane knocked down power lines, leaving Town Hall's email servers and computers without electricity for nearly a week. During that time, our email communication became difficult, if not impossible.

Most of the town was down for four days, and in some parts of the township it took as long as two weeks for power to be restored. The need to do better became very clear. As a result, we are now in the process purchasing back-up generators and moving our email service to Microsoft Exchange 365 cloud servers. We are also in the



We've gone from walking over boxes and just jamming things in one room to using cloud servers, offices with less paper clutter, and an electronic system for managing documents over the web.

process of moving the Finance and Tax Assessor software out of Town Hall and onto cloud servers. This move will protect us because our email and critical information will be in the cloud. So, if Sandy Number Two hits, we will be ready.

Records Management Another important initiative that is taking place in the township is the reduction in paper consumption and digitization of critical records. The Clerk's Office is spearheading this initiative by scanning, managing and archiving electronic documents over the web.

The over-riding goals of the technology initiatives in our Clerk's Office are to reduce paper use, streamline operations, and protect records from damage and loss. To date, we have observed that the benefits of going digital have included faster search times for records and shorter response times to Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests.

In January 2009, the Clerk's Office faced many obstacles to going digital. Some of our township departments were still using typewriters to create official documents, such as meeting items. Meeting items entered the office daily from the township's five departments and were becoming unwieldy to manage.

To cut down on paper entering the office, we decided that it was time for everyone to at least use Microsoft Word and to submit documents electronically. So, we made a conscious effort to clean up what had become a paper mess and encouraged departments to create the documents digitally rather than printing paper copies and delivering them by hand. We are happy to report that township departments now create meeting items digitally and email them to the Clerk's Office.

We also have been working to clear out the records that had accumulated over many years in the Clerk's Office and Town Hall storage rooms. Previous clerks used to create multiple copies of files, sometimes seven copies of the same thing, and file them away. To save staff resources, we opted to outsource the archiving and digitization of files to FileBank, an enterprise content management firm based in Oakland, NJ. In September

2009, FileBank began helping us organize, store, and digitize our files.

To convert paper files to digital copies, we used scanners configured to FileBank's cloud servers. We prioritized records frequently requested by our township departments, such as agreements and contracts, business licenses and inspections, commission meeting minutes, developer agreements and resolutions, and township ordinances. We send documents that are not scanned to FileBank's archive center for secure storage.

We also subscribed to FileBank's V-Cabinet, a web-based software for managing digital files over the internet. We now manage more than 4,800 files using V-Cabinet.

The electronic document management system has reduced the time it takes our staff to find files and has streamlined our in-house operations. Before the office converted to digital, our staff took an average of 20 minutes to search for paper records in file cabinets or downstairs in Town Hall's archive vault. Now our average search time is five minutes. Staff no longer have to leave their desks to look for documents such as ordinances or permits. They just have to find it on V-Cabinet, email it, and it's done. Having V-Cabinet to organize our documents frees up time for other critical tasks.

We also have begun using scanners and email to facilitate the OPRA process. Like many other municipalities across New Jersey, we receive numerous OPRA requests each week, sometimes up to 10 requests per day. OPRA requires a seven-day turnaround time, so our staff is under constant pressure to respond within the legal timeframe.

If we do have it on hand in the computer, we don't need to worry about the seven business day time limit. We can just send it on the day of the request.

Despite these improvements, more work remains. Going forward, we hope to introduce digital document management systems to other departments, including the Building and Tax Assessor offices. We also encourage department heads to shred unnecessary records regularly to prevent them from accumulating.

We've gone from walking over boxes and just jamming things in one room to using cloud servers, offices with less

paper clutter, and an electronic system for managing documents over the web. We think we've made a huge dent in improving the township's records management practices in recent years. We're organizing all the paper files and moving towards an electronic format townwide. That's not just news for the Clerk's Office—it's good news for our residents and the public at large. ▲

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Emergency Management in a Rural Setting



By Linda A. DuBois
Mayor, Pittsgrove Township

For many years in Pittsgrove Township the only time we thought about closing roads or were concerned for resident safety was when we had a snow storm.

This attitude changed abruptly in August of 2011, when 11 inches of rain fell within eight hours. We had flooding and roadways washing away on a Sunday afternoon, without any advanced warning from the weather radar.

By mid-afternoon, we had roads collapsing into the water at bridges over streams. Prior to the storm, these were very small streams. Our Pittsgrove Township Office of Emergency Management Coordinator and myself, as Mayor, signed a township "Declaration of State of Emergency." Under New Jersey State law, the Municipal Coordinator can declare without any other approvals. Salem County Director of Emergency Management declared a State of Emergency for Salem County on the same day.

Between flooding roadways and bridges collapsing, there were virtually no viable routes in or out of Pittsgrove Township by that evening. That day Pittsgrove Township—a 46-square mile community of 9,200—began to realize the importance of a strong network of communication and cooperation.

Then, Hurricane Irene hit a few days later. We continued with flooding issues and road closures.

We continued to work very closely with the Pittsgrove Public Works Department, Salem County Public Works, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, and officials from Salem County and Pittsgrove. We also had a close working relationship and support from the New Jersey State Police, New Jersey State Park Police and Salem County Sheriff's department. We deployed township light tower generators to our local volunteer fire companies to keep their operations going.



Pittsgrove Mayor Linda A. DuBois watched this bridge wash out the day 11 inches of rain fell within eight hours. The deluge came without warning and destroyed five bridges, trapping residents and preventing the movement of emergency vehicles.



A major intersection in Pittsgrove Township, located just beyond a lake that washed out three years prior, experiences flooding. The area has not been restored. The surrounding land was just a grassland a few hours prior to the storm. To the left of the photo and behind the store is a stream that feeds into Parvin State Park's lake.

In June of 2012, a storm known as the "Derecho" hit our township. Like the 11-inch rain storm, this one also came with no warning. The Derecho toppled and sheared "good, live" trees. Devastation and total electrical outages occurred throughout Pittsgrove Township. We developed another State of Emergency Declaration in Pittsgrove and in Salem County! All totaled we were in a state of "declared" emergency for a year!

But in contrast to the first emergency, we were ready. We had fabulous communications going between the township and all invested partners. There were the continual conference calls with Atlantic City Electric. We opened our building, now running on full generator power, to the office staff of Parvin State Park. South Jersey Chapter of the American Red Cross opened a "cooling center" at our municipal building, that stayed open for five days. During this time, residents were able to stop in to get cooled off (we were also in the middle of the 104 degree heat wave), charge their electronics, get water, ice and snacks. Many residents also stopped in to find out when life would return to normal. New Jersey State Police touched base with us to see how we

were progressing and what was needed. Sprint, Verizon and Comcast all worked to help allow the municipal operations to continue.

We sat in the "eye" of Sandy, so we missed those tragedies.

Once all "declarations" were removed, we sat down with our Township Office of Emergency Management to discuss

how to prepare for future storms. We have been able to get our three traffic signaled intersections wired to convert to a generator hook up when power outages occur. Communications between local and county OEM is uninterrupted. Storm Debris Management plans were begun. They still need to be more permanently

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developed, though. Many trees were downed during recent storms. We have had the participation of our local emergency responders, medical and fire personnel, and our Local Emergency Planning Council.

**THE KEY TO
SUCCESSFULLY
RETURNING TO SOME
SENSE OF NORMALCY
IS TO HAVE A GOOD
COMMUNICATION
SYSTEM BETWEEN THE
TOWNSHIP AND ALL
THOSE WHO ARE
RESPONSIBLE FOR
DISASTER RELIEF.**



Major flooding affected Pittsgrove following the Derecho storm in June of 2012.

We are also working with neighboring municipal officials who are responsible for the height of our lake system. They communicate through OEM about when they should lower or raise the water level in the lakes.

Town officials are in ongoing communication with all utilities.

Photo ID's were issued to all Pittsgrove Township employees, including Township Committee members.

We also chose who should be designated as essential personnel. We have had a class held locally for all "key" employees. All elected officials have completed the course, as well.

There are Long Term Recovery Groups, of which Pittsgrove is a participant, in operation throughout New Jersey to help any resident who has

ongoing issues due to the Hurricanes and flooding situations.

If nothing else has been learned, the key to successfully returning to some sense of normalcy is to have a good communication system between the township and all those who are responsible to get the residents secured again! ▲



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Under the Gold Dome

A Momentous Year



By Darryl Isherwood
Senior Political Reporter, NJ.com

As 2013 draws to a close, we will put to bed a momentous year in recent Trenton history. The year began with Superstorm Sandy front and center. The coast was in full-fledged recovery mode and the clean-up was underway. But while homeowners struggled to dig out, the U.S. House of Representatives dug in, for a short time refusing to approve much needed aid to the state.

In what would become another of his famous You Tube moments, Governor Chris Christie took Speaker John Boehner to task and soon the aid began to flow.

In February, longtime Senator Frank Lautenberg announced he would retire at the end of his term. The announcement, which came as little surprise, set off a wave of reflection on the career of the liberal, octogenarian senator, who vowed he'd finish his term strong before riding into the sunset.

In May, Christie announced that earlier in the year, he'd snuck into New York for surgery to insert a lap band into his abdomen. The weight loss surgery became national news and sparked renewed interest in the governor's presidential ambitions. Members of the national media descended on Newark to hear the governor talk about his battle with weight.

That same month the president came to town for the second time in six months. He played boardwalk games with his pal, the governor, and further dashed the hopes of Barbara Buono, the lone Democrat to enter the gubernatorial contest against Christie.

In June, the state lost a giant when Lautenberg died at the age of 89. While it was no secret Lautenberg had been ill, his death still shook the political world.

The governor announced Attorney General Jeff Chiesa would fill the spot, but only for a few months, as the special election to fill the final year of Lautenberg's term would be fast-tracked to October. Christie took heat for the decision, which cynics said was made to keep superstar Newark Mayor Cory Booker off the ballot with him. (Booker was sure to seek the Democratic nomination for the open Senate seat.)

Summer brought the reopening of the shore and a potential 2016 presidential preview as Governor Christie and conservative Kentucky Senator Rand Paul clashed over spending and the future of the GOP. The spat confirmed what we've all known for some time: Christie is a

contender.

In a move that is still reverberating in New Jersey and beyond, the U.S. Supreme Court in June struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act, paving the way for same sex marriage.

In July, Buono named her running mate after a prolonged search. Union official Millie Silva was a bold choice for Lt. Governor, but did little to boost Buono's fortunes, or fundraising ability.

**WHICHEVER SIDE OF THE
AISLE YOU SIT ON AND
WHATEVER YOUR ISSUE OF
CHOICE, 2013 OFFERED
A LITTLE SOMETHING
FOR EVERYONE.**

August brought the U.S. Senate primary that solidified the contest pitting Booker against Republican Steve Lonegan in the strange but enthralling election. The dog days also signaled the end of the judicial career of Justice Helen Hoens, who was jettisoned from the New Jersey Supreme Court as collateral damage in the ongoing battle over the judiciary.

Fall brought a momentous ruling from a state court judge that would allow same sex couples to marry. The decision was met with jubilation from advocates of gay marriage, and a court challenge from Christie. A month later the Supreme Court failed to strike down the ruling. The governor, rather than push a losing hand, folded his legal challenge and like that, gay marriage was the law.

Mid-October brought the U.S. Senate election and its record-low turnout. Booker won by 11, but the less-than-landslide victory has Republicans speculating that the mayor-turned-senator with the Hollywood rolodex may be vulnerable when he runs for a full term next year.

Bring on November. In what turned out to be a sleeper of a race, Christie crushed Buono to win reelection. His 22 point win and gains among minorities and women had 2016 speculation in full swing even before the final votes were tallied.

But despite the landslide, Democrats also had something to celebrate. They held off candidates hoping to soar onto office on Governor Christie's coattails to maintain their majorities in both houses of the Legislature.

Christie won't commit to finishing out his term and the smart money –make that all the money –is on the governor jumping into the 2016 sweepstakes.

Whichever side of the aisle you sit on and whatever your issue of choice, 2013 offered a little something for everyone.

From the Gold Dome, I'd like to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. ▲

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Tapping Dutch Expertise to Rebuild the Jersey Shore



By Ed Johnson
Former Mayor,
Asbury Park

The Dutch have a philosophy, "You don't manage the weather or water, you work with it to prepare and prevent."

That was one of the important messages that came from Consul General of The Netherlands Rob de Vos' presentation at the Jersey Shore Partnership Forum on Superstorm Sandy this past May. As the luncheon keynote speaker, Mr. de Vos addressed a room full of local and regional officials who had gathered seven months after Sandy hit our coast to discuss lessons learned, our progress and the challenges we still face.

He gave an overview of his county's Delta Programme—a nationwide initiative with the objective "to protect the Netherlands from flooding and to ensure adequate supplies of freshwater for generations ahead." It was fascinating to learn how the Dutch had taken what they had learned from past storms to create a program of action to prevent future storm damage. It was clear to me that the Dutch perspective could play a key role in our efforts to develop a process of sustainable



A 21.5 million-cubic meter, manmade sand peninsula, known as the Sand Motor, uses the natural action of the waves and tides to replenish beaches in the Netherlands.

**BY LEARNING FROM THE DUTCH,
THE IMPROVEMENTS AND PROTECTIVE
MEASURES WE PUT INTO PLACE TODAY
WILL HELP OUR TOWNS SURVIVE
THE NEXT GIANT STORM.**

rebuilding at the Jersey Shore. Following the meeting, several of us approached the Consul General to discuss our desire to visit The Netherlands to learn more about the Delta Programme and community-based development.

And so we began to plan a series of visits and meetings with the Consul General. Mr. and Mrs. de Vos visited

Asbury Park for our "Summer After Sandy" kick-off celebration at The Stone Pony. As Mayor of Asbury Park, I was very pleased to take them on a tour so they could see the damage and our recovery efforts. They were impressed by the crowded boardwalk that July afternoon, which underscored our message that "The Jersey Shore was Open for Business." The highlight of the evening was introducing our guests to Southside Johnny, who joined Dave Mason in a performance on The Pony Summer Stage.

In August, it was our turn to visit Mr. de Vos at The Netherlands Consulate Office in New York City. The delegation included Ms. Jennifer Murphy, Director of Housing Programs for New Jersey Community Capital and myself. We met with the Consul General, Economic Officer Mr. Arjan Bramskaamp and a Community Housing Specialist Mr. Martin van der Gugten. The focus of our visit was the Delta Programme, Sustainable Community Housing and Urban Based Development.



The beach town of TerHeijde is tucked behind dunes that reach the rooftops. Only temporary structures occupy the town's beach area.

Just after Labor Day we attended a two-day international forum sponsored by the Henry Hudson 500 Foundation. The H2O9 International Forum on Water Challenges for Coastal Cities brought together international leaders to discuss the challenges and unique solutions to issues of water manage-

ment, protection and preventative measures. The program featured keynote appearances by U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan and Dutch Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment Melanie Schultz Van Haegen.

I found the strategy sessions present-

ed by three Dutch and American teams comprised of local officials and professionals, who had been working together for months prior to the conference, fascinating. Focusing on Downtown Manhattan, Jamaica Bay and the Jersey Shore, each team described their unique challenges,

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strategies and alternate solutions, drawing on expertise from both sides of the Atlantic. The conference shared many different perspectives and experiences in the new post Sandy environment. Further, it emphasized how responsible urban development and the ability to live with climate variability play a pivotal role in helping societies protect themselves on one hand, and flourish on the other by taking advantage of new opportunities.

On September 17, we embarked on our Business-Cultural Exchange Mission to The Netherlands with high hopes and expectations to observe their Delta Programme, which addresses water management, and beach protection and replenishment initiatives. We looked forward to visiting the University of Amsterdam to discuss community based development and to the planned community housing developments in IJburg and Almere.

Focusing on the Delta Programme, we traveled to The Hague, Netherlands to the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment Headquarters. Dr. Hans Pietersen, Senior Advisor International Affairs (whom we met at the H2O9 conference) arranged a guided tour to sites along the North Sea coast in The Hague and Rotterdam Harbor areas. Our guide, Mr. Ruud Stavermann of the Rijkswaterstaat, WV&L took us to the Keringhuis Public Water Management Information Center and the Maeslant Storm Surge Barrier. The Keringhuis Center provided an historical overview of the development of water management and the protective measures designed to prevent flooding.

I was intrigued to learn that the Delta Programme was not “the” answer, but a continuing series of national measures and initiatives. The Dutch are constantly assessing and adapting their strategy to meet growing and changing needs and challenges.

A Metal Giant Guards Rotterdam Harbor Gateway We got to see the Maeslant Storm Surge Barrier, two gigantic hollow metal arms located on each side of the waterway at the gateway entrance leading to Rotterdam Harbor. The Maeslant Barrier can be closed to protect the harbor and local communities in the event of a storm surge. It takes one and a half hours to fully activate, as the arms fill with

water causing them to submerge into fitted ridges at the bottom of the waterway. They form a protective barrier both on the surface and beneath the water.

We were struck by the ingenuity and enormity of this project. Imagine: if stood on their ends, the arms would be as tall as the Eiffel Tower. Even more intriguing was the level of protection such a barrier could provide for New York Harbor and to inlets along the Jersey Shore and Long Island.

YOU DON'T MANAGE THE WEATHER OR WATER, YOU WORK WITH IT TO PREPARE AND PREVENT.

A Town Tucked Behind the Dunes Our next visit was to the Village of TerHeijde to see a dunes enforcement project that protects both the village and surrounding area from rising sea levels and increased storm activity.

The Village of TerHeijde was literally built into dunes that reach the rooftops. There were no residential properties on the beach. Each spring, seasonal pavilions are erected, which are dismantled each fall. Both the village and surrounding community have come to understand the important role the dunes play in the national system of storm defense and water management.

We paid particular attention to this site in light of the ongoing debate about the use of dunes at the Jersey Shore. Although many New Jersey shore towns have highly developed beachfronts and may be past the point of adopting the TerHeijde model, we felt that this small Netherlands village could serve as an example for us. There is tremendous value in using dune protection for the greater good.

Using the Power of Nature to Build Up Beaches From the dunes of TerHeijde we were able to observe another important element of the Delta Programme—the Sand Motor, which uses the natural action of the waves and

tides to replenish beaches. This was of particular interest to us as New Jersey has embarked on a billion dollar beach replenishment project along its 125-mile coastline.

The Sand Motor is a man-made sand peninsula consisting of 21.5 million cubic meters of sand that sits out in front of the beaches. It serves as an area for recreation, but more importantly, as it is worn away by the sea, its sand is redistributed to beaches along the length of the coast. In contrast to our method of pumping sand onto each section of beach, the Sand Motor is based on the principle of “building with nature.” It fortifies the adjacent coast, beach and dune systems in a natural way.

Let's Not Reinvent the Wheel Overall, our visit to The Netherlands was an extraordinary opportunity. The Dutch have a wealth of expertise in the field of water management, preventative measures and sustainable building models from which we can learn.

Recognized for their innovation and expertise, they provide technical assistance for projects in over 80 countries worldwide. If Sandy has taught us nothing else, it is that we certainly cannot go back to life as usual, using the same community development approaches, building methods and minimal design standards.

The Dutch example can provide a roadmap for how we can build smarter and stronger communities in response to climate change and intensified weather patterns.

While Sandy brought great devastation and hardship throughout the eastern seaboard, it also provides an opportunity to reexamine our priorities and create a coordinated system to protect our vulnerable coast. In the coming years, we will undertake great effort and expense to rebuild. It is imperative that our efforts can withstand the test of time. By learning from the Dutch, the improvements and protective measures we put into place today will help our towns survive the next giant storm. ▲

Ed Johnson led a delegation to The Netherlands in September 2013 for a Business-Cultural Exchange Mission to observe the Delta Programme coordinated by the Office of the Consul General and the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure & Environment.

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New FCC Rules May Threaten Local Authority



By Ken Fellman, Esq.
Partner, Kissinger & Fellman, P.C.;
member, FCC Intergovernmental
Advisory Committee and Legal
Advisor, Jersey Access Group

New rules regarding the siting of wireless communications facilities (WCF) could potentially eviscerate local land use authority over where antennas and other equipment can be placed. The rules may affect equipment on towers, as well as other structures such as light poles, water tanks, and even buildings.

As New Jersey's state chapter of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), the Jersey Access Group (JAG) wants to make all New Jersey municipalities aware of the September 26, 2013 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). New Jersey municipalities should familiarize themselves with the NPRM, and advocate at the FCC in favor of local control.

Eighty-six pages long, the NPRM addresses four major issues:

1. Whether and how the FCC should interpret Section 6409(a) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, by defining terms and providing interpretations related to Congress' direction that applications for co-locating WCFs be approved in most cases;
2. Whether and how the FCC should interpret a number of issues related to its prior "shot clock" order which requires local governments to act on applications for certain WCFs in a specific period of time;
3. Whether the FCC should modify historic preservation and environmental regulations for installations of distributed antenna systems and small cell facilities, in order to promote the deployment of these technologies; and
4. Whether the FCC should exempt "temporary" WCFs from the public notice and comment requirements of environmental regulations.

While each issue has some impact on local control, given space limitations, this article will focus on the first issue, which arguably poses the greatest threat to local control.



The rules may affect equipment on towers; as well as other structures such as light poles, water tanks, and even buildings.

The FCC Rulemaking Process For those not familiar with the process, in an NPRM the FCC will identify issues and pose questions about certain topics, and often will make tentative conclusions as to how it believes the issues should be addressed. National local government associations like the NATOA, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, often advocate on behalf of local governments at the FCC. However, when serious threats to local authority emerge like this NPRM, it is important that individual local governments and state municipal leagues also file comments and advocate on behalf of local control. In this NPRM, while the FCC has asked a number of questions and has even suggested a few statutory interpretations that would protect local government interests, there are many questions posed where the answers have the potential to significantly limit local land use authority over the siting of WCFs.

Effects of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 While the purpose of the Act was ostensibly tax

relief and job creation, half of its text relates to spectrum auctions and the creation of a nationwide, interoperable public safety communications network. Within that portion of the Act sits Section 6409, which requires local and state government to approve applications for co-location of WCFs in many cases. Specifically, Section 6409(a) says:

Notwithstanding ... any other provision of law, a State or local government may not deny, and shall approve, any eligible facilities request for a modification of an existing wireless tower or base station that does not substantially change the physical dimensions of such tower or base station. 47 U.S.C. §1455(a)(1)(2013).

To understand the scope and applicability of this statutory language, one must understand the meaning of the key terms. What is an eligible facilities request? An existing wireless tower? A base station? A modification? What does it mean to "substantially change the physical dimensions" of a tower or a base station? Unfortunately, other than "eligible facilities request," Con-

gress did not define these terms. Moreover, there is not a whit of legislative history indicating Congress' intent as to their meaning.

WE NEED TO REMIND THE FCC THAT LOCAL LAND USE DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE DICTATED FROM WASHINGTON.

How to best summarize the literally hundreds of questions and legal issues posed by the FCC in the NPRM? Without getting into extensive detail, it is important to note that if the FCC adopts some of the rules suggested by its questions (and you can be sure that the wireless industry will file many comments advocating that position) those rules could result in:

- A determination that "wireless towers" and "base stations" mean any structure

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capable of supporting WCFs, regardless of whether the primary purpose of the structure was intended for WCFs. In other words, an office building or a single family home could be considered a "tower."

- A determination that a "modification" of an "existing" tower or base station includes a structure with a potential to hold WCFs, even if none have yet been applied for or approved. In other words the FCC

asks in this NPRM whether it should find that an application for co-location includes an application to locate facilities on a tower (however they end up defining that term), even where there has been no prior application or land use approval given to locate on that structure. The FCC might end up considering a first application to locate WCFs on an "existing" structure to be a co-location, requiring mandatory approval.

- A determination that a "substantial change" in the "physical dimensions" is limited to an increase in height of some amount, and that it is calculated not on the original size of the tower or base station, but on the height at the time of application for co-location. So a replacement of antennas resulting in no increase in height must be approved, even if the increase in weight or bulk would cause the tower to be structurally unsound or otherwise violate building or safety codes. Or, if your town approved siting of a camouflaged site that looks like a tree, you may be required to approve a co-location that adds 10 feet or more to that facility and defeats the camouflage effect.
- Of equal concern is that subsequent applications for co-location might require continual approvals of incremental height increases. For example, a 50-foot imitation tree approved in 2012 could be changed to a 100-foot-tall eyesore, without any public process or action by the governing body, in 2016.

Comment Timelines NPRM Comments and Reply Comments are due 60 and 90 days respectively after publication in the Federal Register. As of October 24 the NPRM had not yet been published. Publication will likely occur in early November, which will make Comments due sometime around the first of the year. Local governments are encouraged to file Comments, explain how WFC siting works in a timely and effective manner in your community, and how municipalities are encouraging wireless broadband deployment. Municipalities should consider raising important Tenth Amendment issues and question where Congress or the FCC have legal authority under U.S. Constitution to dictate local land use decisions in this manner.

New Jersey municipalities are encouraged to coordinate with JAG and the League of Municipalities, as well as with NATOA. Collectively, we need to remind the FCC that local land use decisions should not be dictated from Washington. As this NPRM will likely still be open next spring, look for JAG to provide updates at the 2014 Power of Partners conference, (www.powerofpartners.org), May 7-9, 2014 in New Brunswick. ▲

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Annual Report of the 2013 Executive Director



By William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director, New Jersey
League of Municipalities

This year, as we meet in Atlantic City, New Jersey finds itself in the midst of recovery from the unprecedented devastation of Superstorm Sandy. We also are determined to make this a time of renewal.

As Americans, we renew our dedication to the ideals expressed in our founding documents, as defended and applied to changing conditions by successive generations of patriotic citizens. As New Jerseyans, we renew our State's commitment to invention, innovation and incisive action—the qualities that made New Jersey a leader in the sciences, arts, technology, agriculture, economic endeavor and public policy. As public servants, we renew our promise to deliver ethical, efficient and effective service to the people who have trusted us to conduct their affairs and to leave our communities better and stronger than we found them. And as a League of Municipalities, we renew our devotion to cooperation in confronting the challenges that we all face in service to our fellow citizens.

For almost 100 years, through this League of Municipalities, local leaders have promoted the public's interest by finding ways to cooperate with each other, both within and among jurisdictions. As I have said before, it doesn't often make the headlines. And it will never serve as a sound bite on the evening news. But it is amazing what can be accomplished by public servants, who are willing to work together to tackle the issues that trouble them and their neighbors.

This year, all 565 municipalities again chose to help themselves and their colleagues by joining the League. Your fellow citizens owe you their thanks. Your commitment, your compassion—your energy, your expertise—your service and your dedication continue to make municipal government in New Jersey the best it can possibly be.

Following is the annual report of the activities of your League of Municipalities for 2013.

LEGAL ADVOCACY

The League Staff Attorney Ed Purcell and the League General Counsel William Kearns monitor court decisions that may affect municipalities and bring important decisions to the attention of municipal officials. The Staff Attorney monitors proposed state regulations and court rules and prepares comments on those with municipal impact. Ed also responds to questions from municipal officials through the Legal Consultation Service.

To be clear, the League's legal consultation service is not legal advice. This means the League staff attorney does not apply the law to particular facts and situations. Rather, the staff attorney will explain the current state of the law in a particular subject matter. The goal of the service is to assist local government leaders on the many legal aspects of local governance so that they can discuss specifics with their municipal attorney.

The League General Counsel and the Amicus Curiae Committee consider requests from municipalities or municipal attorneys for intervention in court cases on behalf of specific local governments in appropriate cases of broad municipal importance, pending in the Supreme Court or Appellate Division.

In the past year, the Staff Attorney advocated for municipal interest in front of the Appellate and Supreme Courts in a variety of issues.

In *Re Failure of Council on Affordable Housing to Adopt Trust Fund Commitment Regulations* filed before the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division. This case deals with COAH's lack of guidance in defining the term "committed" under the Fair Housing Act and the ability of COAH to seize "uncommitted" affordable housing trust funds from municipalities. The League was able to have COAH's May 1 decision invalidated in part. The Court ordered COAH to follow a new process to assure due process for municipalities and other parties. Jeff Surenian, Esq. is representing the League in this action.

Linden Roselle Sewerage Authority, et als., v. NJ DEP was filed before the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division. This case challenges the validity of the definitions of "sewage" and "sewage sludge" promulgated by DEP. This is an outgrowth of the Passaic River litigation. The League is amicus, Steven Kunman Esq. representing. Oral arguments were held on April 16. The Appellate Division released its decision on June 24, finding against the municipalities on the basis of a civil procedure issue.

Borough of East Rutherford v. East Rutherford PBA Local 275 was filed before the New Jersey Supreme Court. This case involved the allocation of the increased cost of co-pays, being raised by the State Health Plan, from \$5 to \$10. On March 19, the Supreme Court affirmed the Appellate Division's decision to hold with the PBA that the Borough was responsible for the increased costs.

Raritan Borough v. Gannet Newspapers was filed before the Appellate Division. This case involves the ability of government to assess a special service fee for the formatting of digital documents. On March 20, the Appellate Division found for Gannet, denying the Borough's ability to charge the fee. The Borough and League are appealing this decision.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

In a Gubernatorial election year, with all 120 seats in the Legislature at stake, action in the State House can be intense. That was certainly the case this year. Added to usual election year pressure was the need for a speedy recovery from Superstorm Sandy, coupled with the effort to better prepare our utilities to cope with future storms. We were involved on many issues this year. Here are a few of the big ones.

Energy Receipts Property Tax Relief Funding efforts, led by League President and East Windsor Mayor Janice S. Mironov, remained a priority. Increased Energy Receipts specifically meant for property tax relief would give municipalities more of the resources they need to meet constantly increasing costs, without asking voters to sacrifice either financially or in terms of effective municipal services. Fair-minded people now recognize that the next advance in property tax relief has to involve ending the State's taking of Energy Tax Receipts and CMPTRA funds that are meant to be distributed to municipalities for property tax relief. Legislation that would accomplish that goal advanced.

The State efforts to take municipal affordable housing funds highlighted a series of battles on housing, land use and economic redevelopment issues. Mayor Mironov has also led efforts to find a stable source of funding for open space preservation. Farmlands Assessment reforms were advanced. Bills to prohibit municipal registration of multi-family dwellings were debated. Efforts were made to exempt private colleges and universities from local land use regulations. Bills to further promote cluster developments picked up momentum. Legislation to codify recent case law on redevelopment and eminent domain also earned our support. The same bill would also authorize municipalities that intend to implement redevelopment initiatives without using eminent domain to do so, but still take advantage of the other tools available under the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law. Again on these, the articulate and timely action of well-informed local officials allowed the League to win allies, including community action and environmental activists not always in our camp.

Impractical and expensive new OPRA and OPMA mandates received legislative attention. Legislation to cap user fees moved forward. And shared services legislation advanced. In response to a League Resolution, we saw the introduction of a bill to permit counties and municipalities to use snow removal reserve funds for clearance of debris following declaration of emergency by the President or the Governor. We pushed for passage of a bill that would clarify the responsibility of certain telecommunications corporations to continue to remit Business Personal Property Tax (BPPT) payments to municipalities. The League opposed an early

voting bill that would have introduced an unnecessary process, redundant with the Vote by Mail option. Again, Mayors and other local officials willing to come to Trenton to testify on these matters made a world of difference for their colleagues all around our Garden State.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

A host of local government issues arose in Washington over the past 12 months. We were involved in most. Two stand out.

Supplemental Superstorm Sandy rebuilding and recovery funding requests from the Governor and the President got a positive response from the Senate, as 2012 drew to a close. The House of Representatives, however, adjourned without taking action on the Senate-passed Superstorm Sandy Emergency Relief Funding bill. On December 11, League President, Mayor Janice Mironov, and First Vice President, Mayor Suzanne Walters, had written to Speaker Boehner, asking his help in advancing the Administration's request for increased funding for the Federal Emergency Management Administration and other Federal agencies that have been helping the municipalities and the people of New Jersey to recover. That letter noted:

"In the aftermath of Sandy, New Jersey municipalities will have more to do for our citizens, and less to do with. Citizens are displaced. Families have been uprooted. Homes are lost or severely damaged. Many remain unsafe to return to. New Jersey businesses face the same issues.

"In the best traditions of public service, local officials are working with their neighbors and with their colleagues on the county and State level to meet immediate needs. Federal agency personnel have provided tremendous support. And New Jersey mayors have been on the front lines assisting their citizens in finding shelter and filing FEMA claims and in dealing with utilities to speed power restoration and in dealing with FEMA and State government. Under the circumstances, they are providing great service and we are proud to be able to serve as a conduit of information for them.

"But for all that has been done, more is needed still. Accordingly, and on behalf of so many who have lost so much, respectfully, we urge you to advance the Administration's request for \$60.4 billion in resources for response, recovery and mitigation related to Sandy damage in all the affected States."

Thanks to Governor Christie and to the concerted, bipartisan efforts of the entire New Jersey delegation, funding measures were given swift and favorable consideration when the 113th Congress convened on January 3. We commend all those who represent our State in Washington for their work, especially Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, who shepherded FEMA full funding amendments through the House and on to the Senate and the President.

Mayors Mironov and Walters also contacted our delegation a number of times, when an important municipal funding option was threatened. At issue is the income tax exemption for interest earned on municipal bonds.



Traditionally, municipal bonds offer very low interest rates to investors. They are, however, very safe investments, because they are backed by the full faith and credit of government agencies. Further, they are attractive, because the investor does not have to pay Federal income tax on the interest. By eliminating or severely limiting the exemption, the Federal government could receive more income tax from bond holders.

The House Ways and Means Committee examined the uses of tax-exempt municipal bonds and the local impacts if the bond exemption were capped or eliminated. Several Committee members who formerly served as local elected officials, including Congressman (and former Paterson Mayor) Bill Pascrell, Jr., underscored the importance of this financing tool to communities and argued that these proposals would unfairly shift costs to local residents through tax or rate increases.

One final item needs to be noted. We were saddened by the loss of a great son of the Garden State. Senator Frank Lautenberg served five terms in the US Senate as a champion of major infrastructure investments—especially for Amtrak and urban public transportation—strict environmental regulations and comprehensive consumer protections. He was a consistent supporter of municipal priorities and an outspoken advocate for our State.

As we mourn his death, we honor his life of caring service. We thank Senator Jeffrey Chiesa for his service and look forward to working with former Mayor and League Executive Board member, Senator Cory Booker.

BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL INFORMATION

The League offers a consultation service as part of its Bureau of Municipal Information. All members can access this service for free by telephone or email. Our staff attorney, Ed Purcell, who heads the Bureau, provides municipal officials and employees with knowledge and analysis. Ed can also provide officials with sample ordinances. If you have an issue and you want an informal consultation with an attorney knowledgeable in municipal law, contact Ed Purcell at 609-695-3481, extension 137, or at epurcell@njslom.org. This service provides a consultation and not legal advice. For legal advice your first call should be to your municipal attorney.

On the League’s website, the Bureau’s web page provides links to relevant sites for those interested in timely information on local laws and issues. You can find the Bureau at njslom.org/bureau_mun_info.html. You can also find various resources and informational centers, as well as links to informational websites such as descriptions of New Jersey’s forms of government. The resources that we offer are continually being expanded and improved.

The Bureau has expanded its offerings of publications available to our members throughout the last several years. These publications are updated regularly. The Staff Attorney recently updated the guide to the Open Public Records Act and wrote a brand new publication on the Local Government Ethics Law. The full list of publications is available on the League’s website (njslom.org/Publications.html).

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The League's Grant Resource Center continues to be an excellent online resource for State and Federal grant research, featuring articles on topics pertinent to grants in the State's current environment, links to grants with upcoming application deadlines and a Grants News & Informational page. Members may contact the League via telephone or email with grant questions, or consult with our Grants Advisory Service, free of charge.

The Interlocal Advisory Center is an online ready-reference center for interlocal service agreements and joint consolidation, and includes links to sample shared service agreements, New Jersey's interlocal statutes, and various other references you may want to review during preparation and implementation of agreements in your municipality. In addition, the Center offers articles outlining successful collaborations in other municipalities and a general consultation service with a contract professional that has first-hand experience in consolidation agreements.

The League, in conjunction with the New Jersey Municipal Management Association, continues its successful Recruitment Advisory Service. This service does not make specific candidate recommendations or recruitments, but it provides information and reference materials, as well as a consultation with a retired manager to discuss the overall recruitment process and answer questions.

The above resource centers are coordinated by League Staff Member Taran Samhammer, Bureau Services and Research Coordinator for the Bureau of Municipal Information. Taran updates these research tools on a regular basis, and is available to assist communities in arranging for consultation services.

To visit the Bureau of Municipal Information's website, visit njslom.org/bureau_mun_info.html.

NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES

New Jersey Municipalities, the League's award winning magazine, is the state's primary resource and forum for elected and appointed municipal leaders. With over 7,000 readers and a vast pass-along readership, the magazine has seen several improvements this year.

With a large selection of articles, New Jersey Municipalities' monthly issues provide the news and information you need to govern in your local community. Members of the state and national legislatures also read the magazine to keep abreast of municipal issues.

In writing for the magazine, League members share their views and ideas with a wide range of managers and policy-makers. I'm happy to report that for the fifth year in a row a record number of New Jersey mayors submitted articles this year.

In addition to your articles, New Jersey Municipalities includes a mix of articles by state commissioners and other experts, as well as informative columns, opinion pieces and advertising by some of the state's leading providers of products and services.

- Nine issues of New Jersey Municipalities were published in 2013.
- The number and quality of articles submitted continues to increase. This year the average page count was 82 pages. The magazine includes articles that feature large, small, rural and urban communities in all parts of the state. Our

diverse offerings and increased use of shorter articles has made the magazine even more useful to busy leaders.

- We've expanded our use of color photographs and improved both cover and interior design. The changes make the publication more accessible and enjoyable.
- The New Jersey State League of Municipalities is dedicated to environmentally and socially responsible operations. We print on Sappi McCoy Gloss 100lb Text (cover) and Sappi Flo Gloss 70lb Text, industry leading environmentally responsible papers. McCoy and Flo contain 10 percent post consumer waste and FSC chain of custody certification.

As always, we welcome your calls, ideas, and articles for our premier publication. Contact the magazine's Managing Editor Kyra Duran at (609) 695-3481 ext. 123 or NJM@njslom.com to contribute an article or to learn more about our premier publication.

TRAINING AND IN-SERVICE PROGRAMS

New Jersey municipal leaders face tough challenges in providing good government and service to constituents and citizens. League Professional Development Seminars provide elected officials as well as municipal and county personnel with a great resource. Every year the League holds a series of half and full day seminars by knowledgeable speakers on timely and key topics, providing up-to-date information to help solve problems and clarify legislation for better governance. The venues provide an environment conducive to providing a true learning experience.

The objective of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities is to present seminars to broaden, deepen, and increase knowledge or skills of municipal personnel in various professions while collaborating with Affiliate Groups. Approved continuing education seminars provide many municipal professionals the opportunity to renew their respective state licenses. The League has expanded its sponsorship agreements and works cohesively with numerous accreditation bodies representing 10 government licensees including New Jersey Continuing Legal Education (NJCLE) and Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education (PACLE).

In 2012/2013, the League offered 28 professional development seminars, educating more than 2,000 attendees. Some of those seminars were:

- Ethics and Conflicts of Interest
- Grant Funding
- Executive Leadership for Mayors and Council Presidents
- Orientation for Newly Elected, Re-Elected, and Experienced Officials
- 20th Annual Mayors' Legislative Day
- Budget Audits and Updates
- Family Medical Leave Act and ADA Compliance
- Review of the Open Public Records Act (OPRA)
- Mini One Day Conference
- Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Public Sector
- Disciplinary Actions in the Public Sector
- Pensions, Benefits Update
- Hurricane Sandy Aftermath Part 1 and 2
- Procurement Process
- Labor Relations Primer

Visit the League's website at njslom.org/seminars.html for a listing of upcoming Professional Development Seminars. For additional information contact Danielle Holland-Htut, our Program Meetings Specialist, at (609) 695-3481 ext. 118 or by email at dholland@njslom.com.

LABOR RELATIONS ADVISORY SERVICE

The League's Labor Relations Advisory Service is conducted by the League's Labor Relations Counsel, Brian Kronick, and his colleague Joseph Hannon of Genova Burns Giantomasi Webster LLC.

Brian Kronick and Joseph Hannon are available to respond to a broad range of public employer labor and employment law questions as a telephone or email service of the League. Inquiries to the League Labor Advisory Service over the years have included issues like the new interest arbitration reforms and the 2 percent cap on awards under the 45 day "rocket docket," furloughs and temporary layoffs, health benefit and pension reforms, and perennial problems municipalities face in police and fire and civilian collective negotiations, Public Employment Relations Commission unfair practices and representation matters, Shared Service Issues, Civil Service issues, FMLA and NJFLA issues, FLSA and wage and hour issues, Americans with Disabilities Act issues, and Equal Employment Opportunity and New Jersey Law Against Discrimination issues. You may contact Brian at bkronick@genovaburns.com or Joe at jhannon@genovaburns.com.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

For 98 years, local officials have gathered annually in the pursuit of good local government. The three-day Annual Conference remains a critical mainstay in the portfolio of services provided by the League. Serving 17,000 people, it is the single largest local government event in the United States. Offering hundreds of exhibits showing products and services to aid municipalities, it is a central point for learning what is out there to meet local governments' needs.

Pre-Registration, at just \$55, is the most affordable way for municipal officials to gain new solutions to both the perennial issues and the changing challenges. Some of the features of this year's conference will be:

- 94 League educational sessions and more than 50 additional sessions produced by affiliated municipal professional associations.
- Training for newly elected governing body members.
- Several sessions focused on ethics training.
- New technical skills and new technologies creating new efficiencies.
- Information on economic development; planning; management and leadership and understanding initiatives coming from State government.

The conference is also a chance to acknowledge local officials' dedication to public service and the work of their colleagues in municipal government across the state.

The 2013 Annual Conference provides all these opportunities while continuing to charge the lowest registration rate of any municipal league in the country.

NJLM EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

In 2012 and 2013 the League of Municipalities Educational Foundation once again held education programs, supported

literacy efforts, secured grants and continued to publish its "Friends of Local Government" white paper series.

We published white papers on "The Lessons of Hurricane Irene: All Emergencies Start and End Locally" by Charles McKenna, Director and Joseph Picciano, P.E., Deputy Director Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness; "Redistricting Reform in New Jersey" by Mark Magyar; "Communicating with Constituents when State Policy and Local Jurisdictions Collide" by Patrick Murray, Director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

With substantial financial assistance from sponsors, the NJLM Educational Foundation hosted the following special educational events:

- "Year 4 of Economic Recovery: New Municipal Realities To Come" July 12, 2012
- "New Jersey Infrastructure: What is Needed and How to Fund It" December 12, 2012
- "Crisis Communications—Techniques for Communicating with Constituents, the Media, and Service Providers" March 22, 2013.

For the fourth consecutive year the Mayors Book Club was conducted with great success as a pilot program involving eight municipalities and their school districts in Monmouth and Ocean Counties involving 300 students. The program was a collaborative effort initiated by the Mayors Book Club and Monmouth University's Department of Education. The NJLM Educational Foundation provided the start up monies from generous grants from United Water, Jersey Central Power and Light, New Jersey Natural Gas, New Jersey American Water and Barnes and Noble Bookstores for the purchase of the books for the Mayors and the first graders. In May, the mayors presented certificates to participating schools along with a check for \$1,000 to those who accomplished the reading goals of the program. It is the goal of the Mayors Book Club to offer as many programs as possible across the State.

The Educational Foundation continues to secure and administer grants in support of sustainability efforts. More than \$1 million in grants is being administered from such funders as WalMart Corp, BPU and the others.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY

Sustainable Jersey Certification Program

Currently, 113 New Jersey towns are certified with 11 towns at the silver-level of certification and, 110 towns at the bronze level of certification. The certified communities are leading the way as many more New Jersey towns are actively working on becoming certified. Sustainable Jersey's 385 participating communities represent 68 percent of the state's municipalities and 75 percent of its population. The certification submission deadline was June 16, 2013. This submission cycle marks the transition from three application cycles to one per program year. Towns that met this deadline and were approved will be recognized at the NJLM Conference and Sustainable Jersey's Annual Luncheon in November 2013.

Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees

The Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees, led by Chair Pam Mount, continues to meet regularly. In addition Board members attend smaller subcommittee meetings on dis-

tinct program areas such as development, outreach and communications, certification standards and more. In 2013, the Board welcomed new members including: Anthony Cancro, Township Administrator of Springfield Township; Dr. Edward J. Mahaney, Jr., Mayor of the City of Cape May; and William Pikolycky, Mayor of Woodbine Borough. To support the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program Sustainable Jersey added two Class B education-focused members to the Board (John Bulina, President of the New Jersey School Boards Association and Dr. Scott McCartney, Superintendent of Schools, for Egg Harbor Township) and Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, Executive Director of the New Jersey School Boards Association, as an Ex-Officio member.

Sustainable Jersey Small Grant Program

In June, Sustainable Jersey announced that \$380,000 in grant money was available to New Jersey municipalities. Funded by Walmart and the Walmart Foundation, this cycle of the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program will support seventy local projects that leverage resources to make communities more livable, environmentally friendly and prosperous. With this contribution, Walmart will exceed the \$1,000,000 mark having provided funding for the grant program each year since 2009.

This first cycle of the 2013 Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program will award local governments with one \$50,000 grant, four \$20,000 grants, fifteen \$10,000 grants for projects and fifty \$2,000 capacity building grants. Proposals were due to Sustainable Jersey on August 4, 2013.

A second \$200,000 grant cycle of the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program funded by PSEG Foundation were to

be announced in late September/early October 2013. Applications did not receive funding in the first cycle will be automatically rolled into the second cycle and will be considered for those grants.

Surdna Foundation/Pace University Land Use Law Center

The grant funds Sustainable Jersey and Pace University to develop the "gold" level of certification and municipal best practices related to land use and transportation. To develop the new level of certification, Sustainable Jersey hosted a one-day summit on September 18, 2013 to build consensus on the core sustainability imperatives for New Jersey. This one-of-a-kind event brought New Jersey's top sustainability experts together with academics, state and local agencies, organizations and the interested public. Before the summit, Sustainable Jersey shared briefing papers on key topics that summarized research, goals and proposed direction for New Jersey and the region. Attendees participated in facilitated discussions to provide input on the key topics. The following papers were being developed: Water Quality, Water Availability, Water Infrastructure, Air Quality, Climate Change, Energy Supply, Agriculture/Food Security, Wellness/Health Access, and Indoor Environmental Health Hazards, Quality of Life, Social Capital, Equity and Economic Competitiveness.

New Jersey Public Buildings Energy Efficiency Program (NJBEPP)

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) currently offers a variety of programs that can support local governments and school districts to implement energy efficiency retrofits to public facilities. Sustainable Jersey programs will continue to market and promote the wide

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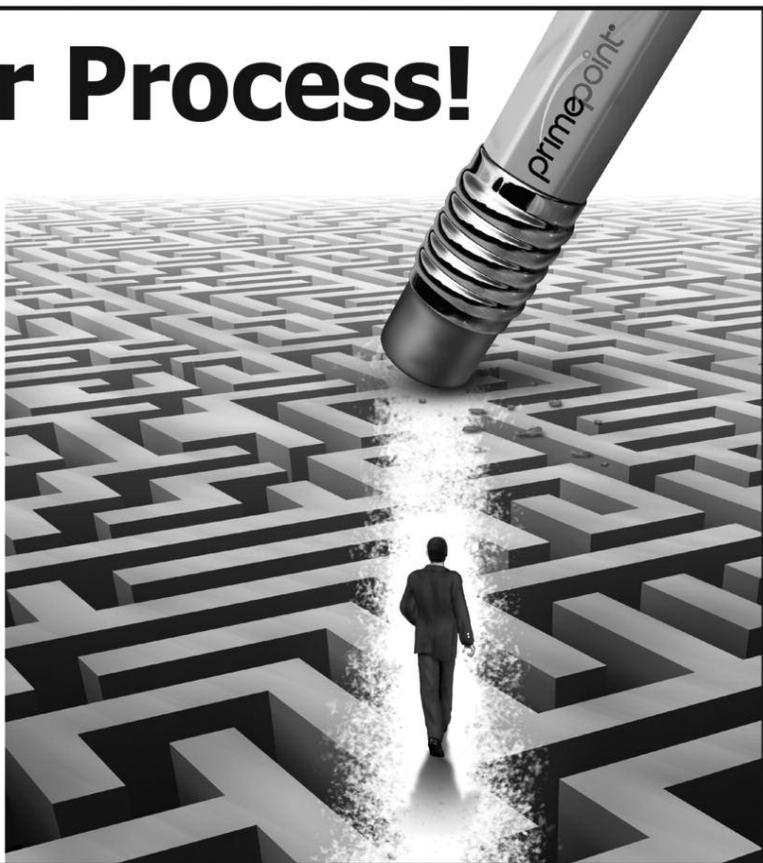
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range of energy efficiency and conservation programs to government entities in New Jersey. The BPU has entered into a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) to develop a new approach to the universe of local government public facilities that has a single point of entry, sorts local government units and their building portfolios within a typology, identifies a "pathway" for each grouping consisting of a package of subsidies and financing that is best for them, and implements a comprehensive outreach and support effort to move all public facilities through the new system. The project team for this effort will include the BPU, Sustainable Jersey and The Center for Building Knowledge at The New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT).

Sandy Recovery Initiatives

Sustainable Jersey has been notified that it will receive two grants from the NJ Recovery Fund. Under the New Jersey Recovery and Resiliency Network grant, Sustainable Jersey and New Jersey Future will work together to field a network of on-the-ground recovery managers and resiliency coordinators that will provide direct assistance to communities. The program will also serve as a bridge between communities and the broader world of public and private resource organizations. The network will coordinate its work with the array of public and private support and policy development organizations.

New Jersey Future will organize local Recovery Managers embedded in specific municipalities. Sustainable Jersey will organize regional circuit riders serving many communities.

Based on working directly with communities, the Network will identify and prioritize local needs and work to support and focus the efforts of aid, policy development, and research organizations. This match-making role, linking resources to needs, will focus on both short-term recovery and long-term resilience issues. The Network will utilize the convening and coordinating ability of the Sustainable Jersey Climate Adaptation Task Force and the Climate Adaptation Alliance out of Rutgers.

The Sustainable Jersey Community Information & Civic Engagement Taskforce grant will focus on providing New Jersey local governments with a new "toolbox" to enhance and support civic engagement.

Training and Outreach Activities

Sustainable Jersey provides regular training workshops around the state. To see the listing of past and upcoming trainings visit: sustainablejersey.com/events-trainings/calendar/

Sustainable Jersey for Schools

Sustainable Jersey and the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) are working together to create a sustainability certification program called "Sustainable Jersey for Schools" designed specifically for New Jersey public and charter schools. The program was officially announced in June 2013.

The voluntary program will provide a roadmap for what to do, as well as a comprehensive package of tools, guidance materials, and training and financial incentives to support and reward progress. It will offer "one stop shopping" with a full menu of sustainable actions. Schools will be



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required to complete a balanced package of sustainability actions in order to achieve certification.

To develop the certification program framework, Sustainable Jersey and NJSBA are collaborating to build a comprehensive coalition of educational organizations and academic, business and state agency partners to support the development of the program content. Partnering organizations will be invited to join topical task forces that will be tasked with defining the program standards or “actions.”

Sustainable Fare for Sustainable Jersey— Farm to Table Fundraiser

Sustainable Jersey and Board Chair, Pam Mount, hosted a Farm to Table Fundraiser for the second year in a row. The event was on Thursday, July 25, 2013 and featured food from famous local chefs including: Christopher Albrecht, (Eno Terra), Scott Anderson, (Elements/Mistral), Aaron Philip, (Blue Bottle Café), Jonathan Benno, (Lincoln Restaurant), Josh Thomsen, (Agricola), Christine Merker, (Meals For Reals) and Gabby Carbone, (The Bent Spoon).

Sustainable Jersey Video

The Sustainable Jersey promotional video was launched on April 17 and has had 403 views to date. The video includes comments by former Governors Christine Todd Whitman, and James Florio, who both lend their support to the non-partisan Sustainable Jersey effort. I, along with Gray Russell, the Environmental Coordinator for Montclair Township, will also provide insights on the impact of the program.

LEAGUE COMMITTEES

The League’s Trenton staff carries out a full agenda of activities in translating League policy objectives on many fronts, but policy itself is made by over 250 mayors, other elected officials and appointed officials who serve on numerous standing and ad hoc committees.

The committees and committee chairs are:

- Executive Board: JANICE S. MIRONOV, Mayor, East Windsor Township; President, New Jersey State League of Municipalities; Chair
- Legislative Committee: WILLIAM J. KEARNS, JR., ESQ., League General Counsel and KRISTINA HADINGER, ESQ., League Associate Counsel; Co-chairs
- Conference Resolutions Committee: SUZANNE M. WALTERS, Mayor, Stone Harbor; League First Vice President; Chair
- Nominating Committee: ARTHUR R. ONDISH, Mayor, Mount Arlington; Immediate Past President; Chair
- Pension Study Committee: L. MASON NEELY, Finance Director, East Brunswick; Chair
- League Educational Foundation: ARTHUR R. ONDISH, Mayor, Mount Arlington; League Immediate Past President; Chair
- Heavy Truck Task Force: DAVID M. DELVECCHIO, Mayor, Lambertville; League Past President; Chair
- Emergency Management Task Force; TIMOTHY C. MCDONOUGH, Mayor, Hope; League Past President; Chair
- Land Use Law Drafting Committee: F. CLIFFORD GIBBONS, Esq.; Chair
- League Economic Development Task Force: M. JAMES MALEY, JR., Mayor, Collingswood; Chair
- League Legal Committee on Affordable Housing: EDWARD BUZAK, Esq.; Chair
- League School Tax Reform Committee: GERALD J. TARANTOLO, Mayor, Eatontown; League Second Vice President; Chair; GARY PASSANANTE, Mayor, Somerdale; Member, League Executive Board; Vice Chair
- Council on Affordable Housing Study Committee: JANICE S. MIRONOV, Mayor, East Windsor Township; League President and COLLEEN MAHR, Mayor Fanwood, member, League Executive Board; Co-chairs
- Impact Fee Study Committee: EDWIN W. SCHMIERER, Esq., Attorney, Princeton; Chair
- Telecommunications Study Committee: BRIAN C. WAHLER, Mayor, Piscataway; Member, League Executive Board; Chair
- League Management Reform Committee: WILDA DIAZ, Mayor, Perth Amboy; Chair
- League Statutory Funding Compliance Committee: JANICE S. MIRONOV, Mayor, East Windsor Township; League President; Chair
- League Liaison to NJ Organ and Tissue Sharing Network: SHARON ROBINSON-BRIGGS, Mayor, Plainfield; Member, League Executive Board; Chair
- Community Development Block Grant Task Force: J. CHRISTIAN BOLLWAGE, Mayor, Elizabeth; League Past President and ARTHUR R. ONDISH, Mayor, Mount Arlington; League Immediate Past President; Co-Chairs
- Civil Service Reform Study Committee: TIMOTHY GORDON, Business Administrator, Milburn Township; Chair

****The following individuals represented the League on statewide committees:***

- ANTHONY CANCRO, Township Administrator, Springfield Township—Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees, Member
- DAVID M. DELVECCHIO, Mayor, Lambertville; League Past President—Delaware River Basin Watershed Advisory Council
- WILLIAM G. DRESSEL, JR., Executive Director, State League of Municipalities — New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, Board Member; D.A.R.E. New Jersey, Board Member; New Jersey Sharing Network, Board of Trustees Member; Downtown New Jersey, Inc., Board Member; Friends of the State House, Trustee; Member, Family Readiness Council, New Jersey National Guard; Member, Employer Support of the National Guard; Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees, Ex-Officio Member
- CAROLINE EHRLICH, Chief of Staff, Woodbridge—Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees, Member
- CHERYL FULLER, Former Manager, Englewood — Public Employee Relations Committee, Member

- WILLIAM J. KEARNS, JR., ESQ., League General Counsel—State Supreme Court’s Committee on Court Security—Member, Attorney General’s Municipal Prosecutors Oversight Committee—Member, Local Government Ethics Task Force
- ROBERT V. KISER, Engineer, Princeton — Technical Advisory Committee for NJ Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Master Plan
- JANICE KOVACH, Mayor, Clinton Town—Public Works Advisory Board, Department of Community Affairs
- DR. EDWARD J. MAHANEY, JR., Mayor, Cape May City—Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees, Member
- PAUL J. MATAcera, League Past President—New Jersey Solid Waste Advisory Council; Trustee, League Educational Foundation
- M. BOYD MILLER, Councilman, Brielle—New Jersey Water Supply Advisory Council, Department of Environmental Protection
- JOSEPH P. MONZO, Deputy Manager/Chief Finance Officer, South Brunswick—New Jersey Tax and Fiscal Policy Study Commission
- PAMELA H. MOUNT, Former Committeewoman, Lawrence Township (Mercer); Member — Clean Air Council; Chair—Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees
- L. MASON NEELY, Finance Director, East Brunswick—Department of Environmental Protection Clean Water Council
- ARTHUR R. ONDISH, Mayor, Mount Arlington; League Immediate Past President—Public Works Advisory Board, Department of Community Affairs
- SYLVIA PETILLO, Mayor, Hopatcong — Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees, Member
- WILLIAM PIKOLYCKY, Mayor, Woodbine Borough—Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees, Member
- DANA L. REDD, Mayor, Camden; Member, Interagency Council on Homelessness
- JOEL SHAIN, ESQ., Attorney, Monroe Township (Middlesex)—League Representative, Board of Public Utilities Committee on Development of Rules for Municipal Electric Aggregation
- MATTHEW U. WATKINS, Manager, Clifton—Public Employee Relations Commission, Member

MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE

The League is completing its 98th year of service to the municipalities of New Jersey. Our membership currently includes all 565 municipalities in the State of New Jersey.

The League’s fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. The Budget under which the League is currently operating is set forth to the right of this page.

General descriptive brochures covering the range of League services are available at the League Booth and from the League office in Trenton. ▲

2013/2014 ADOPTED BUDGET

INCOME

Appropriation of Prior Cash Balance	\$ 556,868
Membership Dues	\$ 603,847
Magazine	\$ 280,049
Annual Conference	\$ 1,241,012
Interest	\$ 36,100
Publications	\$ 60,000
Seminars	\$ 160,000
Labor Data	\$ 7,795
Miscellaneous Receipts	\$ 5,000
Web Advertising	\$ 62,000
Base Rent	\$ 136,156
Renters Expense	\$ 82,556
Parking Space Rental	\$ 27,091
Corporate Supporters	\$ 95,000
Grant Station Subscriptions	\$ 570

Total **\$ 3,354,045**

EXPENSE

Salaries	\$ 1,229,623
Social Security & Medicare	\$ 94,066
Pension "Employer Portion"	\$ 143,673
Disability	\$ 995
Medical Benefits	\$ 341,004
Workers Compensation Insurance	\$ 5,100
UCC	\$ 2,205
Automobile	\$ 23,000
Magazine	\$ 240,000
Office Expense	\$ 20,000
Legislative	\$ 28,200
Conference	\$ 433,400
Meetings	\$ 10,000
Postage	\$ 48,000
Equipment Payments	\$ 22,000
Maintenance on Equipment	\$ 5,200
Printing	\$ 22,000
Books, Subscriptions	\$ 3,000
Grant Station Member Sub Expense	\$ 400
Seminars	\$ 80,000
Telephone	\$ 30,000
Audit	\$ 4,900
Legal	\$ 52,000
Insurance Bond Premium	\$ 20,000
Temporary Help	\$ 1,500
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 4,500
Computer Expense	\$ 36,000
Internet Web Maintenance	\$ 21,433
Photocopying	\$ 5,000
Scholarships	\$ 3,000
Interlocal Service	\$ 4,500
Grant Advisory Board	\$ 800
222 Base Rent	\$ 235,489
222 Expense Rent	\$ 178,524
Commission Leasing Expense	\$ 4,533

Total **\$ 3,354,045**

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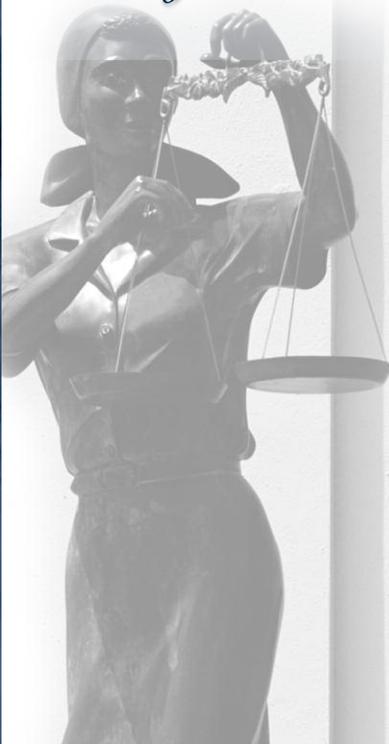
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Linda Peyton

*Pleasantville, N.J. City Administrator
Student, Master of Public Service Leadership*

Legal Team Supports League Efforts



This has been another busy year for the League's legal team. The League has been involved with a number of cases dealing with municipal issues, ranging from the seizing of Affordable Housing Trust Fund moneys, to OPRA, and contract negotiations. With regards to COAH, 2013 has been a very busy year.

The League has worked hard to prevent COAH's May 1st order from seizing any "non-committed" moneys from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Indeed, that order has been partially invalidated. As the New Year approaches, the League's legal team looks forward to continuing its zealous advocacy on this matter and helping local government leaders in their course of action.

The League was also pleased to welcome Ed Purcell as the League's new staff attorney. Ed and the League General Counsel, William J. Kearns Esq., continued to monitor court decisions that may have had an impact on municipalities. As an example, Harvey Cedars v. Karan was a very important New Jersey Supreme Court Case the legal team reported on. Karan drastically changed the way in which condemned beach front property is valued.

This year the Staff Attorney continued to respond to legal questions and issues from municipal officials through the NJLM Consultation Service. And he, along with the General Counsel and other members of the legal team all consulted with the Legislative Relations staff on bills introduced in the Senate and General Assembly. ▲

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EDWARD PURCELL
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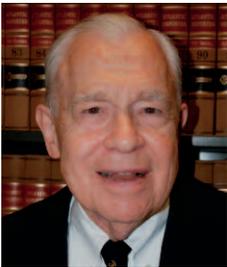
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The State Supports Local Animal Emergency Readiness



By Douglas H. Fisher
Secretary of Agriculture

Approximately 60 percent of U.S. households keep dogs, cats and other animals as companions. Pets or service animals improve the quality of life for people and both police dogs and rescue dogs routinely save human lives.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has been keenly aware of the importance of pets and the need to provide for their safety during disasters. The department established the Animal Emergency Working Group in 1998 and began working towards the creation of County Animal Response Teams in each county. These teams would be made up of volunteers and staff members from government agencies, the private sector and other entities, who would serve as first-responders to assist animal owners in caring for their pets or livestock during a wide variety of emergency situations.

When Superstorm Sandy approached New Jersey at the end of October 2012, massive evacuations from the shore and other low-lying areas were undertaken. Displaced residents flowed into temporary shelters along with their pets, many of which were considered members of their families.

There are currently 21 County Animal Response Teams (CART), all of which were mobilized during Superstorm Sandy. The teams set up shelters either in or near the human shelters to ensure that companion animals could stay near their owners. CART members manned the temporary animal shelters for weeks on end. Their efforts provided great comfort to families, some of whom had lost their homes and all their belongings in the storm.

Seeing the need for more tools to assist the CARTs in their mission, the Department of Agriculture requested a \$150,000 grant from the New Jersey Office of Homeland



The department allocated \$40,382 per trailer, with the funding coming from an Urban Area Security Initiative Grant and a State Homeland Security Grant through the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.



The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has been keenly aware of the importance of pets and the need to provide for their safety during disasters.

Security and Preparedness to purchase three 20-foot animal rescue trailers to be placed in Burlington, Hunterdon and Ocean Counties. That request was granted on October 3, 2013.

Hunterdon County was the first to take ownership of its gleaming new trailer, which includes 24 small and large animal cages, heating and cooling units, electrical and water hook-ups, generators, external light sources and more than \$5,000 in supplies. The trailer will enable the county to set up a temporary animal shelter at any location. Supplies included in each trailer included disposable food dishes, litter pans, portable animal crates, pet pee pads and horse halters.

Hunterdon County operated a temporary animal shelter for 12 days during Sandy. Their CART was formed in 2004 and currently has more than 40 members. CART Director Ken Mandoli said their new CART trailer will come in handy in both small and large-scale emergencies. Mandoli noted that the group set up a temporary animal shelter recently, after an apartment fire displaced residents.

During Superstorm Sandy, a high level of demand arose to care for animals evacuated along with their owners. These additional animal rescue trailers will give more animal emergency first-responders greater ability to evacuate pets and to set up temporary shelters wherever they are needed when a disaster strikes.

The department allocated \$40,382 per trailer, with the funding coming from an Urban Area Security Initiative Grant and a State Homeland Security Grant through the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. During a ceremony awarding the trailers to the three counties, Director Edward Dickson said ensuring counties are capable of providing shelter to animals during an emergency event that requires evacuation is a priority.

"Investing funds to equip counties with trailers to adequately shelter and transport pets and livestock during large scale disaster enhances our emergency readiness and strengthens our state's response and recovery efforts," said Dickson. By partnering with the Department of Agriculture

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and each County Animal Response Team, we have bolstered local area preparedness by allocating finite federal dollars for regional projects, which enables us to better protect the entire state."

In addition to the trailers, the funding included the purchase of \$8,604 in CART start-up supplies for Monmouth County. Several temporary animal shelters were set up in that county, whose

shore areas were devastated by Sandy. At the former Arthur Brisbane Child Treatment Center in Wall Township, pet owners were allowed to be with their pets, which were housed in three rooms of the center, helping them to maintain some normalcy in their otherwise disrupted lives. Several residents said that the daily visits with their pets had a stabilizing effect on their families during that stressful time.

Previous Homeland Security grants received by the Department of Agriculture have gone to purchase nine other animal emergency trailers, either for emergency animal shelters or veterinary care. Those trailers were given to Burlington, Camden, Hudson, Hunterdon, Ocean and Sussex counties in 2006 and 2007 and Bergen, Hudson and Morris counties in 2011.



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**NEW JERSEY
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**SEEING THE NEED,
THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
REQUESTED A \$150,000
GRANT FROM THE
NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF
HOMELAND SECURITY
AND PREPAREDNESS
TO PURCHASE THREE
20-FOOT ANIMAL
RESCUE TRAILERS.**

The counties receiving the trailers signed Memoranda of Understanding that requires the sharing of the trailers with adjacent counties, should the need arise, thus, providing regional coverage of all areas of New Jersey through this investment. Those counties that use another county's trailer are expected to restock the supplies they use before returning the trailer.

The trailer project was a cooperative effort between the Department of Agriculture, New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

To learn more about the County Animal Response Teams, or to become involved, visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/prog/cart.html.

For information for animal owners on how to plan ahead and be prepared, visit nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/prog/emergency_preparedness.html. ▲

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A Novel Idea in Library Lighting



By Christopher P. Vergano,
Mayor, Wayne Township



The library patrons and staff have noticed a dramatic difference with the new lights.

Historically, little regard has been given to lighting in the design of many buildings, including libraries. This results in part from the attitude among facility planners who saw lighting as something to be engineered, not designed. However, thanks to a growing emphasis on sustainability and the need to reduce energy and maintenance costs this approach is changing.

The Wayne Township Free Public Library has been providing educational, social and cultural programs and services to the citizens of Wayne Township for 90 years. Since its founding in 1922, the library has undergone many changes to accommodate the residents and expand collections, including a major remodeling and a grand opening in 2000. Unfortunately, at that time, metal halide (MH) floodlights were installed around the library's interior perimeter that produced a lot of glare. Additionally, the MH floodlights didn't illuminate the area efficiently and burned out quickly.

Library patrons, staff and maintenance personnel complained for over 10 years about this poor lighting. Recently, the library board approved funding for updated lighting.

Improved Lighting Through a competitive quotation process, Wayne Township retained the New Jersey-based architectural and engineering firm LAN Associates to assess the situation and design a plan to provide better light, while reducing energy and maintenance expenses.

"The township's maintenance crews have been replacing the burned out floodlights every six months at a cost of \$95 per bulb. With a reduced staff because of budget cuts it has become extremely difficult to keep up with the constant replacement," said Wayne Township

Purchasing Department Manager Mathew A. Cavallo.

LAN proposed eliminating the 14, 400w perimeter MH floodlights and installing 14, 216w and four, 160w LED high bay luminaires manufactured by Kenall Lighting. The company also recommended daylight sensors, so that the library's large windows can supplement the system with natural light.

The LED luminaires are suspended from the ceiling and mounted an equal distance to maintain a uniform level of illumination. The lighting levels in the space are maintained at a specific set value and the artificial light from the LED luminaires ramp up and down depending on the available natural light. The lighting controls have a built-in safety factor to make fine adjustments to the artificial lighting levels unnoticeable to the room occupants.

The new LED's also shine up onto the ceiling to brighten the whole room. These lights are expected to last approximately 60,000 hours. That means it will be over 14 years before we need to replace them.

Reduced Costs Before the lighting upgrade, the library's light fixtures were on seven days each week ranging from four hours on Sunday to 12 hours Monday through Thursday. This cost the Township approximately \$5,400 annually. The new lighting

**THE NEW LIBRARY
LIGHTING SYSTEM
PROVIDES AN
ENERGY SAVINGS
OF APPROXIMATELY
56 PERCENT.**

system reduces the energy consumption from 6,552w to 3,664w; and, even without taking the daylight harvesting into account, the library has an energy savings of approximately 56 percent.

Moreover, the high cost of maintaining the floodlights was eliminated. This represents an additional annual savings of thousands of dollars for periodic bulb and ballast replacement that the township would otherwise need to perform.

"In 10 years, the township has spent approximately \$15,200 on bulbs and ballasts," Cavallo said. "Replacing these lights has been an ongoing task. If you divide it out, it's about \$1,500 per year in lighting and maintenance costs," Cavallo said.

The township also is saving additional taxpayer money through rebates of \$150 per luminaire offered by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

Positive Feedback The library patrons and staff have noticed a dramatic difference with the new lights. "We have received nothing but thanks from staff and patrons for improving lighting in the open gallery area," commented Jody Treadway, library director. "We are very excited about the elevation in visibility and energy efficiency that this outstanding upgrade has brought to our library." ▲

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Legislative Update



By Michael F. Cerra, NJLM Director of Government Affairs;
Lori Buckelew, NJLM Senior Legislative Analystist;
Jon R. Moran, NJLM Senior Legislative Analystist

DEADLINE FOR REVIEW OF CERTAIN DEFEATED SCHOOL BUDGETS In June the New Jersey General Assembly unanimously passed A-248, which requires the Commissioner of Education to change the deadline for municipal review of defeated school budgets whenever she or he changes the annual school election date. A-248/S-2458 addresses an oversight that has created an inadequate time frame for governing bodies to act upon a defeated school budget. The League enthusiastically supports A-248/S-2458 and thanks Assemblymen Schaer and Diegnan and Assemblywoman DeCroce for supporting and advancing this important legislation.

A-248 now joins its Senate companion, S-2458, sponsored by Senator Bucco, and is referenced to the Senate Education Committee.

On January 12, 2009, then Governor Corzine signed into law P.L. 2008, c. 129, which permits the Commissioner of the Department of Education to change a school board election date that coincides with a period of religious observance.

April 2011 was the first time the annual school board election date was changed from Tuesday, April 19 to Wednesday, April 27, due to Passover. As municipalities, in which a school budget was rejected, began the process to review and make recommendations on the rejected budget, an apparent oversight came to light. While P.L. 2008, c. 129 permits the change of Election Day it did not change the statutory deadline for municipalities to make a final determination on the rejected school board budget.

N.J.S.A. 18A:13-19, for regional school districts, and N.J.S.A. 18A:22-37, for single school districts, outline the procedure following school board budget rejection. Both statutes require that the governing bodies, after consultation with the board, and no later than May 19, certify the amount for the ensuing school year.

In 2014 this will be an issue again. The Commissioner of Education has already moved the 2014 School Board Election Date from April 15, which is the first day of Passover, to Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

The process to review a rejected school budget, especially those of a regional school district, are challenging

under normal circumstances. The municipalities must not only review the budget material but coordinate schedules with the school board, county business administrator and other governing body members. In addition, the municipalities and school board must comply with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act. And at some point, the governing body must hold a public meeting to take official action.

When acting upon a defeated school budget most municipalities need the full four weeks to thoroughly review the budget, consult with the school board and receive public input on the budget before taking final action. In 2011, however, this process was reduced to a two to three week process and in 2014 it will be reduced again, making a complex process much more challenging.

Municipalities need the full four weeks to review a defeated budget to be thoughtful and deliberative in their decision. Less time to review could lead to a rush job that will negatively impact the community.

A-248/S-2458 provides that whenever the Commissioner changes the date of the annual school election, the Commissioner must also change the May 19 deadline. The bill also provides that the Commissioner must ensure that the changed deadline provides the same number of days as if the date of the annual school election had not been changed and the May 19 deadline was still in place.—LB

MAINTAINS INACTIVE LIQUOR LICENSES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT The League supports S-2677, which expands upon a 2007 law to assist areas designated for growth to retain inactive liquor licenses.

PL 2007, c. 351 authorized the State Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Division to issue special licenses for the sale of liquor licenses to entities developing "smart growth development projects." The 2007 law also authorized municipalities in State Planning Area 1 (PA1) or in a Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ) to acquire and/or sell existing plenary retail consumption licenses that are inactive for use in development projects in a designated mart growth areas. These municipalities were authorized to maintain these licenses for up to five years.

However, because of the economic downturn many of these projects have been delayed. S-2677 provides municipalities an additional five years to maintain the inactive license for use consistent with the provision of PL 2007, c. 351 (NJS 33:1-24.1). Further, if the license is still inactive at the end of the second five-year period, it may be extended again at the discretion of the State ABC.

S-2677 is sponsored by Senator Vitale and is referenced to the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee. The Assembly companion, A-3892, is sponsored by Assemblyman Coughlin and referenced to the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee.—MFC

BILL WOULD CURB GRAVE AND MONUMENT VANDALISM The League of Municipalities supports A-796/S-1951, which is meant to curtail the theft and resale of memorial and commemorative markers.

Since 2003, the value of aluminum, copper, nickel and zinc has increased dramatically. This has, in turn, led to a dramatic increase in metal theft. Metal in cemeteries, on monuments and buildings is particularly vulnerable to thieves, who sell the metal to scrap metal dealers.

As currently drafted, the bill requires that a person who sells or delivers as scrap metal a cemetery, grave monument, or historical marker must provide a written affidavit, from the owner or manager of the cemetery, grave, monument or historical building from which it was taken. This affidavit would need to be maintained by the operator of the scrap metal business for at least five years.

As with other violations of the current laws pertaining to scrap metal businesses, first and second violations of the bill's provisions would be considered disorderly persons offenses and crimes of the fourth degree for third and subsequent offenses.

We salute the sponsors and we welcome favorable action on this initiative. A-796 has been approved by the Assembly and has joined S-1951 in the Senate Commerce Committee, where, at press time, it awaited further action.—JRM

BILL TO EXPAND DEFINITION OF "ACQUISITION" Senators Kyrrillos and

Smith have introduced S-2572 that would expand the definition of "acquisition," for purposes of county and municipal open space trust funds, to include demolition, removal of debris, and restoration of lands being acquired under the Open Space program.

Specifically, in the law concerning the establishment of county and municipal open space trust funds, S-2572 would amend the definition of "Acquisition" or "Acquire" to include the demolition of structures on, the

removal of debris from, and the restoration of those lands to a natural state or to a state useful for recreation and conservation purposes.

The League supports S-2572 as the proposed amendment would provide municipalities with greater flexibility in acquiring and preserving open space by permitting expanded use of their open space trust funds.

S-2572 is awaiting consideration by the Senate Environment and Energy Committee.—LB

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IDENTIFYING FIREFIGHTERS OF SOLAR PANELS The League supports A-266, which requires identifying emblems on certain structures to notify firefighters of solar panels.

Specifically, A-266, as approved by the General Assembly, requires that an identifying "S/P" emblem be placed near the entrance of any building designated under Section 2 of the bill. Further, all existing and newly constructed buildings with solar panels are to be equipped with an external shutoff switch.

Deactivated solar panel systems can retain residual voltage, posing a potential hazard to first responders as they enter the scene of a fire. Thus, the League supports this bill as it is an important public safety issue for first responders.

A-266, sponsored by Assemblyman O'Donnell, Giblin, Russo and Schroder respectively, passed the General Assembly unanimously. It now joins its Senate companion, S-507 sponsored by Senator Bucco, in the Senate Environment and Energy Committee.—MFC

FIRST RESPONDER LIABILITY IMMUNITY BILL MAKES SENSE The League of

Municipalities supports A-2099/S-1416. This legislation would grant immunity from liability to first responders who forcibly enter a building to provide vital emergency assistance.

This immunity from civil liability only applies where the first responder's decision to enter a structure is based upon a good faith belief that forced entry is necessary to provide emergency medical care or to prevent imminent bodily harm and where no occupant of the property responds to the first responder's requests for entry within a reasonable period of time. As the sponsors note, this bill ensures that no individual in need of emergency assistance, but who is unable, either physically or verbally, to grant entry into the subject property, goes without care due to the potential liability concerns of the first responders.

We salute the sponsors for their leadership on this common-sense reform and we support A-2099/S-1416. A-2099 was, as this is being written, on Second Reading in the Assembly, and S-1416 was poised for consideration in the Senate Judiciary Committee.—JRM

PERMISSIVE INCREASES TO MUNICIPAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOLUNTEER FIRST AID, AMBULANCE AND RESCUE SQUADS The League Legislative Committee supports the passage of A-1660/S-960, which increases the contribution limit by counties and municipalities to volunteer first aid, ambulance and rescue squads.

Specifically A-1660/S-960 would increase the maximum amount of money governing bodies can donate to volunteer first aid, ambulance and rescue squads. At their discretion, governing bodies would be permitted to donate up to \$125,000 to volunteer first aid, ambulance and rescue squads as well as up an additional \$70,000 for extraordinary need. This permissive bill provides municipalities with the ability to support their local volunteer services based on local needs.

A-1660, sponsored by Assemblyman Gordon and Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttie, unanimously passed the Assembly. The Senate bill, sponsored by Senator Weinberg, awaits consideration by the full Senate.—LB

INTENT OF PRESERVATION MUST BE HONORED The League Legislative Committee recently reviewed A-458, which prohibits the cultivation or production of marijuana on preserved farmland. Further, A-458 would specify that any land used for such purposes would not qualify for farmland assessment.

The League supports the state's successful farmland preservation programs. We find A-458 consistent with the underlying intent of these programs and believe these purposes should not be undermined by commercial uses.

A-458 is sponsored by Assemblywoman Angelini and is referenced to the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee for consideration.—MFC

BILL GIVES MORE TIME TO APPEAL MUNICIPAL COURT DECISIONS The League of Municipalities supports A-3228, which extends time limits for filing an appeal of a municipal court decision.

This bill provides for a 30-day period for filing a notice of appeal on matters adjudicated in municipal courts. Currently, under Court Rule 3:23-2 as adopted by the New Jersey Supreme Court, the period for filing such notice

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is 20 days. According to the bill, a party aggrieved by a municipal court decision would have 30 days to file a notice of appeal with the municipal court administrator. The appealing party would, then, present a copy of the notice to the Superior Court. According to the bill, the Supreme Court may adopt new rules as necessary for the implementation of the bill's 30-day period.

The League believes that this extension will help towns that do not have a transcription service. We thank the sponsor for her leadership on this.

We support A-3228 and urge that it be given favorable consideration. At press time, it awaited consideration in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.—JRM

BILL GIVES COURT MORE DISCRETION TO IMPOSE COMMUNITY SERVICE The League's Legislative Committee has voted to support A-3254/S-2309, which would, in certain cases, permit a municipal court to order community service in lieu of the payment of a penalty. We commend the sponsors for their leadership with this matter.

At present, N.J.S.2B:12-23 provides that a person sentenced by a municipal court to pay a fine who defaults in payment may be ordered by the court to perform community service. Section 1 of P.L.2009, c.317 (C.2B:12-23.1) provides that a person who is ordered by the court to pay a penalty and who is allowed to pay the penalty in installments may be ordered to perform community service in lieu of payment if the person defaults on an installment payment and the court finds that the person does not have the ability to pay.

Under this common-sense bill, the municipal court would be able to order community service regardless of whether the person defaulted on the payment. The bill provides that if the municipal court finds that a person does not have the ability to pay a penalty in full on the date of the hearing or has failed to pay a previously imposed penalty, the municipal court may order the person to perform community service in lieu of the payment.

The League supports A-3254/S-2309. Having passed in the Assembly, A-3254 has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, where it has joined S-2309.—JRM

BILL LETS MUNICIPALITIES REGULATE COMMERCIAL FILMING The League of Municipalities supports A-3273, which would authorize municipalities to license and regulate the filming of reality shows in public locations and in public places of accommodation within their jurisdiction.

As the sponsor states, the filming of reality shows like "Jersey Shore" often attract crowds of on-lookers

along the streets and within the businesses where filming is taking place. This often requires a police and other public safety response. By licensing and regulating this activity, municipalities will be better able to plan for such an eventuality.

Accordingly, we support A-3273. As this is written, A-3273 was awaiting action in the Assembly Housing and Local Government Committee.—JRM ▲

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Beyond Rebuilding

We Need to Secure the Jersey Shore



By David Kutner
Local Recovery Planning Manager,
New Jersey Future

On Oct. 29, 2012, the last thing on anyone's mind was May 24, 2013. But in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy that date loomed large as the unofficial hard deadline—Memorial Day weekend—by which time much of the New Jersey Shore had to be rebuilt, or significant tourism dollars would be lost.

That date is only one of several factors that have kept the Sandy-recovery effort largely on a path of quick return to the status-quo. In the middle of the scramble to get residents back in their homes, businesses back in operation and tourists back on the boardwalks, could New Jersey have done more to focus on planning for the next storm? And if so, is it too late to start now?

The pull to the short-term came from many directions. The Memorial Day deadline, on which rested up to \$30 bil-

lion in Shore tourism revenue, was just one of a host of considerations that made short-term action seem like the only right thing to do. Among other considerations were:

- **Pressure from displaced residents** Before the end of November 2012, FEMA had logged requests for assistance from more than 230,000 displaced New Jersey residents. While not all requests were deemed eligible, when more than 2.5 percent of a state's population lacks housing, it's a crisis. Returning as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, to their communities and their jobs was paramount.
- **Overwhelmed local governments** Municipalities were suddenly inundated with hundreds or thousands of rebuilding requests, and needed to process them quickly, while also focusing on restoring public infrastructure and assets.



This photo, taken during an Army search and rescue mission on October 30, shows damage from Hurricane Sandy to the New Jersey coast.

• **No requirement to look forward** The FEMA Base Flood Elevation data, while delayed briefly, provide a seemingly safe benchmark to which to build. These data, on which many rebuilding decisions and flood insurance premiums are based, are short-term in nature, intended to address regulatory and permitting needs. They examine only what would happen if another storm similar to Superstorm Sandy should hit, without including consideration of the significant projected sea-level rise that most climate science researchers predict. Rebuilding plans are not currently required to consider projected sea-level rise.

**A COMPREHENSIVE
ASSESSMENT OF THE
VULNERABILITY OF THE
HUMAN, NATURAL AND
BUILT RESOURCES ACROSS
THE FULL RANGE OF
POSSIBLE HAZARDS, AND
A CONSIDERED PUBLIC
DISCUSSION OF
ALTERNATIVES, SHOULD BE
ON EVERY MUNICIPALITY'S
TO-DO LIST.**

• **Incentives focused on a quick recovery** Almost all rebuilding grants awarded or announced so far are directed at hastening the return to normal. Very little federal grant money has been set aside to evaluate future vulnerabilities and encourage discussion about changes that will need to take place in the longer term.

• **Lack of dialog about longer-term planning** It is difficult to talk about change and future hazards in the middle of a clean-up effort. However, given the billions of dollars being spent to rebuild, it is incumbent upon our leadership to plan and

spend scarce public resources wisely. While media outlets, citizens' groups and advocacy organizations have tried to sustain a dialog about the need for consideration of longer term strategies and trade-offs, there has been little matching official effort to do the same.

The signal is clear: Let's just get this place up and running again.

However, if that's all we accomplish, we leave ourselves unnecessarily

vulnerable to the effects of another storm as severe as Sandy or worse. Now is the time to focus on the long term with:

• **More, and dedicated, planning resources for local governments** The need to address long-term concerns comes in the middle of the biggest crisis many affected municipalities have faced in a long time. Towns need additional federal and state resources to manage the recovery



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process and engage their communities more effectively in longer-term planning efforts, so that they won't face a similar crisis the next time.

- More robust hazard mitigation planning** These plans, required for the state, counties and municipalities to be eligible for FEMA pre- and post-disaster funding, should be more than just an emergency response plan. New Jersey Future is among the organizations recommending that funds in the upcoming round of federal disaster-relief grants be set aside for more thorough hazard mitigation planning. This would mean that planners as well as emergency managers would be involved, that the best available forward-looking scientific data would be employed, and that each municipality would have its own detailed chapter in its county's plan. The result would be a plan to increase resilience against future hazards, not just a template for responding to them.

- Public input** More public outreach and dialog, especially around how the state spends rebuilding funds is needed. Recommendations have been made that the next round of federal grant funding include a requirement for more explicit and extensive public comment and engagement. While private funding continues to help media organizations engage in this, it doesn't carry the same weight as it would if it were an official priority.

- Alignment with a clear statewide strategic vision** A vote scheduled for last December on adoption of the draft state Strategic Plan was postponed so guidelines for resiliency to future weather disasters could be added. Those guidelines are still being developed, and there is not yet an approved statewide development plan that would help communities align areas for growth and areas for preservation with long-term hazard mitigation planning. Having that statewide guidance would help to match individual municipalities' efforts with a set of statewide goals, and help ensure efficient and effective deployment of state resources.

- Long-term metrics** Instead of measuring the degree of restoration, we



Many were displaced from damaged homes, like the one pictured above. Before the end of November 2012, FEMA had logged requests for assistance from more than 230,000 displaced New Jersey residents.

should be measuring long-term change: Are more people out of harm's way? Is the transportation system better able to rebound from severe weather? Are there more areas of the coastline where natural systems can serve as barriers against storm surges? How much of our urban water infrastructure has been repaired and updated so that it can handle a future severe weather event?

Not all municipalities in the state were seriously affected by Superstorm Sandy, but every community can prepare itself better for potential future disasters by applying the approaches described above. A comprehensive assessment of the vulnerability of the human, natural and built resources across the full range of possible hazards, and a considered public discussion of alternatives, should be on every municipality's to-do list.

However, sufficient resources will be needed to assist municipalities in undertaking this effort and in implementing identified mitigation strategies over time. The Planning Grant program recently offered through the state's Department of Community Affairs is a good start, but far more

funds will be needed to enable every New Jersey community to engage in the process. And to be truly effective, planning for resiliency cannot be an isolated exercise. Rather, it is essential that this function be fully integrated with a municipality's master plan, zoning and land use regulation and capital improvement program.

The funds we'll need to plan effectively may be considerable, but that amount is undeniably insignificant compared to the monumental costs we'll incur if we don't.

New Jersey Future and Sustainable Jersey have collaborated to create a recovery and resiliency network to respond to municipalities' need for long-term planning capacity. The network, staffed by a team of recovery planning managers and resiliency coordinators, will provide long-term, direct assistance to municipal staffs in Sandy-affected communities as they develop and implement recovery plans. The network mirrors FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework, which strongly recommends the appointment of local-level program coordinators to help manage and advance recovery efforts. ▲

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Energy Tax Receipts

How Policy Changes Can Affect Municipal Budgets



By Angie McGuire
Associate Director, Rutgers Center for
Executive Leadership in Government
& Alan Zalkind, Director, Rutgers
Center for Government Services

This article is based on the white paper "Appropriating Energy Tax Receipts: The New Normal for New Jersey" from the NJLM Educational Foundation series Friends of Local Government Policy Paper Series, Volume 5, Number 1, March, 2013. For the complete paper, see njlmef.org/policy-papers/FoLG_v5_1.pdf.



When budgets are tight, fiscal solutions often result in policy shifts. Budget shortfalls have resulted in some tough action to reduce long-term spending as New Jersey's public managers change spending practices to eliminate or outsource services, cut payrolls and improve efficiencies by sharing services. Even before the Great Recession began in 2008, the state was mired in fiscal problems. Decades of spending obligations that exceeded revenues resulted in budget imbalances and created an annual scramble to find sources of funds.

In New Jersey, conversations about controlling government spending are frequently linked to controlling rising property taxes. New Jersey property taxes, which fund schools and local governments, are considered some of the highest in the nation. The budget pressure has been linked to the debate over how to use Energy Tax Receipts, a tax that was supposed to offset local property taxes.

This article does not address how the state arrived at the current level of debt and financial quagmire. Instead, it explores one of the budget actions that seem to be creating policy retrospectively. Specifically, the focus here is on the repurposing of tax dollars collected for municipalities and intended to mediate property taxes that have instead been appropriated by the state to bridge budget gaps. The current policy debate is moving away from the intended use of the tax to a shouting match about the roles of different levels of government. The state now asserts that taking the money from property tax relief provides a protection to taxpayers, that the holding of the funds prevents towns from spending. The state contends that the ETR funds are withheld from municipalities in support of a policy to reduce inefficiencies in local governments.

What policy is being debated? As early as 1982, the state, facing budget shortfalls, began to "keep" a portion of the ETR monies collected on behalf of the towns. Over time, the portion retained by the state grew, and by 2006, municipalities were receiving about 50 percent of the monies collected. The state repurposed the tax.

Repurposing tax dollars to achieve a balanced budget is not uncommon in public finance. Public budget actions are quite rational: the means and ends justification of allocation of scarce resources. However, the reallocation of a fund can blur the intent of its existence. By the mid-80s the

The additional difficulty of reduced Energy Tax receipts is the uncertainty it creates. When are revenues firm and when are they not?



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state was diverting ETR monies to the general fund to cover unfunded state programs. A reasonable question needs to be asked: who should be involved in a policy discussion when tax monies are repurposed?

ETR policy changes The history of the tax has been well documented by the New Jersey League of Municipalities. The state budget policy changes provide additional context. In the 1970s when energy costs soared, an unintended rise in the cost of the tax caused a review of how the tax was assessed. By 1987, the basis of the tax was recalibrated to reflect the units of power, or service, used (power or gas).

After resetting the basis of the tax post energy crisis, the following decade brought deregulation of energy and utility companies. The changes resulted in new formulas, and the protection of the revenue stream. The state successfully maintained the tax, renamed Energy Tax Receipts in 1999, and concluded that the tax would be levied as a corporate earnings and sales tax, which would continue to be disbursed to municipalities.

The annual Department of Treasury report on Tax Expenditures noted the disposition of Energy Tax Revenues: "Revenues are deposited into an account that is used to fund the Energy Tax Receipts Property Tax Relief Fund, which is distributed to municipalities in accordance with P.L. 1997,

C 167." However, the fund has only been partially distributed. The courts have upheld the state's right to preempt the legislative intent of the tax.

**AS EARLY AS 1982,
THE STATE, FACING
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Whose money is it? The narrative adopted by the state has morphed from a question of executive judgment and a requirement to intervene in the allocation of scarce resources, to one of actively restricting spending by municipal governments through the restriction of revenues. The state now holds that local governments are inefficient, and that property taxes are too high due to local mismanagement and inefficiencies. This argument has been transported to budget policy, and used as the basis for decreasing the funding of local prop-

erty tax relief funds. In other words, "starve the beast."

The municipal narrative turned with force on Trenton; relieve the burdens that are driving property taxes to higher levels, and do not re-appropriate money that the legislature intended for local use. Their message was to (1) stop enacting unfunded mandates; (2) limit binding arbitration; and, (3) ensure controls in pension and health benefits cost increases.

The municipalities' stance reflects a disdain for the state as a benefactor rather than a manager of funds collected. If the state had not taken the money, the municipalities contend they would be able to reduce or hold constant property taxes.

Which policy to pursue? The conversation is about sources and uses of funding...doing what is right and doing what is legal. We suggest that the lack of focus on the policy questions has confounded the debate. The issue of what revenue funds what level of government is different than the debate as to whether municipalities should exist or if they should share resources.

While all would agree the two issues are related, they are two separate issues. Voters can decide if municipalities should be eliminated or share more resources. If the voters do not want to merge towns, they will not.

Given the complexity of the laws and taxes, public discourse in 565 municipalities seems unlikely. But we have some evidence from Superstorm Sandy that underscores the role of local government in serving citizens. For the first few days, municipalities were on their own, there was no cavalry that came to help. Local governments were, and are, the front line of service delivery. Local government reflects government accountability to citizens.

The budget squeeze will be felt for years to come. The nation's early stages of economic recovery, combined with the continued likelihood of additional cuts in federal and state aid, and greater demand for services all point to a difficult road ahead for local governments. The additional difficulty of reduced Energy Tax receipts is the uncertainty it creates. When are revenues firm and when are they not? After ETR, what else will the state attempt to re-claim as theirs? ▲

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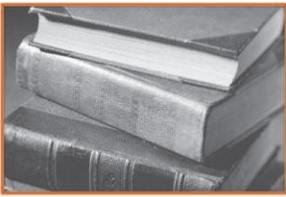
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Health Officer Salaries & Municipal Transit Systems

By Edward Purcell, Esq.
NJLM Staff Attorney

Q Our health officer told the town administrator that after five years of service, the municipality is legally obligated to pay him the highest salary level for that position. Is this correct?

A Yes, that is correct. Under N.J.S.A. 26:3-25.1, every licensed health officer or environmental health specialist “shall receive the maximum salary in the person’s range, within five years from the date of appointment to this position

if the majority of the person’s job performance evaluations are satisfactory.” This would mean that if your health officer has been employed for more than five years and he has received satisfactory job performance evaluations, he has to be moved to the top of his range. There are a few court cases which clarify what this statute means.

In *De Hay v. Town of West New York*, the city sanitary inspector charged the municipality with violating this statute when, after five years, he had not received the maximum salary in his range. 189 N.J. Super. 340 (N.J. App. Div. 1983) The Appellate Division held that the maximum salary, as required by statute, was the highest salary at the time the individual completed their fifth year and not at the time they were hired. *Id.* at 343. The court also reasoned that the inspector was entitled to back pay but did deduct a small percentage of it in order to cushion the blow on the municipality’s finances. *Id.* at 346.

In *Brown v. Jersey City*, the Appellate Division dealt with the impact of the statute on pay increases. 289 N.J. Super. 374 (N.J. App. Div. 1996) The city argued that the health officers were not entitled to union negotiated pay increases after they had attained their maximum salary after five years. The court disagreed. It held that the statute works in tandem with general pay increases. *Id.* at 380. In effect when the city increased the salary scales for all employees, the pay for health officers must also go up.

In order to limit this statute’s impact on their budgets, some municipalities have severely curtailed the salary range of their health officers and environmental health specialists. The result of this policy would mean that after five years, the maximum salary for such a position would not be exceedingly high. There have been situations where municipalities were not aware of this statute and had wide differences in the pay range for these employees. The result was, when the employees learned of their rights under this statute, the municipalities had to pay large amounts of money unexpectedly.

Q My municipality is a shore town with a large residential community and a downtown business area located along the beach. The business area consists of small stores, restaurants and other local establishments. The local governing body would like to create a municipal bus service to help transport residents and vacationers to the downtown business area. Does a municipality have the legal authority to run a public transit service?

A Yes, municipalities do have the legal authority to operate a public transit service within their territories. Under P.L. 1917 c. 152, New Jersey municipalities have the authority to operate public transportation services.

N.J.S.A. 40:62-35 et. Seq. The law lays out strict requirements on how such a public transit can be created. The first step requires a petition, signed by 20 percent of the municipality’s voters, to be submitted to the local governing body. The petition must clearly state the mode of transportation and the route. If a petition is submitted, the local governing body has the option to put the question to referendum at the next election.

For the referendum to pass, the law only requires a simple majority. Interestingly, if the referendum fails, the law gives the governing body the ability to put the question up for a vote again at the next election. After the referendum has passed, the municipality may purchase the vehicles and prepare to implement its transit service. The law provides municipalities the ability to lease the transit system to a third party to operate pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:62-45.

The League and NJ Transit have not kept a record of how many municipalities operate their own public transit services. Anecdotally, I am aware of a few. Morristown operated a bus service jointly with Morris Township until 2010. There are also a few others that passed the petition phase but failed at referendum. ▲

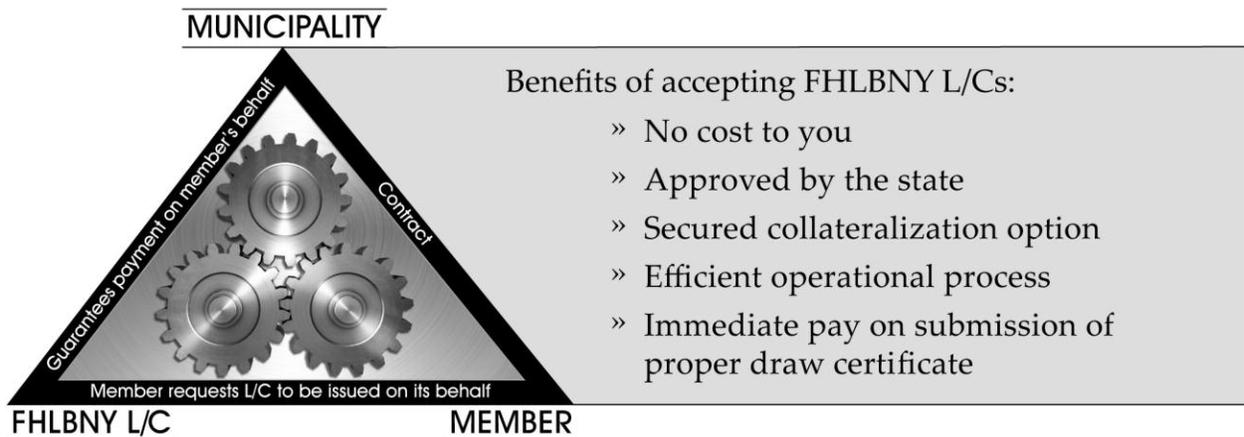
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Reflections on a Life in Municipal Government



By Richard W. Deaney



It was 1963, the year the Majestic Theater closed and President Kennedy was shot in Dallas. I was one of only 189 million U.S. citizens when I took a summer position with a municipal auditor, A.M. Hart and Company based in East Orange. I spent the long, hot days handwriting tax payment verification forms for the Tax Collectors office in a converted farm house in Livingston. I did not know it then, but two years later I would become Administrative Assistant to Township Manager Bob Harp, after completing graduate studies at University of Pennsylvania.

Fifty years later, I am the Interim Administrator in Margate, having served a series of small Atlantic and Cape May County communities continuously since retiring from full-time employment with Ocean City in 2006. Today there are 315 million Americans and we have two fewer municipalities in New Jersey. This article will consider what else has changed in New Jersey local government and what remains virtually unchanged during these five decades.

Elected Officials As the U.S. population has aged, so has the composition of the governing bodies. As I've grown grayer so have many elected officials. There has always been at least one elected official older than me in every municipality I've worked in.

Today's officials are also more diverse. Most governing bodies now have at least one female member and there

are many women Mayors. At last, there are numerous women serving in professional capacities as Administrators, Finance Directors and Solicitors. Our elected representatives seem to better mirror the diversity of our communities in ethnicity and economic status. However, I'm finding that officials are becoming less patient, more short-sighted and less philosophical. They seem more apt to be swayed by the momentum of the crowd.

Voters While the electorate is more diverse in 2013 than it was in 1963, their level of interest and participation in government is disappointing. Often barely half of those registered come out to cast their ballots and many others do not even bother to register. Voters tend to be focused on only one or two issues or only pay attention to increases in the tax rate.

Though police and firefighters are still held in high esteem in most communities, many residents resent what they see as the over-compensation of public employees. Citizens continue to demand a high level of municipal services—and there is an increased interest in recreation facilities and programs, emergency medical services and child care. There is more emphasis on the environment. Centralized landfills have replaced town dumps and sewers are replacing individual septic systems and antiquated local sewer plants, which had a tendency to release treated water into streams.



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Media and Communication When I served as Town Manager in Newton in the 1970s, there were three radio stations reporting on Council meetings as well as a local daily paper. Today it is more likely that there is a weekly paper that covers most local meetings, and perhaps a daily that reports on major issues. Occasionally, local town news warrants a 30-second clip on television news.

However, it is just as likely that people get their local government news via the internet or a local cable channel. Most municipalities have a website. Some do phone blasts, others mass e-mailings or maintain Facebook sites. Smartphones with specialized "apps" will undoubtedly change the way citizens get timely local government information, including information on events, transportation schedules and recreation programs.

Laws and Regulations Law books are twice as thick these days, but with everything online, who needs the annual law supplements and digest services? The biggest changes that I have observed revolve around open public meetings and OPRA, employment liability, Pay to Play legislation and zoning.

Every year I wait for the release of the Zoning Update, which was edited until last year by the late William Cox, Esq., my mentor zoning attorney in Newton more than 40 years ago. He was so particular in those days, the

Newton Zoning ordinance cited annotations for each key case involving the various provisions of the ordinance. All in all, government is more open because of the law changes but more importantly because of the internet, televised meetings and web postings of budget data.

Risk Management With the rise in employment liability, local governments are fortunate to have the Joint Insurance Funds (JIF) and the Municipal Excess Liability Fund. These government insurance entities are the most successful shared service examples in our history.

They were created largely in response to the inability of many municipalities to get certain types of private insurance coverage, most particularly cities and towns with landfills within their borders. The JIF's have proved to be very efficient and during their first decade provided more insurance coverage at less cost than when they began. As we are all too aware, another growing risk for private residents and local governments alike is the cost of flood insurance. It alone is likely to have an adverse effect on real estate ratables for years to come.

Technology No change in the past 50 years is more noticeable than the advance of office equipment and computerization. No one even thinks today about IBM punch cards, reels of tape, stacks of continuous feed data

sheets, early stage data processing machines or keyboard entry personnel, let alone typewriters, wet copy machines, mimeograph machines or tape recorders and Dictaphones.

Telephones, too, have changed with the birth of the smartphone, there are no longer fire boxes to maintain or pay phones to service. The world is connected and we can see when every person or car passes by key camera locations and trace people making cell calls by cell tower location. Police cars are equipped with cameras as well as cages, and the public at large captures us at will by cell phone image. We now track public works vehicles, remotely monitor water pumping stations and collect traffic fines by credit card.

While change is a constant for all of us, the time-honored expectations of local government remain. Among them are the basics of health, safety and a reliable road system. While we debate the role of government and its infringement on our private lives, the essential nature of local government is in evidence when we drink clean water, dispose of our liquid and solid wastes and ride on paved roads. We will change our delivery methods and modify our laws to suit the times, but we will only be as good as our collective values.

Elected leaders who participate in education and work together to embrace ethical government will make it possible for communities to uphold their collective values. We still need good people to step forward and run for office, who believe that being ethical is more than just being honest. For to be ethical one must be qualified to interpret the rules, be accountable for all actions, understand acceptable limits and be able to set them. Being ethical means making and enforcing policies for the good of all, as opposed to for ones personnel gain or convenience.

The ethic of democratic responsibility involves an understanding and belief that power is derived from the people. Public policy determinations must always be considered in light of who gains and who loses. Finally, the ethic of social integration requires an understanding that disagreement without compromise leads to stalemate and inaction; which, if unchecked, ultimately lead to deadlock or ongoing conflict. Ultimately, compromise is an ethical action. ▲

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League Officers for 2013-14 Elected

A new slate of officers and executive board members were elected by mayors at the League's Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, November 21, 2013 in Atlantic City. Nominating Chair Arthur R. Ondish, Mayor, Mount Arlington and League Immediate Past President, presented the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

"A traditional and vitally important part of every League Conference is the nomination and election of officers and members of the League's Executive Board. Your Nominating Committee, pursuant to its Constitutional responsibility, presents for your consideration its nominations for the offices of President, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Vice President and 21 positions on the Executive Board.

"The Board must include members from municipalities located in each of our state's 21 counties. Another consideration is that, because of the diversity of population, growth patterns and other general factors, the Nominating Committee feels a balance of municipalities – urban, suburban and rural – is essential.

"Besides the balance, even though non-partisan in nature, we must maintain a balance between the major political parties represented on the Executive Board.

"The Nominating Committee also takes into consideration whether an individual nominated has demonstrated an interest in League affairs through active participation on League committees and by supporting the League's policies and programs.

"As you see, the Nominating Committee concerns itself with many factors in making its selections. I'm pleased to say I feel the committee did consider all aspects in our endeavor to see the League continue with strong leadership.

The following officers and executive board members were elected for 2013-2014.

LEAGUE OFFICERS

- SUZANNE M. WALTERS, President
Mayor, Stone Harbor
- GERALD J. TARANTOLO, 1st Vice President
Mayor, Eatontown
- JOSEPH TEMPESTA, JR., 2nd Vice President
Mayor, West Caldwell
- BRIAN C. WAHLER, 3rd Vice President
Mayor, Piscataway

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- RANDY BROWN *Mayor, Evesham*
- JAMES L. CASSELLA *Mayor, East Rutherford*
- WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN . *Mayor, Wharton*
- DANIEL N. CORANOTO *Deputy Mayor, Hampton*
- JOHN DEAN DERIENZO *Mayor, Haworth*
- FRANK J. DRUETZLER *Mayor, Morris Plains*
- JONATHAN DUNLEAVY *Mayor, Bloomingdale*
- ERICA EDWARDS *Mayor, Flemington*
- MICHAEL FRESSOLA *Mayor, Manchester*
- STEVEN FULOP *Mayor, Jersey City*
- ALBERT B. KELLY *Mayor, Bridgeton*
- JO-ANN LIPTAK *Mayor, Raritan Borough*
- COLLEEN MAHR *Mayor, Fanwood*
- LEO MCCABE *Mayor, Glassboro*
- JANICE S. MIRONOV *Mayor, East Windsor,*
Immediate Past President
- GARY PASSANANTE *Mayor, Somerdale*
- JAMES PERRY *Mayor, Hardwick*
- ELLEN POMPPER *Mayor, Lower Alloways Creek*
- LUIS A. QUINTANA *Mayor, Newark (Ex Officio)*
- WAYNE SMITH *Mayor, Irvington*
- JANET W. TUCCI *Mayor, West Long Branch*
- JESSE TWEEDLE, SR. *Mayor, Pleasantville City ▲*

Stone Harbor Mayor Suzanne M. Walters Elected League President



On Thursday, November 21, 2013, Mayor Suzanne M. Walters of Stone Harbor Borough was elected to serve as the new President of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities. Mayor Walters, who had previously served as the League's 1st Vice President, was elected during the Annual Business Meeting at the League's Conference in Atlantic City.

President Walters has been the Mayor of Stone Harbor Borough since 1997 and a Member of the League's Executive Board since 2007.

In addition to serving on the Executive Board of the State League of Municipalities, she is also a member of the League's Legislative Committee, Chairwoman of the General Legislation Subcommittee. She is also a member of the Executive Committee of the League's Women in

Municipal Government Committee. Mayor Walters also is a member of the State Council on Affordable Housing.

Mayor Walters is active in numerous civic, religious and charitable groups in Stone Harbor and in Cape May County. Some of her contributions include work on behalf of the Cape May Regional Medical Center Foundation, the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, the Cape Women's Resource Fund, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, the Women's Republican Club of Cape May and the Yacht Club of Stone Harbor.

Mayor Walters has worked as a marketing account executive and served as President of the Cape May County League of Municipalities. She has been named Outstanding Woman in Government by the New Jersey Association of Elected Women Officials and Mayor of the Year by the New Jersey Conference of Mayors.

Mayor Walters has a B.S. in Business Administration from St. Joseph University. She is a widow and has three children and five grandchildren. ▲

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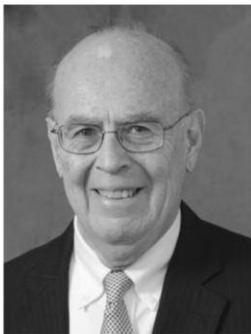
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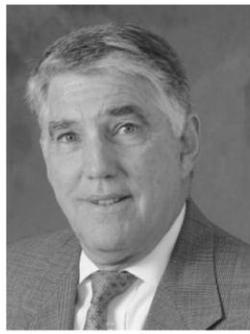
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NJLM Recognizes Jersey Shore Mayors at Annual Event

The Jersey Shore Partnership Foundation returned to the Hook for its 17th annual Summer Celebration on Tuesday, September 10. The Partnership is the state's leading advocate for beach protection and preservation. The event supports the educational activities of the Foundation to increase awareness of the importance of year-round vigilance in maintaining and respecting our fragile coastline.

This year's event celebrated the resourcefulness, resiliency, and community spirit that are driving the restoration of the Jersey Shore. Jersey Shore Mayors were acknowledged for their extraordinary response to Sandy. Bill Dressel,

Executive Director, New Jersey League of Municipalities, presented an award to Suzanne Walters, Mayor of Stone Harbor, who accepted the award on behalf of her Jersey Shore colleagues.

The open-tent celebration brought together 450 guests who enjoyed gourmet recipes prepared by New Jersey chefs. Complimentary bus transportation was provided from Parkway stops from Cape May County to Ocean County. Verizon and New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Group were major sponsors of the event.

For information about the Jersey Shore Partnership visit jerseyshorepartnership.com or contact mwalshjspf@gmail.com. ▲



Bill Dressel, Executive Director, New Jersey League of Municipalities, presented an award to Jersey Shore Mayors at the Jersey Shore Partnership Foundation's annual Celebration on September 10. The award, in recognition of the Jersey Shore Mayors extraordinary response to Superstorm Sandy, was accepted by Suzanne Walters, Mayor of Stone Harbor and NJLM President.

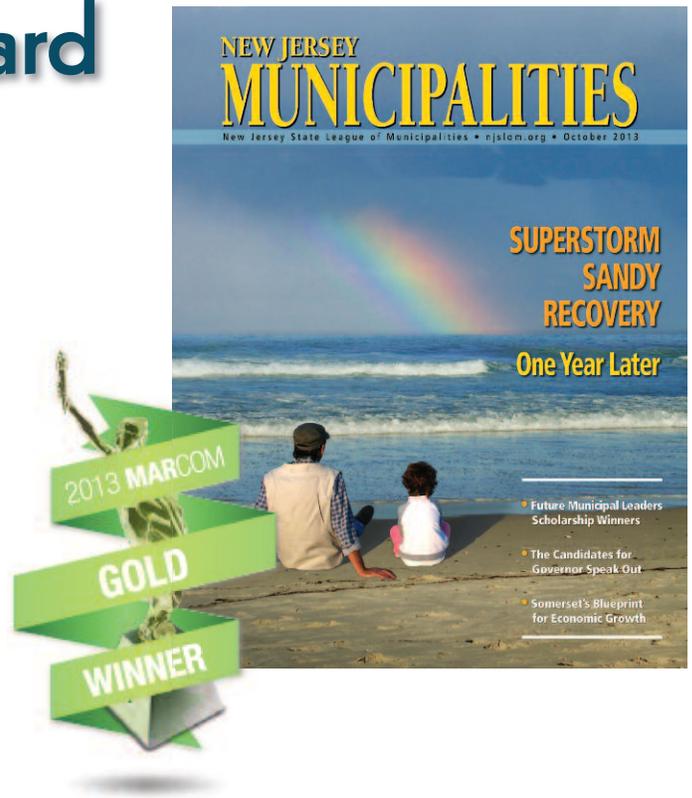
New Jersey Municipalities Receives MarCom Gold Award

The League's magazine *New Jersey Municipalities* received the gold award in the 2013 MarCom Competition in the non-profit magazine category. It was recognized for its outstanding writing, focus and design by professionals at the top of the magazine field.

"I'm proud to announce that our League magazine ranks among the very best publications of its kind throughout the world," said League Executive Director Bill Dressel. "I want to thank all of you who have contributed to our magazine over the years. This award belongs to you!"

MarCom Awards is an international competition for marketing and communication professionals involved in the concept, writing and design of marketing and communication programs and print, visual and audio materials.

The magazine's staff includes Bill Dressel, Editor in Chief; Kyra Z. Duran, Managing Editor; Taran Samhammer, Advertising Manager and Contributor; Thomas Fratticcioli, Subscription Manager; Dawn Becan, Creative Director; and Contributing Editors Lori Buckelew, Michael F. Cerra, Jon R. Moran, and Edward Purcell. ▲



Holzapfel Joins NJLM Legal Team

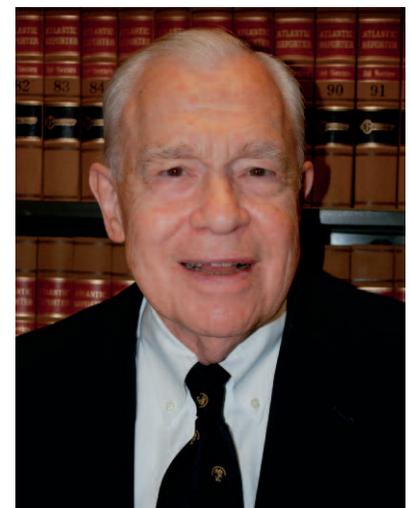
NJLM is pleased to announce that William R. Holzapfel, the City Attorney of Elizabeth, has joined the League's Legal Team as an Associate Counsel.

Mr. Holzapfel has served as the Elizabeth City Attorney since 1993. He is a Trustee of the New Jersey Institute of Local Government Attorneys. He is a past President of the Union County Bar Association. He served as a member and Chair of the District XII Ethics Committee and Trustee and Chair of the Clients Security Fund, now known as the Lawyers Fund for Client Protection. He is a former Chair of the Public Utility Law and Local Government Law Sections of the New Jersey State Bar Association and former Chair of the NJSBA Government and Public Sector Lawyers Committee.

Mr. Holzapfel has received the Diplomat designation in Municipal Law and the Distinguished Service Award from the New Jersey Utilities Association for his work on the New Jersey Digest of Public Utility Decisions.

Mr. Holzapfel received his B.A. from Union College and his L.L.B., cum laude, from Albany Law School where he was an Associate Editor of the Albany Law Review. In 2000, he received the Professional Lawyer of the Year Award for Union County from the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law on the recommendation of the Union County Bar Association.

He has also been elected a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Mr. Holzapfel is a retired Colonel in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. ▲



John T. Gregorio Will Be Missed



John T. Gregorio, an eight term Mayor of Linden and former state Senator and Assemblyman, died October 23, 2013. He was 87.

"John was a friend of the League, who helped to show me the ropes when I first started with the League over 30 years ago," said Executive Director Bill Dressel. "He was always sensitive to local concerns and went out of his way for us on many occasions."

Mr. Gregorio, who was known as the "Lion of Linden" or "Mr. Linden" was first elected as the city's mayor in 1967 and served for nearly 30 years.

Born and raised in Staten Island, NY, Mr. Gregorio moved to Linden in 1950. He and his wife, Marie, opened and operated the House of Flowers Floral Shop for the past 63 years. Mr. Gregorio was a Navy veteran of World War II, serving as a radar man in the European Theater.

Mr. Gregorio was elected to the Linden City Council in 1964 and became mayor three years later. He was elected

to the General Assembly, where he served from 1976 to 1978, and then to the State Senate, where he served from 1979 until 1983. He also served on the Senate Labor, Industry and Professions committees.

His accomplishments as Mayor include attracting new shops, restaurants, and the Linden Airport, and overseeing the construction of the football field, a new library, and senior citizen and low-income housing. The John T. Gregorio Humanitarian Association helped pay needy residents' utility bills, and bought refrigerators or food for those less fortunate.

Mr. Gregorio was a coach and officer for the Linden P.A.L. Baseball Little League. He served as a member of the Juvenile Conference Committee, the Linden Volunteer Ambulance Squad, and the Union County Psychiatric Committee. John was the director of the Metropolitan Regional Council and a member of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Legislative Committee, and the New Jersey Narcotics Officers Association. He was also named chairman of the Metropolitan Regional Council Water Pollution Agency.

Mr. Gregorio belonged to the Linden Lions Club, Linden Kiwanis Club, Linden Knights of Columbus Council 2859, American Legion Post 102, and V.F.W. Post 1397, and was a proud holder of a silver life card from Linden PBA 42. ▲

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By Taran B. Samhammer
Bureau Services & Research Coordinator,
Bureau of Municipal Information

Bay Head has lowered flood insurance rates for residents living in flood hazard areas through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). This voluntary incentive program encourages municipalities to exceed the minimum requirements of floodplain management. Municipalities are rated on a scale from 1 to 10. Based on the rating received, residents in flood hazard areas can reduce their insurance rates by up to 45 percent.



Bergen County recently distributed 112 personal radiation detectors that were purchased with a Homeland Security grant to municipalities. The devices are part of a federally-funded antiterrorism initiative designed to prevent the concealment or transport of radioactive materials. To receive a detector at no cost to their municipality, inspectors were required to attend a seven-hour training course on how to use the devices. The detectors are about the size of a large cellphone and cost approximately \$50 each.



Part of **Highland Park's** new wellness series, known as "Walk the Park" encourages residents to exercise, while gaining a greater appreciation of their community. Each month the town sponsors a themed walk in a different section of the borough. Walks take place on weekday evenings, and themes thus far have included the environment, architecture and local trees.



In other **Highland Park** news, the borough became the first municipality in New Jersey to ban fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, a process of exploring for natural gas. The borough passed this symbolic ordinance to protect its residents from any negative effects they feel fracking may have on the environment.



In an attempt to stop employees from abusing city property, **Jersey City** implemented a 30-day trial program to track city-owned vehicles. A GPS tracking system was installed in the vehicles that will enable the city to track the vehicle's location, route taken, stop time and idle time. This information can be accessed using a smartphone app. The vehicles were tracked while employees were both on and off the clock. By tracking vehicles, the city hopes to eliminate excess stops during working hours and limit personal use of city vehicles. This will ultimately save money, improve employee accountability and reduce fuel consumption. The system also monitors when vehicles are due for an inspection or maintenance.

Millburn Fire Department offers residents complimentary fire prevention inspections of their homes. Residents may elect to have a certified fire inspector visit their home to identify areas where they may improve safety and decrease chances of an accidental fire. At the resident's convenience, inspectors will check fire extinguishers, smoke alarms and attempt to identify any potential hazards. Often hazards are as simple as too many items plugged into one outlet or cardboard boxes piled up next to a radiator.



In September **Teaneck** passed an ordinance to waive construction permit fees and other enforcing agency fees for disabled residents wishing to improve accessibility in their homes. Waiving these fees will help to alleviate some of the costs associated with performing construction, reconstruction, alterations and/or improvements. Disabled residents and the parents or siblings of a disabled person may qualify for this waiver. Nonprofit organizations may have fees waived when the renovation cost is less than \$50,000.



Events

- December 3** . . . Public Contracting Law: A Look at Consent of Surety and Its Implications, Robert Meyner Reception Center, Holmdel
- December 5** . . . Public Contracting Law: A Look at Consent of Surety and Its Implications, Deptford Municipal Building, Deptford
- December 9** . . . Understanding the Affordable Care Act, Conference Center At Mercer, West Windsor
- January 11** . . . Orientation for Newly Elected, Re-Elected, or Experienced Municipal Officials; Renaissance Meadowlands Hotel; Rutherford
- January 25** . . . Orientation for Newly Elected, Re-Elected, or Experienced Municipal Officials; Sheraton; Eatontown

Visit njslom.org/seminars for changes and updates.
For more information on seminars, contact Danielle Holland-Htut at dholland@njslom.org or (609) 695-3481, Ext. 118.

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