

NJAC COUNTY BIZ

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NJBIA and County Vocational Schools Launch Coalition to Support Career and Technical Education

by Kathryn Forsyth, Communications Director of NJ Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools
Peter Peretzman, Communications Vice President of New Jersey Business & Industry Association

Employer and education leaders and Senate President Stephen Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto, announced on February 20, 2014 a new partnership to help ensure New Jersey's economic prosperity by supporting career and technical education opportunities that address workforce needs and prepare students to successfully hit the ground running in filling jobs that are in demand.

Spearheaded by the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, the NJ Employer Coalition for Technical Education already involves more than 125 members representing small businesses, large companies, labor unions, trade associations, educational institutions and individuals through the State.

Senate President Sweeney and **Assembly Speaker Prieto** joined the coalition at today's event to show their support for employer engagement in career and technical education programs that respond to their needs for future works with strong technical and work readiness skills.

"Career and technical education meets two critical statewide needs - education reform and economic growth. Today's county vocational-technical schools prepare students for college and career, offering a rigorous academic experience and the skills necessary to succeed in the workforce," said Sweeney.

"Many of our county vocational-technical schools are among the best high schools in the State. Students engaged in relevant, career focused learning demonstrate high achievement, and their technical knowledge, work-based experiences, and drive to succeed will help keep the State's economy strong," the Senate President said.

"I've made clear that increasing New Jersey's focus on career and technical education is one of my top priorities, and it's absolutely essential to have employers engaged in this effort," said Prieto. "We must ensure that our young people are properly prepared for the opportunities that await them, and we must expand opportunities for students who do not plan to attend a four-year college or university."

"While many focus on college and do not think about a technical career, we must make it clear that there are also

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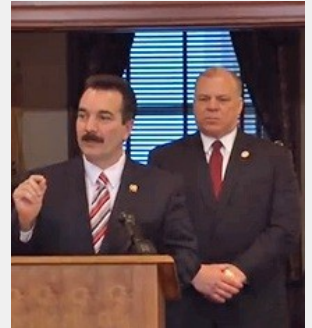
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NJBIA and County Vocational Schools Launch Coalition *(continued)*

many well-paying careers that can be launched with an industry credential or an associate's degree. As our economy begins to grow again, employers will look to our country vocational-technical schools to meet this need, and we need to make sure our students are ready to go," the Speaker said.

The new coalition seeks to promote quality career and technical education, engage employers with vocational-technical schools and students, and expand county vocational-technical schools and programs.

New Jersey's 21 vocational-technical school districts provide career-focused education for more than 32,000 high school students, and over 5,000 adults. They offer more than 540 employer-driven career programs that incorporate work-based learning, industry-recognized credentials, and opportunities to earn college credit. These schools integrate high level academics with career programs that include science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), health science, digital media, hospitality, automotive, and construction technologies and manufacturing.



(l) **Vincent Prieto**
NJ Assembly Speaker;
(r) **Stephen Sweeney**
Senate President



Philip Kirschner
NJBIA President

"We must align our education policies with workforce needs to create a pipeline of qualified young adults with the academic, technical and work readiness skills that employers need," said **Philip Kirschner**, President of NJBIA.

"We believe that the coalition and its more than 100 members will bring career and technical education to the forefront, encourage the expansion of opportunities for our students and ensure that when our young people graduate from high school they do so with the skills that ensure they will be ready for the workplace," Kirschner said.

The coalition has offered several recommendations including continued State and local support for county vocational-technical school programs; expanding employer partnerships to identify and address critical workforce needs; support for multiple pathways to success, expansion of county vocational-technical schools and programs to meet student and employer demand; new joint ventures between county vocational-technical schools and community colleges to address employer needs, and the creation of career pathway opportunities for out-of-school youth and adults.

"Perceptions of career and technical education programs have changed," said **Judy Savage**, Executive Director of the New Jersey Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools. "Students, parents, and employers recognize that completing a career program along with academic preparation gives students a jump start on college and career success."

"But at this point, our schools do not have sufficient capacity to meet the increasing demand for these programs, and every year they must turn away students who are seeking a career-focused education. We need to add more seats and more programs to grow New Jersey's workforce pipeline," Savage said.



Judy Savage
Executive Director
NJCCVTS

The coalition will encourage employers to engage with career and technical education programs at county vocational-technical schools in an effort to have them become involved with program advisory committees, and expand opportunities for internships, mentoring and employment. For more information or to join, visit the coalition website at www.careertechnj.org.

Get to know your County Official.....

How many years have you served as a Cape May County Freeholder?

I have been a Freeholder for 29 years. I first served as Freeholder from 1976 through 1987, and then again from 1996 to present day.

What was the first public office you held?

The first public office I held was Freeholder.

Why did you choose to apply for freeholder?

I always had an interest in governing and participating in the political process. I worked several local campaigns as Campaign Manager prior to becoming a Freeholder.

What had been the most difficult decision you have had to make while serving as a Cape May County Freeholder?

The most difficult decision I had to make as a Freeholder was laying off employees. The first time I had to lay off employees was in 1980, and then again in 2009 and 2010. It was heartrending thinking about the impact it would have on the employees and their families, such as mortgage payments, car payments, and quality of life.

What would our readers be most surprised to learn about you?

I spent 12 years serving in the United States Air Force. I was part of the Apollo program putting the first man on the moon. I also participated in bringing the first computerized air defense and air traffic control systems into operation for both the United States and Europe.

Aside from my military service, I am a history buff and was a member of the electoral college for President Reagan.

Who is your role model?

I actually have two role models: President Harry Truman and President Ronald Reagan. Both of these men, from different political parties, always made the American people first and foremost. They were willing to accept responsibilities presented during their term.

Why do you love Cape May County?

There are many reasons why I love Cape May County. The mix of people who are often kind, caring, and opinionated is very unique. Eighty percent of the Cape May County's residents were born and raised in other areas and bring an interesting diversity of ideas.

I love the environment of Cape May County with the ocean on one side and the bay on the other. The county has a very strong agriculture and farming community and has the second largest fishing port on the East Coast. It also has a \$5.3 billion tourism industry and offers many unique tourism venues such as the free Cape May County Park and Zoo, various boardwalks, beaches, and historical sites. During the summer season there is a rapid population increase from 98,000 residents to 850,000 residents and visitors.



Gerald M. Thornton
Freeholder Director
Cape May County



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



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Northeast Communications Group is a professional firm providing high-quality technology infrastructure services for today's needs and tomorrow's expectations. Visit www.ncgcompanies.com to learn more.



Settembrino Architects is an architect firm focused on sustainable design. For more information, please visit www.settebrino.com.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Learn about the benefits of being a part of NJAC and how you can join by contacting Loren Wizman, Business Development Director, at (609) 394-3467 or loren@njac.org.
[Click here for an application.](#)

Passaic County Investing in County Parks

The Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders have announced major upgrades for Goffle Brook Park, located in Hawthorne. Passaic County is upgrading 103 acres of park land and open space alongside Goffle Brook.

“My colleagues and I are proud of our county parks system - it is one of the jewels of Passaic County. We continue to invest in our parks system and look for ways to get additional funds for upgrading parks throughout the county,” said Freeholder Bruce James.

“Our commitment to our parks, together with our aggressive pursuit of grant funds, benefits residents by providing quality parks and recreation with little or no impact on county taxpayers,” added **Freeholder Terry Duffy**.



Terry Duffy
Freeholder

The Goffle Brook Park upgrades include:

- Planting of over 415 trees, 500 shrubs and a wide variety of perennials
- Approximately 2 miles of crushed stone walking paths (6-foot wide) providing access throughout the park
- Installation of several viewing areas with decorative benches (35 units) and trash receptacles (15 units)
- Installation of a three tier vegetated boulder wall (by Genevieve Avenue)
- Installation of a five tier vegetated tiered boulder wall (by Warburton Avenue)
- Maintenance dredging of the pond to restore the water body to its original depth (approximately 8,900 cubic yards of dredge material)
- Installation of approximately 2,500 square yards of bio-engineering and 32,000 square feet of vegetative brush mattress along the banks of the Goffle Brook to prevent soil erosion
- Installation of approximately 2,000 feet of boulder armor protection along the banks of the Goffle Brook to prevent soil erosion
- Pruning of up to 290 trees and removal of select trees beyond the corridor to open views
- Installation of a fitness course on the new pedestrian walkway



Pat Lepore
Freeholder Director

“Goffle Brook Park is an example of our commitment to parks and recreation: new stone walking paths, trees and shrubs, benches and a complete upgrade of the banks surrounding the brook. See it for yourself - the park looks great,” added Freeholder Director Pat Lepore.



Goffle Park is located at 794 Lafayette Avenue in Hawthorne, NJ 07506.

Open from sunup to sundown.

Clerk Sollami Covello Celebrates County's 175th Anniversary

On Wednesday, March 12, 2014, Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello marked Mercer County's 175th Anniversary Celebration with a program and presentation of historic deeds, election results, and maps discovered in the Clerk's office archives.

Mercer County has been celebrating its 175th Anniversary this year, and to mark the occasion, the Mercer County Clerk celebrated the rich cultural history on the Clerk's archives with a permanent display of office records and deed books going back to the creation of Mercer County. The display includes historic maps and other land documents reflecting the history of the county from 1838 to present.

On display are the deeds of County luminaries and historic figures such as Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President of the United States, who also served as Governor of the State of New Jersey, and President of Princeton University. Other Mercer County residents highlighted are Albert Einstein, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, Aviator Charles Lindbergh, General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, Mary G. Roebling, and actor/singer Paul Robeson.



Paula Sollami Covello
County Clerk

Also on display are maps of Princeton and the City of Trenton from the 1800's, which interestingly, shows that people traveled on the same Broad and Market Streets where the County Clerk's office is currently located.

Consequently, the staff at the County Clerk's office searched for outstanding historic items in their "Records Room," and decided to display these items in celebration of Mercer County's 175th Anniversary. It showcases the earliest maps, election results, and deeds recorded in Mercer County along with artifacts and relics of the county when it was established in 1838.

The display will remain in the County Clerk's public search room for permanent viewing. For additional information about Mercer County's 175th Anniversary, please visit www.mercer175.org.



Do you have educational or informational articles you would like published in the NJAC COUNTY BIZ?

Contact Loren Wizman, Director of Business Development, at (609) 394-3467 or loren@njac.org.



PSE&G will Spend \$10 Billion on Transmission Line Upgrades

Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) announced on March 7, 2014 that a capital investment of \$10 billion over the next five years, mostly to upgrade its high-voltage transmission lines.



Ralph Izzo
PSEG Chief Executive Officer

Ralph Izzo, Chief Executive of parent company Public Service Enterprise Group, made the announcement at the company's annual investors meeting in New York. The expenditure represents most of PSEG's planned \$12 billion capital investment over the same period.

The investment is also a 20 percent increase from the previous five years, Izzo said, primarily because of required transmission upgrades to relieve projected system overloads and to maintain reliability for its customers.

The utility has five major transmission line projects under way, Izzo added, with an additional line slated to be in service by June 2018.

He said PSE&G's capital spending program is expected to lead double-digit earnings growth at the utility over the 2013 to 2016 period.

The news comes on the final day of hearings in Trenton for PSE&G's proposed \$3.9 billion, 10-year grid-hardening plan called "Energy Strong." That plan requires approval from the State Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and does not include the transmission line spending plan announced today. A decision is expected in early April, according to PSE&G. The company filed Energy Strong in February 2013 in response to Hurricane Sandy.

The BPU is now considering the proposal's first five years, which PSE&G said would cost \$2.6 billion. The plan has received intense scrutiny over the past year, and a conference of utility executives in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, Izzo said the cost of Energy Strong will likely be reduced before it is approved.

PSE&G has maintained that Energy Strong will protect its electric and gas delivery systems against severe weather, like Tropical Storm Irene and Sandy, which damaged part of its system.

The utility's president, **Ralph LaRossa**, stated on March 7, 2014 that the company has "chosen to invest our capital in upgrading and maintaining infrastructure that is critical to New Jersey's economic health." He said that includes the company's 2.1 million electric and gas customers, "who rely on us to provide them with heat and light day in and day out."

The State Division of Rate Counsel is opposing Energy Strong in the ongoing rate case, calling it a wish list of projects that will prevent only a fraction of the mass outages that Hurricane Sandy caused. Other organizations like AARP New Jersey and the New Jersey Large Energy Users Coalition are also opposing the plan, whose cost would get passed onto ratepayers.



Ralph LaRossa
PSEG President

Energy Strong has received strong support from more than 100 towns and counties that were affected by Sandy and other recent storms, and from labor unions that stand to benefit from the expected job creation.



Somerset County Planners to Speak at Two Forums in March

Somerset County Planning Director Robert Bzik and Supervising Planner Laurette Kratina will be among the speakers at a statewide planning conference on March 22nd.

“Our planning director and his staff are very well-respected throughout New Jersey for their expertise and their many award-winning projects and initiatives,” said **Freeholder Patricia Walsh**, planning liaison. “Their participation in these conferences is a great opportunity for them to share that expertise and to broaden their own knowledge of planning issues.”



Robert Bzik
Planning Director

Bzik will speak at the New Jersey Future Redevelopment Forum on March 14, 2014 at the Hyatt Hotel and Conference Center in New Brunswick. He will talk about the new state Economic Development Opportunities Act of 2013 and the county Planning Board’s cutting-edge work interpreting, mapping and explaining how business tax incentives - ranging from a maximum annual incentive of \$4 million to \$2.5 million for 10 years under Grow NJ and the Economic Redevelopment and growth Program - can advance economic opportunities at the local level. This topic also will be presented at the March 18, 2014 Somerset County Planning Board meeting, which the public is welcome to attend.


Kratina will be among the speakers slated for the NJ Land Conservation Rally on March 22, 2014 at the Busch Campus Student Center at Rutgers University in Piscataway. She will give a presentation on the County Investment Framework and how it serves as a planning tool for balancing economic and residential growth with environmental resources protection and agriculture at the regional and local levels.

Later this Spring, **Kratina also will serve on a panel of speakers at the New Jersey Association of Counties Annual Conference** in Atlantic City from **May 7th - May 9th**. She will describe the initiatives underway by the county Planning Board and other Somerset County organizations that support municipal efforts to achieve Sustainable Jersey certification.

For registration information and other details about the Redevelopment Forum, visit www.forum.njfuture.org/agenda.

To learn more about the Land Conservation Rally, visit www.njconservation.org/conservationrally.htm.





NJAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MAY 7, 2014
to
May 9, 2014

For more information visit
www.njac.org

Major Win for Counties: Flood Insurance Bill Clears Congress, Heads to President's Desk

On March 13, 2014 the National Association of Counties (NACo) applauded the U.S. Senate for passing legislation that addresses concerns about rising flood insurance premiums across America. The Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (H.R. 3370) passed the Senate by a vote of 72-22. The bill, which passed by the House of Representatives on March 4, now moves to the President's desk for his signature.

H.R. 3370 is in response to the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12), signed into law in July of 2012, which aimed to make the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) more financially stable by reflecting true flood risks in communities. NACo and county leaders raised concerns that implementation of BW-12 resulted in some unintended consequences, including rapidly increasing flood insurance premiums in local communities.

According to the Government Accountability Office, properties in 2,930 counties had subsidized policies as of June 2012. Many low-lying areas contain lower income and/or middle income resident and business properties, which cannot absorb high insurance premiums.



Matt Chase
Executive Director

"County officials across the country, both coastal and inland have been alarmed that their homeowners and businesses are facing drastically increasing annual flood insurance premiums due to BW-12," said **NACo Executive Director Matt Chase**. "Fixing this problem has been a top priority for NACo and we thank House and Senate leadership and members in both chambers who have worked tirelessly to achieve this bipartisan compromise."

NACo supports a sustainable, fiscally responsible NFIP that protects the businesses and homeowners who built according to code and have followed all applicable laws. NACo also supports reinstating the grandfathering of properties (not policies) that were built to code, have maintained insurance or have not repeatedly flooded and the implementation of rate structures that reflect an economically reasonable rate.



NACo Discusses Federal Transportation Funding Crisis, Outlines Key County Priorities in MAP-21 Rewrite

On March 13, 2014 National Association of Counties (NACo) Executive Director Matt Chase participated in a bipartisan roundtable that focused on the pending insolvency of the federal Highway Trust Fund and the expiration of the federal surface transportation bill, MAP-21. The roundtable was led by U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA).

Chase emphasized that counties play a critical role in the nation's transportation system. Counties own 45 percent of the nation's public roads and 39 percent of the nation's bridge inventory. Counties are involved in a third of the nation's transit systems and airports. Each year, counties invest more than \$106 billion in public works and public facilities, including more than \$25 billion on roads and bridges through a blend of federal, state, and local resources.

"NACo and our county members support a six-year reauthorization bill that provides long-term funding certainty and addresses our growing infrastructure needs," Chase explained. "We also want to build on

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Federal Transportation Funding Crisis *(continued)*

MAP-21 reforms to expedite project delivery, ensure local county officials are involved in the transportation decision-making process, and provide much needed funding for county bridges and roads.”



NACo Executive Director Matt Chase addresses the House Transportation Committee during a roundtable session, as leaders from other stakeholder organizations look on.

Chase noted that county officials are facing major decisions on whether to cancel or delay future transportation construction and maintenance projects with the pending bankruptcy of the federal Highway Trust Fund in the summer of 2014. “The economic recovery for most counties remains fragile and uneven. Counties rely on a blend of federal, state and local funding and financing to maintain our county transportation assets. The growing uncertainty at the federal level will most likely result in delayed or cancelled projects, costing more jobs and pain for county governments and private contractors.”

Other NACo priorities include support for innovative funding and financing methods, making safety a priority on all roads and bridges and support public transportation systems of all sizes.

Federal surface transportation programs were most recently reauthorized in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), which was enacted on July 6, 2012. MAP-21 expires in September 2014.

The NACo MAP-21 reauthorization fact sheet can be obtained by visiting www.naco.org/legislation/documents/2014map21.pdf and the reauthorization priorities are listed on www.naco.org/legislation/policies/documents/transportation/nacomap-21reauthorizationpriorities2014.pdf.

NACo recently released “The Road Ahead: County Transportation Funding and Financing,” a study assessing the role of counties in transportation and the challenges and solutions to the funding and financing of their transportation systems. This comprehensive report may be viewed at www.naco.org/newsroom/pubs/documents/naco_road_ahead_02.24.2014.pdf.



NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE

July 11, 2014

to

July 14, 2014

For more information visit www.naco.org

Registration is now open!

Nationwide Economics

Weekly Economic Review & Outlook for March 3, 2014

by Bryan Jordan, Deputy Chief Economist of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and
Ben Ayers, Staff Economist of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

Tighter monetary policy still looks well into the future

Weekly Review

New Federal Reserve Board Chair Janet Yellen's delayed (by a Washington DC snowstorm) testimony in front of the Senate Banking Committee offered little in the way of new information after her first presentation at the House of Representatives over two weeks ago, but did afford her the opportunity to reinforce the message that policy decisions will be data dependent and that substantial labor market improvement will be required before rate hikes will be considered. Yellen deviated from her House testimony only to note the potential weather effects on recent economic data releases, implying that it may take weeks or months to discern the true underlying growth trend. Tapering appears likely to continue for the time being, then, as Yellen said that policymakers would reconsider the pace of asset purchase reduction only in the event of a "significant" change in the outlook.



Janet L. Yellen
Federal Reserve Board Chair

At the same time, Yellen also continued to hint that the bar is set high for an outright tightening of monetary policy. She said that members of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) consider the full employment unemployment rate to be "substantially lower" than the 6.5 percent threshold that had been in place for the consideration of rate hikes and again noted the extreme levels of some of the broader measures of labor market health. She added that she thought it would take "several years" for the economy to normalize. So while the quantitative easing (QE) program is likely to continue to be wound down, monetary accommodation (in the form of near-zero short-term interest rates) looks to remain in place for some time to come.

That is the most likely scenario globally as well. The communiqué released after the recent G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors included the stated goal of lifting global growth by 2.0 percent above that implied by current policies. While the specific goal should be taken with a grain of salt, the focus is noteworthy. Even as the global recovery enters into its fifth year, there is still a widespread desire to push the pace of expansion higher. And with the inflation remaining under wraps across most of the world, economic officials can continue to pursue pro-growth policies. The global inflation rate fell to 3.0 percent last year, including just 1.3 percent in advanced countries. In the U.S., the CPI inflation rate ended 2013 at 1.6 percent, while the Fed's preferred measure, the core personal consumption expenditures price index, was up by a miniscule 1.2 percent. Yellen reiterated in her testimony last week that inflation is well-below the fed's 2.0 percent goal and is only likely to move back toward that level over the "coming years." From the Fed's viewpoint, the economy is healthy enough to allow a continued reduction in the pace of monetary accommodation, but it is far from the overheating that would require monetary restraint.

Geopolitical risks have risen with Russia's takeover of the Crimea region of Ukraine, and risk assets sold-off over the weekend. This situation is very fluid, and we will have more to say as events unfold.

Weekly Outlook

The schedule of economic releases is busy in the first week of March, headlined by the February employment report, light vehicle sales, and the ISM Manufacturing Index.

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Nationwide Economics *(continued)*

- While the drag on job growth from this winter's worse-than-usual weather is difficult to measure, private-sector surveys (including the ADP National Employment Report) suggest a stronger pace than that reported by the government's payroll survey. Another month of colder and wetter than usual weather in February probably held employment growth down again, but we expect the impact to be less than in the past two months as we are looking for an increase of 150,000 jobs. Rapid employment growth in the household survey over the past three months has helped to push down the unemployment rate by 0.4 percentage points over that time. This downward trend is expected pause in February with the jobless rate staying at 6.6 percent, as the labor force participation rate should rise again.
- Personal Income was flat in December as weak employment growth combined with only modest gains in average hourly earnings. A somewhat faster pace of job growth in January should push up personal income by 0.2 percent. Personal Consumption Expenditures accelerated in 2013-Q4, posting the strongest quarterly growth rate since early 2012. We expect spending growth to start off 2014 more modestly in January (slowed by poor weather), rising by a modest 0.2 percent for the month.
- Light vehicle sales slipped in January to an annualized sales pace of 15.2 million units, well-below the average for 2013, on a sharp drop in sales of passenger cars (light truck sales rose). Although still depressed by worse-than-usual weather and fewer sales days, light vehicle sales should rebound modestly in February to 15.4 million units.
- With weather as the likely culprit, the ISM Manufacturing Index fell sharply in January, reversing a strong growth trend in the second half of 2013. Bad weather again in February suggest that the index will remain weak - we expect a small gain to only 51.7 (suggesting modest expansion). We also expect the ISM Nonmanufacturing Index to decline slightly to a value of 53.0 in February - hurt by bad weather.

For further information please contact Emanuel Mahand,
Program Director of New Jersey, at MAHAND@nationwide.com



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Federal Grants

[Implementation Cooperative Agreements for Expansion of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and their Families Program](#)

Deadline is March 21, 2014

Available: Maximum of \$1,000,000 per year for up to four years

Number of Awards: 23

www.beta.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sm-14-002



[Research on Gang and Gang Violence](#)

Deadline is April 25, 2014

Available: \$1,000,000 total program funds

Number of Awards: 1 - 7

www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/sloo1086.pdf



[Research and Evaluation on the Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of Elderly Individuals](#)

Deadline is April 25, 2014

Available: \$1,000,000 total program funds

Number of Awards: Multiple

www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/sloo1089.pdf

Donation made to Monmouth County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Shaun Golden was the proud recipient of a check that was presented to the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office for \$5,100.00 on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at the Retro Fitness Corporate Headquarters in Colts Neck. Retro Fitness President and CEO Eric Casaburi donated \$50 from each of its facilities that will help provide additional equipment for the Monmouth County Project Lifesaver Program. The program uses radio signals to track individuals with Alzheimer's disease and autism when they wander and become missing.



Shaun Golden
Sheriff

"I'm grateful to Retro Fitness for its dedication to help fund such an important program," said **Sheriff Shaun Golden**. "Project Lifesaver is a lifesaving tool for families who have loved ones with a condition or illness that causes them to wander. It can benefit them greatly by the safety and security provided through participation in the Project Lifesaver Program."

Since its implementation in 2003, Monmouth County has had seven rescues of individuals who have wandered, all under thirty minutes, the fastest in nine minutes. The partnership between the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office and the Monmouth County Office on Aging was initially funded through the purchase of equipment made possible through a grant from the Older Americans Act.

The program was expanded to include individuals with autism in 2007 with the Monmouth County Department of Human Services, joining the partnership and securing funding with grants from New Jersey Natural Gas Company, Jersey Central Power and Light Company, and a grant from the State of New Jersey.

There are currently eighty-nine individuals on the Project Lifesaver Program, twenty-five adults and sixty-four children in Monmouth County. Just recently, a teenager who went missing from Marlboro in 2013 was placed on the program. The money donated through Retro Fitness will be used to expand this invaluable program further, with the intent of sparing families a lot of grief when locating a loved one who goes missing.

"We are extremely delighted to make this donation on behalf of our franchisees," said **Eric Casaburi**, President and CEO of Retro Fitness. "We know it is for a great cause, as the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office is always working to keep our residents safer and towns more secure. I am proud to be part of Project Lifesaver and more specifically the personal safety tracking device."

Each radio transmitter worn by an individual has a unique frequency. Should the client become missing, the Sheriff's Office has four receivers with which to track the missing individual. The range for the radio receiver is one mile on the ground, one quarter mile when roof mounted and five to seven miles in a helicopter.

Applications for enrollment in Project Lifesaver are processed through the Monmouth County Office on Aging. Once approved, the applications are sent to the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office where personnel go to the residence of the individual, teach the family about Project Lifesaver and install the wristlet (transmitter). Sheriff's personnel will return in either 30 or 60 days, depending on the model of the transmitter, to change the batteries and check on the condition of the client. Should the client be reported missing, sheriff's officers immediately respond with the Project Lifesaver receivers to locate the missing individual.

Nationwide, the Project Lifesaver program is in forty-nine states and has a 100% recovery rate with 2,792 rescues of missing persons. The average time for a Project Lifesaver rescue is under thirty minutes.



Eric Casaburi presenting check donation to Sheriff Shaun Golden.

New Wesmont Train Station in Wood-Ridge

Station is first in New Jersey to proceed through public-private partnership; will serve as centerpiece of 70-acre trans-oriented, mixed-use development

On March 11, 2014 Somerset Development and NJ TRANSIT broke ground on the new Wesmont Train Station, a state-of-the-art commuter rail station that will serve as the centerpiece of Somerset's award-winning 70-acre mixed-use transit-oriented redevelopment. The station is poised to serve as a model for effective collaboration among the public and private sectors.

The new train station will connect with the Bergen County Line and is expected to generate approximately 800 daily trips. All of the buildings at the Wesmont Station development will be within walking distance of the station, which will provide riders with a 25-minute commute into Manhattan.



An enthusiastic crowd attended today's groundbreaking, which included a reception and supportive comments from Wood-Ridge Mayor Paul Sarlo; Steve Santoro, Assistant Executive Director for Capital Planning & Programs at NJ TRANSIT; and Ralph Zucker, President of Somerset Development. Community officials and members alike celebrated the start of construction on the new station as a significant milestone in the ongoing transformation of the Wesmont Station development into a dynamic new neighborhood.

State Senator and Wood-Ridge Mayor **Paul Sarlo** said, "Wesmont Train Station represents a new chapter for Wood-Ridge's future and I am so pleased to celebrate this Milestone groundbreaking. I applaud the tireless efforts of Somerset Development and NJ TRANSIT – their work together has allowed us to make major strides in this monumental redevelopment. It's an absolute honor to see the continued progress on Wesmont Station and I look forward to seeing the positive impact this new train station will have on our residents, businesses and community at large."

"This public-private partnership will provide long-term benefits to the community. The creation of this transit-friendly neighborhood from what was once a Brownfield industrial site will now link Wesmont with New York, via Secaucus Junction, Hoboken and other destinations throughout the region," stated **Veronique Hakim**, NJ TRANSIT Executive Director. "The combined projects will produce significant economic benefits, including new jobs and commercial activity. Further, this will also yield environmental benefits with residents, patrons and others utilizing public transportation in even greater numbers." Added Hakim, "Together with Somerset Development and the Borough of Wood-Ridge, NJ TRANSIT looks forward to welcoming new customers into our State's public transportation network who will utilize Wesmont Station."

The NJ TRANSIT train station is a key focal point of Wesmont Station, which will feature a dynamic mix of nearly 1,200 residences, retail space, commercial buildings, community facilities and open space that combine to create a pedestrian-friendly, live-work-play center.

Ralph Zucker, President of Somerset Development, master developer of Wesmont Station, added, "The train station is the heart of this project and today's groundbreaking brings us another step closer to the realization of our vision for Wesmont Station. I would like to express my gratitude to Mayor Sarlo and NJ TRANSIT for their support and cooperation to make this a reality. It is truly a testament to the collaboration between the public and

New Wesmont Train Station in Wood-Ridge *(continued)*

private sectors that we have reached this milestone, and we look forward to delivering a great new transportation option to Wood-Ridge.”

The train station will feature a fully accessible platform and an overpass that will provide pedestrians with safe access to the center-island platform. A 215-space commuter parking lot will also be created, as will a 56-space employee parking lot and an area for equipment and material storage. The train station will be equipped with automated ticket vending, 24/7 security monitoring and is handicap accessible with elevators and ramps throughout.

With many looking ahead to Wesmont Station’s future, developers have also been careful to preserve the industrial heritage of the site as a former Curtiss-Wright Corporation property. Along with the development’s Rosie the Riveter statue, the train station’s design pays homage to the property’s history.

NJ TRANSIT will operate the station upon completion. Jacobs Engineering Group is the design consultant for the station, with Anselmi & DeCicco, Inc. serving as construction contractor. Sowinski Sullivan Architects is the project architect.

The first phase of the Wesmont Station development comprises a 406-unit luxury rental apartment complex, Avalon at Wesmont Station, developed by AvalonBay Communities. The Avalon complex also features 27,000 square feet of retail space. Milk & Honey Market, a popular market and deli selling locally produced foods, occupies 10,000 square feet of the complex’s ground-floor retail space.

Additionally, Pulte Homes is currently constructing Liberty Square at Wesmont Station, a new community of 217 luxury for-sale townhomes.

Future development phases of Wesmont Station will include the construction of single-family homes and live/work townhomes. The development’s dynamic lifestyle offering will be further enhanced by the creation of walking trails and bike paths throughout the development.



What’s the Risk? Understanding Labor Law Compliance

by Jennifer Dowd, Marketing Manager - Government & Education Division for Kronos, Inc.

Government and education organizations still managing labor with outdated manual time and attendance systems are taking a big risk. They’re not just wasting valuable time and resources. They’re also exposing their organizations to the potential consequences of noncompliance with labor laws and policies.

Compliance issues can be expensive and generate unwanted negative publicity. In the March 18th webinar co-sponsored by Kronos, Inc. and *Governing* magazine, our panel of experts will discuss how implementing an automated workforce management system can provide more accurate audit tracking, improve accountability, and result in fewer misinterpretations of labor laws such as the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), Affordable Healthcare Act (ACA), and union collective bargaining agreements.

Join *Governing* on this important webinar as we hear about how automated systems can help improve day-to-day labor tracking, as well as spot potential problems before they become costly or disruptive issues. Speakers include Mollie Lombardi, VP HCM Research, **Aberdeen Group**, Brian Butler, HR Director, **City of Tuscaloosa**, and Shuana Thompson, Director, Financial Information Systems, **Pace University**. [Click here](#) to register.



One-seat Ride to NYC Debut on Raritan Valley Line

On March 3, 2014 Somerset County Freeholder Peter S. Palmer, who also chairs the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition, was among those boarding the first one-seat ride train leaving the Raritan Borough station for New York. The train departed from the Raritan station at 8:43 a.m. and arrived at New York's Penn Station at 10:09 a.m. "This is the culmination of 15 years of effort by the Rail Coalition, county and local officials and stakeholders all along the Raritan Valley Line," **Freeholder Peter S. Palmer** said. "I was thrilled to be part of this maiden voyage to celebrate the launch of off-peak direct service to Manhattan."



(l to r) RVRC Vice-Chairman Tom Jardim, Hunterdon County Freeholder Matthew Holt, and Somerset County Freeholder Peter S. Palmer at the Raritan train station.

He was joined by Rail Coalition Vice-Chairman Tom Jardim and Hunterdon County Freeholder Matthew Holt, as well as Somerset County Planner Kenneth Wedeen, who serves as the coalition's staff support.

The train departed the Raritan Borough station, picking up passengers in Somerville, Bridgewater, Bound Brook and Dunellen before reaching Plainfield, the first stop in Union County. Other stops in Union County were Fanwood, Westfield, Garwood, Cranford, Roselle Park, and Union Township. "One-seat service represents a significant improvement for commuters and for all of Union County," said Union County **Freeholder Chairman Christopher Hudak**. "Our future goes hand in hand with mass transit, which is instrumental in economic development and quality of life as well as environmental and public health."

Instead of having to leave their diesel locomotive-powered train and transfer to an electric-powered one at Newark Penn Station, riders will be able to stay in their seats. An engineer will convert the system on a dual-power locomotive capable of operating in diesel or electrified territory.

This is the first step in what commuters hope will ultimately lead to one-seat rides on weekends and during rush hours.

Visit www.njtransit.com for scheduling information.



Christopher Hudak
Freeholder Chairman

Multi-Media Learning Space at GCLS Coming this Summer

The Gloucester County Library System (GCLS) has received an award of \$12,500.00 to fund the creation of a "Makerspace" at the Mullica Hill Branch. The MakerStudio@GCLS will be a collaborative learning space that will offer exposure to new technologies and provide library users a chance to bring their creative ideas to life.

The MakerStudio@GCLS will contain hardware such as 3-D printer, 3-D scanner, a vinyl cutter and laptop interfaces, as well as a sewing machine and other supplies for more traditional crafting. An adjacent room will serve as a digital media studio, containing an iMac computer with Garageband, iMovie, and photo-editing soft-

continued on page 17

New Multi-Media Learning Space at GCLS *(continued)*

ware. Accessories will include a MIDI controller, HD video cameras, a green screen, and photo printer/scanner.

Freeholder Director Robert Damminger said, “The MakerStudio@GCLS is going to be an exciting place for patrons of all ages and interest to use and help realize their creative potential. These learning environments are popping up in public libraries all over the country and drawing in new library users and offering current library customers something new.”



Robert Damminger
Freeholder Director

The Mullica Hill’s MakerStudio@GCLS will utilize the current computer lab because it has the necessary outlets, port and cabling. The computers will be relocated to other parts of the library.

Freeholder Barnes said, “This Makerspace will be the first of its kind in Gloucester County. The lab will be available to library user, individually and in groups, who are interested in using the equipment to turn their creative ideas into reality. Future plans include the creation of mini-labs at GCLS branches and partnerships with schools and business organizations.”



Lyman Barnes
Freeholder

Funding for this Makerspace initiative is provided by the New Jersey State Library and by LibraryLinkNJ, the New Jersey Library Cooperative, whose services are funded by the New Jersey State library, which is responsible for the coordination, promotion, and funding of the New Jersey Library Network. The MakerStudio@GCLS is expected to be available to the public in Summer 2014.

GCLS is currently seeking businesses, organizations, and individuals who would like to participate by providing program leadership, financial, or technical support. For more information contact Ralph Bingham, Head of Reference and Digital Services, at (856) 223-6045 or rbingham@gcls.org.



NJAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 7, 2014 - May 9, 2014

Show Your Support for County Vo-Tech Schools
at the

County Vocational-Technical School Cook-Off Challenge

May 9, 2014

Caesar’s in Atlantic City

For more information visit www.njac.org



CONGRATULATIONS

Essex County Freeholder **Carol Y. Clark** was recently selected to represent New Jersey on the Northeast County Caucus. She attended their first meeting on March 2, 2014 in Washington, DC during the NACo Legislative Conference.

Hal Spence, Jr., Director for the Gloucester County Consumer Affairs/Weights and Measures, was honored for his service as President of the County and Municipal Consumer Affairs Agency of New Jersey.

Shady Lane Nursing Home of Gloucester County was acknowledged and certified for achievement in quality care by Healthcare Quality Strategies, Inc. on March 7, 2014.

Hoboken PATH of **Hudson County** celebrated its 106th anniversary on February 25, 2014.

John Tobacco, Chief Executive Officer, of **Green Energy Management Systems (GEMS)** recently met with Aruba's Prime Minister, Michiel Godfried Eman to discuss developing different projects of sustainable energy on the island as well as creating new jobs.

Health Republic Insurance of NJ will take occupancy at its new headquarters located at 570 Broad Street in Newark, NJ this Spring.

Karl P. Kemm, Esq. joined **McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC** as counsel in the firm's Land Use and Real Estate Group.

Michael Baker International announced on March 5, 2014 that Michael Rudinica, PE, a leading water resources expert, has joined the firm to lead its Water and WasteWater practice.

OceanFirst Financial Corp., the holding company for **OceanFirst Bank**, announced the Director's appointment of Christopher D. Maher to the Boards of OceanFirst Financial Corp. and OceanFirst Bank.

Pennoni Associates announced that David DeLizza, PE, was promoted to Chief Operating Officer and Joe Viscuso, PE, PLS, was promoted to Senior Vice President.



**Essex County
Cherry Blossom
10K Run
Branch Brook Park
Sunday - April 6, 2014**

For more information, visit
www.essexcherryblossom.com



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUPERVISING ENGINEER

The **County of Hunterdon** has an opening for a full-time position of Supervising Engineer. The incumbent will supervise the field and office engineering work involved in the design, maintenance, and construction of structures and/or systems. Duties include planning, organizing and supervising the field and office work program; makes and directs the making of investigations of conditions of structures and equipment, prepare detailed reports, supervise field and office engineering work involved in design, maintenance, and construction of highways, other roads or streets and/or bridges or some other branch of engineering. Bachelor's Degree in Civil, Mechanical, or Electrical Engineering required and at least three years of related professional engineering experience, one year of which shall have been in a supervisory capacity. Please include salary history as well as all stated requirements of this job announcement with your resume for consideration and forward to ckopec@co.hunterdon.nj.us.

ASSITANT COUNTY ENGINEER

The **County of Hunterdon** has an opening for a full-time position of Assistant County Engineer. The incumbent will assist the Supervising County Engineer with difficult field and office engineering work involved in the design, maintenance, and construction of highways, bridges, roads, and sewers and other types of engineering work. Duties include but not limited to preparation of thorough and timely technical advice, analyses and reports which can serve as the basis for sound decisions by public officials in their responsibility to assure that expenditures of funds are for optimum benefit and service to the community. Accountable for the proper operation, maintenance, repair, and construction of the County's roads and bridges; storm drainage; other services such as land acquisitions and right-of-way determinations, as appropriate; maintenance and preservation of the County's records related to road facilities. Responsible for applying thorough and extensive knowledge of modern engineering design, systems, methods, practices and equipment utilized in construction, maintenance and design, and of sound management and administrative principles and techniques. Bachelor's Degree in Civil, Mechanical, or Electrical Engineering required. Please include salary requirements with your resume for consideration and forward to ckopec@co.hunterdon.nj.us.

ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The **County of Warren** is seeking an experienced individual to assist in oversight and direction of the fiscal operations for Warren County and its two county authorities. Working under the direction of the Chief Financial Officer, this member of the Finance Department team will assist with all financial administrative tasks performed within the department. Specifically, the individual will assist in the preparation of operating and capital budgets, analyze financial information for the purpose of providing direction and support, make fiscal and technical policy recommendations, and act as a financial and technical resource to the Department. Additional duties include, but are not limited to payroll, budget preparation, accounting, financial reporting and analysis. Knowledge of SunGuard finance and payroll systems software is a plus.

This position requires a visionary and strategic leader with strong fiscal integrity and an extensive knowledge of County Fiscal Operations. The ideal candidate may assume additional responsibilities within the Department and may seek appointment as Chief Financial Officer. The successful candidate should possess a current Certified County Financial Officer license or must obtain a Certified County Financial Officer license within two years. Resumes with salary requirement may be sent to: *County of Warren, Attn: Personnel Director, 165 County Route 519 South, Belvidere NJ 07823* no later than March 17, 2014. EOE New Jersey residence is required.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION SYSTEMS DIRECTOR

The **County of Warren** is seeking an individual for the position of Information Systems Director. The incumbent will be responsible for development of objectives for the County-wide Information Systems Department. Five years of relevant experience is required. Extensive knowledge of project management; programming/telecommunications/database/hardware functionality; network design, management and security operation. Prior supervisory experience and vendor contract management required. Ability to develop technical specifications for projects requiring the purchase of services, software, hardware or other related services. Knowledge of pertinent federal, state, and local laws, codes and regulations is required. A Bachelor's Degree in Business, Management, Computer Sciences or related area is required. Criminal background check required. In order to apply for this position, you must be a New Jersey resident, preferably living in Warren County. Submit your resume, cover letter of interest, salary requirement and references no later than March 19, 2014 to twright@co.warren.nj.us.

County Brings Mobile Notary Service to Edison & Woodbridge

The Middlesex County Clerk's Office announced that the County's Mobile Notary Service is now available to the Townships of Edison and Woodbridge, as of March 6, 2014.

"The Mobile Notary Service goes out to municipalities to administer oaths to those who have applied to the State of New Jersey to become a notary public and have received their commissions back," said Middlesex County Clerk Elaine M. Flynn. "Those applying must bring their commission papers, identification, and a \$15 filing fee in the form of a check or money order made payable to the Middlesex County Clerk or cash in the exact amount."



Elaine Flynn
County Clerk

Flynn added, "Notary applicants must be sworn in within 90 days of the date on their commission paperwork."

Oaths in Edison Township Municipal Building will be done on the first Thursday of the month from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Municipal Clerk's office.

Service in the Township of Woodbridge Town Hall will continue to be offered on the first Thursday of the month from noon to 3:00 p.m.

Notary oaths also are done on a daily basis in the Passport Office on the 4th floor of the Middlesex County Administration Building at 75 Bayard Street in New Brunswick. Oaths are done on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

and on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Dates and times may change so please call the respective office before visiting:

- Edison Municipal Clerk (732) 248-7200
- Woodbridge Municipal Clerk (732) 634-4500
- Middlesex County Clerk (732) 745-3870



"By bringing the Mobile Notary Service out into these municipalities, County Clerk Flynn is enhancing the efficiency of her office in a way that brings added convenience to our residents," said Freeholder Blanquita Valenti, Chair of the County's Community Services Committee.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



John G. Donnadio, Esq.

If you haven't done so already, please visit our website at www.njac.org for details about our highly anticipated annual celebration of county government scheduled to take place from May 7th through May 9th at Caesar's in Atlantic City and includes:

- The nation's only county vocational-technical school cook-off challenge.
- All major events and workshops hosted in the main exhibit hall.
- Informative workshops approved for continuing education credits.
- A timely legislative leadership panel discussion and county awards presentation.
- Unique networking opportunities to share resources and ideas.

Our conference begins Wednesday evening May 7th with a Meet and Greet Reception; kicks off Thursday morning with a board of directors meeting in the main exhibit hall; and, ends early Friday afternoon May 9th with the cook-off challenge. In between, you'll have the opportunity to network with county and business leaders from across the State, participate in a spirited panel discussion with legislative leaders, and earn valuable professional development credits at one of our 25 educational workshops.

For NJAC county affiliate members, please let us know if you would like to host a meeting as was the case last year with our county administrators, finance officers, public information officers, and improvement authorities. For NJAC business associates, please let us know which topics you would find helpful to learn about during the "Doing Business with County Government" segment provided each year by our county purchasing officials. Some initial topics include purchasing, pay-to-play and ethics, but we want your input.

Did you know?

Daylight saving time (DST) has been a subject of recurring debate in the United States, the United Kingdom, and many other countries around the world for about a hundred years. Ancient civilizations were known to practice a similar process of the concept of DST where they would adjust their daily schedules in accordance to the sun, such as the Roman water clocks that used different scales for different months of the year.

The idea of daylight saving time was first conceived by Benjamin Franklin in 1784 during his stay in Paris. He published an essay titled "An Economical Project for Diminishing the Cost of Light" that proposed to economize the use of candles by rising earlier to make use of the morning sunlight.

Although many believe that Benjamin Franklin invented DST, some say that modern DST was first proposed in 1895 by George Vernon Hudson, an entomologist from New Zealand. Hudson presented a paper to the Wellington Philosophical Society that proposed a two-hour shift forward in October and a two-hour shift back in March. He followed up his proposal with an article in 1898, and although there was interest in the idea, it was never followed through.

This information was obtained from www.timeanddate.com

«MARCH 2014»

.....Is National MS Education and Awareness Month

SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI
15	16		18 Power Lunch 12pm - 1:30pm Coastline Cherry Hill	 19 7pm Colts Arena Kinross	20 Art Amongst War 12pm - 7pm TCNJ Art Gallery Ewing	21
22 Swingin' Speakeasy 7pm Elks Lodge Hoboken click here to register <i>benefits Hoboken Historical Society</i>	23 Photo Scavenger Hunt 9am Frelinghuysen Arboretum Whippany	24 Youth Art Exhibition 6pm Centenary College Taylor Memorial Library Hackettstown	 25 12pm Bergen County Administration Building	26 5th Annual Legislative Roundtable Breakfast 7:30am Nicolosi Catering West Deptford	27 Spring Story Time Pruning 7pm - 8pm Mountainside Public Library Mountainside	28 Tour of Alexander Grant Mansion 12pm - 4pm Salem
29 A Taste of Jewish Spain 6pm Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Ctr Bridgewater	30 Acoustic Evening w/ Keb Mo 7pm Levoy Theatre Millville	31				

«APRIL 2014»

.....Is National Autism Awareness Month

SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
				2 Parent Series on Autism 6:30pm - 8:30pm Lumberton click here for more details	3	4 Meet Kim Goetz Team USA World Championship Speed Skater 5pm - 8pm Perkins Flemington download ticket
5 Spring Festival of Fine Arts & Crafts 10am - 5pm Music Pier Ocean City	 6	7 Easter Egg Craft 10:30am Atlantic City Free Public Library	8	9	10 Forum on the Green: Farm-to-Table Dinner 6pm Congress Hall Cape May	11 Middlesex County ELC featuring Asw. Nancy Pinkin 8am Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel Iselin
12 Easter Bunny Train Ride 9am Rt. 23 Transit Ctr Wayne	13 Dr. Hook featuring Ray Sawyer 8pm Newton Theatre Newton purchase tickets here	14				