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June 2024

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Official Publication of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities

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**New Jersey Municipalities Magazine**

Volume 101 | Issue 6

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NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES (ISSN 0028-5846) is published monthly (except July, August and September) by the **New Jersey State League of Municipalities**, 222 West State St., Trenton, NJ 08608. **PHONE: 609-695-3481, FAX: 609-695-0151, WEBSITE: www.njlm.org, EMAIL: njm@njlm.org.** Periodicals postage paid at Trenton, NJ 08608. Postmaster send address changes to NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES, 222 West State St., Trenton, NJ 08608. Print subscription rates (nine months) \$30.00; League members \$25.00; foreign \$46.00. Single copies: League member officials, \$6.00; others, \$8.00; foreign, \$27.00. For additional subscription information visit [www.njlm.org/subscriptions](http://www.njlm.org/subscriptions). Publication No. 380460. © 2024.

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“We appreciate your readership and support of the League’s magazine and hope you renew your subscription this year and recommend the magazine to your coworkers and peers in local government.”

## Celebrate Good Times

Heading into summer, it feels like time to celebrate, and there are plenty of fun items on the calendar this month. On June 9th, the Annual New Jersey Irish Festival in Oceanport and Annual Polish Heritage Festival in East Brunswick, the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum Juneteenth Celebration in Skillman on June 15, the National Marbles Tournament in Wildwood and the State Fair Meadowlands in East Rutherford on June 20, and that’s just a taste of summer options.

Looking to the future, we are heading into a magic time for history buffs, patriots, and soccer fans in the Garden State. As we prepare for the FIFA World Cup 2026 and the 250th Anniversary of the United States, the activity levels around the state are ramping up.

In this issue we took a look at the many celebrations that municipalities undertake, including Deerfield’s 225th anniversary (see page 6) as well as Deptford’s and Monmouth County’s preparations for the Semiquincentennial, the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America in 2026 (page 18).

We also took a moment to appreciate the efforts of the many municipalities that participated in Local Government Week 2024. For a week every April, municipalities draw residents’ attention to the hard work that happens every day

in municipal buildings and communities around the state. Looking for inspiration for Local Government Week 2025, April 8-12? See the images posted on social media and sent into the League (page 10).

As Deptford Mayor Paul Medany notes in his article this month (see page 24), it’s more important than ever for municipalities to come together and celebrate, “Bringing communities together is a time-honored tradition since the days of our founding fathers. In these days of social media, it is now more imperative than ever for residents to hear from us and to meet us in person to solidify information and what better opportunity than to actually meet local officials in a comfortable atmosphere?”

Also this month, we celebrate learning with our NJLM Mini-Conference on June 12 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Conference Center at Mercer Community College in West Windsor. Classes cover topics such as the Ethics of AI, Sick Time Payout, and Future-Proofing Governance. To register, visit [www.njlm.org/Miniconf](http://www.njlm.org/Miniconf).

This is our final issue before the summer, when we work on the Conference and editorial plans for the year to come. We appreciate your readership and support of the League’s magazine and hope you renew your subscription this year and recommend the magazine to your coworkers and peers in local government. Have a great summer, see you in October! 🍷

*Michael Cerra*

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# A Year of Celebration

Deerfield pride shines through with a 12-month celebration of its 225th anniversary

*DawnMarie Bascelli, Township Administrator, Deerfield Township*



2023 Township Committee: Mayor Abigail Perlstein O'Brien, Brian Casper, Dominick Patitucci, Micole Sparacio, Anthony Brago

**T**he Deerfield Township Committee went all-out in 2023 for our 225th anniversary: 23 events, 12 months, 6 full-time employees with a minimal budget, all in the name of #Deerfieldpride.

There was no real plan, just optimism that creativity and community support would bring us to the finish line.

And it did.

Our 2023 lineup was ambitious. It included: Pick Me Up Bouquets for those who needed a little extra support. A “What I Love About Deerfield Township Poster Contest” that inspired over 100 posters sharing visions of what kids love about their hometown.

Family Bowling Night provided free games, shoes, and pizza for the community at our local Campani’s Legacy Lanes.

**The culmination  
of all our efforts  
was Deerfield  
Township Day...**

**The sun was shining,  
and the stage was set  
for a day full of  
traditional activities  
and non-stop fun!**

Movie in the Park brought out the crowd on a warm summer night. The Township Yard Sale, Healthy Kids Running Series, Carmel Park Rededication, Chair Yoga, and Line Dancing got everyone moving!

There were Sports Camps and PlayTown events with the CC Sheriff’s Officers. Local wineries, Cedar Rose and Terra Nonno, hosted Fun Days with deep discounts.

We held a Classic Cruisin’ Car Show, Eagles-Jets Tailgate (a bummer when Aaron Rodgers tore his ACL), Veterans Day Service, Friendsgiving Community Lunch, Holiday Tree Lighting and Firetruck Tour with Santa, as well as a Holiday Home Decorating Competition, events that brought the community together in celebration.

### **Deerfield Township Day**

The culmination of all our efforts was Deerfield Township Day. Our partner for this special activity was the Rosenhayn Fire & Rescue, which annually holds a not-to-be-missed chicken BBQ. The sun was shining, and the stage was set for a day full of traditional activities and non-stop fun.

By noon the crowds were rolling in.

Picnic tables were dressed with red and blue umbrellas and centerpieces created by the Charlotte Brago Senior Center. In front was the brand-new stage area, built by our Public Works Department. Its inaugural use featured The Exceptions playing throughout the day. Later, it would



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## A Year of Celebration

serve as the backdrop to the old-fashioned pie eating contests that had the crowds cheering wildly. Winners, faces covered in donated apple pies, claimed bragging rights and scooters.

The winery and chickens sold out—the pairing was irresistible. Local political parties respectfully coexisted, and the Cumberland County Sheriffs interacted with the kids. AC Electric, The Authority, PJ's Honey, Solid Rock Worship Center, Inspira, and 4H came out, too.

Inflatables had the kids returning to the lines over and over, while the trackless train gave weary attendees the chance to tour the excitement



The Deerfield Township municipal building illuminated green for the Philadelphia Eagles.



The Cumberland High School choral groups visit to the Charlotte Brago Senior Center.

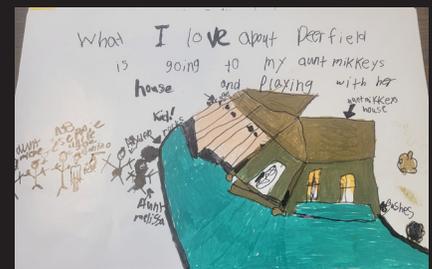
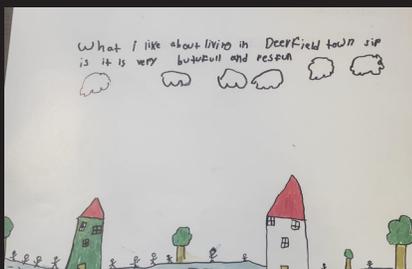
from a comfortable seat.

We invited the SJ Regional Animal Shelter with potential adoptees and the NJSP Mounted Division thrilled families with a close-up look at their horses, and generously provided misters to fight the heat.

Miss Tri-City's crown caught the attention of every princess-loving child, while a local magician was greeted with amazement. A dunk tank was manned by DTS 8th grade to fund a memorial scholarship for former classmate Hailey McMullen.

Our favorite display was our cooperative effort with the Cumberland

## What I Love About Deerfield Township Poster Contest





Deerfield Township firetruck at 225 Anniversary Picnic.

We made it—thanks to the generosity of others. The Authority, Synagro, National Refrigerants, Intersect Energy, Testa, Heck, Testa & White, Inspira, Fralinger Engineering, F&S Produce, AC Electric, Ford-Scott, Camden County Sheriffs, and NJ State Police supported an effort that was 100% about others.

The fact that these events were held free of charge is our greatest source of #Deerfieldpride. We're empowered now...wait until you see what's coming in 2024! 🍀

Regional High School Media Class, which spent weeks interviewing Deerfield senior citizens about their childhood memories. Directed by teacher Ed Sayre, the finished video had everyone excited.

The event ended by handing out picnic baskets for future trips back to the park while the music tapered off and cleanup began. Everyone was amazed at the sense of community and the joy of being among friends.



Mayor Abigail Perlstein-O'Brien presiding over Deerfield's Reorganization meeting.



# 2024 MINI CONFERENCE

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**RATES**

**Member\*** \$125 per registrant

**Non-Member** \$135 per registrant

\*Member rate applies to Municipalities, State, County, and Municipal Utilities & Authorities.

**June 12, 2024**  
7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**Location:**  
The Conference Center  
at Mercer, West Windsor

**TO REGISTER:**  
Visit: [www.njlm.org/miniconf](http://www.njlm.org/miniconf)  
Download the registration form, complete, and fax it with your voucher to Sue DeLany at **609-695-0151**

**SESSION TOPICS:**

- Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
- Sick Time Payout
- Latest Developments in OPRA
- Inactive Liquor Licenses
- Sustainable Jersey Resources for Green Purchasing
- Future Proofing Government
- ...and more!

**Questions?**  
Contact Danielle Holland-Htut, [dholland@njlm.org](mailto:dholland@njlm.org)



**1** **NJ LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2024 WEEK** APRIL 7-13  
#njlocalgov

**APR 8** **CITY SERVICES MAP**  
Trying to find the Cape's Office? How about the Construction Office? Find out more when we feature a City Services Map including a virtual tour of City Hall!

**APR 9** **TAX OFFICES TUESDAY**  
Kicks off Local Government Week with information about the Tax Collector and Tax Assessor, including where to buy Beach Tags!

**APR 10** **WEDDING WEDNESDAY**  
We present Cape May Wedding! Learn more about where to apply for a marriage license and how to book your wedding in Cape May City. **\*BONUS FEATURE - WEBSITE**  
We provide you with a "how to" navigate the City website.

**APR 11** **TOUCH-A-TRUCK 1:00 PM**  
Kids of all ages (including kids at heart!) are invited to the Cape May City Hall to see, touch, climb and explore our City vehicles!

**APR 12** **FUN IN THE SUN**  
Kids of all ages are invited to the Cape May City Hall to see, touch, climb and explore our City vehicles!

**2** **LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK**

**CLERK'S OFFICE:**

- ✓ Elections
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## Celebrating Municipalities: Local Government Week 2024

New Jersey's municipalities took a moment to show off and celebrate with Local Government Week 2024, held April 7-13.

The events were varied and involved local government elected officials, professionals, and volunteers as connections were enhanced with residents through activities. Towns like East Brunswick recognized their volunteers, while students in Deptford, Evesham, Nutley, and other towns were welcome to municipal buildings for instructional events, shadowing elected officials and professionals, and Student Government days.

Towns also took to their social media to provide background information on what local professionals do. These insights explained the efforts of business administrators, public works, parks and recreation, public safety, finance departments and more. Mayors including former NJLM President Mayor Brian C. Wahler and Garwood Mayor, Jen Blumenstock, and others around the state were featured in videos and reels interviewing local department heads to share information with the community about the day-to-day work that ensures smooth civic operations.

The events promoted fun and games with photo and poster contests and Hillsboro's scavenger hunt.

"NJ Local Government Week is an opportunity to help our residents become more informed about the many services we provide, which will lead to more knowledgeable citizen participation in the future," said Berkeley Heights Mayor Angie Devanney. "We are excited for all of the great programming we have planned this year from our various departments, committees, commissions, task forces and other stakeholder groups on everything from veterans' services, wellness programs, mental health initiatives, recreation opportunities for residents of all ages and more. We hope to engage residents of all ages in our upcoming events."

Next year's Local Government Week is slated for April 6-12. 



**Borough of Dunellen Celebrates Local Government Week!**

*Thank you to all of our departments and volunteer organizations!*

*You keep the Miracle Mile running!*

**NJ LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2024 WEEK** APRIL 7-13  
#njlocalgov



Borough of Glen Ridge  
**Meet & Greet**  
 TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024  
 8:00am - 9:00am  
 Glen Ridge Train Station  
 228 Ridgewood Avenue  
 Coffee & Treats Provided!

MAYOR DEBBIE MANS  
 COUNCILOR PETER HUGHES  
 COUNCILOR LORJEANE MOODY

**NJ LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2024 WEEK**  
 APRIL 7-15  
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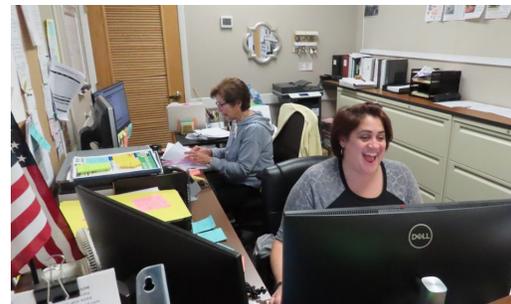
Hillsborough Township's NJ Local Government Week  
**Scavenger Hunt!**  
 April 8th - 12th 8:00 am - 4:00 pm  
 379 S. Branch Road

All Ages are Welcome  
 Local Government Week April 7-15

**Department of Public Works**

A Tribute to Nature's Keepers  
 Throughout our town, the landscape is green. A ribbon of nature, a community stream. Maintained by stream owners yet to be seen. They work through the seasons, in wetland and grass. We're discoverers and maintainers of our water. Enjoying the stream and its riparian habitat. Through streams, fish, waterfowl and spring freshets. They share their dedication to our water. They share their passion for nature, and their dedication to our water. They share their passion for nature, and their dedication to our water. They share their passion for nature, and their dedication to our water.

**NJ LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2024 WEEK**



**Celebrate Local Government Week!**  
**Open House at Town Hall**  
 Wednesday, April 10th • 2:30pm - 4:30pm  
 430 Park Avenue • Courtroom

**Meet your Mayor and Council and town officials**

Refreshments included

Registration not required, but if you have a large group that wants to schedule a tour, please contact the Manager's office at 908-322-6700 ext. 313

**SUMMIT THROUGH YOUR EYES**  
 PHOTO CONTEST  
 2024 Local Government Week

Submit up to three photos to [pressoffice@cityofsummit.org](mailto:pressoffice@cityofsummit.org) by March 29.  
 Three winners will receive a \$50 Summit VISA Gift Card.

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Office of the Mayor  
**Proclamation**  
 RECOGNIZING NJ LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK  
 AND INVOLVING ALL CITIZENS  
 TO SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, local government provides services and programs that enhance the quality of life of residents, making their municipality their best asset; and

WHEREAS, local government is administered for and by its citizens, and it is the responsibility of local government to ensure that its citizens are well-served; and

WHEREAS, local government officials and employees share the responsibility to ensure that the understanding of public services and their benefits; and

WHEREAS, NJ Local Government Week offers an important opportunity for elected officials and local government staff to connect with the citizens of New Jersey that they can shape and influence this branch of government;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Matthew T. Morvillo, Mayor of Washington Township, on behalf of the Washington Township Committee, do hereby recognize all citizens, local government officials and employees to celebrate NJ Local Government Week, recognizing educational partnership between local government, schools, civic groups and other organizations, and support and encourage all New Jersey local governments to actively promote and support NJ Local Government Week.

Dated: April 18, 2024

*Matthew T. Morvillo*  
 Mayor

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04.11.24 • 11AM  
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 NO AGENDA, JUST CONVERSATION

**NJ LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2024 WEEK**

Borough of Somerdale  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2024 WEEK**  
 APRIL 7-15  
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**THANK YOU PUBLIC WORKS!**

**Getting to know the Borough!**

**Jim Damato**  
 Borough Administrator

- Captions:** 1. Cape May 2. Berkely Heights 3. Bethlehem 4. Clinton 5. Colingswood 6. East Brunswick 7. Deerfield 8. Chatham 9. Deptford 10. Dunellen 11. Evesham 12. Garwood 13. Glen Ridge 14. Hillsborough 15. Montgomery 16. Neptune 17. Nutley 18. Pennsauken 19. Piscataway 20. Roseland 21. Scotch Plains 22. Summit 23. Washington Twp 24. Wharton 25. Somerdale 26. Watchung.

# Around the State



NJLM President and Wharton Mayor William Chegwidgen hosted residents for a Coffee with the Mayor in Council chambers for Local Government week.



NJLM Past President Elizabeth Mayor Christian Bollwage, Mayor Chegwidgen, and Mt. Arlington Mayor Michael Stanzilis at the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce 2024 ReNew Jersey Business Expo.



NJLM Executive Board Member Mayor Guy Pischerchia of Long Hill, NJLM President Mayor Bill Chegwidgen, and Mr. Arlington Mayor Mike Stanzilis were among the chefs at a recent fundraising cookoff.



Mayor Chegwidgen, center, with Assembly Minority Leader John DiMaio and Senate Republican Leader Anthony Bucco at the NJ Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo in Atlantic City.



League President Mayor William Chegwidgen of Wharton and League Executive Director Mike Cerra attended a recent meeting of the Pascack Valley Mayors' Association. Shown here: Standing (l-r): Mike Cerra; Pascack Valley Mayor's Association Executive Director Terry Maguire; Oradell Mayor James G. Koth III; Mayor Chegwidgen; Westwood Mayor Raymond Arroyo; Montvale Mayor Michael Ghassali; Washington Township (Bergen) Mayor Peter Calamari; Hillsdale Mayor Michael Sheinfeld. Seated: Park Ridge Mayor Keith Misciagna; Emerson Mayor Danielle DiPaola; Old Tappan Mayor Thomas Gallagher; Woodcliff Lake Mayor Carlos Rendo; River Vale Mayor Mark Bromberg.

- NJ Knowledge Answers** 1. Superbowl XLVIII and FIFA World Cup 26 Final. 2. Asbury Park. 3. Shadfest, Lambertville. 4. Blueberry. 5. The Doo Dah Parade. 6. New Jersey Renaissance Faire. 7. More than 2 million lights. 8. Alice Paul. 9. Branch Brook Park, in Newark, part of the Essex County Park System. 10. Semiquincentennial.

## NJLM NJMN Events

June

**12 NJLM One Day Mini-Conference**  
Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor

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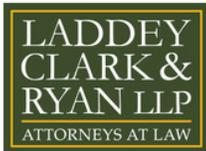
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