

nj municipalities

Official Publication of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities

April 2014

New Brunswick Ciclovía

Fun & Fitness in the Streets

- 15 Lessons from Superstorm Sandy
- Fixing "Pay to Play" Laws
- Celebrating 350 Years of NJ History



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EDITOR
William G. Dressel, Jr.

MANAGING EDITOR
Kyra Z. Duran

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Taran B. Samhammer

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Lori Buckelew
Michael F. Cerra
Jon R. Moran
Edward Purcell, Esq.
Taran B. Samhammer

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Dawn Becan
White Eagle Printing Company

SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER
Thomas Fratticcioli

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**Energy
Savings
With
No Capital
Costs**



We upgraded our municipal buildings without spending a dime

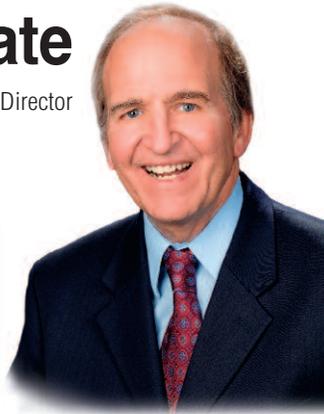
Our municipal buildings were in desperate need of improvements, but there was never room in the budget. With the Energy Savings Improvement Program, the entire cost of the project was paid from the future energy savings.

That's energy smart!

To learn more about the Energy Savings Improvement Program for school districts and local governments, visit NJCleanEnergy.com/ESIP or call 866-NJSMART to speak with a program representative.

Recover, restore, and rebuild after Hurricane Sandy. Visit NJCleanEnergy.com/SANDY to learn about enhanced incentives for school districts, government buildings and homeowners.





Mayors Need Partners for Property Tax Relief

In his February budget address, Governor Christie noted that, while the state still has a long way to go toward meeting its pension obligations, local governments could see a \$135 million reduction in their pension bills this year.

When state and local governments work together on an issue, good things can happen for our citizens. These savings prove it.

Good things can happen for our citizens when state government and local governments work together on an issue.

In 2011, Governor Christie and bipartisan majorities in the Legislature enacted meaningful pension system reforms—reforms that your League of Municipalities had been advocating since

2005, when Governor Codey created the Benefits Review Task Force. Governor Christie and legislative leaders deserve our thanks for recent reforms that helped pave the way to the upcoming pension savings.

But they alone did not produce the savings. A key factor was the willingness of the state's Division of Pensions to work with the League's Pension and Benefits Reform Committee, under the leadership of East Brunswick CFO L. Mason Neely, to fairly apportion pension system costs and assets between the state and local employers. We commend all involved in that process, as well.

The final factor that made these savings possible is that local officials, despite the lingering effects of the Great Recession, have managed to fully fund their pension obligations. At the same time, they have faced a series of natural disasters including Hurricane Irene, the Halloween snow storm, the great derecho, Superstorm Sandy and one of the worst winters in years.

New Jersey municipal officials deserve a lot more credit than they will get for their part in gaining the savings. But the key thing to recall is that good things can happen for our citizens when state government and local governments work together on an issue. ♪



New and improved!

Welcome to the newly redesigned League magazine!

We hope you find the new format easier to access and more fun to read. As always, we welcome your comments and insights.

The changes include the new **NJ Now** section which features news and helpful information for the busy municipal official. This new feature has grown out of the long-running Garden STATEments column on our back page. To include a brief news item, contact Taran Samhammer at tsamhammer@NJSLOM.org. Also, consider adding her to your press release email list.

Starting next month we will be adding a new section, called **Spotlight**, that will focus on a key municipal issue each month. The **Spotlight** for May will be energy.

We'll be seeking articles from you, our readers. **Make this the year that you put your town on the map with an article in NJ Municipalities!**



Social Security to Delay Changes

Several changes in Social Security Office procedures have been delayed until the summer, based on feedback the agency received from its stakeholders.

Beginning August 2014, the agency will no longer issue Social Security number printouts in field offices. Individuals who need proof of their Social Security number and cannot find their card, will need to apply for a replacement card.

In addition, beginning October 2014, field offices will stop providing benefit verification (Award) letters, except in emergency situations. Benefit verifications are available online, and can be obtained anytime by registering for a My Social Security account located at: www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount, or requested through our national toll-free number: 1(800)772-1213.

Outreach materials are available at Social Security's third party page, www.socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty/whatsnew.html.

EDUCATION

Mayors Book Club



Pleasantville Mayor Jesse E. Tweedle, Sr. reads "Where the Wild Things Are" to members of Ms. Maisto's first grade class, which was selected to participate in the 2014 Mayors' Book Club. The program, sponsored by the League of Municipalities and the Stockton College School of Education, is designed to encourage a love of reading from an early age.

NEW INCENTIVE PROGRAM SUPPORTS BUSINESSES

Approved Projects Expected to Create More Than 1,100 Jobs

The Board of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) took action on February 11 to approve incentives and financing that encourage a diversity of businesses to increase employment in New Jersey, as well as to advance significant redevelopment in Paterson and Ewing. In total, these projects spanning Camden County to Passaic County are expected to create nearly 1,165 new jobs, 590 retained jobs and 435 construction jobs.

"The projects approved today by the Board reflect the scope of New Jersey's efforts to maintain and advance its business-friendly environment," said EDA Chief Executive Officer Michele Brown. "EDA assistance is often a crucial first step for these projects to advance and materialize, and when they do, they spur significant economic development and job growth in our state."

Expanded and strengthened under the Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 signed by Governor Christie in September, the Grow New Jersey Assistance (Grow NJ) Program is designed to be the state's main job incentive program.

More information and applications for the Grow NJ and Economic Development and Growth Program (ERG) programs are available at Grow NJ and ERG websites: njeda.com/GrowNJ and njeda.com/ERG.

To learn more about opportunities for business growth throughout New Jersey, visit the state's business portal at www.NewJersey-Business.gov. For more information on the Stronger NJ Business programs, visit application.njeda.com/strongernjbusiness or call 1-855-SANDY-BZ (1-855-726-3929).

POWER TO LEARN AND NEWS 12 WEST

Government Day in West New York

On December 4, 2013 tenth-grade students from Memorial High School explored the relationship between local and state government through a program offered by Cablevision’s Power to Learn, in conjunction with News 12. Participating in the program were Assemblyman Vincent Prieto, West New York Mayor Felix Roque and News 12 Reporter Luke Margolis.

Following opening remarks by Principal Scott Wohlrab and Superintendent John Fauta, News 12 New Jersey Reporter Luke Margolis presented a News 12 video on Assemblyman Prieto who, along with West New York Mayor Felix E. Roque, discussed the subject matter with students. Teacher Francesca Sanchez then spoke about the student’s use of Cablevision technology. Student presentations included a PowerPoint narrated by student Edwin Guardado and a video featuring interviews with Mayor Roque and each City Commissioner discussing their role in local government. The program concluded with a Q&A with Assemblyman Prieto and Reporter Margolis. 📌



Participants in Government Day included (left to right) Charles Krajewski, Assistant Principal, Memorial High School; Thurman Barnes, Cablevision Director Government Affairs; Sandra Rivas, Social Studies District Supervisor; Mayor of West New York Felix Roque; Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto; Luke Margolis, News 12 Reporter; Scott Wohlrab, Principal; Anastasia Olivero, Assistant Superintendent; Francisca Sanchez, Social Studies Teacher; and students

Committee on Pet Ownership

Ridgewood Village’s Responsible Pet Ownership Committee educates residents on pet ownership and safety, as educating the public will help to improve the living conditions of both pets and humans. The committee consists of residents and town representatives, and will make recommendations on pet-related issues in Ridgewood. 📌



DRUG-FREE NEW JERSEY

Middle School Students Participate in PSA Challenge

Middle school students throughout New Jersey are taking part in the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey’s annual Middle School Public Service Announcement Challenge.

The contest asks students to write scripts to 30 second PSAs containing important peer-to-peer substance abuse prevention messages for a chance to have their script professionally filmed and aired on televisions throughout the tri-state area.

“The Middle School PSA Challenge encourages our kids to become substance abuse prevention advocates,” said Angelo M. Valente, Executive Director of the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey. “We are always so pleased to see the powerful messages the students create to inspire their peers to lead a healthy lifestyle.”

Last year’s winners, Emily Brzozowski, Audrey Mannion, and Caroline Savage of Brielle Elementary School, used statistics and common sense to explain how people are irrationally afraid of events that rarely occur, such as plane crashes or shark attacks, when the real menace is substance abuse.

Valente hopes that this year’s Challenge will yield even more creativity during a time when heroin and prescription drug abuse are reaching epidemic in New Jersey. “With the current substance abuse trends gripping our state, these young voices encouraging others stay drug free are more important than ever,” he noted.

Students interested in entering the Middle School Public Service Announcement Challenge should visit drugfreenj.org/2014mmpsarules/. 📌

AMERICA'S CHAMPIONS

New Jersey Hosts Special Olympics USA Games



In 2014, New Jersey will welcome America's Champions at a historic, life and perception-changing event. From June 14-21, New Jersey will host the 2014 Special Olympics USA Games where more than 3,500 athletes from around the country will compete in 16 sports before tens of thousands of fans and volunteers.

Sports competitions will be held throughout Mercer County, at Princeton University, Rider University, The College of New Jersey, Mercer County Park and several private schools in the area. In addition to the many sports being showcased an Opening Ceremony will be held at Prudential Center in Newark, and a Closing Ceremony at Sun National Bank Center. The 2014 Special Olympics USA Games will celebrate the Special Olympics movement, promote the ideals of acceptance and inclusion through sport, while highlighting the abilities of athletes with intellectual disabilities.

In a press conference announcing that the Garden State would be the host, Governor Chris Christie said that "these Games would place a spotlight on what makes New Jersey the greatest...the strength of the human spirit." There will be ample opportunities for New Jersey residents to show their spirit and join the team through volunteerism, donations and attendance.

- **Volunteer**—The Games Organizing Committee is recruiting over 10,000 volunteers to assist with the planning and implementation of the operations of the Games. For more information about volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at www.2014specialolympics.org.
- **\$2014 for 2014 Campaign**—Pledge to raise \$2,014 by 2014. By becoming a member of the \$2014 for 2014 Team, you will join supporters from around the country. Team members receive access to hospitality tents, reserved Opening Ceremonies seating, a name listed in the Games program and commemorative 2014 USA Games gear.
- **Be a Fan**—Attend any or all of the sports competitions which are free and open to the public. A tentative schedule of events is now available on the 2014 USA Games website. 📌

Trenton Adds Police Chaplains

Trenton recently joined the Police Chaplain Program, which allows local faith-based leaders of various religious sects to work with police and provide a higher quality of assistance to communities. When responding to those in need, faith-based leaders may provide emotional or spiritual support to victims while police officers handle law enforcement matters. Religious leaders may also provide counseling to the officers themselves, for example, following a line of duty shooting. Religious leaders wishing to participate in the program must first complete a training program. 📌

Mansfield Relocates Municipal Offices

Last spring Mansfield Township (Burlington) relocated its municipal offices into a new building, as the older facility was no longer large enough. Because of the move, the township's offices and Fire Department now occupy the same building. Some of this project was funded through grants, including the addition of landscaping. Landscaping was provided through the county's 2013 No Net Loss Tree Planting Project, a program compensating municipalities for trees that were cut down to widen the New Jersey Turnpike. The addition of a handicapped accessible ramp at the entrance was funded through a \$65,000 grant through the county's Community Development Block Grant program. 📌

Pemberton Merges Fire and EMS

Pemberton Township recently merged their EMS and fire departments. The township believes this merger will improve volunteer services by restructuring the organization to create a unified Fire and EMS department. The township will also create a unified recruitment program in an attempt to increase the number of active volunteers and allow cross training of personnel. 📌

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Collecting Canned Goods on Election Day



This past November Woodbridge voters were asked to bring canned goods to polling locations for an Election Day food drive, coordinated by local high school students in coordination with the township and Board of Elections. After polling locations closed, donations made to the “Cast-A-Can-When-You-Cast-Your-Vote” program were sorted by students and distributed to local food pantries. 🗳️

Charging Stations

This past April the New Brunswick Parking Authority installed three electric car charging stations in city garages. The city feels the addition of available charging stations help promote electric cars as viable sources of transportation, as many people are discouraged from purchasing or leasing these vehicles due to a scarcity of public charging stations. Charging at the stations will be free. 🗳️



New Generator for Westfield Public Works

Westfield received \$75,000 through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to purchase a backup generator for its Public Works Facility. This grant program awards funds for energy resilience projects, and municipalities applying for a grant were asked to supply detailed information on their energy usage, as well as how they were impacted by Superstorm Sandy and any electrical outages that occurred. Awards were given based on criteria such as population density, participation in the National Flood Insurance Program and FEMA Public Assistance data. 🗳️



GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD

GASB Launches Free Electronic Newsletter

On February 12 the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), launched the GASB Outlook, a new quarterly, electronic newsletter designed to keep stakeholders informed about key GASB projects and activities.

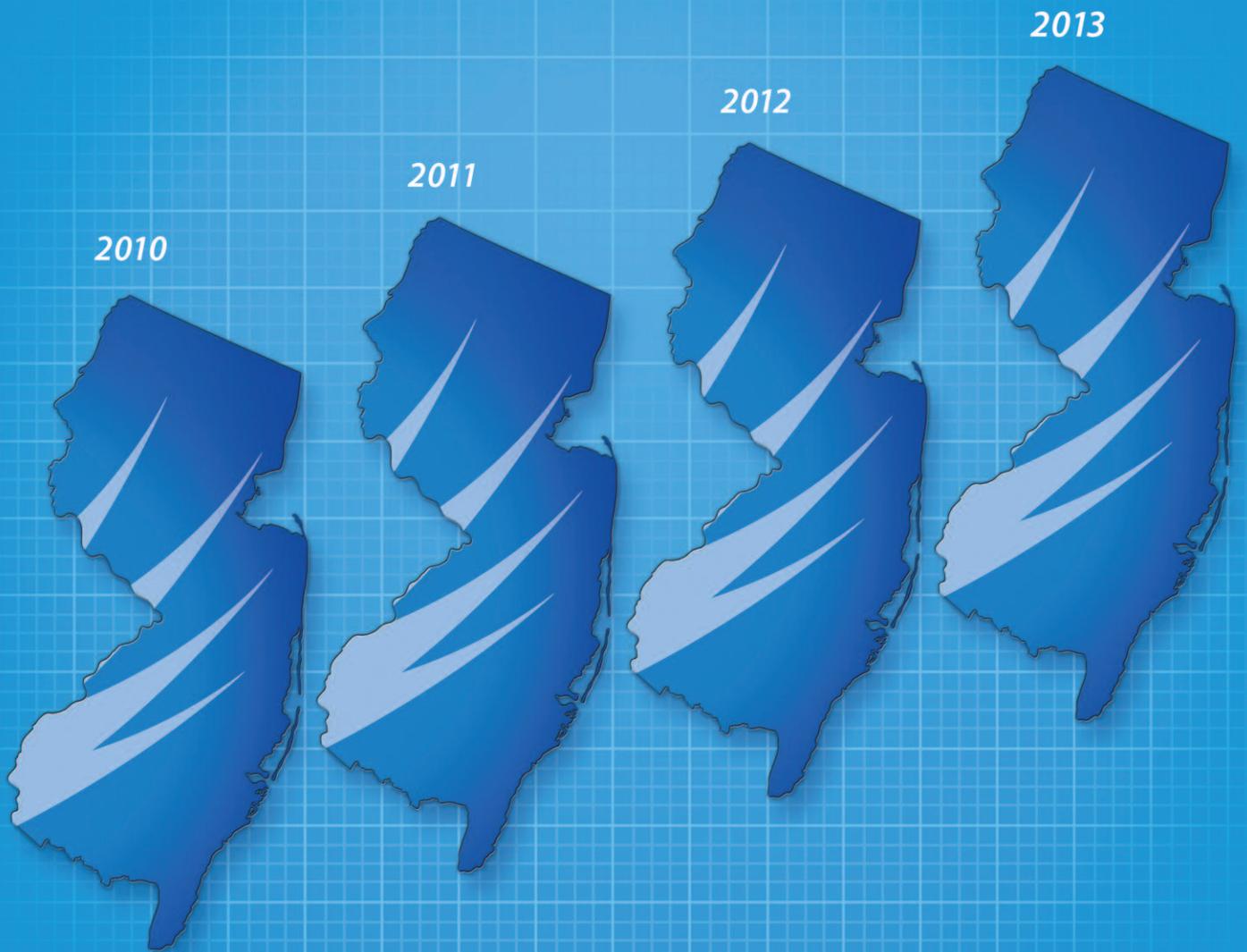
GASB Outlook is designed to provide non-technical stakeholders with more high-level/plain-English information about projects in progress and insights into how the GASB’s efforts may impact them. Each feature provides links to new and existing content, video, and educational materials on updated GASB website for those interested in taking a deeper dive into the more technical issues. 🗳️



To sign up, visit gasb.org/gasboutlook

Bagging for Hunger

Local government officials across New Jersey took part in Bagging for Hunger Day in September, including Lawnside Mayor Mary Ann Wardlow along with local police and fire department members. Participants bagged groceries and checked-out customers at local supermarkets to raise money for local food banks. Customers were asked to donate \$1 at checkout. 🗳️



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IN REMEMBRANCE

Shiloh Mayor Harold L. “Bub” Davis, Jr.

Photo provided by Robert Greco



Mayor Harold L. “Bub” Davis Jr., longtime mayor of Shiloh Borough and a member of the NJLM Legislative Committee died February 20 at his home. Although in declining health, his death was unexpected.

Mayor Davis was in his eighth year as mayor and had been a member of the Shiloh Borough Council since 1982. For

several years he was employed by Don Rogers, Inc. in Bridgeton as their office manager, only retiring a few years ago when he experienced health difficulties. He had also worked for several years at the former Gentile Brothers Contractors in Bridgeton.

He served in the US Navy as a medical corpsman during the Vietnam War. He was proud of his service upon the USS Repose and received several medals and commendations for his service. He later served in the Air Force Reserves.

As a dedicated public servant, Mayor Davis was involved in every facet of community government in Shiloh. In addition to more than 30 years as an elected official, he enjoyed the multiple roles of being the mayor of a small community. He had many interactions with the school community, emergency management teams and also served as Shiloh’s liaison to the Cumberland-Salem Regional Court System. He was a member of the League of Municipalities and had been a sitting board member on the Cumberland Development Corporation.

Mayor Davis prided himself in having an “open door policy” to all who came to him for help and advice. He would often invite those who needed help into his home to discuss the law, policies and how he could be helpful. With no hobbies, he considered it a privilege to help others in as caring and genuine way. ♣

Corrections: The email address and web address for KidsvilleNews! was incorrect in the March issue. The address is lynneberman@KidsvilleNews.com/Camden and the website is KidsvilleNews.com/Camden.

In last month’s Legal Q and A, a sentence should have read that “state law requires [bicycles] to stay to the *right* when riding down the street.” Rather than *left*. N.J.S.A.

Harrison Mayor Raymond McDonough



Harrison Mayor Raymond McDonough died on February 12, at age 65, after suffering a massive heart attack at his Town Hall office.

A lifelong Harrison resident, he had just started his 20th year as mayor. Mayor McDonough began his political career in 1978, when he was sworn in as

councilman for Harrison’s second ward. He continued in this capacity until he was elected mayor 17 years later. He was first elected mayor in 1995 after serving for 17 years on the Town Council. He was following in the footsteps of his father, who was a Harrison alderman and Hudson County freeholder. John V. Kenny, one-time mayor of Jersey City, was his godfather, according to an article in the The Jersey Journal in 1999.

A master plumber and later a Forman for Plumbers Local 24, McDonough was retired from the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission.

The mayor was in the midst of leading a redevelopment effort in Harrison that will replace 250 acres of decaying and contaminated industrial land with residences, businesses, office space and entertainment venues. After years of effort, Mayor McDonough succeeded in convincing the Port Authority to re-build the town’s PATH Station. He was also instrumental in getting new affordable senior housing constructed and starting a medical clinic for the uninsured in partnership with the North Hudson Community Action Corp. ♣

**See Your Town
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If your community has a unique program or story, write to Taran Samhammer c/o The League of Municipalities, 222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608 or via email at tsamhammer@NJSLOM.org.

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With a variety of healthy living initiatives, the City of New Brunswick hopes to encourage healthy eating and exercise so that these children will enjoy a lifetime of good health.

Photo ©Frank Villafañe & Rose Rios www.urbanindustrialimaging.com

Streets Full of Fun

New Brunswick opens city streets for active living

By Jim Cahill
Mayor, City of New Brunswick

A healthy citizenry is essential to a healthy and vibrant city. With this goal in mind, New Brunswick has initiated a number of activities to enhance the lifestyle of our citizens over the past several years.

Biking and skateboarding in the streets One of the more interesting and community-oriented initiatives we offer our citizens is the New Brunswick Ciclovía, held for the first time this past October. A ciclovía is an internationally-renowned health celebration in which local streets are closed to vehicular traffic so that families, friends and neighbors can join together in a day of healthy activities. A ciclovía also aims to enhance community involvement and promote the enjoyment of public spaces that are free of motorized vehicles.

A community focused collaboration The ciclovía is a community-focused collaboration of Healthier New Brunswick, a partnership consisting of the City of New Brunswick, New Brunswick Tomorrow, Johnson & Johnson and Rutgers University, whose mission is to improve the overall health and wellness of the residents of New Brunswick.

The ciclovía came about through the Leadership Tomorrow program sponsored by New Brunswick Tomorrow (NBT), a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of New Brunswick’s residents, by working with public and private institutions and community organizations to help promote self-sufficiency and personal dignity in the citizens of New Brunswick; identifying critical community needs; and responding to those needs.

The Leadership Tomorrow program builds the leadership capacity of its participants through self-assessment, simulations and team projects. The New Brunswick Ciclovía was presented as a team project to a review panel of which I was a member. The panel and NBT leadership were impressed by the presentation and the potential benefits of ciclovía. The concept was brought to Healthier New Brunswick to explore a ciclovía in New Brunswick.

Setting the ciclovía in motion Following the initial meeting with various organizations in January of 2013, the idea received immediate support from all of those in attendance.

From this first meeting an Advisory Committee was formed consisting of residents and representatives from the city, NBT, Rutgers, J&J and other city-based organizations. Additional committees were formed to make the ciclovía a reality, including Logistics, Programming, and Marketing & Communications Committees.

The Advisory Committee set goals for the New Brunswick Ciclovía, which included:

- mobilize community members to embrace active living and increase overall health and wellness;

- promote social interaction and community engagement;
- strengthen appreciation of New Brunswick as a great place to live and work;
- galvanize the city’s diverse organizations, institutions and businesses to strengthen a collective effort around a shared vision for healthy living;
- encourage non-motorized transportation as a safe and alternate mode of transportation; and
- contribute to the global ciclovía movement.

Nearly 5,000 residents, visitors, students, and community leaders walked, biked, skated and jogged in the first ever ciclovía in New Brunswick.

The date of the first New Brunswick Ciclovía was set for October 6, 2013, just nine months from the initial meeting. The 3.4-mile route ran from one end of the city to the other and included local neighborhoods, our downtown district and the Rutgers College Avenue Campus. Residents could use the entire route or any portion of it to enjoy the day, interact with friends and neighbors and thereby enhance their sense of community. The participants also used several city parks that were located along the route.

Ciclovía founder attends The Advisory Committee invited Guillermo (Gil) Peñalosa, who initiated the first ciclovía program 30 years ago in Bogotá, Colombia, to attend New Brunswick’s event. Mr. Peñalosa is an internationally recognized expert on using city streets and parks in new and innovative ways. He is currently the Executive Director of 8-80 Cities, an organization based in Ontario, Canada, which advocates for vibrant and healthy cities through innovative design and use of parks and streets.

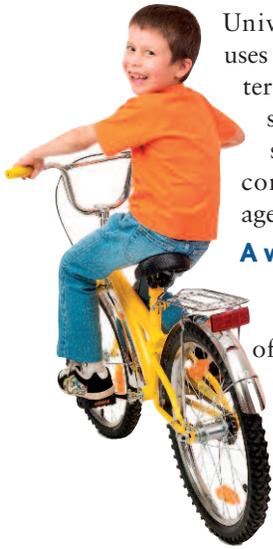
Mr. Peñalosa readily agreed to participate in New Brunswick’s Ciclovía weekend. On the morning of Friday, October 4, Mr. Peñalosa met with city leaders and Ciclovía Committee members to discuss the numerous benefits of ciclovías and methods of encouraging more people to get

involved. Later that the afternoon, Mr. Peñalosa gave a presentation at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy of Rutgers University on innovative uses of streets in urban centers. He urged that cities should and can create space for engaging all community members—ages 8 through 80.

A wonderful, active day

On Sunday, October 6, 2013, the ciclovía officially kicked off at 10:00 a.m. Nearly 5,000 residents, visitors, students, and community leaders walked, biked, skated and jogged in the first ever ciclovía in New Brunswick.

Stations were set up at three locations along the route where activities such as yoga, Zumba, and exercise classes



took place. At 3:00 p.m. when the ciclovía concluded, everyone was still actively enjoying the day and commented that they wished the ciclovía could continue.

One participant summed up the day this way, “I find the event a total success, both from the health perspective and from a social perspective. Not only did the ciclovía foster a considerable amount of physical activity, but it introduced people to New Brunswick neighborhoods they had never been to before. In short, the ciclovía was wonderful.”

With this successful event, the City of New Brunswick has already scheduled three ciclovías in 2014—for May 4, July 12 and October 12. These events will be a regular part of our programming in New Brunswick.

I welcome any municipality interested in learning more about Ciclovías to visit newbrunswickciclovía.com or contact my office. ♪

@ newbrunswickciclovía.com

A Variety of Programs that Promote Health

Our ciclovía, though perhaps the most fun and exciting, is just one of our city’s successful health-focused initiatives. The new fitness and wellness center and a complete streets initiative have also helped New Brunswick residents lead healthier lifestyles. Soon, we will begin to build the New Brunswick Bikeway.

Reducing the price of a gym membership On the second floor of the Wellness Plaza is the Robert Wood Johnson Fitness & Wellness Center, a 60,000 square foot facility with a full-service gym, and an aquatic and educational center. At present, more than 4,000 New Brunswick residents are members of the center at greatly reduced membership rates with no registration fee.

In addition, the center provides free swimming programs for all fourth graders in New Brunswick Public Schools and educational classes for all city residents, regardless of whether they are members of the center. The topics include nutrition, healthy eating and cooking, disease management, weight loss, stress management and targeted health programs for women, men, seniors and children.

Street space for all Also in 2012, the City of New Brunswick adopted a “Complete Streets” policy that accommodates all users of our streets: motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and persons with all levels of ability, including the handicapped, the elderly and children. The Complete Streets policy mandates that our local streets be upgraded to accommodate all uses whenever any new road improvement project is undertaken.

The city was also able to establish dedicated bike lanes and also marked certain road lanes (known as “sharrows”) throughout the city that call for motorists to share the road with cyclists in our busy neighborhoods.

Building the New Brunswick Bikeway Later this year, construction is scheduled to begin on the New Brunswick Bikeway, a dedicated bike lane connecting the College Avenue and Douglass Campuses of Rutgers University through the city’s vibrant downtown.

With all these ongoing programs, the New Brunswick Ciclovía fits seamlessly into the city’s healthy lifestyle efforts that help build a healthier community. ♪

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Beauty, Sustainability and Stormwater Control

The Camden County Soil Conservation District brings rain gardens to Haddonfield

By Jeffrey Stephen Kasko, Mayor, Borough of Haddonfield
& Julie Beddingfield, Co-chair, Sustainable Haddonfield;
Chair, Haddonfield Environmental Commission



The group installed over 450 plants of nine different species in record time.

The Borough of Haddonfield, a 300 year old town, is a nearly completely built-out residential community. As with many such historic towns in New Jersey, Haddonfield’s aging infrastructure and historic development patterns mean we are constantly battling stormwater.

Where and how stormwater flows impacts flooding, water quality, and the cost to maintain infrastructure and other resources. Every infrastructure project in town involves a careful analysis of how the project will affect stormwater movement. This effort requires a significant amount of time from the borough’s staff and engineers. Consequently, we are always looking for ideas and opportunities to improve stormwater management.

Haddonfield’s green team In 2010, Haddonfield established a “green team” (now called Sustainable Haddonfield) and began a concerted effort to develop sustainability practices. That same year, the team earned Sustainable Jersey bronze level certification.

In 2013 the group set a goal to re-certify at the silver level—the highest level available. In order to make that goal, we needed some new and innovative projects. Green infrastructure and rain gardens fit the bill, but we did not have the internal expertise to undertake such a project, so, initially, we shelved the idea.

Fortunately for us, during the summer of 2012 we were contacted by Craig McGee of the Camden County Soil Conservation District (CCSCD). Craig advised us that the CCSCD had just received a Non-Point Source Pollution Control (Section 319h) grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and wanted to do a project in Haddonfield. The

CCSCD partnered with the Rutgers Water Resources Program (RWR) to design, build and demonstrate a variety of green infrastructure and stormwater enhancement projects within the Cooper River watershed.

As Haddonfield continues its efforts toward sustainability, there is no doubt we will continue to turn to CCSCD.

Earlier projects We had already worked successfully with the CCSCD on a number of projects. A few years ago, CCSCD installed rain gardens at two borough schools and CCSCD is working on an ongoing project with RWR to improve water quality in Hopkins Pond, a Camden County Park located in Haddonfield. Throughout these projects, CCSCD has consistently provided technical expertise, learning opportunities for students, and answered community questions whenever needed.

CCSCD identified a location for three curbside rain gardens along a well-used corridor just one block off our main business/shopping district on Kings Highway. A few years earlier, the borough installed raised intersections and curb bumpouts for traffic calming in this area. Using the grant funding, CCSCD proposed to install one curbside rain garden on each of the three bumpouts. Each rain garden would intercept runoff flowing toward the intersection, and infiltrate and filter the stormwater before discharging any overflow back into the street.

The project was appealing because it would be the first green infrastructure installed on borough property. It would also further our Sustainable Jersey goals, and serve as a highly visible example to our residents and neighboring towns of effective green infrastructure.

Initial concerns That said, we had a number of initial questions. How would the rain gardens function? What would

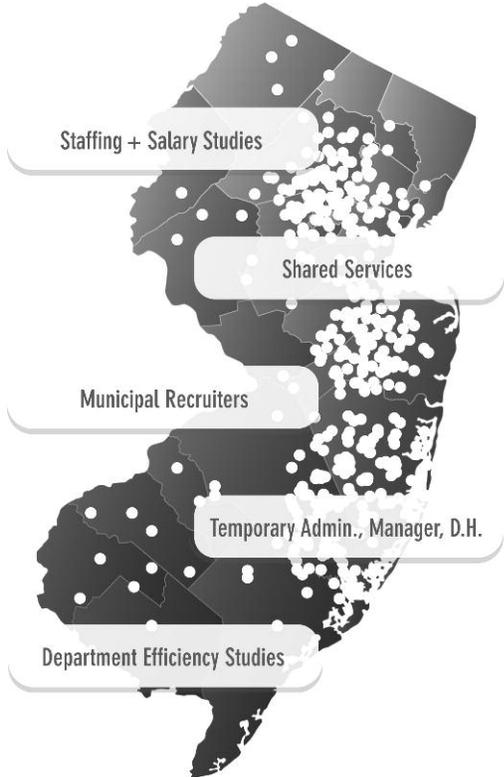
they look like? How would they be maintained? Would they impact visibility at the intersection? How would they affect the health of our street trees and would they fit in with the historic residential district?

To answer these questions and more, Craig McGee, CCSCD Project Director and Jeremiah Bergstrom from the RWR,

met with our Borough Engineer and representatives of the Environmental Commission and Sustainable Haddonfield at the proposed location. Detailed drawings of how the rain garden would be constructed, the types of plants that would be used, and the minimal maintenance required were reviewed. More importantly, CCSCD offered to meet with any other

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borough official or groups to answer questions. They also stood ready to provide assistance, not only until the project was constructed, but until the plantings were established and the gardens were functioning. Based on their commitment, we decided to move forward.

The approval process Mr. McGee subsequently attended a number of additional borough meetings. In addition to the elected Commissioners and groups already on-board; the Police Department, Shade Tree Commission, and Historic Preservation Commission all reviewed and approved the proposal. CCSCD was instrumental in answering their questions, providing information, and satisfying any of their concerns. The Commissioners ultimately passed a resolution to approve the project and enter into a contract with CCSCD for the work. The borough would handle the public bidding and contract the work based on plans and construction specifications supplied the RWR.

Construction Once the bidding process was complete, CCSCD worked cooperatively with the Borough Engineer and Public Works Department to schedule construction of the gardens. Excavation and initial construction was completed in late August, 2013. Simultaneously, Mr. McGee kept in close contact with Sustainable Haddonfield to schedule an educational and community event for planting the rain gardens. Sustainable Haddonfield coordinated over 20 volunteers, including environmental sciences students from the high school, Girl Scouts, and other interested residents, to plant the gardens on September 28, 2013.

He also held an on-site mini-workshop to explain the function and importance of the gardens and how they will help reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality. The group then planted over 450 plants of nine different species in record time.

We were especially pleased that Mr. McGee and CCSCD took the existing



Once the bidding process was complete, CCSCD worked cooperatively with the Borough Engineer and Public Works Department to schedule construction of the three gardens along our right of ways.

landscaping of the neighborhood into consideration when they designed the plantings. As a result, we have three beautiful new green spaces. They will not only will help reduce and improve stormwater, but improve the aesthetics of the right-of-way. The project has also helped point out ways that we can reduce the stormwater burden in our community. As if that weren't enough, we also received points for the project as an "Innovation & Demonstration Project," which helped us achieve Silver Certification from Sustainable Jersey!

Future projects This process has only strengthened our relationship with the CCSCD. At last count at least three different groups involved with the rain gardens are working on projects with Mr. McGee and CCSCD. Volunteer members for the Girl Scouts are planning to plant another rain garden for their troop's Silver Award, the Environmental Commission and a group of residents consulted CCSCD on stormwater issues in another part of town, and a civic group has recently asked Mr. McGee to speak at a forum on infrastructure.

As Haddonfield continues its efforts toward sustainability, there is no doubt we will continue to turn to CCSCD as an invaluable resource and we have no doubt they will continue to play a key role in our efforts. ♻️

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It's Time We Stepped In

By Wayne Smith, Mayor, Township of Irvington;
Member, NJLM Executive Board

When the real estate bubble burst, Wall Street and the banks received government bailouts, despite their role in the predatory lending that led to it. In contrast, the residents of Irvington have been left holding the bag.

Many owe tens of thousands of dollars on mortgages that exceed the market value of their homes. In Irvington, seniors and first time homebuyers are in the worst bind. First generation homeowners were typically the last entrants into the real estate market and as a result purchased their homes close to the high point of the market. In addition many seniors invested in their homes as a retirement savings vehicle.

Sadly this crisis affects all our citizens. Irvington depends on property tax revenue for 85 percent of its budget. Faced with a dramatic rise in abandoned properties and plummeting real estate values, our ability to provide critical public services is in jeopardy. Conditions of blight and urban flight are eroding our local economy.

As Mayor, I will not stand idle while the residents of my township endure financial hardships caused by financial institutions that engaged in highly reprehensible practices.

This crisis requires action. In Irvington, we have decided to use the process of eminent domain to reverse the economically detrimental situation created by the real estate crisis.

We are empowered to pursue an action of eminent domain under New Jersey law through the interest in land component of the law. This power was given to the states by the United States Constitution to ensure the perseverance and furtherance of the public good.

I believe that the Township of Irvington has a grave responsibility to pursue eminent domain action when it is undeniably in the best interest of the public. We believe our eminent domain plan will be cost neutral to residents and will be welcomed by the financial community, which currently does not have a good solution to address this issue.

The first step will be to take an inventory of properties that are currently abandoned or are likely to be abandoned in the near future. Then, we will work with homeowners and financial institutions to obtain a fair market valuation on each property. The next step will be to file eminent domain actions against the mortgage holders of the properties and the required escrow deposits held by the financial firms. We will make every

effort to negotiate with them without resorting to eminent domain, by arranging new financing.

These arrangements will be made with the approval of the commission formed as mandated under New Jersey Eminent Domain Law. The idea is to have the eminent domain action result in a negotiated "short" payment to the institutions that are invested in the mortgages without any additional liability for the unpaid portion being obligated to the homeowner.

As Mayor, I will not stand idle while the residents of my township endure financial hardships caused by financial institutions that engaged in highly reprehensible practices.

Some might call this a radical approach and it is. However, the results of inaction have become unacceptable. And the potential benefits--for homeowners in trouble, for lenders, and for the entire community-- are significant.

First and foremost, this process will enable our hardworking homeowners to remain in their homes with mortgages that equate closely to the fair market value of their properties. It will remove the economic stress and hardship they now face at the prospect of losing their homes.

Second, it will dramatically reduce the threat of blight and the accompanying crime and social issues that result from blight. We expect this process will preserve over \$10,000 in value per property for every 10 or 13 homes that would have lost value as a result of a property abandonment or demolition nearby.

Finally, we believe that the process will benefit mortgage lenders by creating a mechanism for the orderly unwinding of the current imbalance between true market value and mortgage values. The process will allow lenders to remove toxic assets from their balance sheets, which are currently depressing their publicly traded market values.

Once confidence in the real estate market has been restored, business and employment in the township will improve. And with more properties on the tax rolls, the township will be in a better position to provide critical public services.

It's time for local government to step in to use the power of eminent domain to end the housing crisis. We must reverse the tide of mortgage defaults and restore our community. 🍷

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Cell: (908) 601-5509



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John Szeliga

john.p.szeliga@verizon.com

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Cell: (732) 597-3009



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Ocean Gate's Beach Prisms

Slowing the waves and holding the sand

By Paul Kennedy
Mayor, Ocean Gate



Four years ago a local resident approached me to talk about how the lagoon in front of his home had been filling up with sand, year after year. He introduced me to beach prisms.

What are beach prisms? Beach prisms are precast concrete barriers that measure 4 foot tall by 10 foot long. Their triangular slotted design provides the stability and durability needed to withstand major storms and floods. Water can flow through, dissipating wave action, thus allowing sand in the wave to drop out. Because they are not solid; water, plants, and marine animals can move naturally through them. In contrast, stone breakwaters and seawalls are much more disruptive.

Together we looked into this technology and decided to take action.

Seeking consensus and approvals Over the next few years, we met with representatives of the USACE (United States Army Corp of Engineers) and the NJDEP. I presented the idea to the

governing body at the time and received their informal approval to move forward with the idea. Next, Ocean Gate applied for a USACE permit and a NJDEP permit to use beach prisms to control sand and water movement.

During the public comment periods, 40 or 50 residents signed an independent petition in favor of the concept. About a year ago representatives from Smith Midland came to a Borough Council meeting and presented the idea of using beach prisms. Smith Midland's consulting engineer, a former USACE chief engineer from the Baltimore office, provided a great insight into their effectiveness. The engineer had also served as a consultant for New Jersey for the Sandy disaster.

The prisms were designed in the 1980s to prevent beach



This lagoon had been filling up with sand. Beach prisms have helped to keep the sand from flowing out of the river.

By mid-December 2013, the prisms were installed in the Toms River near the borough's Anglesea Avenue parking lot, at a cost of approximately \$82,505.

erosion in the Chesapeake Bay. In the past 30 years the prisms have proven to be an economical solution there and across North America. After the presentation a group of residents took a trip to the Chesapeake Bay to learn how effective the prisms have been there. They were impressed with what they saw.

The past four years has been a real struggle to get this project approved by the USACE and the NJDEP. Several studies were done by both groups. After visits by USACE representatives several times

in 2013, and also working very closely with the NJDEP, for all this time—Superstorm Sandy hit. The damage from the storm made it very clear that we needed to move forward with the beach prism project, sooner rather than later.

A two phase approach In the summer of 2013, both USACE and NJDEP, approved the project, with a few stipulations. The NJDEP required a two phase implementation. If phase 1 worked, phase 2 could move forward. If not, the borough would be responsible for removing the prisms. The Army Corp of Engineers required that the prisms be installed only between July 1 and December 31, to avoid disrupting the winter flounder run that takes place off the New Jersey coast.

The project went out to bid, and then re-bid. Smith Midland, of Midland, Virginia was awarded the contract in October of 2013. By mid-December 2013, the prisms were installed in the Toms River near the borough's Anglesea Avenue parking lot, at a cost of approximately \$82,505. We placed 35 prisms in the area of most serious beach erosion--where the water was beginning to erode the newly paved borough parking lot. Soon after they were installed, we noticed that the sand is collecting in front of and behind the prisms. The NDEP has said that their office will be visiting sometime in mid-summer to check on the status of the project.

Once the project is approved by the NJDEP, we will put Phase 2 out to bid

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The Army Corp of Engineers required that the prisms be installed only between July 1 and December 31, to avoid disrupting the winter flounder run that takes place off the New Jersey coast.

and hopefully get the remaining prisms placed in the other eroding areas.

Cost-effective protection The use of beach prisms is the most cost-effective means of protecting shorelines. The prisms have been documented to reduce water turbulence, so they will also play a role in mitigating flooding in future

storms. The borough has plans to replace the 350' bulkhead on our western shoreline. We are also planning to construct a FEMA-approved sand berm all along our mile-long shoreline (other than where prisms are to be placed). In addition, a 6 foot seawall is to be placed down into the beach directly in front of the boardwalk.

I encourage other shore towns to investigate the advantages of beach prisms. By allowing the movement of water plants and animals, the barriers conserve the beach without changing the natural environment as much as other erosion projects. They are proving effective and cost effective in Ocean Gate. 🇺🇸



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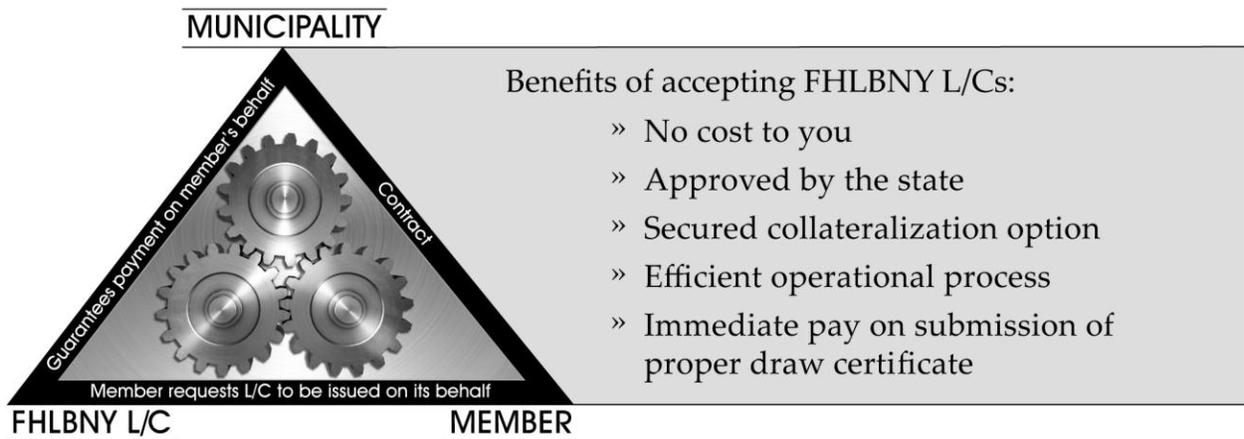
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Facing Disasters, Large and Small, Together

Jersey City and the Red Cross work to improve disaster response

By Steven M. Fulop, Mayor, Jersey City;
Member, NJLM Executive Board
& Mathieu Nelessen, American Red Cross North
Jersey Regional Chief Executive Officer



The American Red Cross is working with Jersey City officials to enhance response protocol and citizen volunteer training. The two agencies have a long history of working together to resolve crises and bringing relief to families who are suffering as a result of a fire, hurricane or other disaster.

Joint event on emergency response On September 27, 2013 during National Preparedness Month, Jersey City, the Red Cross and Verizon held an event at the Jersey City Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Command Center to highlight improvements to public and private preparedness efforts in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

The event showcased an impressive array of disaster response vehicles, including Jersey City's Mass Care Response Unit, the Jersey City Medical Center's EMS Task Force Medical Ambulance Bus, Verizon's 51-foot Mobile Command Center and the American Red Cross prototype for the new Next Generation Emergency Response Vehicle.

In addition to displaying new equipment, the event featured presentations by experts from the Red Cross, Verizon, FEMA and Jersey City, who stressed the importance of disaster preparedness and volunteerism. The event highlighted many of the technological tools, equipment and know-how that can be used to help people communicate, be more self-sufficient and better informed during disasters.

Enhanced communications Last year, Jersey City also expanded the Resident Response Center (RRC), so that it can address the needs of constituents more quickly and efficiently. During emergencies, RRC can now field calls from the community, so

first responders and other skilled personnel can respond quickly to emerging issues.

Preparing individuals to help themselves As Mayor, I have seen first-hand what having a preparedness plan can mean and encourage all residents to use the Red Cross tools to develop the right one for their home and their family. Also, it is my hope that mayors throughout New Jersey can become advocates

that require preparedness and having a plan in place can make all the difference.

We should all take the time to prepare our households for disasters large and small. In Jersey City we are encouraging households to assemble an emergency kit that can be carried with them in the event of an evacuation. In addition, each family or individual should have at least two weeks of emergency supplies at home. The Red Cross also recommends that families determine how they'll communicate with loved ones in the event of a disaster and review it with one another regularly.

Free apps and web resources The Red Cross has free mobile apps that provide information on what to do before, during and after emergencies; and how to develop an emergency plan. Additional free tools are available at redcross.org/prepare.

Use the Red Cross Ready Rating™ Program (readyrating.org), a free, web-based program designed to help businesses, organizations and schools

become better prepared. Members complete an assessment of their current readiness level and receive customized feedback with resources to improve preparedness. First Aid Emergency Drills help businesses train their staff for emergencies and disasters.

Become a volunteer Jersey City's RRC has started a volunteer database through a program called Neighbors Helping Neighbors. More than 100 volunteers have already registered.

In the aftermath of Sandy, we saw the vital role that volunteers played in assisting their neighbors. In many cases Jersey City residents stepped up and helped others, even though their own homes and families were impacted.

More than 4,000 trained Red Cross volunteers assisted with relief efforts in New Jersey in the months following Sandy. And thousands of people volunteered throughout the state, helping nonprofits and grassroots efforts provide various forms of relief to the victims.

In the aftermath of Sandy, we saw the vital role that volunteers played in assisting their neighbors.

on this important issue and encourage their residents to become prepared. There are many types of emergencies

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Experiencing the worst brought out the best in many people.

But there's no reason to wait for disaster to strike before becoming a volunteer. Now is the time to register and receive the training you'll need to help your neighbors in the aftermath of the next disaster.

Whether it's the Red Cross, community food banks, local Citizens Emergency Response Teams (CERT), or any of the New Jersey Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (NJVOAD)--get involved today so you can make a difference when you're needed most.

Fires, the everyday disaster While large-scale disasters grab the headlines, home fires devastate families every day throughout New Jersey. Last year, the Red Cross assisted 1,751 New Jersey families who were displaced by fires. Red Cross volunteers are on call 24/7 to respond to the scene to provide for the victims immediate needs, which can include temporary shelter, financial assistance for food and clothing, health-care and emotional health services.

The Red Cross provides emergency disaster relief at a critical time - immediately following a disaster. Several studies have shown that post-disaster intervention is critical in reducing the physical and psychological impacts of emergencies. Red Cross disaster services improve



During the past six months alone, Jersey City experienced 24 home fire disasters, forcing at least 193 people out of their homes and onto the street. Many lost everything they owned. More than \$32,000 in Red Cross emergency assistance was provided to help these families recover.

the ability of disaster victims to plan for their long-term recovery and help to facilitate their return to their pre-disaster housing status.

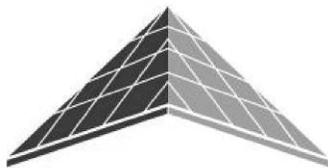
Long-term recovery An important component to long-term recovery for disaster victims is community support. While the Red Cross provides immediate assistance, the local community often must step in to ensure a successful recovery for many affected families.

Mayors play a pivotal role in this process. In addition to overall leadership of the response itself, mayors take a lead with recovery efforts for the families, providing access to additional resources in their municipalities. This includes making local services available as well as coordination with community organizations that can step in to help families recover in the days and weeks to come.

During the past six months alone, Jersey City experienced 24 home fire disasters, forcing at least 193 people out of their homes and onto the street. Many lost everything they owned. More than \$32,000 in Red Cross emergency assistance was provided to help these families recover.

On the day before Thanksgiving, a Jersey City fire left 21 people homeless with nowhere to go. In conjunction with the Red Cross, Jersey City residents stepped up to help the families with several fundraisers.

The City of Jersey City and the Red Cross are committed to working together to better prepare the community and to provide assistance for the victims. ♣



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Our Power Grid Needs an Upgrade

By Donald M. Payne, Jr., Congressman, Tenth District

In October of 2012, Hurricane Sandy wreaked havoc up and down New Jersey, uprooting families, taking out power lines, damaging critical infrastructure, and disrupting our local economies. Many towns in my district were under water and were without power for nearly two weeks, devastating families and closing businesses. And that was just the beginning of the destruction.

As the sole member from New Jersey on the House Committee on Homeland Security, and as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications, I believe it is my responsibility to ensure that we learn from the lessons wrought by Hurricane Sandy, that we must strengthen and prepare ourselves for future disasters.

Hurricane Sandy demonstrated just how weak our electric grid is and how our critical infrastructure can quickly become vulnerable to layered disasters like a natural disaster or a cyber attack.

These disasters, whether made by man or by Mother Nature, are a drain on our nation's economy and expose us to other potentially more harmful attacks on our financial, chemical, telecommunications, water, wastewater, and energy sectors.

Our reactionary approach to disasters is putting the nation's security at risk—and costing us a fortune in the process. According to the Department of Energy, between 2003 and 2012, close to 700 power outages occurred due to weather related events, costing the nation an annual average of \$18 billion to \$33 billion. Even worse, in 2012, Hurricane Sandy carried an estimated price tag of anywhere between \$40 billion and \$52 billion.

Put simply, our power grid needs an upgrade. It must be strengthened and made more resilient to withstand multiple kinds of disasters. It not only makes sense from a homeland security perspective, but it makes good economic sense, too.

That is why last August I introduced H.R. 2962, the bipartisan SMART Grid Study Act, which passed through the arduous committee process and was unanimously approved as an amendment to H.R. 3696, the Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, just last month.

At a time when it seems like Democrats and Republicans cannot work together on anything, I am proud to say that my bill received much bipartisan support, especially from the New Jersey delegation. Congressmen Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06), Robert Andrews (D-NJ-01), Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ-11), Bill Pascrell (D-NJ-09), Rush Holt (D-NJ-12), Albio Sires (D-NJ-08), and Leonard Lance (R-NJ-07) have all signed on as cosponsors, putting the people of New Jersey, not themselves, first. The SMART Grid Study Act has also been publicly endorsed by the National Electrical Manufacturer's Association, Demand Response & Smart Grid Coalition, and the American Public Power Association, and I have worked closely with PSEG to raise awareness about our need for greater resiliency.

Put simply, our power grid needs an upgrade. It must be strengthened and made more resilient to withstand multiple kinds of disasters. It not only makes sense from a homeland security perspective, but it makes good economic sense, too.

My bill provides the forward-thinking kind of investment that is so desperately needed to fully explore the steps we can take to strengthen our power grid, reduce the devastation of these threats, and make us more secure in the process.

The Smart Grid Study Act will provide:

- A \$2 million comprehensive study by the National Research Council in full cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security and other government agencies, paid for by amounts appropriated to the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year that this bill is enacted, resulting in zero additional costs to the taxpayers.

- A comprehensive assessment of actions necessary to expand and strengthen the capabilities of the electrical power system to prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from a natural disaster or cyber attack.
- A comprehensive outline of the construction and technical development stages, costs, jobs created, energy savings, and environmental protections associated with fully upgrading our electric grid.
- A study of the grid's ability to adapt to the changing patterns of demand for electricity as well as the ability of the grid to store and transfer power across energy sectors and geographic regions.

As leaders, we have an obligation to invest in our future, but we often find ourselves managing from crisis to crisis. Tight budgets and costs often inhibit our ability to see beyond the crisis at hand. But what happens when these "100-year storms" start ravaging New Jersey every few years? After storms like Nor'easter, Hurricane Irene and Hurricane Sandy, how do we justify the lack of investment now?

This sort of short-sightedness is the very reason why we have had to pay billions after a disaster like Hurricane Sandy occurs.

We may not be able to prevent a storm like Hurricane Sandy, but we can prepare to defend against the kind of devastation New Jerseyans experienced both during and after it hit landfall. It is my priority that we mitigate these more frequent storms by providing the investments now to upgrade, strengthen, and modernize our electric grid, rather than pay the exponential costs of damages later.

With this effort, we will make New Jersey and our communities safer, and save billions in the process. Failing to do the work on the front-end to mitigate these threats of future disasters or cyber attacks from outside actors will only cost us more on the backend in years to

come. We can't afford to play catch-up and wait any longer. We owe it to our communities, our families, and our economy to prepare for and mitigate the damage from these storms.

With this kind of action and commitment, not only are we creating a smarter

grid, but we are creating a safer and more resilient one in the process. 🇺🇸

U.S. Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr. proudly represents New Jersey's Tenth Congressional District, which includes Newark, Jersey City, and the Oranges.



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nj municipalities
Official Publication of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities

Making the Most of Local TV

The Jersey Access Group provides information and networking for community access channels

By Brian C. Wahler, Mayor, Piscataway;
Member, NJLM Executive Board;



Piscataway Community TV (PCTV) has long been a part of my town of Piscataway. PCTV was established in 1984 through a federal grant awarded to Piscataway by the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA). That grant money was used to purchase start-up equipment for a small TV operation. Since then PCTV has produced coverage of hundreds of hours of events and produced thousands of programs that are of interest to the residents of Piscataway and central New Jersey.

Trained volunteers Piscataway has always prided itself on its volunteers and those involved with our TV station are a shining example of what can be accomplished when residents step forward and donate their time. Our training program and volunteer crews have been an important component of the PCTV operation since the very beginning. With a limited staff, the involvement of trained volunteers has been vital to enable us to tape a large number of programs each month.

Emergency preparedness The ability to disseminate information to our residents, using PCTV, is invaluable. The elec-

trical power to the PCTV facility is backed up by a generator so the station can continue to transmit information through our channels on Cablevision and Verizon FiOS, and via streaming, at all times.

The value of having a TV station to rely on during a crisis was never more apparent than it was in October 2012 when Super Storm Sandy hit New Jersey. The station was a constant source of information that residents could turn to in the aftermath of the storm as conditions and recovery plans were changing rapidly. The Piscataway Police Department and our

Emergency Management Team gave me constant updates on the situation as it evolved. I held daily video press conferences conveying this important information to our residents. These video updates were quickly added to our On-Demand site so residents could access the information at any time, using any internet capable device.



The value of having a TV station to rely on during a crisis was never more apparent than in October 2012.

We were able to provide up-to-date information on issues such as where shelters were being set up, what buildings were open to provide food and water and where electronics charging stations were located.

Jersey Access Group In the interests of sharing ideas and networking with other cable access stations, PCTV was instrumental in the formation of the Jersey Access Group (JAG). Since the first meeting in March 2000, JAG has grown tremendously. Today JAG is a consortium of community media representatives from municipalities throughout New Jersey.

JAG's purpose is to inform and educate members on issues facing municipalities concerning connectivity and distribution of information from both internally and externally wired and wireless connections. This includes communications by emergency responders, radio stations, television stations, security networks, IT departments and classroom education.

JAG recently became an affiliate of the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

JAG is also the New Jersey chapter of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA).

JAG's relationship with both NJLOM and NATOA extends JAG's mission into all areas of telecommunications including broadband, right-of-way, franchise fees, wireless communications, and developing technology. Membership is available to municipalities and school districts in New Jersey and surrounding areas. To learn more about JAG visit jagonline.org/jag_organization_details.

Media conference Since 2005 JAG has held a community media conference, which is now the largest such event in the Mid-Atlantic Region. The 2013 conference featured a full day of programs on the emergency broadband deployment via FirstNet, communication infrastructure, and right-of-way/communication taxes. As a benefit to all League members videos of these presentations are available for viewing at jagonline.org/gallery/.

JAG's 2014 Eastern Region Communication and Technology Conference will include workshops that follow up on JAG's League of Municipalities Magazine articles with authors and other expert panelists, a number of technology and legislative workshops, along with a large trade show. Municipal registration discounts and CEU credits will be available.

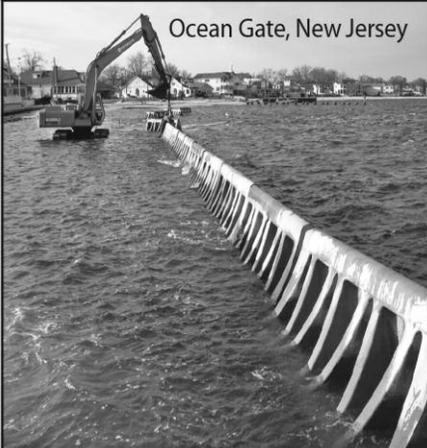
Workshops on a wide variety of topics effecting municipalities will also be part of this Conference to be held May 7 - 9,

2014 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick. For complete details about the conference and everything being offered visit powerofpartners.org

With the need for better municipal communications and the many platforms available, membership in JAG is a resource for your town. Join JAG today! Call 732-887-8581 or email us at info@jagonline.org.

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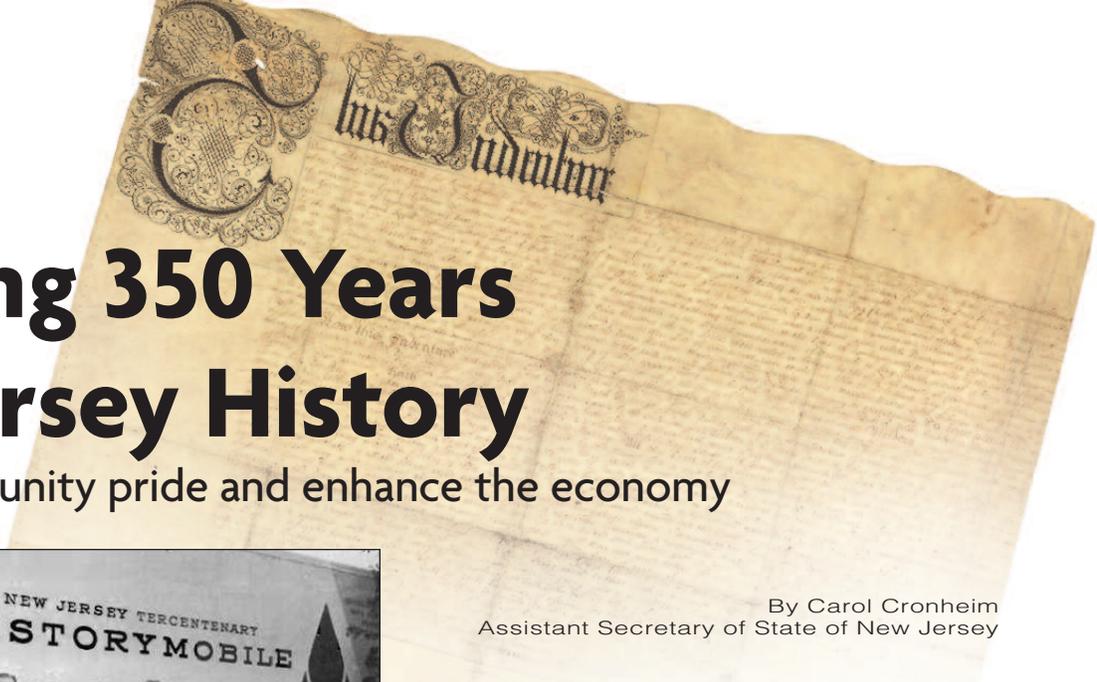
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Celebrating 350 Years of New Jersey History

A way to foster community pride and enhance the economy



By Carol Cronheim
Assistant Secretary of State of New Jersey



(above) The Historymobile's first tour of the state is launched at Lawrence Township (Mercer) Junior High School in 1961. Left to right: Former Lawrence Township mayors Lloyd A. Carver and John T. Cunningham; Assemblyman Charles E. Farrington; Miss Helen Titus, teacher; Mayor Owen R. Healey; Township Committeeman Charles E. Connell, Jr.; Superintendent of Schools Fred Combs; and Robert B. Immordino, Chairman of the local Tercentenary Committee.



New Jersey's current Mobile History Museum will be touring the state in honor of the 350th Anniversary Celebration
(Photo by Allison Kobus)

This year we're celebrating 350 years of Jersey being Jersey. It all began in 1664 as a royal gift. Charles II of England granted a parcel of land on the east coast of North America to his brother James, Duke of York. The document that records this transaction, now housed at the New Jersey State Archives in Trenton (and reproduced at the top of this page), proclaims that “said Tract of Land is hereafter to be called by the name or names of New Cesarea or New Jersey.” And so New Jersey was born.

When the English arrived they found a place that was already settled by diverse inhabitants. In addition to native populations, Swedish and Dutch settlers had already made the arduous journey to what would become the Garden State. Diversity became—and continues to be—a defining characteristic of our state.

This may seem like ancient history today, but the connection to the “original” Jersey is still very strong. With a population of just 97,000, the States of Jersey (its official name) is a diverse place itself, with English and French acceptable in government and with its own language as well—Jerriais. It is home

to Native Islanders, British Islanders, French, Portuguese, and Polish populations, among many others. Just last month, an official from Jersey, Senator Philip Ozouf, came to visit Trenton. He reported that he and his countrymen are very excited about this shared anniversary and plan to help us celebrate. (The Bailiwick of Jersey is a parliamentary democracy. Senator Ozouf is both elected to a seat in parliament and serves as the Treasury and Resources Minister. To discover more about the Channel Island, Jersey, and its history visit: jersey.com/english/Pages/default.aspx and gov.je/Leisure/Events/WhatsOn/DiamondJubilee/Pages/JerseyRoyalIsland.aspx.)

Innovation The world has been reshaped again and again by people from and things created in New Jersey. From Edison's light bulb, to the Atlantic City boardwalk, to the first intercollegiate football game, to Frank Sinatra and Count Basie, New Jersey's innovations and innovators have had an impact around the globe. In 2014, our state is home to today's innovators in the

arts, science, and business, with 21 Fortune 500 companies and more than 1,100 multinational companies from 40 nations. Did you know bubble wrap, band-aids, the film industry and the drive-in movie were invented in New Jersey? In addition, New Jerseyans can lay claim to the transistor, penicillin, and even the cultivated blueberry.

ACHIEVEMENT: LEAVES AN IMPRESSION

There are many ways to participate. Consider developing programs and events that highlight New Jersey and its unique heritage.

Fifty years ago, New Jersey celebrated its tercentenary with a variety of events, celebrations and programs that included a mobile history museum, commemorative stamps, souvenirs, and a series of publications.

Thousands of New Jersey citizens actively participated in local, county, and state events that included parades, photography contests, talent shows, flower competitions, and even the New Jersey Pavilion at the 1964 World's Fair. Symphonies were commissioned, cantatas composed, and art exhibits mounted.

This year, communities, schools, businesses, organizations and individuals once again have the unique opportunity to commemorate New Jersey's 350th anniversary and celebrate our great state. Three themes have been designated to help frame our 350th anniversary:



We know that achieving more in the community begins with the people who belong to it. That's why we're proud to support the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

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Diversity By virtue of its location and diversity, New Jersey has been a microcosm of the US over the past 350 years. We have six distinct geographic regions, including the Pinelands, Highlands, and the Meadowlands. Our historic Grand Terminal in Liberty State Park was dubbed “the Gateway to the West.” Today, more than a hundred languages are spoken here.

Liberty New Jersey played a pivotal role in the American Revolution, witnessing more significant military action than any other state and establishing a tradition of distinguished military service that continues to this day. New Jersey’s commitment to the cause of liberty was further demonstrated when it became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights in 1789. George Washington spent more time here than anywhere else during the Revolutionary War, and the battles of Trenton and Monmouth were among the most critical turning points.

We need to know and value our state’s contributions to the nation and the world. Not just for bragging rights, but because research illustrates a direct link between economic prosperity and attachment to one’s community, or what we might call civic engagement. A three-year study by Gallup and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation of 26

U.S. cities found that residents’ passion for their community is a leading indicator for local economic growth. The cities with the highest level of community engagement also had the highest rates of GDP growth over time. When people care about their communities and have a sense of place, they prosper.

Our 350th anniversary can help New Jersey communities develop that sense of place, connect with their local and state history in a tangible way, and in doing so help strengthen New Jersey’s economic foundation, not just for this one year, but going forward. Please join hundreds of communities, individuals, and organizations that have jumped in to help celebrate New Jersey as the best place to live, work, visit, vacation, and do business.

The New Jersey Historical Commission has been shepherding both short-term and legacy projects, including new scholarship and new educational resources that explore our history. There are many ways to participate, from simply adopting the official anniversary logo throughout 2014, to developing new programs and events that highlight New Jersey and its unique heritage. To learn about all the plans so far for 2014, gather ideas for commemorations in your own municipality, and schedule events on the

statewide calendar (officialNJ350.com). Be part of celebrating 350 years of Jersey being Jersey. 🇺🇸

@ To learn about all the plans so far for 2014 and to gather ideas for commemorations in your own municipality, go to www.officialNJ350.com. Be part of celebrating 350 years of Jersey being Jersey.

350NJ Pop Up Stores Coming soon to a town near you!



Red Bank Mayor Pasquale Menna shops at the inaugural NJ350 Pop-Up Store in Red Bank on New Year’s Eve. (Photo by Allison Kobus.)

The NJ350 Pop Up Stores are coordinated by Main Street New Jersey. They are temporary retail locations that are set in Main Street business communities, usually in empty retail space for about a week. The NJ350 pop ups feature local, New Jersey-focused and NJ350 logo merchandise. These special stores are the site of other NJ350 activities, such as ribbon cuttings with local officials, music performances and book signings. NJ350 will open additional pop-up stores throughout 2014 in locations such as Atlantic City, Westfield, Montclair, Boonton, Bridgeton, Newton, Hammon-ton and Highland Park. The final pop-up store will open in the state capitol of Trenton in December 2014.

@ For more information, visit officialnj350.com



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GOLD DOME

Retirement Repercussions and Ripples

By Ben Dworkin, Assistant Professor of Political Science (Adjunct); Director of the Rebovich Institute for NJ Politics at Rider University

One of President Bill Clinton's famous rules of politics was to always be introduced by someone you appointed to higher office. He understood that as one person moves up the political ladder, there are always ambitious politicians ready to fill the spot, and thereby open up what was once their spot for someone else. In the game of political musical chairs, everyone owes something to the person who made the first move.

New Jersey is channeling Clinton as, quite suddenly, it has lost three members of its congressional delegation with the announced retirements of Republican Jon Runyan (NJ-3), Democrat Rob Andrews (NJ-1), and Democrat Rush Holt (N-12).

Collectively, they leave with 44 years of seniority in the House of Representatives, and that is the biggest repercussion for New Jersey. In an era of limited federal spending, support from Washington is hard to come by. Even after natural disasters like Superstorm Sandy, it took months—and several very public shamings of the obstructionists—to finally get the 218 votes needed to pass the aid package in the Congress.

In the highly regimented and partisan House, seniority builds influence—and clout. Losing these three veterans will make it harder for New Jersey to secure support for critical federal spending on additional hurricane relief, mass transit projects, subsidized housing, and environmental cleanup projects, among others.

The rookie replacements for Andrews, Runyan and Holt reflect President Clinton's "rule." Three open seats in the same year is almost unheard of in a mid-sized state like New Jersey. Within hours of each congressman's announcement, the frenetic political scrambling began. In District 1, State Senator Donald Norcross, brother of hugely influential Democratic leader George Norcross III, easily pulled together widespread support to be Andrews's successor in a single day.

Norcross's state Senate seat in the Fifth District now has to be filled. Most likely to move up are Camden County Freeholder Ian Leonard, Camden City Mayor Dana Redd or one of the two members of the state Assembly from the district—Angel Fuentes and Gilbert "Whip" Wilson. The appointment of any one of them will open up their spot for yet another appointment.

For politically astute Democratic leaders in Camden County—

and they are nothing if not politically astute—one retirement can allow you to pick three or more new officeholders, a very politically advantageous position to be in.

It's like double (or triple) jumping in checkers; with one move, you completely re-shape the board.

In Runyan's Third district, the demographics favor the Republicans. Democrats rallied around Aimee Belgard, a Burlington County Freeholder. Her chances will be dramatically impacted by the outcome of the Republican primary, which will likely include Steve Lonegan, fresh off his loss to U.S. Senator Cory Booker in the 2013 special election, who moved from Bergen to Ocean County to run. Lonegan is the leader of the state's Tea Party organization and his name recognition and access to national Tea Party donors may give him a pronounced role in the race, despite the carpetbagger accusations.

In addition, two of the most influential people in the Republican primary aren't running—Burlington County GOP chairman Bill Layton and Ocean County GOP chair George Gilmore. Both are strong party leaders and prodigious fundraisers. If they can agree on a unity candidate, they will probably end Lonegan's latest ambition. If not, we might see a very expensive and bitter intra-party fight that results in the most extreme candidate winning with depleted resources to take on Belgard in the fall.

Furthermore, a Lonegan victory—because he holds no elected office today—would stifle the ambitions of local Republicans who are looking for a chance to move up.

As the Third district favors Republicans, Holt's 12th District favors Democrats, only more so. The three top candidates on the Democratic side appear to be Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman from Mercer County, state Senator Linda Greenstein from Middlesex County and Assemblyman Upen-dra Chivukula from Somerset County. Each of them brings a unique personal story to the mix.

And because each is a current office holder, their ascension would open up legislative seats, which might then in turn open up freeholder seats, town council or mayoral seats down the line.

The changes to our congressional delegation will have a dramatic impact on New Jersey's municipalities, both in terms of federal funding and the constellation of office holders in Trenton. Bill Clinton's point was that appointing someone to office makes you powerful, as the appointee will be forever grateful. That dynamic will be on full display here in New Jersey in 2014. ♣

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Celebrating in Our Schools

It is time to raise the awareness of our great state's history among New Jersey's youth.

By Steve Graham, Education Outreach Coordinator, Franklin's Opus

Thanks to my position with a national teacher professional development company, I get the opportunity to speak to teachers from across the country. Once I mention being from New Jersey, the next question I most often get asked is if I know Snookie from MTV's Jersey Shore, or if I know anyone from the Sopranos. Thanks to the wonders of television, New Jersey has been stereotyped.



New Jersey's 350 Anniversary provides a perfect opportunity to launch a year-long celebration of our history by bringing content rich resources to our K-12th grade teachers and students.

We New Jerseyans know that New Jersey is one of the most interesting, diverse and historically rich states in the country. With miles of beaches and boardwalks, historic cities like Trenton, Princeton and Patterson and home to multi-national corporations and thriving family businesses; New Jersey has a lot to offer despite its small footprint.

And, 2014 marks a momentous milestone for New Jersey: it's the state's 350th birthday. This upcoming anniversary affords us a once-in-a-generation opportunity to celebrate the countless contributions that the Garden State has made to the nation and the world. Franklin's Opus is developing a year-long celebration of our history by bringing content rich resources to our K-12th grade teachers and students. In addition, we offer professional development programs for teachers that focus on New Jersey history.

CICERO Systems and Kidsville News! will use websites, school newspapers, cable television, live events, social media,

and more to deliver the content to New Jersey schools and homes. We are looking for New Jersey-based companies and organizations to join our campaign and help us tell the story of New Jersey.

New Jersey history is the story of the American Revolution, the immigration experience, industrialization, agriculture, medicine, entertainment, leisure and attractions, and much more. States like Virginia and the District of Columbia make great efforts to preserve their history and present it as a major tourist attraction. Yet so much of our U.S. history originated in New Jersey. It is time to raise the awareness of our great state's history among New Jersey's youth. 🍷

@ To learn more visit teachertube.com/user/nj350 or contact Steve Graham at grahamcomm@comcast.net. For information on Franklin's Opus, visit franklinsopus.org.

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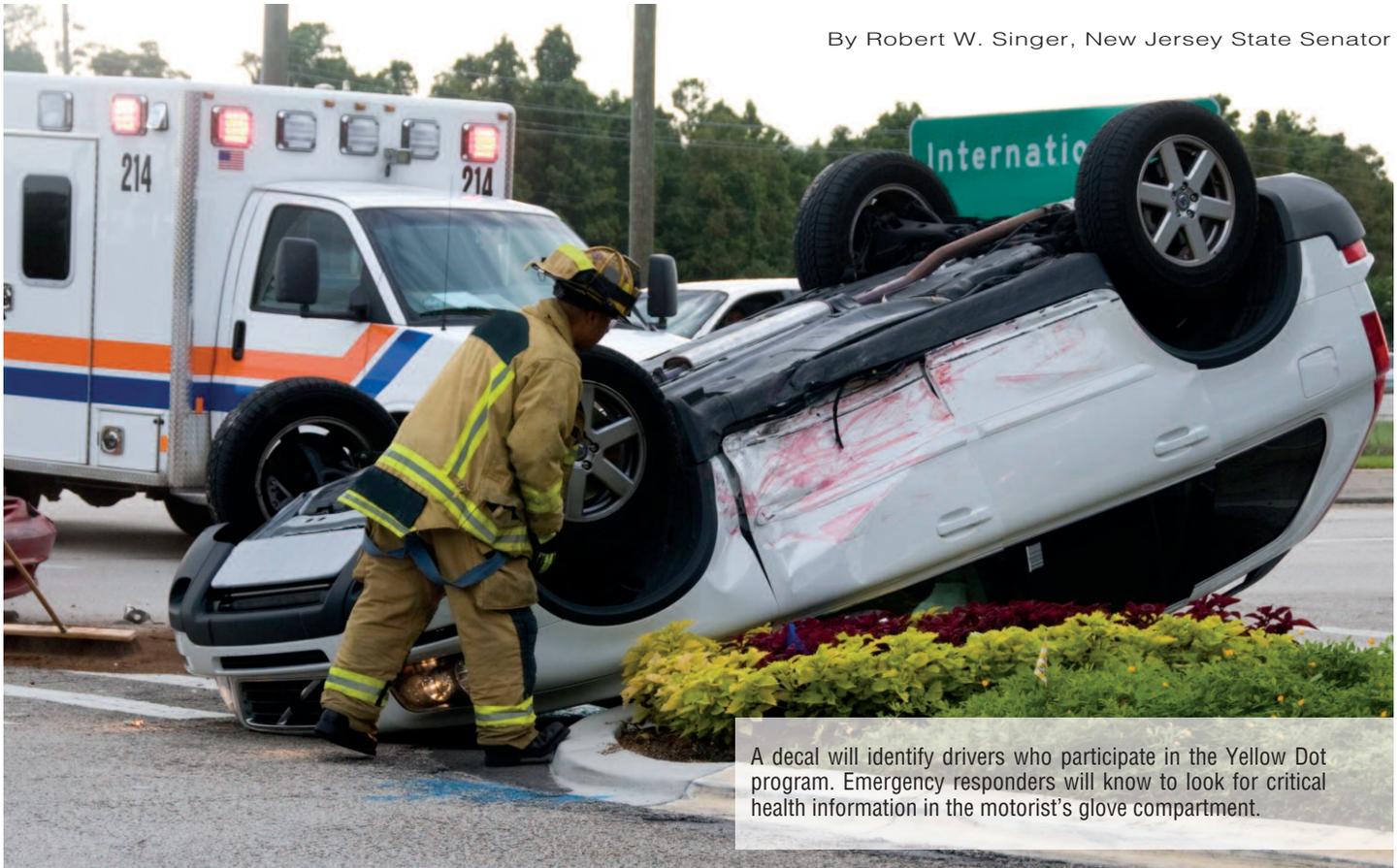
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New Jersey's Yellow Dot Program

Providing critical health information to our first responders

By Robert W. Singer, New Jersey State Senator



A decal will identify drivers who participate in the Yellow Dot program. Emergency responders will know to look for critical health information in the motorist's glove compartment.

The term *circle of life* may have taken on an additional meaning with regard to New Jersey drivers because of a bill I sponsored in a bipartisan effort that was signed into law in January of 2014. That new law would allow municipalities, counties or agencies to create the Yellow Dot Program for interested motorists.

The circle I am referring to is a circular decal, termed a “yellow dot” in the legislation. Its purpose is to preserve life, and it plays an essential role in the program.

A yellow dot decal is placed on a designated area of the Yellow Dot Program participant’s car, such as the rear driver’s side window. In case of a motor vehicle accident or emergency, a decal will identify the driver as a participant in the Yellow Dot program. Emergency responders will know to look for critical health information that is stored in the motorist’s glove compartment.

Providing information at the scene If a sticker is present, emergency personnel are authorized to search the glove compartment for the Yellow Dot Program envelope and health information card, which will contain various considerations deemed necessary by the implementing agency. This information will aid in identifying the victim, reaching out to emergency contacts and ensure that medications and medical history are considered when treatment is administered by first responders.

Although in the original bill draft the Yellow Dot Program was to be a state-administered program, it was eventually

determined that it was not necessary to have a statewide Yellow Dot Program.

At the time the bill became law, support instead was focused on the objective: offering an additional mechanism to assist in vehicle-related emergencies.

If a sticker is present, emergency personnel are authorized to search the car's glove compartment for the Yellow Dot Program envelope and health information card.

Yellow Dot Programs already were being implemented in various states across the country, and the majority, I believe, were administered by local gov-

ernments. These programs had proven successful without a centralized administration and any associated appropriation. It was plausible and prudent to empower counties, cities and towns to set up their own programs.

Local administration Here in New Jersey, Mount Laurel has already begun a program with the coordinated efforts of agencies; such as police, EMS, senior citizen groups and other concerned citizens with the support of nonprofit funding. Though this program is free, there may be a nominal fee associated with some programs launched in the future.

As a legislator representing a district with a very large senior citizen population, I originally thought to have the bill tailored to that constituency, many of whom live far from family. Senior citizens tend to have more medical conditions or are often on medicines.

However, anyone can fall victim to an accident, so this lifesaving policy can

benefit the entire motoring community. Therefore, the new law allows an interested municipality to target their specific concerns or constituencies when setting up a program. In fact, many of the programs that already exist in other states have qualities that set them apart from others, be it who can participate or program materials. However, the premise is the same.

How to start a program The steps required to make this program possible in a community are simple. I anticipate a local governing body can give consideration to program materials used by similar programs in New Jersey and in other states. A local governing body can also consult with other interested agencies such as law enforcement, fire departments, emergency services personnel, offices on aging, entities that have direct contact with the population and any other organizations that promote the health and safety of motorists.

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The program materials could include, but are not limited to, the decal as well as a health information card which provides space to attach a recent photograph and list a name, emergency contact informa-

responders. Usually, only minimal information is available during the early and most critical time after a crash.

I remain confident this program can help save motorists' lives. Motorists injured in a crash often aren't able to communicate with emergency workers about a condition that requires special care. In an accident, the victim may be confused or even unconscious, and waiting for information may cost a victim critical minutes of medical care. When medical personnel are aware of allergies and chronic conditions, they can make better decisions.

A safety advocate I have long been an advocate for highway safety and the driving community, having sponsored the graduated driver license, which mandated additional training and restrictions. The initiative had proven successful in other states, and has reduced vehicle related deaths and injuries in New Jersey. Also included in those efforts is the

bill to protect users of lifesaving defibrillators, which resulted in more widespread use and purchases of these devices by safety and medical personnel.

It is that thought process that urged me to persevere with this Yellow Dot proposal. Public safety initiatives such as the Yellow Dot Program can pay large dividends. I have received positive feedback from constituents, who are eagerly awaiting its availability. The affirmative response includes other allies in public service.

A time to raise awareness and take action Having just been signed into law, this initiative is in many ways still in its infancy. I encourage communities across the state to take advantage of the program. Over time, community leaders, township representatives, emergency responders and the community at large across the state will come to recognize the dots, learn about the program and advocate for its implementation in their own backyards. 📍

When medical personnel are aware of allergies and chronic conditions, they can make better decisions.

tion, physician's name and contact information, medical conditions, recent surgeries, allergies, medications, and any other information the local governing body would think relevant to emergency

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Michael F. Cerra, NJLM Director of Government Affairs;
Lori Buckelew & Jon R. Moran, NJLM Senior Legislative Analysts
& Edward Purcell, Esq. Staff Attorney-NJLM Associate Counsel

S-321



Provides an Option on Smoking Ban Enforcement

Sponsor Senator Robert Gordon
Status Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

The League's Legislative Committee supports S-321, which would permit a municipality to impose a civil penalty, in lieu of a petty disorderly person's offense, for smoking lighted tobacco products in a public place.

Often, violations of the smoking ban are committed by students in public places or on buses, in connection with school-related activities. The resulting presence of a disorderly person's offense on the student's record can negatively affect their future employment, advanced education and the award of scholarships and other financial assistance. The local governing body can best decide whether local violators of a local ordinance should be subject to a civil or a disorderly person's penalty, which can include incarceration.

Members of our Committee expressed the hope that local governing bodies will, in future legislation, be given the opportunity to similarly regulate the growing use of e-cigarettes; and we would welcome the opportunity to work with any interested parties on that matter.

The League of Municipalities supports S-321 and urges that it be given your favorable consideration.—JRM

A-2479



Establishes a Minimum Size for Elevators in New Buildings

Sponsor Assemblyman Joseph Lagana
Status Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee

A-2479 would require the Department of Community Affairs to adopt regulations that require elevators installed in newly constructed buildings to be at least 81 square feet. Specifically,

this bill proposes to amend NJSA 52:27D-123.14 (PL 2001, c. 263.) The League supports the legislation and recommends an amendment to address a concern.

A-2479 results from concerns brought forth by representatives of the emergency medical and first responder communities. Some elevators are not large enough for stretchers and other emergency equipment.

The League supports the goal of the legislation but is concerned that the new requirement could be applied to residences that might opt to construct an elevator, particularly considering the high number of residential evaluations and reconstructions in the aftermath of Sandy.

Therefore, the League recommended to the sponsor that Section 2 of the bill be amended to be consistent with the existing statutory language in section 1 and state that the new requirement will be for buildings that are required to have an elevator. With such language, the requirement would not fall upon single family residences, but would apply to multi-family and commercial buildings, which we believe is consistent with the legislative intent.—MC

A-2244



Property Tax Relief Information to be Included with Income Taxes

Sponsor Assemblyman Ronald Dancer
Status Assembly Regulatory Oversight Committee

Last legislative session we opposed a bill that required that the property tax bill include information on property tax relief programs. In our opposition we noted that the state should include this information with income tax publications and not with the property tax bill. Assemblyman Dancer heard our suggestion and introduced A-2244.

Beginning the tax year after the date of enactment, the Division of Taxation will be required to include in the instructions for income tax returns notice of the homestead benefit available under the "Homestead Property Tax Rebate Act of 1990"; property tax reimbursement available under the Senior Freeze program; and

property tax deductions and credit under the “Property Tax Deduction Act.”

We support A-2244 and have requested that the bill be amended to require the Division of Taxation to include the property tax relief program applications with the instructions for income tax returns.

If enacted the bill would take effect immediately.—LB

A-815



Licensing of Peddlers

Sponsors Assemblyman
Craig Coughlin

Assemblyman
Patrick Diegnan

Status Assembly Regulated
Professions Committee

A-815 would require that municipalities that license peddlers, canvassers, and solicitors, must accept background

checks from other municipalities. This bill would mean that if a municipality chose to regulate these individuals, it must accept criminal background checks provided to it from other municipalities. The law does define how recent the background checks must be.

The League opposes this bill because it limits the discretion of municipalities to regulate peddlers, canvassers, and solicitors in ways that best serve their residents. This bill could cause unintended negative consequences. Without parameters or limits on how recent the background check must be, individuals with criminal backgrounds could potentially be licensed.—EP

A-1564



Establishes a Format for Legal Bills

Sponsor Assemblywoman
Bettylou DeCroce

Status Assembly State and
Local Government
Committee

A-1564 would prohibit the payment of any legal bills unless at the time of authorization of payment the bill includes, in a comprehensive format, the following:

1. Name of the specific matter on which the service was rendered;
2. Date on which service was rendered;
3. Name or identification number of the attorney who rendered the service;
4. The hourly rate of that attorney or the specific method by which the rate for that attorney was determined;
5. The total charge for each particular service, task or billing entry;
6. Description of each particular service rendered or task performed and names of each individual involved;

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7. Amount of time spent on each particular service or task
8. Itemized list of the expenses and disbursements for each particular service or task, with specific notes on which expenses are reimbursable;
9. Billing rate or the specific method by which the rate is to be determined as set forth in the valid contract or agreement; and
10. Limit, if any, on the charges for legal service that may be billed according to agreement/contract and whether the payment of the bill will exceed that limit.

If an entry is deemed insufficiently described, the municipality would be prohibited from making payment until the bill is amended to include the required description.

We appreciate the sponsor's intent; however, we believe that the bill is unnecessary as a mechanism currently exists for governing bodies to review and approve all payment of claims, including legal bills. In addition, we are concerned that a standardized system will not address the needs of all municipalities.—LB

S-704/A-1704



Protection for Family Burial Sites

Sponsors	Senator Joseph Kyrillos, Jr. Assemblyman John Wisniewski
Status	Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Assembly State and Local Government Committee

S-704/A-1704, the "Family and Private Burial Grounds Preservation Act," is designed to prevent the desecration of the graves in cemeteries not currently assured protection by New Jersey laws.

The bill would grant the DEP regulatory authority and jurisdiction over all family and private burial grounds in the state. It would make it unlawful for any person to intentionally, willfully, or knowingly disturb, destroy, mutilate, deface, or injure a family or private bur-

ial ground or any human skeletal remains or burial objects. It would provide similar protection to any ornamentation, or any tombstone, monument, stone marker, statue, or other memorial structure in a burial ground.

In addition, the bill would require any new construction, excavation, or building in the area of a burial ground to comply with local land use regulations concerning burial sites, burial grounds, or cemeteries. The bill would require that in the absence of applicable local regulations, no new construction, excavation, or building may be conducted within 15 feet of the boundaries of a burial ground, except when such activity is approved, in writing, by a relative of each person interred in the burial ground, or is determined to be necessary for: (1) the protection of public health; (2) the construction of capital improvements or the provision of essential public services; (3) the construction of a state highway; or (4) the construction, in accordance with specified limitations, of a private sewer line connection to a public sewer system.

This bill will provide appropriate protection to private and family burial grounds.—JRM

S-212



Fish and Game Fines for Small Municipalities

Sponsor	Senator Chris Connors
Status	Senate Environment and Energy Committee

S-212 provides for payment to small municipalities, in certain cases, of certain penalty moneys assessed for violations of fish and game laws. Specifically, S-212 will provide to small municipalities involved in the adjudication of state and federal fish and game laws a reimbursement through 50 percent of the fines collected.

The League supports the intent of S-212 but has requested that the bill be amended. S-212 would only apply to municipal-



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ities with a population of less than 2,000 people. We have requested that the provisions of S-212 apply to all municipalities regardless of their population.

There is an expense to municipalities to adjudicate fish and game law violations and they should receive a portion of the fines to off-set the cost.—LB

S-967



Extends Confidentiality Protections

Sponsors Senator Nia Gill
Senator Peter Barnes

Status Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

S-967 would expand the confidentiality protections currently afforded to

library records to include information about which book or e-books an individual has either bought or rented. This would mean that book stores and libraries would not be able to divulge information regarding books sold or loaned to certain individuals to law enforcement officials, without a court order.

The League supports this bill because it is sensible legislation that strives to adequately protect individual privacy rights.—EP

A-2201



Dismissal of Charges in Accidents Caused by Medical Conditions

Sponsors Assemblyman O'Scanlon

Assemblyman
Carmelo Garcia

Status Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee

A-2201 would require municipal court judges to dismiss motor vehicle charges if the charges were the result of a vehicle accident caused by the medical condition of the driver. In such a case, a physician must certify that “but for the existence or onset of a medical condition or illness” in the driver, the accident would not have occurred.”

We appreciate the intent of this legislation, but must oppose A-2201 because there is already an established practice in the law that gives prosecutors the discretion to dismiss charges based on the circumstances of a case, including the onset of medical conditions by a driver who causes a vehicle accident. The League, therefore, views this bill as unnecessary.—EP



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Fixing Pay-to-Play

Why a Simpler, Stronger Law Would Benefit Government and Business

By Jeff Brindle, Executive Director, Election Law Enforcement Commission



The 19th Century French novelist and playwright Honore de Balzac said, “Laws are spider webs through which big flies pass and little ones get caught.”

This quote describes the current state of New Jersey’s Pay-to-Play Law. The big flies circumvent it and the little ones throw up their hands and stop participating and contributing.

Neither situation is good for New Jersey’s political and electoral systems.

The Pay-to-Play Law, though well intended, is convoluted with too many layers of authority, making it difficult to understand and obey. It needs to be simplified and strengthened.

The law requires a business that has been awarded a state contract to disclose its political donations to the State Treasurer. Likewise, a business awarded a legislative, county, or municipal contract has a similar obligation. Those contribu-

tions must be reported to the Legislature, or applicable county or municipality.

Additionally, any business that receives more than \$50,000 worth of public contracts statewide is required to report its contributions and public contracts to the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) on an annual basis.

The law bans businesses from receiving a contract of more than \$17,500 if it made a contribution of more than \$300, during the 18-month period prior to the contract being awarded and for the term of the contract. Further, the ban applies to all candidates, officeholders, and political parties that have any involvement with the decision to grant a contract.

There is an exemption for contracts awarded during times of emergency.

In the case of a state contract, the foregoing restrictions always apply. But that is not the case with local government entities.

Municipal and county governments and other local entities, such as school boards and authorities, can opt to be subject to state law. However, they can also decide against subjecting themselves to state law.

While this option appeals to many at the local level, the problem is that the exemption contributes to instability and confusion.

Pay-to-Play options In this case, local governments have two options. First, the law allows counties, municipalities, county and municipal authorities, boards of education, and fire districts to pass their own pay-to-play ordinances. At last count, 176 municipalities, school districts, and authorities had written their own rules. Moreover, seven counties had adopted their own ordinances.

While this option appeals to many at the local level, the problem is that the exemption contributes to instability and confusion. Examples include Moorestown and Bergen County, where play-to-play laws locally are subject to frequent modification as local governing bodies change.

The Fair and Open Provision Even if local government entities opt out of writing their own laws, a second option, known as the Fair and Open Provision, remains available for avoiding state law. Fair and Open simply allows municipalities and counties to get out from under state law if they publicly advertise their bidding process.

Under “Fair and Open” none of the features of the state Play-to-Play Law apply, including the \$300 contribution limit. This Fair and Open provision applies to local authorities, boards of education, and fire districts, as well as municipalities and counties.

New Jersey’s law is difficult to untangle and despite good motives, it has had

unintended consequences. It can cause a business to forfeit a public contract, even in the middle of performing the contract; if the business, a partner, or a spouse inadvertently makes a contribution of \$300 or more.

Declining participation and accountability First, the law has forced many business people to withdraw from

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political participation. This fact is evidenced through the drastic decline in fundraising by candidates and political parties. Unfortunately, these are the same entities that are most accountable to the public.

Second, instead of making our campaign system more transparent, the law has had the opposite effect. Contributions are now harder to track.

Where did the money go? It went to two places, neither of which is subject to Pay-to-Play. More donors have been directing their money to political action committees (PACs), many of which have been established by party operatives, presumably to avoid Pay-to-Play restrictions. This makes it harder to track the flow of money. The public is left in the dark in terms of the intent of Pay-to-Play, which is to connect the dots between contributions and contracts. In addition to the increase in PAC activity,

independent, outside groups are now dominating politics in New Jersey.

Rise of independent groups Over \$40 million was spent by independent groups in last year's legislative and gubernatorial elections. That's three times what was spent by the state parties and four legislative leadership committees.

These independent groups have become surrogate political parties. They are assuming the traditional roles played by parties, such as getting-out-the-vote, registering voters, voter targeting, and conducting polls.

And of course, they are spending heavily on radio, TV, and direct mail.

Clearly, the Pay-to-Play Law is not solely responsible for this trend. It started nationally with the McCain/Feingold reform in 2002 and sped up following the Citizens United case in 2010.

But undeniably, much contractor cash has flowed to these groups rather

than to candidates and parties. They are less transparent and not subject to Pay-to-Play.

Attempts to skirt Pay-to-Play Finally, the era of the current Pay-to-Play Law has witnessed at least one company allegedly attempting to illegally skirt the law.

Several Birdsall Engineering executives have been indicted on charges of laundering money through their employees, who in turn allegedly made \$300 contributions to various public officials and political parties. This scheme was an alleged illegal attempt to skirt the Pay-to-Play Law in an effort to secure public contracts.

Improving Pay-to-Play So is there anything to be done? The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission believes so. It has put forth a plan to amend the law, which is supported by Governor Christie and incorporated into a bill reintroduced by State Senator James Beach.

The plan calls for the Legislature to enact one state law that would apply at all levels of government. Second, it calls for the Fair and Open loophole to be abolished and for enhancing disclosure by requiring any business that receives a contract of \$17,500 or more to disclose the contractual contributions made. Finally, the proposal calls for the contribution limit applying to public contractors to be increased from \$300 to \$1,000.

These straightforward reforms will simplify the law and make it easier to understand and follow. They will eliminate a loophole that makes a mockery of the law. They will strengthen disclosure and enhance transparency and they will help to return fundraising prowess to accountable parties and candidates by increasing the contribution limit.

In the coming year, the Legislature has an opportunity to fix a well intended Pay-to-Play Law that, unfortunately, has backfired. ❧

Jeff Brindle is the Executive Director of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission. The opinions presented here are his own and not necessarily those of the Commission.

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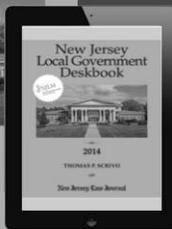
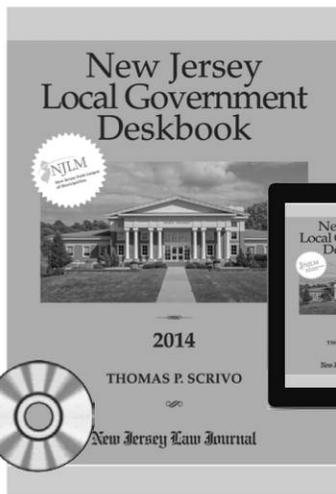
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3. Shelters are needed for a range of services

Most towns provided a shelter which was open from 1 to 20 days with an average of 3 days, and provided heat, food, and beds, according to the Sandy Municipal Survey. In addition, many towns opened municipal buildings and libraries for heat and charging, and about 20 percent of towns offered shelter for those with pets. Thus, towns met a variety of needs beyond the official Red Cross meal and accommodation shelter model.

4. Towns need multiple communication channels

After a disaster, residents are eager for information. After Sandy, most towns were prepared with three or more forms of communication: most common were websites, cell phones, land line mass notification systems, and e-mails, but they also used radio, community bulletin boards, utility bill stuffers, town meetings, and hand delivered letters. Several towns added new media capacities including Facebook, Twitter and Nixle Emergency Alert, and improved their offsite capabilities.

Half of New Jersey's displaced residents reported that it was easy to get information about recovery and rebuilding from their local municipal government. The response was twice as high as that for county government, utility providers and charitable organizations, according to the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

5. Better methods of collecting information are needed

Most of the communication in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy was one-way. Towns could improve services if they had better information from residents. With interactive technologies now widely available, such a dialogue is more feasible. For example, with open source maps residents could communicate the location of blocked roads or power outages.

In addition, if towns knew how many residents were displaced and how to contact them, they could share information about housing damage, FEMA inspection dates and other local recovery information. A registry for residents to report their location or temporary contact information could be helpful.

6. Mental health needs to be addressed

Sandy took a toll on mental health. In the most affected ZIP codes there was a 25 percent increase in diagnoses of depression in the six weeks following the storm. A smaller group was exposed to more severe conditions that increase their risk of long-term psychological trauma.

According to the Mental Health Association of New Jersey, emotional recovery takes up to two years, yet funding from state and federal programs covered counseling for only six months. If mental health needs are not addressed, these residents will be more vulnerable to trauma in the future.

7. Sewer facilities need better protection and remediation

One of the more lasting problems from Sandy was sewage, sediment and other pollutants churned up and swept into waterways by the storm. In New Jersey, nine wastewater treatment plants were inoperable for a month.

Because the consequences of failure are high, both in health and cost terms (more than \$15 million to ship sludge to landfills), better protection is warranted. The Middlesex County Utilities Authority is installing a \$2.6 million facility to protect the damaged Sayreville sewerage pumping station from storm surges. More measures need to be taken to prevent sand and salt water from entering the sewer system. Facilities should be elevated well above flood levels.

8. Towns need emergency services for special populations

With the unique needs of nursing homes, senior housing, homes for those with a disability, hospitals and prisons, it is not surprising that the most common need was additional communication from their town that addressed their special needs, according to the Sandy Municipal Survey. Many also required town assistance for evacuation, medical assistance, and shelter.

Towns need to understand the kinds of information needed, and develop ways to communicate with special populations. For additional assistance, towns may need vehicles with handicapped access, trained medical personnel, shelters with handicapped access and access to special diet foods.

9. Low-income families needs more public assistance

The resources available for those most in need—low-income renters and displaced homeowners in particular—were insufficient. While few towns provide direct assistance, officials

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are often better placed to advocate for their residents and are aware of available government resources.

Actions town officials can take include providing information about FEMA assistance, health risks from mold and toxins such as asbestos, and new flood plain guidelines. They can also invite government officials to see the damage, including officials from HUD, DCA and the EPA. For extreme flooding areas, they can facilitate buyout programs.

Town leaders could also provide information to nonprofits about areas of need; and connect skilled, trained volunteers to those with housing damage. Towns officials could help publicize NJ 2-1-1, a 24/7 statewide service that links residents to local resources. Many residents affected by Sandy did not know about the NJ 2-1-1 service, especially in southern and western New Jersey. In addition, town officials can ensure landlords maintain their properties.

10. Towns are an important link for FEMA There was significant geographic disparity in information available regarding FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) and Small Business Association loans, as well as disparity in how to complete the process, especially among the low-income

population. In addition, despite claims to the contrary, many second homeowners received FEMA assistance. Thus far, FEMA officials have not provided an explanation for these discrepancies. Towns need to clarify these rules with FEMA so they can properly advise their residents and ensure they are not left out of possible funding opportunities. Town librarians could be a helpful partner in seeking better information.

11. Housing and flood insurance needs to be more affordable

Because of the cost, low-income households are far less likely to have insurance. Of those that applied for FEMA Individual Assistance, 69 percent did not have homeowners insurance and 90 percent did not have flood insurance. Communities can help their residents by participating in the Community Rating System (CRS), a program administered by FEMA that provides lower insurance premiums under the National Flood Insurance Program. Communities must complete activities in four categories: Public Information, Mapping and Regulations, Flood Damage Reduction and Flood Preparedness. In exchange, flood insurance premiums are discounted up to 45 percent. The 61 communities in

the program have saved a total of \$17 million so far.

12. Second homes require special attention

During a disaster, priorities are different when the owners have another home. There is not the immediate concern for evacuation or shelter. But other services are needed, such as protecting the empty houses from looting and establishing long-distance communication with the owner. (Following Sandy, Facebook was popular, but not always reliable.) One year later, many of these houses remain in disrepair. Towns need to develop strategies that would enable owners to repair or sell damaged second homes.

13. Local businesses and residents are important partners

Several towns highlighted the effective role local businesses and residents played in their storm recovery. Almost half of the towns used private contractors to remove debris. In addition, businesses provided vital goods and services, notably, electricians tested power lines, gas stations provided fuel during rationing, and businesses made available emergency and building supplies. Towns should consider ways businesses can be part of the disaster response, such as including a representative from the local chamber of commerce at the County Emergency Operations Center. Local residents also assisted with communication, shelters and supplies. To further build local capacity, municipalities could formalize their partnerships with residents with programs such as FEMA's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

14. Towns need to be included in damage assessment

Because federal assistance is based on initial damage estimates, more care needs to be taken to assess all costs of a major storm, especially residential damage and lost wages. There also need to be estimates for immediate and long term hazard mitigation costs for households and public infrastructure. Towns should be consulted by NJ DCA and others who make these estimates.

15. Towns need more funding for hazard mitigation

Most towns had the financial resources to cover immedi-

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ate expenses of debris removal and to maintain basic services. Resources included their current budget, an emergency appropriation, borrowed funds, snow removal trust fund, insurance and budget surpluses, according to the Sandy Municipal Survey.

For those towns that lost part of their ratable base and non-property tax revenue, FEMA's Community Disaster Loan program filled the budget gap. However, the much bigger challenge for municipalities is finding ways to invest in aging

infrastructure in order to prevent compounded damage from future disasters. Assessments for damaged infrastructure total \$2 billion, and hazard mitigation total an additional \$23.5 billion. FEMA Public Assistance has not covered the full cost of immediate damage and extraordinary expenses; thus, there are no funds for essential hazard mitigation. More infrastructure spending is vital to ensure the future resilience of New Jersey's aging roads, bridges, schools, public transportation, rail, air, parks and water infra-

structure. Without such improvements, New Jersey towns will continue to be vulnerable to natural disasters. ♣

@ For more findings, see "Municipal Lessons

Learned From Superstorm Sandy In New Jersey," Friends Of Local Government, Policy Paper Series, New Jersey League Of Municipalities, Volume 5, Number 4, December 2013 at njlmef.org/policy-papers.html

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Direct Deposit Law & Restricting Hours of Operation

By Edward Purcell, Esq.
Staff Attorney-NJLM Associate Counsel

There are a series of 24/7 establishments that attract loiterers at all hours very close to a residential area in our town. There has been a noticeable spike in crime and we would like to limit the businesses' hours of operation. Can we do so?

It may be possible under the municipality's police powers, but the ordinance would have to be narrowly tailored to only the geographic areas at issue. A discussion of a municipality's police power is necessary to understand the limits and bounds of such an ordinance.

The term "police power" means the authority of municipalities to generally regulate the public health, safety and welfare of the municipality and its residents. New Jersey courts have described a municipality's police powers as "coterminous", i.e. having the same boundaries as, the police powers of the State Legislature. *Quick Check Food Stores v. Twp of Springfield*, 83 N.J. 438, 448 (N.J. 1980). Likewise, the New Jersey Supreme Court has stated that "an ordinance regulating business hours must tend to benefit the public health, moral, safety or general welfare to pass constitutional muster under the police power." *Id.* at 449. The burden falls on the party seeking to overturn the ordinances to prove that they are arbitrary and unreasonable. *Hutton Park Gardens v. West Orange Town Council*, 68 N.J. 543, 564 (N.J. 1975).

In *Quick Check* the New Jersey Supreme Court upheld a Springfield ordinance that prohibited retail businesses, except for pharmacies and restaurants, from operating between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. in a particular residential area. The purpose of the ordinance was to "protect the character of the residential neighborhood serviced by the stores." The Court distinguished that case from a previous Appellate Division decision, *Fasino v. Borough of Montvale*, which limited the hours of all retail establishments in the entire borough. The *Quick Check* Court reasoned that a "general law applicable to all retail establishments in a municipality" may be overly broad as opposed to one that is reasonably tailored to meet a particular situation.

So, to answer your question, if the ordinance crafted by your municipality is narrowly structured to only limit the hours of operations for retail establishments located near residential areas, it would likely be legal under *Quick Check* and *Fasino*. A similar ordinance was upheld by the Appellate Division this fall, in an unreported decision, where Camden regulated the hours of opera-

tion for businesses located near residential areas. *Fullbrook v. Mayor and Members of City Council of City of Camden*, unrep't'd case, Docket # No.A-4536-12T2, (N.J. Sup. Ct. App. Div. 2013).

I was recently made aware of a relatively new law regarding direct deposit which, I believe, affects municipalities. Can you explain its requirements in more detail?

The law you are referring to is P.L. 2013 c.38. The effect of this law is two-fold. First, it would cut costs associated with paper checks. Second, because it gives municipalities the ability to establish policies regarding direct deposit by ordinance, it would make direct deposit a non-negotiable issue under the New Jersey Employer Employee Relations Act (NJEERA).

Previously, N.J.S.A. 52:14-15f only allowed direct deposit on an individual basis, if the employee asked the "proper disbursing officer" for direct deposit. Under paragraph (a) of the law, the local governing body then had to pass an ordinance or resolution in order for the direct deposit to take effect. This law changes that.

After July 1, 2014, municipalities will not be able to do direct deposit on an individual basis pursuant to subsection (a) of the law. If an individual was previously receiving direct deposit, they would continue to do so. As a consequence of this law, municipalities now have the option to create a direct deposit policy for all employees, with whatever exemptions it sees fit under subsection (b) of the law, which gives municipalities the option to require direct deposit for all employees but states:

The governing body is authorized to grant an exemption from the requirements adopted pursuant to this subsection on such terms and conditions as the governing body may deem necessary. The governing body is authorized to grant an exemption for seasonal and temporary employees as the governing body may deem necessary.

Lastly, subsection (c) deals with accompanying information concerning pay and tax forms. This section would allow a municipality, which has adopted a direct deposit policy pursuant to subsection (b), to provide all other accompanying documents to employees online. This would mean that pay stubs could be transmitted electronically, as well as W-2 forms. The law does require, though, that policies and procedures be put in place to protect the confidentiality of these documents. ❧

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Moving Toward Sustainability

Over 400 towns have discovered that savings and conservation go hand-in-hand

By Donna Drewes, Co-Director, Sustainable Jersey



Thanks to a \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey Small Grant, the South Orange green team opened three electric vehicle charging stations. Pictured, left to right, are South Orange Village Trustee Howard Levison, Assemblyman John F. McKeon, Assemblywoman Mila M. Jasey, Sustainable Jersey Co-Director Donna Drewes, South Orange Village President Alex Torpey, and South Orange Village Trustee Walter Clarke.

We all want a more sustainable New Jersey. Few contest the benefits of clean air, fresh water, waterways filled with fish, garbage in its proper place, clean energy options, parks and open space and a healthy place to work and live. The big question is how do we achieve this as a state?

By voluntarily participating in Sustainable Jersey, over 400 towns are proving they are willing to make the changes necessary. New Jersey municipalities' sustainability initiatives are resulting in more than general goodwill. By working together, residents and government officials in Sustainable Jersey towns are showing that cost savings and environmental awareness go hand-in-hand.

A record 67 municipalities achieved Sustainable Jersey certification in 2013. This is the largest number of municipalities to be certified in an annual cycle since the program began in 2009. Municipalities work toward two levels of certification: bronze and silver. Forming a Green Team is the first step; green teams

include a cross-section of elected officials, municipal staff and community leaders. To make progress, Sustainable Jersey towns are eligible for the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program funded by Walmart and the PSEG Foundation which has funded over a million dollars' worth of sustainable projects since 2009. We applaud the 404 New Jersey municipalities that are currently participating in the program. Here are a few of the many accomplishments made by Sustainable Jersey certified towns.

Paperless agenda system In 2012, Winslow Township (Sustainable Jersey bronze-certified) switched to a paperless agenda system. This system makes it possible for residents and town officials to access the agendas for all public meetings in

advance. Attendees can also use the system during the meeting via their wireless devices. The system has drastically reduced paper use and mailings. Electricity that used to run the copy machines has also been saved. Previously, the township was making an average of 30,000 copies per month in the main office--now the township is averaging 6,000 copies per month. The total savings is 288,000 copies per year.

audit to find ways to reduce energy costs and consumption. Westwood reduced its overall energy consumption by 10.3 percent in less than two years. The borough continues to follow the recommendations made in the audit report as it plans for the replacement of 26 large pieces of heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment.

Fleet inventory Sparta Township (Sustainable Jersey bronze-certified) completed the Sustainable Jersey Fleet Inventory action as part of its certification. The Fleet Inventory action asks towns to evaluate their current vehicles to better understand where efficiencies might be improved. The inventory includes surveying how the vehicle is used, as well as

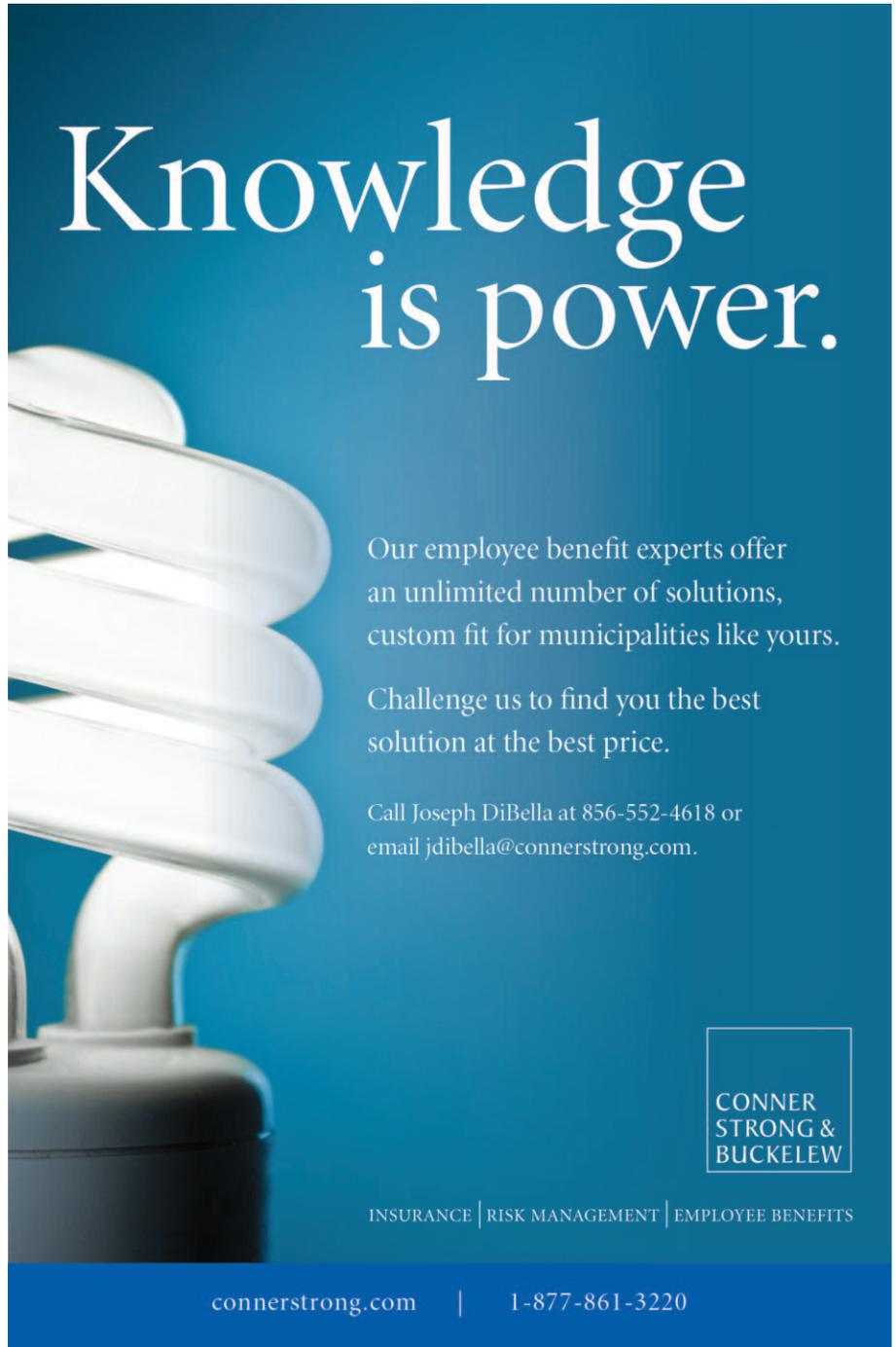
Sustainable Jersey towns are eligible for grants funded by Walmart and the PSEG Foundation which have funded over a million dollars' worth of sustainable projects since 2009.

Recycled materials on-line auction

Galloway Township's green team is led by Barbara Fiedler who is the Galloway Sustainability Officer and Chair of Go Green Galloway (Sustainable Jersey silver-certified). Galloway used to hold an auction twice a year to sell used furnishings, appliances, vehicles, roads and grounds equipment and bicycles.

Galloway realized that although the auction had a good intent, to keep these items out of the waste stream, it took significant time and staff power and usually resulted in some disposal of left-over items. Galloway Township changed the physical auction to an ongoing on-line auction. The online program is much more efficient and lucrative. The materials are kept out of the waste stream, there are very few disposal costs, and, since 2010 Galloway Township has sold 546 items for a total of \$396,141.

Energy tracking and management The Borough of Westwood (Sustainable Jersey bronze-certified) tracks every municipal energy bill by energy consumption. The borough tracks kilowatt usage per location and has conducted an energy



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Collingswood is the first municipality in Camden County to develop and implement its own bike share program.

its environmental impact and fuel usage. Implementing strategies such as reducing the fleet size, shifting workload from heavy duty vehicles to light-duty vehicles and evaluating fuel efficiency when purchasing replacement vehicles has resulted in a significant reduction in vehicle miles traveled. Sparta Township has seen a significant overall reduction in fuel consumption. This reduction in the burning of fossil fuels has decreased the overall

their fleet's carbon footprint by roughly 50 percent.

Electric vehicle charging stations

Thanks to a \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey Small Grant, the South Orange green team (Sustainable Jersey bronze-certified) opened three electric vehicle charging stations. The stations are located (1) in a public parking lot directly across the street from one of the busiest New Jersey Transit train stations in New Jersey, (2) near the South Orange Performing Arts Center and (3) right in the heart of the downtown business district. The project was a joint effort between the South Orange Parking Authority and the green team designed to encourage alternative fuel vehicle usage and to attract progressive vehicle owners to South Orange's restaurants, movie theaters and businesses.

Energy efficiency program The Ewing Green Team (Sustainable Jersey bronze-certified) formed an energy efficiency sub-committee to audit the township's municipal buildings and energy usage. While two building energy audits were performed and recommendations were developed for each, the main focus was on the township municipal building.

A bond issue, passed by council and endorsed by the administration, will

fund substantial renovations and energy conserving modifications including:

- installation of a heat reflecting white roof;
- replacement of standard parking lot lighting with low power consumption LED lamps;
- installation of energy reflecting window film for the atrium's south and west facing windows; and
- replacement of the 20+ year old heating boilers with new high efficiency units.

The first two projects have been completed and the second two are in process. The Green Team plans to calculate the cumulative energy savings and reduction of Ewing's carbon footprint. Looking forward, and in anticipation of working towards silver-level certification, the Ewing Green Team is expanding its energy related activities to include municipal, business and residential projects.

Bike share program Commissioner Joan Leonard has been the force behind many sustainable initiatives in Collingswood Borough, and even ran on the platform of sustainability. Collingswood (Sustainable Jersey bronze-certified) is the first municipality in Camden County to develop and implement its own bike share program. The program began when the Police Department agreed to donate 50 unclaimed bicycles. Bike mechanics set to motion the program's motto: "Reuse, Repair, Re-cycle."

They built a fleet of 30 bikes by tuning-up the best bikes and salvaging parts from the rest; now there are 200 bikes in the community only a few years later. Commissioner Leonard sought private donations and recruited members. The program encourages the community to ride a bike instead of starting up an engine.

By lessening reliance on cars, the program reduces congestion, emissions and transportation costs. Each bike, or green machine, is painted bright green so they are easy to identify. Collingswood Bike Share, under the Department of Recreation of the Borough of Collingswood, owns, maintains and manages the bikes. The public is invited to learn more about Bike Share and get a free bike tune-up at the Collingswood Green Festival on April 12 in downtown Collingswood. ♻️

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Improving Public Safety

The New Jersey Institute will help local leaders build a ‘safety culture’

By David N. Grubb, Executive Director,
Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund;
President, New Jersey Safety Institute



Following years of steady decline, the accident rate is now increasing because of distracted driving caused by cell phone use.

Municipalities, counties and boards of education are on the front lines when it comes to providing public safety. Sadly, New Jersey has the 12th highest pedestrian accident rate in the country. And, following years of steady decline, the auto accident rate is now increasing because of distracted driving caused by cell phone use. The number of serious home accidents is also on the rise, due to the aging of our population.

This puts a tremendous burden on municipal emergency responders at a time when budgets are tight. Another rising concern is the risk of concussions presented by sports and recreation programs.

Strategies on how to keep the public safe, despite budget caps and falling revenue, must come from officials at all levels of government. To provide basic safety information to public officials the Community Safety Leadership program was established by the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund (MEL), the State Association of Chiefs of Police and Munich-America Reinsurance of

Princeton. Recently, this group incorporated the New Jersey Safety Institute to serve as a statewide safety advocate.

Goals The new group’s goal is to “build a safety culture in New Jersey by providing information and safety education to both citizens and governmental officials.” The group also plans to “encourage a dialogue between all levels of government on safety issues and implement safety campaigns requiring coordination between government and the public.”

New members—including the Office of the New Jersey State Risk Manager, the New Jersey Association of Counties, the

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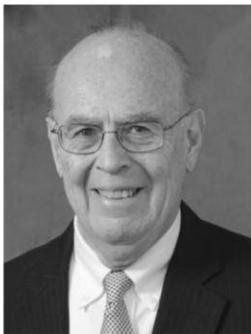
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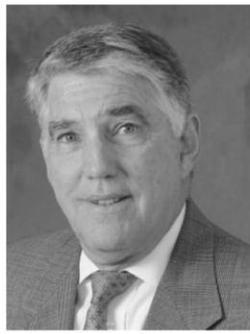
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New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group, and the School Pool for Excess Liability Limits (SPELL), the Safety National Insurance Company and the GENESIS Insurance Company have joined the program. Other organizations are being recruited.

programs. The new organization is also seeking volunteers who want to work on public safety campaigns.

The Institute's seven statewide advisory committees are (1) work safety, (2) vehicle safety, (3) public safety, (4) senior citizen safety, (5) emergency services, (6) school safety, (7) intergovernmental coordination.

Advisory Committees The Institute will also seek to establish safety advisory committees throughout New Jersey. Many communities make significant gains in safety after creating advisory committees that include a member of the governing body, a representative of the board of education, the municipal manager, Police Chief and DPW manager as well as citizen volunteers.

Free Safety Videos The Institute's first program, a free video on pedestrian safety, was sent to every police agency, municipality and board of education in the state. The disc included the professionally-recorded webinar "Walk the

Strategies on how to keep the public safe, despite budget caps and falling revenue, must come from officials at all levels of government.

Seeking Volunteers The New Jersey Safety Institute is recruiting professional safety engineers as volunteers to help government entities improve their safety

The High Cost of Accidents

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Walk" along with the previously released videos "School Zone—Danger Zone" and "Street Smart is Street Safe" (for training crossing guards).

The Institute's next video will address slips, trips and falls. Since 2000, the number of fatal falls has more than doubled in the United States due to an aging population and the increased use (and often abuse) of prescription medication. Since 1990, the rate of fatal accidents has increased 42 percent to 27.6 fatalities per 100,000 residents. Falls are the second highest cause of on the job injuries in municipalities and the largest cause of on the job accidents for the employees of boards of education.

Information Resource Center The organization plans to expand its website into an extensive resource information center. I encourage you to visit our website, and consider becoming a volunteer or creating a local safety advisory committee. We can save lives and prevent injuries by working together to promote safety. The Institute's success will depend on public officials, public employees and volunteers. We urge you to make a commitment to promoting safety. 🍂

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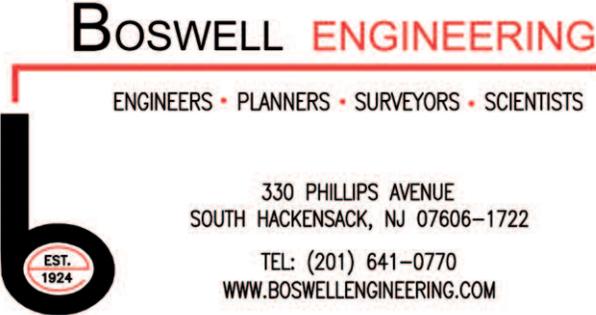


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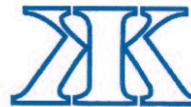
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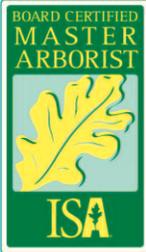




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Leaves of Absences in New Jersey: A Look at FMLA, FLA, and ADA
PNC, Holmdel

April 29

User-Friendly Budgets Webinar

MAY

May 9

A Review of the Open Public Records Act
Gallop Hill Golf Course, Kenilworth

JUNE

June 13

The One Day Mini Conference
The Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor

June 20

A Review of the Open Public Records Act
Deptford Township Recreational Center, Woodbury

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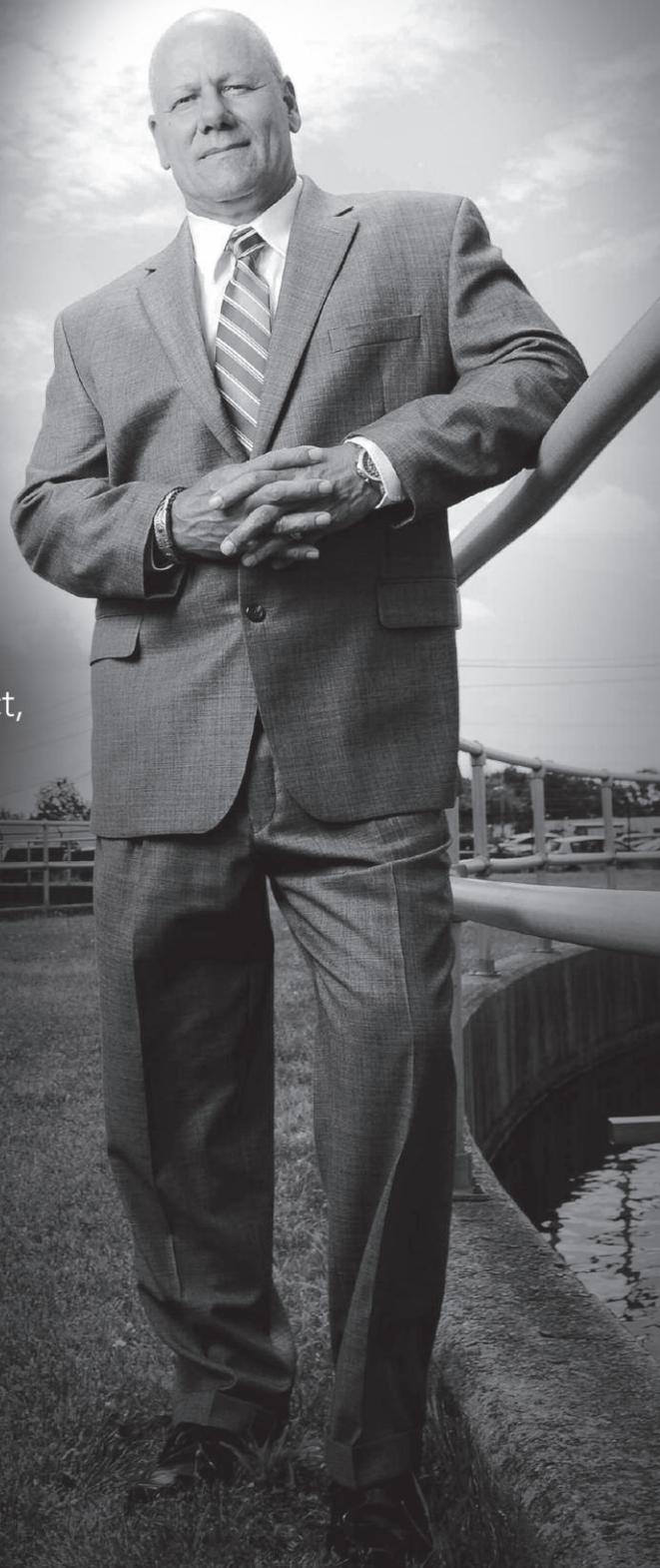
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