

NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES

New Jersey State League of Municipalities • njslom.org • October 2013

98th Annual
NJLM Conference
Information Inside!

SUPERSTORM SANDY RECOVERY

One Year Later

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- Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Winners
 - The Candidates for Governor Speak Out
 - Somerset's Blueprint for Economic Growth
-



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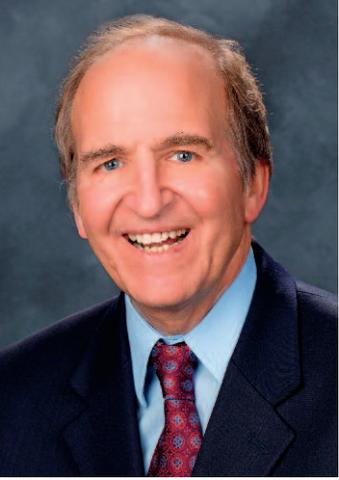


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FROM 222 WEST STATE STREET
BILL DRESSEL, LEAGUE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ONLY VOTERS SHAPE OUR FUTURE

This month, New Jersey voters will choose their new United States Senator at the Special General Election. Next month, they will return to the polls to elect a Governor and Lieutenant Governor and a new State Legislature. At the November General Election, the voters will also have the chance to consider two amendments to the State Constitution. One would allow the use of money generated by current games of chance to be used to support veterans' organizations, and the other would increase the minimum wage. In addition to those statewide contests, local voters will cast ballots to fill Mayors' offices and council chambers in municipalities all around our Garden State.

[THAT RIGHT TO VOTE AND TO
RUN FOR OFFICE IS THE ONLY
FACULTY THAT MAKES US CITIZENS,
INSTEAD OF SUBJECTS.]

The right and duty to vote is the defining characteristic of our democratic republic. We need to remember that in the history of civilization, only a handful of governments have been formed by competitive elections. And in even fewer has the franchise been broadly available, without restrictions based on property ownership, gender, race or religion. The elimination of such restrictions, even in our state and our nation, has always involved years of peaceful protest and, all too often, times of violent struggle. Our right to vote is what makes us citizens, instead of subjects.

Recognizing the importance of this year's statewide elections, we asked Governor Christie and Senator Buono to let our readers know a little bit more about themselves and about their plans for New Jersey's future. We thank both of them for their consideration. Their responses are featured in this edition.

We salute them and all candidates running this fall for public office. And we thank those who will take the time and make the effort to register their votes. It is a debt they owe to their children and to their fellow citizens; and it is the only way to honor the memory of those who have fought, and in some cases died, to win and to preserve that right for all. ▲

NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES



CONTENTS October 2013

FEATURES



EAST WINDSOR'S SENIOR CENTER

30

COLUMNS

From 222 West State Street 2
By Bill Dresse

As I See It 28
Janice S. Mironov, Mayor, East Windsor Township

Washington Watch 52
By Bob Menendez, U.S. Senator

Under the Gold Dome 66
By Darryl Isherwood

Legislative Update 78
By Lori Buckelew, Michael Cerra, Jon Moran

Legal Q&A 92
By Edward W. Purcell, Esq.

Getting the Most from Your League 100
By Taran B. Samhammer

Business Card Directory 109

Garden Statements 112
By Taran B. Samhammer

Events 112
By Danielle Holland-Httut



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

38



AFFORDABLE HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS

74

2013 Governor's Race The Candidates Weigh In on Local Issues 4
By Chris Christie, Governor & Barbara Bouno, State Senator

Special Section—

Better State-Local Cooperation Superstorm Sandy's Silver Lining 6
By Richard E. Constable, III, Commissioner, DCA

Committed to Supporting a Strong Recovery 10
By Bob Martin, Commissioner, DEP

How Towns Are Rebuilding Their Finances 12
By Tara Lovrich, Manalapan Twp., Pres., NJMMA & Gregory Bonin, Branchburg Twp., VP, NJMMA

Our Libraries Were Ports in the Storm 16
By Marian R. Bauman, Director, Neptune Public Library & Randy Bishop, former Mayor, Neptune

The State Sets a Course for Recovery 18
By Captain Patrick Callahan, NJ Office of Emergency Management, Recovery Bureau

Creating a More Resilient New Jersey 20
By Raimy Schutzman Cheyne, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University

The Louis Bay II Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Essay Winners Recognizing Tomorrow's Leaders 24

East Windsor Senior Center Celebrating a Decade of Learning, Food, Friendship and Fun 30
By Janice S. Mironov, President, NJLM; Mayor, East Windsor Twp. & Dina Leacock, Senior Coordinator

Investment Somerset A Blueprint for Economic Growth 34
By Jo-Ann Liptak, Mayor, Raritan Borough; member, NJLM Executive Board; Frank Delcore, Mayor, Hillsborough Twp. & Vic Sordillo, Mayor, Warren Twp.

Stormwater Management How to Stay Afloat in New Jersey 38
By Kelly A. Yeade, Mayor, Hamilton Twp. (Mercer); Christopher Obropta, Rutgers University; & Richard Watson, Dept. of Water Pollution Control, Hamilton Twp. (Mercer)

Bringing an Obsolete Public Building Up-to-Date 42
By Frederick J. Rast, III, Mayor, Borough of Atlantic Highlands; Adam Hubeny, Administrator, Borough of Atlantic Highlands & Eli Goldstein, The Goldstein Partnership, Architects & Planners

98th Annual NJLM Conference Preview

By Speaking Out We Can Save Lives 49
By Joseph Accardi, Mayor, Roselle Park

Recognizing Outstanding Leadership 50

Adapting to the Realities of the Information Age 54
By Vanessa Sandom, Mayor, Hopewell (Mercer)

Tenafly's Borough and Board of Ed Team Up for Safety 58
By Peter Rustin, Mayor, Tenafly Borough

Rethinking Disaster Communications 62
By Kenneth W. Short, Mayor, Washington Twp. (Morris)

Asking Employees to Go the Extra Mile 68
By Dave Fried, Mayor, Robbinsville

Revitalizing Vacant Office Space Hanover Sends Out Rings of Success 72
By Ron Francioli, Mayor, Hanover Twp.

Affordable Housing Public, Non-profit and Private Partnerships Are Paving the Way 74
By Blair Schleicher Bravo, Councilwoman, Mountain Lakes; Exec. Dir., Morris Habitat for Humanity & Jeannie Tsukamoto, Councilwoman, Madison; Board Member, Morris Habitat for Humanity

Protecting the Unemployment Insurance Fund A Record of Success 84
By Harold J. Wirths, Commissioner, Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development

Advocating for the Municipal Agenda An Update on the League Conference Resolutions 88
By Michael F. Cerra, NJLM Director of Government Affairs

What Is an Abstention Under the Municipal Vacancy Law? 94
By Angelo J. Genova, Esq. & Brett M. Pugach, Esq., Genova Burns Giantomasi Webster LLC

Wireless Concealment The Art of Hiding Cell Towers in Historic Places 98
By Colleen Troy, Touchpoint Communications

New Jersey Manufacturers Working to Make Driving Safer 102
By John W. Hardiman, Director, NJM Personal Lines Policyholder Services

New CEU Procedures for League Conference 104
By Danielle Holland-Httut, NJLM Seminar Manager

Cerra Named Director of Government Affairs 106

Gibbons Joins NJLM Legal Team 106

Past League President Stephen C. Horvath, Jr. Will Be Missed 108

A Record of Communication and Reform



By Chris Christie
Governor

NJLM asked each candidate to provide a statement on how they would work to support the goals of New Jersey's municipal officials if elected governor on November 5.

As has been evidenced over the past three and a half years, I hold a special value and regard for my relationships with New Jersey's mayors. I've made direct outreach, communication, and dialogue a regular, day-to-day feature of municipal officials' experience with my administration.

Beyond and apart from fostering direct, open lines of communication with League members; we've established an extensive, strong record of responding to the needs of local governments and taxpayers.

We've worked hard and have successfully fought for and implemented policies that have lowered costs, increased the predictability of state assistance, and provided tools to increase efficiency and best management practices that mutually respect the needs of local taxpayers and elected representatives alike.

Among those accomplishments are:

- the enactment of a historic, bipartisan 2 percent cap on property taxes that was implemented with the input, assistance, and support of hundreds of local elected officials;
- a matching cap on interest arbitration awards and reforms of the process;
- historic reform of a broken pension and health benefit system—providing \$49 billion in savings to local governments alone;
- a municipal and county government best practices program that promotes and rewards responsible budgeting and governance practices; increased accountability and state partnership in the Transitional Aid program to help and reward distressed municipalities return to financial self-sufficiency;
- tool kit reforms to lower costs and increase management flexibility;
- steady and predictable municipal aid levels; and,
- renewal of the Transportation Capital Plan with \$200 million in grants specifically for local government projects, among many other achievements for our local governments and taxpayers.

In a prospective second term, we are committed to building upon this record of accomplishment, and further

strengthening our relationships and lines of communication with mayors and local officials. We plan to provide a responsive, receptive state government that provides effective and timely resolution to the needs of local governments and taxpayers at every level throughout the state.

I greatly appreciate the work of the League on behalf of its membership, as well as this opportunity to address local concerns.

I am proud of the free, open, and effective communication we've had with League members since taking office in 2010 and, with your support, I look forward to maintaining the same strong level of dialogue and communication in a second term.

Governor Christie's passion for solving the state's biggest problems is rooted in his upbringing. Christopher James Christie was born in Newark and grew up in nearby Livingston. With the exception of his time pursuing his undergraduate studies out of state, the Governor has proudly called New Jersey home all his life.

Christie earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of Delaware in 1984, and a Juris Doctor from the Seton Hall University School of Law in 1987.

The Governor met his wife Mary Pat while both were attending the University of Delaware. They have been married since 1986 and currently live in Mendham with their four children, Andrew (b. 1993), Sarah (b. 1996), Patrick (b. 2000), and Bridget (b. 2003).

After spending a number of years in private practice, he was elected to the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1994 and served as Freeholder Director in 1997.

In 2002, Christie was named U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey. He won national acclaim for combating political corruption, terrorism, and gang-related violence, among other crimes. He garnered praise for pursuing corruption among both Republican and Democratic elected officials, compiling an impressive record of over 130 convictions or guilty pleas. Christie never lost a single case and was commended by the state's major newspapers when he left office in December 2008.

Since taking office, as Governor, Christie's strong leadership and willingness to work toward principled, bipartisan compromise has been recognized throughout the nation. ▲

Building a Stronger State, From the Ground Up



By Barbara Bouno
State Senator

New Jersey has a long tradition of finding local solutions to local problems. From Cape May to High Point, New Jersey's mayors and local officials have been at the forefront of addressing constituent concerns and cultivating safe, strong communities.

I am proud of my record of supporting New Jersey's local governments in their effort to enhance the quality of life in towns and cities across our state. I cosponsored the original 1999 bill requiring annual inflation adjustment increases in state aid under the Energy Tax and CMPTRA programs. In addition, I voted for S-1900 to restore property tax relief dollars to local budgets and extend the poison pill protection to total formula aid for municipalities. And most recently, I voted to enable municipalities to authorize cluster developments for open space preservation; and I supported commonsense measures to streamline municipal efforts to share services.

As governor, I will continue my efforts to support municipal leaders and good governance. I will partner with our local officials to ensure that decisions made in Trenton are implemented effectively in communities across our state. On the issues that matter most to New Jersey's municipalities—from affordable housing to emergency preparedness—I will take steps to open the lines of communication and set clear guidelines and expectations about state programs and incentives.

As municipalities continue their efforts to operate within the boundaries of the 2 percent property tax cap, I will do everything in my power as governor to ease financial burdens at the local level. In an effort to streamline services and reduce administrative costs, I will ensure that the state covers the expense for any cost-benefit analysis done in the effort of sharing or consolidating local services. In addition, I will renew the state's commitment to adequately funding our schools, helping ease the need to generate local revenues.

Finally, as governor, it will be my top priority to help communities affected by Superstorm Sandy make a full and robust recovery and help their displaced residents return to safe, sustainable homes. To this end, I will partner with municipal governments to refocus our efforts on assisting individual homeowners and renters, many of whom are still living out of the second story of their homes or coping with the partial or complete destruction of their homes. In addition, I will work closely with affected municipalities, where the tax base has been severely depleted, to ensure

they have adequate resources to provide vital services to their constituents. And finally, I will continue to provide local businesses with the support they need to reopen and support the economic vitality of their communities.

I believe we will build a better New Jersey not by sending decisions from the top down, but by building from the ground up. That is the belief that has made New Jersey great, and that is the belief that will guide my decisions as governor.

Born in Newark, Senator Barbara Bouno and her two sisters grew up in Nutley and attended public schools. Her father James immigrated to the United States from a small town outside of Naples, Italy and worked as a union butcher. Her mother Marie worked in an office and as a substitute teacher.

Although her dad died when she was just 19, the Senator never forgot his lessons of perseverance and self-sacrifice—values that sustained her as she put herself through college. She graduated from Montclair State College in 1975. She worked three jobs—in the Montclair Public Library, as a per diem reporter for the Star-Ledger and in the Essex County Probation Department—before attending Rutgers Law School in Newark. She graduated with a J.D. in 1979.

Bouno served as a judicial law clerk and as a public defender for the New Jersey State Department of the Public Advocate. She later entered private practice.

The Senator began her career in public service in 1992, when she won a seat on the Metuchen Borough Council. She stabilized tax rates without lowering the quality or availability of local services.

Bouno was first elected to the New Jersey State Senate in 2001. She was named Senate Majority Leader in 2010, the first woman to hold that position.

As chair of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, the Senator established a reputation as a problem solver in tough fiscal times. During the two years she was budget chair, Bouno shrank New Jersey's budget, cutting \$4.5 billion while maintaining funding for schools and health care.

Prior to entering the Senate, Bouno served for seven years in the General Assembly and was a ranking Democrat on the Assembly Budget Committee.

The Senator and her husband Martin Gizzi are parents to six adult children: Sarah, Allegra, Lance, Tessa, Ariella and Sofia. ▲



Better State-Local Cooperation

Superstorm Sandy's Silver Lining

Superstorm Sandy delivered a double blow to New Jersey's communities. While the worst natural disaster in the state's history caused an unprecedented \$36 billion in damage to our housing, businesses and infrastructure, Sandy also created difficulties in local budgets when it stormed ashore on October 29, 2012.



By Richard E. Constable, III
 Commissioner, Department
 of Community Affairs

Beleaguered local and county officials were faced with a double challenge. Clean up from the devastating storm so peoples' lives, their children's schools and their local economies could return to normal quickly, while simultaneously grappling with threatened budget and service cuts. Municipalities were facing significant reductions in property tax revenues due to the sudden devaluation of storm damaged properties. Some of these municipalities also faced significant declines in their seasonal revenues from beach badge fees, parking meter fees and other sources.

New Jersey suffered an overall decrease in property valuation of \$4.3 billion as a result of Sandy, according to our most recent estimates. The loss was concentrated in the municipalities of the nine most Sandy-impacted counties: Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Union.

The impact on municipal budgets would make it more difficult for communities to meet the costs of providing key services—such as public safety, public works and education—just when residents needed them most.

Toms River's experience illustrates Sandy's dilemma for local officials.

Of the \$4.3 billion decrease in property valuation New Jersey suffered because of Sandy, nearly half—\$2 billion—occurred in the Ocean County municipality. Of the town's 42,000 homes, 10,000 were impacted (ranging from a few

inches of flooding to total destruction), but 80 percent of the homes were undamaged.

Sandy tore a \$20 million gap in Toms River's \$102 million budget because of damage the storm caused to its tax base. Homeowners were facing a 40 to 50 percent increase in their property taxes, according to the estimates of local officials.

The alternative was also unpleasant—laying off more than a third of the 160-member police force and curtailing municipal services, such as garbage collection and recycling.

The Christie Administration, while undertaking the massive emergency statewide response to Sandy, also instituted plans to assist New Jersey communities in their recovery—and beyond.

Community Disaster Loan Program The Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) in the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) contacted local governments along the Gulf Coast that had suffered from Hurricane Katrina. We learned of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Community Disaster Loan Program, which provides loans of up to 25 percent of a municipality's operating budget (with a \$5 million cap) for local governments where a disaster results in an actual or projected revenue loss of greater than 5 percent. These are loans that can be used over the course of five years, and are potentially forgivable by FEMA.



During a tour of Sea Bright in July, DCA Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III, and Sea Bright Mayor Dina Long talk to a borough police officer. The Commissioner was in Sea Bright to see how the municipality is using the Essential Services Grant awarded out of the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Relief funds to help New Jersey recover from Superstorm Sandy.

Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) Director Tom Neff and his team were instrumental in helping local governments through FEMA's Community Disaster Loan Program application process. They reached out to local government officers, such as Business Administrators, Chief Financial Officers and Tax Collectors in the communities most affected to assess their needs and provide one-on-one support.

By working together, we have brought \$179 million in FEMA Community Disaster Loans to 62 local governments and school districts in New Jersey, so far. DLGS prides itself on its relationship with the officials that run the day-to-day business of local government.

Because of FEMA's \$5 million cap, some of the hardest hit municipalities maxed out on their Community Disaster Loans but still faced substantial



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gaps in their budgets. Without additional funds, these municipalities would not have been able to maintain essential services.

Having worked closely with local government officials to obtain the FEMA Community Disaster Loan assistance, DLGS was in a position to help communities receive additional assistance through the Essential Services Grant Program. This DCA administered program is supported by \$60 million of federal Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds awarded to New Jersey for Superstorm Sandy recovery. The Essential Services Grants enable local governments to fill the gap between their Sandy-generated revenue losses and the available FEMA disaster assistance. Because of these grants, communities were able to maintain essential services.

To date, nearly \$45 million of the grants have been delivered. Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher told Governor Christie and me when we visited Toms River in July that the \$15.5 million Essential Services Grant helped avoid the layoff of more than a third of the police force and the entire public works unit assigned to residential trash and recycling pickup. Mayor Dina Long of Sea Bright told me during my visit that the more than \$1 million awarded to her community allowed the borough to avoid the layoff or furlough of police officers, continue its financial support of its volunteer fire companies and maintain its residential garbage pickup. The grant also enabled Sea Bright to hire life guards and other public safety personnel to protect its beaches.

As the accompanying chart shows, the combined efforts of the Division of Local Government Services and municipal and county officials following Superstorm Sandy guaranteed the continued delivery of essential services.

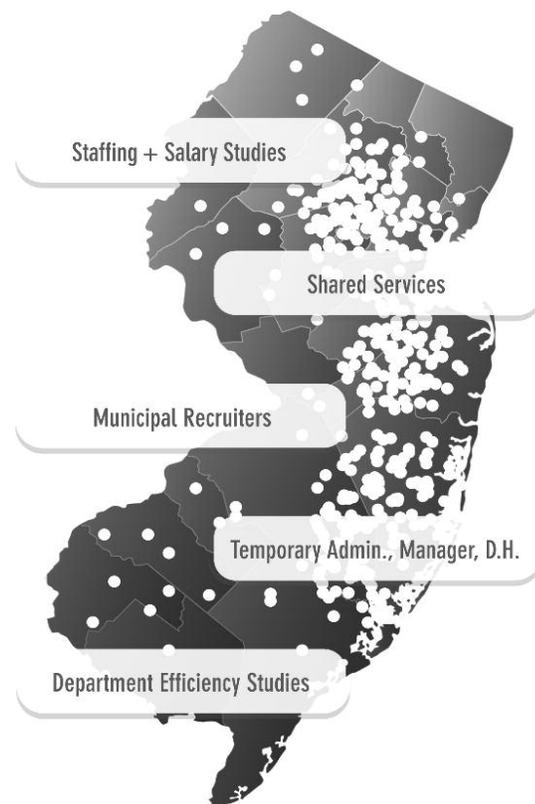
If every cloud has a silver lining, then Superstorm Sandy's silver lining is the closer working relationship that DCA forged with local governments.

Essential Services Grants The following local government entities have received Essential Services Grants. To date, nearly \$45 million in grants have been delivered.

County	Local Governmental Entity	Grant Amount
Atlantic	Atlantic City	\$ 7,497,707
Atlantic	Brigantine BOE	\$ 24,000
Monmouth	Asbury Park City	\$ 350,000
Monmouth	Keansburg BOE	\$ 271,413
Monmouth	Sea Bright Borough	\$ 1,075,000
Ocean	Lavallette BOE	\$ 63,000
Ocean	Little Egg Harbor BOE	\$ 254,128
Ocean	Ocean County	\$ 7,288,937
Ocean	Pinelands Regional BOE	\$ 84,208
Ocean	Toms River	\$ 15,510,417
Ocean	Toms River BOE	\$ 12,500,000 ▲

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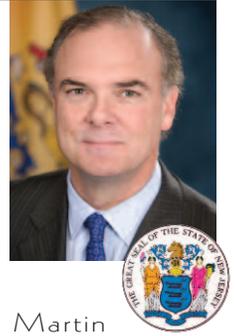


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Committed to Supporting a Strong Recovery



By Bob Martin
Commissioner, Department
of Environmental Protection

In the days after Superstorm Sandy slammed into New Jersey, I spent many hours with Governor Christie touring some of our hardest hit communities—Mantoloking, Brick, Sayreville, Union Beach, Seaside Heights and Toms River, to name a few.

The scenes of devastation and stories of hardship and loss were staggering. As the scope of the devastation unfolded before us, we quickly realized that all levels of government had to pull together quickly to get us through this. No one could do this alone. And nothing less than New Jersey's future was at stake.

THE CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION REMAINS
COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH YOU
AND YOUR RESIDENTS EVERY STEP OF
THE WAY UNTIL THE JOB IS DONE.

A year later, I can say with pride that this has indeed been New Jersey's finest hour. Yes, there is still a lot of work to be done, especially in our hardest hit communities. But as a result of Governor Christie's leadership and our collective determination, we are rebuilding and becoming more resilient. We are indeed proving we are stronger than the storm.

This is due in no small measure to the dedication and commitment of our mayors, municipal managers and administrators, building code officials and planning and zoning officials, town clerks, and public works departments, and countless municipal and state employees who gave tirelessly of themselves because they love their towns and are committed to building a stronger and safer New Jersey.

State government was in a strong position to react to Sandy because of partnerships the Christie Administration was building well before Sandy hit, as well as the culture changes the Governor initiated across state government right after taking office.

At the Department of Environmental Protection, we were able to quickly coordinate one of the largest and most complex disaster cleanups in the nation's history, clearing the land and our waterways of storm debris. The DEP expedited the removal of some 8 million cubic yards of debris from the streets of our storm-battered communities, and oversaw the removal of more than 95,000 cubic yards from our waterways.



Commissioner Martin speaks to media representatives during his visit to oversee demolitions in Normandy Beach in Toms River on July 10.

This effort was monumental in itself. But it really was just part of the story for DEP. Over the past year, the DEP has engaged in a host of wide-ranging efforts to help our municipalities recover and become more resilient in the future.

By setting statewide elevation standards, the DEP is providing communities with a clear direction for protecting property and lives in future storms and helping residents avoid significant increases in flood insurance costs. In conjunction with the Department of Community Affairs, the DEP developed a \$100 million, federally funded program to help property owners raise their homes.

In addition, the department has developed a \$300 million program to purchase homes in flood-prone areas from willing sellers and convert them to open space. This initiative will move people out of harm's way and create land to mitigate future flooding.

We're also working closely with municipal governments and the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure the pro-

tection of our communities through robust dunes and engineered beaches.

In addition, the DEP created an emergency program that could finance through low-interest, short-term loans some \$1 billion in Superstorm Sandy repairs and disaster-resiliency steps for the state's wastewater and drinking water systems. This initiative will help these facilities to avert the disruption of critical public services following future storms.

My department is also working with New Jersey colleges to study flood mitigation strategies for communities in storm-impacted regions of the state, including Hoboken, Little Ferry, Moonachie, Linden and Woodbridge in the north; Brick and Toms River along the coast; and Lawrence and Downe along Delaware Bay.

The department also eased permit rules right after the storm to allow vital public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and bulkheads to be rebuilt quickly to ensure access to storm-impacted areas. Likewise, the process to obtain state permits—for recon-

struction of impacted homes and businesses, marinas and shellfish industries, and expediting dredging of storm-impacted private lagoons and marinas—was streamlined, while ensuring protection of the environment.

We also worked to make sure our beaches were safe through the summer season, with enhanced water testing prior to the season and daily surveillance flights throughout the season. The department also worked to quickly re-open and restore state parks, forests and historic sites that are important drivers of tourism and local economies.

This has been a challenging year for all of us. I truly appreciate all the work we have done together as a team. Above all, you are commended for your passion to serving your constituents well and helping get them through this difficult period in our history.

Rest assured, the Christie Administration remains committed to working with you and your residents every step of the way until the job is done. We are all in this together. ▲

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Post Sandy

How Towns Are Rebuilding Their Finances



By Tara Lovrich
Manalapan Township Administrator and
President of the New Jersey Municipal
Management Association (NJMMA)
& Gregory Bonin, Branchburg Township
Administrator and Vice President,
NJMMA

With boardwalks rebuilt, businesses reopened, homes under repair, and the Seaside Heights roller coaster no longer floating out to sea, the rest of the state may forget there's still a lot of work to be done along the Jersey Shore and elsewhere.

According to local government administrators the storm recovery is far from over. Repairing the extensive damage to infrastructure, equipment, recreation facilities and residential areas takes time and resources.

Town administrators are working closely with their mayors and other elected officials to maintain tax rates and take advantage of federal and state grant and loan programs to keep tax rates stable and maintain services at pre-storm levels.

Those managing the hardest-hit communities, from small towns like Sea Bright (pop. 1,500) to large ones like Toms River (pop. 86,000+), say they will be at it for another three or four years. And even if the physical repairs are completed sooner, town budgets will be affected for years to come.

Toms River Seeks State and Federal Aid "This is a marathon race, not a sprint," Paul Shives, Toms River business administrator recalls saying to his department heads in a darkened municipal building two days after the storm.

The township's barrier island communities of Ortley Beach and Normandy Beach had been devastated and bay-front communities heavily damaged. About 10,000 properties were affected, 3,500 of which were uninhabitable. Some 300



The popular Barneгат Municipal Dock and Boat Ramp complex was essentially destroyed by the storm. The cost for repairs is an estimated \$1.5 million.



In Barnegat Superstorm Sandy destroyed many private residence adjacent to the municipal beach. In addition to requiring storm response, the catastrophe left the town with a \$4.8 million drop in ratables.

to 400 houses simply disappeared—swept away by wind and water.

The consensus at that meeting, recalls Shives, was that “this is a long-term recovery.” He knew he and his staff would be held accountable by local residents until things were back to normal, or as normal as possible.

“Local government is where the rubber meets the road,” Shives said. “For 80 percent of our township, the superstorm was over the day the power came back on, but we had to expand services on the barrier islands while maintaining them for everyone else.”

Shives was also worried about the damage that couldn’t be seen—the financial hit that Toms River would take to meet the recovery’s costs and maintain services in the face of a staggering loss to its tax base.

“Our ratable base has been reduced by \$2 billion. That’s about 13 percent of our total base,” Shives said.

Like many communities, Toms River turned to the state and federal governments for assistance to meet its recovery costs, including debris cleanup, temporary staffing, rebuilding beach facilities, and maintaining services.

The township received a \$5 million Community Disaster Loan from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) as well as a \$15.5 million essential services grant through Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Toms River also took advantage of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs’ invitation allowing boards of education to apply for Community Development Block Grants and received another \$12.5 million in aid.

In addition, the township this year anticipates an additional \$7.1 million from FEMA to reimburse its emergency costs, and has issued \$35 million in emergency bonds, that must be paid off over the next five years—a fiscal tool used by many hard-hit communities.

“Our budget looks dramatically different from past years with these funding sources,” Shives said. “But if we’d done nothing, there would have been a huge spike in property taxes.”

The budget adopted in July by the town council came in under the state-mandated two-percent cap. “Without this type of assistance, some property owners would have seen a 30- to 40-percent increase in their property taxes,” Shives said.

Like other shore towns, Toms River worked feverishly to rebuild recreation facilities and reopen its beaches. Half the beach areas were open by July 4. The town normally sees \$700,000 in revenue generated by summer business. This year, it anticipates only \$150,000.

Sea Bright Taps an Experienced Administrator About 35 miles to the north, tiny Sea Bright has grappled with king-size problems since Superstorm Sandy dumped eight feet of sand along Ocean Avenue and damaged nearly every home on that main thoroughfare, along with the fire station, library, ambulances, pump station and first-aid building, not to mention its boardwalk and beach pavilion.

“Everything was significantly damaged,” said Acting Borough Administrator Joseph Verruni. “We lost much of our equipment and supplies. Debris removal became the central activity.”

Verruni’s retirement was another casualty of Superstorm Sandy. Five months earlier, Verruni had retired from Wall Township where he had served as administrator for 20 years. In November, Mayor Dina Long asked him to step in and manage Sea Bright’s recovery from what Verruni termed “sheer devastation.”

He discovered the borough’s public works staff consisted largely of part-timers, who work during the summer,



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plus just four full-time employees, so “assembling them for a 24/7 situation was really something,” Verruni said.

The borough used volunteers, help from Monmouth County, and Workforce Development grants to double its tiny workforce. The eight feet of sand were treated as a “snow event,” but even that required financing.

Verruni says Sea Bright lost nearly 17 percent of its ratables—“a higher percentage than anyone else.” Like Toms River, they applied for FEMA disaster recovery loans and were assisted by DCA with budgetary problems.

“The mayor, council and financial staff worked extra hard in putting together this year’s budget,” said Verruni.

The borough’s new \$6 million budget for 2013-14 was filled out with FEMA loans and other financing, with more expected from FEMA to help them pay back the loans. The council also issued emergency bonds to get the town’s fleets up and running again—money that must be paid back over the next five years. Community block grants to the regional school district allowed Sea Bright to keep school taxes stable.

“We thought 2013 would be a tough year, but 2014 may be our toughest,” Verruni said. “We are just coming to grips with the new building standards put in place. Insurance settlements are happening, so rebuilding will probably begin in earnest [by the beginning of the year].”

Ocean Township and Barnegat Pull Together As the administrator of two neighboring Ocean County shore towns—Barnegat and Ocean townships, with a total population of more than 29,000—David Breeden has been confronting the impact of Superstorm Sandy times two. But Breeden says his job was made much easier and the financial impacts more manageable by the two towns’ extensive shared services agreements. As the storm approached, the benefits were quickly realized.

“Once we knew the storm was coming, joint emergency statements went out to residents,” Breeden said. “This helped greatly from a public information perspective by providing a consistent, uniform message.”

Volunteers from the Ocean Township Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) furnished shelter man-

agement for the joint evacuation center at a Barnegat school. Police officers and the volunteer first-aid squads from both towns shared the burden of providing security and medical care at the shelters.

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YOU HAVE SOMETHING
UNPRECEDENTED, YOU
HAVE TO BE UNAFRAID
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“The residents of both towns have a good level of awareness of how they share resources, especially during emergency situations. It’s common to see Barnegat equipment in Ocean and Ocean personnel in Barnegat. Residents appreciate that because it helps with stabilizing taxes while maintaining an acceptable level of service to both communities” Breeden said.

The storm also forced the towns to share hardships, though Ocean suffered significantly more private property damage. Despite this, the towns pooled their resources. “Resources were allocated and personnel were assigned based on need and not geographical boundaries.” Breeden said. “As a result, both townships were able to deliver essential municipal services despite the challenging conditions.”

Financially, each took a hit with Barnegat losing \$4.8 million in ratables, and Ocean nearly \$13 million. The revenue losses came on the heels of the economic downturn and a slew of successful tax appeals. “We were just beginning to recover from that when the storm hit.”

Both towns issued special emergency notes, mostly to pay for debris disposal and emergency protective measures. Special emergency notes “help to spread the financial pain over five years,” Breeden said.

“Like everyone else along the coast, we are trying to minimize the financial impact of the storm on our taxpayers this year, but when you have a

loss of ratables of that magnitude, it will (eventually) drive up the tax rate,” he noted.

Nonetheless, the towns’ new budgets came in under the 2 percent cap. Breeden says they “took great pride with minimizing the tax rate increase. Under these extraordinary conditions, the last thing we want to do is impose an additional financial burden on residents, many of whom are still struggling to recover from the storm.”

Sandy’s Reach Though the impact was far less, small towns like Netcong in Morris County did not escape Sandy’s wrath and its strain on resources, according to Borough Administrator Ralph Blakeslee.

“Unlike the shore communities, we did not experience any loss of tax base as a result of the storm,” said Blakeslee.

The greatest impact was the extra time and manpower needed for tree removal and for increased public safety coverage. The town had to keep its four wells fueled and operating during the seven- to 10-day power outage using diesel-powered generators. “Fuel supply became the critical issue.”

Netcong also looked to FEMA for assistance to cover storm-related personnel and equipment costs, Blakeslee said.

New Jersey’s Mayors Step Up Town managers say they have nothing but praise for their mayors, who entrusted them with managing the recovery.

“That relationship is critical,” said Shives of Toms River Mayor Tom Kelleher. “He’s the face of the town. Our job is to be in the background. I don’t think there’s hope of getting through a disaster like this if you don’t have the mutual trust and respect of the person you work for.”

Information sharing is a significant part of NJMMA’s activities so that local government professionals can learn from each other. Last December, NJMMA brought more than two dozen town managers together to discuss their experiences with Superstorm Sandy. Each one had a story to tell—and more to learn.

“There’s no substitute for experience,” said Shives. “You bring all of your life’s experiences with you every day. In this situation, where you have something unprecedented, you have to be unafraid to delegate; unafraid to ask for help. And you have to think outside the box.” ▲

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Our Libraries Were Ports in the Storm



By Marian R. Bauman
Director, Neptune Public Library
& Randy Bishop, former Mayor, Neptune

So, when disaster strikes, where do you go? After Sandy, people went to their local libraries. In fact, libraries throughout New Jersey served their communities as ad hoc disaster recovery centers, whether at their facility or out in the field, like in Neptune. Even though they may have sustained great damage to their own buildings, librarians rallied and were in the forefront of providing services and information to those in need, and respite from the storm.

Unless under water or without power, New Jersey libraries were open. Residents received access to computers and free wireless to conduct business; to contact relatives or their insurance companies; find tree removal specialists; fill out FEMA forms; or just to power up their devices and warm up. Libraries were ports in a storm.

The New Jersey State Library in partnership with the National Network Libraries of Medicine, LibraryLinkNJ, and the New Jersey Library Association organized a statewide disaster planning and recovery summit in May titled Ports in a Storm: the Library as Community Partner in Disaster Response, which convened 125 attendees. The goal of the summit was to bring medical and public librarians together with the emergency planning community, first responders, public health workers and community-based and faith-based groups with disaster-related responsibilities and provide a forum for discussing roles libraries and information

professionals can play in supporting future disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

Library personnel in Neptune demonstrated the ingenuity and commitment of library staff members in many coastal communities.

In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, Neptune Mayor Randy Bishop knew that residents of Shark River Hills, the hardest-hit section of Neptune, would need assistance. He asked the Neptune Public Library, specifically Outreach Librarian John Bonney and municipal staffer Michele Narciso to help.

He wanted to use the Library's mobile computer lab in a tent located right at the Shark River Marina. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) provided a vehicle to generate electricity and serve as a WiFi internet node, set up a tent with tables and chairs, and kept it warm with a propane heater. John brought not only the library computers, but extension cords, and extra power strips for people to charge their cell phones, tablets and iPads and plug in their laptops.

On their first day at the site, Bonney and Narciso walked within a three block radius of the Shark River to deliver flyers to make residents aware that help with applying for FEMA assistance was just down the road. Most area streets were blocked by fallen trees and downed wires. In many cases it was several weeks before residents of Shark

River Hills could get out of their neighborhood with their vehicles. They could, however, walk down to the water and get help in the yellow tent.

In addition to the original two staff members, volunteer Beth Miller (who lives in Shark River Hills and is the manager of the Ocean Township branch of Monmouth County Library), Neptune Library staffer Jenn Martino, and library director Marian Bauman also worked to assist the residents who came to the tent. Many of them did not know how to use a computer or navigate the internet, so volunteers actually sat with them and filled out their online forms.



Ocean Township Branch Manager Beth Miller, Senior Librarian John Bonney and Neptune Library director Marian Bauman in front of the OEM vehicle that was providing electricity and WiFi to the tent.



Neptune Senior Librarian John Bonney helps Shark River Hills residents file FEMA applications and deal with insurance issues.

The tent became their link to the township. Residents either didn't want to leave their homes or couldn't navigate out of The Hills. Most of their cars were damaged and they had no power. While Bonney and the other volunteers helped with FEMA applications, setting up new email accounts, filing insurance claims, and emailing messages to family and friends; Narciso directed contacts with municipal departments and got answers about bulk-pickup, mold remediation, condemnation of unsafe dwellings, water distribution, and availability of garbage bags. She even lent her personal phone to residents so they could call family or their insurance companies, as her mobile carrier was one of the few working at the time. She also coordinated with some of the cleanup volunteers that began to trickle into the township, including Amish youth who came to help residents with trash removal each day.

Many other local groups stepped right into the void left by Sandy. Boat owners brought free water, batteries and clothing to distribute to residents. The Hamilton Methodist Church came with huge tureens of hot soup and crackers and they served everyone who was helping, including public works employees, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) staff, library volunteers, and residents with no power or food. Shark River Hills Fire Company set up grills and cooked hot food, as did many residents who didn't want to discard food that was thawing in their freezers. PTO members from Summer-

field School helped go door to door passing out food packages and information from the township.

The Meals on Wheels program administered through the Senior Center was in desperate need of volunteer drivers to drop off food and check on homebound seniors. Library staff members made sure that the fragile residents had cold bag lunches until their power was restored and they could heat up their meals. In several cases, this meant walking up eleven flights of stairs to deliver food, as the elevators were not working. Following the storm, library staff also helped cook

and serve food at the Senior Center, which had a generator and kitchen. Donations poured in from local grocery stores anxious to help with the relief efforts. Police, Fire, First Aid and OEM personnel were eating all of their meals there, as no food vendors in town were open.

Meanwhile, back at the municipal building, library and municipal staff were helping by manning the phones in Town Hall 24/7 for the first week. Reference librarians entered FEMA data to help track all of the hours expended in dealing with the storm, as they were familiar with spreadsheets. As information came in, street-closures were tallied by librarians. Some staff worked at the High School transportation center during the height of the storm, helping document the individuals evacuated from shoreline areas.

Up until Superstorm Sandy, the Neptune Public Library was seen primarily as a place to check out books and movies. After the storm, it's now clear to our residents that our library staff are more than just bookworms!

To see how libraries play a vital role in community disaster response and recovery see: Public Libraries & First Responders: Partners in Emergency Response at www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZUEChxl74g and photos of New Jersey libraries assisting in the recovery at www.flickr.com/groups/njlasandyrecovery/. ▲

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The State Sets a Course for Recovery



Captain Patrick Callahan
New Jersey Office of Emergency
Management, Recovery Bureau

Nearly one year has passed since Superstorm Sandy made landfall and devastated citizens and communities throughout the State of New Jersey. After the storm and in the initial months of the recovery effort, the state charted a thoughtful and comprehensive path to recovery. We prioritized the needs of families for temporary housing, the removal of millions of cubic yards of debris, and support for communities facing escalating storm costs.

The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM) and the newly created Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding (GORR) have worked in conjunction with state departments and agencies; and with key local, county, and state stakeholders to align the state's recovery and rebuilding goals with available disaster recovery resources.

In order to meet the high volume of funding requests, the NJOEM Recovery Bureau has expanded its staff in an effort to respond to the massive recovery and rebuilding challenges of Superstorm Sandy.

Having experienced 11 disaster declarations over the past 3 years, NJOEM has drawn on its institutional knowledge, as well as guidance from other states to build an effective staffing model. The bureau was also reorganized to include a newly created Finance Unit. The reorganization has streamlined the reimbursement process, which previously was handled by two separate sections within the division. This effort will help us provide local, county, and state applicants with the support they require and have come to expect.

Another critical need identified in the wake of Superstorm Sandy was the state's need to leverage existing technology to meet the demands of a high-volume federal reimbursement program. In an effort to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability, New Jersey

joined a community of disaster prone states by implementing the standard, national web-based disaster grant management tool, known in New Jersey as NJEMGrants (NJEMGrants.org).

More than 2,000 applicants have been asked to submit a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which initiates the use of this new tool that will serve as the "one-stop shopping" system for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation grant programs. New Jersey has integrated this tool with New Jersey's financial system. This improvement allowed NJOEM to fully automate the grant reimbursement process. Training for NJEMGrants is ongoing and is offered at the applicant's place of business or at State Police headquarters. Email NJEMGrantshelp@gw.njsp.org to request training.

Many local municipalities have already received advances on Category A (debris removal) and Category B (emergency protective measures) in an effort to alleviate the cash flow issues which are inevitable in the wake of a



After the storm and in the initial months of the recovery effort, the state charted a thoughtful and comprehensive path to recovery. We prioritized the needs of families for temporary housing, the removal of millions of cubic yards of debris, and support for communities facing escalating storm costs.

disaster of this magnitude. Applicants seeking reimbursements for projects beyond the initial advances are being asked to provide supporting documentation. Applicants must outline how the advance was spent and provide documentation which supports additional reimbursements beyond those of the initial advance. All requests for reimbursements must be made through the NJEMGrants website. The site will make it possible to track your requests through the review process up to the point of payment. NJEMGrants will also be used for quarterly reporting, time extensions, project scope changes, appeals, and to close-out all projects.

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In an effort to prevent and detect waste, fraud, or misuse of federal funding, the State of New Jersey has enacted legislation which will provide additional integrity monitoring of federally funded projects and programs. While some states had enacted similar measures years into a recovery effort, New Jersey moved quickly to implement an oversight program. This process involves the use of a risk assessment model to identify projects and/or applicants that may require additional oversight. Such quality control and quality assurance efforts will serve to ensure that applicants strictly adhere to the rules and regulations of the various federal programs underway in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, and in doing so, minimize or even eliminate potential de-obligations of federal awards.

The road to recovery is long and we will face many challenges. To meet these challenges the State of New Jersey has embraced the "4 Cs" of communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. Such an approach is critical to New Jersey's recovery efforts, and the ongoing efforts associated with preparedness, response and mitigation. Current national emergency management prin-

ciples require that states continually measure successes and failures and apply national best practices governing response and recovery activities.

The State of New Jersey is committed to applying these best practices and national standards to serve the best interests of the state and its citizens. We aspire to one day serve as a national model for successful emergency management and disaster recovery. ▲



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The New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance

Creating a More Resilient New Jersey



By Raimy Schutzman Cheyne
Research Assistant at the Edward J.
Bloustein School of Planning and
Public Policy, Rutgers University



Lisa Auermuller, Watershed Coordinator at the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, makes a point about climate change at the May 22 Conference on Climate Preparedness in New Jersey. (photo credit: Nicole Abdul)

Warming temperatures, heavier rainfall, a rising sea level, and other impacts from a changing climate will have a major effect on New Jersey's residents, municipalities, economy, infrastructure, and natural resources, yet New Jersey is one of only two states in the region without a statewide climate adaptation plan.

The New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance, a network of policymakers, public and private sector practitioners, academics, and NGO and business leaders, was created to build climate change preparedness capacity in New Jersey and promote adaptation activities that will make the state more resilient in the face of a changing climate.

The New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance was formed in response to a conference held in November 2011 which highlighted the impacts of climate change in New Jersey and identified the need for a coordinated, statewide effort to forestall serious public health, economic and ecological impacts. The Alliance is facilitated by Rutgers University, which provides scientific and technical support and steers the Alliance's operations.

Led by Jeanne Herb and Marjorie Kaplan at Rutgers together with an Advisory Committee composed of a diverse group of practitioners from across the state, the Alliance's emphasis is on working across sectors to develop a preparedness plan for New Jersey. In addition to development of state and local public policy recommendations, the Alliance's activities include outreach, education and local demonstration projects.

On May 22, 2013, the Alliance hosted a conference at Rutgers to bring together local experts and professionals from across the country. The group discussed leading climate adaptation practices nationally and efforts currently underway in New Jersey and tried to identify policies that can strengthen preparedness capacity in New Jersey. The Alliance and its partners continue to host public workshops, develop educational and informational material, and conduct research and analysis of leading preparedness practices.

The Alliance has developed materials documenting climate trends, projections, and potential impacts in New Jersey to serve as background information underlying its public policy



Blackwells Mills in Franklin Township (Somerset) suffered flooding in 2011 following Tropical Storm Irene. (photo credit: Tony Broccoli)

Climate Projections for New Jersey

Temperature

- **Warming:** By 2050, average annual temperatures are expected to be warmer by 3 - 6 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Heat waves:** The number of days over 90 degrees Fahrenheit are predicted to increase from the baseline average of 14 days per year to 29 to 45 days per year by 2050.

Sea Level Rise

- **Sea level** has risen approximately 12 to 16 inches in New Jersey over the past 100 years. Projections estimate an additional 16 inches of relative sea level rise by 2050 and 20 to 58 inches by 2100.

Precipitation

- **Heavier rain events:** The trend has been towards more heavy precipitation events. The intensity of heavy precipitation events is projected to continue to increase.
- **More rainfall:** By 2050, a 10 to 12% annual increase in rainfall is projected for the northern half of the state, and a 3 to 4% increase for the southern half.

Drought

- **Short-duration (one to three month) warm season droughts** are projected to become more common.

deliberations. With funding from the Kresge Foundation, the Alliance is undertaking a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process to generate specific policy recommendations with input from various sectors including agriculture, public health, emergency management, vulnerable populations, transportation, utilities, water resources, and natural resources. Outreach activities include meeting with key representatives from each sector and conducting a series of online surveys targeting various audiences including mayors and coastal leaders, the business community, public health officials, and local planners. Rutgers also recently completed a survey of a

broad cross-section of New Jerseyans that showed an unprecedented number of residents now support more stringent land use regulations. It also revealed that there is limited willingness to pay to implement these resilience-enhancing policies.

With a grant from the Dodge Foundation, the Alliance is developing NJADAPT, a geospatial tool that will relate climate change impacts such as temperature change, changes in precipitation and sea level rise to geographic locations throughout New Jersey. The NJADAPT mapping platform will build on the existing Floodmapper tool to include climate risks beyond sea level rise and coastal storms. This

tool will enable communities to assess their vulnerability to a wide range of climate impacts for planning and outreach purposes.

As communities across New Jersey recover from the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, it is important to remember that the anticipated impacts of climate change in New Jersey go beyond flooding. It is critical that municipalities prepare for a broader range of risks. Sea level rise affects not only homes and properties along the shore. It also poses risks for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, fish and wildlife habitats, shipping facilities and ports, and low-lying roads. Warming temperatures pose public health challenges ranging from heat stress to an increase in asthma and allergies to an uptick in vector-borne diseases such as Lyme and West Nile. Warming temperatures and more frequent and intense droughts will affect agricultural growing seasons and crop suitability, decrease the quality and quantity of the state's drinking water supply, and necessitate increased maintenance of road and rail systems.

Recent extreme weather events including Irene and Sandy provided insights into the challenges the state can expect from a changing climate by highlighting key vulnerabilities. However, these storms also exacerbated the mentality that climate change is an issue to be dealt with only in the context of emergencies. To truly make New Jersey a stronger, more resilient state, state and local officials have a responsibility to integrate climate change into day-to-day activities and engage in long-term planning for changes in agriculture, resource management, public health, transportation, and economic viability.



Abstracted from NJLM's "Electrical Policy Primer for Municipalities"

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Equity considerations are essential in planning for climate change, as the poor and elderly are especially vulnerable to climate change impacts.

There are many preparedness activities that can be undertaken at the municipal level. A key first step is for municipalities to assess their hazards and determine critical vulnerabilities to heat, sea level rise, and other climate impacts. Rutgers is looking to work with municipalities interested in con-

ducting climate vulnerability assessments and can provide assistance in developing hazard mitigation plans that address these vulnerabilities.

All New Jersey municipalities, not just those located near the coast, should consider enrolling in the Community Rating System (CRS), a FEMA program which rewards communities that implement local mitigation, floodplain management, and outreach activities that exceed minimum National Flood Insur-

ance Program (NFIP) requirements with lower flood insurance rates. Many communities already engage in such activities and would receive immediate benefits for their residents by merely filling out the paperwork. Municipalities should also review and revise their land use, floodplain, and stormwater ordinances in light of anticipated climate change impacts.

Best practices implemented in other towns across the country include using permeable materials on streets and right-of-ways, investing in green infrastructure projects such as rain gardens and bioswales to absorb water during flood events, planting trees to increase the shade canopy for high-heat days, preserving undeveloped land, investing in renewable energy sources, and launching outreach campaigns to increase citizen awareness about climate impacts, water conservation practices, and personal preparedness actions during heat and emergency events.

As part of the stakeholder engagement process, the Alliance is partnering with Sustainable Jersey™ to undertake a survey through the League of Municipalities to better understand the needs and perspectives of municipal leaders with regard to climate preparedness policy in New Jersey. This survey will complement other targeted surveys underway by the Alliance with local planning officials, health officers, business leaders, land stewards, utility managers and others. The Alliance is also considering holding a workshop designed to assist municipalities with climate change preparedness. Please email Jeanne Herb at jherb@ejb.rutgers.edu if you feel such a workshop would be worthwhile.

To learn more, visit the Alliance's website at <http://climatechange.rutgers.edu/nadapt.html>. Please sign up for the Alliance's email list through the website to get involved and stay informed about the activities of the New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance. ▲

Raimy Schutzman is a graduate student studying City and Regional Planning at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University and a research assistant at the Rutgers Environmental Analysis and Communications Group, where she works with the New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance on developing recommendations and compiling resources on climate change preparedness strategies for New Jersey.

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League Awards Louis Bay II Scholarships

How aware of the work of municipal officials are New Jersey's teenagers? Based on just over 40 student essays received in the 19th annual Louis Bay II Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition, many teens notice and appreciate your dedication. Many are aware of difference that actions of the local town council and school board have made in their lives.

The three top winners of the 2013 Scholarship Competition are Kandace Kaplan of Manalapan Township; Tegan Lynch of Little Silver; and Claire Speranza of Robbinsville. The mayor of each town presented their winner with a \$1,000 scholarship check from the League.

The League would like to thank Scholarship Committee Chairman and League Past President Committeeman Chuck Chiarello, Buena Vista and Hampton Township Deputy Mayor and League Executive Board Member Daniel Coranoto for their work in judging this year's contest.

The essays were judged on appropriate and effective articulation of the theme, originality and technical composition.

The contest, which was open to all high school juniors and seniors, asked students to address the theme "What My Mayor and Governing Body Do Best." The competition is designed to raise awareness of public service and to advance the virtues of the elected, professional and volunteer members of municipal government.

The finalists and semifinalists for 2013 are as follows:

Finalists

Ana Nicolo, Buena Vista Township
 Abigail Tootell, Burlington Township
 Daniel Gross, Freehold Borough
 Kathy Suqui, Hackensack City
 Jenna DiGiacinto, Hasbrouck Heights Borough
 Kristen Ostrzyzek, Hope Township
 Mirhir Yerande, Middletown Township
 Prashant Sharma, Plainsboro Township
 Albert Kim, Ridgefield Park Village
 Alison Masson, Sussex Borough
 Ryan Fenske, Washington Township (Morris)
 Brendan Flynn, Watchung Borough
 Laura Carandang, West Windsor Township
 Alison Bancroft, White Township
 Anthony Gallagher, Wyckoff Township

Semi-Finalists

Martin Pelic, Allendale Borough
 Brynn McMahon, Bernards Township
 Haroon Rashid, Boonton Town
 Ria Gulati, Fair Lawn Borough
 Jasmine Sorenson, Fredon Township
 Alexandra O'Brien, Green Township
 Melani Filosa, Hampton Township
 Kaitlyn Diamond Hamilton Township (Mercer)
 Hannah Van Der Eems, Hawthorne Borough
 Sean Walsh, Kinnelon Borough
 Jennifer Hayes, Lafayette Township
 John Morton, Manchester Township
 Jacqueline Pignataro, Mount Olive Township
 Alyssa Lutgen, Mullica Township
 Evelyn Gonzalez, North Bergen Township
 Dana Marie Rogers, Old Bridge Township
 Donald Martocello, Palmyra Borough
 Joseph Brandt, Pitman Borough
 Maxwell J. Schriener, Vernon Township

What My Mayor and Governing Body Do Best

By Kandace Kaplan, Manalapan Township

It was a dark gloomy October night. I could hear the whistling of the wind while sitting in my bedroom. The rain was pounding up against my window. My house felt like it was swaying back and forth. I knew it was just a matter of time before the power would falter and we would access our flashlights and candles from the top cabinet. Weathermen said a huge storm was coming, but no one expected what actually hit the small town of Manalapan, NJ and its surrounding areas. Her name was Sandy and her presence destroyed homes, beaches, and businesses throughout our state and neighboring towns.

With Mayor Susan Cohen at the helm, and as a result of the tireless efforts of volunteers and our town's governing body, a time of horror, sadness and destruction was transformed into an act of connecting and helping during the storm as well as in its aftermath. Twenty four hours a day, for eight days straight, our small town relied on the information relayed by the mayor's office as it trickled down to those who had phone service or transistor radios. When would the power be restored? Why was it taking so long? Where could you find food and clean water? There were many questions.

The Mayor set up shelters that provided people with a place to warm up, catch a bite to eat, or stay for the night. Mayor Cohen had volunteers from Manalapan answering the phones at Town Hall and providing people with as much information as was available. As one of those volunteers, I personally witnessed Susan Cohen as well as other township representatives availing themselves to personally answer phones even when callers were not pleasant. No concern was too trivial and no questions went unanswered. Susan Cohen provided all residents with her private cell phone number and answered every call personally if volunteers were unable to provide the necessary information.



Manalapan Mayor Susan Cohen and winning essayist Kandace Kaplan pose with the oversized scholarship check from NJLM.

Mayor Cohen spent relentless hours on the phone with JCP&L, trying to seek updates to keep our residents well informed of the company's

progress. On numerous occasions, she pleaded with the electric company to prioritize senior communities such as Covered Bridge. Susan lived in our Town Hall for the entire eight day period. She carried out whatever duties were necessary, regardless of how trivial they were. Mayor Cohen and others involved in our local government could be seen handing out flyers to patrons in the cold hallways of Wegmans or serving a cup of coffee to warm the insides of those feeling the chill. During this time of crisis, the Manalapan Township Committee flawlessly showed their dedication to the residents of Manalapan and for this, we are all grateful.

Next time my windows start shaking and the rain starts pounding, I will once again run for the flashlights and candles as I remember my experience with Sandy. However, overriding any fears will be my reassurance that Manalapan's outstanding government officials and volunteers are present and help make Manalapan a great community to live in. ▲



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What My Mayor and Governing Body Do Best

By Claire Speranza, Robbinsville

My mayor, David Fried, and the rest of our township's governing body are extremely committed to the residents of Robbinsville (New Jersey); in fact the question should be, "What don't our public figures do best?"

When my parents had a choice of where to set down their roots as a married couple in 1986 they did so in what was once called Washington Township, a sleepy little farm town, just waiting to blossom, and I am so glad they did!

We love "being at the center of it all" here in Robbinsville and so do many big corporations, which our mayor and other committee people helped draw to the town's Matrix Business Park. Due to our town's easy accessibility to roadways that connect us to all of New Jersey, they have been able to entice many Fortune 500 companies, most recently Amazon.com, to locate their businesses here, which in turn helps



Winning essayist Claire Speranza and Robbinsville Mayor David Fried pose in a local park.

with tax revenue. This, of course, then benefits the residents by holding down tax increases to a minimum.

Mayor Fried is not afraid to "go to bat" so to speak for the residents of Robbinsville either when he feels they have been wronged. Whether taking on the New Jersey Board of Public

Utilities and Jersey Central Power & Light due to the lengthy power outages and the threat of recouping their losses through rate increases to their customers both after Tropical Storm Irene and Super Storm Sandy or the Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority over the loss of forested land due to roadway expansions, he and his council care enough to make a difference that benefits the community at large. With the reforestation funds received from this battle, trees have been popping up all over town and enhancing what was once bare land and benefitting the community through their beauty. I for one cannot wait to see the flowering cherry trees around the lake in town center this spring! Washington D.C. meet Robbinsville, one of 2012's towns nominated as a "Tree City USA"!

Some other important and cost effective policies put in to place since Mayor Fried and the town's governing body took office in 2005 have included a strong effort towards economic growth (increase in commercial rates along the Route 130/33 corridors), shared services (working in cooperation with other local governments like East and West Windsor to cover emergency and other government services) and the streamlining of government (merging the independent fire district and Municipal Utilities Authority, helping to cut a portion of employee payroll/insurance), all of which have resulted in money making and saving efforts over the years.

Mayor Fried and the town council members are also strong supporters of our fantastic recreation programs, of which I am a product. When my twelve-year-old All-Star softball team made it to the Little League World Series in 2008, the town assisted in putting together a fundraising effort to help the families of players cover the cost of travel to Portland, Oregon, as well as to simulcast a couple of the games at our high school so everyone could watch the suspense together. Finally, there was a parade to top it all off. These events created a great sense of community throughout our town and are just another way of showing what my mayor and governing body do best!! ▲

An advertisement for Pioneer Credit Recovery. The background is a black and white photograph of a road winding through a forested area with mountains in the distance. In the foreground, a river flows over rocks. On the left side of the image, there is a road sign with two arrows pointing in opposite directions and a diamond-shaped sign below it. The text "WHICH WAY TO REVENUE RECOVERY?" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image. Below this, the word "PIONEER" is written in a large, bold, white font, with a stylized 'P' that incorporates a circular arrow. Underneath "PIONEER" is the text "A Sallie Mae Company" in a smaller font. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a paragraph of text: "Visit Booth 1630 at the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference to meet Ken Hanaway and discuss your path to revenue recovery, or contact Ken Hanaway at 913-396-3004 or John.Hanaway@salliemae.com." At the very bottom, in a smaller font, is the text: "Performing Beyond, Pioneer and Pioneer Credit Recovery are registered service marks of Pioneer Credit Recovery, Inc. Pioneer Credit Recovery, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of SLM Corporation, commonly known as 'Sallie Mae.' SLM Corporation and its subsidiaries are not sponsored by or agencies of the United States of America. Copyright © 2013 Pioneer Credit Recovery. All rights reserved."

What My Mayor and Governing Body Do Best

By Tegan Lynch, Little Silver

I feel supremely fortunate to have been born and raised in the wonderful community of Little Silver.

Little Silver residents are the most giving and supportive people I have ever met. The best and most obvious illustration of this selfless and caring nature is embodied in the character and compassion of our town's elected officials.

Our Mayor, Bob Neff, and the Town Council spend hours each month addressing all the critical issues of managing our community. Budgets are created, payrolls are met, and the streets are safe (and plowed). To me, however, what sets this group apart from others, is the additional commitment that they each make to the town, by continuing long-held traditions, volunteering with other organizations, and truly just leading by example.

I LOVE LIVING IN
LITTLE SILVER FOR MANY
REASONS, BUT THE ONE
CLOSET TO MY HEART IS
THE IMMENSE SUPPORT
SYSTEM SURROUNDING
EVERYONE IN TOWN.

Each year I look forward to one such tradition—the annual tree lighting "downtown." Dozens of budding musicians from both of the Little Silver schools entertain town folk with holiday favorites. After a brief non-denominational invocation, the Mayor lights the huge spruce tree. Soon thereafter, Santa and elves arrive (by fire truck, naturally) to the giddy screams of little ones. I imagine that this simple event has remained largely unchanged for decades, which only adds to its charm.

Memorial Park, which was dedicated recently to honor the victims of 9/11, is an excellent example of our town's leaders volunteering with other orga-



Winning essayist Tegan Lynch poses with Little Silver Mayor Bob Neff.

nizations. Much of the credit for the planning and execution of this lovely area is due to our Mayor, Bob Neff. Mr. Neff spearheaded the project to reserve the small tract of open space, rallied support for a 9/11 Memorial, helped arrange funding, and then executed the whole plan—largely harnessing the goodwill and strong backs of his Boy Scout Troop. (As I write these words, I fully recognize that I likely imperil my chances for selection—since Mayor Neff shuns recognition.)

Perhaps the finest display of our Mayor's character was during the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Despite the fact that Mr. Neff himself lost his house in the storm, our Mayor was ON DUTY at the shelter in the high school consoling his citizens and listening to their own stories of devastation. He sought advice from citizens (even my mom) about school reopening. Throughout the challenging time and as the long-term effects of Sandy's destruction became apparent, our Town Council members held public meetings to provide information (and support) to homeowners wrestling with various bureaucracies.

Each of these three examples demonstrates the unusually deep commitment and dedication of our outstanding Mayor and Town Council. These men and women serve as both leaders and examples for each Little Silver resident. Perhaps that helps to explain the over-whelming, "can-do" spirit I encounter all over town. I see teachers

supporting PTO fundraisers, parent "coaches" teaching kids the right way to play, and an all-volunteer fire department protecting our homes.

I love living in Little Silver for many reasons, but the one closest to my heart is the immense support system surrounding everyone in Town. I believe we have Mr. Neff and his colleagues to thank for that. ▲

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Reflecting on Superstorm Sandy, One Year Later



By Janice S. Mironov
President, NJLM
Mayor, East Windsor Township

Superstorm Sandy, a year later, still rings deep in our minds and hearts. In those immediate days, municipalities struggled through the enormous, many unanticipated, magnitude of challenges—floods and devastating water destruction, upended homes, destroyed businesses, shattered infrastructure, damaged public facilities, power outages, fallen trees and power poles. And, of course, residents, most of whom were going through what was an unprecedented experience. We awoke to what in many areas resembled no less than a post-war zone.

Our emergency management operations were running in full mode locally, and coordinating with county and state officials and emergency personnel. Our capable police and public works folks were taxed to the utmost. Our blessed fire and rescue volunteers generously joined in to assist and further safety efforts in our towns. Staff and officials helped to distribute water and check in on those in possible need. Neighbors watched out for neighbors, checking in, sharing food, commiserating. It was greatly satisfying to see everyone step up and work together through the storm and in the immediate post-storm days.

Communications within our communities, to our residents and businesses, was a key component of moving through these events. Issues of what streets were impassable, where to purchase gasoline, what food stores were open, where to charge phones and laptops—were high on the list. And, those left without homes wondered where to go.

We were challenged with the inadequacy of electric utility information in making restoration plans and responding to the overwhelming numbers of legitimate questions of our residents. Should they shelter at home, even with small children or elderly, or go stay with friends or family who had power or with relatives in Pennsylvania or New York? Back-up generators were at a premium, and of course we experienced the large numbers of calls to situations where inexperienced residents dangerously operated generators inside their homes.

We learned, as did our residents, that our beautiful, treasured trees could also knock out our utility lines, resulting in widespread power losses. At the same time, children re-learned board games (with no electronic devices), read books (with no television) and spent good family time—and

went to bed early. Camping equipment and supplies were welcome home products during those disruptive days.

A year later, we certainly still remember well and feel the emotions in the aftermath heaped on our towns, our residents, and our businesses. We recognize the enormous costs and financial needs generated. Some towns—after clearing extensive debris, fixing some damaged sidewalks and filling out the associated FEMA forms—have been able to basically move forward.

Many other towns, which experienced much more serious challenges and impacts, continue to work to rebuild, to restore boardwalks, beaches, and infrastructure, rebuilding and getting people back into their homes, supporting businesses endeavoring to get themselves compensated and back in business. FEMA funding, processed fairly and expeditiously, by the federal and state governments, is critical to on-going recovery efforts. We implore officials to ensure that these procedures are moving along effectively.

A year later, utility companies are working through the Board of Public Utilities to identify appropriate, meaningful infrastructure improvements and protective measures, to address many of the vulnerabilities demonstrated. We are reviewing how to more effectively work with the utilities to ensure appropriate vegetative management, aimed at minimizing power disruptions from weather events. New and enhanced communications tools are being considered by utilities.

Towns are exploring, and in some cases, identifying or seeking out funding for back-up generators and systems to ensure the continuing of operations and to provide centers for residents as needed. Additional communications methods have been considered and developed.

Sandy presented huge and new challenges and situations for us all. At the end of the day municipalities, working with other officials and support agencies, have faced those challenges with a high degree of success and effectiveness. A high level of rebuilding and restoration has occurred or is well in progress. We must continue to support and assist those towns and people and businesses who still have a distance to go to restore and rebuild. We know that our great state will continue to make great strides, onward and upward from the storm and all of its vast impacts. As we say, "Jersey Strong!" ▲

SANDY PRESENTED HUGE AND NEW CHALLENGES AND SITUATIONS FOR US ALL. AT THE END OF THE DAY MUNICIPALITIES, WORKING WITH OTHER OFFICIALS AND SUPPORT AGENCIES, HAVE FACED THOSE CHALLENGES WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF SUCCESS AND EFFECTIVENESS.

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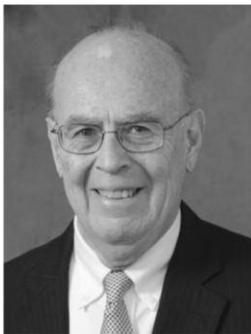
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East Windsor Senior Center

Celebrating a Decade of Learning, Food, Friendship and Fun



By Janice S. Mironov, President, NJLM, Mayor, East Windsor Twp. & Dina Leacock, Senior Coordinator, East Windsor Township

The East Windsor Senior Center, which celebrated its tenth anniversary on September 21, 2013, has become the cornerstone of our senior community. Local senior centers play a pivotal role in the community for active older citizens, many of whom face the challenges that come with retirement and aging. The senior center provides community-based programs where older adults can come together for activities and services. These activities enable friendships and help support independence and community involvement.

The current East Windsor Senior Center, of approximately 11,000 square feet, was the vision of Mayor Janice S.

Mironov. A generous, four-acre land donation from senior-service provider Presbyterian Homes of New Jersey, obtained by Mayor Janice Mironov, was the critical catalyst. The mayor appointed a committee—which included herself, two council members, staff and volunteers—to oversee the development of the facility, which was designed by Cody Eckert & Associates. Our goal was to build a functional, attractive and cost-effective center that could accommodate a wide range of activities and interests. Hightstown Borough seniors can enjoy the facility along with those from East Windsor through an Interlocal Services arrangement.



The 2013 Tap Dance Class performs at the East Windsor Senior Center.

Construction Funding The \$2 million center was constructed and equipped using government grants and private donations. There was no expenditure of municipal tax dollars. The funding included a \$400,000 New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Small Cities CDBG grant, a \$400,000 state legislative appropriation, a \$500,000 Mercer County grant, and a \$145,000 federal legislative appropriation. Additionally, we used \$280,000 in proceeds from a prior CDBG recaptured in the sale of the old center building and over \$100,000 from individual and business contributions. These donations were the result of The Giving Tree fund, which we created to raise money for the furnishing of the Center. Donors names are listed on a metal wall display inside the center.

The East Windsor Center includes multi-purpose room that can be partitioned and has a small recessed stage at one end. The building houses a computer room, a game room complete with two billiard tables, a craft room, a lounge/television room, a library, a conference room and office space. The facility replaced a one-room space in a converted building.



East Windsor Township Mayor Janice S. Mironov (second from right) poses with those recognized at the 2012 Volunteer Appreciation Party.

**OUR SENIORS, AND
MANY OTHERS IN THE
COMMUNITY, REFER TO
OUR TEN-YEAR-OLD
CENTER AS "A BLESSING"
AND "A SECOND HOME."**

Senior Programs The participants at the center work hard to make everyone who comes in feel welcome. More than 100 people a day visit the center to take classes, use the computers, play cards, pool or BINGO, read, watch TV, eat lunch and enjoy each other's company.

In addition to classes, exercise sessions and health activities, the center provides a setting for recreation, socializing and a range of supportive services. The senior center is a wonderful place

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Participants from the 2011 Watercolor Art Class show off their finished works.

for caregivers to come for respite, for seniors suffering from loss to find a sympathetic ear and help adjusting to changing circumstances and much more. In hot weather, the center serves as an air-conditioned haven.

Membership is free, as are most of the activities. Some classes and trips require a small fees to cover the costs.

Daily activities include: aerobics; ball-room, tap and line dancing; yoga; tai chi; core and balance classes, a low-impact, seated exercise program; and Zumba. Other classes include watercolor painting, crafts, computer classes and conversational Spanish. Clubs include a needlework group and a current events discussion group. There is

an informal TV group that gathers to watch the news. The computer tutoring program, in which community volunteers help with computer questions, is very popular. The rock and roll themed bowling league meets monthly for 10 months a year and includes an end-of-the-year awards banquet. Senior Photo ID Days are scheduled four times a year at no cost.

The center holds special health-related programs every month, including medical screenings and a monthly visit by a podiatrist. Area medical centers present lectures on health and wellness. In addition, the center participates in the Mercer County Nutrition Project, which

serves lunch to more than 80 seniors daily, Monday through Friday.

Bridging the Generations The Center also encourages residents to connect across the generations. Local schools hold performances and our High School Red Cross Club members volunteer at the center. The Gran-pals program, a school-senior volunteer partnership, has area senior citizens helping both the students and the teachers during the school year.

A monthly newsletter, calendar and community bus schedule, as well as brochures on classes and trips, is published to inform seniors and their families of events and activities at the senior center. Materials are available at the center and public facilities, as well as on the township website, east-windsor.nj.us.

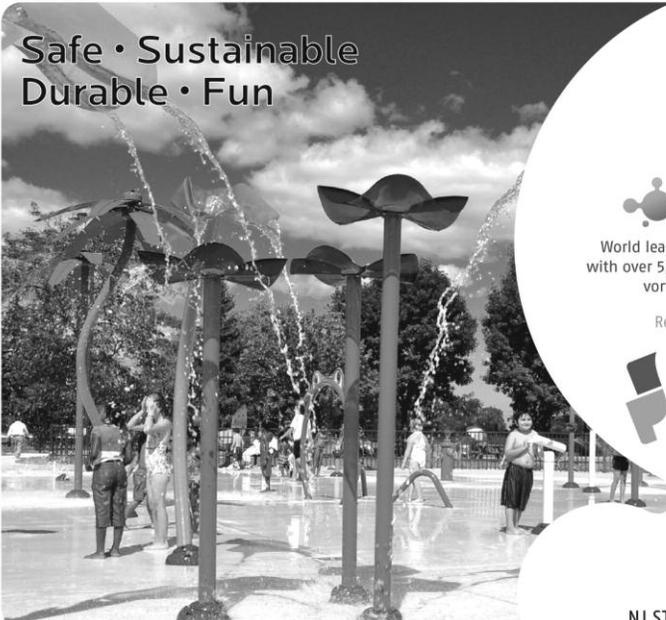
Transportation The Mercer County TRADE (Transportation Resources to Aid the Disadvantaged and Elderly) vehicle transports those who have made a reservation to the center in the morning and to medical appointments.

Seniors also enjoy a variety of trips. The center uses a 30-seat community bus, which the township acquired and operates thanks to a federal/state grant through NJTransit. The bus is available four days a week to take residents shopping, to doctor appointments and other appointments within the borders of Hightstown and East Windsor, and home from the center. The cost for the bus is \$.25 each way. On the fifth day, usually Friday, the bus provides transportation to area malls, dinner theaters, concerts, museums and parks.

Entertainment Parties and dances that include food and entertainment are held each month. Square dancing is very popular, as are guest speakers, movie screenings and other entertainment. The senior class tap dancers, tai chi class and the line dancers hold performances on our stage.

Area restaurants put on a huge Thanksgiving luncheon, which is completely donated. In addition, celebrations such as Diversity Day, the Volunteer Appreciation Dessert Party, and the Halloween Costume Party make the senior center a happening place.

Our seniors, and many others in the community, refer to our ten-year-old center as "a blessing" and "a second home." ▲



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Investment Somerset

A Blueprint for Economic Growth



By Jo-Ann Liptak, Mayor, Raritan Borough; Member, NJLM Executive Board; Frank Delcore, Mayor, Hillsborough Twp. & Vic Sordillo, Mayor, Warren Twp.

You may wonder why a municipality or a county needs an economic development strategy when we have a free market system. Won't business attraction 'just happen?' The answer is simple. Something will happen. However, a single municipality has limited control over its economic destiny. We've discovered that by working to create a unified plan, our county can position itself to attract new jobs and ratables.

In the spring of 2013, the Somerset County Business Partnership released *INVESTMENT SOMERSET, A Collaborative Blueprint for Economic Growth*. The basis for this report was the previously adopted "Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Somerset County (CEDS): An economic roadmap to diversify, strengthen, and sustain regional economies." The CEDS, developed with partial funding from the United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA), is a collaboration among the Somerset County Business Partnership, the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Planning Board, and the private sector. It has

enabled the Somerset County community to speak with a single voice on economic planning and public policy.

A CEDS does more than just facilitate business attraction and retention. It brings together the public and private sectors to create an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen regional economies. By analyzing and guiding regional goals, the county will implement a regional plan of action to identify investment priorities and funding sources. This type of integrated economic development planning provides municipalities and the region the flexibility to adapt to global economic conditions. It also gives us the opportunity to take advantage of our region's unique features to attract the private investment that creates jobs.

The leadership of the Freeholders has provided Somerset County municipalities a roadmap for economic development and job creation. This initiative is supported by priority funding options from both the state and federal governments. No other county in New Jersey is as prepared for its future as Somerset County.



We've discovered that by working to create a unified plan, our county can position itself to attract new jobs and ratables.

INVESTMENT SOMERSET maps out the process for a sustainable economic future. Though the agenda may be interpreted differently in different communities; as it is implemented, synergy and cooperation among neighboring municipalities will advance Somerset County's standing as the focal point of proactive and successful economic development and planning.

recovery and community resiliency and employment following natural disasters. The effects of Hurricanes Irene and Sandy have shown this to be a critical area.

The areas that are given the highest priority in the report are titled Business Resources; Re-use of Significant Properties; and Reduction of the Regulatory Burden. Medium priority titles include Workforce Delivery; Trans-

portation and Commuting; Hazard Mitigation, and Quality of Life. The low priorities titles include Tourism and Agriculture Development. With these issues defined and prioritized, Somerset County is in a position to seek funding from government sources, and to expect a positive response to its requests.

Although the discussion is ongoing, specific projects under consideration

SOMERSET COUNTY
HAS PULLED TOGETHER
TO DEVELOP AN
ECONOMIC PLAN THAT
WILL PROVIDE OUR
BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS
WITH A COMPETITIVE
ADVANTAGE.

The process that led to the conclusions in *INVESTMENT SOMERSET* was developed in public meetings directed by the private sector. This consensus document includes the thoughts, wants, and needs of business leaders and residents; in addition to municipal, county and state officials. The economic development strategies provided by the Somerset County Business Partnership target resources where they can have the greatest economic impact. In the words of Mike Kerwin, the group's President/CEO: "*INVESTMENT SOMERSET* connects the dots."

The report's priorities reflect the belief that limited public sector investment should be focused where it can improve job creation and leverage additional investment the most. The report defines nine "priority growth areas," 33 overall goals and objectives, and an inventory of 192 potential economic growth projects across Somerset County.

These initiatives serve as the basis of a plan that will be used by the Business Partnership and Freeholders to tap into state and federal strategies, particularly in the areas of economic

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by *INVESTMENT SOMERSET* include the proposed Davenport Street Tunnel (in Somerville); disaster preparedness (specifically power infrastructure resiliency); and emergency master planning. The planning effort will focus on the following:

- empowering more people to shelter in place during emergency situations;
- keeping businesses open in an emergency and establishing central locations from which businesses can operate;
- ensure a supply of fuel will be available to power generators;
- power grid mapping to determine restoration priorities; and improve communication between the business and agriculture communities.

Funding to address disaster preparedness is important to commercial property owners and residents of Somerset County. The stark realization last October that major weather events can have a lasting impact on Somerset County has made us realize that we need to make sure that damage is minimized and restoration is immediate following future disasters. The timing of the CEDS has elevated Somerset County on the priority list for funding made available following Hurricane Sandy but, equally important, it will help ensure that our power infrastructure can better withstand a similar event.

By retrofitting and reusing vacant properties along interstate corridors and in town centers, our towns will see an increasing number of new

area employees seeking housing, food and entertainment. This, in turn, will provide financial benefits to the towns. With a countywide commercial vacancy rate of nearly 30 percent, host communities suffer from lost ratables, while businesses and town services suffer the loss of income. Reinvesting in these properties is a key to the future economic growth of our entire county.

Raritan is unique among the older boroughs. It has a central business district, numerous residential neighborhoods, and an extensive corporate and industrial base. The importance of the commercial and industrial base cannot be overlooked. These major ratables, while they are occupied and flourishing, provide significant taxable income in exchange for a minimum of essential services. Implementation of the *INVESTMENT SOMERSET* agenda, specifically the focus on delivery of business resources including hiring incentives, job training, and energy efficiency improvement programs, will help maintain these positive and producing corporate neighbors.

Hillsborough continues to be a vibrant, rural community with over 30 percent of the township's land preserved. The highway bypass system will further enhance the dynamic character of the retail district and will make it easier to incorporate a Town Center into our Master Plan. The bypass will also help Hillsborough expand its burgeoning economic base. Addressing the regulatory obstacles business owners sometimes encounter and helping to market vacant commercial properties will also

help Hillsborough to maintain and grow its economy.

Warren Township will benefit in a unique way. It is one of the few Somerset municipalities that is significantly impacted by an interstate highway. The corporate development along I-78 is an important contributor to Warren Township's bottom line. The businesses support the tax base and numerous white-collar jobs for residents. Each of the report's high and medium priorities will have a direct, positive impact on Warren Township. As job opportunities proliferate, Warren's workforce is prepared to meet the needs of employers. In addition, Warren Township has addressed various transportation issues.

In Somerville, the County Seat of Somerset County, the proposed Davenport Street Tunnel will be critical to attracting a developer for the 80+ acre landfill site. This property has been termed Somerset County's most important development opportunity. The \$20+ million tunnel project will link the landfill development to Downtown Somerville and to Downtown Raritan, benefiting both communities. *INVESTMENT SOMERSET* will be the catalyst for Somerville to attain funding for this important project.

Somerset County has pulled together to develop an economic plan that will provide our businesses and residents with a competitive advantage. Implementation of this unified strategy will set Somerset County apart from the rest of New Jersey and provide a direct benefit to all 21 municipalities. The effort is a perfect example of "what is good for one is good for all." ▲



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Stormwater Management

How to Stay Afloat in New Jersey



By Kelly A. Yeade, Mayor, Hamilton Twp. (Mercer); Christopher Obropta, Rutgers University; & Richard Watson, Department of Water Pollution Control, Hamilton Twp. (Mercer)

A series of recent storms have put planning for intense weather events on the front burner in towns across New Jersey. Of particular interest are ways to lower the risk of flooding and subsequent property damage. For many New Jersey municipalities, the best way to keep their communities afloat is to address longstanding stormwater issues.

The Role of Infrastructure To enhance municipal flood resilience, municipalities can benefit from inventorying and evaluating the condition of existing infrastructure. In many cases, flooding is the result of poorly maintained infrastructure: such as clogged inlets and outlets in stormwater basins, collapsed pipes, or excessive debris in stormwater catch basins. Identifying the location and condition of existing infrastructure allows municipalities to prioritize rehabilitation activities to remedy flooding problems. All municipal assets, including stormwater infrastructure, must be valued and maintained to ensure their longevity and the safety of residents.

In some cases, flooding can be attributed to a lack of infrastructure. Many of the neighborhoods built prior to 1970 have limited or no stormwater management facilities. Impervious areas associated with this development are directly connected to local waterways. The result is often flash flooding of New Jersey's streams. Identifying opportunities where existing infrastructure could be upgraded or new facilities installed to prevent water from impervious surfaces from flowing directly into local waterways can help prevent or reduce flooding.

Municipal water resources issues are not limited to flooding. Many of the waterways in New Jersey are suffering from poor water quality as a result of nonpoint source pollution. Nonpoint source pollutants carried to local waterways by stormwater runoff can severely impair water quality and negatively impact aquatic organisms. Pollutants tend to accumulate on these surfaces. Therefore, as more of your municipality becomes covered with impervious surfaces, such as concrete, more pollutants are discharged during storms.



Students in Steinert High School's AP Biology class plant native vegetation in a rain garden at their school.

Controlling Costs In areas where stormwater management infrastructure does exist, the cost of maintenance has become a major issue. Mowing detention basins weekly and regularly cleaning their inlets and outlets is a financial burden for municipalities. Comprehensive planning that includes changes to maintenance regimes may help to reduce costs while continuing to ensure infrastructure is functioning properly.

**IN MANY CASES,
FLOODING IS THE RESULT
OF POORLY MAINTAINED
INFRASTRUCTURE.**

One Community's Approach In spring 2011, Hamilton Township in Mercer County contacted the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program requesting assistance in evaluating their water resource issues. The township, like many other communities throughout New Jersey, was struggling to maintain aging infrastructure, address frequent flooding of streets and properties, and better understand the community-wide impacts of stormwater management strategies.

In June 2011, the RCE Water Resources Program partnered with the township to develop recommendations for improving and protecting Hamilton Township's water resources. This partnership resulted in a township-wide evaluation of water resource management needs. The partners set priorities and recommendations for actions to address key hydrologic issues. These



Runoff from impervious surfaces, such as roofs and parking lots, can impair water quality in receiving waters.

actions support a series of goals including:

- engaging the community in water resource protection;
- managing water quality;
- minimizing localized flooding;
- implementing Phase II stormwater controls; and,
- improving stormwater facility maintenance.

In January 2012, the RCE Water Resources Program presented the study findings along with recommended actions. The township has chosen to move forward with a set of recommended actions. In 2012, the partners took the following actions.

- Implemented a community-wide detention basin assessment program.
- Developed a hydrologic modeling tool to better understand flooding potential in the community.

- Continued compiling and improving geographic information system data of the existing stormwater infrastructure network.
- Implemented a rain garden demonstration project and education program.
- Implemented a detention basin maintenance training, inspection, and monitoring program for municipal staff.

With staff and Rutgers students, the RCE Water Resources Program assessed more than 100 stormwater management basins in the township, making recommendations for repairs and changes to maintenance regimes. A demonstration rain garden has been constructed at Steinert High School in Hamilton Township. This rain garden serves as an example of new stormwater management practices that can be implemented throughout the township to cost-effectively reduce flooding and improve water quality.

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The next step, hydrologic modeling of the five watersheds within Hamilton Township, has begun. Also in the works is a comprehensive, detailed geographic information system to describe the township's stormwater infrastructure. With ongoing support from the township, these and other recommended actions will continue over the coming years.

As Hamilton Township began work to assess and restore existing stormwater

infrastructure, community leaders also saw the need to plan for potential impacts of new development by ensuring their municipality was thoroughly complying with New Jersey's stormwater regulations.

State Stormwater Regulations New Jersey released stormwater management and permitting regulations in 2004 that were viewed by many as the most comprehensive in the country. The passing of these new regulations

created a strong need for education of those affected and for those who would enforce the regulations. For the past ten years community officials, business administrators, public works directors, and municipal leaders have relied heavily on design professionals and had little training or opportunity to learn what the intent and requirements of these regulations mean for their communities.

THE RCE WATER
RESOURCES PROGRAM
DEVELOPED A MUNICIPAL
OFFICIAL TRAINING
PROGRAM TO EDUCATE
PLANNING BOARD,
ZONING BOARD, AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION MEMBERS
ON THE STORMWATER
REGULATIONS.

Municipal leaders struggle to enforce the stormwater management regulations and many local officials are not fully aware of their role and responsibility. In response to this need, the RCE Water Resources Program developed a municipal official training program to educate planning board, zoning board, and environmental commission members on the stormwater regulations. And, more importantly, the program sought to define the responsibilities of these municipal officials. The training focused on what questions the boards and commissions need to be asking applicants of new development projects to ensure that these projects are in compliance with all aspects of the stormwater management regulations.

Better Water and More Effective Meetings Following NJDEP input and support, the program was piloted in Hamilton Township to members of the planning board, zoning board and environmental commission. The pro-

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gram has helped the municipal officials understand their responsibilities and helped them understand the questions they need to ask applicants to ensure compliance. The training also prompted municipal officials to discuss protocols for review of development applications and the need to streamline the approval process. An effort was also made to increase the efficiency of board meetings and make long board meetings, filled with opposing experts arguing over the validity of stormwater management strategies, less frequent.

Through Hamilton Township's partnership with the RCE Water Resources Program, the community has been able to better plan for infrastructure repairs and maintenance, implement cost-effective strategies to reduce flooding and protect water resources, as well as engage community leaders, residents and youth in taking steps needed to ensure clean and healthy waterways. To learn more about this approach and the ongoing programs visit: www.water.rutgers.edu or www.hamiltonnj.com. ▲



Clogged detention basin outlets lose their ability to dissipate flood waters and prevent the flooding of local properties.

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Bringing an Obsolete Public Building Up-to-Date



By Frederick J. Rast, III, Mayor, Borough of Atlantic Highlands; Adam Hubeny, Borough Administrator, Borough of Atlantic Highlands & Eli Goldstein, The Goldstein Partnership, Architects & Planners

“Public buildings often accurately reflect the beliefs, priorities, and aspirations of a people. ...” wrote Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr.

While this quote may be true for new public buildings, it may no longer be so for those that are older and unable to support the delivery of modern municipal services. Many older public buildings and public budgets strain to meet our needs for technology, accessibility and security. They also can come up short in terms of energy-efficiency, the need for equivalent facilities for men and women, and current safety codes. Thus, over decades, many of New Jersey’s public buildings have become obsolete—a far cry from the reflection of our “beliefs, priorities and aspirations.”

We faced this dilemma in the Borough of Atlantic Highlands. Our 50-year-old, two-story municipal building contained our municipal offices, police department, public library, and court. Our municipal offices and library were straining to operate in spaces they outgrew 40 years ago. There was mold in our police department and library. Our court failed to meet Administrative Office of the Court guidelines, and the entire building failed to meet ADA requirements. Needless to say, our employees were frustrated and became outspoken.

When the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Program (PEOSHA) cited us for a violation, the problems became impossible to ignore. We knew we needed to take on a major capital project, but the timing could not have been worse. It was 2008, the start of the Great Recession.

IT TAKES COMPLICATED PLANNING TO MAKE A PROCESS SIMPLE.

Reaching Political Consensus Discussions about upgrading the building began under a former Democratic Mayor. I continued to advance them under my Republican Administration with our Governing Body of four Republicans and two Democrats. Our able Borough Administrator and co-author on this article, Adam Hubeny, was an integral part of this process.

The PEOSHA violation meant we had to act for the welfare of our community, and for our employees who were working in substandard conditions. However some members of our Finance Committee needed convincing.

Main Entrance



By working with employees from each of our departments, then considering their requirements as part of a whole, we were able to eliminate inefficiencies, streamline circulation, reduce the need for new construction, and keep costs down.

Municipal Offices



Before



After

In order to reach a consensus, we held public meetings to receive citizen input and to keep everyone fully informed. We also created a resident team that attended bi-weekly meetings for over a year. This comprehensive approach meant all voices were heard. Ultimately, we received support for our Council's courageous and unanimous vote to bond \$6 million for this project. From then on we met every challenge as a team that included two

Council Members, and our Police Chief, Librarian, Court Administrator, Municipal Clerk and an interested resident.

Optimizing Dollars and Space Rehabilitating an existing building can be an economical choice, but we were concerned about disrupting the delivery of our services. Replacing our building also presented challenges, because we needed a building site. Our existing building was in the center of town, a convenient and symbolic location. It

also served as the anchor of our shopping district. We hoped it could stay where it was.

In order to weigh our options, we retained the architectural firm, The Goldstein Partnership. Eli Goldstein, also a co-author of this article, provided the rigorous and comprehensive analysis we needed to inform our discussions and decision-making.

Goldstein helped us see that we could keep all the original functions



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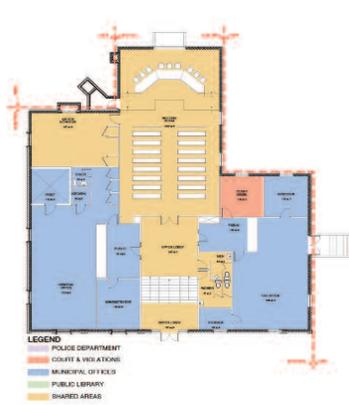
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on the site, but that the Police Department and Library would need more space than the existing building could hold. In studying our existing spaces, he found that each department's needs were individually met but in isolation from the others.

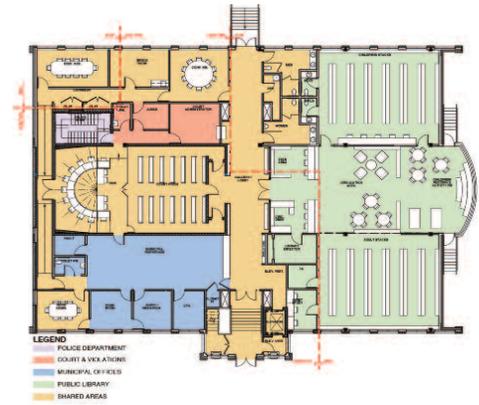
For example, our large conference room was "land-locked" within the Municipal Office suite, making it hard for others to share it. He determined that the size of the project, and its associated costs, could be minimized if we maximized interdepartmental space sharing. He showed us how, by making shared spaces directly accessible from public corridors, we could increase efficiency and reduce costs. While we did need additions in three places, we were able to keep them small.

These days public agencies must satisfy many functional and security requirements. Often the result is a complicated floor plan. By working with employees from each of our departments to determine their requirements, then considering them as part of a whole, Goldstein eliminated inefficiencies, streamlined circulation, and reduced the need for new construction.

Our building and site needed a comprehensive Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) overhaul and AOC (Administrative Office of the Court) guidelines required the Courtroom to have three accessible levels. Just one of the many ways we saved space and dollars



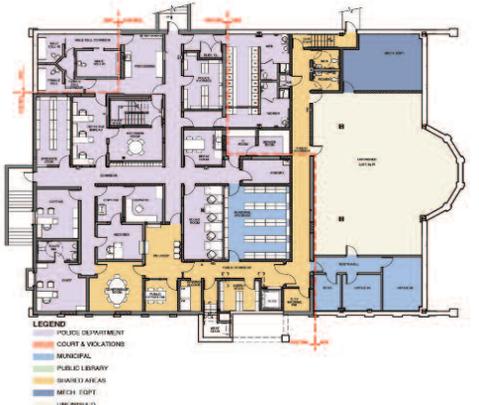
UPPER LEVEL: BEFORE



UPPER LEVEL: AFTER



LOWER LEVEL: BEFORE



LOWER LEVEL: AFTER

was to make required ramps do double-duty as corridors.

Avoiding Service Interruption We knew we could not stop providing services during construction. We con-

sidered temporarily moving to rented trailers but the cost was prohibitive. We had enough space available in a field house to temporarily relocate the library. We did that, but the other departments had to remain in the building.

To minimize the number of construction phases and moves, and associated disruption and costs, we built the additions first. When they were complete, the municipal offices, court, and police department moved into them temporarily, while their original spaces were renovated. After construction, all departments, including our library-in-exile, relocated to their new and improved quarters.

It takes complicated planning to make a process simple. The Goldstein Partnership had to anticipate final construction phasing as they began architectural design. Critical support facilities, such as toilet rooms and stairs, had to be available at all times. However, our existing ones were beyond repair. Mr. Goldstein purposely located new ones in the additions so they'd be available when the original ones were demolished.



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Administrator Adam Hubeny managed to stretch his already busy 24-hour day to include approving daily contractor logistics, coordinating them with our staff, and providing clear and ongoing communication to all—while keeping up everyone's morale.

Funding When we decided to bond this project at \$6 million, the economy was depressed and we expected favorable bids. Still, to hedge our bets, we asked the bidders to price 13 alternates. The bids we received ranged from \$4,193,000 to \$6,182,858. By accepting the lowest reasonable bid, we were able to include all alternates and bring the construction cost in at just under \$5 million. The remaining bond money was used for furnishings, computers and phones, bonding costs, mold remediation, moving the library, and professional fees.

We have also found ways to save on our expenses going forward. The Monmouth County Library System loved our newly renovated library so much that they decided to make it a branch. And in doing so the county assumed the library's administration costs.

Lessons Learned

- Tough financial times can be the right times to make capital investments.
- Limited financial resources can lead to the most efficient solutions.
- If you must maintain building operations during construction, consider construction phasing and implementation planning while making design decisions.
- Find ways to share space to reduce new construction.
- Know that renovations can provide opportunities to upgrade the thermal performance of the building envelope (windows, walls, and roofs). In our case we lowered operating costs by approximately 10 percent, despite an increase in square footage.
- Spend upfront time unifying your team. It will pay dividends throughout the project.
- Renovations can provide an opportunity to share services and to reduce operating costs.

Completing this project required borough staff and residents to work through some challenging issues, but we weathered the storm. Today we have a better organized and more functional Borough Hall. It is designed to serve our community well today and into the future. Coop-

eration and collaboration between our staff, architect, and resident team allowed us to freely discuss ideas, concerns and goals. Per the opening quote from Supreme Court Justice Powell, we now have a building that reflects our borough's priorities and needs. ▲

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Dear Conference Delegate:

As President of your New Jersey State League of Municipalities, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our 98th Annual Conference.

The League's 2013 Conference, "Navigating Recovery and Renewal," will be a dynamic, educational and diversified event. The program offers a host of relevant topics for Mayors, governing body members and all types of appointed officials. The State has recognized the value of our sessions and workshops by granting continuing education credits, essential for professional recertification for the members of municipal management teams.

Topics include Budget and Audit Updates, Cost Savings from New Energy Technologies, Government Energy Aggregation, Ethical Standards, Coping with the Cap, Implementing Effective Risk Management, Water Infrastructure Asset Management and Review of the Open Public Records Act. Other sessions will give legislative leaders, cabinet members and former governors the opportunity to share their priorities and perspectives. And all of our meetings will give conference delegates the chance to ask questions and offer insights from the floor.

In the Exhibit Hall, vendors of essential goods and services will be waiting to connect with municipal decision-makers and demonstrate the value of their products and their commitment to New Jersey.

Delegates come to the Conference to listen and to learn, but also to share their own experiences and perspectives with colleagues from all around the State. They leave with new approaches, new information and renewed dedication to improving government in their municipalities. The time and attention you spend here will prepare you to give your fellow citizens the best possible public service.

On behalf of the League's Officers and Executive Board, I want to thank each of you for your participation at this year's Conference.

Sincerely,

Janice S. Mironov
President, New Jersey League of Municipalities
Mayor, East Windsor Township

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, November 19

- 8:00 a.m. Affiliates' Meeting (see listing of all Affiliates' Meetings on page 4)
- 9:00 a.m. Registration and Exhibits open
- 12:00 p.m. 5th Annual Sustainable Jersey Luncheon (Sheraton)
- 1:00 p.m. Vendor Solutions sessions (see page 5 for complete listing)
- 2:00 p.m. NJLM CONSULTING PERIOD (2-4 p.m., Hall A)
- 2:00 p.m. Select from concurrent sessions and meetings
- 3:00 p.m. NJLM Resolutions Committee Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Registration and Exhibits close

Wednesday, November 20

- 8:30 a.m. Registration and Exhibits open
- 9:00 a.m. Select from concurrent sessions and meetings
- 10:45 a.m. Select from concurrent sessions and meetings
- 12:00 p.m. Affiliate Luncheons and Vendor Solutions sessions
- 12:15 p.m. Mayors Box Luncheon (Sheraton)
- 1:00 p.m. Vendor Solutions sessions
- 2:00 p.m. Select from concurrent sessions and meetings
- 3:45 p.m. Select from concurrent sessions and meetings
- 5:00 p.m. Registration and Exhibits close

Thursday, November 21

- 8:00 a.m. Women in Municipal Government Breakfast (Sheraton)
- 8:30 a.m. Registration and Exhibits open
- 9:00 a.m. Select from concurrent sessions and meetings
- 10:45 a.m. Select from concurrent sessions and meetings
- 12:00 p.m. Vendor Solutions session
- 12:15 p.m. NJLM Luncheon for all Delegates (Sheraton)
- 1:00 p.m. Exhibits close
- 2:00 p.m. Select from concurrent sessions and meetings
- 3:00 p.m. Registration closes
- 3:30 p.m. NJLM Business Meeting (Sheraton)



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NJLM SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

THE CONSULTING PERIOD ROUND TABLES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Hall A of the Convention Center

This is your chance to talk one on one with the experts. Over 60 state program directors, area experts and grant givers will answer your questions.

LEAGUE LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

Thursday, November 21, 2013 – 12:15 p.m.
Sheraton Crown Ballroom

Governor Chris Christie

(invited)

U.S. Senator Bob Menendez

(invited)



The following schedule includes highlights of League sponsored activities and jointly sponsored activities. For a full list, visit NJSLOM.org. Please note that many workshops, sessions and meetings run concurrently. **On page four, you'll find a list of meetings and programs sponsored by the League's Affiliate Organizations.**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

9:00 a.m. Registration and Exhibits Open

12:00 p.m.  **Fifth Annual Sustainable Jersey Awards Luncheon** 

1:00 p.m. **Vendor Solutions Sessions:**
Sunrise Systems • XTEL Communications • Computer Aid, Inc • South Jersey Industries • Alternative Utility Services, Inc • Badger Meter, Inc

2:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. **NJLM CONSULTING PERIOD** Hall A

2:00 p.m. **Session Highlights:**

League Orientation • Budget and Audit Updates • Humor and Leadership • Clean Communities Funding • Campaign Strategy • Sustainable



Jersey Award Winners • Transit Villages • Affordable Housing and Foreclosure Assistance • New Energy Technologies • Safety Resources

3:00 p.m. NJLM Resolutions Committee Meeting

3:45 p.m. **Session Highlights:**

Introducing Your Downtown to the Development Community
• Retirement Planning, Employee Pension Benefits and Services
• Municipal Websites • Minimum Security Requirements for Technology
• Effective Negotiation Skills • Animal Control • Sustainable Community Innovations • The Rewards of Investing in the Arts • Roles of Governing Body Members • Government Energy Aggregation

5:00 p.m. Registration and Exhibits and Close

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

8:30 a.m. Registration and Exhibits Open

9:00 a.m. **Session Highlights:**

Sandy-One Year Later • Obsolete Office Campuses • Moving to Resiliency • Social Media • Most Critical Grant/Funding Needs
• Police Regulations • Local Budgets • Civil Service Update
• Safety Resources

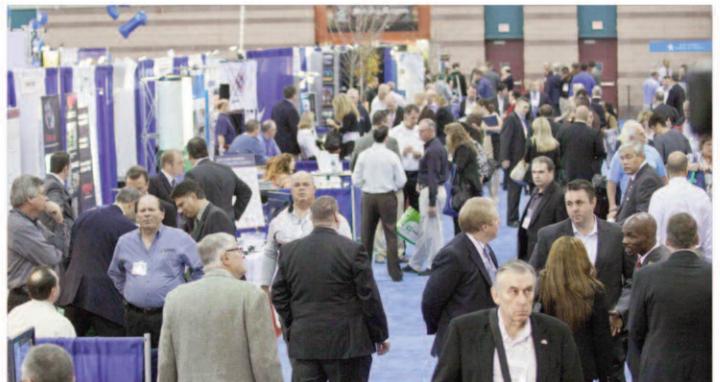
10:45 a.m. **Session Highlights:**

Shop for Tax Relief • Former Governors Panel • Building a Healthier New Jersey • Government Ethics • Sandy Rebuilding • Technology and Transportation • Human Trafficking • Coping with the 2% Cap
• Sustainable Jersey Program Updates • Social Enterprise and Economic Development

12:00 p.m. **Vendor Solutions Sessions:**
Marsh and McLennon Agency • City Fire Equipment Company • Commercial Utility Consultants
• Spacial Data Logic

12:15 p.m. **Mayors Box Luncheon (Sheraton) Open Dialogue with Cabinet Members** 

1:00 p.m. **Vendor Solutions Sessions:**
CFG Health Network • American Traffic Solutions
• General Code • MagnaCare • Phoenix Advisors, LLC



2:00 p.m. **Session Highlights:**

Legislative Leaders Panel • Complete Streets • Super Bowl 2014 Tourism • Business Attraction and Retention • Emergency Management Leadership • Ethics • Using State Contracts (GPA) • DEP's New Waiver Rule • Elected Officials Refresher: Budget, Procurement, and Finance Purchasing Issues • Shared Services: Efficiency of Police Services • Safety Resources

3:45 p.m. **Session Highlights:**

Mayors Wellness Campaign • Protecting Your Credit Worthiness • Funding for Energy Savings Projects • Stormwater Management • Pavement Management • Town and Gown Relations • Chronic Major Flooding • Elected Officials Refresher: Ethics, Open Public Meetings, OPRA and Civility • Shared Services: Creating One Princeton • Effective Risk Management • Ending the Cradle to Prison Pipeline

5:00 p.m. Registration and Exhibits Close

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

8:00 a.m. **Women in Municipal Government Breakfast**
Sheraton Crown Ballroom **TICKET**

8:30 a.m. Registration and Exhibits Open

9:00 a.m. **Session Highlights:**

Affordable Housing Update • Sustainability and Energy Collaboration • Private Collection of Municipal Court Debts • DMOs and Tourism • Public Contracts Law and Regulations Update • Energy Tax Receipts are Not State Aid • Impact of Loss of Tax Ratables • Interest Arbitration Reform • Water Infrastructure Asset Management • Safety Resources

10:45 a.m. **Session Highlights:**

Municipal Traffic Control Regulations • Managing Utility Service Disruption • Health Benefits Reform • Evaluating Your EMS Services • OPMA and Transparency in Government • Current Legal Issues • Latest Changes to Alcoholic Beverage Rules • The Pro's and Con's of Sharing Services • Impact of Loss of Tax Ratables • Lessening the Impact of Foreclosures • Leadership on Local Energy Issues • Wage and Hour Primer



WOMEN IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT BREAKFAST

TICKET

"A Mayor's Perspective"

Thursday, November 21, 2013
Pearl Ballroom – 2nd Floor / 8:00 a.m.
Sheraton, Atlantic City



WIMG

Presented by: The NJ League of Municipalities Women in Municipal Government Committee

Guest Speakers & Presentation of Outstanding Women in Government Award:



Carol Beske
President of ACT Engineers;
former Mayor, West Windsor



Janice Kovach
Mayor, Clinton Town;
former Director, Division of Women, DCA

12:00 p.m. **Vendor Solutions Session:**
• Max Spann Real Estate and Auction Company

12:15 p.m. **NJLM Luncheon for all Delegates**
Sheraton Crown Ballroom **TICKET**

1:00 p.m. Exhibits Close

2:00 p.m. **Session Highlights:**

The New Reality of Public Housing • Alternative Fuel Vehicles • Social Media and BIDs • Preventing Sexual Harassment • New Normal for Guard and Reserves • The Open Public Records Act • Sustainable Jersey Policy Update

3:00 p.m. Registration Closes

3:30 p.m. **NJLM Business Meeting**, Sheraton Pearl Ballroom



AFFILIATE PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

AFFILIATE PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS

Twenty-one affiliated organizations form an integral part of the League Conference and their programs are open to all delegates. Meal functions normally require separate paid admission.

Affiliate associations participating in this year's Conference are:

Association of Municipal Assessors of New Jersey; New Jersey Institute of Local Government Attorneys; New Jersey Building Officials Association; Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey, Inc.; Municipal Court Administrators Association of New Jersey, Inc.; Municipal Electrical Inspectors Association of New Jersey, Inc.; New Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers; Government Finance Officers Association of New Jersey; New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association; New Jersey Health Officials (NJACCHO); New Jersey Municipal Management Association; New Jersey Planning Officials, Inc.; New Jersey State Plumbing Inspectors Association, Inc.; New Jersey State Municipal Prosecutors Association; Public Works Association of New Jersey; Governmental Purchasing Association of New Jersey; Community Recreation Society of New Jersey; Registrars Association of New Jersey; Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association of New Jersey; Municipal Welfare Association of New Jersey; and Jersey Access Group.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- 8:00 a.m. Registrars
- 10:00 a.m. Assessors • Municipal Clerks • Finance Officers
• Planning Officials • Registrars • Tax Collectors
and Treasurers
- 1:00 p.m. Finance Officers • Planning Officials • Tax Collectors
and Treasurers
- 1:30 p.m. Assessors
- 2:00 p.m. Municipal Clerks • Court Administrators
• Purchasing Agents • Registrars • Tax Collectors
and Treasurers
- 2:30 p.m. Planning Officials • Recreation
- 3:00 p.m. Planning Officials
- 3:30 p.m. Registrars

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

- 8:00 a.m. Municipal Clerks
- 8:30 a.m. Engineers
- 9:00 a.m. Assessors • Municipal Clerks • Court Administrators
• Finance Officers • Planning Officials • Purchasing
Agents • Recreation • Tax Collectors and Treasurers
• Welfare
- 10:00 a.m. Assessors • Building Officials • Electrical Inspectors
• Engineers • Fire Officials • Planning Officials
• Tax Collectors and Treasurers
- 10:30 a.m. Finance Officers • Public Works
- 10:45 a.m. Prosecutors

- 12:00 p.m. Affiliate Luncheons (See program book for locations)
Assessors • Building Officials • Engineers
• Managers • Planning and Zoning Administrators
• Prosecutors • Purchasing Agents
- 12:30 p.m. Health Officials
- 1:00 p.m. Attorneys • Court Administrators • Finance Officers
• Planning Officials • Tax Collectors and Treasurers
- 1:30 p.m. Health Officials • Recreation
- 2:00 p.m. Assessors • Finance Officers • Health Officers
• Managers • Prosecutors • Tax Collectors and Treasurers
- 2:30 p.m. Attorneys • Engineers • Planning Officials
- 3:00 p.m. Finance Officers • Planning Officials • Plumbing
Inspectors • Tax Collectors and Treasurers
- 3:30 p.m. Fire Officials
- 4:00 p.m. Attorneys

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- 8:00 a.m. Court Administrators
- 9:00 a.m. Finance Officers • Health Officials • Planning Officials
• Tax Collectors and Treasurers
- 9:30 a.m. Welfare
- 10:00 a.m. Building Officials • Fire Officials
- 10:45 a.m. Finance Officers • Municipal Clerks • Tax Collectors
and Treasurers
- 1:00 p.m. Attorneys
- 1:30 p.m. Assessors
- 2:00 p.m. Fire Officials
- 5:00 p.m. Attorneys

These sessions are produced by exhibitors to bring you their expertise.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19

- 1:00 p.m. **ALTERNATIVE UTILITY SERVICES, INC.:** Govt. Energy Aggregation for developing a local sustainable economy
- BADGER METER, INC.:** The viability of solid state metering as the next generation of measurement solutions
- COMPUTER AID, INC.:** Real time crime center.
- SOUTH JERSEY INDUSTRIES:** Detect and avoid costly mistakes on your commodity bills using airtight RFPs
- SUNRISE SYSTEMS, INC:** Technology as an enabler to address OPRA, online transparency law and online services
- XTEL COMMUNICATIONS:** Hosted PBX Solutions/ IP cloud computing

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20

- 12:00 p.m. **CITY FIRE EQUIPMENT CO., INC.:** Sunset of copper land lines; Existing alternatives for Fire Alarm Digital Communicators
- COMMERCIAL UTILITY CONSULTANTS, INC.:** Government Energy Aggregation-Understanding the benefits and how to begin the process
- MARSH & MCLENNAN AGENCY:** Lower your health care costs, both yours and your employees'

CONNECT WITH CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS ONLINE & IN PERSON

We've developed two ways for you to connect with our conference exhibitors. First, the country's largest municipal exhibit hall is now searchable on the web at the interactive exhibit hall website www.map-dynamics.com/njlm2013. Second, a series of Vendor Solutions Sessions presented by exhibitors will be held to provide you with in-depth information on specific topics.

- 1:00 p.m. **SPATIAL DATA LOGIC:** The SOL Portal: Improving efficiency with integrated online services
- AMERICAN TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS:** Making life safer and easier on the road in New Jersey
- CFG HEALTH NETWORK:** How to implement virtual reality training to take your municipality to the next level
- GENERAL CODE:** Come see the newest innovation in Code access
- MAGNACARE:** Navigating the public entity health benefits road with self-funding as the compass
- PHOENIX ADVISORS, LLC:** Managing Your Debt – The Smart Approach

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21

- 12:00 p.m. **MAX SPANN REAL ESTATE & AUCTION COMPANY:** Creating revenue through converting unused real estate to cash through auctions



EXHIBITORS

3M TRAFFIC SAFETY AND SECURITY
A&A IRON AND METALS
A&K EQUIPMENT COMPANY INC.
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BADGER METER, INC.
BALADY PROMOTIONS, INC.
BARBER BEACH CLEANERS
BARNEGAT BAY COALITION
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CARDNO
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CLEAN ENERGY
CLIFFSIDE BODY CORP.
CME ASSOCIATES
CMIT SOLUTIONS
CODED SYSTEMS LLC
COLONIAL LIFE
COLUMBIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
COMCAST BUSINESS
COMMERCIAL RECREATION SPECIALIST
COMMERCIAL UTILITY CONSULTANTS
COMMERCIAL VEHICLE CONSULTANTS
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CORBY ASSOCIATES, INC.
COUNTY OF UNION FREEHOLDERS
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D.A.R.E. NEW JERSEY, INC.
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DMR ARCHITECTS
DOCUSAFE RECORDS MANAGEMENT
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DOUBLETREE STRUCTURES INC.
DOWNTOWN DECORATIONS
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DRINKABLE AIR NORTHEAST
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KUSTOM SIGNALS, INC.
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LAN ASSOCIATES EPAS, INC.
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LB WATER & FCS
LED NATURAL LIGHTING SOLUTIONS
LEGISLATIVE MANUAL / NJLS
LEOTEK ELECTRONICS USA CORP.
LIBERTY PAPER&JANITORIAL SUPPLY
LIBERTY PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS
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LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP
LOGTECH
LOWE'S COMPANIES
LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES OF NJ
M&T BANK
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MAILROOM SYSTEMS, INC.
MAJOR POLICE SUPPLY
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MASER CONSULTING
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MAX SPANN REAL ESTATE/AUCTION CO
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MCGRATH MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT
MCINTOSH
MCM TECHNOLOGY LLC
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MCSYSTEMS SOFTWARE, LLC
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MICHAEL BROLLY WORKS
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MITCHELL HUMPHREY & CO.
MOBILE LIFTS INC.
MOBILE NOW! LLC
MODERN GROUP
MODERN OFFICE SYSTEMS
MONMOUTH TRUCK EQUIPMENT
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY
MONTANA CONSTRUCTION
MORTGAGES FOR HEROES/ANNIEMAC
MOST DEPENDABLE FOUNTAINS
MRA INTERNATIONAL
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MUNCIE POWER PRODUCTS
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MUTUALINK, INC.
NAJARIAN ASSOCIATES
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NATURE'S CHOICE CORPORATION
NCPA
NETWORKFLEET, INC.
NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER
NEW JERSEY BUSINESS SYSTEMS
NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
NEW JERSEY FUN SERVICES
NEW JERSEY HALL OF FAME
NEW JERSEY LAW JOURNAL
NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES
NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS
NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS (NGV)
NEW JERSEY ONE CALL
NEW JERSEY PLANNING OFFICIALS
NEW JERSEY YMCA STATE ALLIANCE
NEW JERSEY'S CLEAN ENERGY PROG.
NEW JERSEY'S CREDIT UNIONS
NEXUS ENERGY SOLUTIONS

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NJ - COOPERATIVE PURCHASING& DSS
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NJ - DEPT OF BANKING & INSURANCE
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NJ - DEPT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
NJ - DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
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NJ WIRELESS ASSOCIATION
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OFFICE BUSINESS SYSTEMS
OFFICE DEPOT
OIL STORAGE SOLUTIONS
OLDCASTLE PRECAST
OMLAND ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES
ONSPOT AUTOMATIC TIRE CHAINS
OPEN SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS INC.
OSI TECHNOLOGY
OSWALD ENTERPRISES, INC.
OTTO ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS
P.L. CUSTOM EMERGENCY VEHICLES
PABST ENTERPRISES/EQUIPMENT CO.
PAPER MART INC.
PARDOS TRUCK SERVICE PARTS WHSE
PARTNER ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE
PARTY PERFECT RENTALS
PASCACK DATA SERVICES
PEACH COUNTRY
PEAPACK-GLADSTONE BANK
PEIRCE-EAGLE EQUIPMENT COMPANY
PELLETPATCH DISTRIBUTORS, LLC
PENN CREDIT CORPORATION
PENN GLOBE GASLIGHT
PENNONI ASSOCIATES INC.
PERMA-LINER INDUSTRIES LLC
PERMA-PATCH
PHILIPS HADCO
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PIONEER. A SALLIE MAE COMPANY
PITNEY BOWES
PLAINFIELD M.U.A.
PLANT DETECTIVES, INC.
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PMC ASSOCIATES
PNC BANK NA
POINT & PAY
POM PARKING METERS
PRESRAY CORPORATION
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PROACT, INC.

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REHRIG PACIFIC COMPANY
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REGISTRATION

Pre-registration ended October 1. If you haven't pre-registered, you can register on site at the Conference Registration Desk in the Convention Center. Despite the fact that our conference is the largest of its kind in the nation, our on-site registration fees remain among the lowest: \$65 for municipal members and \$125 for all others. The registration fee is the same whether you attend functions for one day or all three days. Spouses attend free. (Students can register for \$5 with proper school identification.)

Costs for meal functions are extra. Please visit www.NJSLOM.org for information on how to purchase tickets. Some tickets are only sold by our affiliated organizations.

HOTEL CONFIRMATION AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Any room cancellation made after Thursday, November 7, 2013 (the deadline is November 6, 2013 for Caesars, Harrah's and Bally's) will be required to pay for all cancelled room nights. In cases where the municipality pays for reservations, the municipality will incur this charge for late cancellations.

You should not call the hotels to check on your reservations. You will be issued an acknowledgement number that acts as your reservation confirmation. This number will be sent to you either by e-mail, fax or regular mail and serves as your assurance of a room reservation.

TRANSPORTATION

Between the casino hotels and the Convention Center will be provided by Academy Bus Company. The shuttle service is paid through a \$7 per day, per hotel room fee. Limited on-site parking is available starting at \$7. For casino hotel parking rates and lot parking, contact individual casinos or check the signs at the parking entrances. For full schedule visit njslom.org.

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions Committee will meet on Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. in Room 320. The meeting is open to all and you are encouraged to attend. Only members of the Resolutions Committee may vote.

Delegates may request copies of all resolutions at the League information booth or online. For the League's Resolution Policy and Procedures, please go to njslom.org/98thconf/index.html.

EXEMPTION FROM OCCUPANCY TAX

The combined city and state sales and luxury taxes are 14 percent. This applies to hotel and motel rooms within the city boundaries of Atlantic City only. To avoid this tax you must pay by municipal voucher.

The New Jersey State Occupancy rate of \$5.00 to \$10.00 per room, per night is applicable to casino hotels. A \$1.00 fee is applicable to non-casino hotels. There is no exemption from these fees. There may be other fees and assessments from which you will not be exempt.

CEU INFORMATION

To make the CEU procedures more efficient and convenient, the League is switching to an electronic scanning system. Please note, these procedures only apply to educational sessions. Business Meetings and vendor sessions are not included in the scanning system.

Instead of sign-in sheets, there will be badge scanners in each room in the convention center. You will need to scan in and out to receive your credits. As you enter an educational session, insert your badge into the slot badge scanner near the door. A green light and the word "granted" will appear on the scanner screen. Then, following the session, sign-out in the same way you signed in.

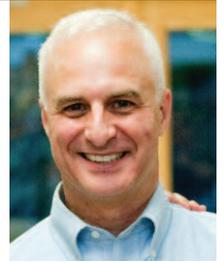
You will be able print your certificate from your home or office computer by logging on to njslom.org/confceu.html. Please note that you must fill out the session evaluation form for the session before printing your certificate. To print additional certificates, you will need to return to the main screen.

SOCIAL MEDIA & ONLINE INTERACTIVE FLOOR PLAN

For the first time this year you will be able to follow us on Facebook and Twitter during the conference by using #njleague. We'll be providing immediate notices on changes to the schedule of League educational sessions, shuttle bus changes, announcements about sold out League events, and important updates. Also new this year, is an online view of the exhibit floor plan and a searchable list of exhibits for smartphones. Find it at map-dynamics.com/njlm2013. You may also view our profiles at facebook.com/njleague and @nj_league on Twitter.



By Speaking Out We Can Save Lives



By Joseph Accardi
Mayor, Roselle Park

I will be forever grateful to the family who made the decision to donate the lungs that saved the life of Megan Accardi. When my wife entered Columbia Presbyterian Hospital with failing lungs in 2006, she was about to die.

But somewhere in that hospital—on that very day—there was a grieving family saying goodbye to a loved one. Through the heartache, the pain and the strife, this family was willing to sign a consent form, allowing for organ donation.

And because of that tremendous moment, my wife was able to receive the two healthy lungs that saved her life, after four years on a waiting list. At the same time—somewhere in that hospital—another recipient was being blessed with a new heart.

All of this renewed life—because of one incredible family and its willingness to be organ donors on that very memorable day.

Seven years later, I am proud to say my wife is doing well; there has been no rejection of the transplanted lungs. Every night, when I go to bed and hear her breathing, I am so thankful for that family, on that day, at that hospital.

I'm also thankful for the three years I've been privileged to serve as mayor of Roselle Park. As a municipal official, I feel it is in my responsibility to spread the important message of organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

I am proud to volunteer for New Jersey Sharing Network to help raise awareness. During "Donate Life Month" in April, I joined with area mayors for an annual ice cream cake decorating fundraiser at the Dairy Queen in Plainfield. Its owner was, like my wife and hundreds of thousands of other New Jerseyans, the recipient of a life-saving transplant.

I also participated in June in NJ Sharing Network's annual 5K Walk/Race in New Providence, joining 6,000 others to raise a record-breaking \$750,000 and further spread the message.

In addition to participating in events, there are a number of ways in which we, as local elected officials, can encourage organ donation. Many do not know this, but there are now nearly 5,000 people on a waiting list for life-saving organs statewide.

Despite the 79 organ transplants performed each day on average throughout our nation, an average of 18 people die each day waiting for transplants due to a shortage of donor organs.

If more people were willing to be donors, that waiting list could be eliminated. I'd like to suggest to you that as mayors and members of local governing bodies we have the power to spread the message through New Jersey's 565 municipalities.

We must work to debunk the common myths regarding organ donation. For example, there is no age limit to who can be an organ donor. Newborns as well as senior citizens have been organ donors and have saved lives.

I urge you to display New Jersey Sharing Network materials at your local libraries and public buildings. If you are holding a street fair or health fair, offer a free booth to New Jersey Sharing Network so the group can register organ donors on the spot.

IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ALL
WORKED TOGETHER TO PUT AN END TO
NEW JERSEY'S ORGAN WAITING LIST.

Coordinate events within the local schools and with the local scouts. There are plenty of organ recipients and donor families through New Jersey Sharing Network who would welcome the opportunity to visit your town, make a brief presentation and answer questions.

Issue proclamations to local groups who support organ donation and, where appropriate, recognize donor families whose deceased loved one has given the gift of life. Send letters to the editor to your local newspaper and online news sites, urging your constituents to check the box to become registered organ donors.

Look for opportunities to mark Donate Life Month each April, by holding a flag-raising event at a local hospital or encouraging your constituents to put together teams for the New Jersey Sharing Network's 5K. This fundraiser is making a huge difference.

While these may seem like relatively small ways to tackle something as serious as New Jersey's waiting list, imagine what can happen if local government officials all worked together and addressed the issue with a uniform, comprehensive strategy. No doubt, more lives would be saved in New Jersey and perhaps we could collectively put an end to the waiting list.

I often think back to 2006, when my wife was lucky enough to be one of 1,405 Americans who received a lung transplant that year. As thankful as I am that Megan won her bout against bronchiectasis, it is haunting to know that many families were not as fortunate. Instead, they are mourning.

Join me in embracing this cause. Learn more about what you can do by reaching NJ Sharing Network at www.NJSharingNetwork.org. ▲

Recognizing Outstanding Leadership

The League's Constitution designates the Executive Board to serve as the policy setting body for this association of the state's 565 municipal governments. In recognition of their time and effort, and the knowledge they



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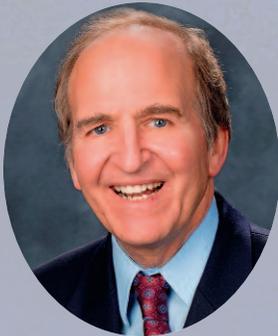


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Washington Watch



Taking the Road to Recovery—Together

By Bob Menendez
U.S. Senator (Democrat)

Less than two days after Superstorm Sandy made landfall in Atlantic City, James Ernst, an elderly U.S. Navy veteran, stood in his Pleasantville home. The side of the house had been torn away completely leaving the Ernst home open to the air and looking like an oversized doll-house. When I approached Mr. Ernst, he smiled and asked how I was doing.

Since then, I have had the humbling privilege to meet New Jerseyans who have been just as resilient and caring—no matter what challenges they have faced as a result of the storm.

As we approach the end of our recovery's first year, many New Jersey families are still struggling. For many, recovery from Sandy is a round-the-clock endeavor, and I won't stop fighting for the help they need.

There is no doubt that New Jersey's greatest strength is its people. And the people of our great state have an innate understanding that when we join together, we become even stronger.

We need to rebuild New Jersey to be as resilient as its people. That's why I fought as hard as I did for the \$60.2 billion Sandy relief package. This measure will provide the resources to help make possible the comprehensive rebuilding plan that the Obama Administration released last summer.

Now it's up to us to put that plan into action.

We cannot afford to allow differences among communities to interfere with our efforts to build New Jersey's storm preparedness. One Jersey Shore community's mitigation efforts—like sand dunes or sea walls—can be rendered ineffective if a neighboring community doesn't continue the same efforts. Flood mitigation in Little Ferry will be impacted by flood mitigation in Moonachie.

Our long-term Sandy recovery will take more than a village. It will take every one of New Jersey's villages, townships, boroughs and cities to cooperate in building New Jersey's resiliency to the next disaster. As a former

mayor of Union City, I know that—just like New Jersey's people—our 565 municipalities become stronger when they join together.

The \$60.2 billion Sandy relief package that I fought hard to secure, in a politically polarized Congress with the debt ceiling looming over us, has allowed many New Jersey municipalities to recoup many of the costs associated with the initial response to the storm.

New Jersey's municipalities have shared in the more than \$816 million in FEMA public assistance in the federal Sandy relief package that have made possible triumphant milestones including the reopening of boardwalks, roadways, parks and other recreational facilities.

Individuals and families throughout the state have received more than \$410 million in FEMA grants for housing and other assistance.

I fought for the federal Sandy relief package to include more than \$15 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds so that more grants could be made available to individuals and families rebuilding after Sandy. And as a result of my advocacy on behalf of New Jersey's homeowners

to the Obama Administration, a change was made to the CDBG rules to allow those dollars to be made available to those who simply could not wait to repair the storm damage to their homes.

We successfully pushed for more accurate flood maps that greatly reduced the number of properties in high-risk flood zones, helping homeowners decide whether to relocate or stay in their homes. And we are working to temporarily maintain federal flood insurance subsidies to help us through our recovery.

One year after Sandy, we are proud of the progress we've made and determined to persevere as our recovery continues. It's a long road of recovery ahead, and it leads to a better and stronger New Jersey. ▲

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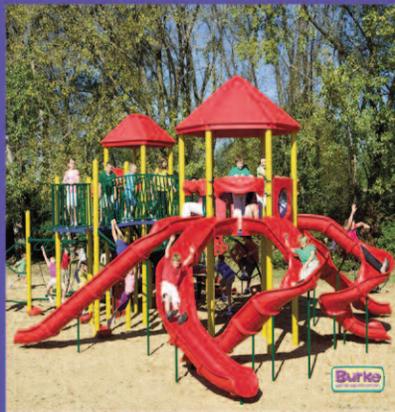


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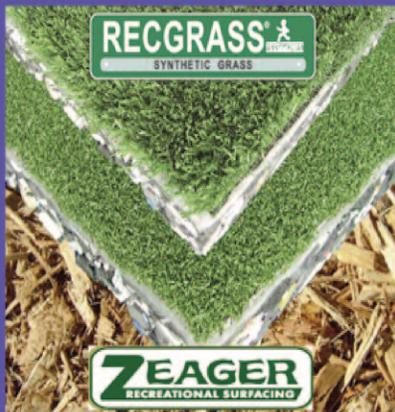


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Adapting to the Realities of the Information Age



By Vanessa Sandom
Mayor, Hopewell (Mercer)

While the Legislature considers measures to enhance the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), municipalities must manage rapidly-evolving public expectations for access to public records and meetings.

Like many municipalities, Hopewell Township is blessed with an engaged and informed public. During the past decade, our residents have formed citizen groups at an increasing rate, around such disparate issues as deer management, traffic safety, sprawl and sustainability. Citizen groups may differ in focus and interests, but they share a common expectation: that their government is open, transparent and responsive to their concerns.

So what's new? Informed publics have always asked for more information, more access, and more participation. We saw it in the streets of Cairo in the "Arab Spring" and in the canyons of New York City with "Occupy Wall Street." Most recently we have seen it in Hopewell Township with the "Save Pennytown" protest. But what is different now is the level of technology that is available to constituents and protesters everywhere. They are changing the game, and we need to keep up.

Rapid-fire Communications During the "Save Pennytown" protest, the constituent group mobilized neighborhoods across the three towns that make up Hopewell Valley by expertly using Facebook and Twitter. While they also created signs and distributed flyers, what made their work extraordinarily effective was their ability to use email and Facebook to get the word out—almost instantly. They used Survey Monkey to raise awareness of the issue and to gather signatures. Once the survey period ended, they used the email addresses collected during the survey process to update, inform and mobilize their group.

The township tried to put out information on our website as quickly as we got it; however, unlike Facebook, websites are static. Township websites are good for providing routine information on garbage pickup days, but not so good for responding to real-time questions and facilitating online conversations. We found ourselves at a distinct disadvantage. Few municipalities can afford to have a person dedicated to getting the word out through social media, but changing expectations call on us to find the way to do so, especially during emergencies.

Emergency Communications During Superstorm Sandy, many parts of Hopewell Township went without power for two weeks. For the 80 percent of residents who rely on private wells and septic systems, being out of power was not just an inconvenience but a health concern. Like many others, our township relied on a reverse 911 service to get the word out on downed wires, closed roads, open supermarkets and warming centers. But with no power, most land-lines were down, and few residents could get those messages.

We discovered during the storm that it is risky to rely on only one method of communication. We are moving quickly to convert to Code Red, a community-based notification system which notifies residents and businesses of important information using secure and real time email, text and phone call messaging. This way our residents can receive information via smart phones.



Township websites are good for providing routine information on garbage pickup days, but not so good for responding to real-time questions and facilitating online conversations.



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Township Meetings In our well-connected and well-informed digital community, keeping constituents updated on the latest information is not just desired but expected. Just finding a meeting date and gathering a diverse group together is less difficult these days with applications like www.doodle.com. However, not everyone can attend every meeting. And so the question often asked is "What was discussed at last night's meeting?"

Keeping the public informed while dealing with complicated matters has also led us to rethink our communications tools. Taking meeting minutes is a challenge for our many volunteer advisory groups, and even when minutes are taken, they typically only document key decisions/discussions.

For many years, our Township Committee meetings have been videotaped and broadcast in real time on both our website and on our public access channel. Some of our more important Planning Board and issue specific meetings have also been videotaped and available online. In January 2013, Hopewell Township worked with

its webmaster, City Connections, to make it possible to provide public access to all meeting audio files hosted on the township website.

In addition to specific meetings, audio recordings of all official meetings of the township, including the Environmental and Historic Preservation Commissions, Finance, Affordable Housing, Recreation, Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees, Health Advisory, Planning and Zoning Boards, are now available online, 24/7.

Paperless News Like all municipalities guided by OPMA, Hopewell Township publishes notices of our meetings in the local daily and weekly newspapers. During the "Save Pennytown" controversy, an opposition group raised a question of whether we had adequately noticed a meeting date that had changed because of inclement weather.

We gave notice of the change in our designated official newspapers, one of which was a daily paper and the other a weekly. Eventhough the weekly paper publicized the change in

date on its website, the township publicized the notice on our website and the opposition's Facebook page immediately reflected this change, we were still alleged to have violated OPMA because the weekly paper could not print the notice in time.

As it turns out, OPMA requires municipalities to submit the public notice to the papers, but the papers have no obligation to publish them. What's more, most papers these days charge for sunshine notices, something Hopewell Township cannot afford.

So, how should the public learn about a change of a meeting time and venue? Facebook, emails, websites, and tweets have a much better chance of getting emergent information to the public than the out-of-date methods used in pre-internet society, and OPMA should reflect that change.

Government Should Be Transparent In this day of electronic communications and paperless offices, it makes a great deal of sense to revamping our communication methods. It might take a realignment of municipal mind-sets and resources to do so, but we can see what must be done. Municipal governments must find a way to deliver relevant and timely information to the public, in the same way they receive information on their many other interests.

Finally, a word of advice for our State Legislators. As modifications to OPRA and OPMA (A-3712 and S-2512) to make municipal government more transparent and accessible are considered, please apply the same discipline to your own inner workings. Do not exempt yourselves from many of the requirements of OPMA and OPRA, as both bills permit. Why should our Legislators operate behind a veil of secrecy while local elected officials struggle to keep up with legitimate public demands for more information?

The League has strongly argued that in the interest of transparency and openness, the various exceptions in the Open Public Meetings Act and Open Public Records Act that apply to the Legislature and legislators be removed. The requirements for government transparency that the legislation applies to other governmental bodies should also apply to all governmental levels and officials in New Jersey.

Here, here! I'll tweet to that! ▲

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Tenafly's Borough and Board of Ed Team Up for Safety



By Peter Rustin
Mayor, Borough of Tenafly



With a population of over 14,000 residing in approximately 4.6 square miles, the Borough of Tenafly is a busy place! Dotted throughout the borough is an assortment of recreational fields and parks used throughout the year for school-related and other community activities.

For example, our annual Fourth of July fireworks display draws thousands of residents to one of our largest open spaces. As a former recreational soccer official, President of the Little League, and basketball league, I have spent countless hours on our borough's athletic fields.

During a game last year, we heard thunder and the portable lightning detection box I had with me went off. As we cleared the field, I saw a huge bolt of lightning that appeared to strike about a town away. The next day we read in the newspaper that a man had indeed been struck. For me it was a wake-up call. It makes no sense to hold events in open spaces, unless you can protect the residents. I take this personally.

Taking Action Today, as Mayor of Tenafly, I am in a position to make a difference within this community and am proud to say that we are in the process of implementing a state-of-the-art, lightning safety system at nine athletic fields and parks. However, I could not have accomplished this without the full support of the Borough Council and cooperation of our Board of Education (BOE). The BOE is deeply invested in our community: it owns six of our schools and grounds and their own central office. Since the nature of both the board of education and the municipality is to serve our population, it only makes sense that we work together to maintain the quality of life that we have created within our borough.

"The Borough and Board of Education each have different resources available to them," stated Lynn Trager, Tenafly's Superintendent of Education. "By working together as one entity and integrating both physical and financial resources from within the same municipality, these resources are transformed into assets that benefit everyone. This type of cooperation clearly puts us ahead of the curve."

Thanks to a Shared Services Agreement Tenafly is in the process of implementing a state-of-the-art, lightning safety system at nine athletic fields and parks.

How it Works

Plan ... Detect ... Respond ... Recover



Shared Services Thanks to the development of a Shared Services Agreement, our community will now be protected with a lightning safety system and alerting solution from *WeatherBug, Earth Networks™* that is integrated with numerous lightning detection sensors strategically located

warning lead times and enables us to effectively coordinate emergency services to provide comprehensive weather management planning.

How the System Works When centrally located weather equipment detects a lightning strike within 10 miles, the system triggers an alert that a lightning emergency is in effect. On-field equipment activates an audible siren and flashing strobe light signal that alerts people to take shelter. These signals continue for the duration of the lightning warning. Once the all-clear notification is sounded, participants can return to their field activi-

Because we take weather so seriously, with the guidance of our borough engineers at Maser Consulting P.A., we are in the process of installing this system on borough and BOE properties. The system's central monitoring system will be in the Department of Public Works facility.

IT ONLY MAKES SENSE
THAT WE WORK
TOGETHER TO MAINTAIN
THE QUALITY OF LIFE
THAT WE HAVE CREATED
WITHIN OUR BOROUGH.

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ties. How the signals work is the most important information to convey to our residents.

"During system testing and prior to activation, we will conduct a joint outreach program to inform residents about the protocols for responding to system alerts," stated Jewel Thompson-Chin, Tenafly Borough Administrator. "Community outreach will occur through multiple techniques, including automated call system notifications, the community newsletter, school flyers, the borough website, police and recreation social media sites and press releases."

The WeatherBug Achieve component, software that provides online classroom learning experiences about weather and storm activity, was included in the equipment purchase. This program will be used as an educational tool in borough schools.

Shared Use Agreement Many municipalities have tried to make sharing services within their communities work to no avail. Unfortunately, at times, politics can actually be an impediment in getting things done. Since the BOE owns and oversees school facilities and grounds, it has to have a close connection with borough government. Effective communication between us is imperative.

Today's technology makes this so convenient and efficient that we have integrated our communications through a Shared Use Agreement. The BOE's IT Department will manage Tenafly Borough's local and wireless computer network and assist with all aspects of daily operation, maintenance and training. In turn, through an Addendum, the borough allocated funding for the installation of a gener-

ator within the BOE computer center that will maintain viable network communications between us and emergency services during severe storms and electrical outages.

Joint Use Meetings, held throughout the year, enable us to address problems, find viable solutions, and explore new areas for shared projects. Our Shared Agreements are formally executed with the costs and logistics clearly stated so that there is no problem with responsibility down the road. In the event that a problem arises, it can usually be resolved through an addendum.

Other joint projects include:

- the Smith School Pedestrian and Traffic Circulation Study;
- Borough Hall Wi-Fi installation;
- turf and track reconstruction at the high school field; and,
- shared use and cooperative scheduling of fields and school gymnasiums.

Ensuring Success The secret to our success has been the high level of communication and cooperation between the borough and the board of education. Having served previously as a board of education member has enabled me to see both sides of the fence more clearly and has undoubtedly aided in this partnership. Both entities have a clear vision of maintaining our residents' quality of life, which is highly dependent upon the full and safe use of our recreational areas. We're committed to pooling our resources to ensure this.

The one thing that we are still working on is how to enforce the execution of, and adherence to, the rules and procedures for field evacuation and how to make a safe return to the field activities. Since the success of our system

Lightning Safety Tips

According to NOAA, National Weather Service, if you are caught outside with no safe shelter, the following actions may reduce your risk of being struck or injured by a lightning strike.

- Immediately leave elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges or peaks.
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Don't shelter under an isolated tree.
- Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter.
- Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.)

relies on the cooperation of those using the fields (such as students, coaches and parents), we need to ensure that the proper action will be taken when the warning sirens sound. We are investigating language for a potential ordinance that can be attached to the field permitting process.

Today's technologies are an asset in communication between the borough and community members. It is our hope that residents will take our efforts to protect them seriously and comply with these new safety measures. Our Borough Council and Board of Education are making every effort to enhance the level of services to the community—from both sides. ▲



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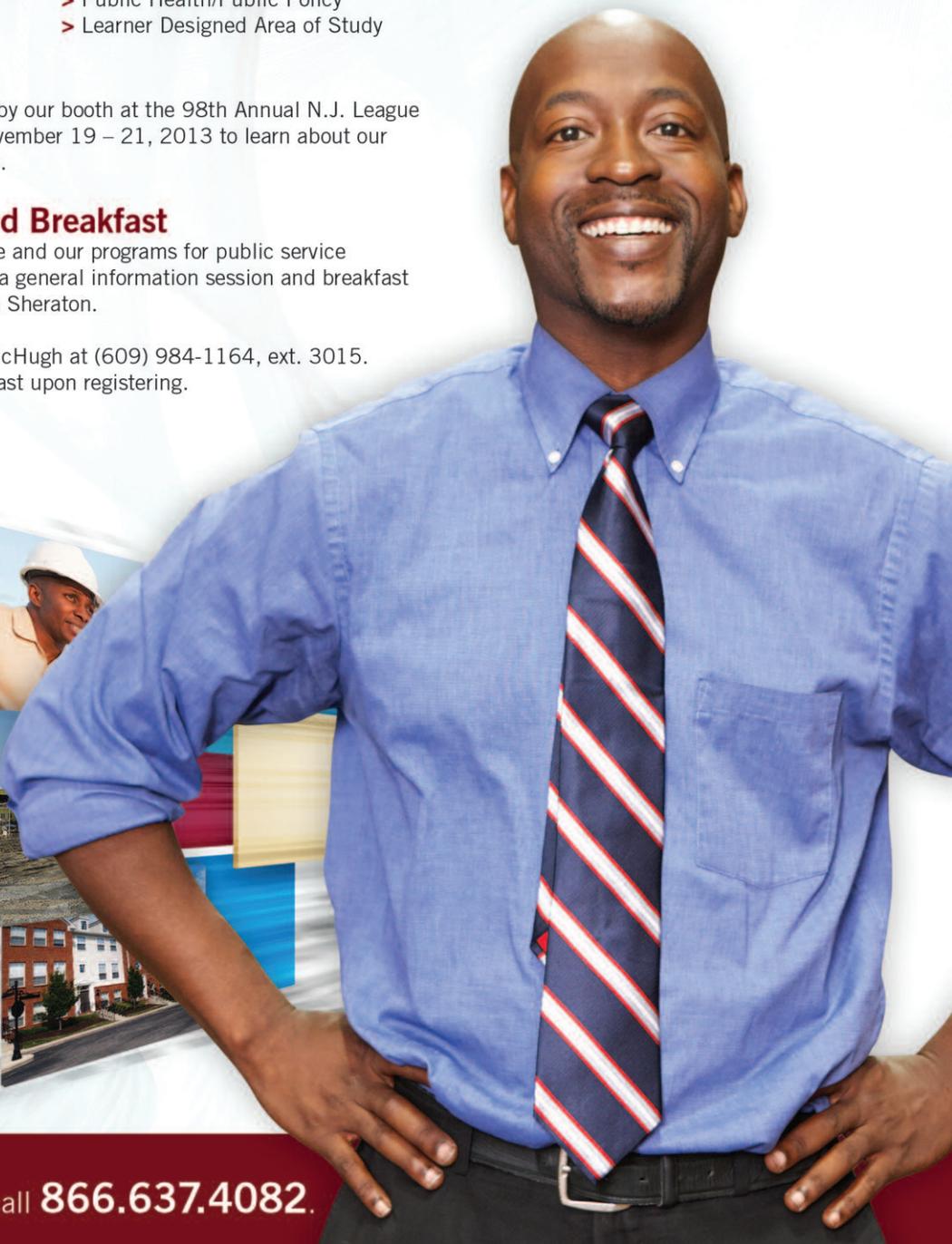
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Rethinking Disaster Communications



By Kenneth W. Short
Mayor, Washington Twp.
(Morris)



During emergencies, Washington Township (Morris) plans to place phone calls to each critical need resident.

Superstorm Sandy revealed areas of emergency preparedness which are in need of improvement throughout the tri-state area and within Washington Township. One of the priorities set by the Township Committee is improving our communication with senior residents and residents with critical care needs, both before and during a crisis.

During Hurricane Sandy over 95 percent of Washington Township (Morris) lost power. Unlike most municipalities in northern New Jersey, the majority of our residents and businesses did not have power restored until more than two weeks later. The majority of power and phone service wasn't restored until the weekend of November 10 and 11, with transformer repairs still being done on the 12.

Representatives from the township's governing body, administration, health, emergency management, senior programming, and police came together in December to formulate a plan to identify those most likely to have special needs during a crisis. We've begun to develop and implement a plan to identify, better communicate with and assist those in need during future events. As a result, the township has re-implemented a wellness-check program with a new feature: critical care registration.

The initial program steps were to promote registration, verify need and registration information and complete a

secondary registration form over the phone. First, a questionnaire was developed to identify these residents and to initiate a dialogue between them and representatives of Washington Township. Respondents, around 60 so far, were then contacted by the Public Health Nurse or a Senior Program staff member with follow-up questions. This step was also used as an opportunity to identify nutrition needs and arrange for Meals on Wheels deliveries. The nurse then assessed the responses and set up on-going well visits as needed. Non-emergency, well-checks will be done over the phone or in-person as appropriate. In the event of an emergency, the lists and contact information will be used to communicate and assist those in need.

WE'VE BEGUN TO DEVELOP AND
IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO IDENTIFY,
BETTER COMMUNICATE WITH AND ASSIST
THOSE IN NEED DURING FUTURE EVENTS.

During emergencies, we plan to place phone calls to each critical need resident. The calls will be made by the township's 40-member strong Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Senior Transportation Coordinator and our Public Health Nurse. If the resident does not answer the phone, our representatives are instructed to check with the Meals on Wheels drivers, for critical needs residents who received that service. If the well-being of those registered still could not be verified, the police department will go to the residence to check on the individual.

In addition site visits will be conducted for all critical care and well-check individuals by paid volunteers, with funding we've received through a Community Foundation of New Jersey Grant. We estimate every other day checks for two

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weeks would take 140 hours. At minimum wage, the cost will be about \$1,100. Volunteers will be solicited from existing community-service minded organizations. The CERT Team will provide background checks and arrange the site visits. The site visits will also provide the opportunity to provide non-electronic communications to residents. When power and phone lines are down and cell-tower generators have run out of fuel, paper newsletters are a way of getting the word out to residents (especially those with limited transportation) about which food establishments and shelters are open.

DURING HURRICANE SANDY OVER 95 PERCENT OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP (MORRIS) LOST POWER.

Other parts of our Communications Enhancement Action Plan will also be partially funded by the Community Foundation of New Jersey Grant. They include the creation of a wireless hot spot and acquisition of wireless adaptors to ensure communications via cellular network (off of a new tower with a larger fuel tank located at the police station). When cable and DSL are out, as they were during Sandy, we plan to rely on a ham radio setup in our Emergency Operations Center, digital signboards and signboards with paper updates at strategic locations throughout the township.

In addition to its Communication Enhancement Action Plan, the township will also be acquiring a generator for its municipal building this year.

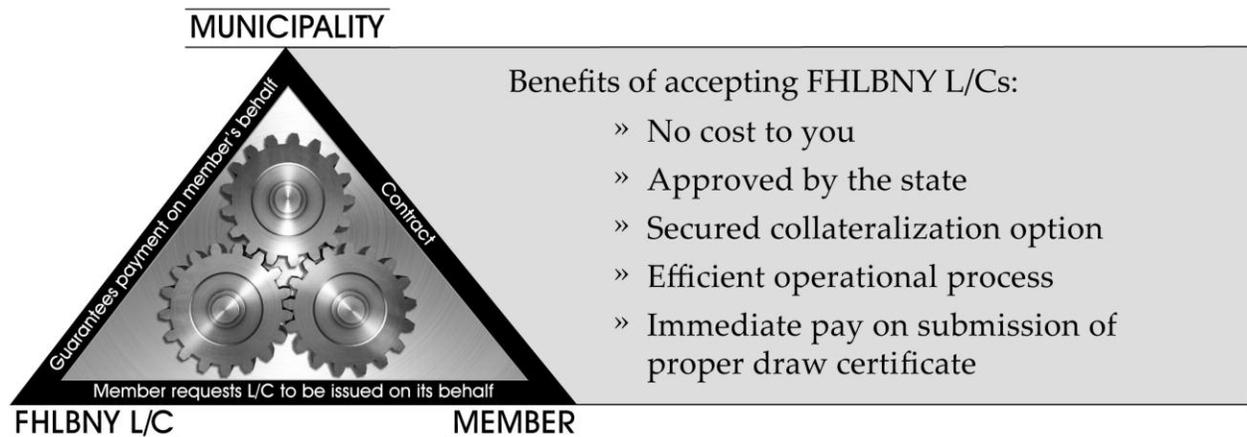
We look forward to collaborating with Sustainable Jersey on its communications task force and hope our efforts at improving disaster communications can be a model to others. At the same time, we believe lessons learned from that collaboration can give us new ideas about not only improving disaster communications but communications with the public in general. ▲



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Under the Gold Dome

A Summer of Politics Unusual



By Darryl Isherwood

While the dog days of summer descended on the capital city with a vengeance, this year, the Fourth of July failed to usher in the quiet season.

The death of U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg in June set off an all-out scrum to replace him, as Governor Chris Christie first named Attorney General Jeff Chiesa as a short term fill-in, and then called for an unprecedented August primary followed by an October 16 general election to find his successor.

Christie's call was criticized by some pundits as a way to avoid sharing a ballot with the formidable Cory Booker. Some thought that the governor's hope for a decisive victory over Barbara Buono might be dashed by the popular Newark mayor's presence at the top of the ticket. In any case, a senate race and a governor's race back to back meant the summer would be dominated by the campaign.

And so it was.

Attention first turned to the governor's decision, as conservatives scorched Christie for calling the early election rather than seating Jeffery S. Chiesa, a Republican, for the remainder of the term. Christie justified his move with the state constitution, saying the intent was that voters—and not the governor—should choose the replacement for a vacant seat.

Conservatives continued to grumble, but as the field shook out, eyes turned to the race.

In all, six candidates—four Democrats and two Republicans—entered the truncated race, all vying for the small sliver of voters expected to trudge to the polls at the height of vacation season.

Early polls showed Booker up 40, but pollsters readily admitted the race was nearly impossible to poll because nobody had ever held an August election in New Jersey. But in the end, the primary felt more like a pre-ordination as Booker coasted to victory over Assembly Speaker Oliver and Congressmen Holt and Pallone, who while not deferential to the celebrity mayor, didn't slap him around the way many of us in the media had predicted.

Enter Steve Lonegan. Lonegan, the fire-brand conservative and former mayor of Bogota, won his primary over Dr. Alieta Eck, who, though she tried her best to assume the role of 'new voice of the right,' was steamrolled by the sometimes caustic former gubernatorial/congressional/mayoral candidate.

Lonegan went straight to the mat, slashing at Booker's record as mayor of the Brick City and his standing on progressive causes.

An August poll showed the race closer than expected

with Booker holding a 16 point lead. Lonegan said it was even closer than that, while Booker responded with a verbal assault on the former state director of Americans for Prosperity, calling him "an extremist in his own party."

Booker and Lonegan clashed again in the waning days of summer after the Newark mayor told the Washington Post he enjoyed speculation over his sexuality, telling the paper it makes no difference if he is gay, but failing to put to rest the persistent rumor.

Lonegan called Booker's statements "weird" and said he enjoys being a guy. The comment sparked outrage among progressives and gay rights advocates and further illustrated the political chasm between the two men.

That chasm has also been seen in their respective checking accounts. Booker has far outtrailed Lonegan in the money race, hauling in \$8.6 million before August 1 and filling his war chest with checks from the likes of Mark Zuckerberg, Ben Affleck and Victor Cruz.

By contrast, Lonegan had raised just \$220,000 by August.

Both men have received their share of endorsements. Booker got the nod from President Barack Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, while Lonegan got the backing of Governor Chris Christie and Jeff Chiesa, who will leave the position later this month.

So what's at stake?

Democrats currently hold a 54-46 advantage in the Senate, which includes two independents who caucus with the party. This fall, 35 Senate seats are up for election including 20 held by Democrats and 15—including Chiesa's—held by Republicans.

The GOP is holding out hope that it can pick off the five seats necessary for a majority, thereby taking control of both houses. While the path to victory is narrow, it's possible. Losing the New Jersey seat, which most prognosticators have all but conceded to Booker, puts the magic number at 6—and one more step out of reach.

Also at stake is Booker's future. It's no secret the Newark mayor with the celebrity rolodex has ambition. Supporters say he'd like to be president one day, following the model of another African American U.S. Senator who gained early stardom.

Booker himself says he won't run for president in three years, but he also said he wouldn't leave his mayoral term early to run for Senate and we see how that turned out.

The election is set for October 16. ▲

Darryl Isherwood is the editor of PolitickerNJ, and its sister site State Street Wire. He has over a decade of experience as a reporter and has covered politics and government for news outlets in four states.

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Robbinsville's Health and Wellness Program

Asking Employees to Go the Extra Mile



By David Fried
Mayor, Robbinsville

Encouraging employees to participate in health and wellness programs is not an easy sell.

Thanks to conveniences such as drive-thru fast food and the addictive nature of technology, an entire "right now" culture has been spawned. We have become obsessed with instant gratification. Unfortunately, eating healthy foods and exercising regularly do not provide the instant results many people are seeking. Health and wellness is a lifestyle choice, not a Smart phone application.

However, smart phone applications can help people make a change to a healthier lifestyle. Apps such as "Couch to 5k," "Sports Tracker," "Map My Ride," "My Fitness Pal" and "Run Keeper" are a convenient way to access health and wellness information and to track workout results. "My Fitness Pal" not only counts your calories, but also provides nutritional information on the foods you eat.

When we began our employee wellness program in Robbinsville Township, we discovered that many employees were already using some of these apps and were eager to share both their successes and frustrations.

Wellness Committee Having a community support system is important when it comes to improving health and wellness. We've created an employee health and wellness committee. Individuals looking to be and stay healthy want to share their knowledge, and successes and setbacks with others. It also is a terrific way to network and meet people outside the office environment.

ROBBINSVILLE'S HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS HELP TO RELIEVE WORK-RELATED STRESS, SO THAT OUR EMPLOYEES ARE HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE BOTH ON THE JOB AND AT HOME.



Township employees are being encouraged to take steps to improve their health and wellness, such as participating in classes at Project Fitness & Lifestyle based in Robbinsville, New Jersey.

The Robbinsville program, administered by the township's Constituent Relations Specialist Danielle Huddleston, is fun and engaging. It helps make health and wellness a part of our organizational culture. In April of 2013, the township launched a series of events to highlight the start of our Mayor's Wellness Campaign. During the initial stages of the campaign, 17 out of 30 administrative employees participated. We are currently working with the police and fire departments on a second initiative set to launch in the fall.

This program focuses on exercise and nutrition, but also combines elements of mental health and drug abuse prevention. The program invites discussion of topics such as alcohol and drug abuse, and how to cope with mental trauma, depression and stress.

Partners in Wellness The campaign also has fostered a productive working relationship between the township and Ameri-Health, the municipi-

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pality's health insurance provider and partner in the campaign. In June of 2013, Ameri-Health conducted Body Mass Index (BMI) testing for interested employees. Additionally, Ameri-Health presented a nutritional segment called "My Plate," which provided information on portion control and general healthier food choice options.

We are also partnering with local gym owners at Rev X Studios, Body Project Fitness, United Strength Academy, Redemption Kettlebell Gym and Cross-Fit Hamilton. Ms. Huddleson shared the goals of the township's program and asked for sponsorships, such as the donation of fitness bars. She also invited the town's fitness businesses to set up tables at township events. Some of these businesses are hosting special workout sessions, so our employees can sample their offerings. They are also providing occasional wellness seminars on a variety of topics.

Incentives Believing strongly that teamwork influences creativity, the township promised incentives, instituted an employee cook-off, exercised

together at spin classes, learned about mental health and engaged in other stress-relief activities to calm the mind, body and soul.

The local fitness centers were just as excited as we were to put this initiative in motion. It also brought these local businesses added exposure. Building solid partnerships with Robbinsville businesses and local vendors is something that we are extremely proud of.

In Robbinsville, our goals for the program are to improve employee health and productivity. When employees are satisfied, more work gets done. That makes the entire township run more successfully on behalf of our residents.

Participating employees also have provided us with feedback in an effort to improve the workplace as it relates to health and wellness. Some of their suggestions include:

- redesigning office space to increase movement and flow;
- Taller desks to encourage movement and discourage sitting for prolonged periods of time; and
- reminders that there is an in-house

gymnasium, complete with free weights, a treadmill and an elliptical machine on the lower floor of the building.

Many of these suggestions may even be incorporated into the floor plan when our township offices relocate to a new facility in 2014.

These health and wellness programs are providing a critical outlet for stress, a diverse exercise experience and improved health and camaraderie. With so many of our staff members performing multiple duties and wearing several hats, stress in the workplace is natural. The health and wellness programs we have launched helps to relieve some of that work-related stress through exercise, yoga, meditation and other resources so that our employees are healthy and productive both on the job and at home.

During "Phase Two" of the program launch we will be encouraging resident involvement. It will be a wonderful opportunity for residents to become more educated about health and wellness, learn about the fitness centers in town and speak with health and wellness professionals. ▲

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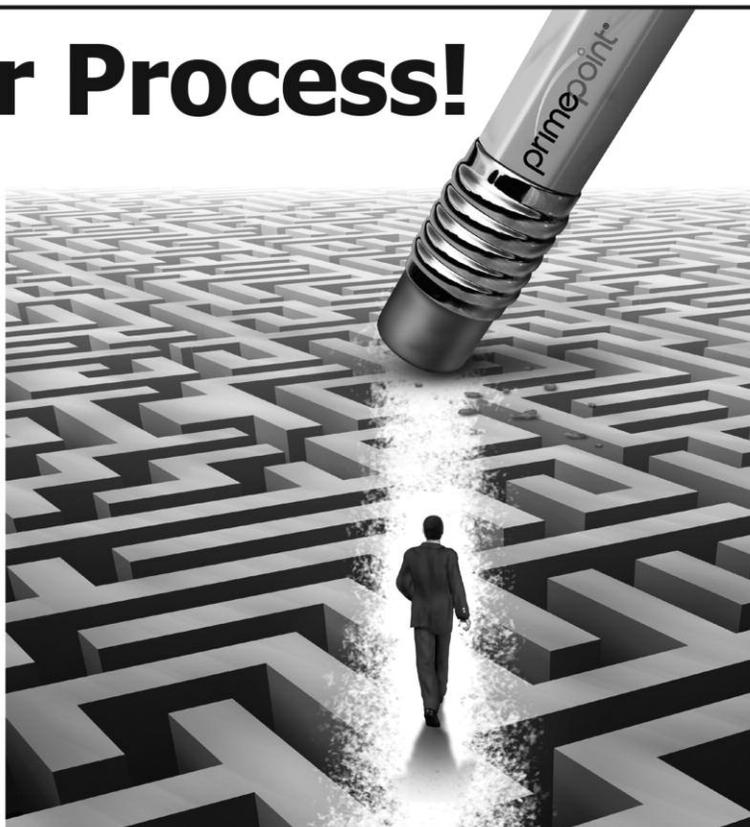
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Revitalizing Vacant Office Space

Hanover Sends Out Rings of Success



By Ron Francioli
Mayor, Hanover Township

This article is based on a talk sponsored by the NJLM Educational Foundation given at Rutgers University's Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy on July 12.

Cities and towns throughout central and northern New Jersey are confronting difficult issues caused by the loss of revenues from a shrinking ratable base and successful commercial tax appeals. Most notable is the depressed commercial office market that once flourished, but was over-built in the 80s and now suffers from vacancy rates in excess of 30 to 40 percent.

Many factors fueled these vacancies. Corporations that provided 250 square feet of office space per employee now operate within only 150 square feet. Digital age employees can now easily work from home—although this trend may be reversing. Many companies are scaling down staff by outsourcing jobs or engaging contract employees. All of these factors help to explain why a high percentage of office space remains vacant.

Towns burdened by this glut of office space are shifting gears and turning to new 'today markets' as remedies. Urban environments are seeing aged office stock, warehouses, retired fire houses and schools, upgraded and re-born into quality rental units, that promise the benefits of a metropolitan lifestyle. Regardless of the benefits, I caution towns not to zone for today's current market conditions, but to work with landowners and developers to plan for the community's overall needs now and well into the future.

Over three years ago, the Township of Hanover, a suburban community of some 13,000, awakened to the fact that it was losing its largest taxpayer, Alcatel-Lucent. This multi-million dollar loss of taxes from 194 acres of prime real estate greatly impacted Hanover's budget and immediately drove the governing body to do the obvious: lay off township employees, suspend capital projects, cut budgets of many non-essential services and seek shared services arrangements with other towns.



The new Bayer Healthcare facility in Hanover was the result of the town working with state officials and area brokers to "sell" the community as a good place to locate a business.



(L to R) Phillip Blake, President of Bayer HealthCare, Hanover and Ron Francioli, Mayor of Hanover Township, meet at the newly completed 650,000 square foot Bayer HealthCare facility in Hanover.

But Hanover did not focus on this critical loss of one ratable. Instead, town leaders took in the greater picture of the economic threats to the town's commercial properties, that heavily supported the low residential property taxes. In response they also formed, by ordinance, the Hanover Township Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC).

EDAC drafted a mission statement and business plan that clearly defined their purpose. They also prepared an aggressive marketing strategy to advise the business world that Hanover, formerly known for its restrictive zoning and conservative approach to expansion, was now "Open for Business."

Hanover had to come to terms with the fact that the town was difficult to do business with. For the marketing campaign to succeed, this had to change. One of the first actions of the EDAC was a public relations campaign directed to area brokers; developers and landowners with paid print ads appearing in trade advertising.

The committee invited brokers to receptions and invited area business people to workshop sessions. A business retention program was put in place to strengthen communications between the municipality and the business community, and a successful out-reach began. The EDAC closely examined the needs of developers and brokers. The group also considered the reasonableness of certain

requirements and acted as an advisor to the Planning Board. This led to the review and modification of many zoning regulations and the township's Master Plan.

EDAC created a 'friendly' interactive website. The group also researched all available properties that were for sale or lease in the township. Property information was collected from the town's tax roles, brokers, property owners and developers and this pertinent data was made available using the Google satellite mapping system.

With the aid of Governor Christie's office, and that of the Lieutenant Governor, Kim Guadagno, Hanover made great use of the New Jersey Business Action Center and their representatives, Lauren Moore and Noel McGuire. They attended our receptions regularly and brought a wealth of information from the state to assist brokers and landowners.

The Governor's office provided great support to Hanover as we all courted Bayer HealthCare. Yes, low real estate taxes and no bonded debt, along with an expansive site, were a few of the assets that were in Hanover's favor. Municipalities must identify and capitalize on their strengths as part of a portfolio to sell the community.

It can't be by promise. It must be by deed. Municipal zoning regulations should be reviewed regularly and amended to reflect the changing needs of today's communities. For

example, we relaxed parking regulations that often sacrifice building expansion for parking coverage; increased floor area ratios (FAR) to encourage expansion; and relaxed costly tree replacement and reforestation regulations. Taking into consideration what we learned from area brokers at our receptions, we made meaningful changes.

If cities and towns in New Jersey are going to move forward and convert the glut of office space into tax-productive properties, they must be receptive to creative and innovative ideas to reinvent these sites. We must take aggressive action to involve and partner with developers to upgrade aging office stock, and not just physically. Revitalization of these areas must include a comprehensive plan to improve opportunities for wellness, child care, transportation and trails, and create streetscapes that are inviting to tenants, owners and their employees. Suburban office sites should have amenities such as conference centers, extended stay hotels, shops and housing nearby. Brokers today know that their corporate clients want much more than just a window and four walls of office space.

In addition, the need for employee housing cannot be over-looked. Municipalities must prepare a comprehensive housing plan to meet diversified needs. To attract and maintain the labor force they need, corporations may seek a variety of mixed-use housing, both market sales and rentals. Schools, houses of worship, parks and recreation facilities, libraries, public safety and transportation all are key components.

I coined the phrase "rings of success" several years ago in response to our Planning Boards reluctance to allow some rather upscale uses in areas of the town that were run down and tired. When you can place a dynamic use in the heart of a down-trodden area, it's like throwing a stone into a pool. The rings of success travel outward and progress is made without much more work on the part of the township. Throw a stone! ▲

Ron Francioli has served as a member of the Township Committee of the Township of Hanover for 33 years, 16 of those as mayor. He has also served as a class 1 member of the planning board for over 30 years.

Public, Non-profit and Private Partnerships Are Paving the Way



By Blair Schleicher Bravo, Councilwoman, Mountain Lakes; Executive Director, Morris Habitat for Humanity & Jeannie Tsukamoto, Councilwoman, Madison; Board Member, Morris Habitat for Humanity

While COAH's future remains uncertain, the need for affordable housing continues to grow. Municipalities are trying to do more with less. Non-profits are stretching every dollar of their reduced donations. Businesses are far more selective in meeting their social responsibilities. In this climate, a public, non-profit and private partnership is a win-win-win strategy to meet New Jersey's rapidly growing need for affordable homes, improved neighborhoods and stronger, more sustainable communities.

Madison The Strickland Affordable Homeownership project currently underway in Madison is an excellent example of such a partnership. The development was made possible by a partnership among Morris Habitat for Humanity, Madison Housing Authority, Madison Affordable Housing

Corporation, and Madison Borough. Morris Habitat for Humanity is serving as the developer for the project. This arrangement makes it possible to use money from private individuals and businesses in addition to the Madison Affordable Housing Trust funds and federal and county grants. This private money comes from individuals and businesses that support Habitat, which is actively seeking monetary and in-kind gifts to complete this project.



The Strickland Affordable Homeownership Project in Madison is transforming an abandoned property to create affordable housing.

This partnership is transforming a long-neglected, environmentally challenged site into three beautiful, single-family homes. Each is energy efficient and has three bedrooms and a one-car garage.

The arrangement has benefited the town of Madison Borough in many ways. The borough profited from the sale of the contaminated, abandoned property and the town was able to avoid the expense of performing an environmental remediation of the property. In addition, the new homes will contribute tax revenue over the long term.

These benefits have helped to make the project cost-effective. The quality of the homes and the positive effect they will have on the community has helped to combat common negative stereotypes of affordable housing. Moreover, by requiring the new residents to take a home ownership course offered by Housing Partnership, the Madison Housing Authority hopes to empower the families to move out of public housing and into homeownership. An added benefit comes when these public housing

units become available to families deferred from the ever-lengthening waitlist for assistance, improving the lives of more families.

SOLVING THE
AFFORDABLE HOUSING
CRISIS REQUIRES CREATIVE
SOLUTIONS, SUCH AS
THESE PARTNERSHIP
STRATEGIES.

Morris Habitat estimates that the project will cost less than \$1.2 million, more than half of which has already been spent on land acquisition and environmental remediation. By using volunteer labor to build the homes, Habitat for Humanity lowers the cost of building affordable housing.

Due in part to these savings, Habitat is able to sell these homes at \$185,000 per unit to select qualified moderate-income families. The new owners will

have completed rigorous homeownership training from Housing Partnership, a local homeownership education center. They will also have provided 300 hours of "sweat equity," by helping to build their home.

Habitat includes no profit in the sale price and charges no interest on the mortgage it holds. No homeowner has defaulted on any mortgages held by Morris Habitat since the organization's inception in 1985. These families will transition from public housing to become financially independent and responsible homeowners. This exciting joint venture not only helps hard-working families realize the American dream of homeownership, but also provides them a hand-up to hope, stability and a much brighter future.

Randolph Township A project in Randolph Township is also taking advantage of the synergy of working with Morris Habitat. Randolph Township is using its Municipal Housing Trust Fund money to build 25 units, with the help of Morris Habitat, on a long-abandoned commercial site. The township purchased the property through fore-

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closure, designated it as an affordable housing overlay zone and engaged Habitat to construct the units. As part of the agreement, the township will spend money from its Affordable Housing Trust Fund to remediate the site and secure utility services and governmental approvals. As in Madison, an underutilized, contaminated property will be transformed into a beautiful residential development. The project is expected to improve the neighborhood and generate new ratables.

The Benefits of Partnership These two projects demonstrate that the partnership strategy works. It does not impact municipal operating and capital dollars. Denville, Dover, Jefferson, Morristown, Parsippany, Perth Amboy, Roxbury, and Mount Olive are among the growing number of municipalities partnering with Morris Habitat to build homes and/or rehabilitate existing neighborhoods.

More and more municipalities are working with non-profit, affordable housing developers to address both municipal housing obligations and the critical need for affordable housing in New Jersey. This strategy relieves taxpayers of the cost of funding housing projects. Municipalities are learning that using Municipal Housing Trust Funds ensures every dollar generated locally stays local to meet housing needs. Working with non-profits, the

funds can also be leveraged to obtain public and private grants and donations. The construction activities provide jobs and stimulate the local economy. These types of projects transform once vacant or distressed properties or provide repair for dilapidated homes. Ultimately, neighborhoods become revitalized. Equally important, the repurposed properties will generate additional tax revenues and the residents of new homes will contribute to the local economy.

THE AVAILABILITY OF
AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS
A MAJOR CONSIDERATION
WHEN CORPORATIONS
AND BUSINESSES DECIDE
WHERE TO BUILD.

In addition to being good corporate citizens, businesses find such partnerships with municipalities and non-profit home builders worthwhile investments. In the case of Habitat, most home applicants work within the community. When employees work in the same community where they live,

they not only spend less time commuting and more time with family, but are also happier and more productive. The availability of affordable housing makes it easier for businesses to attract and retain workers.

According to the United Way ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, yet Employed) Report, one in three New Jersey households is having difficulty affording basic necessities such as housing.

The 2012 National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) report notes that a family must earn \$25.04 per hour to afford a two-bedroom rental apartment in New Jersey. Yet according to the U.S. Census and Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of low-skill jobs grew over the past two decades; now, over half of New Jersey jobs pay less than \$20 an hour. The number of these jobs is projected to grow two or threefold over that of medium- and high-skill jobs. Therefore, affordable homes, already in critical supply, will become even more necessary.

Take Morris County as an example. According to an analysis by the United Way Housing Alliance 2013 report, "Since 2000, rising home values and rents have put 46,500 homes out of reach for local families earning \$40,000 annually. Today, there are just 15,000 homes considered affordable." Moreover, the New Jersey Department of Labor data reports 36 percent of private-sector Morris County jobs pay less than \$40,000. The public sector adds thousands more to this total.

Housing availability is a major economic driver. The availability of affordable housing is a major consideration when corporations and businesses decide where to build, relocate and expand their operations.

Addressing the affordable housing crisis will help keep New Jersey a place where people want and are able to live, work, and raise a family and where businesses want to invest. Municipalities can increase the range of housing that is affordable through construction, renovation, or redevelopment. The public, non-profit and private partnership strategy has delivered superior, cost-effective and revenue-producing results, and will get us one step closer to addressing the housing challenge. ▲



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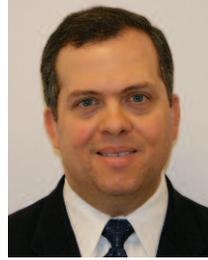
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Legislative Update



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

This fall marks the start of the lame duck session for the 215th Legislature. This year's lame duck will begin following the election a Governor, State Senators and Assembly representatives. While it is difficult to precisely predict what will happen during lame duck, we believe the following legislation may be considered or acted on in the next few months.

Amendments to OPRA/OPMA The League opposes S-2511 and S-2512, which amend the Open Public Meetings Act and the Open Public Records Act. These bills were scheduled for a Senate floor vote in early February, but were held after a number of Senators raised the objections brought forth by the League, the Association of Counties and the School Boards Association; among others. On May 30 Senator Weinberg, prime sponsor, amended the bills on the Senate floor. The vote to amend the bills was 25-1 for S-2511 (OPMA) and 24-1 for S-2512 (OPRA). The bills can be brought to the full Senate for consideration at anytime. The Assembly bills (A-3713 and A-3712) are referenced to the Assembly State Government Committee.

The League continues to oppose the bill for numerous reasons, including: (1) the inclusion of subcommittees to certain provisions of OPMA; (2) the requirement for at least one hour for public comment and at least three minutes per speaker, reducing the local governing body's ability to govern the conduct of meetings under OPMA; (3) the requirement to accept written comments from the public on matters before the Planning and Zoning Boards (which would eliminating the right to cross-examine individuals at a public meeting and creating a new public record); (4) the expansion of the definition of "government records" under OPRA; (5) the bills' failure to balance access and transparency and citizens' reasonable expectation of privacy; (6) the failure to address the commercial use of public records, as was recommended by the Privacy Study Commission Report; (7) the bills' failure to address existing provisions making prevailing attorney fees mandatory instead of permissive; (8) the mandatory four hour limit before imposing a special service charge under OPRA; (9) and the ongoing exemption of the state Legislature from OPMA and OPRA.—**LB**

Fairness in Bidding Act Assemblymen Greenwald and Rible have introduced A-4147, designated as the "Fairness in Bidding Act," which requires certain public contract bid advertisements to contain certified cost estimate ranges, specific grounds for rejection of all bids, and requires 50 percent guarantee on bids. The League opposes A-4147 because we are concerned that the legislation would delay construction projects, lead to increased costs, make the rejection of all received bids impossible and expose municipalities to protracted disputes and litigation.

A-4147 requires that a contracting unit include in the public advertisement their cost estimates or cost estimate ranges for construction projects in excess of \$500,000 with a limit that the highest amount of the cost estimate cannot be greater than 5 percent than the lowest amount. This provision is most troubling. When preparing cost estimates municipal engineers and other design professionals will typically prepare projects cost estimates based on the current industry cost and bids received for similar projects in different municipalities. Their estimates tend to be in the middle of the current industry cost. When the market is volatile, however, it tends to be difficult to predict within a 5 percent margin, the project cost. Also, advertising the cost estimates will lead to unfair pricing, limit competitive prices, and increase costs for taxpayers. While local units do not negotiate public contracts, they do not advertise their budget so they can get the best price for their projects.

In addition, A-4147 has the potential to expose municipalities to protracted disputes and litigation. For instance, what would happen if a municipality receives a bid below the engineer's estimates? Can they award the bid or must they reject the bid? What happens when responsible contractors submit the same lowest bid price, who does the contracting unit award the contract to? What impact do the provisions of A-4147 have on change orders? Can a municipality issue a change order, even if the cost of the change order, would exceed the engineer's published estimates?

Another troubling provision of A-4147 is the amendments to the reasons for the rejection of bids. First, the bill prohibits a contracting unit from rejecting any bid received

over their bid threshold for exceeding their cost estimates unless the cost estimates or cost estimate ranges were published and attested. The provision applies to any bid, and, as a result, all contracts, including goods and services, over the contracting unit's bid threshold will now require the public advertisement for bid to include cost estimates or cost estimate ranges. Otherwise they will not be able to reject all bids if they exceed the budget.

Secondly, A-4147 lists the six reasons a contracting unit can reject bids but uses the word "and" between item (e) and (f). As a result, items (a) through (f) would need to meet for a contracting unit to reject all bids received. A contracting unit would have to meet all six criteria at the same time in order to reject all bids, a very unlikely occurrence.

Finally, A-4147 increases the bid guarantee to 50 percent of the bid price with a maximum of \$100,000. This new provision will drive up the cost for the contractor to receive a bid guarantee that will ultimately be passed onto the taxpayers.

A-4147 discourages and limits a competitive process that is the foundation of the Local Public Contracts Law, leading to increased costs for public contracts and does not best serve the public interest.

A-4147 awaits consideration by the Assembly Housing and Local Government Committee.—**LB**

Snow Removal Trust Funds League Resolution 2012-19, "Expand the Use of Snow Removal Trust Funds to Respond to Natural Disasters" was approved at the League Business Meeting on December 5, 2012. A-3764, sponsored by Assemblyman Dancer, would permit counties and municipalities to use snow removal reserve funds for clearance of debris following a declaration of emergency by the President or Governor. The League supports A-3764, which passed the Assembly 76-0 in March and has been referred to the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee. At this time there is no Senate Companion.—**MC**

Registration of Multi-Family Dwellings The League opposes S-2114 and its companion legislation, A-3317, which will preempt any municipal ordinance

requiring registration for multi-family dwellings, defined by statute as three or more units. A-3317 was approved by an Assembly committee in December and awaits consideration by the full Assembly. S-2114 was approved by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and awaits consideration by the full Senate.

A 1967 law, the "Hotel and Multiple Dwelling Law," authorized the state

to require registration, in addition to local registration, of residential rental properties with three or more units. Currently, a municipality has the option to require registration for these units.

Such registration is neither redundant nor at cross-purposes with registration conducted by the state. Municipalities conduct these registrations for a multitude of reasons all center-



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ing on the health, safety and welfare of their residents. For example, this discretion enables some municipalities to keep a timely inventory of multi-family dwellings in the community and minimize instances of overcrowding. This option assists municipalities in effectively regulating the quality of housing in the community and should not be preempted by Trenton.—**MC**

Shared Services The League opposes S-2, which is intended to compel municipalities to engage in shared services. The bill passed the state Senate by a 25-9 vote in November and now joins its Assembly companion, A-1171, which is awaiting a hearing before the Assembly Housing and Local Government Committee.

The League opposes S-2 & A-1171, most notably for the “voter penalty” provision, which allows the voters to express their will but penalizes them if their will does not comport with that of a majority of the appointed members of the Local Unit Alignment, Reorganization and Consolidation Commission (LUARCC).

Initially S-2 removed or reduced many of the roadblocks that increase the costs of shared services—such as terminal leave pay, civil service mandates and employee tenure requirements. Many of the original provisions reduced the costs and eliminated hurdles to shared services and consolida-

tions, produced municipal savings and promoted relief for our taxpayers. However, the amendments passed by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee discourage shared services from a municipality’s perspective by continuing the hindrances imposed by the Civil Service system.

One of the amendments would make two municipalities subject to civil service rules and collective bargaining agreements for determining which employees stay and protects the seniority provisions. Municipalities that are considering merging units want the flexibility to retain the best qualified and most efficient workforce. Otherwise, consolidation in any form doesn’t make sense. Municipalities need the flexibility to choose which employees they will retain and how to frame their workforces. The amendment takes that management prerogative completely out of the municipalities’ hands and puts it entirely within the confines of the civil service system and collective bargaining agreements. This will certainly have a chilling effect on this process.

The amendments also include a provision requiring mediation and arbitration of contractual provisions. This will impede the process from moving expeditiously and may not result in cost savings. We do not foresee a smooth merging of two collective

bargaining agreements. Instead, we anticipate that mediation and arbitration will become the norm, and create delays and additional costs.

Yet, another amendment requires LUARCC to first study municipalities that do not share services. It is a misconception that municipalities do not share services. Shared Services are not a new concept to municipalities. We have been a long time supporter of shared services. So we continue to question what will be the basis for LUARCC to initiate a study once their study of those municipalities that do not share services are completed.—**LB**

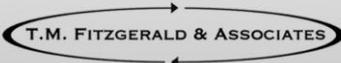
Energy Receipts Diversion On June 20, A-2753, sponsored by Assembly Members Benson, DeAngelo and Jasey, passed the General Assembly by a vote of 68-5-3. It now joins the Senate companion, S-1923, sponsored by Senator Greenstein, in the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee. The League supports this legislation, which would require direct payments of energy taxes to municipalities. A-2753 will phase-in the distribution of additional Energy Tax Receipts Property Tax Relief Aid to municipalities over five fiscal years. Beginning in the fifth fiscal year, energy taxes would be paid directly to municipalities.

Municipalities will be permitted to use the additional state aid to reduce the amounts they are required to raise by local property tax levy for municipal purposes, to reduce municipal debt, rehire police officers and firefighters laid off in the previous four fiscal years, and for extraordinary costs related to an emergency declared by the President of the United States or the Governor.

The League’s top legislative priority is the restoration to municipalities of funding diverted by the state from Energy Taxes intended for local use and property tax relief. The decision of the state to divert these revenues for its own use had been a major contributor to the increase in local property taxes. This legislation would assure local property taxpayers compensation for hosting transmission facilities and lines that allow gas and electric energy corporations to serve customers and conduct business in New Jersey.—**JM**

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User Fees S-1914, which requires certain user fees for the provision of traditional municipal services to be included within the 2 percent municipal property tax levy cap, passed the state Senate in May, and is assigned (along with Assembly companion, A-2975) to the Assembly Housing and Local Government Committee. While it passed the Senate unanimously, its fate in the Assembly is uncertain. The League opposes S-1914 and A-2975 for the following reasons:

- User fees are not a new budgeting tool; nor is there a statewide effort by municipalities to circumvent the 2 percent levy cap. Local governments enact user fees to recapture some of the costs for services provided in their communities.
- As part of their Memorandum of Understanding with Transitional Aid municipalities the Division of Local Government Services requires a Transitional Plan that includes "...a plan to maximize recurring revenues, including but not limited to: updating fees, fines and penalties..."
- User fees provide a direct connection between what people pay and what they get. User fees encourage efficiency by providing a ready comparison to private sector competition. And, we believe this competition spurs creativity.
- The definition of "traditional municipal services" is flawed. The open-ended definition is confusing and leads to multiple interpretations.
- The bill only affects municipalities, ignoring the typically largest portions of the property tax bill—the schools and counties.
- The state should focus on the remaining management reforms that were proposed to accompany the 2 percent cap: restoration of the Energy Tax Receipts, COAH reform, Civil Service reforms, and Accumulated Sick Leave reforms.
- Towns are struggling to make the 2 percent cap workable.—**LB**

Business Personal Property (BPPT) Restoration S-2324, sponsored by Senators Smith and Greenstein, and A-3393, sponsored by Assemblyman Caputo, would clarify the responsibility of certain telecommunications corporations to continue to remit Business Personal Property Tax (BPPT) payments to municipalities. The League of Municipalities supports S-2324 and A-3393.

In January, we learned that the New Jersey Supreme Court had decided not to hear an appeal in a matter that has cost over 100 municipalities over \$8 million in 2013, and which will cost more municipalities even more millions with each passing year.

At issue is the appropriate interpretation of statutory language N.J.S.A. 54:4-1, which provides for the taxation of certain business personal property (BPPT). The statute, both a remedial and revenue-producing measure, was designed to address a monopoly by certain telecommunications carriers and impose a tax on those carriers' infrastructure.

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The Supreme Court's decision left in place the Tax Court's preliminary decision, regarding an interpretation of the 1997 law, in the case of *Verizon v. Hopewell*. The case, in which the League supported Hopewell as *amicus curiae*, involved Verizon's claimed exemption from the BPPT in any municipality where the corporation unilaterally determines, in any given year, that it no longer supplies dial tone and access to at least 51 percent of a local telephone exchange.

S-2324/A-3393 were introduced to provide better direction to the courts regarding the Legislature's intent to protect residential property taxpayers, when laws regarding state taxation of telecommunications providers were reformed in 1997.

S-2324 awaits consideration by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee, while A-3393 awaits consideration by the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee.—**JM**
MLUL Exemptions for Private Colleges
 The League opposes A-2586 and

S-1534, which exempt private colleges and universities from local zoning requirements, undermine and usurp local decision making and severely diminish the role of our taxpayers.

A court case in the early 1970s established that a public college or university is exempt from local zoning. The Court's basis for this decision was its conclusion that these institutions are instrumentalities of the state. Thus, what A-2586 and S-1534 will do is provide to certain private institutions the same status as instrumentalities of the state, such as Rutgers, the Garden State Parkway and the Turnpike. This is a very concerning precedent and it is simply bad public policy.

Public scrutiny, involvement and complete transparency are essential to the planning process, and should not be diminished or hindered in any way. The involvement of locally elected officials, appointed officials and residents can only improve, not diminish, projects.

Shifting the authority to private colleges and universities in the determination of land uses for education purposes further burdens taxpayers to meet the cost impacts incurred as a result of the additional, unbridled development.

While the bill itself applies only to private colleges and universities, a very dangerous precedent will be established. Other non-profit institutions which serve a "public mission" could argue that they should also be exempt from local zoning control. The logical extension of this could impact every community in New Jersey.

S-1534 passed the state Senate in June, 2012. S-1534 and A-2586 were referenced to the Assembly Higher Education Committee but have been transferred to the Assembly Budget Committee. The bills were scheduled for consideration by the Assembly Committee this past June but pulled from the agenda due to an apparent lack of support. However, the bill could reemerge during lame duck.—**MC** ▲



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Protecting the Unemployment Insurance Fund

A Record of Success



By Harold J. Wirths
Commissioner, New Jersey Department
of Labor and Workforce Development

The headlines have faded since the Attorney General unsealed an indictment over the summer charging 15 people with defrauding the state of nearly \$700,000 by filing false claims for unemployment benefits. However, what hasn't diminished is the commitment of the Christie Administration to catch these individuals before they get their hands on public funds.

Software and program changes enabled the Department of Labor to identify those fraudulent claims, develop a lead on April 1, 2012 and helped authorities to launch a probe dubbed "Operation April Fools." Aside from breaking up the scheme, I'm pleased to report that as of last July, the safeguards saved more than \$281 million in public benefits from landing in undeserving pockets.

Fraudsters are always hard at work, and we are constantly challenged to find new ways to stop them. Prevention is the key, because it is much easier to prevent money from going out the door than it is to recover stolen money.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor the most common reason for states to improperly pay out benefits is that people falsely claim entitlements and accept benefits after they have already gone back to work. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development has stopped this type of fraud since 2011 by matching the names of people collecting unemployment insurance against the National New Hire Directory, which employers must periodically update when they hire new people.

Each week, we end benefits to between 1,600 to 2,000 people who were trying to collect benefits after they had returned to work. New Jersey's use of the National New Hire Directory has become a national model.

More importantly, this system has freed our investigators to focus on organized criminal efforts, such as scams using false identities and phony multiple unemployment insurance claims. They have developed several new approaches.

For example, in May of 2012 we implemented a system to identify claims filed through foreign Internet Protocol (IP) addresses. Claimants should not be filing for unemployment



benefits from outside the country, either by phone or by Internet. Claims filed from abroad are often the work of criminals seeking to steal from the system.

Special software has enabled us to identify such claims, and we are routinely stopping both organized criminal schemes (most of them originating in Central and South America)

THE IP SOFTWARE, WHICH COST ONLY \$1,600, HAS ALREADY SAVED THE TRUST FUND AN ESTIMATED \$43.5 MILLION.

and less sophisticated fraud attempts. For example, we stopped a scam in which claims were being filed every two hours from five foreign countries. It was an organized effort that we reported to Homeland Security. We also uncovered a case in which two individual claims were being filed regularly from locations between Florida and the Mediterranean. After some investigation, we discovered that an elderly retired couple was filing false claims



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**New Jersey
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Chris Christie, Governor

from a cruise ship. The IP software, which cost only \$1,600, has saved the Trust Fund an estimated \$43.5 million, as of July.

A more complex, yet equally effective technique is the Identify Verification Requirement system, which is designed to catch those who file phony claims using stolen identities. People who try to file a new claim by phone or Internet are asked to offer their identity, and then answer a series of multiple choice questions about themselves. The system compiles the questions instantly from public records, and a fraudster using a stolen identity is unlikely to know the answers. By mid-summer of this year, the effort had already saved \$2.5 million.

We also have safeguards to prevent claims from being paid to those held in both state and county prisons.

Since no system is fool-proof, we're also improved our ability to make people repay money that was improperly taken from the system. For example, the Department is now a member of the federal Treasury Offset Program, or "TOPS."

When we find that someone improperly collected unemployment benefits, TOPS allows us to offset what they owe us by seizing any refund or

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GROUP MAY BE
DEFRAUDING THE FUND,
CONTACT OUR AGENCY
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deductions they may be due on their annual federal income tax. This program is similar to the Set-Off of Individual Liability, or SOIL, through which the department can attach refunds and deductions otherwise owed to an individual state gross income taxpayer.

Within two months of implementing TOPS, the department was able

to recover more than \$500,000, and the system is expected to net the fund more than \$10 million over the next year.

We cannot forget the Unemployment Insurance Fund was established for people who fall on hard times and need the safety net it provides, and that our employers have been increasingly relied upon to fund the system. Our anti-fraud program will continue to expand, and we will continue to focus on shutting down fraud in the unemployment insurance system before it happens.

If you suspect that an individual or group may be defrauding the fund, contact our agency immediately. You do not have to identify yourself.

Fraud may be reported by calling (609) 777-4304 or by sending a letter to Benefit Payment Control, PO Box 043, Trenton, NJ 08625.

Fraud also may be reported at: <http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/ui/content/uifraud.html>

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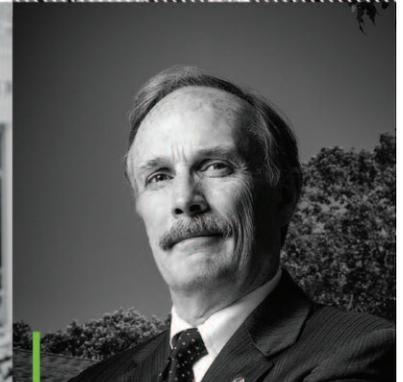
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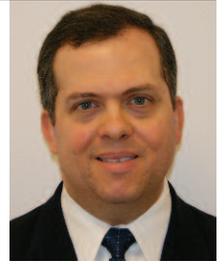
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Advocating for the Municipal Agenda

An Update on the League Conference Resolutions



By Michael F. Cerra
NJLM Director of
Government Affairs

In the last year local officials have confronted unprecedented financial challenges, as well as new mandates from the state and federal governments. Now, more than ever, it is critical to actively advance a positive agenda for local governments. Such an opportunity is the work of the League Resolutions Committee, which meets on the Tuesday afternoon of the League's annual conference.

The Committee typically considers approximately 20 resolution submitted from across the Garden State on a wide range of issues. The Resolutions Committee offers our constituent municipalities the opportunity to shape League policy on issues in which we are not yet involved, or even may be unaware of.

As this article is published, the League is receiving new resolutions for consideration at the League Conference next month. Thus, this article's purpose is two-fold; one, to update you on the progress of past resolutions, and two, to encourage your interest and participation in this process.

Let me provide you a brief overview of where we stand with some of the 2012 resolutions.

Resolution 2012-04 "Supporting Sustainable State Funding for Preservation and Stewardship of Open Space, Park, Farmland and Historic Sites in New Jersey" is a major League legislative goal. New Jersey has a long and successful history of preserving open space, parks and farmland. The New Jersey Green Acres program has helped to preserve over 650,000 acres of land and supported more than 1,100 park development projects over the past 50 years. The State Agricultural Development Committee has preserved 200,000 acres of farmland over the past 30 years. Municipalities have been key partners and direct beneficiaries of these valuable state preservation programs.

However, a significant number of worthwhile projects that would provide for land and water protection, farmland preservation and park development for the health and welfare of our communities and residents still await funding. This is a significant priority for local governments since all remaining funds for these programs under the Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009 are now fully allocated.

On July 29, the state Senate approved SCR-160, a proposed constitutional amendment requiring the state to dedicate \$200 million annually from sales and use tax revenues for a 20-year period (FY2015 to FY2044.) This funding would be for the preservation of open space, including

flood prone areas and lands that protect water supplies, farmland, and historic properties. The League supports the identification of a sustained funding source, but it took no position on this particular approach to realize the funding.

While the ballot resolution passed by a majority vote, it failed to garner the supermajority required to be put on the ballot this November. However, if an identical resolution passes the Assembly this year and both houses again next year, the question would be on the November 2014 ballot.

THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE OFFERS
OUR CONSTITUENT MUNICIPALITIES THE
OPPORTUNITY TO SHAPE LEAGUE POLICY.

Resolution 2012-05 "Calling on the Department of Environmental Protection to Amend its Waiver Rule to Require that Applicants Provide Notice to Affected Municipalities" was sponsored by League President Janice S. Mironov of East Windsor.

The DEP adopted its waiver rule on August 1, 2012, authorizing the approval of waivers from strict compliance with the department's rules in limited circumstances. However, in what we believe was an unintended oversight, the regulation does not require an applicant to provide notice of an application to the municipality.

It is our understanding that the department may have initiated notice as part of its own administrative process, which is appreciated. We have requested that the department formalize this important practice by an amendment to the waiver rule to assure that this practice is required and continues in the future. It is our further understanding that such a regulatory change is likely in the near future.

Resolution 2012-06 expressed our support for the preservation of the Federal Income Tax exemption for interest earned on municipal bonds. That exemption has—so far—survived repeated threats throughout the past year. Elimination of the exemption has been touted as a means to increase federal revenues, reduce the debt and close the budget deficit. It gained in credibility when it was included among the recommendations of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform—the Simpson-Bowles Commission.

We transmitted our resolution to our Congressional delega-

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**Building On
Common Ground**



tion as the nation approached the January "fiscal cliff." We followed up in the ensuing months whenever the exemption issue emerged in either the House or the U.S. Senate. The matter surfaced again in May, when the President's budget proposal included a cap on the tax exemption of interest earned on municipal bonds. The proposal would 'cap' the tax exemption at 28 percent of the total of interest earned. An investor would pay taxes on 62 percent of her or his interest earnings. It is estimated that, if this had been in place over the last 10 years, \$173 billion would have been added nationwide to local borrowing costs.

In September, when the congressional session resumed, proposals involving fiscal policy—including tax reform, deficit reduction, FY 2014 appropriations, and the federal debt—were front and center. It is highly likely that Congress may consider calling for capping or eliminating the federal tax exemption for municipal bonds, so the threat to the exemption remains real.

If proposals to eliminate or limit the tax exemption become law, local gov-

ernments will pay more to finance projects, leading to less infrastructure investment, fewer jobs, and greater burdens on those who will have to pay higher taxes and fees. This would be bad for the economy and our communities. We will continue to monitor events in Washington and to contact our delegation, Congressional leadership and our members, as events unfold.

Resolution 2012-19 "Expand the Use of Snow Removal Trust Funds to Respond to Natural Disasters" was sponsored by League Past President, Mayor Art Ondish of Mount Arlington. Following Superstorm Sandy, Governor Christie signed Executive Order 111 permitting municipalities, by resolution, to use the reserves in their "Snow Removal Trust Funds" for storm recovery efforts.

A-3764, sponsored by Assemblyman Ronald Dancer, would permit counties and municipalities to use snow removal reserve funds for clearance of debris following declaration of emergency by the President or Governor. Essentially, A-3764 would make the Governor's Executive Order perma-

nent and allow municipalities and counties, following the declaration of an emergency by the President or the Governor, to adopt a resolution authorizing the use of snow removal reserve for the clearance of debris.

The League supports A-3764, which passed the Assembly 76-0 in March and has been referred to the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee. The League will push for the bill to be considered by the Senate Committee during the fall and for final passage by the full Senate by the end of the year.

In the meanwhile, we encourage our member municipalities to submit their ideas for resolutions for consideration at the 2013 Annual Conference. A summary of a resolution should be provided to Mike Cerra at mcerra@njslom.com by October 4. The full draft of a resolution should be provided by October 18. Additional submission guidelines will follow to you in a Membership alert. Questions can be directed to Mike Cerra at either mcerra@njslom.com or 609-695-3481 x120. ▲



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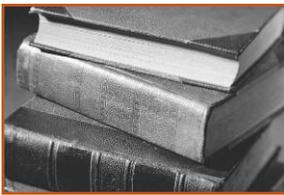


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Upkeep of Foreclosed Property and Personal Email

By Edward W. Purcell, Esq.
NJLM Staff Attorney

Q *The banks are not doing proper upkeep on their abandoned and foreclosed properties, what can my municipality do?*

A Unfortunately, this is a common situation in many New Jersey municipalities. There are two issues that have arisen when a home has been abandoned and it is in the process of foreclosure. First, no one is doing the basic upkeep on the property. The value of nearby homes may plummet if the home becomes an "eyesore." Second, because title has not vested in the foreclosing bank there is very little that a municipality can do to force it to do this upkeep.

To deal with these dual problems, the Legislature enacted The Save New Jersey Homes Act of 2008 (N.J.S.A. 46:10B-51). This law requires that the bank (or other mortgagor) notify the municipal clerk of the residential property's location and the contact information for the person at the bank responsible for property maintenance and code violations. This notice must be served on the municipal clerk within ten days of the bank filing a foreclosure action against the property.

The law requires the bank to abate nuisances if the foreclosed property becomes abandoned. If a nuisance exists, the municipality must notify the bank. If the bank still does not abate the nuisance, the municipality may enter onto the property to abate it itself. Were the municipality to expend money doing this, it may recover that money from the bank by placing a lien on the property per N.J.S.A. 55:19-100.

Some municipalities have passed ordinances based on the 2008 Act which require banks to pay escalating fees for every year a property which requires rehabilitation to be habitable remains vacant. Cherry Hill's ordinance 2013-17 does just that. It requires banks to pay a \$500 fee the first year, escalating to \$1,500 the second year, to \$3,000 the third year and \$5,000 a year thereafter when the property remains vacant and uninhabitable.

Q *If we provide municipal email addresses for all members of the governing body, will their personal email accounts still be subject to court subpoena? And what would be the effect of having municipal email addresses in terms of OPRA requirements?*

A Giving municipal email accounts to volunteers will not insulate their personal computers from a judge's subpoena. A judge can subpoena information from a volunteer's personal computer, per New Jersey court rule 1:9-2, as long as the party seeking the subpoena can show that the personal computer contains evidence "relevant and material to the issue" of a court case. The use of a municipal email will not change this outcome.

However, from an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) perspective, it is useful for volunteers to use municipal email addresses when they are conducting municipal business. OPRA defines a government record as any document made or maintained in the court of official business by any municipality. The law burdens the municipal clerk with the obligation to respond to requestors and holds the clerk personally liable for requests which are falsely denied.

Fulfilling OPRA requests where municipal volunteers use personal emails is time consuming because the clerk would have to go to each individual to request the emails. The GRC has previously ruled in *Meyer v. Borough of Fair Lawn* that emails which deal with municipal business fall under OPRA, even if they originate in personal email addresses. Having municipal email addresses allows the clerk to streamline this process by merely searching the municipal server for the requested emails. ▲

This column is for informational purposes only, and is not intended as legal advice.



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What Is an Abstention under the Municipal Vacancy Law?



By Angelo J. Genova, Esq.; NJLM Labor Counsel; Genova Burns Giantomasi Webster LLC & Brett M. Pugach, Esq. Genova Burns Giantomasi Webster LLC

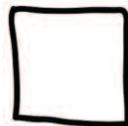
In July 2013, the Appellate Division issued two opinions applying the Municipal Vacancy Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:16-1 to -23, with respect to a mayor's authority to fill a vacancy when no majority vote of the governing body is reached, and when certain members of the governing body abstain from voting.

The Municipal Vacancy Law sets forth procedures for filling vacancies for public office in municipalities. It permits appointments to fill vacancies in a governing body by a majority vote of the body's remaining members. N.J.S.A. 40A:16-7. The governing body has 30 days to fill the vacancy. N.J.S.A. 40A:16-12. If it is not filled, the seat remains vacant until it can be filled by the voters. N.J.S.A. 40A:16-13. Moreover, N.J.S.A. 40A:16-8 provides that for certain municipalities governed by the Optional Municipal Charter Law (i.e. mayor-council plan or mayor-council-administrator plan), "a mayor shall be permitted to vote to fill a vacancy in the membership of a governing body only in the case of a tie vote." These cases shed light on the

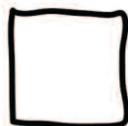
mayor's authority and the effect of abstentions in such situations, but do not answer every scenario that may occur when there are abstentions and ties in filling municipal vacancies.

In *Booker v. Rice*, Newark Municipal Councilmember Donald M. Payne, Jr. resigned from the Council, leaving a vacancy, which could be filled by appointment by a majority of the eight remaining council members. While five votes are required for a majority to name a successor, Shanique Davis Speight received only four "yes" votes. Three councilmembers voted "no" and one councilmember left the meeting, and thus abstained from voting. Believing that the abstention counted as a "no" vote, Mayor Booker voted in favor of Speight, to break what appeared to be a tie vote. A court order was later issued which required a special meeting to be held again and a new vote to be taken. Ms. Speight again received four "yes" votes, and this time two "no" votes and two abstentions. However, a Superior Court Judge ruled that an abstention is neither a "yes" nor "no" vote, and thus there was no tie that would allow the Mayor to vote. Therefore, the seat had to remain vacant until it could be filled by the voters.

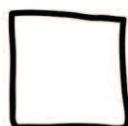
Upon review, the Appellate Division looked to N.J.S.A. 40:69A-180(a), which allows governing bodies to determine their own procedural rules, so long as they don't conflict with an ordinance or statute. In turn, a provision in the Newark Council's own internal rules states that "A Council Member may abstain from voting on any matter, such abstention shall not be counted as a yes or no vote." On this basis, the court upheld the decision, holding that under such procedural rules, no tie had been created which would allow the Mayor to vote to fill the seat, and it did not conflict with any statutes.



yes



no



maybe

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In *Zimmer v. Castellano*, Hoboken Councilmember Carol Mars resigned, similarly creating a vacancy that could be filled by majority vote of the eight remaining council members. At a meeting to fill the vacancy, only seven council members were present. One member was absent, there were four "yes" votes, two "no" votes, and one abstention to nominate James Doyle to fill the position. Believing the abstention and absence to be "no" votes, Mayor Zimmer attempted to break what she thought was a tie vote, by voting for Mr. Doyle. When the full council met, another vote was held with the same result, except that the absent member abstained from voting. Mayor Zimmer again attempted to break the deadlock by voting for Mr. Doyle.

A complaint was filed to contest the appointment, and the Superior Court held that there was no tie vote. This decision was not appealed. However, before receiving the Order, a separate action was filed attempting to extend the 30-day limit to fill a vacancy, and to hold a special meeting and allow abstentions to be counted as "no" votes. The judge delayed the 30-day limitation and ordered a meeting to revote. Another meeting was held 105 days after the vacancy was created, resulting in four "yes" votes, two "no" votes, and two abstentions, and another tie-breaking vote by the Mayor in favor of Mr. Doyle. This time the Superior Court held that the abstentions were to be treated as "no" votes, and thus the Mayor's tie-breaking vote was permissible.

The Appellate Division reversed. Because the Superior Court's initial decision vacating the initial votes was not appealed (as a new action was ini-

tiated instead), any subsequent vote to fill the vacancy was outside the 30-day statutory limit, and therefore invalid. As in *Booker*, the court emphasized that the council was not required to fill a vacancy, and thus, the court could not compel the council to vote.

After invalidating the vote on procedural grounds, the Appellate Division also held that such vote should be invalidated because the abstentions could not be interpreted as "no"

EACH MUNICIPAL GOVERNING BODY SHOULD BE AWARE OF OR SEEK TO CLARIFY ITS PROCEDURAL RULES ON THE MANNER IN WHICH AN ABSTENTION WILL BE INTERPRETED.

votes. Similar to *Booker*, the court recognized that the council could adopt procedural rules that speak to the effect of an abstention. However, unlike in *Booker*, here the Hoboken Council's rules were silent on this issue. Yet, the Council's rules required that where no specific rule was provided, *Robert's Rules of Order* were to be applied. In turn, *Robert's Rules of Order* provide that an abstention means "not to vote at all." The court stated that "yes" and "no" votes were not the only choices, as council members could choose not to fill the

vacancy with anyone by abstaining.

While in both cases abstention votes to fill a vacancy were not considered "no" votes which would allow for a mayor to break the tie, this may not be the case for all municipal governing bodies. These cases demonstrate that those municipal governing bodies whose procedural rules deem an abstention vote to be neither a "yes" nor a "no" vote, will likely be decided in the same manner. Similarly, if there is no specific procedure declaring that an abstention is neither "yes" nor "no", the Court will look for such provisions in the default procedural rules, as was the case in *Zimmer* with Robert's Rules of Order. On the other hand, if a municipal governing body's rules counted abstentions as "yes" votes, then a tie vote would likely be found, allowing the mayor to break the tie.

However, the scope of the Appellate Division's holding is not entirely clear. For example, it is unclear how the analysis would be conducted if the governing body's internal rules and any default rules were silent on abstentions. In fact, the court specifically stated that the case law was inconclusive on the issue of abstentions, finding that "very few clear patterns can be discerned from these various decisions." While language in the opinions might suggest that an abstention is not a "yes" nor a "no" given the governing body's discretion not to fill the vacancy, this issue was not before the court and was not decided.

However, what we do know is that the court will look first to the procedural and default rules when interpreting an abstention with respect to filling vacancies pursuant to the Municipal Vacancy Law. Therefore, each municipal governing body should be aware of, and/or amend its procedural rules to clarify the manner in which an abstention will be interpreted. Moreover, municipalities might consider lobbying the Legislature to amend the law in accordance with proposed changes suggested in a Final Report Relating to the Effect of Abstentions issued by the New Jersey Law Revision Commission in April 2011. The proposed change would declare that an abstention or failure to vote by a member of a public body "shall not...count[] as voting either for or against the matter." ▲

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League Session:
Thursday, November 21, 2:00-3:40 pm
"Getting the Good Word Out: BIDs and the Net, the News and Social Media"
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Wireless Concealment

The Art of Hiding Cell Towers in Historic Places



By Colleen Troy
Touchpoint Communications

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But to better understand how wireless infrastructure professionals have become the newest friends of preservation, it's helpful to review the wireless revolution.

About 20 years ago, the growing popularity of cell phones meant that towers needed to be constructed quickly. Demand outstripped availability. Often, cell phone users experienced signal outages as they traveled, owing to the great distances between antennas.

One entrepreneur was so frustrated by his own dropped calls as he traveled on the Midwest highways, that inspiration struck: what if wireless companies attached antennas to existing structures, such as the fast food and gas station signs that he saw around? And as that market came alive he took it a step further: what if they concealed the antennas in other existing infrastructure, such as clock towers and poles?

And so was born wireless concealment, the industry that soon spawned faux evergreens, cacti and signs doing double time as towers.

While some communications equipment requires colossal towers or entire rooftops; others can be artfully contained in small street-side poles and signs.

These possibilities naturally led to an alliance between those interested in concealment and preservationists,



Our country's oldest college building, on the campus of the College of William and Mary, has RF-transparent materials within its windows that help convey wireless signals.

though it might appear that the preservation community's goals are at odds with concealment.

"We get a lot of that at first," says Rob McKeever, a sales engineer at STEALTH® Concealment Solutions, Inc., the company that invented the concealment business over two decades ago. "Most people recognize fake trees as being the only antenna concealments around. But, what nobody realizes is that concealment systems are everywhere—from steeples to street signs to 100-year-old buildings. They blend in so seamlessly to the surroundings that nobody knows they are there."

And that's precisely the point of good concealment.

WHILE SOME
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STREET-SIDE POLES
AND SIGNS.

How does the process work? Consider the Christopher Wren Building at the College of William and Mary, our country's the oldest college building. The college needed more wireless signal, but was concerned about appearances.

STEALTH professionals studied the structure, the period in which it was built (1695-1700) and assessed the immediate landscape. As a result, they didn't suggest an "add on" wireless structure. Rather, they replaced windows with RF-transparent materials. You can't spot evidence of wireless antennas anywhere on the building.

Other aesthetically pleasing historic solutions are in place throughout New Jersey.

A recent project in Montclair created a "faux" smoke stack (or fauxstack) that worked in the environment of municipal playing fields. Quote from Mayor Robert Jackson "Our community is filled with people who take aes-

thetics very seriously. We were pleased to learn that so many concealment options are available for environments where historical relevance matters. STEALTH's expertise allowed us to increase wireless signal strength within the community while maintaining our town's look and feel."

And, a parking garage concealment in Patterson used a custom screen wall designed with a RF transparent roof.

The beauty of concealment is truly in the eye of the beholders. One recent STEALTH project had engineers replicating a rusting water tower for a coastal Texas town. They worked especially hard on numerous painted RF-transparent panels to get the rust color just right.

Beyond benefiting from wireless infrastructure that blends into the environment, municipalities also "win" when they help expand wireless signal. Increasing the availability of signal makes it easier to alert residents to potential weather, safety or traffic concerns. ▲

Colleen Troy is a Charleston, SC based marketing consultant and freelance business writer whose work has appeared in numerous magazines.



A recent project in Montclair used a "faux" smoke stack (or fauxstack) to conceal a wireless tower near the municipal playing fields.

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Getting the Most from Your League



Stay Connected with the League through Social Media



By Taran B. Samhammer
NJLM Advertising Manager
& Bureau Services and Research Coordinator

NJLM has recently improved communication by using social media to keep our membership informed. Through social media, members have a new way to stay connected with local government news and League updates. The League is now on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. NJLM launched its Facebook page in May and has maintained a Twitter feed since 2010.

FOLLOW US DURING
CONFERENCE WEEK FOR UPDATES
AT #NJLEAGUE.

Visiting our social media outlets will help you to stay current on League events, announcements, seminars, news topics, *New Jersey Municipalities* magazine and the annual League Conference.

This November, follow us on social media for up to the minute changes and announcements during conference week. We will be using Facebook and Twitter to provide updates on event, room and shuttle bus changes, and other pertinent information. Throughout the year we will also use these resources to provide information on last minute seminar cancellations and new services and programs.

Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/njleague. Follow us on Twitter at @nj_league. And for LinkedIn, go to linkedin.com/company/new-jersey-league-of-municipalities.



New this Conference— Online Interactive Floorplan

For the first time, you will be able to view our exhibitor listing from your smartphone. This includes information on each exhibitor, a brief description of their company and their booth location. To access the listing, visit map-dynamics.com/njlm2013.

For those new to social media It is helpful to become familiar with some of the vernacular used on these sites. If using Facebook, you “like” to follow an organization, “post” to broadcast a message to those who are in your network and may “share” an item that someone else has posted (which means that you have now reposted this item on your own personal page to those in your own personal network). Those in your network are the people that are in your personal “friend” list. On Twitter, these same actions are referred to as follow, tweet and retweet, and those in your personal network are called “followers.”

To follow the League you will need to like or follow us. After doing so, our posts and/or tweets will begin showing up in your news feed, which you may view from any computer, smartphone or tablet with internet access.

How to register To begin using Facebook and Twitter, you must first register and create a personal account. You may register for Facebook at www.facebook.com and Twitter at www.twitter.com. After registering, remember to like the League if using Facebook or follow if using Twitter.

And be cautious, as is true anywhere on the internet. There may be viruses and scammers on social media sites. Do not click on suspicious links that may contain malware. Control your privacy settings to control who may view and post to your personal feed. Never give out personal information or passwords; and remember that what you post is public information. ▲

League Conference Session

Uses of Social Media—
Challenges, Opportunities and Rewards

Wednesday, November 20, 9:00 a.m.
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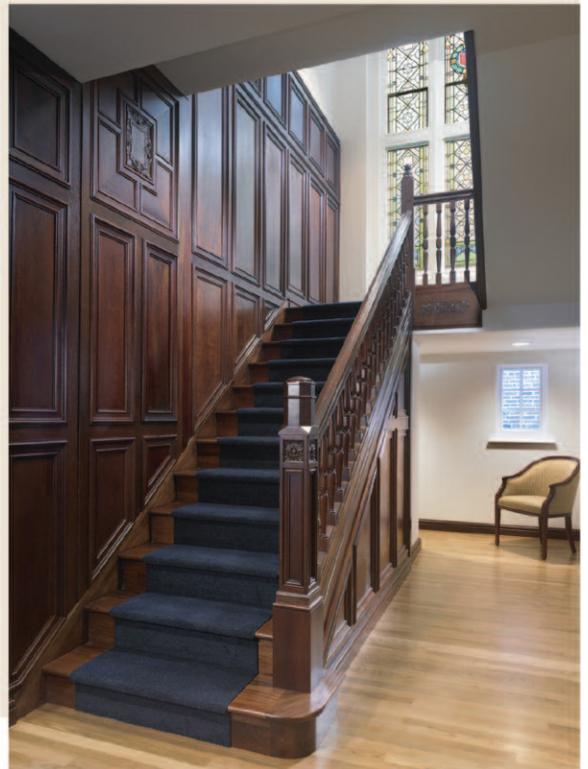


This three-story building accommodates solo professionals in need of as little as one office, to larger firms in mid-sized suites. All tenants may choose to take advantage of the building's common amenities including meeting rooms, kitchenette, and more.

The building's recent restoration incorporated state-of-the-art mechanical, electrical and communications systems. The building meets the standards of the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA).

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of Municipalities**



New Jersey Manufacturers

Working to Make Driving Safer



By John W. Hardiman
Director, NJM Personal Lines
Policyholder Services

New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Group (NJM), one of the largest providers of auto insurance in New Jersey, has always had a reputation for encouraging safety for its own policyholders. Yet this year, in honor of its 100th anniversary, the company has launched three major safety initiatives intended to benefit all who travel New Jersey's roadways.

In late February, NJM announced its "DNT TXT N DRV" campaign. This campaign encourages the drivers of the 810,000 vehicles that we insure, as well as all other motorists, to take a pledge to refrain from reading or composing text messages while driving.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that, nationally, there are at least 3,000 deaths each year from distraction-affected crashes.

"The statistics are sobering," said Bernie Flynn, NJM President and CEO. "Despite state laws, texting while driving is becoming an epidemic and law enforcement alone cannot stop it. This campaign is an effort to increase awareness and help reverse the course of our culture...the text can wait."

For every pledge taken during 2013, NJM will donate \$1, up to a total of \$50,000, to benefit equally five New Jersey non-profit organizations: Make-A-Wish New Jersey; The Community Food Bank of New Jersey; Autism New Jersey; Special Olympics New Jersey; and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society—NJ Metro Chapter.

NJM's second initiative extends its focus on safety to newly licensed teen drivers specifically. Teens can most easily develop safe driving habits as they first learn the rules of the road. Establishing good habits early can pay dividends long into the future and benefit not only the teen themselves, but those who share the road with them.

The program will feature Mr. Carsten Boethig, a retired New Jersey State Police lieutenant who has served 25 years as an officer and has experience in the Motor Vehicle Racing Control Unit, Fatal Accident Investigation Unit, and Highway Traffic Safety Unit. Boethig also served as the head of the School & Traffic Safety Unit, where he supervised 18 troopers who taught teen driver safety at 12 high schools throughout the state.

Boethig will serve as NJM's first-ever School Driver Safety Officer as part of the Company's Teen Driver Safety Program. He will visit New Jersey high schools to give presentations about safe driving habits, including tips on seatbelt awareness, distracted driving, fatigued driving and how to better navigate roadways during inclement weather. The presentations,



In honor of its 100th anniversary, New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Group has launched three major safety initiatives intended to benefit all who travel New Jersey's roadways. One seeks to prevent texting while driving.

which began in September 2013, will not only teach teens crucial safety habits but will also make them aware of the critical and often fatal consequences that can result from a lack of driver safety. This program will act as a "down payment" for safer roads in the future. Studies show that habits learned by new drivers can stay with them for their entire lives. These presentations are fully funded by NJM and come at no cost to the schools or the tax-paying public.

advance NJM's 100-year commitment to safety," said Flynn. "These simulators provide valuable experience with a variety of driving challenges in a non-threatening environment so these young people, and many of their classmates that follow, can develop safe habits that can last a lifetime.

"This is a substantial investment in helping to ensure the safety of our families and friends and reaffirms our commitment to the well being of the residents of our state. We could think

of no better way to say 'thank you' to the people of New Jersey for giving us a home for 100 years, and to our policyholders who have entrusted us with their insurance needs, we could think of no better way than to provide resources that may someday save them from serious harm, or worse."

NJM hopes that each of their initiatives will have positive and long-lasting effects, not just for NJM policyholders, but for all residents of New Jersey. ▲

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DURING 2013, NJM
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ORGANIZATIONS.

As its third safety initiative, NJM made an exciting and unexpected announcement at the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey's 2013 Champion Schools Program Awards Ceremony. NJM is a founding sponsor of the Program's "U Got Brains" contest, which offers New Jersey high schools the chance to create projects that promote driver safety. The two grand prize winning schools are each awarded a full-cab driving simulator designed to emulate real-world driving conditions. This year the two winners, Lenape Regional High School District in Medford and Columbia High School in Maplewood also each received a \$10,000 cash grant to be put towards an "After Prom" party; and a presentation for their school from car crash survivor Jacy Good about the dangers of distracted driving.

In addition, the company plans to donate driving simulators to the other 53 schools that submitted projects to the competition. This award represents an investment by NJM of over \$700,000 towards driver safety.

"Enhancing the driver training programs at these schools helps further

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New CEU Procedures for League Conference



By Danielle Holland-Htut
NJLM Seminar Manager

In order to provide more opportunities for attendees to earn their Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and increase the educational value of the annual Conference, the League will now have badge scanning in every classroom at the Atlantic City Convention Center. As a result, the procedures for the Conference Tracking System have changed.

There will be no sign-in sheets or CEU volunteers present at the doors this year. Instead, attendees will self scan-in and out. Scanning in and out is required. Desktop scanners will be near the entrance of each room.

Following the conference, attendees may log on to the Tracking System website and download their CEUs, as they may have done in previous years.

Please note, the procedures below only apply to educational sessions held in the convention center. Business meetings, sessions held at other locations, and Vendor Solution Sessions are not included in the scanning system.

The New CEU Procedure, Step by Step

1. As you enter an educational session, remove your badge from its holder, then insert your badge into the badge scanner slot of the scanner located near the door.
2. Once you have inserted your badge into the scanner, you will see a green light and the word "granted" will appear on the scanner screen. If the scanner does not work, please report the problem immediately by going to one of the Room Monitor Stations, located on the third and fourth floors of the convention center.
3. When the session has finished, you must sign-out for the session the same way that you signed in. Please note: all attendees must scan-in and out in order to receive credit. Every certificate will display the attendees sign-in and sign-out times.
4. You will not receive a paper certificate on the way out of the session. Instead you will be able to log on to the CEU tracking system at www.njslom.org/confceu.html and print it out on your home or office computer.

Printing CEU Certificates

The process of printing certificates is simple—starting November, 25, 2013 an attendee may log on to the CEU website and follow the prompts. A link to the site will be available on the League website, njslom.org/confceu.

To print a CEU certificate:

1. Log on to the CEU website: www.njslom.org/confceu.html.
2. Enter either your badge number (found on your name badge) or your name and zip code.
3. Select the session for which you wish to print a certificate.
4. When prompted, fill out the standard evaluation form for that session.
5. Once the evaluation form is submitted online, you will have the option to print out the certificate.
6. After the certificate has printed, you may then return to the main screen to print out another certificate, or log out.

You will be able to access and print conference certificates until May 2014. ▲

Voluntarily Verify Your Attendance

Attendees who aren't receiving CEU's, but wish to track their attendance have the option to self scan-in and out of every session using the badge scanners in each classroom.

Following the conference, attendees may then access their attendance verification by logging-on to the League Tracking System to print out their attendance verification.

All attendees scanning for credit must self scan in and out. This is a requirement of all accrediting bodies to receive CEUs.



Look for this scanner at the entrance of every classroom in the Atlantic City Convention Center.

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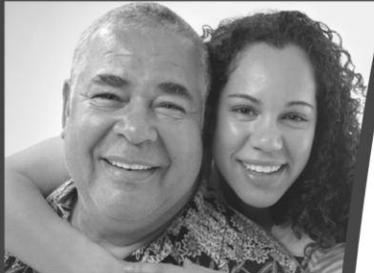
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COMMUNICATIONS Lifeline





Cerra Named Director of Government Affairs

Michael F. Cerra was named Director of Government Affairs for the League of Municipalities. "Mike will be heading up our advocacy efforts," said Executive Director Bill Dressel. "He has the experience and the skills to effectively present the interests of locally elected officials. We are pleased to have a person of his caliber in this new position."

Mr. Cerra's responsibilities include advocating on issues related to local government, monitoring committee hearings and testifying before legislative committees. He started working for NJLM in October 1996.

Mr. Cerra also serves as the policy analyst for NJLM's Educational Foundation. He is a member and Past President of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration and a board member for Lawrenceville Main Street. He has received a B.A. in History and Communications from Fordham University and a Masters of Public Administration from Rutgers University. ▲



Gibbons Joins NJLM Legal Team

NJLM is pleased to announce that F. Clifford Gibbons, Esq. as joined the League's Legal Team as an Associate Counsel. He will also serve as Chairman of the League Municipal Land Use Committee.

Mr. Gibbons has represented governmental entities throughout New Jersey, including governing bodies, municipal and county planning and zoning boards and municipal commissions and authorities, in numerous types of matters and litigation, including zoning and planning, charter revision, drafting of municipal ordinances, redevelopment, personnel, tax appeals, municipal tax claims in bankruptcy matters, and many others. He has also had extensive experience in land use and zoning regulation,

prosecution of applications, appeals and their defense.

He is of counsel at the law firm Dolan and Dolan, P.A. He is the managing attorney of the firm's Princeton office.

Mr. Gibbons also serves as an Adjunct Instructor at the Bloustein School of Public Policy/School of Continuing Studies at Rutgers University, where he presents seminars, classes and programs to New Jersey municipal officials seeking State Certification as Zoning and Construction Officials, Land Use Administrators, Planning/Zoning Board Secretaries and Planning/Zoning Board Members.

He has a A.B. from Colgate University and a J.D. from Penn State University's Dickinson School of Law.

Mr. Gibbons as written for numerous publications, including *New Jersey Lawyer* and *The Municipal Law Review*. He is a co-author of the Gann Law Books *New Jersey Casebook on Zoning, Planning and Land Use Law* (2002-present) and *New Jersey Zoning and Land Use Administration* (2005-2011). ▲

Correction: In an article in the February issue of NJM a company name was misstated as "ConEdison Resources" instead of "ConEdison Solutions." We regret the error.

Thank you to our League Supporters

The New Jersey State League of Municipalities would like to thank its supporters, who value their partnership with the 565 municipalities of New Jersey. We are working together for better communities and a better life. For information about the League's sponsorship program, please contact Donna Baltz at 609-695-3481, Ext. 127 or dbaltz@NJSLOM.com.



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Past League President Stephen C. Horvath, Jr.

Will Be Missed



With great sadness, we note the passing of League Past President and former Alpha Borough Mayor Stephen C. "Pete" Horvath, Jr. Mayor Horvath passed away on August 19, 2013.

"He was always generous in sharing his time, his experience and his knowledge of municipal government with newly elected and appointed colleagues, with League staff and with his successors in Alpha and in the League leadership," said League Executive Director Bill Dressel. "It has been my pleasure and privilege to know Mayor Horvath for 40 years. From the day I joined the League staff in 1974, I knew I could always count on him for help. He was a mentor to many and a friend to even more."

Born and raised in Alpha, Mayor Horvath was a Naval veteran of World War II. He was elected to serve on the Alpha Borough Council in 1963 and again, in 1966. In 1969, he was elected Mayor. He won re-election to that office five times, serving as Alpha's chief executive through 1987.

Throughout his tenure in office, Mayor Horvath was a passionate supporter of the League of Municipalities and of municipal government in New Jersey. He was particularly committed to the success of the League's Annual Conference, serving at various times as a member of the Resolutions and Reception committees. He was also a member and Chairman of the Conference Planning Committee. In November, 1974, he was unanimously elected to serve as League President.

Before, during and after his tenure in office, he was active in various borough and Warren County civic and charitable organizations. He was a life member and Past Commander of the John Dolak American Legion Post 446 in Alpha; Past President and an exempt member of the Alpha Volunteer Fire Company; Past President of the Warren County Cancer Society and the Warren County League of Municipalities; and Past Commander of the Warren County American Legion, among others.

Until she passed away in 2000, Mayor Horvath and his wife, Betty, continued to attend League Conferences, where they assisted League staff with myriad behind-the-scenes duties. More recently, Mayor Horvath was able to attend the Conference with his great friend and companion, Ilene Brion.

Mayor Horvath, a great public servant and a devoted friend, will be missed. ▲

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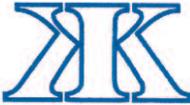
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By Taran B. Samhammer
Bureau Services & Research Coordinator,
Bureau of Municipal Information

West Orange has established a Community Aggregation Program (CEA) to reduce energy costs for its residents and businesses. The Government Energy Aggregation Act of 2003 authorizes municipalities to establish CEAs, which enable them to aggregate the municipality's energy requirements, either individually or as part of a group. Third party suppliers may bid on contracts. Under this program, residential accounts would automatically be enrolled in the CEA (unless a residence is already under contract with a third party supplier). Residents would also have the option to opt out of the program. Commercial and municipal accounts must opt in to participate. Participating consumers will continue to receive a bill directly from the utility company. Other municipalities have already had success with this program. **Plumstead Township** was able to provide an average savings of 14 percent per resident. **Toms River** secured a contract resulting in an estimated average savings of 12 percent or \$110 per year, per resident. For more information on West Orange's CEA, visit westorange.org/energy.



Hoboken has partnered with students at the Stevens Institute of Technology on a three-year research collaboration to develop an app that will improve Hoboken's delivery of services and help its administration solve quality of life issues. The app, expected to be unveiled this fall, will help residents manage their energy use, find parking, contact the police and report problems to the city. The app will be voice operated. For example, to report a pothole, the user would simply click a button, and say "pothole." Then their smartphone's GPS would upload their current coordinates to the city. Hoboken plans to use data collected by the app to improve services. Data used to develop the app was collected from the city, its service providers, high-tech sensors placed around the city and focus groups.



This past spring **Carteret** offered landscaping mulch to residents at no charge. Mulch was supplied by the Middlesex County Improvement Authority recycling program and is intended for personal use only. To participate, residents were required to show a valid ID to prove their residency. Each household was allowed up to 3 yards, while supplies lasted.

Glen Rock aired its first live Borough Council meeting this June. The live TV broadcast used "Live Kit" equipment, purchased through borough funding. The system is hardwired via a dedicated line to the Borough Hall server. Glen Rock hopes to add additional technology that would enable the recording's producer to broadcast live while simultaneously adding titles and graphic elements. This feature will save time and money in the production of the broadcasts. To further improve broadcasts, the borough may explore sharing wireless nets with local providers, which would enable them to record and broadcast events occurring outside, as well as in their central business district.



In July, **Morristown** received funding from Together North Jersey, a regional planning initiative, through its Local Demonstration Project Program. The money will enable the town to develop a parklet program. The town will build its first parklet, a small public space located within a business parking area. Funding will also be used to develop a parklet design manual, which can serve as a resource for other municipalities. This parklet program supports Morristown's goal to create a pedestrian-friendly downtown area.



Events

October 2 Taking the Mystery Out of Applying For Grants, Crowne Plaza Monroe, Monroe Twp.

October 30 . . . Labor Negotiations Primer-Understanding Collective Negotiations, PNC, Holmdel

November
19-21 98th Annual NJLM Conference, Atlantic City Convention Center

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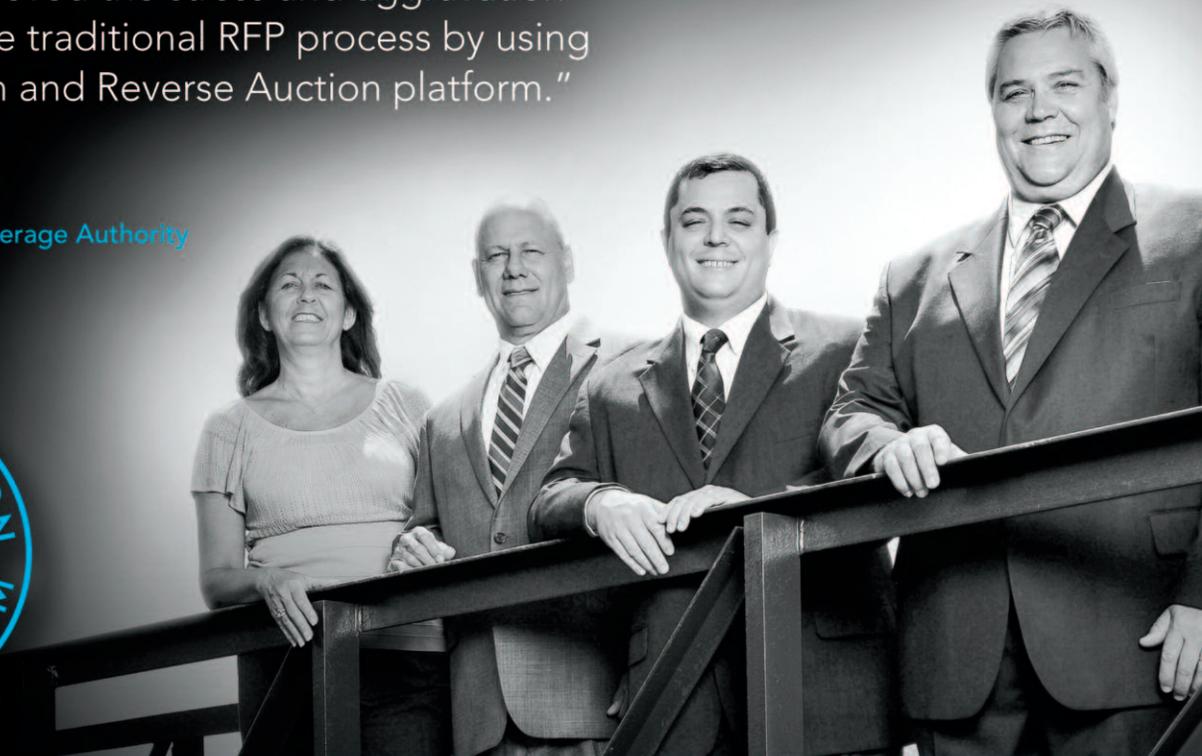
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