

The BRICK Times

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In This Week's Edition



BREAKING NEWS



Government Page 8

Community News Page 10-14

Dr. Izzy's Sound News Page 19

Inside The Law Page 21

RESIDENTS "THINK GREEN, SAVE GREEN" AT ANNUAL FAIR

By Alyssa Riccardi

BRICK – Despite rain in the forecast, residents came out to the annual Green Fair to learn new initiatives and make a difference environmentally.

The 13th annual Green Fair was held outdoors at the at the Bob Anstett Cultural Arts Center located on Herbertsville Road. The goal of the event is to celebrate environmental stewardship, sustainability, conservation, and green living in Brick.

Every year, the Fair has a soft theme that many of the vendors follow. This year, the theme was "Think Green, Save Green" which highlighted simple, budget-friendly ways to live sustainably and make a positive impact on the planet and your wallet.

Vin Palmieri, Brick Township Environmental Commission Secretary, said a main feature of this year's event was showcasing the Township's Economic Development Plan through NJDCA.

"The DCA are here today gathering input from the community and also conducting some surveys as well, and giving some presentations," Palmieri noted. "In addition, we also have the Buy In Brick program here and we want to have as many residents be able to sign up in conjunction with that."



Photo by Alyssa Riccardi

The Brick Garden Club gave out free herbs to residents at the Fair.

charging stations or it could be electrifying our fleet, things of that nature, so that's what we're really trying to push for," Palmieri said.

Some local businesses, nonprofits, and organizations that participated in this year's Green Fair included the Brick MUA, Brick Township Shade Tree Commission, Save Barnegat Bay and more. The event housed nearly 40 vendors, a new one being Rewild New Jersey Community Cooperative (RN-JCC) – a platform building a grassroots movement for state-wide community rewilding.

"New Jersey is borderline a space that is most at risk for losing its wild spirit, both with people and with land," RNJCC Founder Francesca Mundrick (Annual Fair - See Page 4)

Palmieri explained how the Township is currently working on and developing more green initiatives.

"We actually wrote our community energy plan, which is initiative based and it's actually a list of incentives, and there's timelines on when we will be able to implement them.

It could be new

Apartments Voted Down

By Judy Smestad-Nunn

BRICK - An application for high density housing on five acres of wooded land at 100 Drum Point Road was unanimously voted down by the Board of Adjustment at a special meeting.

It was standing room only during the meeting, which was attended by residents opposed to the plan that included nine, three-story townhouses with 48 three-bedroom units, and one apartment building containing 12 affordable rental units.

This was the fifth hearing for the application, which started in October 2024. The applicant, 100 Drum Point LLC, owned by members of the Ramani family and by James DiOrio, presented their case during the first three meetings, led by local attorney John Jackson and various professionals who touted the benefits of the project.

The last two meetings were opened to the public for questions and comments. At the final May 29th hearing, some 40 residents spoke in five minute increments, all in opposition to the plan.

The first to speak was William Henel, who is a member of BOSS (Brick Open Space Savers), a citizens advisory committee dedicated to evaluating properties for potential acquisition to support open space preservation. He said he was speaking as a concerned citizen.

Henel said the project was wrong for the

(Apartments - See Page 5)



Photo by Stephanie Faughnan

Recreational therapist Marissa Farnkoph connects with one of the young prom goers as they dance to the music.

Dance Floor Lights Up For Special Prom

By Stephanie Faughnan

TOMS RIVER - The glitter balls were spinning. The disco lights swirled purple and blue. And while some danced on their feet, others grooved from their chairs - because nothing was going to stop this crowd from getting their boogie on.

Sixteen young residents at Children's Specialized Hospital's Long Term Care Center in Toms River experienced the night of a lifetime at their very own prom. Dressed to the nines in glamorous gowns and dapper suits, the children - most of whom are medically fragile and non-verbal - shined with excitement as music pulsed through the air and the beat of joy took over the room.

"Let's get those strollers rocking!" called out one staff member, sparking a spontaneous swirl of wheelchairs to the rhythm of

the music. The dance floor came alive - not with slick moves and dramatic dips - but with the energy of love, laughter, and support.

Prom night at Children's Specialized is no ordinary event. It's part of a tradition at the RWJBarnabas Health facility, which offers long-term care for some of the most complex pediatric cases in New Jersey. Many of the residents require round-the-clock medical care and can't live at home or in traditional community settings. Still, for this one magical evening, the long-term care center transformed into a celebration hall filled with dancing, music, glitter, and heartfelt connection.

"We say medically fragile to indicate the children need ongoing medical or respiratory care," explained Carolyn Franzoso, Manager of Long-Term Care, Clinical Therapies.

(Prom - See Page 4)

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- ✓ **Keep promises made** to our seniors and veterans; restore COLA for police & fire pensioners
- ✓ **Constitutionally term-limit state legislators** to no more than 8 years in any one office
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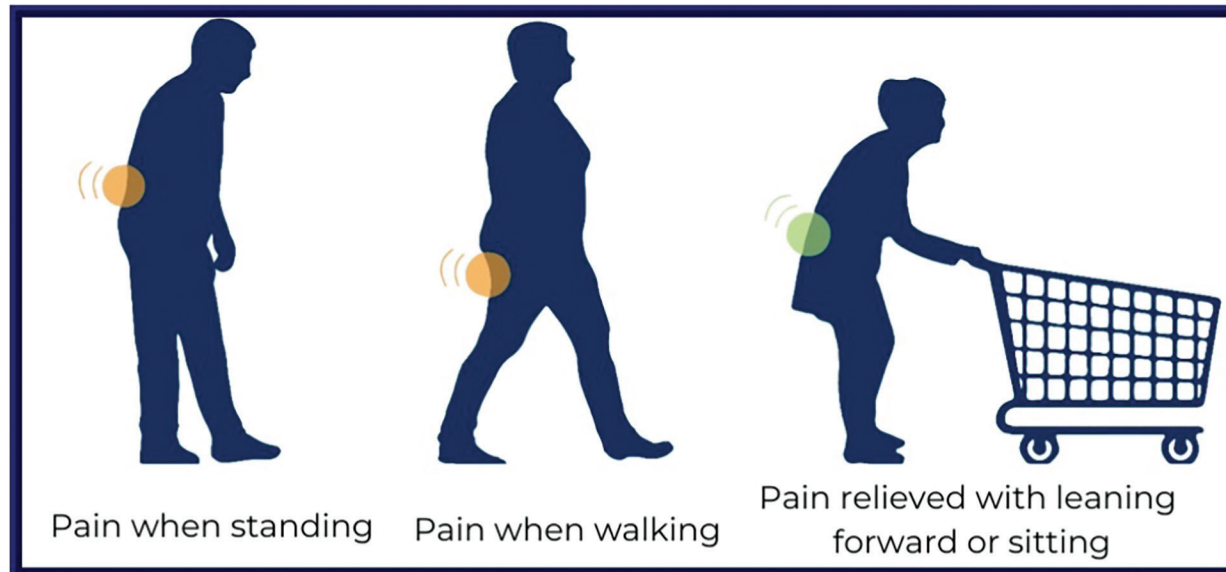
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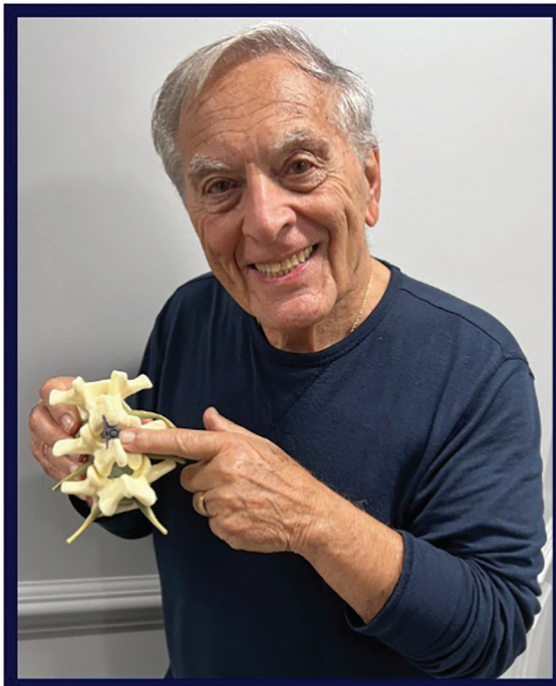
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Annual Fair:

Continued From Page 1

said. “What this is really all about is not only having people, individual residents and citizens, rewild space, like rewild nature on their properties and bring back nature to full fruition in New Jersey. It’s also about social and spiritual change and transformation for the people. It’s about thinking more about practical skills, self-sufficiency, sustainability, on a more constructive localized level, to

make to make change actually sit and work.” A major part of the Green Fair is the involvement of students from Brick Schools. Fourth graders from Midstreams Elementary School’s green team worked on several different projects throughout the school year. They teamed up with TerraCycle to collect Little Bites wrappers and applesauce pouches to recycle. They hosted woods and beach cleanups as well as collected shells which they decorated with positive green messages like “we don’t own the Earth to share it.”

Lanes Mill Elementary School’s green team collected over 350 plastic cereal bowls in just two weeks so that they wouldn’t end up in landfills. Then they shared an endless number of ideas on how to reuse the bowls, like to organize Legos or to grow a plant. “I think that a lot of times with the environment, things are always evolving and the world is changing and communities change and it’s always important to continue educating, even things that have been mainstays throughout years, whether it be recycling

or even things that are newer such as sustainability,” Palmieri said. “Between those two, I think that being able to continue to educate and have all the schools here today is really important for us because a lot of the schools and the students that are part of these schools continue to live in Brick. Eventually you know, 20, 30 years from now, they may be tabling at this event. That’s really what’s most important is to continue to have this event for as long as we can and really do it as well as we can.”

Prom:

Continued From Page 1

Franzoso started with Children’s Specialized as a recreation therapy intern in 2012. Today, she says making kids feel at home is always the goal. “Prom is an annual event for us at all three of our long-term care locations, and we try to make it extra special,” she said. “It’s not just about one night - we’re building a home-like environment filled with joy, community, and memories.”

Themed “Neon Disco,” this year’s prom didn’t disappoint. From funky mirrored glasses to sparkling dresses adorned with flowers, each child radiated pride and personality. One young girl wore a pale blue dress with glittering embroidery; fresh blooms tucked into her hair. Another’s soft peach gown shimmered under the lights – with a LED handheld on her dress added the perfect sparkle.

And then there was three-year-old Jeremiah, who stole hearts in a tan suit and danced his way through the night - his arms bouncing to the

rhythm while a delighted grin never left his face. Putting together a prom for children with complex needs takes more than glitter and good intentions. When a florist wasn’t able to deliver, staff members leapt into action - crafting corsages by hand and also styling the girls’ hair into fancy updos. They even brought out their own disco flair, dressing in shimmering outfits as they danced alongside the kids. Recreation therapist Marissa Farnkoph was one of many spotted twirling and holding hands with several of the children, helping them feel every bit a part of the fun.

The community also rallied around the event, donating formalwear and accessories to make the night extra special. Hospital executives and staff members came together in a heartfelt show of unity, proving that even those with the most complex challenges can still be the life of the party.

And when the disco ball spun and the bass dropped, there was no question - the beat wasn’t just in the music. It pulsed through every wheelchair on the floor, in every caregiver’s hand

guiding a child to dance, and in every cheer that filled the air.

While prom night was a highlight, it’s just one of the many ways Children’s Specialized builds connection and care into daily life. The Long Term Care Center in Toms River location currently serves 16 children, though it is licensed for 26. It’s one of 14 facilities throughout the state, with Toms River and Mountainside focused on long-term care, and New Brunswick offering inpatient rehabilitation. The other 11 are outpatient sites.

“We offer a really unique blend of services here,” said Franzoso. “We have recreational therapy, behavioral support, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech - all working together. And right now, we’re gearing up for our summer camp experience, where each week brings a new theme.”

For families who need extra help or time away, the Toms River center also offers respite care. “Say a child usually lives at home, but their family is going on vacation and can’t take them,” Franzoso shared. “They can come stay with us

and be a part of the themed summer camp. It gives families peace of mind and gives kids a fun and stimulating experience.”

Volunteers are a big part of what makes the center feel like home. Some come to read stories or play games. Others sign up for the cuddler program, holding and comforting infants who need that extra tender care. The team works to match volunteers with their interests so that the experience is as rewarding for them as it is for the children.

“We never want families to have to use our services,” said Franzoso. “But we’re always here for those who do. Sometimes people don’t even realize we’re here. We’re tucked away a bit, but we’re proud to be part of this community.”

That pride was on full display at prom - where the only thing brighter than the neon lights was the sense of connection in the room.

With every spin of a wheelchair and every beat of the music, these extraordinary young people showed the world that they, too, deserve a dance floor, a corsage, and a night to shine.

And shine they did.

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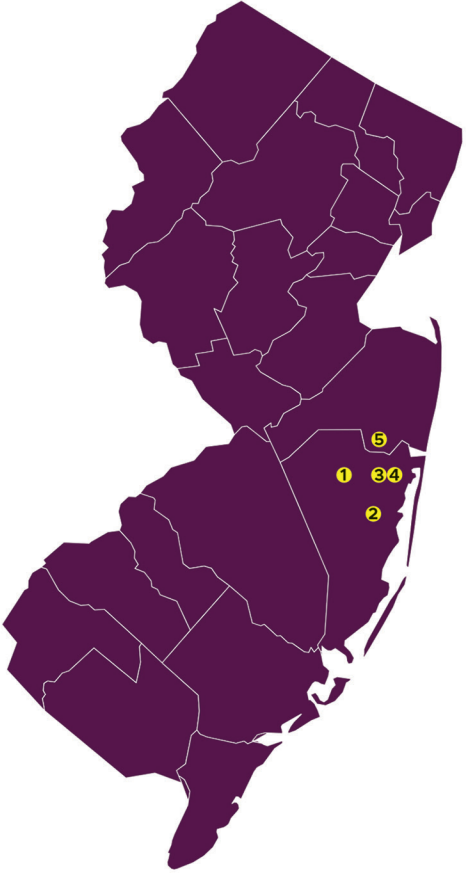
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Apartment:

Continued From Page 1

property with “a large amount of apartments in a small space...we would be taking open land and turning it into parking lots. I want to make sure the right thing is done.”

Resident Matthew Carrara called the development plan “a cockamamie idea...this is not Brooklyn, this is not Philadelphia, this is not progress, it’s a mess. It’s like putting a gorilla in a petting zoo...the [developers] don’t live in Brick, they don’t care about Brick. I feel like we’re being attacked. This would be the kiss of death for Brick,” he said. “I’ve seen communities destroyed by a bad decision.”

Many other members of the public agreed, including Victoria Gianakos, who said approving the high-density development would open the door to other developers to do the same. “It sets a drastic precedent. There would be no turning back.”

Margaret Gelsleichter called the decision “a turning point...for the soul of this town. Where does it stop?” she asked.

Residents from the adjacent Drum Point Village West noted that there are no other three-story residential buildings on Drum Point Road. Fred Weintraub said the plan

shows “no consideration on the effect of the existing community,” citing a lack of privacy and “neighbors looking at each other from their windows.”

Weintraub expressed concern for animals living on the 5.3-acre parcel, including possums, gophers, foxes, box turtles, woodpeckers and more.

“You’d be killing them all...it’s an eco-center, and there are none others in that area,” he said.

Heather Cohen, who also lives in Drum Point Village West, said their complex has 60 spaces more than what is required and there is still not enough parking for the residents there. Things got so bad that they had to form a parking committee, she said.

The Drum Point LLC planned for 156 parking spaces for the 60 units, but critics have said that the 2.4 spaces calculated for a three-bedroom unit is not enough since grown children could be living with their parents. Garage parking was included in the count.

Some members of Brick Presbyterian Church, located directly across Drum Point Road from the proposed development, were concerned that their parking lot would become used for overflow parking.

There were many residents who expressed

concern about traffic since Drum Point Road is the home to three elementary schools with staggered schedules, resulting in school bus routes throughout the day.

Lisa Keenan called the existing traffic “momentous...traffic is already a lockup,” she said.

Several members of the public talked about Drum Point Road serving as an evacuation route during emergencies, such as during Sandy.

Julie Gaffney said that since Drum Point Road is a critical coastal evacuation route, the development “threatens public safety...it’s unacceptable how the traffic would impact during an evacuation.”

Still others were concerned about the impact of adding students to the already-strained school system, which is experiencing state budget cuts that have resulted in overcrowded classrooms and a lack of student school supplies.

There were many more comments and concerns, and in the end, Board of Adjustment Chair David Chadwick explained that a “super majority,” or at least five of the seven members, would have to vote in favor of the application in order for it to pass because the applicant was asking for a Use Variance. Apartment buildings are not

permitted in the Village Zone, for which Drum Point Road is zoned.

During his closing statement, applicant attorney John Jackson noted that more traffic could be generated by a potential business for which the Village Zone does allow, such as a microbrewery, construction companies or others.

He pointed out during the meetings that approving the application would provide 12 units of affordable housing to the township’s obligated units.

Board member Eileen Della Volle said she did not want to talk about affordable housing as a criteria for approving the application.

“It’s not our responsibility for this board to make a variance for affordable housing,” she said. “That’s not our job.”

When board member Glenn Fuchs voted he said, “Yes, to deny this application, due to traffic, safety, wildlife, air quality and flooding.”

Chairman Chadwick, who cast the final vote, said he believes the application “does not meet the intent of the Village Zone, does not maintain the neighborhood character or quality, I believe that the negatives outweigh the positives,” he said. “This application is denied.”

Donate To “Cell Phones For Soldiers”

OCEAN COUNTY – Nancy Seibert has been collecting as a volunteer for the national program, Cell Phones for Soldiers for the last 20 years. The phones are collected at various

locations year-round and the Berkeley Sounds of Summer concerts during the summer.

Phones, in any condition, can be dropped off at various locations in Bayville, Beachwood, Toms

River, Lakewood, Manahawkin, and Barnegat. These phones are sent to a recycler and in turn, Nancy receives full 60-minute calling cards which are sent overseas to our troops serving in locations

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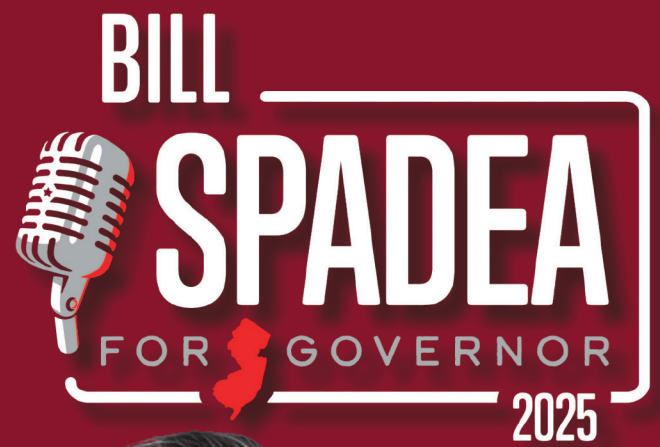
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OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



EDITORIAL

Artificial Intelligence Is Neither Artificial Or Intelligent

The Toms River School District recently crafted a policy on student use of AI, and I'm sure many other districts are somewhere in this process as well. The Toms River policy says that the default for any student project is that AI should not be used. That's good.

However, they are mistaken in the next part. They said that a lot of corporate leaders are looking to hire people with AI skills. Therefore, the district should train students on how to use AI, how not to use it, and when it is acceptable.

Corporations aren't hiring people with AI skill.

The entire point of AI is to be able to replace staff, cut costs, and have a computer do the work. A corporation will hire a single person to do the AI and that's it. There aren't going to be tons of AI jobs on the horizon because that's the exact opposite of what AI is. AI is designed to cut jobs, not create them.

Let's talk about the leaders of corporations for a second. They didn't get their job by being smart. They got it by kissing up to the right person, clinging on to buzzwords, and being cut-throat against competition. Asking a bunch of corporate leaders about the future of commerce when most cor-

porations destroy commerce is a joke.

AI is also financially unsustainable. This is because there are real resources being used. It's been announced that the next generation of AI could cost \$1,000 per prompt. Right now, those costs are mere pennies, but people can see through those cheap AI monstrosities. People ridicule obvious AI garbage when they see it online. Corporations are going to want to have something better to hide the fact that they cut corners.

Do you know when your computer heats up after a lot of use? That's what is happening at the tech centers

where AI is being generated. See, the AI isn't being created in your computer or in your phone. The actual creation happens inside entire buildings dedicated to AI. Water is used to cool these processes, just like how the Oyster Creek cooled off the nuclear plant in Lacey. It's estimated that billions of gallons of water a year are already wasted on AI. That's only going to go up. In a country where some people don't have access to clean drinking water, we're using it on something like "make a picture of Abe Lincoln as a rapper."

Getting back to the title of my editorial, AI is not artificial. It's based on the work

of real humans. Say you want to create a logo for your business; you need to feed it the logos of other companies that you like. It doesn't just fabricate out of thin air - for that you need human creativity.

The other part that isn't artificial is the prompts themselves. You choose what you put in. The AI company then owns whatever you enter. This is one of the ways it "learns." It finds out what you want by collecting what all of its users want. That means that AI being used in a school will record and own all the prompts that our children enter. Does that sound good to you?

And it's not intelligent in

any way humans measure intelligence. As I've already said, it takes other people's intelligence and turduckens it together into something else.

AI is here to stay, but these corporations thinking it's the next big thing is like the dot-bomb burst of the 90s. Everyone thought websites were the way to make zillions of dollars. As we've seen, that isn't the case.

Anyone who thinks that artificial intelligence is a viable replacement for real work is artificially intelligent.

Chris Lundy
News Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Beach Pollution Is A Serious Problem

I am a boy scout in troop 185 in Branchburg New Jersey, and I have to write a letter to a newspaper editor to satisfy a merit badge requirement.

As a resident of Toms River, I wanted to write to you about a serious issue, beach and ocean pollution and encourage people to help. Since New Jersey is a coastal area, I feel we should try and limit it. Also, beach pollution limits tourism as it is less attractive to the masses. It's very bad for the environment and it is very prevalent. After all, way more

waste than you would think ends up on beaches.

Here are some facts about beach/ocean pollution: There are about 200 million tons of just plastic in the ocean. 100 million animals die each year from just plastic waste. Also, the US is a top 20 country that is a causer of ocean pollution in the world.

You may already know, but I wanted to include what you could do to help to help others understand. The best thing you can do to prevent this is just to not litter. However, attending beach cleanups can also be very helpful. There are a series of beach cleanups coming up all spring and

summer. A great resource for finding out more would be the Lavallette environmental club.

I have a beach house in Lavallette, and it is very important to me and my family that our community stays clean.

Hopefully, this letter has helped you understand more about beach/ocean pollution and that it is a serious issue. Thanks for your attention.

William Bouziotis
Toms River

Cutting Medicaid Will Cost Lives

I was shocked to wake up this morning to the news that in the middle of the night the House of Representatives voted to cut Medicaid and SNAP, including three Representatives from my own state: Congressmen Van Drew, Smith, and Kean. Life is already hard for millions of Americans, and applying for these programs and maintaining coverage is not a walk in the park, including for people with substance use disorder.

Our communities don't need to be kicked while we are already down, and while we're trying to recover and rebuild

our lives. We want to see our Representatives focus on the real 'waste, fraud, and abuse' happening - and that's coming from corporate providers and insurers overbilling and overcharging Medicaid, not from everyday people trying to get by and stay healthy.

Myself and a group of directly impacted New Jerseyans from Congressman Van Drew's district met with his staff, just hours before the vote, and we laid out what was at stake for us: losing treatment, losing healthcare, losing access to food and housing, and possibly losing our lives to preventable overdose without continued substance use treatment.

Medicaid quite literally saved my life when I suddenly lost access to my insurance plan - because of Medicaid, I was able to see a doctor who specialized in substance use and was prescribed life-saving medication. It was a safety net and these federal programs got me back on my feet. We can't roll back the progress we've made on ending the overdose crisis. This fight isn't over - our Congressmen are going home for the Memorial Day holiday, but when they come back, the Senate will take up the bill, and we will

continue to make it clear that we need our Representatives to stand with us, not against us.

Elissa Tierney
Lead Organizer for the New Jersey Organizing Project's Not One More Campaign

SAVE Act Is Undemocratic

I have just sent the following letter to Sens. Booker and Kim:

I am writing to share my strong opposition to S.128 / H.R. 22, aka the SAVE Act, and to urge you to speak and vote against this anti-voter and undemocratic legislation.

The SAVE Act, riding on the back of Donald Trump's ongoing lies about all but nonexistent voter fraud in general and the 2020 election in particular, is not about voter protection but voter suppression. It would create barriers to voting for millions of Americans, particularly for women, trans people, and the poor - all of who are, notably, less likely to vote for Republicans than the population as a whole, revealing its true purpose.

The issue of married women

(and any divorcees and widows who did not revert to their maiden name) and many trans people not having ID that matches their birth certificate has been noted by a number of commentators. To that list I wish to add poor people, who rarely have a passport but will need to pay the fees to get one in order to register and vote (because their usual ID such as a driver's license will not suffice under the SAVE Act), making this bill an unconstitutional poll tax in disguise. (Note, too, that women and trans people have higher rates of poverty than men, amplifying the impact).

Even on its own terms, this bill is unnecessary. It is, as I'm sure you know, already a felony for non-citizens to vote in federal elections, which is why it occurs in such a minuscule percentage of votes. The SAVE Act does not even rise to the level of a solution in search of a problem - except to the extent that the "problem" is people, particularly people considered "undesirable" by conservative political forces, being able to vote at all.

Protect democracy. Oppose the SAVE Act.

Larry Erickson
Berkeley

We Welcome Letters To The Editor!

The Brick Times welcomes all points of view for publication and provides this page as an open forum for residents to express themselves regarding politics, government, current events and local concerns.

All letters are printed as space allows unless deemed offensive by the editorial staff, and provided they are signed and include address & phone number for verification. Letters may not be printed if we cannot verify them. Names will not be withheld from publication. While most letters are printed as submitted, we reserve the right to edit or reject letters.

The weekly deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday. Mail typed letters to: PO Box 521, Lakehurst, NJ 08733, fax 732-657-7388 or e-mail news@jerseyshoreonline.com. Letters may be limited to one per month per writer at the editor's discretion.

The opinions expressed in the Letters To The Editor section do not necessarily reflect those of the staff, management or sponsors of Micromedia Publications/Jersey Shore Online. Letters to the Editor are the OPINION of the writer and the content is not checked for accuracy.

SPOTLIGHT ON GOVERNMENT

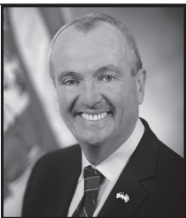
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Medicaid Recipients Speak Out As Congress Slashes Health Care Funding

From The Desk Of The

Governor

Phil Murphy



LAKEWOOD – Governor Phil Murphy met with constituents of the Fourth Congressional District of New Jersey whose lives would be negatively impacted by a U.S. House of Representatives-approved bill that cuts more than \$700 billion from Medicaid – a federal-state insurance program that provides free or low-cost health care coverage and services to eligible low-income individuals and families, children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Joined by Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Children and Families Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer, Acting Health Commissioner Jeffrey Brown, and Assemblyman Alexander “Avi” Schnall, the Governor led a roundtable discussion at the Strand Theater in Lakewood with six individuals who reside in New Jersey’s Fourth Congressional District – which is comprised of parts of Monmouth and Ocean Counties – who rely on Medicaid to access critical health coverage and services.

NJ FamilyCare, New Jersey’s Medicaid program, provides comprehensive health care coverage to 1.8 million New Jerseyans, including children, working families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities.

New Jersey Human Services has modeled how the House-approved bill will impact New Jersey:

1 in 5 New Jerseyans currently covered by NJ FamilyCare would lose health care coverage under the plan – that’s about 350,000

individuals, including half of residents covered by Medicaid expansion allowed by the Affordable Care Act.

Their plan would force policymakers to make an inhumane choice between taking fully state-funded health care away from 46,890 children by kicking them out of NJ FamilyCare coverage or making the State pay a \$700 million annual federal penalty that will take money out of our health care system.

New Jersey would receive an estimated \$3.6 billion less in annual federal Medicaid funding, including cutting about \$300 million in federal funds for hospitals at a time when uncompensated care costs for hospitals for uninsured individuals will soar.

New Jersey could lose \$12 million annually to women’s health and family planning providers, which is about a third of their operating budget.

“Medicaid is a critical lifeline that has enabled millions of New Jerseyans to access everything from annual check-ups to lifesaving health care to supportive services for complex medical needs. The House Republicans’ disastrous budget bill would rip away this lifeline, leaving hundreds of thousands of our residents without health coverage. This bill represents a profound betrayal of New Jersey’s working families,” said Governor Phil Murphy. “There are real-life consequences to the provisions of this bill, and they will have the biggest impact on families that are already struggling. It is shameful that Representative Chris Smith – along with his fellow Republican members of New Jersey’s Congressional Delegation, Tom Kean Jr. and Jeff Van Drew – put party over people and voted in favor of cutting Medicaid funding. These elected officials bear the responsibility for the harm this bill will create in communities across our state.”

“The debate around the House of Representatives’ bill has been confusing and full of false rhetoric,” said Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman. “As the person who oversees Medicaid in New Jersey, I want to be clear and honest about what it does: it cuts Medicaid coverage for hundreds of thousands of New Jerseyans who will be left uninsured. It cuts billions of dollars in vital public health funding. It forces states to create bureaucratic steps and lengthens timeframes for people to be approved for Medicaid. It punishes New Jersey for providing health care to all children. And it will unequivocally add to the cost of our health care system.”

“These proposed federal cuts to Medicaid put the health and well-being of New Jersey families, children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities at serious risk,” said Assemblyman Avi Schnall. “Statewide, nearly two million New Jerseyans rely on NJ Family Care/Medicaid for health services. The proposed federal cuts to Medicaid would severely limit New Jerseyans’ abilities to access the care that they deserve and are, quite simply, unacceptable.”

Health care services provided by NJ FamilyCare include doctor visits, eyeglasses, hospitalization, lab tests, X-rays, prescriptions, regular check-ups, mental health, dental, preventive screenings, autism services, community doula services, and help with personal care needs. These services may include both health care and long-term care services that enable people with complex needs to live fully in the community in their own homes, or in a facility relying on 24/7 nursing and medical attention. Some services are designed to help individuals with disabilities live safely and independently in the community through direct support professionals, day habilitation programs, supported employment, behavioral supports, and more.

The event featured testimonials from the following constituents:

Andrew McGeady (**Jackson**): Andrew is an adult who experiences severe cerebral palsy and respiratory issues. He relies on Medicaid for staffing, medical equipment such as wheelchairs, and accessible vehicle modifications, as well as medical visits, therapy, and Medicare premiums B & D.

Lauren Williams (**Jackson**): Lauren’s teenage daughter, Carah, receives services and lives in a residential group home through New Jersey’s Children’s System of Care. Medicaid has enabled Carah to access critical care and mental health services.

Noah Burton (**Lakewood**): Noah is a proud parent of five children ranging from 20 to 30 years old, two of whom, Samuel (28) and Aaron (20), have Aicardi-Goutières syndrome (AGS). Samuel, who has a more severe form of AGS, is quadriplegic, wheelchair-bound, tube fed, and experiences multiple related medical conditions. He lives at home and attends a day program during the week. Samuel relies on Medicaid for health coverage and to help access important services.

Laura Williams (**Point Pleasant**): Laura is the mother of a teenage son, Chris, who has intellectual and developmental disabilities. Chris currently resides in a residential group home where he receives Medicaid-funded supports and services.

Louis Bonilla (**Brick**): Louis is an older adult and resident of Complete Care at Laureilton. Medicaid allows him to access affordable health care.

Vanesa Nieto (**Lakewood**): Vanesa is a mother of three with a fourth baby on the way. She and her family have been covered through Medicaid for two years, and having access to this health coverage has enabled her and her kids to stay healthy.

The One Big Beautiful Bill And Medicaid Protections

From The Desk Of

Congressman

Chris Smith



LAKEWOOD - It is deeply disappointing that through a closed-door, invitation-only, staged meeting, Governor Murphy is attempting to orchestrate a hit job on President

Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act, and against me and my Republican colleagues because we voted for a bill to put America on the right course by providing massive tax relief for the middle class, growing our economy, securing our borders, offering new school choice tax benefits for parents, and protecting Medicaid, Social Security and Medicare precisely for those who are entitled and most in need of these

precious benefits.

In endorsing the bill, the National Fraternal Order of Police - one of the many organizations to support the legislation - underscored the provisions that help its rank-and-file, middle class members, namely ‘an increase in the State and Local Taxes (SALT) deduction and the tax deduction for overtime pay.’

Most regrettably, Murphy, with his hand-selected participants including from his own administration, is fearmongering among those who are entitled to Medicaid and will still have it after this bill is signed

into law.

To be clear, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act does not change the federal share or commitment to Medicaid recipients. It safeguards the federal funds and ensures the money is here for those who are eligible and need it most.

For instance, the bill prohibits people who are in the United States illegally from getting Medicaid. As the head of a sanctuary state, that presents a problem for the Governor that he does not want to face or discuss.

(Government - See Page 9)

The bill also creates a new work and/or volunteer requirement for able-bodied recipients - modest requirements that can be met with approximately 20 hours a week of: work, volunteering, schooling, or a combination of the three.

The Governor and his team are aware and should note there are significant and compassionate exceptions from these work requirements listed in Section 44141 of the bill ensuring that the work requirements do not apply to the following individuals:

Pregnant women, individuals under the age of 19 or over the age of 64; foster youth and former foster youth under the age of 26; individuals who are considered medically frail (which includes, but is not limited to, individuals who are blind or disabled who have a chronic substance use disorder, who have a serious and complex medical condition, or who have a condition, as defined by the State and approved by the Secretary, as meeting the definition of medically frail); individuals who are already in compliance with the work requirements under other federal assistance programs.

Also exempted are individuals who are a parent or caregiver of a dependent child or an individual with a disability and it provides short-term hardship waivers for natural disasters and for counties where the unemployment rate is high.

I have been on the frontline of helping with the expansion of quality medical care in our communities and I remain fully committed to ensuring a strong federal partnership in the delivery of health care to all residents of New Jersey. This bill strengthens Medicaid by protecting it for those who truly need it.

It is insulting that the Governor has portrayed this meeting as “official business” - this is a partisan, political, campaign-related event, and it’s shameful that taxpayer resources were used to stage it.

Like many other health care and public

policy leaders in Lakewood, I chose not to attend this superficial meeting.

In Lakewood, we have been fighting for years for legislation such as the Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA) and my bill, Education Achievement and Opportunity Act (HR 2097), to allow families to choose the academic options that best fit their children's needs.

Among the many significant provisions in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act is a section named “Scholarship Granting Organizations,” which will provide tax credits to individuals and businesses that donate to scholarship funds that families can then use to help cover expenses related to K-12 public and private education.

Many states already have these programs, but the Governor has refused to advance these provisions in New Jersey. Now many parents in Lakewood will be able to pursue this path with support at the federal level.

The bill also renews the Opportunity Zone program to spur over \$100 billion in new investment over the coming decade. Ocean and Monmouth counties are home to 18 Opportunity Zones; 10 in Ocean County, 6 of which are in Lakewood; and 8 in Monmouth.

For decades, I have aggressively and successfully supported Medicaid and other urgently-needed safety-net services for vulnerable populations including writing several laws for children and families with autism and other disabilities and, as the former chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, writing several groundbreaking laws for veteran's health and benefit programs and establishing several veterans' health and services clinics in New Jersey.

Specifically in Lakewood - the same town where Murphy is staging this fake roundtable discussion - I fought hard and won approval for two, not one, but two Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) that meet tens of thousands of Medicaid patient visits per year.

POINT PLEASANT – Summer is right around the corner! Park Summer Camp 2025 registration is open now for residents and non-residents.

Camp runs Monday through Friday from July 7 to August 15, 8:15 a.m. drop-off and 12:45 p.m. pick-up, at Pleasure Park, Point Pleasant Beach.

Cost is \$450 for Point Pleasant Beach Full-Time Resident and \$700 for Non-Point Pleasant Beach Resident.

Residents can continue to register through June 14. Spaces for residents will not be guaranteed after May 1. Spots for non-residents will be given out first-come, first-served based on camp numbers and spots available.

A PPB Resident is defined as any child whose

TOMS RIVER—Join Toms River Recreation & Parks, and the Green Team for a spring beach sweep to get ready for the summer season, on June 14 at 9 a.m. at either Ortley Beach or Shelter Cove Beach.

Gloves and trash bags will be supplied as we all work together to provide a clean and safe beach for our families to enjoy. No registration is needed, bring the family or civic group to the beach to join in.

The graphic is a black and white advertisement. At the top, the text 'THE TOY & COMIC SPOT' is displayed. 'THE' is in a tall, thin, outlined font. 'TOY &' is in a bold, outlined font. 'COMIC' is in a very large, bold, outlined font. 'SPOT' is inside a solid black circle with the word in white. Below this, a line of text reads 'THE BEST LOCAL COMIC BOOK STORE AT THE JERSEY SHORE.' followed by 'YOUR ONE STOP FOR VINTAGE TOYS, COMIC BOOKS, SPORTS AND NON-SPORTS (TCG) CARDS.' in a bold, outlined font. On the left side, there is a large, jagged starburst shape. Inside the starburst, the text 'WE BUY COLLECTIONS' is written in a bold, outlined font, followed by 'Want to sell your comic books, vintage toys & trading cards?' in a regular outlined font. On the right side, below the main text, it says 'Follow us on FB or Instagram at In The Ring Collectibles so you never miss an event or sale'. At the bottom right, the address 'The Toy & Comic Spot 1889 NJ 88, Brick NJ 08724' is listed, followed by the phone number '732-899-9098' and the email 'comicspot88@gmail.com'.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

CLUB NEWS, ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sign Up For Summer Fun With Brick Recreation

BRICK – Looking for ways to keep your child active this summer? Or maybe you’re looking for a fun activity to enjoy yourself? Brick Recreation has something for everyone with a variety of summer programs for all ages! From kickball and bocce to athletic clinics designed to help young people grow and improve, there’s no shortage of opportunities to stay active and have fun. Take a look at some of the exciting programs you can register for today:

Summer Outdoor Basketball – for girls in grades 5 to 8 and boys in grades 5 to 12 in the upcoming school year. Two games per week from July 7 through August 10. Games at Arrowhead Park. Registration fee is \$75 per player.

Summer Basketball Camp – for residents in grades 4 to 8 in the upcoming school year. Summer Basketball Camp will focus on developing players through stations and other small group drills. Camp coaches will help players learn the necessary skills to take their game to the next level! Two sessions available; Session 1 is June 23 to June 26 and Session 2 is July 7 to July 10. Sessions are held 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Brick Township High School. Fee is \$75 per camper.

Adult Kickball – for residents ages 18 and over. 10-week co-ed league with doubleheaders every week. Games held Friday evenings at the Drum Point Sports Complex. Playoffs at end of season. Fee is \$100 per team.

Track And Field Clinic – for residents in grades 3 to 9 in the upcoming school year. This is a four-day clinic run by experienced coaches. Participants will be instructed on running mechanics, dynamic stretching, sprints, relays, shot put, discus, javelin, long jump, high jump and pole vault. July 7 through July 10 at Brick Township High School Track facility. Fee is \$60 per athlete.

Bocce – for residents ages 18 and over. Ten-week season beginning June 16 with two-person teams competing in single game matches. Playoffs at end of season. Teams can play on Monday or Wednesday evenings. Games are held at the Windward Beach Bocce Courts. Fee is \$50 per team.

Cornhole – for residents ages 18 and over. Cornhole League games are best out of three and held at Windward Beach on Wednesday evenings beginning June 18. Ten-week season with playoffs at end. Fee is \$50 per team.

Comedian Vic DiBitetto Sets Show For Sound Waves Theater

ATLANTIC CITY – Comedian, actor and social media star Vic DiBitetto is coming to Sound Waves Theater at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City. His stand-up comedy show is set for December 5 at 8 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at HardRockHotelAtlanticCity.com or Ticketmaster.com. All shows are subject to change.

He prowls the stage like a tiger. He holds no hostages. He says what you are thinking but are afraid to say out loud. Oh...and he’s beyond hysterical! Vic DiBitetto is

currently a cast member of the Amazon Prime TV Series Gravesend. He has created many viral video characters, including Uncle Vic’s Garage, Tony Gaga, That Guy, Frankie Pentangelli, Scarface, Rocky, Fool by the Pool and Ticked Off Vic. His Yankee and Giant locker room and press conference satires are now legendary. And his Bread and Milk video is like a Christmas Carole that comes back on TV, radio and news outlets every time it snows world-wide! You’ve never seen anything like Vic DiBitetto on stage. So see him on stage!

Breton Woods Fire Company 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament

BRICK – Come join Station 21 as they host their 2nd annual cornhole tournament on August 17 at American Legion Post 348, 822 Mantoloking Road.

Guaranteed to be a fun-filled day with prizes, food, beer and great company. Show your support and sign up today!

Register starts at 9:30 a.m. Tournery starts at 10 a.m. Cost is \$95 per team and includes T-shirt, beer mug, beer on tap wristband, BBQ style picnic

Deadline to sign up is July 11. Got questions? Email: bretonwoodsfireco21@gmail.com.

DAV Chapter 20 Monthly Meeting

BRICK – The Disabled American Veterans Chapter 20 – Brick will hold its regular monthly meeting on June 17 at 7 p.m. at 1810 Lanes Mill Road, Brick.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Send your community events to news@jerseyshoreonline.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

CLUB NEWS, ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

5th Grade Students Graduate From DARE Program

BRICK – The 5th grade students of St. Dominic Elementary School completed the DARE program.

Mayor Lisa Crate and Councilwoman Heather deJong joined Chief of Police Dave Forrester, Capt. Paul Catalina, and our dedicated DARE officers to honor the students’ commitment to making positive choices.

A special congratulations to the winners of the poster and essay contests! Your hard work and creativity truly shined.

Thank you to the Brick Township Police Department, St. Dominic Elementary School and everyone who makes this program possible. Here’s to a bright and promising future for these young graduates!

Photo courtesy
Brick Township



Brick Memorial Choir Shines At Carnegie Hall



Photo courtesy Brick Schools

BRICK – It’s not every day our Mustangs take the stage at one of the most prestigious venues in the world, but that’s exactly what happened when select members of the Brick Memorial High School Choir performed at Carnegie Hall.

Under the dedicated leadership of Choir Director Mr. Kevin Bettys, nine outstanding students, Emily Farrell, Caia Cano, Alena Casanova, Caitlyn Barry, Kelly Fitzgerald, Lacey Verga, Robyn Brown, Cole Dawson, and Jonmichael Moon, joined voices with talented singers from across the nation in a truly unforgettable experience.

The ensemble performed several breathtaking choral works arranged by Mack Wilberg, conductor of the world-renowned Tabernacle Choir. Selections included “Deep River,” “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” and the emotionally resonant “A Cloud of Witnesses,” which made its Carnegie Hall premiere during the event.

The concert was not only a celebration of musical excellence, but also a testament to the passion, discipline, and heart of these Mustangs. We could not be prouder of their hard work, talent, and the way they represented our school community on a global stage.

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COMMUNITY NEWS
CLUB NEWS, ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Detective Graduates From Crime
Scene Investigation Course



Photo courtesy Brick Police

BRICK – Congratulations to Detective Brian Foley! Detective Foley has successfully graduated from the New Jersey State Police Crime Scene Investigation Course, presented by the Forensic and Technical Services Bureau.

This intensive program has equipped him with the skills needed to expertly

manage the complexities of crime scene processing, significantly enhancing the capabilities of the Brick Township Police Department.

Detective Foley will be assigned to the Identification Bureau, where his expertise will further strengthen our commitment to serving the community.

Island Heights Volunteer Fire Co. 1
Announces Summerbrew 2025

ISLAND HEIGHTS – Summerbrew is back again for another great year! Set for June 28 from 5 to 11 p.m.

In honor of this being our 25th year running this event, we are bringing in live entertainment the entire night from The Drunken Clams, The Beverlees, and The Surge Entertainment.

The price of admission includes all food and

beverages. Check back for more information on flash sales on tickets, VIP packages, an updated list of beers and breweries and more!

Tickets are available for purchase from any Island Heights Firefighter, or online at zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/summerbrew-2025-presented-by-island-heights-vol-fire-co-1. Event is 21 and older only, and is a rain or shine event.

The Brick Times welcomes your special announcements! Engagements, Weddings, Births, Birthday Wishes, etc. Please call 732-657-7344 for more details!

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COMMUNITY NEWS

CLUB NEWS, ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brick Township’s Annual Memorial Day Parade



Photo courtesy Brick Township

BRICK – Brick Township’s Annual Memorial Day Parade was held on May 26 as our community came together to honor and remember the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service

to our nation. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated in the parade and to all who lined the streets and attended the ceremony at Town Hall.

Local Pets Available For Adoption



Photo courtesy Jersey Shore Animal Center

BRICK – Rascal Catts - ready to sing his way right into your heart! This 1-year-old heartthrob might not be touring with Rascal Flatts, but he does like to put on a show - especially when he’s ready for playtime or treats! He’s got the energy of a rockstar, the good looks to match, and yes... he’s been known to meow a catchy tune or two. Rascal Catts is playful, active, and full of purr-sonality. He’d love a home where he can show off his moves, chase all the toys, and maybe even serenade you now and then. Come meet this handsome little rascal - he’s ready to be the lead singer in your life! You can view this pet and more at jerseyshoreanimalcenter.org. They are located at 185 Brick Boulevard and can be reached at 732-920-1600.

Resorts Casino Trip

BRICK – The St. Dominic’s Adult Social Club is sponsoring a trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on June 13. The bus will leave St. Dominic’s Church at 9:15 a.m. The cost of the trip is \$40 per person and includes a tip for the driver. You will

receive \$18 in a slot voucher from the casino. Contact either Terri or Adam Drapczuk at 732-255-7242. Checks should be made payable to the St. Dominic’s Adult Social Club and may be sent to Terri Drapczuk 19 Lawndale Drive Brick, NJ 08723-7331.



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Rose Garden Celebrates 20th Anniversary

My name is Andrew Shawn,
Owner/Administrator of
Rose Garden Nursing and Rehabilitation.
I have been a Nursing Home
Administrator for the past 45 years.

Rose Garden opened on May 17th, 2005
and has served the Toms River and greater
Ocean County area proudly for 20 years.
It has been our vision and singular goal to
"change hearts and minds" about the
existing perception, and in some cases the
reality of experiencing a stay at a
Long-Term Care Facility.

Our aim has been to be guided by the
"Golden Rule", a principle of ethics and
morality that desires treating others
as you would like to be treated.

The fundamentals are empathy and
reciprocity in human interaction.
I believe firmly Rose Garden has achieved
that goal over our 20 years of service
to our families and guests.

I am here to tell you that moving
forward, that commitment remains the
cornerstone of our philosophy.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CLUB NEWS, ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cop Promoted, Three Officers Join



Screenshots by Judy Smestad-Nunn

Newly promoted Sergeant Joseph McGrath joined by (from left) Mayor Lisa Crate, his wife Samantha, his two sons Miles and Max and Police Chief David Forrester.

By Judy Smestad-Nunn

BRICK - The most recent Township Council meeting began with a Police Department ceremony that recognized four officers.

"Tonight we gather to celebrate a moment of pride and achievement," said Police Chief David Forrester. "One that highlights dedication, perseverance, and honorable service."

The Chief said it was a privilege to recog-

ple for your colleagues and the generations of officers who will follow in your footsteps."

Chief Forrester said that Sgt. McGrath's hard work and commitment to excellence brought him to that moment "and we commend you for all that you have achieved."

He then turned his comments to the three new officers.

"You are joining a department that prides itself on history, achievements and values. We strive for excellence, innovation and collaboration and our strength lies in our unity," the chief said. "You will foster community engagement, support one another and grow alongside your peers to provide the professional service our residents deserve."

He told the new hires that the road ahead would require resilience, courage, and the support of their family, friends and colleagues.

"Never forget the oath you take tonight," Chief Forrester said. "Let it guide you as you uphold integrity, character and public trust in every step you take."

The new officers include Dominic DeStefano (Badge #358), Joseph Ramirez (Badge #359), and Dylan Affinito (Badge #360).



(From left) Mayor Lisa Crate, Officer Dylan Affinito, Officer Joseph Ramirez, Officer Dominic DeStefano and Chief David Forrester.

nize the well-earned promotion of one of the department's finest officers alongside the swearing in of three new officers.

He said that newly-promoted Sgt. Joseph McGrath has shown leadership, expertise and dedication that has shown a "powerful exam-

Spark Up Some Business

BRICK - Watch fireworks on the water and network! Join the Brick Chamber of Commerce for a sunset cruise to watch the fireworks and spark some new business connections.

Spark Up Some Business will be on June

26 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. (boat departs promptly at 7:30 p.m.) at The Pig & Parrot Brielle Yacht Club, 201 Union Lane, Brielle.

Tickets are \$50 per person and includes light fare. BYOB.

Register at brickchamber.com.

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BILL SPADEA
2A
for Governor



RAY GORMLEY & SAM ELLENBOGEN
1C & 2C
for Commissioners



JOHN P. KELLY
2D
for Clerk



MIKE MASTRONARDY
1E
for Sheriff

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We need **Common Sense Conservative Values** in Ocean County and New Jersey.

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- ✓ Support and Protect Our Seniors and Veterans
- ✓ Fight For School Choice
- ✓ Support Our Police and First Responders
- ✓ Work to Lower Taxes
- ✓ Keep Men Out of Womens Sports and Locker Rooms

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STATE OFFICES

GOVERNOR
FOUR YEAR TERM
(VOTE FOR ONE)

1A

2A **BILL SPADEA** ✓
ENDORSED OCEAN COUNTY REGULAR REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION

3A

COUNTY OFFICES

MEMBER OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THREE YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR TWO)

1C **Ray GORMLEY** ✓
ENDORSED OCEAN COUNTY REGULAR REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION

2C **Sam ELLENBOGEN** ✓
ENDORSED OCEAN COUNTY REGULAR REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION

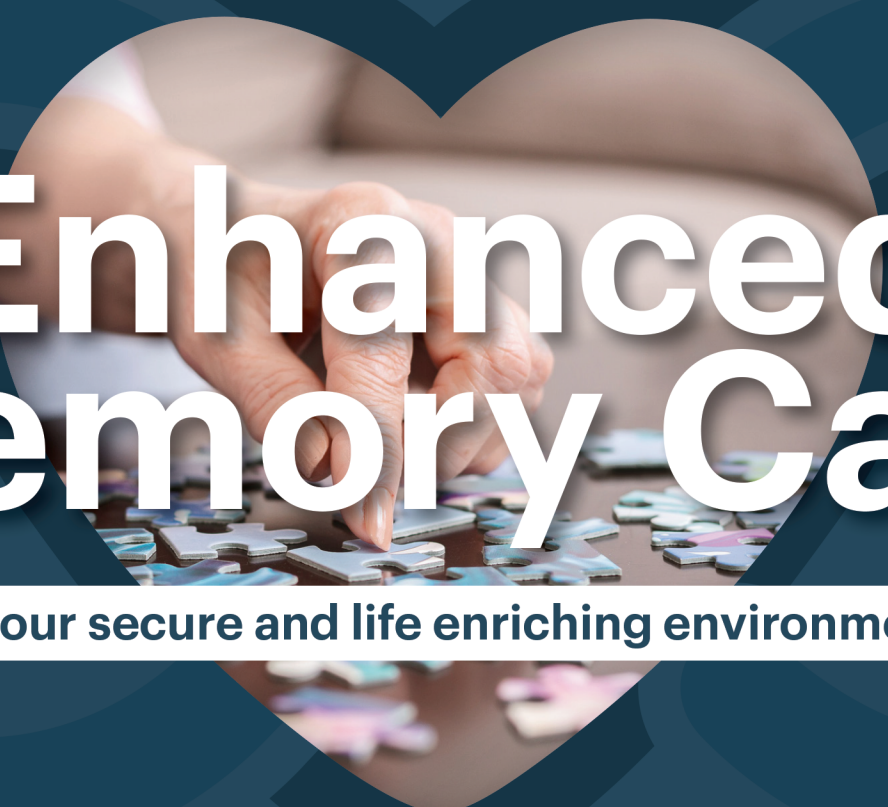
COUNTY CLERK
FIVE YEAR TERM
(VOTE FOR ONE)

1D

2D **John P. "Jack" KELLY** ✓
ENDORSED OCEAN COUNTY REGULAR REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION

SHERIFF
THREE YEAR TERM
(VOTE FOR ONE)

1E **Michael MASTRONARDY** ✓
ENDORSED OCEAN COUNTY REGULAR REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION

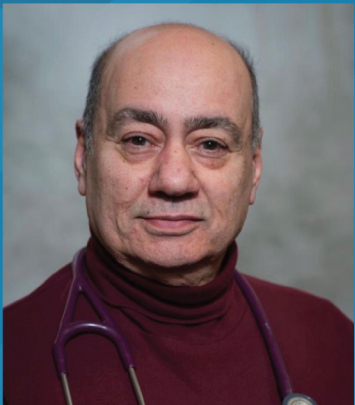


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- Units have access to outside courtyards



MEET OUR MEMORY CARE DIRECTOR

Dr. Joshua Shua-Haim, Geriatrician

Dr. ShuaHaim has been practicing geriatric medicine for over 30 years. During his residency program he had an opportunity to have geriatric training at an Alzheimer Center. He discovered then that he wanted to practice geriatric medicine. Dr. ShuaHaim believes there are 3 equally

important focuses when caring and treatment those with dementia and memory impairments. They are to stabilize the patient, control their behaviors, and ease the burden of the caregiver.

Join
-US-

A stack of US dollar bills, including \$100 and \$50 bills, tied with rubber bands. The bills are fanned out, showing the front of several bills. The \$100 bills are white with green and black ink, and the \$50 bills are green with black ink. The bills are tied with yellow rubber bands.



20%

A close-up photograph of a gold bar resting on a stack of US dollar bills. The gold bar is rectangular with a textured surface and has the words 'GOLD BAR' and '999.9' engraved on it. The dollar bills are partially visible, showing the portrait of George Washington and the number '100'.

A collection of traditional Indian jewelry, including a large necklace, bangles, and earrings, displayed on a dark surface.

1 Carat...up to...\$30,000
2 Carat...up to...\$50,000
3 Carat...up to...\$75,000
4 Carat...up to...\$150,000
5 Carat...up to...\$500,000





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HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH



Dr. Izzy's Sound News

Presented By:
Isidore Kirsh, Ph.D., F.A.A.A. (N.J. Lic. #678)



Dr. Isidore Kirsh
Ph.D., F.A.A.A.

The Hidden Downsides Of Costco Hearing Aids: What You Should Know

Limited Brand and Model Selection
Costco carries a curated selection of hearing aid brands, including Jabra (powered by ReSound), Philips, and Rexton. While these brands are reputable, the range is significantly narrower compared to what an independent audiologist may offer. If you're seeking a specific brand or a model with niche features, you might not find it at Costco.

Additionally, the models sold at Costco are sometimes modified or "Costco-specific" versions, meaning they may lack some of the advanced features found in their retail counterparts.

Service Is Only Available Through Costco
All fittings, adjustments, and maintenance must be done through a Costco Hearing Aid Center. If you move, travel frequently, or don't live near a Costco, accessing follow-up care and support can become inconvenient or impractical.

Less Personalized Care
Costco's approach tends to be more standardized. While staff are licensed, the level of customization may be less than what you'd receive from a private audiology clinic-potentially affecting outcomes for those with complex needs.

Technology and App Limitations
Costco-specific models may offer fewer features than their retail counterparts.

Some users report limitations with app compatibility, Bluetooth streaming, or remote adjustments.

Busy Schedules and Long Wait Times
Costco Hearing Centers are in high demand. It can take weeks to schedule appointments, particularly for follow-ups or adjustments.

Out-of-Pocket Costs
Costco does not bill insurance for hearing aids. Most purchases are paid entirely out-of-pocket, which may be a drawback if you have insurance coverage elsewhere.

Lack of Medical Oversight
Costco's hearing aid providers cannot diagnose or treat medical conditions. For medical causes of hearing loss, you'll still need to consult an ENT or audiologist.

Final Thoughts... Costco hearing aids can be a great value for those with straightforward hearing loss. However, they may not be ideal if you need advanced features, personalized care, or more convenient long-term service. Consider getting a full evaluation from an audiologist and think about your ongoing care needs before purchasing.

Dr. Izzy and his Staff will continue to educate you about hearing care choices. Please feel free to contact our office at 732-451-3962 or visit our website at gardenstatehearing.com.

His offices are in Toms River, Whiting, and Manahawkin. He can be reached at 732-451-3962 or via Web site at gardenstatehearing.com. Dr. Izzy & Staff gives Retirement Community Talks!



Dear Pharmacist

Suzy Cohen, R. Ph.

Your Brain Called Me. It Wants Better Fuel

By Suzy Cohen, R. Ph.

If you've ever walked into a room and immediately forgotten why you went in, welcome to the club. While occasional forgetfulness is normal, persistent memory blips might be your brain's way of saying, "Hey, I need a little help here."

Memory loss isn't always a sign of dementia. Often, it's the result of lifestyle stressors, low-grade inflammation, nutrient deficiencies, or simply tired brain cells struggling to keep up. Most of us are glued to our phones and only paying half attention to everything else.

Our neurons rely on neurotransmitters like acetylcholine and growth factors like BDNF (Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor) to do the heavy lifting. Without them, you feel foggy, fatigued, and disconnected.

Several mental health issues also come with memory problems as a side dish. Depression can shrink the hippocampus. Anxiety elevates cortisol, which chips away at memory consolidation. Even insomnia and chronic pain can tax cognitive function, not to mention certain medications that mess with acetylcholine levels.

Scientists have studied natural compounds and nutrients for brain performance. Brain fuel compounds like Bacopa monnieri, Lion's Mane mushroom, and Acetyl-L-Carnitine show results for supporting memory, focus, and cognitive resilience. Other fuels like phosphatidylserine, Ginkgo biloba, EGCG from green tea, and methylated B12 are involved in pathways that regulate mitochondrial energy, neurotransmitter levels, and synaptic plasticity.

When combined thoughtfully, these compounds can reinforce your brain's natural repair systems and enhance mental clarity.

For example, Lion's Mane promotes nerve growth factor (NGF), which helps neurons regrow and repair. That's right, your brain can regenerate. Think of NGF as your brain's landscaping crew which is planting new trees, trimming the weak branches, and keeping the garden looking spiffy. Meanwhile, acetylcholine—basically your brain's caffeine, keeps you sharp, focused, and possibly able to recall every contestant on Alone without Googling.

We also threw in ingredients to promote myelination - the fatty insulation on nerve fibers. Why? Because faster signal transmission = faster thinking. It's like upgrading your mental modem from 1999 DSL to fiber-optic speed.

I go into more detail—science and a little snark included on my blog. And yes, there's another hot yoga joke. My relationship with that activity is... let's call it love-hate. You can read the full memory article right now at suzycohen.com where I've posted a more comprehensive version of it. Or, if you're the type who loves learning little-known facts and real strategies for better health, you can also sign up for my free newsletter while you're there.

I promise no spam, no nonsense, just the same clinical pearls and wit you'd expect if we were chatting over coffee together. Be sure to use the search box on my site too, I've been archiving articles in a 'medical library' for over 30 years, and it's all there waiting for you.

Whether you're 42 or 82, there's always something you can do to support your brain. Give it the nutrients it craves and a little love, it's the only one you've got.

(This information is not intended to treat, cure or diagnose your condition. Suzy Cohen is the author of "The 24-Hour Pharmacist" and "Real Solutions." For more information, visit www.SuzyCohen.com)
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Grief Counseling Groups

OCEAN COUNTY – Grief Counseling Groups throughout Ocean County provided Rev. Dr. Anthony Lipari, FCM.

Last week of every month at:

Monday 1 p.m. – Ocean County Memorial Park -Waretown

Tuesday 1 p.m. – Tim Ryan Funeral Home Fisher Boulevard - Toms River

Wednesday 1 p.m. – Quinn-Hopping Funeral Home-Mule Road -Toms River

Thursday 1 p.m. – Anderson Campbell Funeral Home Ridgeway Boulevard - Manchester

Friday 1 p.m. – Manchester Memorial Home - Whiting

Rev Dr Lipari, FCM, A Franciscan Friar, has served the Ocean County are for over 21 years in ministry to the terminally ill and the grieving. All groups are free and donations are welcomed. Call Fr. Anthony at 732-349-6797 for more information.

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group

BRICK – Join at Johnson Rehabilitation Institute at Ocean University Medical Center in the OUMC Community Room (through the Jack Martin Boulevard Outpatient Pavilion Entrance) on the first Monday of each month from 1 to 2 p.m.

Contact 732-836-4523 or email Joyce.Francheschini@hmn.org for further information.

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OCC’s 2025 Nursing Graduates Honored At Annual Pinning Ceremony



Photo courtesy Ocean County College

TOMS RIVER – One hundred thirty-five students from the Ocean County College Nursing Class were honored at the annual Nurses’ Pinning Ceremony on May 20 on the College’s main campus in Toms River. The graduates successfully completed a two-year course of study leading to an Associate in Applied Science degree in Nursing during the fall of 2024 (63 graduates) and spring of 2025 (72 graduates).

“The pinning ceremony is a nursing school tradition,” Dr. Teresa Walsh, dean of OCC’s School of Nursing and Health Sciences, told the graduates assembled on the College’s Gateway Building lawn. “It represents your transition from role of student to nurse.”

The tradition of pinning originally dates back to the 1860s, when Florence Nightingale was presented with a medal for her services as a military nurse. Nightingale in turn rewarded her own nursing students with medals as a symbol of their hard work and dedication. These medals were later replaced with pins that identify the nursing school the students attended.

The Ocean County College School of Nursing continues this tradition by presenting each graduating nurse with a pin that represents the completion of OCC’s nursing program.

“We hope you remember this ceremony long after the celebrations have ended, and as you journey through the exciting, rewarding, and often unpredictable - but gratifying - world of nursing,” Dr. Walsh added.

Dr. Pamela Monaco, president of Ocean County College, also addressed the class. “Today, we celebrate these graduating students’ years of incredible dedication and hard work, and plant a milestone that marks the beginning of their professional careers,” she said. “For us at the College, it is also an opportunity to recognize their outstanding accomplishments as graduates of the rigorous nursing education program here at Ocean County College, as well as our chance to be among the first to welcome them as they enter their new profession.”

More than \$44,000 in scholarships and awards was presented to graduates during the ceremony, which was televised live on ocean.edu and on Ocean TV-20 via Comcast Channel 20 and Verizon FiOS of Northern Ocean County Channel 24. Repeat broadcasts will be available throughout the remainder of the month. For more information, visit go.ocean.edu/graduation.

The Ocean County College Nursing Graduates

Nursing Class of Fall 2024: Tessa Arguello; Andrew Artiles; Sheena Benites; Emily Burdynski; Toni Cantalupo; Nicole Cantos; Hayley Capriotti; Svetlana Chaglei; Madison Cornish; Germrad Cortez; Dondre Craig; Christina Daranijo; Laura DePalma; Bryanna DeSousa; Rivkah Eisdorfer; Joseph Favato; Lucy Freund; Kimberly Gill; Morgan Glunk; Ashley Guthrie; Kathryn Hansson; Brianna Helwig; Melissa Horner; Alexis Jackson; Samantha Joyce; Siana Lanni; Erik Lazenby; Victoria Leszczak; Tayler Lucia; Kaitlyn Maliniak; Mackenzie Marcus; Taylor McCormack; Fanny Michel; Corinne Moore; Ian Mullin; Nicholas Navarra; Pirlanta Ozturk; Jennifer Padilla; Leah Pappalardo; Sarah Penna; Ryan Piccione; Martha Rafael Santiago; Michael Ramos; Juliana Reddan; Victoria Roca; Ashley Rose; Christina Rose; Tristan Sadsad; Brianna Schenker; Hashaiyla Scott; Brianna Solly; Taylor Sorge; Marissa Spirito; Toni Suarez; Jillian Tattoli; Gianna Torres; Natalie Valente; MacKenzie Vaz; Dina Ward; Carly Wasco; Tyler Weiss; Hazel Wilson; Emma Wisniewski.

Nursing Class of Spring 2025: Olivia Badami; Nicholle Barcalow; Kylie Maria Bautista; Kali Bennette; Allison Rae Biedzynski; Mark Bixenman; Jessica M. Brocklebank; Katelyn M. Carney; Wilson Sebastian Castillo Alvarez; Alexis Clark; Bailey Clark; Dorothy E. Cortes; Analise Katherine Cushman; Adrianna Dancisin; Anthony M Dante; Nicholas Decicco; Angelina M. Donnellon; Yozeyda Iliana Espinoza; Jillian Marie Essig; Allison Nicole Foster; Jose C. Garcia Jr; Veronique Catherine Gleghorn; Danielle Gonzalez;

(Graduates - See Page 23)

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R.C. Shea & Assoc. Inside The Law

The Bulk Sales Act As It Applies To The Sale Of Real Estate

By: Michael J. Deem, Esq. of R.C. Shea & Associates

Anyone selling real estate in New Jersey needs to be aware of the terms of the Bulk Sales Act. The purpose behind the Bulk Sales Act is to protect a purchaser from any taxes owed by the seller to the State of New Jersey. The failure to follow the Bulk Sales procedures could result in the State assessing any tax liability of the seller against the purchaser.

For the purposes of the Bulk Sale Act, the only real estate that is exempt from the Bulk Sales filing requirement is a simple dwelling house, which is a one- or two-family residential building, or condominium, if the seller is an individual, estate or trust. Almost all other real estate transactions are required to file pursuant to the Bulk Sales Act.

The filing procedure for the Bulk Sales Act is relatively straightforward. At least 10 business days prior to the closing of title, the purchaser or their attorney must file a form with the State referred to as a C-9600 Bulk Sales Notice. The form contains information about the transaction including the seller's name and tax ID number as well as the purchaser's name and tax ID number. The terms of the sale must be disclosed by way of a copy of the real estate contract attached to the form.

Once the State receives that form, it will then review its records to determine whether the seller owes any taxes to the State, including any taxes that may result from the specific sale. The State will then send what is referred to as a Bulk Sales escrow letter to the buyer's attorney. The Bulk Sales escrow letter will direct how much money must be escrowed from the seller at closing pending a determination by the State as to the actual taxes owed. The next step is for the seller or their accountant to submit to the State a form known as a TTD (Transfer Tax Declaration) form in which the seller discloses the taxes that may be due to the State as a result of the transaction. In some cases, the Bulk Sales notice and the TTD form can be submitted simultaneously so that the State can decide as to amount of taxes owed. Once the State determines the taxes owed, it will send a second letter directing the buyer's attorney to release a specific amount of money from the escrow held at closing. Upon the State receiving that money it will then send a third letter to the buyer's attorney authorizing the release of the remaining escrow to the seller.

Call the attorneys at R.C. Shea & Associates for all your legal needs. 732-505-1212.

Michael J. Deem, Esq.



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10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's



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☐ Difficulty planning

☐ Misplacing things

☐ Task challenges

☐ Poor judgment

☐ Confusion with time/place

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☐ Visual problems

☐ Mood changes



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Graduates:
Continued From Page 20

Koralynn A. Green; Matthew F. Hanson; Kimberly A. Hare; Kelly Sue Hynes; Rosemary Idarraga; Emmaline Kirsten Janson; Savannah Christine Johnson; Linda Jones; Danielle M. Kaiser; Jennifer G. Kempton; Kaitlynn Rose Kindervater; Cameron R. King; Sarah Nicole Kinsley; Gianna Rose Kosh; Lisa Lam; Franco Madrid; Gianna Santina Maschi; Lexi McCormack; Julia McKeivitt; Julia Marie Miller; Tabitha Marie Moore; Lily Kalea Ongaro; Vanessa

Ossy; Amanda Michelle Paco; Christopher S. Perucich; Marissa R. Quercia; Tori Renee Rajoppe; Samantha Ramirez; Nicole M. Roberts; Thomas W. Roder; Brianna Marie Rodriguez; Caroline Cecilia Ross; Ryan Phillip Sands; Jillian M. Scott; Arianna F. Scotto DiSantolo; Rachel Anita Slocum; Candace T. Smalls; Andie Smith; Ashley Melissa Soma; Jasmin Tamayo; Alyssa Rose Taras; Carolyn V. Tinnery; Regan Marie Traxinger; Christopher Tuttle; Nicole Taren Valentino; Jamie Paige Valenza; Javier Vargas; Jace Viola; Allison Sophia Westman.

Do Your Part To “Secure The Shore”

NEW JERSEY – The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP) is encouraging vigilance among residents and visitors enjoying New Jersey’s beaches, boardwalks, and shore attractions this summer as part of its annual “Secure the Shore” initiative. With these popular destinations considered potential “soft targets” for threat actors, the public is urged to stay alert and report any unusual or suspicious activity.

From now until Labor Day, NJOHSP coordinates enhanced security efforts with local, county, State, and federal law enforcement across Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic, and Cape May counties. These efforts include increased patrols, targeted outreach, and public awareness of the “See Something, Say Something” campaign to support a safe summer season along the Jersey Shore.

Last summer, NJOHSP bolstered security along the Shore with the deployment of automated license plate readers, mobile security camera trailers, and variable-message signs in high-traffic coastal areas and near major event venues. Building on that success, this year’s initiative includes the deployment of a new mobile command vehicle to support target-hardening operations and security coordination. In addition, NJOHSP has released guidance to law enforcement partners, providing actionable strategies to detect, prevent, and mitigate tactics commonly used by threat actors, particularly in areas with large crowds and limited security infrastructure.

“As threats evolve, we continue to expand our security efforts leading into the busy summer months,” said NJOHSP Director

Laurie Doran. “Public vigilance plays a vital role in protecting our 141 miles of coastline, crowded boardwalks, and recreational destinations, supported by a unified law enforcement presence. Do your part to ‘Secure the Shore.’ Together, we can help deter potential threats and keep New Jersey secure.”

In anticipation of the seasonal surge, NJOHSP has and will continue to assist Shore towns with maximizing their security capabilities through multiple measures, including:

- Coordinating with businesses, law enforcement, and local officials
- Maintaining a statewide list of mass gathering events to enhance law enforcement awareness; officials are encouraged to submit event details through NJOHSP’s Special Events web page
- Developing security plans for public venues
- Deploying detectives to events and boardwalks
- Investigating leads and training beach staff on suspicious activity
- Administering federal grants for target-hardening equipment

Those heading to the Shore this summer are reminded to report any signs of unusual or suspicious activity, which could range from surveillance to trespassing to individuals testing or probing security. Even seemingly insignificant observations can contribute to a larger security puzzle. Reports can be made to local law enforcement—dial 9-1-1 for emergencies only - or to NJOHSP’s Counter-Threat Watch Unit by calling 866-4-SAFE-NJ, by emailing tips@njohsp.gov, or by filling out a form.

Island Heights Volunteer Fire Co. 1 Announces Summerbrew 2025

ISLAND HEIGHTS – Summerbrew is back again for another great year! Set for June 28 from 5 to 11 p.m.

In honor of this being our 25th year running this event, we are bringing in live entertainment the entire night from The Drunken Clams, The Beverlees, and The Surge Entertainment.

The price of admission includes all food and beverages. Check back for

more information on flash sales on tickets, VIP packages, an updated list of beers and breweries and more!

Tickets are available for purchase from any Island Heights Firefighter, or online at zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/summerbrew-2025-presented-by-island-heights-vol-fire-co--1. Event is 21 and older only, and is a rain or shine event.

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Each Stitch Counts And The Arc Collaborate To Help Residents

LAKEWOOD – Each Stitch Counts, a charity dedicated to alleviating hygiene insecurity by providing food pantries with dish soap, laundry detergent, and handmade dishcloths, has partnered with The Arc’s Employment Center, which provides supported group employment to individuals with disabilities in Ocean County, NJ.

Debbie Trainor, the founder of Each Stitch Counts, found herself in need of a warehouse and a reliable team to manage the logistics of her

growing endeavors with the local food pantries when she met Lou Archiello from The Arc, Ocean County Chapter’s Employment Center.

“Debbie was sharing her story at the Toms River Chamber networking event, and I knew immediately The Arc could help her, and the families of Ocean County, in a meaningful way,” said Mr. Archiello.

The Arc Employment Center is an 18,000 square foot warehouse at the Lakewood Industrial Park offering production work, cleaning services, and

shredding to local businesses while also providing a paycheck to adults with disabilities who require supports to maximize their potential for employment. The Arc clients will be assisting with packaging, managing orders, and coordinating deliveries for Each Stitch Counts.

“We are honored to partner with Each Stitch Counts, a fellow non-profit supporting our community in need, and grateful for the opportunity to provide more work to our clients at The Arc Employment Center.”

For more details about Each Stitch Counts or to donate dish soap, laundry detergent, or handmade dishcloths please visit eachstitchcounts.org.

To contact The Arc’s Employment Center for your business needs, please call 732-363-6677 or email info@arcocean.org. To learn more about The Arc, Ocean County Chapter’s programs and support services for people with disabilities visit arcocean.org.

This article was brought to you by our advertisers.

Sunset Dinner Cruise Aboard The River Lady Fundraiser

TOMS RIVER – Join the Ocean County Shrine Ladies Club for a fundraising event: Sunset Dinner Cruise aboard the River Lady on August 22 from 6 to 9 p.m. at 1 Robbins Parkway, Toms River.

Boarding begins at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$72 per person (non-refundable). Reser-

vations required. Cash Bar. Each guest must choose one main entrée when making your reservation. Entrée choices: chicken Francese, chicken marsala, filet of salmon, eggplant parmesan, penne vodka, plain grilled salmon (gluten-free), gluten-free pasta primavera.

All meals come complete with salad, vegetables, potatoes, rolls and dessert. Coffee and tea are served with dessert. Note: Gluten-free bread and dessert are not available. If anyone in your party has food allergies, please note this while making your reservation and we can let

you know if we can accommodate your request.

Make checks payable to OCSLC. Mail to: Donna Carbone, 36 Charlen Road, Toms River, NJ 08755, 201-406-5515. All proceeds will help support the Shriner’s Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, PA.

Program Helps Seniors Re-entering The Workforce

TOMS RIVER –The Senior Employment Assistance Program (SEA) runs Monday thru Friday starting at 9 a.m. at the Saint Francis Community Center at 1258 Route 166,

Stella Towne Center.

Ocean County seniors 55 and over looking to re-enter the workforce or start a new career after retirement are encouraged to call or visit

the center to reignite your career through the program’s free supportive services.

The SEA Program officers one on one career guidance and support where seniors can boost

their confidence with interview preparation, resume building, career and technology training and much more.

For information, call 732-281-8653.

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YARD SALE - ORTLEY BEACH- 211 6TH AVENUE - June 6-8. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Antiques, houseware, hardware, collectibles, bedding, clothing, Hess trucks, many new ITEMS. (26)

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Items Wanted

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Help Wanted

Certified Home Health Aides - Needed for Ocean County area. Hourly and live-in positions avail. P/T and F/T. Call CCC at 732-206-1047. (t/n)

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- Items Wanted

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- For Rent

Real Estate

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2. Print clearly your ad as you want it to read. Include Phone # within ad below (counts as 1 word). Use separate sheet if necessary.

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20

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59					60	61					62			
63					64						65			
66					67						68			

- Across**
1 Speck released by fluffing cushions
5 Outfit
10 Phishing, e.g.
14 Talk Like a Pirate Day greeting
15 Friend in Oaxaca
16 Silicon Valley's __ Alto
17 "Go," to a driver
19 NBA and WNBA
20 Tile floor covering
21 Sworn statement
22 Go nuts for
24 Classic video game maker
26 Insurance company whose slogan begins "Like a good neighbor"
29 Garden shovel
31 Easily reached, in a way
32 Scattergories game piece with 20 sides
33 Frozen treats in
- Down**
1 Lava, while underground
2 "Darn it!"
3 Keep a beat, digitally?
4 Organ on a dollar bill
5 Charity ball, say
6 Sends out
7 Like an inflated blood pressure cuff
8 "Yuck!"
9 Shepherd's pie topper
10 Parody
11 Dashboard feature
12 Native of Africa's largest country
13 Calendar divs.
18 "I'm stumped"
23 __ point: condensation temperature
25 Ranted and raved
27 Wonderland visitor
- 64 Fertile spots in a desert
65 See 40-Down
66 Furtive "Hey!"
67 Length of hair
68 Leave a mark
- 28 Filmmaker Brooks
30 Street in a horror franchise
34 To no __: unsuccessfully
35 Sticky stuff
36 Ski helmet part
37 Batman publisher
38 Merlot, Malbec, Montepulciano, etc.
39 "The Ice Storm" director Lee
40 With 65-Across, two-person vehicle
41 Bucket partner
44 Smelter input
45 Conclusion
47 Occult practitioner
48 "Aha!"
50 Live
51 Bring on a smile
52 Some RSVPs
54 Tough question
57 Clutter
59 Geography class display
61 Canoeist's need
62 Crunched muscles

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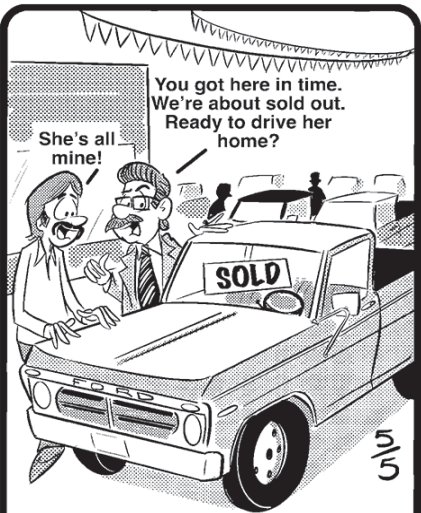
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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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5	9	4	9	3	6	7	2	8	1
1	7	2	4	8	9	6	5	3	
8	3	6	2	9	4	5	1	7	
7	9	5	8	1	6	3	4	2	
4	2	1	5	7	3	8	9	6	
6	8	4	9	3	1	7	2	5	
9	5	3	7	4	2	1	6	8	
7	1	2	9	5	6	8	3	4	

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

H	A	R	C	S	S	S	E	S	H	T	S	S	P
K	E	B	I	S	E	S	O	S	A	C	E	S	
E	S	A	T	E	M	A	T	E	O	H	I	N	I
O	R	S	M	E	M	E	S	E	S	E	M	O	I
U	P	D	R	A	Y	L	A	P	L	A	W	O	P
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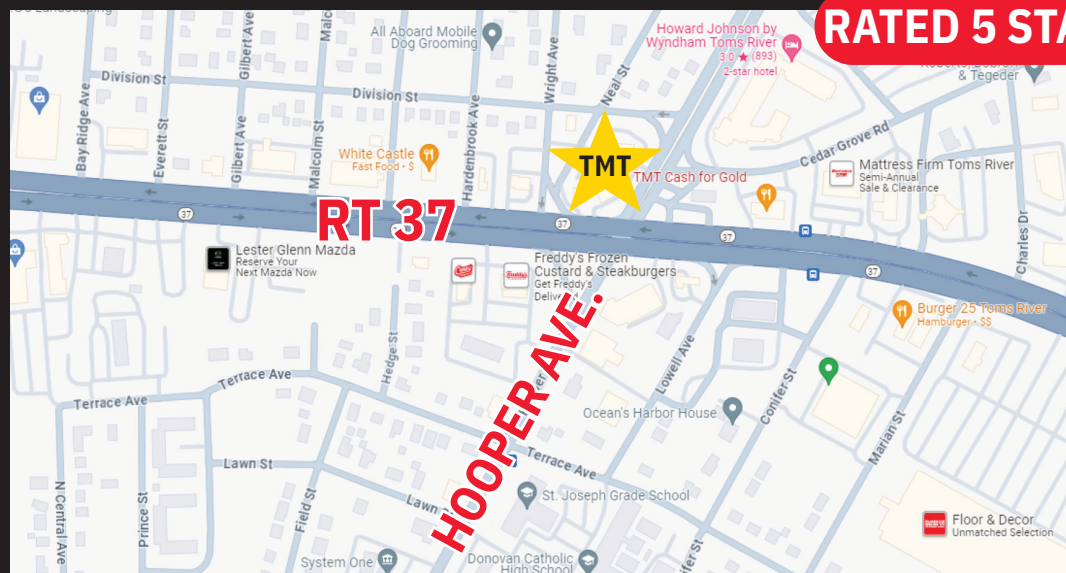
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PHOTO OF THE WEEK



“Somewhere over the rainbow...” Well, you know the rest. Local resident Crystal Bonham captured this stunning shot shortly after a recent rainstorm. Isn’t nature pretty? Well, sometimes it is. Want to see your pics in this space? Email photos@jerseyshoreonline.com and you could be enjoying a Jersey Shore BlueClaws game – on us!



Spotlight On Business

The Doctors’ Office Urgent Care Of Brick

The Doctors’ Office Urgent Care of Brick has proudly been serving our community, as well as the surrounding towns and villages, for over 11 years. Providing quality, compassionate care to our patients is always our focus. At our state-of-the-art urgent care, you will always be treated by our respectful providers and clinical staff.

We are a walk-in urgent care, open 365 days a year with convenient hours for your busy schedule. Appointments are never needed, but we do offer online reservations on our website (www.TheDoctorsOfficeUrgentCare.com).

The Doctors’ Office Urgent Care of Brick treats all patients ages 4 months and older. We provide comprehensive services, including injury and illness treatment, onsite labs, low-dose x-rays, vaccines, IV hydration, physical exams, pediatric care, occupational medicine, travel medicine, and drug and alcohol testing. In addition to our many services, we are in network with most major insurance plans and provide affordable self-pay rates.



Our urgent care is UCA accredited, which demonstrates and exceeds exceptional safety standards and quality medical care. You and your family will always be in a safe, clean environment at our center while receiving the best of care.

Our urgent care and staff are proud to be a part of our local communities. We support local events, schools, Little Leagues, and much more. Being parents ourselves, we understand the importance that community support plays in our daily lives.

When you need us, we are always here for you, your family, and our community!



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR:

Rose Garden is one of the few “mom and pop” skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers left ... in the state of New Jersey. The world has turned “corporate;” we have not.

It has been our core belief that the delivery of healthcare is quite personal. That “intimacy” is in danger when 5 to 100 facilities are operated in multiple states by large corporations.

We have always strived for a close “family” atmosphere and believe we have succeeded. The environment is warm and inviting and exceedingly clean and spotless. Our homemade food and soups are outstanding, and the care is thoughtful, kind and productive.

We have been called the “Hotel of Healthcare.” Please ask your friends, neighbors and, most importantly, other healthcare professionals. We are here, in your neighborhood, to serve you!



rose garden
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Tails Of Hope Raffle Fundraiser

BRICK – For all that we do, we cannot do it without you. You can help us save more lives by participating in our fundraising efforts.

Jersey Shore Animal Center presents

their Tails of Hope Raffle Fundraiser. All proceeds are put to immediate use and allow us to continue our mission of saving lives.

The Tails of Hope Raffle is just one of these appeals and with your donation you will

have the chance to win a VISA gift card. (1st place: \$1,500; 2nd place: \$1,250; & 3rd place: \$1,000.)

The drawing will take place on September 30 at 12 p.m. at the Shelter. The winners

need not be present. We will contact the winners via phone and make an announcement on social media. All winners must pick up prizes in person. No exception. Tickets are \$5 each, and a sheet is \$25.

Resorts Casino Trip

BRICK – The St. Dominic’s Adult Social Club is sponsoring a trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on June 13.

The bus will leave St. Dominic’s Church at 9:15 a.m. The cost of the trip is \$40 per person and includes a tip for the driver. You will

receive \$18 in a slot voucher from the casino.

Contact either Terri or Adam Drapczuk at 732-255-7242. Checks should be made

payable to the St. Dominic’s Adult Social Club and may be sent to Terri Drapczuk 19 Lawndale Drive Brick, NJ 08723-7331.

Check out Micromedia Publications’ website, jerseyshoreonline.com

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SERIOUSLY SIMPLE: A ZESTY DINNER PARTY CHICKEN DISH

Diane Rossen Worthington
**SAUTEED CHICKEN WITH
TOMATO LEEK SAUCE**

Serves 4

- 1/4-pound pancetta or bacon, cut into 1/4-inch dice
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 large whole chicken breasts, boned, skinned, halved and pounded evenly (4 half boned and skinned breasts)
- 2 medium leeks, light green and white part only, finely chopped
- 2 medium tomatoes, peeled and finely chopped or 1 (14 1/2) ounce can diced tomatoes with juice
- 1/2 cup chicken stock
- 1/4 cup whipping cream
- 1 teaspoon tomato paste
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped fresh thyme
- Pinch of red pepper flakes
- Salt
- Fresh thyme sprigs (for garnish)
- 1. If using bacon, immerse in boiling water for 30 seconds to rid it of its smoky flavor before brown-

- ing. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, melt 1 tablespoon of the butter with 1 tablespoon of the olive oil. Add the pancetta or bacon and fry until browned, 3 to 5 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer to paper towels to drain.
- 2. Add the remaining 1 tablespoon each butter and olive oil to the pan over medium-high heat. Add the chicken and saute, turning once, until nicely browned, 5 to 7 minutes on each side. Remove to a platter and cover with aluminum foil to keep warm. Discard all but 2 tablespoons of the fat from the pan.
- 3. Add the leeks to the pan and saute over medium-high heat until softened, about 5 minutes.
- 4. Add the tomatoes, reduce the heat to medium, and cook until the tomatoes are softened, 3 to 5 minutes. Add the chicken stock, cream, and tomato paste, and raise the heat to medium-high. Reduce by one-fourth, or until slightly thickened. Stir in the thyme, red pepper flakes, and salt to taste.
- 5. Return the chicken breasts and pancetta to the sauce and heat over medium heat until warmed through, about 5 minutes. Taste for seasoning. Transfer to a platter and garnish each breast with thyme sprigs. Serve immediately.

(Diane Rossen Worthington is an authority on new American cooking. She is the author of 18 cookbooks, including “Seriously Simple Parties,” and a James Beard Award-winning radio show host. You can contact her at www.seriouslysimple.com.) ©2025 Diane Rossen Worthington. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

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Did you know? Hearing loss affects more than communication.**



Isolation

It's associated with isolation and brain strain, both of which may contribute to cognitive decline and dementia.



Atrophy

It's linked to accelerated brain atrophy, which can affect your ability to think, remember, communicate, and understand.



Tinnitus

It's present in an estimated 90% of tinnitus cases (ringing in the ears) and considered a primary contributor to tinnitus.



Falls

It puts you at higher risk of balance problems and falling, which is responsible for millions of serious-injury cases and approximately 684,000 yearly deaths.

*Sources available upon request.



Isidore Kirsh, Ph.D., FAAA



Kimberly Rudolph, Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA



Alina Garrido, Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA

33 Years in Business

Medicaid insurance is not accepted.