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NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES

County Government with a Unified Voice!

Business Associates Monthly



BIRDSALL SERVICES GROUP
ENGINEERS & CONSULTANTS

BSG, Inc. Employees Receive the "Excellence in Chemistry Award"

By: Barbara Donaldson, Birdsall Services Group

At an award presentation at The Molly Pitcher Inn on Monday, July 9th, five professionals from Birdsall Services Group, Inc. (BSG) were presented with the "Excellence in Chemistry" award by Aqua Pro-Tech Laboratories (APL), the largest certified environmental testing lab in North Jersey, for their achievement in passing the Inaugural Licensed Site Remediation Professionals (LSRP) Exam. BSG's total of five professionals passing the exam puts the firm among the leaders for New Jersey based environmental companies.

At the presentation hosted by BSG, Robert Barrett, Chief Operating Officer of APL, gave out plaques for the "Excellence in Chemistry" award to the five individuals from BSG that passed the licensing exam and received the LSRP designation: David Backman, William Call, Pearse Mackle, Eric Meyer and Ed Sullivan. These Environmental Remediation Specialists at BSG are charged with identifying contaminants that have impacted soil and groundwater, and implementing advanced technologies, designs, and methods in order to provide innovative solutions at sites across New Jersey.

APL's "Excellence in Chemistry" award

recognizes BSG for its continued operational and technical excellence, and acknowledges Messrs. Backman, Call, Mackle, Meyer and Sullivan for the accomplishment of obtaining their LSRP licenses. Regarding the significance of this achievement, Mr. Barrett, stated "these five individuals have repeatedly demonstrated an extensive understanding of chemistry and are truly worthy of this award". APL is a New Jersey-based environmental testing company that tests drinking water, soil, wastewater, sludge and solids, with clients including consulting engineers, industry, government and the public. APL was first certified by the New Jersey Department of Health, before the existence of the NJDEP in 1974.

By encouraging and supporting its professionals to achieve LSRP licensure, BSG remains an active contributor to environmental remediation efforts throughout the state, which supports a cleaner environment and improved welfare to the community. "It is our hope that accomplishments such as this will encourage a policy of positive change towards environmental practice throughout the state," stated Howard Birdsall, CEO of BSG.

For further information contact *Barbara Donaldson, Birdsall Services Group, at (732) 380-1700 or bdonaldson@birdsall.com.*

NJAC WELCOMES

NEW BUSINESS

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

Valeria Cappucci
Senior Vice President
103 College Road East,
Floor 01
Princeton, NJ
08540

REGISTER:

Night at the Ballpark
August 30, 2012
New Britain Rock Cats
V.
Trenton Thunder

NJAC Foundation Golf Outing
Mercer Oaks West
West Windsor, NJ
September 24, 2012

GO TO:
www.njac.org
click on
NJAC Foundation
to register

NJ Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards Application Now Available

The New Jersey Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards Program is the State's premier awards program for recognizing outstanding environmental performance, programs and projects throughout the state. Nominations can be submitted for the following categories: Clean Air, Healthy Ecosystems, Water Resources, Land Conservation, Healthy and Sustainable Communities/Businesses, Innovative Technology, Environmental Leadership, Environmental Stewardship and Environmental Education.

All applications are due by September 12, 2012.

The application and other awards information can be found at www.nj.gov/dep/eeawards.

Questions about the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards Program can be forwarded to Tanya Oznowich at 609-984-9802 Tanya.Oznowich@dep.state.us, or Caroline Kirkland at 609-633-7821 Caroline.Kirkland@dep.state.nj.us.



Matt Chase appointed Executive Director of NACo

By: Jim Philipps, National Association of Counties (NACo)



The National Association of Counties (NACo), the national association representing county government, announced that Matthew D. Chase has been named the association's Executive Director. The announcement came as thou-

sands of the country's local government leaders gathered in Pittsburgh for NACo's 77th Annual Conference and Exposition.

Mr. Chase, 41, will assume the Executive Director role at NACo on Sept. 17, 2012. As Executive Director, Mr. Chase will serve as the spokesman for NACo and America's counties; advocate before federal policymakers with aligned organizations and partners; and promote counties and county issues to the media on behalf of NACo's more than 2,400 members. He will also direct the operations, initiatives and staff of the association.

"I am thrilled that Matt has accepted the offer to become our Executive Director. His talents will enhance our efforts to represent counties in Washington and continue to improve the connection between NACo and our local county elected officials," said Lenny Eliason, NACo President and Athens County Commissioner. "Matt's experiences at the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) have prepared him to succeed at NACo and keep the shine on our 75-year legacy as representative of county officials nationwide. Matt has big shoes to fill replacing our retiring director, Larry Naake."

"It is a great honor to be joining the NACo team. The association and its membership of county officials are essential leaders in preparing America for a better future," said Mr. Chase. "NACo has an incredibly talented group of leaders, members and staff who are dedicated to improving the quality of life, public services, and economic conditions across the country. I look forward to furthering the association's proud legacy of advancing the goals of our nation's counties."

Mr. Chase joins Naco from NADO, which represents the nation's local government-based regional planning and development organizations. He had served as NADO's Executive Director since 2003 and was previously the Director of Legislative Affairs and Deputy Executive Director. He began his career with the Professional Managers Association. He holds a bachelor's degree from Hartwick College, and a master's degree in political management from The George Washington University.

"I personally want to thank Larry Naake for his 21 years of service to NACo and the extraordinary leadership he has provided to our organization and local governments across the country, said Eliason. "Larry guided NACo through some very difficult times and has built it into a very successful organization. We will miss his leadership and wish him well in the next chapter of his life. I know that Matt is looking forward to building upon the strong foundation that Larry has built and is eager to lead all of the talented and dedicated staff of NACo to fulfill our important mission."

For further information contact *Jim Philipps, National Association of Counties (NACo), at (202) 942-4220.*

SAVE THE DATE:

**2013 NJAC Annual Conference
May 8th thru May 10th
Caesars Atlantic City**

Last Chance!!
Hosting Opportunity at \$750.00 per host, which is available on first come first serve basis. Hosts receive (2) tickets to game, permitted signage, and visibility, and unique networking opportunity.



New Britain Rock Coats
 V.
 Trenton Thunder

**NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION
 OF COUNTIES**

*Join NJAC for an outstanding night of baseball at
 Mercer County Water Front Park.*

CALL KIM NOLAN FOR RESERVATIONS

DATE: AUGUST 30, 2012

TIME: 7:05 P.M.

*County Government with a
 Unified Voice!*

150 West State Street
 Trenton, New Jersey 08608
 Telephone (609) 394-3467
www.njac.org



Nationwide® Time Keeps on slipping, slipping, slipping. . .

By: Kelly Adams, Senior Marketing Analyst

On Your Side

When planning for retirement, it may seem at times like you're slip-sliding away. It can seem hard to get sure footing. Meanwhile, retirement is coming at you fast.

You're not alone. In fact, a recent poll conducted by the eRollover/Siena College Research Institute revealed that only about one in ten (11%) respondents reported being very confident in their ability to maintain their current standard of living post retirement, and 82% cannot say they are well along their path to planning a successful retirement.¹

But you have access to Plan education, tools and people – all designed to assist as you decide how to improve your financial outlook. You also have National Save for Retirement Week, seven days dedicated to help you get better prepared.

The time to act is now. Don't let this opportunity slip away.

For further information contact *Anthony Sebro, Investment Advisor Representative, NRS at (800) 675-6244 or SEBROA@nationwide.com or David M. Sarmir, CRC, Sr. Retirement Specialist at (877) 677-3678 x43390 or Sarmird@nationwide.com.*



Somerset County Homelessness Trust Fund

By: Linda Van Zandt, Director, Public Information

The Somerset County Homelessness Trust Fund Rental Assistance Program will provide up to **15 months** of rental assistance and case management that is intended to help clients become aware of and access resources to help increase their chances of maintaining permanent housing **within Somerset County**.

The program will provide a monthly subsidy to pay the difference between household rent and 30 percent of the client's income. The maximum subsidy that can be provided to a household is \$300 per month.

"This program is a tremendous benefit to working families who are struggling with their housing costs," said Freeholder Deputy Director Peter S. Palmer, human services liaison.

An applicant must be able to demonstrate that he or she will be able to afford the housing without rental assistance within 15 months. In order to qualify, all adult members of the household must be working at least 30 hours per week, have a formal lease and be within the following income limits:

- 1 Person - \$50,800;
- 2 People - \$58,000
- 3 People - \$65,300;
- 4 People - \$72,500
- 5 People – \$78,300; and,
- 6 People - \$84,100

In addition, program participants:

- must complete a monthly household budget;
- must maintain monthly contact with the Program Case Manager; and
- must be willing to accept case management services that include financial management, employment, and/or any other services that are deemed necessary for one to maintain permanent housing.

Applicants who meet the criteria will be served on a first-come, first-served basis after being screened by the Somerset County Community Development Office.

For further information contact *Somerset County Community Development at (908) 541-5756.*



U.S. COMMUNITIES™
GOVERNMENT PURCHASING ALLIANCE



Cape May County Hosts Cooperative Meeting

Freeholder Director Gerald M. Thornton hosted a cooperative meeting attended by more than fifty County members and US Communities' vendors on July 25 at the County Administration Building.

At the meeting, Chris Mellis, US Communities National Program Manager, presented an overview of US Communities, Kim Allen, Cape May County Purchasing Agent talked about the benefits and cost savings for a surplus reciprocal program and Francine Springer, CFO, presented a short overview of the benefits of the County's Procurement card.

Director Thornton said, "The purpose of the meeting was to introduce US Communities, a national cooperative, to Cape May County members and to provide an overview of the benefits and successes the County has had using US Communities' vendors and the County Procurement card."

Ed Grant, Director of Operations added, "The County Pcard program has been in place for approximately 10 years. By not using a purchase order, the County saves \$800,000 a year and also receives a \$50,000 rebate on annual purchases." The County anticipates saving over \$100,000 this year alone by purchasing from US

Communities' vendors and using the Pcard for on-line ordering.

The County reciprocal surplus program will allow all cooperative members to advertise their surplus equipment, parts and vehicles to cooperative members first before going public.

U.S. Communities reduces the cost of purchased goods and services for public agencies by offering access to competitively solicited contracts between suppliers and lead public agencies. Over 42,000 "Participating Public Agencies" are registered for the program. The total aggregated purchases in 2009 exceeded \$1.4 billion, with \$214 million in estimated savings to public agencies that year alone. Participating Public Agencies, municipalities, counties, school districts, colleges and universities and state and non-profit agencies are eligible to participate in the U.S. Communities program.

Vendors on display at the meeting included Home Depot, Hertz, Kone, Graybar, HD Supply, Servicewear, Carquest, Applied, Premier and Garland.

For further information contact *Chris Mellis* at cmellis@uscommunities.org.



A County Guide to Spill Act Liability

By: Dave Sweeney, Assistant Commissioner Site Remediation, NJ DEP

The "Site Remediation Reform Act," which was enacted in 2009 to streamline the cleanup of contaminated properties in New Jersey, went into full effect on May 7, 2012. The new law has many implications for parties that are remediating contaminated sites. These include the requirement that they hire a Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) to supervise the investigation and cleanup of their sites, and adhere to strict deadlines to conduct each phase of the work and submit milestone remedial reports to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). In addition, to cover NJDEP's cost to administer their cases, remediating parties must now pay annual

remediation fees based on the number of contaminated areas of environmental concern at their sites and the number of media impacted (ground water, sediments, and surface water).

If your county needs to remediate a contaminated property, you probably already know that you must hire an LSRP to oversee the investigation and cleanup. But did you know that the new deadlines may not apply to your site based on your county's liability for the contamination according to New Jersey's "Spill Compensation and Control Act" (Spill Act)? And that your county may be exempt from paying fees to NJDEP during years

(Continued on page 6)

NJDEP

(Continued from page 5)

that remedial work is suspended?

The Spill Act exempts government entities from joint and several liability for remediating contamination under certain circumstances. These include when the governmental entity has involuntarily acquired title to a contaminated site by virtue of its function as sovereign or acquired the property to promote redevelopment provided none of the other criteria in the Spill Act that defines who is responsible for remediating apply (see N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11g). As a result, a county may not be liable for any contamination that occurred prior to its ownership if the site was acquired due to:

- bankruptcy
- tax delinquency
- abandonment
- escheat
- eminent domain
- condemnation

For sites where the county is not responsible for the contamination based on the exceptions listed above, it is also exempt from paying the annual remediation fees during years that it is not remediating and complying with deadlines. The exceptions are spelled out at N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11g.d(4) and it is up to each county and their legal counsel to determine its own liability by reviewing this section of the Spill Act.

Counties may have a portfolio of sites, but often lack the revenue to remediate the properties. However, as monies become available, they often undertake part of the remediation, then stop when funds run out, only to resume when funding becomes available again. Although any remediation must be conducted pursuant to applicable regulations, counties that are not liable under the Spill Act are not required to pay annual remediation fees during years their budgets do not include

monies for remediation, nor are they bound by the requirement to conduct the remediation by the statutory or regulatory deadlines. However, once the county resumes remediation of a site, it must pay fees, hire an LSRP and remediate the property according to applicable rules.

A county is not protected from liability under the Spill Act if it caused or contributed to the discharge of a hazardous substance, or if it acquired the property by condemnation or eminent domain and the property is being remediated in a timely manner by another party. Under these circumstances, the deadlines for remediating the site and annual remediation fees will apply. Counties and other remediating parties that do not comply with the deadlines may become subject to "Direct Department Oversight." Direct Department Oversight requires the remediating party to establish a remediation trust fund for the site and authorizes NJDEP to make all remedial decisions and pay the contractors using the established funding.

Counties are being asked to notify the NJDEP that they are not responsible for the contamination at sites they own based on the exceptions listed above. A certification form and instructions are available on the Site Remediation Program's web page at www.nj.gov/dep/srp. Otherwise, NJDEP will assume that the county is liable for the contamination at the site, and the county will be responsible for all annual remediation fees, as well as meeting all regulatory and mandatory deadlines.

For further information contact *Dave Sweeney* at Dave.Sweeney@dep.state.nj.us

Mark Your Calendar

August 30th - Night at Mercer County Waterfront Park

September 24th - NJAC Foundation Golf Outing

September 28th - NJAC Board of Director's Meeting

October 12th & October 19th

New Jersey County Administrators Certificate Program

Mission Statement

NJAC is committed to advocating for legislation, regulations, and policy directives that empower county governments to operate more effectively and efficiently. As a non-partisan organization that represents the only true regional form of government in the State with a unified and proactive voice, NJAC is dedicated to advancing innovative programs and initiatives for the sole purpose of saving valuable taxpayer dollars.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Farmers' Fair & Hot Air Balloon Fest., Warren Cty.	2 Constituent Outreach Day, Somerset Cty.	3 "Grease" in the Park 8/1-8/11, Middlesex Cty.
6 Online Auction begins, Somerset Cty.	7 Free eye screening clinic, Monmouth Cty.	8 Little Explorer Summer Nature Program, Essex Cty.	9	10 Extreme Mustang Makeover, Dream Park, Gloucester Cty.
13 Gazebo Concerts for Kids, Warren Cty.	14 Boat Tour, (Fishing & Crabbing) Ocean Cty.	15 Stone Age Open Championships, Mercer Cty.	16 Stone Age Open Championships, Mercer Cty.	17
20 Boat Tour, (Fishing & Crabbing) Ocean Cty.	21	22	23 August Storytime, Main Lib., Sussex Cty.	24
27	28	29	30 Night @ Trenton Thunder, NJAC	31

From the Executive Director's Desk

Make sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming NJAC events!

TRENTON THUNDER NIGHT

We had a great time last year, so we're hosting it again. As a valued business associate, you're invited to host a Luxury Box at beautiful Mercer County Waterfront Park at **7:05 P.M. ON AUGUST 30TH** for an outstanding minor league baseball game between the *New Britain Rock Cats and Trenton Thunder*. We offering (4) hosting opportunities at \$750.00 per host, which are available on a first come first serve basis as seating is limited to a maximum of 30. Hosts will receive two tickets to the game, permitted signage and visibility, and a unique opportunity to network with our county officials where you should take advantage of showcasing how your business will save valuable taxpayer dollars. Please contact our office at (609) 394-3467 for additional details.

NJAC FOUNDATION GOLF OUTING

Save the date for the NJAC Foundation's annual golf outing scheduled for **SEPTEMBER 24TH** at the county owned and operated Mercer Oaks West Golf Course in West Windsor, Mercer County. As was the case last year where the NJAC Foundation donated \$12,000.00, the Foundation plans to dedicate 50% of the proceeds from this event to the National Guard State Family Readiness Council (NGSFRC). NGSFRC is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing significant assistance to deployed military personnel and their families. We'll make sure to provide you with additional details shortly.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Richard Constable is tentatively scheduled to join us at our next board of directors meeting scheduled for **SEPTEMBER 28TH** at the State House in Trenton. We'll make sure to provide you with additional details as we get closer to the meeting, but all business associates are welcome to join us for the 9:30 a.m. networking breakfast.

RUTGERS TRAINING

The New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) in cooperation with the Rutgers University Center for Government Services is pleased to announce the first ever "New Jersey County Administrators Certificate Program." This two day training program is open to all local government employees and elected officials that would like to advance their careers in public service. Subject matter experts from across the State will cover essential topics such as public procurement, labor relations, fiscal affairs, and ethics. Courses will take place on **OCTOBER 12TH AND 19TH** at the Rutgers University Center for Government Services located at 303 George Street in New Brunswick, New Jersey. All successful program graduates will receive a certificate from Rutgers University verifying their completion of training.

YEAR-END CONFERENCE

We're in the very early stages of planning an educational and informative year-end conference scheduled for **DECEMBER 7TH**.

NJAC Business Associates are encouraged to submit educational news articles for the monthly e-newsletter. For more information please contact Loren Wizman at 609-394-3467 or loren@njac.org.