

nj

municipalities

Official Publication of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities

April 2020

Hope Soars

Show Off Your City's Winning Moments

Styrofoam Recycling

Washington Priorities 2020

Focus:

ARTS

Creating Arts Centers

How can the Bureau of Municipal Information help your municipality?

Top 5 ways

- 1** Increase efficiency
(by using the tools available in our online resource centers)
- 2** Increase knowledge on a subject
(topic summaries: found on resource center webpages; & in-depth bill histories: found on NJLM's blog)
- 3** Learn from other municipalities
(visit the library of ordinances and shared service agreements enacted throughout the State)
- 4** Stay current: Read what's in-the-news
(subscribe to news flashes to have topic updates emailed to you; or read through the article links featured in individual resource centers)
- 5** Ask questions - discuss with an expert
(League advisory & consultation services are available on several topics)





New Jersey Municipalities Magazine

Volume 97 | Issue 4

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Ann Marie Miller, Director of Advocacy & Public Policy, ArtPride New Jersey Foundation, and Michelle Baxter-Schaffer, NJ Council on the Arts

ABOUT THE COVER

Hope Township rises up as the winner of this year's Show Off Your City contest with an image by Committeeman C. John Kruk. Congratulations and thanks for all of the many submissions from around the state. We look forward to highlighting them throughout the year.



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A Compassionate Voice in Communities

As this issue goes to print, we are beginning to understand the progression of COVID-19 in the United States. New Jersey has identified its first cases of the disease and the response has begun in dollars appropriated, facilities mobilized, advisories communicated, and concerns heightened.

The League has already posted reference resources on our website, just search for COVID-19. Perhaps the most important consideration to keep in mind as we respond is to rely on sources of information that have proven trusted and reliable (read: not casual social media). New Jersey in particular is fortunate to have access to the best medical and academic minds in the country, along with the best medical science and technology.

Local officials, specifically, have a unique role where they can be most effective in responding to this disease. They can be leaders in preventing the stigmatization of groups and individuals as we address our communities' needs and concerns. Your local voices calling for fact-based action and compassion for neighbors is strong medicine to counteract rumors that would divide our community or isolate our neighbors. There is practical response work ahead in your communities requiring action by health officials, schools, the medical community, municipal administration, and others.

As a local leader, your call for compassion can assure that when this is past, your community can be more united and closer than ever because you helped them not lose sight of each other as caring neighbors.

While you are focusing on important local concerns, we continue to work on your behalf here in Trenton and in Washington D.C. Your League President Jim Perry has been to the capitol twice already with good effect. He has met with several of New Jersey's congressional

delegation and arranged a helpful meeting with USDOT on a highway issue. He has met with most of the state legislative leadership and many cabinet members and those meetings are generating further connections. His active outreach to State and Federal officials helps keep municipal concerns actively under their consideration and results in those officials calling the League office for input during deliberations.

I have a few updates on efforts to address the culture of sexual harassment in New Jersey government and politics. On the Chamber of Commerce Walk to Washington, I joined League President Perry and First Vice President Kovach along with Assistant Executive Director Mike Cerra. Having made the trip several times before, I found the atmosphere on the ride down professional and the discussions substantive.

For me, the train ride was a positive experience and the networking was easier than usual. The experience was different than the past, and I am happy to recommend it for those who want a productive professional networking experience.

Coming up in the near future, League First Vice President Kovach will be meeting with Senator Weinberg's task force to update them on a variety of actions the League is taking to address the issue at the local government level.

One of those actions is an April 17 training webinar produced in cooperation with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights "Preventing Sexual Harassment in Your Municipal Workplace." For information on the webinar see the League's web calendar of events.

As I have indicated previously, the League's efforts in this regard will not be narrow and will not be brief. We have an obligation to make local government a safe place for all to engage and that means eliminating the problem of sexual harassment in all places and situations. 🍷

Michael Darcy

“As a local leader, your call for compassion can assure that when this is past, your community can be more united and closer than ever because you helped them not lose sight of each other as caring neighbors.”

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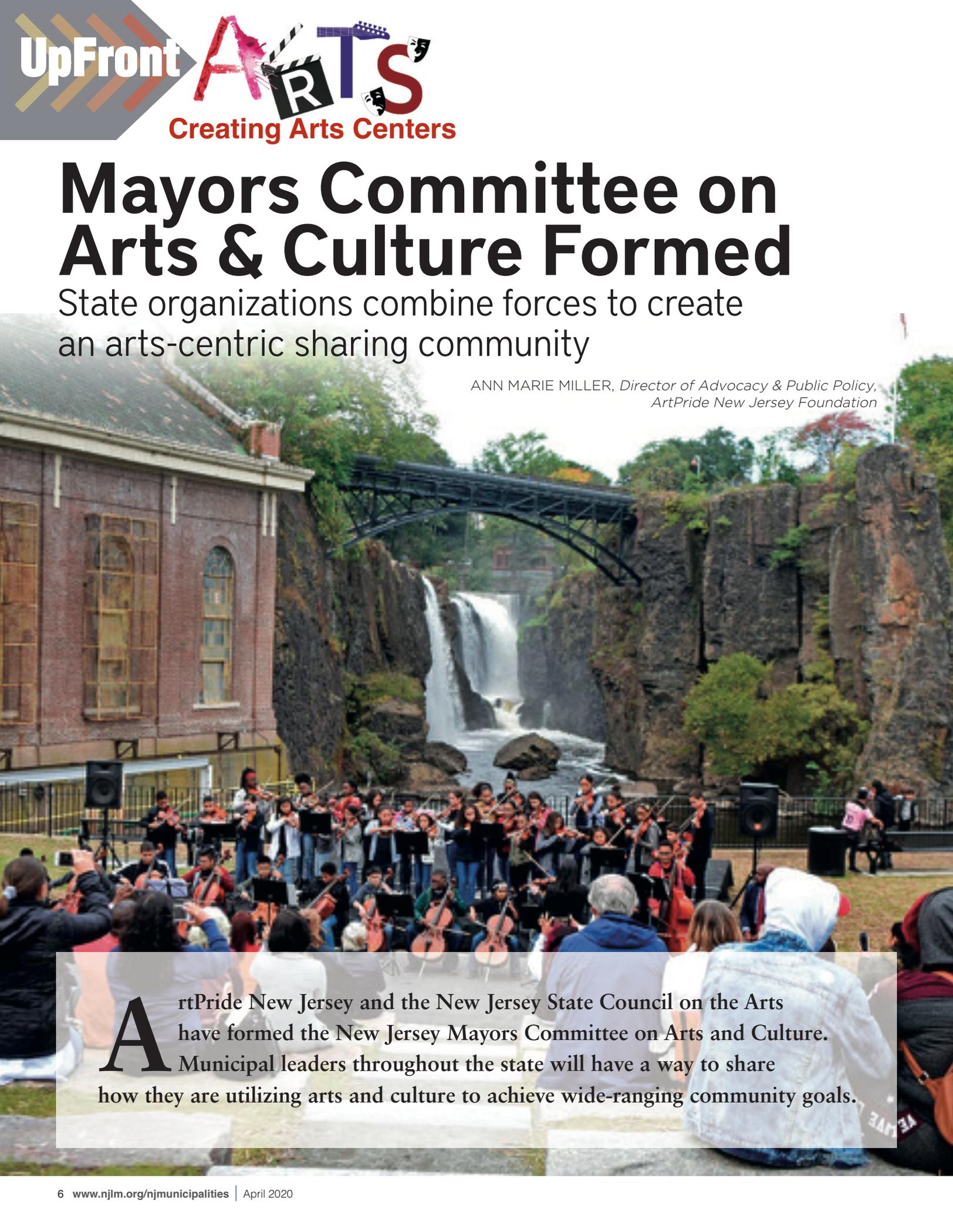
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Mayors Committee on Arts & Culture Formed

State organizations combine forces to create an arts-centric sharing community

ANN MARIE MILLER, *Director of Advocacy & Public Policy, ArtPride New Jersey Foundation*

A large group of young musicians, including violinists, cellists, and woodwind players, are performing outdoors. They are arranged in several rows, facing a large audience. The background features a prominent waterfall cascading over a rocky ledge, with a black metal bridge arching over it. To the left, there is a large, multi-story brick building with arched windows. The scene is set in a park-like area with trees and a clear sky.

ArtPride New Jersey and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts have formed the New Jersey Mayors Committee on Arts and Culture. Municipal leaders throughout the state will have a way to share how they are utilizing arts and culture to achieve wide-ranging community goals.



According to the National League of Cities' State of the Cities 2019 report, the arts are increasingly supported by mayors. When addressing economic development, tourism, and business growth, 31% of mayors cited arts and culture as a way to create jobs and vibrant downtowns.

But beyond design and economic development, arts and culture are increasingly seen as contributors to community development. There is growing appreciation for the invaluable resources of people and creativity. These are things all municipalities possess and, when properly nurtured, build stronger, healthier, more resilient, and dynamic communities.

The public agrees. A 2018 survey by Americans for the Arts reported that 4 in 5 Americans find the arts a positive experience in a troubled world. Further, 90% of respondents said that arts institutions are important to a community's quality of life.

Sharing best practices

Many New Jersey mayors are active in this arena. Several have built arts and culture into their municipal plans. They support local arts councils and commissions and find incentives for public art.

multidisciplinary arts service organization, advances, promotes, and advocates for the arts. Their mission supports the idea that arts are essential to the quality of life of every citizen and the economic vitality of our state.

A 2018 survey by Americans for the Arts reported that 4 in 5 Americans find the arts a positive experience in a troubled world.

The Mayors Committee on Arts and Culture presents a new and focused way to share best practices. Participants can wrestle with challenges, spark creative ventures, and celebrate successes.

ArtPride New Jersey, the state's largest

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, part of the NJ Department of State, supports, encourages, and fosters public interest in the arts through a variety of programs.

ArtPride and the Council on the Arts

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Upfront:
Mayors Committee on Arts & Culture

have collaborated for years at the League Conference. Their sessions shared how arts and culture help shape safe, healthy, and creative places. These forums have been led by elected and appointed municipal leaders and are increasingly well attended by their peers.

A New Jersey Mayors Committee on Arts and Culture will create an ongoing and multi-platform forum. Mayors will share resources and experiences and discuss topics including the formation of local arts commissions and cultural districts. Other subjects will range from public art and creative placemaking to building partnerships with local businesses, developers, and community service organizations.

Members will receive:

- Tools and strategies to promote cultural activities



Surflight Theatre

ARTS IN EDUCATION

HIGH LEVELS OF MUSIC TRAINING IS LINKED WITH BOTH SHORT & LONG TERM MEMORY IMPROVEMENT

THEATER MAKES A STUDENT MORE LIKELY TO BE FRIENDLY TOWARD OTHER RACIAL GROUPS

STUDENTS INVOLVED IN ARTS PROGRAMS ARE **3X** MORE LIKELY TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR

- ▶ ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
- ▶ ELECTION TO CLASS OFFICE
- ▶ AWARDS FOR WRITING
- ▶ AWARDS FOR ATTENDANCE
- ▶ PARTICIPATION IN A SCIENCE FAIR

STUDENTS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN ARTS ORGANIZATIONS ARE MORE LIKELY TO SPEND LEISURE TIME WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE & YOUTH GROUPS

ART CLASS POPULARITY

THEATER	★★★★
DANCE	★★★★★
VISUAL ARTS	★★★★★
MUSIC	★★★★★

READING MUSIC HELPS WITH OPHTHALMIA
 PAINTING PICTURES HELPS WITH AUTISM
 DANCING HELPS WITH MOTOR SKILLS
 ACTING HELPS WITH SPEECH IMPROVEMENTS

STUDENTS IN THE ARTS OUTPERFORMED THEIR NON-ARTS PEERS ON THE SAT BY **91 POINTS**

STUDENTS IN ARTS PROGRAMS ARE **44%** LESS LIKELY TO USE DRUGS THAN THEIR NON-ARTS PEERS

ARTS & MUSIC INVOLVEMENT LEADS TO BETTER GRADES IN CLASSES

MATH | SCIENCE | SPEECH | SOCIAL STUDIES | LITERATURE | HISTORY | FOREIGN LANGUAGE

60% OF AMERICANS VOTE | 86% OF ARTISTS VOTE

JOBS IN THE ARTS INDUSTRY ARE SET TO INCREASE **16% IN 20 YEARS**

Their mission supports the idea that arts are essential to the quality of life of every citizen and the economic vitality of our state.

- Connections to partners and resources
- Invitations to relevant forums and webinars
- Access to an online resource center with links to policies that foster and promote arts and culture reflective of the diverse communities in New Jersey

ArtPride New Jersey and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts invite mayors from municipalities around the state to join a Founder’s Advisory Council. Council members will help form and mobilize the New Jersey Mayor’s Committee on Arts and Culture. 🇯🇵

@ For further information, contact Ann Marie Miller, ArtPride NJ’s Director of Advocacy and Public Policy at amiller@artpridenj.org or 609-479-3377, ext. 307; or Mary Eileen Fouratt, NJ State Council on the Arts Program Officer at MaryEileen.Fouratt@sos.nj.gov or 609-984-6815.



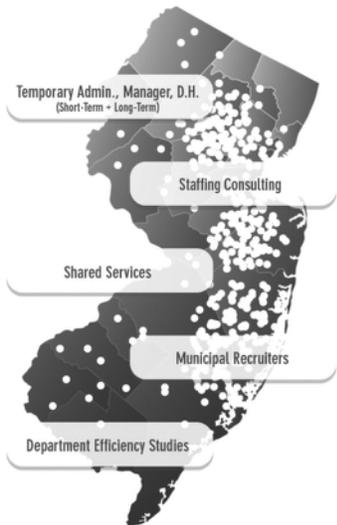
Around the State

Mayors from diverse New Jersey municipalities have already expressed interest in a Mayors Committee on Arts and Culture.

Beach Haven Mayor Nancy Taggart Davis said, "I am delighted to see that ArtPride and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts are joining together to create the Mayors Committee on Arts and Culture. Here on Long Beach Island, the SurfFlight Theatre is a major cultural asset that provides quality regional theater all year long, boosts local businesses, and provides young people with apprenticeships and opportunities to learn and experience musical theater." She continued, "I am eager to share their successes and learn new ways to incorporate art into beach culture."

Paterson Mayor André Sayegh noted, "I attended the League Conference panels on arts and health, safety, and economic development as a Councilman before I was elected Paterson's Mayor, and can vouch to learning about great work being done in large and small cities throughout New Jersey, and the inspiration that results."

He added, "As Mayor, I am incorporating arts and culture into Paterson's new brand and planning process. I see its value through many different lenses. The Mayors Committee on Arts and Culture will offer a way to share experiences beyond the one annual conference panel discussion and provide a base for knowledge building."



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Mayor John McCormac
 Township of Woodbridge
 ★★★★★
 JPM helped us hire two members of our Senior Management Team and handled everything tremendously.
- 

Mayor Thomas Andes
 Township of Denville
 ★★★★★
 Dan and his team at JPM were instrumental in recruiting exactly the right person as our first Executive Director of our newly created Business Improvement District.
- 

Mayor Fred Tagliarini
 Township of Aberdeen
 ★★★★★
 JPM provided an outstanding Temporary DPW Director, and completed an outstanding Efficiency Study of our DPW.
- 

Mayor Beth Holtzman
 City of Ventnor
 ★★★★★
 Best decision we made; Maria Mento and Joe Verruni are very knowledgeable and always accessible.

- 

Stephen Mountain
 Manager, Township of Randolph
 ★★★★★
 JPM was very responsive to our needs and utilized a process that was fair and organized. They helped us select the best professional for the position.
- 

Mayor Richard Onderko
 Borough of Manville
 ★★★★★
 Best Municipal Government Advisors I've met in 10 years in elected office. Helped us recruit a fantastic Administrator. Thanks Dan and JPM.
- 

George Jackson
 Administrator, Borough of Eatontown
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NOW & THEN



AMY SPIEZIO,
Managing Editor

APRIL

Looking back at local government's take on hot topics throughout the history of *NJ Municipalities* magazine.

1940

Safety

Experience has indicated that people do grow tired of working for safety. With this cold fact staring us in the face, we must then begin to develop a bigger field force of people who are paid to promote safety as their specific and only job.

—“*Straws in the Wind*” by Arthur F. Loewe, Education Chairman, Safety, Committee

Planning & Development

Guiding community development along orderly lines, the planning board's basic function, presupposes a complete knowledge of the physical, economic and social structure of the community and a clear understanding of its development goals.

—“*Community Planning in New Jersey*” by Harvey Mandel, Principal Planner, New Jersey State Department of Conservation and Economic Development

1959

Before Hollywood there was Fort Lee, NJ—the film capital of the world

Thomas Edison and William K.L. Dickson invented the world's first motion picture camera, the kinetograph, on the grounds of Edison's West Orange laboratory in 1888.

—“*Starring New Jersey*,” Elizabeth Parchment, Director of Marketing and Chief Diversity Officer, NJ Motion Picture and Television Commission
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“I am proud that Middletown is leading the charge on recycling Styrofoam in New Jersey,”

said Mayor Tony Perry. “We launched the Styrofoam recycling campaign around the holidays so our community could easily dispose of packaging materials from large gifts received, such as TVs, appliances, and furniture in an environmentally safe way.”

—“*Styrofoam Recycling*” by Tara Berson, Public Information Officer, Township of Middletown
Page 28

1984

Environmental Protection

In addition to having direct regulatory authority in this area, municipalities can influence the quality of the environment through the exercise of their land use and zoning.

—“*Role of Local Government in Environmental Protection*” by Lewis Goldshore, Esq.

Green Benefits

Becoming more sustainable will provide spin-off economic and environmental benefits for your government operations and your communities.

—“*This Earth Day, Let's Green the Garden State*,” by Mark N. Mauriello, Acting Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

2009

THIS MONTH

This month our focus is on the stars...of the stage and screen varieties. We discuss how the arts centers around the state make life better. But we haven't forgotten Earth Day and send a happy 50th to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Finally, we salute the wonderful municipalities who participated in our Show Off Your City contest, congratulations to Hope for its winning image and to all of the talented participants. 🌿

League Prepares Assistance for COVID-19

The League is committed to providing municipalities with the best information and advice available on the response to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

A coronavirus (COVID-19) resource webpage on our website, www.njlm.org/COVID-19, provides links to the latest information posted by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the New Jersey Department of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other trusted sources. The website includes reliable sources providing specific lower case guidance for local officials.

In addition to your efforts to protect the public, your first responders, and your workforce, you have to think about how your operations could be effected by staff shortages. You might also consider how you can ensure technological security, if employees are required to work from home. Finally, you may need to protect yourself, your employees, and your citizens from any 'disinformation campaigns' that might arise on the internet.

The Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has established a landing page, where information on management planning and response to the current COVID-19 outbreak is being posted.

In addition, CISA is preparing a Pandemic Guide expected to be posted soon. That document will include important planning information, including assembling a response team, identifying essential personnel, clearly delineating areas of responsibility, and planning for staff shortages.

Relying on trusted sources, we will continue to update our www.njlm.org/COVID-19 webpage with information as it becomes available. 🇺🇸



State League Visits Morris County League



1. Left to Right: Madison Mayor Bob Conley; Mendham Township Committeewoman Amalia Duarte; Long Hill Deputy Mayor and NJLM Executive Board Member Guy Piserchia; Chatham Borough Councilwoman Karen Koronkiewicz; Chatham Township Committeewoman Tracy Ness; Rep. Mikie Sherrill's Director of Outreach, Kellie Doucette; and Chatham Township Deputy Mayor Stacey Ewald.

2. NJLM Executive Director Michael J. Darcy, CAE, speaks to the county league, who congratulated him on his impending retirement with a celebratory cake.

League Seeks Nominees for Mayors' Hall of Fame

Once again, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Executive Board wants to pay tribute to you at the Annual League Conference in November if you are currently a mayor who has served a total of 10 years as mayor.

Mayors who rotate into office are eligible for this recognition. Mayors will be inducted at a special ceremony during the Mayors' Box Luncheon and Executive Briefing at the Annual Conference.

Mayors must meet the following criteria:

- Currently be serving as mayor.
- Currently be serving in at least your 10th cumulative year as mayor for the silver level.
- Currently be serving in at least your 20th cumulative year as mayor for the gold level.
- Currently be serving in at least your 30th cumulative year as mayor for the white level.
- You must not be a current member of the League's Mayors Hall of Fame (this does not apply to silver level mayors now eligible for the gold level or gold who are eligible for white).

These recipients will then be inducted into the New Jersey League of Municipalities Mayors' Hall of Fame and their picture will appear in the January 2021 issue of *NJ Municipalities* magazine.

With your help we can identify and recognize all mayors currently serving in their 10th, 20th or 30th year as mayor. Visit www.njlm.org/mayorsHOF for a nomination form if you, or any currently serving mayor you know of, fit the above criteria.

A list of current members of the Mayors' Hall of Fame may be reviewed at the League website at www.njlm.org/mayorsHOF.

For further details, call the League's Executive Director, Michael J. Darcy at extension 116. 📞

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Kristin Lawrence, *Director of Exhibition and Sponsorships*
klawrence@njlm.org or 609 695-3481 x125
www.njlm.org/exhibit



MEL LEADERSHIP SKILLS TRAINING FOR SUPERVISORS

This year, the MEL is offering additional sessions of its popular three day course for department managers and supervisors. The course focuses on basic managerial responsibilities, leadership strategies and supervisory skills and includes interactive group exercises, case studies and self-assessments.

Enrollment is free of charge for MEL member municipalities and authorities. Class size is limited.

TRAINING AGENDA:

- NJ Local Government 101 for New Supervisors: Paul Shives
- Practical Leadership Strategies: Keith Hummel
- Essential Supervisory Skills: Don Ruprecht, Clark LaMendola

ENROLL NOW! THE FOLLOWING CLASSES ARE AVAILABLE:

- May 13, 20 & 27: Morris County: Mount Olive Municipal Building
- June 3, 10 & 17: Bergen County: Paramus Life Safety Building
- September 10, 17 & 24: Atlantic County: Municipal Building Fire Headquarters
- October 8, 15 & 22: Middlesex County: Woodbridge Library

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS ARE AWARDED TO:

- Clerks, Financial Officers, Purchasing Agents and Tax Collectors
- Public Works Managers
- Fire Service Instructors and Enforcement Officials
- Water and Wastewater Operators

ENROLL NOW

To enroll, visit the MEL website and complete the Registration Form under the MEL Safety Institute menu or email Valerie Faliveno at vafaliveno@jamontgomery.com.



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Budgeting for Elected Officials Seminar

APRIL

The April 3 Mayors Legislative Day at the Statehouse Annex in Trenton has been postponed until further notice. If you have any questions please contact the League at 609-695-3481.

April 15

Recent OPRA Decisions and Q & A with the GRC
Please see www.njlm.com/seminars for status

April 17

Preventing Sexual Harassment in Your Municipal Workplace
Webinar-Your Computer

JUNE

June 12

One Day Mini Conference
Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor

Visit www.njlm.org/seminars or contact Danielle Holland-Htut at dholland@njlm.org or 609-695-3481, Ext. 118.

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The Budgeting for Elected Officials drew a full house of municipal officials ready to learn. The special half-day program was geared toward Elected Officials with the goal of helping them to master the Municipal Budgeting Process. The day was broken into four parts that included Budget Law Overview, What is Budgeting and Why is it Important, the History of State Aid, and Other Issues, and Planning for the Future.

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NJ DOT

Contract # G-4014-NJDOT - Mobile Light Towers



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THE CITY OF NEWARK
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Jersey City Votes on Funding Arts and Culture for the Future

STEVEN FULOP, *Mayor, Jersey City; NJLM Executive Board Member*

Like anything worthwhile, it's incumbent on all of us, not just elected officials, but everyone in our community, to do all that we can to ensure the ability for the arts to exist, its' ability to thrive, and ultimately its' ability to prosper into the future.

That's why it makes perfectly good sense to support the state's first municipal-based effort to financially support the arts community through a new Arts and Culture Trust Fund, which will be used exclusively to support funding for local artists and arts education.

If voters agree to the idea via referendum in November's election, the Arts Fund will be supported by taxpayers at a rate of half a penny per \$100 of assessed property value. The fund will be overseen by a transparent commission of residents appointed by the Mayor.

Jersey City, one of the oldest contiguous cities in the country, and has been able to transform itself the last few decades, thanks in part to a very active artist community. One needs to look no further than historic cities in Europe to appreciate the enduring contributions of great artists of the past, and how their efforts in those communities have had a long-lasting impact for the betterment of society overall.

However, many of the artistic greats lived lives of poverty, scraping together what they could to barely afford pursuing their creative talents. This reality is still present today, as corporate sponsorships are dwindling and artists are hanging up their easels in order to survive.

In fact, Hudson County, an area rich in cultural history, received barely \$200,000 from the NJ State Council on the Arts last year to distribute throughout 12 municipalities, including Jersey City which is expected to surpass Newark as the largest city in the state after the upcoming Census count.

Contrastingly, Essex County, a similar size to Hudson County, receives more than \$5 million from the Arts Council for its arts initiatives.

This obvious disparity in grant funding has left cities like Jersey City on our own to find creative ways to assist financially strapped artists and organizations as they try to thrive in their respective communities. We are ready for the challenge.

HISTORY

In the 1970s Russian immigrant Gregory Gurevich ignited what would become the Jersey City arts scene today with a small gallery in what used to be Our Lady of Czestochowa

Parish Downtown. As years passed, dozens and then hundreds of artists flocked to Jersey City and forged a creative vibe that would become unparalleled across the state.

A small non-profit group started what is known as the Jersey City Artist Studio Tour, which gave the public access to the inner artists' world through open tours of artistic workspaces and their creations during a long weekend once a year. This effort still exists today, but like so many noble efforts, the very survival of the tour hinges upon the City of Jersey City assuming all organization and financial control over the event to keep it alive.

TODAY

In October 2019, more than 75,000 visitors partook in the Artist Studio Tour that showcased the creations of 874 artists. The City's efforts, combined with small corporate donations, has managed to keep the effort going. But as Jersey City grows, the artist community is in dire need of a sustained revenue generating source to facilitate its growth and vitality.

Throughout history, some of the most enduring references and memories of any society has been the cultural and artistic offerings of some of its residents and creators of that particular era. These creations of every genre can be seen in the obvious galleries or museums, hide in plain sight in our most travelled corridors, or slip into the subconscious of our everyday lives.

In the last six years, our administration has been particularly creative in finding new ways to enhance the city's artistic profile by starting a Public Mural Program. Today, we feature a public gallery of over 140 murals beautifying every corridor of the city, artistic tributes created by 78 artists of both local and worldwide origin. We also created a Public Art Advisory Committee to advise the Division of Cultural Affairs and the Department of Public Works on all acts of public arts within city limits.

We also developed JCMAP.org, the most comprehensive and interactive public mural website in the country that hosts photos and locations of all murals in the city along with background information on the artists and the program.

FUTURE

These efforts, although notable, only underscore our increased commitment to support the state's first municipally financed arts collaborative. We can provide a recurring financial boost, a forward-thinking plan, and an organized public body to safeguard it to that end.

A vote "yes" on November's Election Day referendum for that small fee, will collectively go a long way into the future of preserving a valuable foundation of Jersey City culture, our arts. 🇯🇵



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Strong, Healthy Communities

Roselle Park's citizens join together to help protect vulnerable population

#VOLUNTEERSTRONG
It's what Roselle Park is made of

JOE DELORIO, *Committeeman, Roselle Park*

A simple act of kindness can go a long way. One of our residents noticed that many senior citizens are concerned and confused about COVID-19 and posted her concerns on Facebook. Many seniors may not be able to get much-needed household items, medications, or food.

That story reminded me of October 2012 when more than 50% of the Borough of Manasquan was evacuated by the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy. I was the administrator of the Borough at that time, and our immediate focus was to allow the borough's emergency response efforts to implement a swift and immediate response to the crisis.

Elected officials, administrative and public works staff addressed the onslaught of the many bewildered, confused and heartbroken residents and property owners and to take the immediate steps necessary to help recover and rebuild. Local government had to do its job. We were resilient, but we could not do it alone.

It was during that time I learned and came to appreciate the strength of our local faith-based organizations and nonprofits. Their partnership was invaluable. Not only did they address the basic survival needs, food, clothing, shelter, and assistance, but they allowed local government to stay focused while the non-profits addressed the basic human necessities that we all take for granted. Each side was as important to each other, and everyone's goal was to recover and rebuild their town.

The Coronavirus pandemic and the prospects for the future presents us with a similar situation, where faith-based organizations and nonprofits with the support of their residents, are partnering with local governments. In turn, elected and municipal officials and staff can stay focused on addressing the immediate needs of their constituents.

In the Borough Roselle Park, I serve as Councilman At Large, but my service is volunteering to help others through Roselle Park 24/7, a community outreach and assistance program of Roselle 24/7, a 501(c)3 non profit.

With social media now commonplace for community engagement, everyday residents, like Daniela Wenskoski, observed a need and reached out to their fellow neighbors for help.

In our situation, Roselle Park 24/7 offers the opportunity for Roselle Park community members to connect with senior citizens or the disabled who may now want to avoid crowds

or go outdoors. Or they may simply want to talk to a friendly voice who can ease their concerns. The program, named "Connections," is located on our non-profit program website, www.RosellePark247.org. We solicit new volunteers, match them with individuals in need, and offer a place to share resources as people become aware of new ideas and programs.

And now Daniela volunteers to help match other volunteers with participants. While it will be up to the individuals participating to determine whether they can work together, if a match makes another person's life a bit easier and comforting, it will be worth the effort.

It is noticeable how the social media dialog about COVID-19 has shifted from a "What is this?" to "How can we help?" It has offered new innovations and sharing of ideas where we can all participate.

Besides residents, many small businesses have been harmed by the COVID-19 virus due to the lack of customers entering their place of business. We are now forced to rethink how the community can help. Likewise, Roselle Park 24/7 created Roselle Park Delivers, a program idea borrowed from the Methuen Alliance to help small business.

Roselle Park Delivers now lists small businesses which deliver goods or services to individuals who choose to limit their time outdoors or in crowds. And it's not just for eateries, but businesses like drug stores, dry cleaners, and even notary services. We also list other ideas and resources for our small business community to keep them current.

We cannot predict all of the needs of our community and residents. As such, Roselle Park 24/7 created a fund to allow individuals, foundations, and corporations to donate and help others who may need assistance now and in the future. The fund will be used to help our community, its residents and business as we deal with the ongoing impact of the Coronavirus.

While New Jersey has 565 borders, we all live in a state of 8.9 million people and a world now contending with the Coronavirus. Governments at all levels will be under pressure to deliver the much-needed services to address this pandemic, but that requires focus. They cannot succeed without the much needed partnership of our faith-based organizations and nonprofits. And, it is the residents who support these community-based organizations, sharing ideas, implementing new ones, and volunteering their time, that will forge a united resiliency and will ultimately achieve success during this global pandemic.

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Cape May Performs

Newly Renamed, Cape May MAC enriches local culture

SUSAN KRYSIAK, *Director of Media Relations, Cape May MAC*

This year, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary, The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities in Cape May will introduce a new name, Cape May MAC (Museums+Arts+Culture).



MAC's history

In 1970, Cape May's Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts (MAC) was formed when a group of passionate volunteers, through guile and grit, saved the historic 1879 Emlen Physick Estate from demolition, putting the city on a path toward a cultural Renaissance.

Cape May has evolved since then from a quiet shore town into a bustling and historically charming destination with rich cultural and artistic offerings. MAC's

founders were ambitious, and its name "Mid-Atlantic," reflected their uncompromising and lofty goal: to make Cape May into a regional destination for culture, history, and the arts, and preserve its historic integrity for generations.

Municipal partnership

These events and more involve ongoing partnership with the City of Cape May in countless ways. In 1976, city fathers achieved status for Cape May as a National Historic Landmark City, the only one in the nation, laying the foundation for Cape May MAC to thrive. In the early days of the Cape May Music Festival, it was the city that stepped in and saved the day,

Cape May MAC's commitment to excellence continues full steam, with "cultural enrichment of the Cape May region" a continuing and key part of its not-for-profit mission.

More than "America's First Seaside Resort," Cape May has evolved in the past five decades into a lively destination for culture and the arts, in large part thanks to the vision and dedication of Cape May MAC's founders. In addition to maintaining and interpreting three historic sites, the Emlen Physick Estate, the Cape May Lighthouse, and the World War II Lookout Tower, Cape May MAC offers trolley tours, house tours, walking tours, group tours, outdoor festivals, and a full slate of cultural events, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.



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Lester Taylor and Brian Tipton

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Upfront: Cape May Performs

providing a concert venue in the old Cape May Convention Hall at the last minute after a planned venue fell through, thus beginning over a decade-long partnership with the festival.

The city's new Cape May Convention Hall is now host to Cape May MAC's annual Lessons of History Distinguished Lecture series, as well as its holiday and winter crafts shows. It was the city that agreed to bring the organization's Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) exhibit into City Hall as a permanent installation.

The city's Marketing Director Laurie Taylor works closely with Cape May MAC's Director of Special Events Janice Corkery each year in collaboration on these public events. "The arts and music collaboration is such a positive partnership for the city," Taylor said. "We are able to offer all of our patrons, including vacationers, meeting attendees, wedding guests, etc. information regarding Cape May MAC programs, which enhance the experience of their visit. We also hope it brings them back to the city to enjoy all that we have to offer as a year-round destination."

Director Emeritus Michael Zuckerman led the organization for 37 years as it grew to maturity. The city recognized him Feb. 18 upon his retirement with an official commendation for his years of service. Without a vital partnership with city leaders, he told the mayor and council, Cape May MAC would never have accomplished what it has.

"Something that has been true from my first years here all the way to the present, is how important the partnership between the City of Cape May and MAC has been, from the very outset, at the start of MAC 50 years ago," Zuckerman said. "We cannot function as an organization without the constant support that we've gotten year-in and year-out from the city. We could not have launched into the restoration of the Physick Estate without the city stepping in to take on its ownership. We couldn't operate trolley tours that help educate hundreds of thousands of people each



Physick Estate before and after renovations.



year without all of the infrastructure, having safe streets, having the safety of our historic landmarks assured by our fire department, having Cape May Convention Hall, which does such an outstanding job to host MAC programs as well as so many other programs," he said.

Cape May MAC's Director Jody Alessandrino, a former city-councilman with a Master's Degree in Public Administration, took the reins on

Feb. 22. He looks forward to continuing this vital partnership with the city into the next decades. "The City of Cape May and Cape May MAC have a long-standing, unparalleled model of a successful municipal/non-profit

Not Just a Seasonal Economy

Visitors come to Cape May not just for the beaches during the summer months, but during the spring, the fall, and to celebrate Christmas—the "off-season." Cape May MAC now brings visitors from 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and a dozen foreign countries to Cape May from February through December.

The group has become part of the city's lifeblood. A creative, part-time staff of 150 and full-time staff of 25 work year-round to create, produce, market, and manage hundreds of tours, activities, and events, scheduled daily from mid-February through December, that appeal to a broad audience of visitors at distinct times of the year.

The annual Cape May Music Festival, for example, now in its 31st year, brings three weeks of classical, orchestral, jazz, brass band, and contemporary a cappella music to Cape May from late May to mid-June.

The annual Lessons of History Distinguished Lecture Series brings prominent national speakers to Cape May on topics of history in mid-October. This year, it will feature a theater production featuring the life of Harry S. Truman—portrayed by his eldest grandson!

Annual exhibits in the Carroll Gallery focus on Cape May history and are free to the public from April through October. One of these exhibits, focusing on the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), which survey formed the basis for Cape May's status as a Historic Landmark City, is now a permanent installation in Cape May's City Hall.



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Starring New Jersey

How to Make Your Town Film Friendly

ELIZABETH PARCHMENT, *Director of Marketing and Chief Diversity Officer, New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Commission*

Before Hollywood there was Fort Lee, New Jersey—the film capital of the world.

Thomas Edison and William K.L. Dickson invented the world’s first motion picture camera, the kinetograph, on the grounds of Edison’s West Orange laboratory in 1888. Shortly thereafter, the Edison Company built the world’s first movie studio. A one-room shack covered in dark tar paper, it was dubbed the “Black Maria.” Inside that small, wood-frame structure, some of the very first films in history were produced.

The first studio constructed in the Coytesville section of Fort Lee soon followed. The small town on the Hudson River was an ideal location for pioneering filmmakers. An actress at the time once said, “...New Jersey nearby was a fruitful land for movie landscape; it didn’t take long to get there, and transportation was cheap. Small wonder Fort Lee shortly grew to be the popular studio town it did ...”

Some of the major film studios in Hollywood today—Universal, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and 20th Century Fox—can all trace their roots to Fort Lee. In fact, Alice Guy-Blaché, the first woman to direct movies and co-own a studio, The Solax Company, moved her operation from France to Fort Lee.

Return to the Garden State

New Jersey’s time as the world’s movie capital, however, was brief. By the late 1910s filmmakers began a mass exodus to California. Between the 1920s and late 1970s, few films were made in New Jersey.



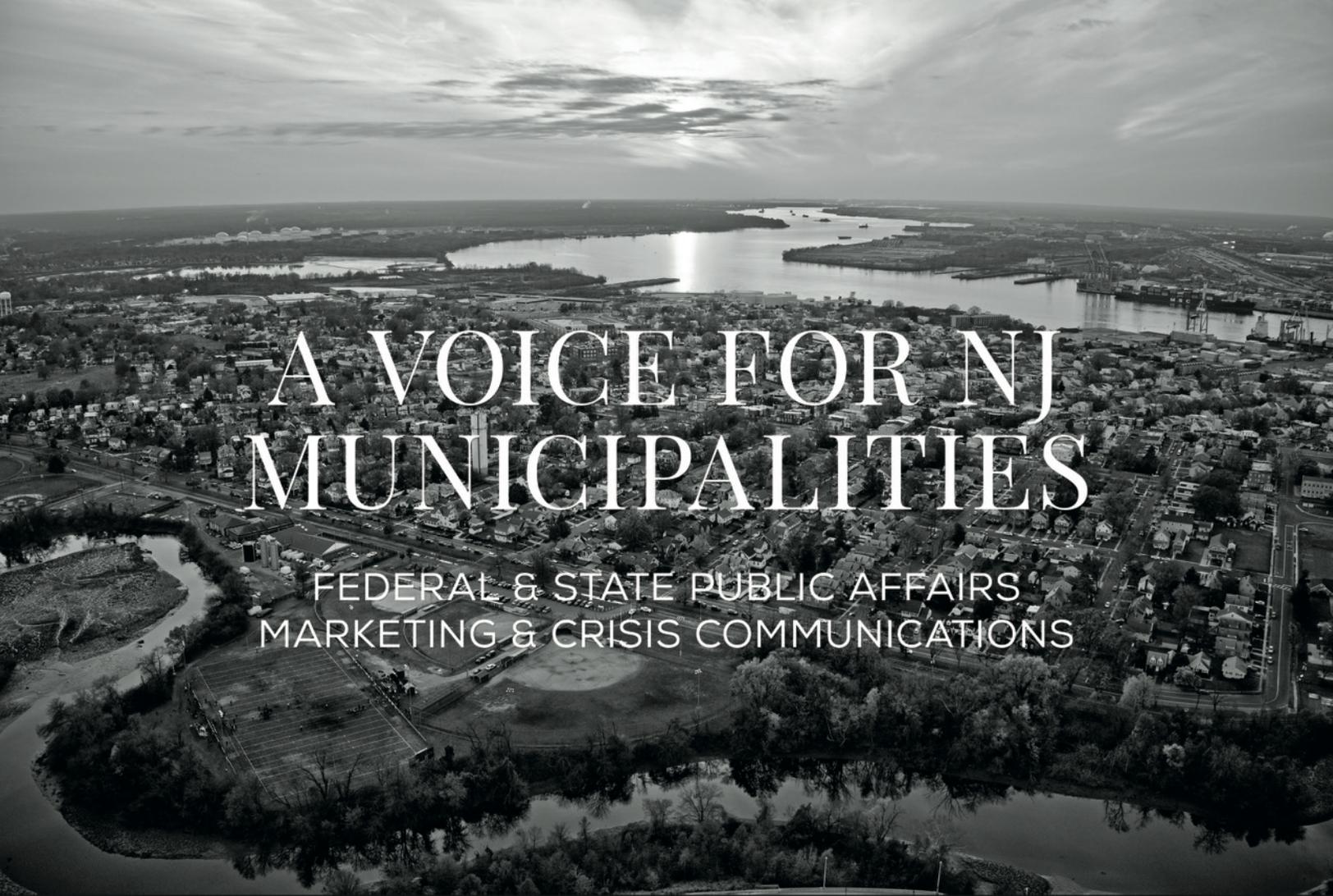
Army of the Dead, Atlantic City



Emergence, Secaucus

But in 1977, the tide began to change. The New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Commission was created by the state legislature, charged with returning the industry to its birthplace. The timing was exactly right, and once again major motion pictures were being filmed in the Garden State.

Starting in 1978 and continuing well into the 2000s, many blockbuster movies were filmed in New Jersey including “Annie,” “Friday the 13th,” “Independence Day,”



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Upfront: Starring New Jersey

“War of the Worlds,” “A Beautiful Mind,” and hundreds of others. Long-running television shows also followed, such as “The Sopranos,” “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” and “Oz.”

In the late 1990s, *Variety* ranked New Jersey number-five in the nation for feature film production.

Impacts of incentives

The arrival of the incentive era in the early 2000s brought dramatic changes to the production landscape. Canada, and other U.S. states, began offering lucrative incentives to filmmakers, making it harder for New Jersey to compete.

In July 2018, the Garden State Film and Digital Media Jobs Act was signed into law by Governor Phil Murphy. It was a game changer.

The state now offers eligible production companies a 30-35% transferable tax credit on qualified film production expenses, plus an additional 2% diversity bonus for qualified productions. During the last two years, some 31 projects have been attracted to the state by the incentive, adding well over \$350 million to New Jersey’s economy and creating thousands of jobs.

“This tool, in conjunction with our existing base of production talent, our diverse workforce, and our myriad settings and locations, gives New Jersey the unique opportunity to dominate the film and television industry like never before,” Governor Phil Murphy recently wrote in a letter to industry contacts.

“The tax credit has created a constant flow of filmmaking activity in New Jersey, and is luring permanent businesses as well—studios, equipment houses, post-production facilities and more,” said Steven Gorelick, Executive Director of the New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Commission (NJMPTC).

Today, New Jersey is well-positioned to become a film mecca once again thanks, in part, to its film friendly locales.

Showcase your community’s attributes

Incentives are highly desirable, but they mean very little in the absence of attractive locations. The state’s proximity to New York City and Philadelphia, and



Joker, Newark, Jersey City



Plot Against America - Paterson

an abundance of location diversity make New Jersey one of a kind.

“I’ve been scouting for many years, and there’s a tremendous wealth of locations. You don’t have to drive more than an hour to see the mountains, beaches, lakes, mansions, run-down shacks, inner-city neighborhoods, country farms. Almost anything you can imagine can be found in the state,” said Montclair location manager Glenn Schuster.

The NJMPTC invites all New Jerseyans to join our ‘Starring New Jersey’ marketing campaign, by photographing your town’s buildings, landscapes and resources. The opportunity to have your town seen in the movies or on television has never been greater. We’re looking for a wide array of residential, commercial, and municipal

properties, both the ordinary and the extraordinary, from warehouses to condos, neighborhood eating spots to historic landmarks, newly built homes to rustic farmhouses, parks to houses of worship—all properties are valuable in attracting a producer’s attention.

“The Apple TV+ series “Little America,” for example, took advantage of our state’s diverse landscape and recreated areas like Utah, Nigeria and India,” said David Schoner, Associate Executive Director at the NJMPTC.

Let’s communicate

The Commission is a one-stop resource for all of your production needs. The agency liaises between production companies, government, and the private sector. We welcome the opportunity to work with experienced

One Size Doesn't Fit All!

New Jersey has 21 counties and 565 municipalities, each with its own unique permitting process. Commission members make production companies aware of local laws, permits, requirements, and procedures.

Some towns have formalized the film permitting process, while others have not. The Commission will provide guidance to any municipality not experienced in dealing with filmmakers, and provide helpful suggestions in order to ensure successful shoots.

"It is not always necessary for communities that rarely see filming projects to establish a film commission or create a film ordinance, but it is necessary to be responsive," NJMPTC's Associate Executive Director David Schoner says.

The Commission recommends reasonable permit fees and rules, requirements, and processes that are simple to follow. Local communities are an essential partner in making the Garden State a premier filming destination and we look forward to working with you.

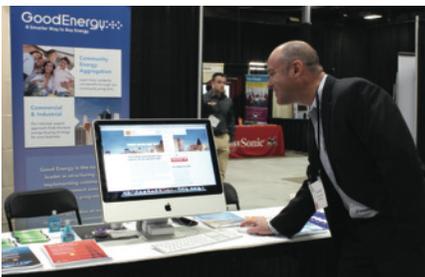
officials who know the ins and outs of their communities, and who are willing to work with us to expedite communications between relevant departments (police, fire, engineering, etc.) for necessary approvals.

"Filming is an inexact science," Schoner said. "Sometimes, the production process can be logistically challenging and unpredictable. Perhaps roads and bridges may need to be intermittently controlled, or businesses temporarily

closed (for a fee, of course). Cooperation and communication are keys to overcoming all obstacles."

Though towns may experience temporary inconveniences when hosting productions, these are easily outweighed by the financial rewards a community can enjoy. A film crew will patronize many businesses within a community, including hotels, caterers, hardware and lumber stores, stationery suppliers, restaurants, gas stations, and more.

The Commission often provides a list of local vendors or refers producers to the online Production Services Directory. This lists over 1,000 New Jersey companies, services, and freelancers—and a growing list of certified minority, women and veteran-owned businesses— that cater to the film, television, and digital media industry. Crew members, freelancers, and vendors are encouraged to apply for a listing in the online Production Services Directory on the Commission's website, <https://nj.gov/state/njfilm/index.shtml>



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Styrofoam Recycling

Middletown first municipality in New Jersey to purchase machine

TARA BERSON, *Public Information Officer, Township of Middletown*



In December 2019, the Township of Middletown announced that it was the first municipality in the State to purchase a Styrofoam recycling machine and provide collection sites for residents of Monmouth County.

“I am proud that Middletown is leading the charge on recycling Styrofoam in New Jersey,” said Mayor Tony Perry. “We launched the Styrofoam recycling campaign around the holidays so our community could easily dispose of packaging materials from large gifts received, such as TVs, appliances, and furniture in an environmentally safe way.”

Before purchasing the Styrofoam recycling machine, Township officials analyzed the financial and ecological benefits. They determined if it would be more cost-effective to purchase a machine or use the Monmouth County Landfill.

The Township partnered with the Foam Cycle System after soliciting bids. Foam Cycle was the only respondent.

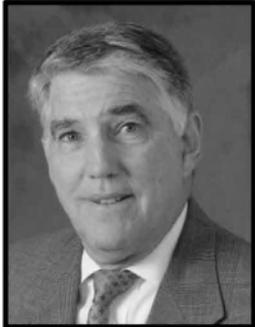
Middletown purchased the larger of the two systems for \$67,500

using funds from the Municipal Recycling Tonnage Grant. The grant is allotted to the town on an annual basis for the amount of materials documented as being recycled in the township. The larger machine, which processes 200 pounds of loose foam per hour, can keep up with the demands of the entire county.

Saving space in landfills

Recycling clean EPS (Expanded Polystyrene) foam packaging materials is expected to save a significant amount of space in our county landfill. This, in turn, extends the life of the public landfill, which is at a premium. Conserving that space will prevent the landfill from reaching capacity and closing down, forcing municipalities to find new ways to dispose of its solid waste.

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Styrofoam Recycling

“This would increase transportation costs and potentially increase tipping fees,” said Public Works Director and Middletown Green Team member Ted Maloney. “It is projected that the Foam Cycle system will save approximately 2,250 cubic yards of space in the county landfill annually.”

Since Styrofoam/EPS doesn't break down in landfills, it is our goal to ensure that we keep it out of our garbage stream to help reduce our ecological footprint.

Since December, Middletown Township has prevented 375 cubic yards, or four tractor trailers worth, of Styrofoam/EPS from our landfills.

“Additionally, the Foam Cycle Styrofoam recycling machine processes Styrofoam/EPS to create an end product that can be sold and reused, so it's very practical,” said Township Administrator Tony Mercantante.

Repurposing Styrofoam/EPS benefits the environment. About 80% of EPS pollutant ends up in landfills, while the other 20% will pollute our waterways, according to the Recycling Expanded Polystyrene and the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority-Foam Cycle Partnership.

In fact, EPS is responsible for 71% of all plastic waste items retrieved from our oceans.

Middletown's recycling education program

The Styrofoam Recycling Program is the beginning of the second phase of the Township's “Strive for Five” Recycling Education & Enforcement Campaign. Launched in advance of Earth Day last year, it was identified as a model recycling education campaign by Sustainable Jersey.

A Second Life for Styrofoam

The Foam Cycle machine reduces the Styrofoam to a densified foam material. It can then be sold and turned into products such as picture frames, crown molding, and even roof and deck materials.

The Township and Foam Cycle have already had success selling its end-product to Princeton Moulding. The company transforms recycled Styrofoam into durable picture frames. Foam Cycle has recently partnered with Revere Picture Framing in Middletown to sell Better Frame picture frames made from 100% recycled foam packaging waste.

“This type of partnership provides an opportunity for Middletown to create a closed-loop recycling process for a material that was once thought of as a pollutant,” said Mayor Perry. “It is an innovative way to keep waste material out of our landfills and waterways while providing a durable and environmentally friendly product for consumers.”

Both Better Frame and Revere Picture Framing plan to promote and sell these frames at zero profit and will instead donate the proceeds to a local environmental group. Additionally, if a Better Frame breaks, Revere Framing will have it recycled into a new frame for the customer.

The purpose of the campaign has been to help residents understand what can and cannot be recycled at the curb and how to do so properly in our single stream recycling system. We are making strides towards increasing sustainability within our community.

In an “Oops!” tag program, residents receive a brightly colored warning stickers on their recycling cart. The explanation of what they are doing incorrectly has been an effective way to help educate the public about reducing contamination in our single stream recycling.

Other recycling initiatives include a Plastic Bag Collection Bin in partnership with ShopRite that was placed at the Middletown Recycling Center for

residents to properly recycle plastic bags. The Township also teamed up with non-profit Second Chance Toys to offer a Plastic Toy Collection Bin for gently-used plastic toys that will be given to underprivileged children.

In June 2018, the Township launched Recycle Coach, a free customized mobile and web application that contains garbage, bulk, and recycling information. Residents can access collection schedules, events, and search acceptable recyclable materials. Alerts and reminders are also available via the app.

The Township also conducts direct public outreach about the “Strive for Five” campaign at community and Township-sponsored events. 

Where to Recycle Your Styrofoam in Monmouth County

Middletown's Styrofoam collection bins are the only ones in Monmouth County. Three collection bins and the recycling machine itself are located at the Middletown Recycling Center. Three collection bins can be found at the Middletown Train Station.

The Middletown Recycling Center is located at 52 Kanen Lane and is open Thursday through Monday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The Middletown Train Station's collection bin is always available. It is located toward the back of the train station's parking lot on Church Street. There will be additional drop off points in the near future.

FOAM CYCLE / THINKING OUTSIDE THE BIN



Started in 2016 by an 18-year veteran of both the waste and recycling industries here in New Jersey, the founder was asked by a customer why they were not able to recycle foam packaging waste at their municipal recycling drop-off center. The “Amazon Effect” had resulted in an extraordinary amount of packaging waste being dropped off at their outdoor recycling center, which included a large amount of foam coolers, TV, furniture and electronic packaging.

The request lead to an idea, a prototype, and the placement of the first Foam Cycle system at their site. What followed was two years of testing, and documented landfill cost avoidance metrics that were verified by a local university. We have now built an accomplished business around this system with trade, customer, and state recognition.

Welcome to **Foam Cycle**, the first and patent pending foam packaging recycling system designed to be installed at municipal, county and university outdoor recycling drop off centers. The concept was born, the custom container manufactured and the equipment all came from New Jersey based companies. The recycled foam that is collected and recycled in towns like Middletown are turned into picture frames, not in China or India, but made right here in New Jersey! At the cost of a new pickup truck this turnkey recycling system is dropped, plugged in and ready to go. Email or call us at info@FoamCycle.com and we will send you a brochure, including pricing.



Let us help your community get excited about recycling again!

The Foam to Frame Process:



"They say it can't be recycled, we're here to prove them wrong"

www.FoamCycle.com

One for the Ages

Special Gift of a Treasured Salem Oak Seedling
Rooted in Our Shared Commitment to Protecting
New Jersey's Environment

CATHERINE R. MCCABE, *Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection*



A tree grows in Trenton...and in Nutley and Neptune, Camden and Clifton, Longport and Lodi, Bridgeton and Blairstown, and in every community across New Jersey.

These are no ordinary trees. They are the priceless progeny of the mighty Salem white oak, one of New Jersey's best-known and most celebrated trees that stood for more than 500 years in the historic city of Salem.

In the coming weeks, the Department of Environmental Protection's vision—that the seedlings of this glorious tree would thrive statewide—takes root. Literally.

Beginning April 20, the DEP will send to each of New Jersey's 565 municipalities one prized Salem oak seedling as a gift in celebration of our 50th birthday on April 22, which also is the

50th anniversary of America's first Earth Day.

The seedlings should arrive in time for planting ceremonies to honor Earth Day or Arbor Day on Friday, April 24. Many communities tell us they are excited about nurturing a Salem oak seedling. Environmental commission representatives, gardening club members, schoolteachers and others are stepping up to serve as good stewards of these living treasures.

Indeed, generations of New Jerseyans will reap the benefits of this extraordinary planting.



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One for the Ages

Choose the right location

Now is the perfect time to consider a location for your community's seedling. Choose a site that has full sun to partial sun. It should be a large, open area about 150 feet from other trees and buildings to allow the seedling to grow to maturity. The white oak can grow to 80 feet to 100 feet tall. Make sure the

soil at the planting site is moist but well-drained. Avoid areas that are rocky, saturated with water, compacted or of poor quality.

No need to break out the shovels; a garden trowel will do nicely because each seedling is very small. Most are only 6 to 8 inches high, but with the proper care they can grow as tall as their parent.



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Force of nature

The seedlings represent an important bridge connecting the Salem oak's past with New Jersey's future by helping to diminish the harmful effects of climate change.

Planting trees can help reduce global warming by removing carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from the air. DEP foresters estimate that over 50 years, these more than 565 trees will sequester approximately 2.1 million pounds of carbon dioxide, conserve 1.2 million kilowatt hours of electricity—which is the equivalent of 143 years of electricity for one household—and intercept approximately 27.1 million gallons of stormwater, among many other environmental benefits.

Heritage trees have significant historic value, and big trees are prized for their size and provide 600 times the environmental benefits of typical trees.

Those benefits include producing oxygen, intercepting airborne particulates and enhancing respiratory health. Trees also help to prevent flooding, provide wildlife habitat and reduce electric bills by shading homes. Access to trees, green spaces and parks promotes greater physical activity and reduces stress, while improving the quality of life in our cities and towns.

We at the DEP take great joy in sharing these seedlings with all of you so that all of us—together—can create a lovely, lasting legacy. 🌱

Catherine R. McCabe is the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, which celebrates its 50th birthday on Earth Day, April 22, 2020.



Census Bureau Announces Updates

Special operations, assistance program, and early nonresponse follow-up impacted

The U.S. Census Bureau continues to carefully monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and follow the guidance of federal, state, and local health authorities. We are adjusting some operations as outlined below with two key principles in mind: protecting the health and safety of our staff and the public and fulfilling our statutory requirement to deliver the 2020 Census counts to the President on schedule.

At press time, over 11 million have responded online to the 2020 Census. Currently, the planned completion date for data collection for the 2020 Census is July 31, 2020, however, that date can and will be adjusted if necessary as the situation evolves in order to achieve a complete and accurate count.

It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail—all without having to meet a census taker.

We are adjusting operations to make sure college students are counted.

- College students living in on-campus housing are counted through their university as part of our Group Quarters Operation, which counts all students living in university owned housing. In addition to college dormitories, the Group Quarters Operation also includes places like nursing homes, group homes, halfway houses, and prisons.

- During our recent 2020 Census Group Quarters Advance Contact operation we contacted college/university student housing administrators to get their input on the enumeration methods that will allow students to participate in the 2020 Census.

- The majority, about 47%, have chosen the eResponse methodology and about 7% chose paper listings, both of which provide the Census Bureau directory information (electronically or via paper records) about each student. About 35%, however, chose drop-off/pick-up which allows students to self-respond using an Individual Census Questionnaire (or ICQ). We are contacting those schools to ask whether they would like to change that preference in light of the emerging situation.

- In general, students in colleges and universities temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 virus will still be counted as part of this process. Even if they are home on census day, April 1, they should be counted according to the residence criteria which states they should be counted where they live and sleep most of the time. We are asking schools to contact their students and remind them to respond.

- Per the Census Bureau's residence criteria, in most cases students living away from home at school should be counted

at school, even if they are temporarily elsewhere due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We're working with group quarters administrators to ensure we count their residents.

- The 2020 Census is designed to offer multiple ways to respond. We're encouraging administrators of group housing to choose a way to count their residents that requires less in-person contact.

- For the "group quarters" operation, which counts people in nursing homes, college dorms, prisons, and other institutional living facilities, we offer a myriad of ways to respond, such as via eResponse, paper listing, or self-enumeration by the facility.

- We're contacting all group quarters administrators that have requested an in-person visit and asking them to consider an eResponse or offering to drop off and later pick up paper forms to minimize in person contact with our census staff.

We're working with service providers to determine the best way forward.

- We are working with service providers at emergency and transitional shelters, soup kitchens, and regularly scheduled mobile food vans to adapt plans to count the populations they serve.

We're delaying the start of our Mobile Questionnaire Assistance program.

- We plan to offer assistance with responding to the 2020 Census at events and locations where people naturally gather as part of our Mobile Questionnaire Assistance program.

- We now plan to offer this assistance fully across the country on April 13, delaying from the previously planned start of March 30.

We're delaying our Early Nonresponse Followup operation.

- In this operation, census takers begin following up with households that haven't responded yet around some colleges and universities. By starting early, we can count households in areas with off-campus housing before the end of the spring semester when students may leave for another residence. We're delaying the start of this effort from April 9 to April 23.

The Census Bureau is also making changes to its paid media campaign, earned media efforts, and partnership outreach efforts to adapt to changing conditions while continuing to promote self-response. The key message right now for anyone with questions about how COVID-19 will affect the 2020 Census: It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail—all without having to meet a census taker.

We will continue to monitor the situation, take appropriate steps in consultation with public health authorities and provide ongoing updates. 📌

Show Off Your City 2020

Hope Township

This year's winner of the NJLM Show Off Your City Contest is Hope Township in Warren County. In a field of more than 45 municipalities and well over 100 images, this aerial photo of the town's village blanketed in snow taken by Committeeman C. John Kruk was a standout.



“This picture shows off Hope’s small-town appeal and natural beauty from a birds’ eye view. From every aspect, we take pride in the Township’s rich history and the thoughtful preservation of its rural surroundings,” notes Mayor Tim McDonough, NJLM Past President.

“The residents of Hope Township are proud of our history and we work hard to provide a future that sustains a unique community atmosphere for all our families.”

“I was flying my drone when I panned toward the village and knew I needed to take a few shots,” said Committeeman Kruk, “This particular one looked like it came out of a Norman Rockwell painting.”

The historic Village of Hope was founded in 1769 by Moravians as one of the first planned communities in the state. Many of the original buildings are still in use today and the Village is part of the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The village is the center of the township, which consists of over

20 square miles and just under 2,000 residents. A rural town with over 1,300 acres of preserved farmland, Jenny Jump State Forest, and several lakes and streams, Hope offers many opportunities for those seeking recreation outdoors.

While the town is very bucolic, there is a lot of commerce as well. They have an interchange (Exit 12) off Interstate 80, an award-winning amusement park (The Land of Make Believe), and are only an hour from New York City. Hope is also 10 minutes from the Delaware Water Gap and the Pocono Mountains, which puts it in driving distance of many large employers, activities and tourist destinations.

Congratulations to Hope and thank you to all of the municipalities who participated this year. The pictures you’ve sent in will be used throughout the year in the magazine, the website, and the League’s social media. In the following pages we feature highlights from Show Off Your City entries throughout the state. 📍

About Hope Township

Established: **1769**

Population: **1,952**

Mayor: **Timothy McDonough**

Deputy Mayor: **Terry Urfer**

Committeeman: **C. John Kruk**

Honorable Mentions

Narrowing down so many excellent entries was no easy task. Towns all over the Garden State have plenty to be proud of, from bustling downtowns to natural wonders. Here are the Honorable Mentions. Congratulations!



Chatham Rainbow over Milton Avenue School by Margie Lowe



Asbury Park's Easter parade by Anthony Steverson



South Orange downtown looking uptown by Matt Glass



Mt. Olive dogs considering a swim by Sherry Ottoson



Somerville Bike race by Lori Lucas



Hillsborough A patriotic moment in farmland

Show off Your City



Roselle Park Fire truck on parade



Ringwood A birdseye view of Cupsaw Lake



Cranford A spring day downtown

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Show off Your City

Festive Days

Throughout the state, communities come together to celebrate festivals, events, and activities. These images illustrate the many entertainments in the Garden State.



Lambertville Heading over the bridge to New Hope Pridefest



Clinton Town Balloon in flight at Red Mill Museum by Alina Mann



North Brunswick Holi celebration



Highland Park Dancers perform at Spring Street Fair



Elmer Santas Mailbox

2019 Municipal Salary Survey

The latest edition of the New Jersey Municipal Salary Report is now available, including salaries for over 40 municipal positions.

This is a digital report that includes data for 244 municipalities in a Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet. The data was gathered from a recent survey conducted by the League. View the full list of positions and municipalities included in this report on the League's website at www.njlm.org/SalaryReport.

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Show off Your City

Mayors' Moments & Municipal Buildings

Town buildings serve residents and build community while Mayors and citizens share special moments.



Evesham Municipal Complex



Flemington Town Hall by David Norton



Hillsborough's municipal complex



Buena Vista Remembering Mayor Chuck Chiarello



Oakland's Fire Department



Montgomery's Opies Mill Pond Bridge inspired the town's logo



Mt. Olive Mayor Robert Greenbaum in the Town Hall's awards hallway



Mountainside's Mayor Paul Mirabelli wishes Helen a Happy 100th Birthday



Merchantville Municipal team proudly poses

Patriot's Pride

Municipalities recognize the heroes who have served overseas and in their communities. 🇺🇸



South Toms River Submarine vets remember



Bordentown Patriot
Thomas Paine statue.
Photo by Valerie Sassaman

Show off Your City



Mountainside Veterans Memorial Park



Riverdale A quiet spot to honor service

Plumsted/New Egypt
Honoring those who served



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By William M. Cox

Revised & Updated By
Stuart R. Koenig (2011-12),
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NJLM's 2020 Federal Priorities

Infrastructure Status and Needs

New Jersey's Infrastructure received an overall Grade of D+ from the American Society of Civil Engineers in 2016. That grade was based on analyses by civil engineering professionals and educators in New Jersey who assigned alphabetical grades according to: capacity, condition, funding, future need, operation and maintenance, public safety, resilience, and innovation.

In that year, New Jersey responded by raising the gas tax and reauthorizing the Transportation Trust Fund. This year, as the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act is set to expire, the federal government needs to step up to the plate.

By investing strategically, we can ensure that America's infrastructure will support a stronger economy and withstand extreme weather events. In addition to a vigorous and comprehensive infrastructure package, we support the following, specific initiatives.

Clean Water Act SRF Renewal

H.R. 1497 The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act, sponsored by Chairman DeFazio and Representatives Napolitano, Young, and Katco, with 53 other members as cosponsors, including Representatives Malinowski, Sires, and Payne. Referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Renews the Clean Water Act State Revolving Loan Fund and provides needed resources to help local governments provide clean water to our residents. We ask that the bill be amended to permit greater state and local flexibility to grant NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems) extensions, when legal or technical issues delay projects.

Recycling Education and Recycling Infrastructure Aid

When the Chinese Market was closed in 2017, recycling became much more difficult and expensive for municipalities across the nation. This despite claims that demand for recyclables in the domestic market exceeds the supply. Education to reduce contamination and increased investment in the recycling infrastructure could benefit towns struggling to meet recycling targets.

S.2941 The RECYCLE Act, sponsored by Senators Portman, Stabenow, Wyden, and Collins, with Senators Young, Peters, Hassan, Warren, Sullivan, Smith, and Murkowski joining as cosponsors. Referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Creates a \$15 million federal grant program overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency. Through the program, state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofits could apply for grant funding to pay for consumer education programs. This would decrease contamination, and potentially make America's waste more marketable both domestically and in foreign markets.

H.R.5115 The RECOVER Act, sponsored by Representatives

Cardenas and Bucshon, with Representative Stanton joining as cosponsor. Referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. A provision for \$500 million in matching federal grants to state, local, and tribal governments to invest in improving their recycling infrastructure, programs, and education efforts.

Protecting the Public's Interest During Broadband 5G Buildout

S.2012 The Restoring Local Control Over Public Infrastructure Act, sponsored by Senators Feinstein, Schumer, Harris, Bennett, Wyden, Cardin and Blumenthal. Referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

Rolls back recent Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules that all but eliminated the ability of local officials to regulate the deployment of wireless infrastructure, to obtain reasonable compensation for the industry's use of public property, and to ensure equal service to an entire community. This bill allows local elected officials to prudently balance competing interests and give local governments the time needed to consider proposals and inspect installations.

H.R. 530 The Accelerating Wireless Broadband Development by Empowering Local Communities Act, sponsored by Representatives Eshoo and Speier, with 54 cosponsors. Referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Reverses the FCC's regulations that prevent municipalities from being good stewards of public property and guardians of the public's safety and welfare.

Restoring Local Cable Regulatory Rights

H.R.5659, The Protecting Community Television Act, sponsored by Representative Eshoo with 30 cosponsors. Referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. S.3818, sponsored by Senator Markey with 15 cosponsors. Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Protects local governments and their community media resources by clarifying the Federal definition of cable franchise fees.

In 2019, the FCC ruled that municipalities must either release cable franchisees from negotiated agreements regarding cable access, facilities, and equipment or allow the corporations to deduct the value of those items from their franchise fees. This will force local officials to choose between meeting important community needs or satisfying taxpayers' right to fair compensation for the use of public rights of way. 🦋

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The New Jersey Building Officials Association was established in 1929. We are a not-for-profit organization recognized as a chapter of the International Code Council, and are devoted to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public, by promoting professionalism, education, and ethics.

NJBOA's Active Membership is comprised of licensed Code Officials and Inspectors of all disciplines, as well as Technical Assistants. We have Associate, Subscribing, and Honorary memberships available to others engaged in the building industry, including housing, planning, zoning, and manufacturers' representatives. Our annual scholarships, totaling over \$30,000.00, have benefited dozens of worthy college students. As always, we welcome people from many career backgrounds to consider joining our organization, or come to any meeting as our guest.

As we celebrate our 90th Anniversary, **NJBOA** is proud to be the **only** statewide association, inclusive of Code Officials, and members of other diverse backgrounds, that is recognized by the Department of Community Affairs. **NJBOA** will continue to actively support and participate in the Building Safety Conference of New Jersey, as we have done for over 35 years. **NJBOA** is an organization that remains strong in membership, welcoming new applicants each year. **NJBOA** is a tried and true brotherhood whose success is written in its legacy. The **NJBOA** Executive Board would like thank our members, Past Presidents, and communities, for their unwavering support, which has helped pave the way to its success thus far. **NJBOA** will continue to forge ahead with strong leadership and the proven confidence of its members, through this decade and beyond.

Jerome Eger *Charles Lasky* *John Fiedler* *Jeffery Heiss* *Lawrence Scorzelli* *Pat J. Naticchione* *Bob LaCosta*
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Legal Language: A Clarification of the Courts

FRANK MARSHALL, ESQ., NJLM Associate General Counsel



When reading your writings I often see terms such as “published opinions,” “unpublished opinions,” and “precedential value” when referring to court rulings. Can you explain what these terms mean to a non-lawyer?



I must apologize for the lack of clarity. When writing for a diverse audience, an attorney can sometimes forget that the jargon used frequently in the legal realm is unfamiliar to those outside of it.

Under the American common law system, lower courts generally must follow the holdings of the courts above them or at their same level. The Latin phrase for this legal doctrine is *stare decisis*, which means “to stand by that which is decided.” This doctrine provides that courts, especially lower courts, are obligated to follow the holdings in previously decided cases when making a ruling on a similar case.

Another commonly used way to describe this doctrine is simply the court following case law. But, not all case law is created equal. Some rulings must be followed by courts, while others serve a more advisory role. The difference in the role of these court rulings is often times referred to as their precedential value.

Rulings issued by NJ courts have differing precedential value depending both on the issuing court and whether the opinion is published or unpublished. New Jersey civil rules make it clear

that an unpublished opinion has no precedential or binding effect on any state court, giving them no precedential value. Published opinions, on the other hand, must be followed by the lower courts and can be said to have high precedential value.

To better understand the differences between published and unpublished opinions and the precedential authority associated with each, a review of the opinions issued throughout the hierarchy of New Jersey’s court system is helpful.

At the top of NJ’s Court system is the Supreme Court. New Jersey’s Supreme Court consists of a Chief Justice and six Associate Justices whose job it is to review the decisions of the state’s lower courts. With limited exceptions, the decisions issued by the Supreme Court are published. All courts that sit below must follow Supreme Court decisions. In addition, the Supreme Court will also follow its own prior rulings. Although the Supreme Court can overturn its prior holdings, this is extremely rare. This gives Supreme Court decisions the highest precedential value.

Next in the pecking order is the Appellate Division of the Superior Court. The Appellate Division is an intermediate appeals court. It is generally comprised of 32 judges who sit in two and three panels chosen from parts consisting of four judges. These panels review decisions that have been appealed from the Superior Court and Tax Court below, as well as decisions from State administrative agencies. The Appellate Division is where published and unpublished opinions most frequently come into play.

Courts sitting below are obligated to follow published decisions from the Appellate Division, giving them strong precedential value. Likewise, the Appellate Division is generally obligated to follow the published decisions of other Appellate Division panels. But, the Supreme Court, which sits above, is under no obligation to follow published decisions from the Appellate Division.

Sitting below the Appellate Division are the Superior Court and the Tax Court. The Superior Court is New Jersey's trial court and conducts criminal, civil, and family-law trials. The Superior Court can also review decisions of the municipal courts. The Tax Court is a trial court similar to the Superior Court but hears only tax related cases. The Tax Court also hears appeals from the County Tax Boards.

Although rare, Superior Court and Tax Court opinions can be published, giving them precedential value. The precedential value, however, is applicable to this level of the court and neither the Supreme Court nor the Appellate Divisions are obligated to follow these decisions.

Now at this point you are probably thinking, "who the heck decides whether an opinion is published or not?" In short,

there is a Committee on Opinions appointed by the Chief Justice that reviews court rulings.

When reviewing a decision for publishing, the committee examines different criteria. Does the decision...

1. Involve a substantial question under the U.S. or NJ Constitution
2. Determine a new and important question of law
3. Change, reverse, seriously question, or criticize the soundness of an established principle of law
4. Determine a substantial question on which the only case law in this State antedates September 15, 1948
5. Have its base upon a matter of practice and procedure not theretofore authoritatively determined

6. Continue to be of public interest and importance

7. Resolve an apparent conflict of authority

8. Constitute a significant and non-duplicative contribution to legal literature by providing an historical review of the law, or describing legislative history, or containing a collection of cases that should be of substantial aid to the bench and bar, although not otherwise meriting publication.

I hope this explanation has shed some light on the dark and mysterious legal lexicon, but more importantly will serve to help make the League's writings a more useful and valuable tool for you and your community. 🦋

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Municipal Spring Cleaning: the Process of Selling Personal Property

LORI BUCKELEW, RMC, NJLM Senior Legislative Analyst

What happens when you no longer need that garbage truck or the closet full of old electronics? Unlike your personal vehicle, you cannot just put the garbage truck on the front lawn of town hall with a sign or have a garage sale. A process must be followed.

The process that is outlined in this article does not apply to real property (land) transactions that's an article for another day.

Once it is determined that personal property (e.g., the garbage truck) is no longer needed for public use, the municipality must determine the estimated fair value. N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36 defines estimated fair value as the "market value of the property between a willing seller and a willing buyer less the cost to the contracting unit to continue storage or maintenance of any personal property not needed for public use."

Based on its value, personal property can be either be sold at private sale, public auction, or by receipt of sealed bids to another government entity. Or it can be used as leverage for a new purchase.

Private sale

There are limited situations where personal property can be sold at private sale without advertising for bids.

First, if the value of the personal property is below 15% of the town's bid threshold, is livestock or perishable goods.

Second, if no bids were received during the public auction or receipt of sealed bids. The private sale cannot be less than the estimated fair value of the personal property.

Finally, if all bids were rejected at public auction. This private sale cannot be less than the highest rejected bid amounts.

Other government entity sale

The town can sell personal property to the any governmental unit in the country, including the federal government or state government, another local government such as another town, county, school, or fire district, "any body politic to which it contributes tax raised funds," or any foreign nation that has diplomatic relations with the United States.

Such a sale must be authorized by resolution of the governing body.

Leverage for a new purchase

The municipality can also use the personal property no longer needed for public use as part of bid specifications to offset the price of a new purchase.

The governing body must first pass a resolution authorizing the leverage for a new purchase.

The governing body must adopt a resolution authorizing the sale for each online sale of personal property to use an online auction platform.

Public auction or sealed bids

If the estimated fair value exceeds 15% of your bid threshold then the personal property, as long as it is not livestock or perishable goods, must be sold at public sale to the highest bidder.

The governing body must adopt a resolution authorizing the sale, by either sealed bid or public auction, of personal property not needed for public use.

A public notice of the sale must be published. The notice must include the date, time, and place of the public sale with a description of the items to be sold and the conditions of the sale in the official newspaper. The sale must be held no less than seven days and no more than 14 days after the latest publication of the sale.

If no bids are received during the sale, the property may be sold at private sale. The law also permits the town to reject all bids received during the sale if it determines such rejections to be in the public interest.

If the all bids are rejected, the town may re-advertise such personal property for a subsequent public sale. If all bids are rejected at the second public sale, the town may sell the personal property at a private sale without further publication or notice.

Use of technology

The use of technology for sale of personal property began as a pilot program and it is now law (P.L. 2018, c. 156). Towns are able to use proven technologies for the sale of not only real property but also personal property. Towns are able to use online auction platforms, which are generally compensated based on a percentage of finale auction price of the personal property that is sold. Local Finance Notice 2019-15 outlines these rules and regulations.

When determining which online auction platform to use the town must consider the types of personal property

anticipated to be sold over the term of the contract. When the fees are charged to the buyer and/or the sellers then the town must use competitive contracting or competitive quotes based on the estimate fair market value.

The governing body must adopt a resolution authorizing the sale for each online sale of personal property to use an online auction platform. A sample resolution is available on the Division of Local Government Services' website, www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dlgs.

When drafting a resolution, it must include, at minimum, the following:

1. A description of the personal property to be sold.
2. A statement that the personal property is no longer needed for public use and that the sale will be held on an online auction platform.
3. Name of the online auction platform.

4. If personal property is on the town's fixed asset inventory, the description must include information that sufficiently identifies the item and provides an audit trail.

5. If the personal property is not part of the fixed asset inventory and not a motorized vehicle, the description can be a general description sufficient enough to inform the public.

6. If the personal property is a motorized vehicle, the description of each vehicle must include the vehicle identification number (VIN) displayed on the title.

As winter turns to spring, it's the perfect time to get rid of unwanted personal property within your municipality. Just remember to remove the item from your fixed assess inventory once it is sold. 📌



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MICHAEL F. CERRA, NJLM Assistant Executive Director;
LORI BUCKELEW & JON R. MORAN, NJLM Senior Legislative Analysts; FRANK MARSHALL, NJLM Associate General Counsel



S-895/A-3471

Certification of tax collectors

Status: S-895 introduced and referred to Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee. A-3471 introduced and referred to Assembly State and Local Government Committee.

Senator Pou and Assemblywoman Sumter have introduced legislation to address the shortage of fiscal year certified tax collectors. S-895/A-3471 would have the Division of Local Government Services offer a course on state fiscal year tax policies and practices for tax collection instead of the Rutgers University. In addition, the legislation amends who may provide the courses necessary to sit for the state exam from Rutgers University to any other college or university with the Director of Division of Local Government Services approval. The language mirrors the language in the Municipal Clerks certification program (N.J.S.A. 40A:-133.2) as well as the Chief Financial Officers certification program (N.J.S.A. 40A:9-140.2(c)).

Currently, the course on state fiscal year tax policies and practices is offered by the Center for Government Services, Rutgers University. However, as there are only nine state fiscal year municipalities, the course is not always offered. By having the Division of Local Government Services offer the course, the pool of possible state fiscal year tax collectors can be increased. The Division of Local Government Services is well equipped to offer this course in the same manner that they offer the County Chief Financial officer endorsement.

It is important to note that it is necessary to have a State Fiscal Year Tax Policies and Practices course. While the functions of the tax collector are universal, under a state fiscal year calculations are different due to the nature of the calendar. For example, in calendar year municipalities, the first and second tax quarters are estimated while the third and fourth quarters are final. In a state fiscal year municipality, it is reversed: the first and second quarters are final and the third and fourth quarters are estimated.

The provisions of the bill would grandfather existing tax collectors in state fiscal year municipalities and would only apply to new tax collectors.

S-895 would take effect on the 1st day of the 7th month next following enactment, except that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as may be necessary for the implementation of this bill.—LB



A-2783/S-1671

Recycled Material Purchase

Guidelines

Status: A-2783 introduced and referred to Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee. S-1671 introduced and referred to Senate Environment and Energy Committee.

A-2783 directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop guidelines concerning State and local government purchase of goods made from recycled material.

A-2783 would require the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with Director of Division of Purchase and Property, to develop and update guidelines within 90 days for use by State and local agencies when entering into contracts for the purchase of goods. This intends to encourage maximum purchase of goods made with the highest percentage of recycled material. In addition, the Director of Division of Purchase and Property, after consulting with DEP, must review and modify all bid and product specifications relating to the purchase of goods made from recycled material to ensure the specifications reflect the guidelines developed by this law.

The League applauds the laudable goal of A-2783, however, we oppose the legislation. DEP already has the authority to undertake such a review and offer such guidance. We are also concerned that, depending upon on how the guidance is crafted, the changes to bid and product specifications may potentially increase cost of goods and services.—LB



A-1382

Seniors Homestead property tax reimbursement

Status: A-1382 introduced and referred to Assembly State and Local Government Committee.

A-1382 would create a new additional homestead property tax reimbursement benefit based on the school portion of a senior homeowner's property taxes. This program would provide reimbursement for a claimant who has owned a homestead and used it as a principal residence for at least 15 consecutive years, regardless of their income.

The reimbursement would equal an amount to the portion of property taxes owed on the real property for school district based on the following schedule:

Age	Portion of Property Taxes Owed for School District Purposes
65 but less than 70	25%
70 but less than 75	30%
75 but less than 80	35%
80 but less than 85	40%
85 but less than 90	45%
90 but less than 95	50%
95 but less than 100	55%
100 or more	100%

If an eligible claimant meets the income requirements for the current homestead property tax reimbursement program, they will be able to receive payments for both the homestead property tax reimbursement and the reimbursement for school portion of taxes.

A-1382 would take effect the first day of the tax year next following enactment. However, the Division of Taxation may take in advance any anticipatory administrative action to implement this law.

While the purpose of the bill is well intended, it creates an administrative burden and does not address the underlying issue of the regressive property taxes. -LB

from the payment of business personal property taxes (BPPT), in any year and in any municipality, when and where it, unilaterally, determined that it provided less than 51% of dial tone service.

The dispute began in 2008, when Verizon informed a handful of municipalities that it had decided to exempt itself from payment of taxes on all of the cables and electronic equipment it houses in local switching stations. In the years that followed, similar decisions by Verizon have led to cases affecting taxpayers in hundreds of other New Jersey municipalities.

Earlier last year, Hopewell Borough in Mercer County prevailed over Verizon

in a Tax Court case involving the corporation's claimed exemption for 2008. It took one municipality 10 years to ensure that Verizon would pay its 2008 taxes. Further litigation will be needed for Hopewell to secure BPPT payments for each subsequent year in which the exemption was claimed. Every other municipality faces the same prospect of costly annual tax court filings, which, as we have seen, can drag on for over a decade. But even that might not end the problem, as Verizon has appealed the final Tax Court decision, forcing Hopewell Borough to put even more time and treasure into the fight.

A-2991/S-421 will put an end to the travail. This initiative will clarify the Legislature's intent to permanently apply the business personal property tax on local exchange telephone companies that were subject to the tax as of April 1, 1997.

We thank the sponsors, Assemblyman Burzichelli and Senators Turner, Bateman, Cardinale, Corrado and Weinberg. S-421 has been referred to the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee. A-2991 will be heard by the Assembly State and Local Government Committee.

Please contact your State Legislators and urge them to support this necessary clarification. -JRM

 **A-2991/S-421**
Local Taxation of Local Telephone Companies

Status: Referred to Assembly State and Local Government Committee; Referred to Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee

The League strongly supports common sense legislation that has been reintroduced for consideration in the current Legislation session. A-2991/S-421 are companion bills that will clarify telecommunications industry corporate tax responsibilities, and shield local taxpayers from the costs of endless tax court litigation.

Based on a misreading of a 1997 law, Verizon decided that it could exempt itself

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The Effects of a Thousand Cuts



BEN DWORKIN, PH.D., *Director, Rowan University Institute for Public Policy & Citizenship (RIPPAC)*

The Democratic Party's reliance on the support of women is well established. Nationally, women vote in both higher overall numbers and percentage rates than men—and they overwhelmingly cast ballots for Democrats. In 2016, female voters favored Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump by 12 points.

In New Jersey, where women make up 52% of the electorate, Governor Phil Murphy has benefitted from the support they've given to Democrats. According to a recent Monmouth Poll, female voters favor the governor by a 44 to 37 margin, while among men, his numbers are under water: 34% approval vs. 42% disapproval.

The Murphy administration continues to extol its record on behalf of this constituency, including naming more female cabinet members than ever before, passing the strongest equal pay law in the nation, and funding Planned Parenthood clinics.

However, as the governor heads into the final 18 months of his term, a series of criticisms regarding his record on issues important to women have begun to congeal, forming a narrative that Republican opponents are already looking to exploit, thereby hoping to undermine Democratic dominance among women voters.

In addition, this narrative is changing the way those in New Jersey political life consider sexism in all its forms.

Individually, the criticisms against Murphy are not lethal to his reelection in 2021, though they are very serious to the people involved. But taken together, even supporters worry about the threat of “death by a thousand cuts.”

The criticisms cover a range of moments involving the governor and those around him. Perhaps most prominent is the allegation by Murphy campaign staffer Katie Brennan that she was raped by fellow staffer Al Alvarez. Though she shared her accusation with members of the campaign hierarchy, Alvarez—who strongly denied it—received a job in the administration. Multiple investigations did not find enough evidence to prosecute, but the Murphy administration was never able to adequately explain who authorized the hiring of Alvarez,

despite knowing the seriousness of the allegation.

A second prominent incident that may contribute to the undermining of Murphy's standing with women is the issue of appointments of women to powerful state commissions. An analysis by the Center for American Women in Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers University found that female appointments to the most significant boards in New Jersey government increased to 27% from 18% during the Murphy administration. However, virtually all of these were attributable to the number of women in the governor's cabinet and the fact that many state commissions designate a seat for specific cabinet members.

According to the CAWP study, as of September 2019, of the 25 positions filled by Murphy that were not required to be a cabinet member, only five were women.

To some, it was therefore not surprising that the governor's subsequent appointments to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority in December were four very qualified individuals—all of whom happened to be women.

Another major criticism with which the governor has had to deal has been leveled by Julie Roginsky, a highly respected, top-level Democratic consultant who helped recruit Murphy to come back to New Jersey to run for office. In a power struggle during the campaign, Roginsky lost out to Brendan Gill, the Essex County Freeholder and Gov. Murphy's campaign manager.

The Murphy campaign, like many others, required its employees to sign non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) to limit what former staff could reveal publicly about their time there. One legacy of the #MeToo movement is that NDAs have come to be seen not only as protections for employers, but also a tool to silence women who want to speak about their experiences with workplace misogyny and sexual harassment.

Roginsky pursued a public campaign aimed at releasing herself and others from the Murphy campaign NDA straightjacket. For months, the Murphy team denied her specific request before recently reversing as the issue of NDAs took on a national scope—due in part to Roginsky's anti-NDA advocacy partnership with fellow ex-Fox News employee Gretchen Carlson.

Confident she was no longer under the yoke of the NDA, Roginsky called the Murphy campaign “the most toxic

workplace environment I have ever seen,” and cited Gill as a major culprit. Gill and Murphy’s team denied the allegations vehemently.

A deeper discussion

Again, individually, none of these criticisms is lethal to the governor’s reelection prospects. And, to be sure, the Murphy administration has worked to counter the larger narrative that has built up, both with specific responses to allegations as well as its broader record of accomplishments.

But taken collectively, these criticisms have formed a new front for Republicans, including former Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli—the only announced GOP candidate for governor—to attack Murphy’s leadership.

Further, the narrative of criticism against Murphy has pushed forward a deeper discussion of how women are treated in New Jersey politics.

Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg formed an ad-hoc, bi-partisan commission

to seek solutions to misogyny throughout state politics. Through an anonymous survey and public hearings, the panel is seeking to collect data and highlight examples of what was, until now, largely limited to private conversations.

Events such as the League of Municipalities’ Annual Conference and the State Chamber of Commerce’s yearly train trip to Washington have come under closer scrutiny because of allegations that inappropriate behavior occurs during the after-hours, privately sponsored events that often surround the official gatherings.

The governor himself raised the issue in his State of the State address in January, citing a need to change “the longstanding culture” in politics because of “the pernicious sexism and abuse that still creeps across these hallways, at conferences, and in meeting rooms.”

In sum, the narrative that has built up around the Murphy administration is affecting two areas of state politics.

The governor, heading into re-election

mode, will have to make repeated efforts and devote additional resources toward ensuring that his support from female voters—a critical part of his coalition—does not diminish.

The larger political world of New Jersey is facing a long overdue reckoning with systemic forces and individual bad actors that have contributed to a culture where far too many women face what should be unacceptable behavior.

Changing a workplace culture is not easy. Experts often suggest a variety of factors come into play, including assertive leadership, systems of accountability and transparency, and expanded training.

For the individual in political life who wants to see things change, a positive, initial step might be to adopt a post-9/11 catchphrase to all aspects of toxic workplace behavior: If you see something, say something.

As every politician knows, simple acts of engagement by ordinary people can bring about extraordinary change. 🦋

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Her Flag Tour Rolls into New Jersey

Her Flag, a nationwide collaborative art and travel project by artist, Marilyn Artus, is coming to Trenton this month.

The tour of Her Flag celebrates the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the 72 years-long nonviolent fight that kicked open voting for women.

To celebrate women's suffrage centennial, Marilyn is traveling through the capital cities of the 36 states that ratified the 19th Amendment and constructing an 18x26-foot flag with 36 stripes to represent each state.

Artus is collaborating with a female artist and performer in each of the 36 states starting in June 2019 and ending in August 2020. At press time, the New Jersey performance was slated to take

place on April 10 at 1 p.m. at the Old Barracks Museum at 101 Barrack Street, Trenton. The event may be livestreamed depending on COVID-19 concerns, visit the website for updates.

Artist Donna Bassin, Ph.D., a New Jersey-based fine artist, author, and award-winning documentary filmmaker has created a stripe for the Garden State.

They will be accompanied by storyteller, teaching artist, and folklorist Karen "Queen Nur" Abdul-Malik, who will perform at the event. 🇺🇸

@ For more information, visit www.herflag.com



Marilyn Artus sewed the Star Field to the flag in Oklahoma City, OK.

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