



Mayor Bill Chegwidden,  
League President

## President's Note:

May is a time for preparations, getting ready for Memorial Day parades, summer camps, community pool openings, townwide yard sales, and so much more. In Trenton, the League is representing local governments at the statehouse as budget hearings continue for the first weeks of the month as they strive to reach an agreement by June.

Before the relative quiet of the summer months, we have to apply our attention to details that will impact us as fall reminds us that the year isn't all picnics and parties. It's not too late to reach out to your state representatives and have your voice heard on the topics that are important to you and your peers in local government leadership around the state. In particular, please ask your Legislators for their support of the long-overdue OPRA reform legislation and to prioritize the restoration of energy tax receipts (ETR) to municipalities.

In your town, the summer is a great opportunity to build your employment pipeline. Summer internships and employment reveal the impressive potential of municipal career opportunities that many young people have no idea are available to them. It's also a great opportunity to help your current staff develop their professional skills. Support the [League's Mini-Conference](#), June 12, where sessions include the Ethics of AI, Sick Time Payout, the Latest Developments in OPRA, Procurement Updates from the Division of Local Government Services, and other useful topics.

Finally, get ready to register for the Annual League Conference. We'll be mailing a planning flier in early June to your clerks in preparation for the Housing System opening June 1. Hopefully we will all achieve a healthy mix of taking care of business while enjoying all the summer has to offer.

## Action List: May

1. [Register for Mini-Conference](#). Registration is open for the NJLM Mini-Conference, a one-day event held at the Conference Center at Mercer in West Windsor on June 12 from 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Attendees can earn up to 8 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) in one day for their professional licenses. Registration costs \$125 for members. Register at the [Mini-Conference website](#).

2. **[Support OPRA Modernization](#)**. Legislation that would modernize the Open Public Records Act ([A-4045/S-2930](#)) is still up for consideration. Please continue to reach out to your [Senator and Assembly Representatives](#) urging them to vote yes on these commonsense reforms and providing them with examples of how OPRA has impacted your municipality.
3. **[Review Budget Updates](#)**. The [Town Crier Blog](#) is a resource for information on Budget matters impacting local governments. Look at what state-level spending plans are for the Departments of the Treasury, State, and Environmental Protection in the SY2025 budget, and other useful insights.
4. **[Respond to LED Street Lights Survey](#)**. Your answers to a [brief survey on LED Street Lights](#) the Rutgers Center for Green Building (RCGB) is conducting online for The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) will inform decisions and strategies related to LED streetlight conversion.

## League News



### **Pascack Mayors Meet**

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

## Legislative Highlights

**Green Acres Funding.** Governor Murphy and Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn LaTourette announced \$117 million in [recommended Green Acres funding](#) for development and enhancement of parks and preservation of open space. This represents the highest level of Green Acres project funding since 2009.

Green Acres funding allows local governments and nonprofits to leverage millions of additional preservation dollars through matching federal, state, county, and local funds, as well as from private sources. Many of the projects recommended for funding this year address inclusivity and recreation for all, especially in [Overburdened Communities](#).

For this funding round, Green Acres expanded a 2023 county-focused pilot program inviting municipalities to also apply for grants to create completely inclusive playgrounds constructed in compliance with standards established by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

The funding recommendations advanced to the independent [Garden State Preservation Trust](#) (GSPT) for review, approval, and submission to the legislature for appropriation.

## Grant Center Spotlight

Are you interested in expanding grants-finding efforts for your municipality? The League is pleased to offer its members a discounted subscription to a database service provided by GrantStation, an online funding resource providing a database of available grant opportunities and tutorials. When League members purchase this service through NJLM they receive an annual subscription at over 85% off the regular purchase price. Visit [GrantStation's website](#) to read the full list of their member benefits.

Pricing is \$95 annually when purchasing through NJLM. The standard rate without this discount is \$699. To order, please complete, print, and mail the [GrantStation Annual Subscription Form \(PDF\)](#) along with a check or purchase order to: NJLM; Attention: Tom Fratticcioli, Subscriptions; 222 West State Street; Trenton, NJ 08608.

*For more grant opportunities, visit the League's [Grant Resource Center](#).*

## Learning Opportunities

**May 14.** Management Series—Part 3- 1. Health & Disability Management & Personnel Records (AM) and 2. Payroll Management (PM); Rowan College at Burlington, Mount Laurel.

**May 15.** Management Series—Part 3- 1. Health & Disability Management & Personnel Records (AM) and 2. Payroll Management (PM). Bergen County College-Lyndhurst

**May 17.** Thorough and Efficient Records Management Through Artemis, 10 a.m.; webinar.

**May 21.** Management Series—Part 3-3. FLSA and Paid Leave Management (AM) and 4. Labor Contract Management (PM); Rowan College at Burlington, Mount Laurel

**May 22.** Management Series Part 3-3. FLSA and Paid Leave Management (AM) and 4. Labor Contract Management (PM); Bergen County College-Lyndhurst

**May 28.** Management Series Part 3-5. Conducting Hearings, Rowan College at Burlington, Mount Laurel

**May 29.** Management Series Part 3-5. Conducting Hearings. Bergen County College Lyndhurst

For more information or to register, visit the League's [education calendar](#).

## Get to Know Your Executive Board



Mayor Tom Bianco, Clayton

### Mayor Tom Bianco, Clayton

Mayor Tom Bianco of the Borough of Clayton is serving his fourth 4-year term, which is through December 31, 2027, and joined the League's Executive Board in 2018. He previously served as the Borough's Council President, and he is also former Clayton Council liaison to Clayton Veteran's committee and School Board liaison. In addition, he was formerly Clayton School Board president.

Presently, the Mayor is the Gloucester County Director of Economic Development. He also serves on the Gloucester County United Way board and is the Chair of Gloucester County Disability Advisory Committee and a member of Gloucester County Animal Shelter Advisory Committee. A member of the Gloucester County Parks and Golf Advisory Council. He is a former Clayton youth soccer and baseball coach.

Mayor Bianco is a graduate of Boston University.

He is married to wife, Lynn, and has four children along with a granddaughter, Aria.

### Mayor Guy Piserchia, Long Hill Township

Guy Piserchia is Mayor of Long Hill Township and has been active on the Township Committee since 2010. He has served as well on the New Jersey League of Municipalities Executive Board since 2018. Among his work as Mayor, Piserchia is a member of the Planning Board, Township representative at Inter-Municipal, County, State and Federal meetings and member of the Local Emergency Planning Council.

Piserchia is on the Legislative Committees for both the New Jersey League of Municipalities and the New Jersey Conference of Mayors. He is past President of the Morris County League of Municipalities and continues to serve on the Executive Board.

His environmental efforts include having served as Vice Chairman of the Morris County Open Space Trust Fund Committee; member of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Municipal Alliance; and Past Executive Board/Board of Trustees//Treasurer of the Great Swamp Watershed Association. He is also on the New Jersey Prayer Breakfast Steering Committee and was formerly on the Seton Hall University Stillman School of Business Finance Advisory Board where he also served as a Guest Lecturer.

Mayor Piserchia earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Seton Hall University. He is married to wife, Sandra, with whom he has a daughter, Chelsea Madison, and son, Guy Alexander.



Mayor Guy Piserchia, Long Hill Township



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## Magazine Moment

The May issue of *NJ Municipalities*' focuses on Smart City technology:

"Simply put, a smart city uses current digital technologies to enhance the delivery of local government services. This generally involves integrating information and communication technologies that utilize the internet or wireless networks." --Marc Pfeiffer.

Read more by [subscribing to NJ Municipalities](#) today.

## Want to support the League's official publication?

If your municipality has recently used a vendor and feel that their services would benefit other municipalities, [email Tasneem Kapadia](#), Advertising Manager, with their details so she can send them information about the League's magazine. Advertising in *NJ Municipalities* magazine promotes their services and could benefit other towns.

And please consider writing an article for the magazine. We're committed to sharing your success stories and concerns in the form of articles and op-eds for the publication. See the [author's guidelines](#) for more information, or [email Managing Editor Amy Spiezio](#). We're now seeking submissions for the October issue (due August 10).

Are you and your team [subscribing to NJ Municipalities](#)? Inspire your local government work by reading and building a library of the League's magazine in print or online. [View a](#)

[sample of the magazine.](#)

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