

# NJAC COUNTY BIZ

An Educational and Informative Newsletter for Counties and Businesses

New Jersey Association of Counties

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## Culinary Arts Students Steal the Show

The nation's only County Vocational-Technical Schools Cook-Off Challenge was once again the highlight of NJAC's 64th annual conference. Culinary Arts students from Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, and Warren Counties competed for titles in taste, creativity, and food presentation on May 9, 2014 at Caesar's in Atlantic City.

Each school prepared 400 samples of an appetizer with a total budget of \$500.00. They were also required to decorate their table stations with themes relating to either their county or the entry they prepared.

Conference attendees had 45 minutes to sample the entries and vote. The teams did such a tremendous job that many attendees went back for seconds and even third helpings of Burlington County's braised lamb empanadas, Hudson County's Thai curry crab cake, Mercer County's seared sea scallops, Warren County's black bean and chorizo shooters, and Ocean County's coconut shrimp with mango salsa. Attendees also raved about Atlantic County's piggyback crab entry, Camden County's crab balls with andouille sausage and habanera sauce, Cumberland County's crab slider, Gloucester County's trio of stuffed tomatoes, Monmouth County's pecan crusted salmon, and Somerset County's chipotle glazed shrimp.

"The County Vocational-Technical School Cook-Off Challenge is one of the highlights of our annual conference," said NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio, Esq. "Our freeholders, county officials, business members, and Guests were impressed with the level of talent and professionalism demonstrated by our students, and the food was outstanding."



Freeholder Ann Cannon with  
Mercer County Technical  
School Students

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# Culinary Arts Students Steal the Show *(continued)*

After the judging and voting ended, teams and conference attendees anxiously awaited for the results, which are as follows:

## Atlantic City Chefs Awards

Taste:

- Gold - Hudson County Schools of Technology
- Silver - Somerset County Vocational Technical School
- Bronze - Mercer County Technical School

Food Presentation:

- Gold - Monmouth County Culinary Education Center
- Silver - Mercer County Technical School
- Bronze - Somerset County Vocational Technical School

## NJAC Judges Awards

Taste:

- Gold - Camden County Technical School
- Silver - Ocean County Vocational Technical School
- Bronze - Hudson County Schools of Technology

Food Display Presentation:

- Gold - Mercer County Technical School
- Silver - Hudson County Schools of Technology
- Bronze - Somerset County Vocational Technical School

## People's Choice Awards

- Gold - Hudson County Schools of Technology
- Silver - Ocean County Vocational Technical School
- Bronze - Monmouth County Culinary Education Center



**Warren County Freeholders E. Smith, R. Gardner, and J. Sarnoski with the students of Warren County Technical School**

Congratulations to all of the students and instructors for your participation and outstanding efforts. Thank you for helping make the 2014 NJAC Annual Conference a success.



# Get to know your County Official.....

## How many years have you served as a Warren County Freeholder?

I am in my fourth term as Freeholder in the only county just having three freeholders serving on the board.

## What was the first public office you held?

I started serving on my local planning board for the past 17 years and the last 7 years as Chairman.

## Why did you choose to apply for Freeholder?

Having lived in Warren County all my life, I know many people and our county in general terms very well. There were two main areas of focus that prompted me to a higher level of public service. They were advancing our county library system and renovations to our county courthouse.

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

The most difficult decision I have had to make so far as a freeholder has been voting to place a lawsuit on the State of New Jersey over the egregious Highlands Act.

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

Most people do not know my main occupation is farming. Financially farming, tied to the food industry, is the third largest industry in New Jersey.

## Who is your role model?

My role model is the late Wayne Dumont, Jr. who served with honor, dignity, and integrity in the New Jersey Senate for 36 years. He was often called the Dean of Legislature.

## Why do you love Warren County?

My love for Warren County runs deep; my heritage goes back seven generations in our county. Warren County has rolling forested hills, pristine fertile valleys, and the public that appreciates the quality of life as a standard in Warren County.



Richard D. Gardner  
Freeholder Deputy Director  
Warren County



## Kronos Awarded US Communities Contract

by Indrani Ray-Ghosal, Senior Manager of Public Relations for Kronos, Inc.

It was announced on March 18, 2014 that Kronos Incorporated was awarded the US Communities Government Purchasing Alliance workforce management contract. It is the first time that US Communities has provided a competitively solicited contract for workforce management technology.

The US Communities Government Purchasing Alliance is a government purchasing cooperative that reduces the cost of goods and services by aggregating the purchasing power of public agencies nationwide.

Maryland's Harford County Public Schools served as the lead public agency conducting the solicitation and evaluation process. By serving as the lead public agency in the evaluation process, Harford County Public Schools in Maryland is corroborating the need for such technology in the public sector. By selecting Kronos, the school district is looking to control labor costs, minimize compliance risk, and improve productivity—enabling it to further invest in the community it serves.

“We are confident that we have identified the best vendor to resolve critical workforce management issues by awarding Kronos the US Communities contract. Kronos helps organizations control labor costs and improve productivity and this is a win-win for any public sector entity trying to balance services with tightening budgets,” said **Jeff LaPorta**, Purchasing Supervisor, Harford County Public Schools.

Kronos was awarded the contract based on the company's unparalleled market leadership in the public sector with thousands of successful implementations. The selection was also based on the company's deep functionality for complex workforces; low cost of ownership for less complex workforces; well-established cloud computing operations; and proven scalability to meet the needs of organizations of all sizes.



“We are very pleased to be awarded the competitive US Communities contract, further underscoring our commitment to workforce management innovation in the public sector. Workforce management is a crucial aspect of operations within any public sector organization and efficiencies achieved in these processes not only drive down operational costs but also increase employee engagement,” said **Greg Smith**, Vice President - Public Sector for Kronos.

### 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](mailto:loren@njac.org).  
[Click here for an application.](#)

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



From the cloud information management to IT services, **All Covered** helps your employees have the information and tools they need to succeed in today's ever evolving world. All Covered offers a spectrum of technology solutions that have been helping companies with their IT and technology needs for many years. All Covered has been providing high quality IT consulting and support services to municipal and county government agencies for over 30 years. Learn more how your county can benefit from their services by visiting [www.allcovered.com](http://www.allcovered.com).



**EMEX, LLC** is a leading technology firm that is revolutionizing how energy is bought and sold through its live Reverse Auction Exchange. The Exchange creates a real-time trading environment that compels sellers to compete, resulting in prices dropping precipitously for businesses procuring energy. EMEX continues to develop new platforms that specialize in Exchanges for all industry types in order to provide a real-time buying and selling environment for all commodities, products, and services. For more information, please visit [www.EnergyMarketExchange.com](http://www.EnergyMarketExchange.com).

The Honeywell logo is the word "Honeywell" in a white, serif font, centered on a solid red rectangular background.

**Honeywell** is a fortune 500 company that invents and manufacturers technologies to address some of the world's toughest challenges linked to global macrotrends such as energy efficiency, clean energy generation, safety and security, globalization and customer productivity. With approximately 132, 000 employees worldwide, including more than 22,000 engineers and scientists, Honeywell has unrelenting focus on performance, quality, delivery, value and technology in all they make and do. Visit [www.honeywell.com](http://www.honeywell.com) for more information.



For over 80 years, the **New Jersey Psychological Association** has been a staunch advocate for New Jersey psychologists, an indispensable network of resources for the public and media, and an influential presence helping shape mental health policies in New Jersey. The New Jersey Psychological Association currently represents 2,000 psychologists who treat hundreds of thousands of people throughout the state of New Jersey. For more information, visit [www.psychologynj.org](http://www.psychologynj.org).

# Enhanced School Safety Requires Local Leadership & Commitment

by Joe Mazzarella, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Mutualink, Inc.

Making meaningful improvements to school safety requires local leadership and commitment by municipal executives, school boards, administrators, parents and teachers. This includes reaching out to work with first responder agencies in the community.

While the threat of school shootings is of concern, schools face an array of potential hazards. Modern response doctrine focuses on an “all hazards, all disciplines” framework. This is an agile framework intended to address a spectrum of risk events, ranging from man-made disasters (e.g., active shooters) to natural disasters such as hurricanes. Schools and critical infrastructure entities are called upon to implement collaborative emergency response systems capable of addressing dynamic emergency situations.



**Active Shooter Exercise at Hartford, CT School**

A central component to enhanced emergency response is the need for effective communication and information sharing among schools and responders. Implementing systems to bridge school communications with responder agencies and that enable real time video sharing is necessary. For voice communications, schools often use private radios that are incompatible with first responder radios. When an emergency strikes, school personnel cannot communicate directly with responders. Using affordable bridging technology, these systems can be linked to enable seamless communications. These bridging capabilities can link school radios, teachers' mobile phones and landline phones with responder radios, providing critical lifelines. With real time video sharing, responders gain critical views of what is happening inside the school through camera feeds. This increases situational awareness and gives decision-makers access to timelier and more accurate information.

As schools implement in-school video, panic alarms, reinforced doors and access control systems, it is important to realize that these offer a first line of defense within the school and limited communication to the outside world. Implementing an effective real time multimedia sharing system that can connect communications, video and information in times of crisis in a coordinated manner is equally important. Secure on-demand, any-device, any-system, seamless real time sharing is essential.

In a recent active shooter exercise, the Hartford, CT Police Department demonstrated the benefits of using a multimedia sharing technology called Mutualink. When comparing the same exercise with and without the aid of this technology, the response and threat mitigation time was cut in half. Police could see in the school, identify the assailant, track his movements, receive important information from inside the schools, block access and secure the school. Hartford Chief of Police, James Rovella, testified before the Connecticut School Safety Infrastructure Council, urging that this capability be included in schools because it would save lives.

Effective school security requires a holistic plan that embraces and leverages partner agencies. Leaders must understand and plan for the critical interplay between schools and first responder agencies, working to ensure that technologies are deployed to enhance situational awareness, communications and information sharing during emergencies. It's time to lean forward and implement solutions to save lives under real world conditions.



## Investors Bank Supports Union County Parks & Recreation

On May 2, 2014 the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders received a check from Investors Bank. The donation of \$10,500 was given in support of the Union County Parks and Recreation Department's summer programs. The bank's sponsorship will help support Union County's Summer Arts Concert Series, Family Fun and Flix movies, and the Harvest Festival.

For more information about Union County Parks and Recreation, visit [www.ucnj.org](http://www.ucnj.org). You may also contact Jim Lowney of Union County at (908) 527-4711.



*l to r:* Freeholder Sergio Granadas, Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Investors Bank Assistant Vice President Carmen Rivera, Freeholder Vernell Wright, Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, Freeholder Chairman Christopher Hudak, and Freeholder Bruce Bergen.



## Cooperative Program Saving Tax Dollars

*by Joe Scarpa, Bergen County Shared Services Administrator*



**Kathleen Donovan**  
Executive

Bergen County Executive Kathleen Donovan recently announced tax savings attained by the County forming the Energy Procurement Cooperative Pricing System for purchasing gas and electric.

By utilizing the Cooperative, the County of Bergen's unit price for gas was about 34% less, on average, than Public Service Electric and Gas (PSEG) prices. This lower unit price for gas translated to a tax savings of \$28,316 in January and \$40,520 in February, totaling \$68,836 for those two months alone.

This energy program is part of the County Executive's overall effort to evaluate the County's operating expenses and improve efficiency and cut costs. "Our energy co-op bid is clearly producing meaningful reductions in costs to the taxpayers of Bergen County," stated **County Executive Kathleen Donovan**.

Donovan also noted that the County extended the lower Cooperative prices to Bergen municipalities that wish to participate as part of a shared service. Fourteen towns and one authority decided to join and saved over \$947,000 on their gas and electric bills in 2013. This, coupled with the County of Bergen saving \$765,000 in 2013, meant a total savings of over \$1,700,000 to County taxpayers last year.



# Nationwide Economics

## Economic & Financial Markets Monthly Review

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

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### *What's Happening and Why*

#### **Economic Review**

##### *Stepping Out of the Deep Freeze*

The employment report for April was stronger than expected, with a gain of \$288,000 nonfarm payroll jobs and cumulative upward revisions to the prior two months of 36,000 jobs. Aside from weather-reduced figures in December and January, job growth has been above 200,000 each month since October, a significant uptick from a year ago. While there was likely some catch-up in hiring that inflated the April reading, the recent data from the jobs report indicate a recovery from the harsh winter. The U-3 unemployment rate dropped sharply to 6.3 percent (a post-recession low), but that was due to an 806,000 person decline in the civilian labor force rather than employment gains from the household survey. The household survey is relatively small and can be volatile - so the sharp labor force drop in April may be reversed in coming months, helping to boost the unemployment rate again.

Unlike the positive job market readings, the initial estimate of real GDP growth for the first quarter was an annualized increase of only .01 percent - and revisions may move it into negative territory. Most of this dismal performance can be blamed on worse-than-normal weather, much of which should be reversed in the next quarter. A spike in food prices pushed up the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March, although the 12-month gain remained tepid at 1.5 percent. The core CPI (excluding volatile food and energy components) showed a 1.7 percent gain over the past twelve months, in line with the recent trend and below the Federal Reserve's 2.0 percent long-term goal.

Helped by job growth, personal income rose moderately in March while the saving rate dipped to 3.8 percent in response to a pickup in consumer spending. Retail sales continued to recover from the cold winter, jumping by 1.2 percent in March on strong sales of autos and building materials. Light vehicle sales edged down in April to a still-strong annualized rate of 16.0 million units.

The Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing survey index rose to 54.9 in April (levels above 50 suggest further expansion), while the nonmanufacturing index climbed to the highest level since last summer (at 55.2). The NFIB small business optimism index showed a small gain to a still-low level of 93.4 in March (but note that the non-seasonally adjusted measure rose to nearly the highest level since 2007 - perhaps showing more optimism in the small business sector).

Current housing activity showed little improvement in March, but leading indicators were up. While both new and existing home sales edged down, permits for housing future starts increased - suggesting a rise in home construction soon. Leading indicators of home sales improved a bit with purchase mortgage applications rising a tad as well as a modest advancement in the National Association of Realtors' Pending Home Sales Index and the NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index. Seasonally adjusted house prices appreciation was rapid again in February/March, as supplies of homes remain low, keeping yearly growth rates in double digits.

*continued on page 9*



## Nationwide Economics *(continued)*

### Financial Markets Review

#### *Earnings Surprises Push Markets Higher*

A better-than-expected first quarter earnings season pushed most risk assets higher in a volatile month for stocks and bonds in April. Credit spreads continued to grind tighter while large cap equities advanced for the seventh time in the last eight months.

Nearly three-quarters of the firms that reported first quarter earnings through the end of April issued numbers ahead of consensus expectations, putting this earnings season on track to be the strongest relative to forecast in nearly four years. Upside surprises have been well distributed across most industries - consumer staples is the only sector with a surprise rate below 60 percent - and guidance has at least somewhat improved from the overwhelmingly negative tone of recent quarters. The weather has been cited by numerous companies as an impediment to first quarter performance and it remains widely expected that return to more seasonal weather will bring more clarity in the quarters ahead. Double-digit profit growth continues to be expected in the second half of the year.

Along those lines, the risk trade was also helped last month by general improvement in macroeconomic indicators, which had been skewed to the downside earlier this year by the effects of low temperatures and heightened storm activity. The slowdown in economic growth in the first quarter appears to be a short-term blip, especially in light of continued strength in leading indicators.

The past month also brought further supportive comments from monetary policymakers. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said in a speech in mid-April that the central bank has a “continuing commitment” to support the recovery while other Fed officials made remarks to suggest that the start of the next tightening cycle could come later than the early 2015 timeframe that Yellen herself had hinted to in March.

For the month, the S&P 500 increased by 0.74 percent while mid-caps gave back 1.56 percent and small-caps lost 2.79 percent. International stocks gained 1.51 percent. The 10-year US Treasury note yield declined by seven basis points to 2.65 percent (geopolitical concerns over Ukraine may have played a role, with a modest flight-to-quality) while the 2-year yield slipped by one basis point to 0.41 percent. Investment grade corporate spreads tightened by five basis points to 0.98 percent, high yield spreads came in by 14 basis points to 3.44 percent, and commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) spreads inched lower by one basis point for a second straight month to 1.06 percent. The dollar was lower by 0.78 percent while commodity prices continued to rally, adding 1.60 percent.

The month ahead will bring the tail end of first quarter earnings season along with what should be further rebounds in the economic data. The focus in the markets will also remain on the evolving situation in Ukraine and the continued slowdown in China.

### The Outlook

#### *An Acceleration in Economic Growth Going Forward - But is Housing Being Left Behind?*

As noted on the first page of this, recent economic data show that the economy has started to accelerate again.



**Janet Yellen**  
Federal Reserve Chair

*continued on page 10*

## Nationwide Economics *(continued)*

This growth has come from two sources: first, a catch-up as activity that was postponed during the deep freeze occurs in the more seasonable weather of the spring; and second, a continuation of a modest uptick in the economy's rate of growth trend that was seen during the second half of last year. From the end of the Great Recession through the middle of last year, real GDP growth averaged only 2.2 percent. Growth was just beginning to pick up again in the second half of 2013, moving to a bit above a 3.0 percent pace, before the bad weather hit. In the near term, the catch-up should move real GDP growth up to around 4.0 percent, before slowing to a 3.0 - 3.5 percent pace over at least the next year (still above the expansion trend thus far). Some of the slowdown in the economy during the first quarter may not have been weather-related, but most likely was.

Housing activity is always the most weather-dependent of all sectors of the economy, and it was hit hard by the worse-than-usual winter weather. But housing activity started to slow before the weather worsened, suggesting that other factors were also in place. Affordability, although still high and rising lately, is well-below the record levels of last year, and job growth has not been sufficient to offset the declines. Additionally, regulatory policy is leading to tighter underwriting guidelines (perhaps tighter than desirable) and this likely won't change in the near term. Still, housing activity should rise over the next year as the job market improves and household formations accelerate, although continued tight underwriting may keep it from rising sharply.

Based on statements by Fed Chair Janet Yellen, as well as other Fed policy makers, Fed tightening is extremely unlikely to occur this year - and probably not before the middle of next year. While the Fed will look at many factors in deciding when to raise short-term interest rates, the most important appears to be the degree of tightness in labor markets and the resulting impact on wages and prices. If labor market slack falls quickly over the course of 2014, then the time of first Fed tightening could be in the first half of 2015 - or it could be delayed into 2016 if labor markets languish. Our best guess remains the second half of next year. Once the Fed begins to tighten, however, we believe that it will move aggressively to ensure that inflation does not rise appreciably beyond its goal of 2.0 percent. This results in a sharper rise in short-term rates in 2016 and beyond than financial markets currently expect.

We continue to project that long-term interest rates will edge upward this year, although they have failed to do so thus far despite the Fed tapering its quantitative easing (QE) purchases. Unless the economic data prove to be much different than our forecast, the Fed should continue to reduce the rate at which it purchases longer-term Treasury notes and agency mortgage-backed securities - with QE ending in the fourth quarter. This reduction in the demand for long-term bonds should eventually help those rates to move upward. It may not be until later this year that rates move appreciably, however, as the Fed's forward guidance on keeping short-term rates lower for longer appears to have been extremely successful. Once the Fed begins to tighten, long-term rates should rise more rapidly - and our projections for rates are above current market expectations for 2016 and beyond.

For further information please contact Emanuel Mahand, Program Director of New Jersey, at [MAHANDE@nationwide.com](mailto:MAHANDE@nationwide.com).



# Fix Cracks in Funding

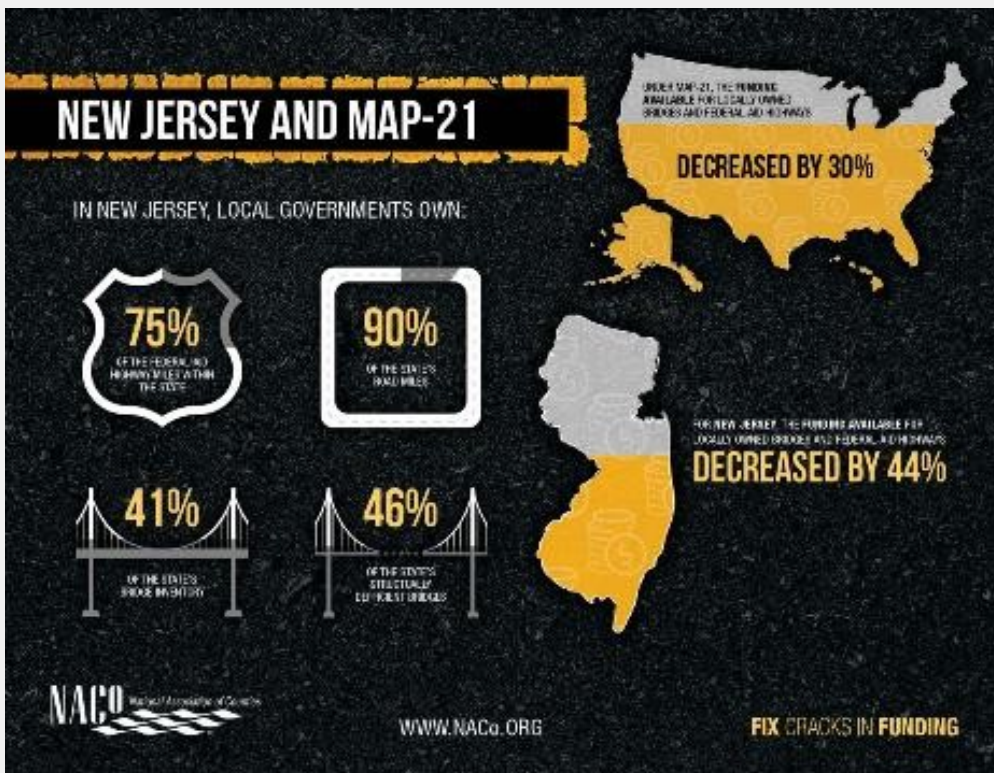
by Jessica Monahan, Associate Legislative Director - Transportation - for NACo



The current federal surface transportation law, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), is set to expire at the end of September. MAP-21 made several changes to federal transportation programs that shifted funding away from the infrastructure owned by counties and other local governments. In fact, **under MAP-21, the funding available for locally owned bridges and Federal-aid highways decreased by 30 percent.**

As the owners of 45 percent of the nation's roads and 39 percent of the nation's bridges, it's critical that counties urge Congress to repair this discrepancy and fix the cracks in funding for locally owned infrastructure.

**Show your members of Congress how MAP-21 impacted the funding available to locally owned infrastructure in their state and ask them to support county priorities the next surface transportation bill.**



Click [here](#) for County Priorities for MAP-21 Reauthorization.

Click [here](#) for additional background on MAP-21.

Click [here](#) for NACo's research report on county funding and financing for transportation - *The Road Ahead*.

For more information, please contact Jessica Monahan at (202) 942-4217 or [jmonahan@naco.org](mailto:jmonahan@naco.org).

# Proposed GROW AMERICA Act Could Modernize Transportation Policy

by Jessica Monahan, Associate Legislative Director - Transportation - for NACo

The US Department of Transportation (DOT) introduced the GROW AMERICA Act, the Obama Administration's proposed federal surface transportation reauthorization bill. The current transportation funding law, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), is set to expire at the end of September.

The Administration's bill, introduced April 29, 2014, would replace MAP-21 by providing a four-year authorization of federal highway, transit and rail programs at an increased funding level of \$302 billion.

MAP-21 passed Congress in the summer of 2012, providing a two-year authorization of federal surface transportation programs with essentially level funding (a total of \$105 billion for FY13 and FY14). The programs authorized by MAP-21 are primarily funded through the Highway Trust Fund, which collects revenue from the federal motor fuels tax.

The Administration proposes funding the programs with current revenue plus \$150 billion in one-time transition revenue from business tax reform.

Similarly, in February, **House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp** (R-Mich.) released his tax reform proposal, which included \$126.5 billion in dedicated revenue to cover the Highway Trust Fund for eight years (at current spending and gas tax levels). The trust fund revenue identified in Camp's proposal would be raised by a new two-tiered tax on repatriated overseas funds.



Of particular interest to counties, the bill would:

- Provide increased funding for federal surface transportation programs, including \$199 billion for highway and road safety programs, an increase of about 22 percent above FY14 enacted levels, and \$72 billion for transit systems and expanded transportation options, a nearly 70 percent increase above FY14 enacted levels;
- Establish an Infrastructure Permitting Improvement Center, housed at US DOT designed to reduce project delivery time by coordinating interagency action, supporting innovative pilots, and providing tools, training and technical assistance;
- Prevent new Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) from being designated within metropolitan statistical areas already served by an existing MPO and require coordinated planning and performance target-setting in those areas already served by multiple MPOs;
- Authorize the secretary of transportation to identify a subset of MPOs serving areas of 200,000 and above as "higher performing MPOs" based on a set of established criteria. Those MPOs would then qualify for a 50 percent increase in suballocated funds from the Surface Transportation and Transportation Alternatives programs. States would also be required to sub-allocate obligation authority to all MPOs representing areas with populations of 200,000 or more, on an annual basis, which would be available for four years. In addition, the high performing MPOs would receive an amount of obligation authority distributed to the states for federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs;

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## Proposed GROW AMERICA Act *(continued)*

- Provide funding for two new discretionary programs through DOT, including \$1.25 billion for a TIGER-like program and \$1 billion for a program called the Fixing and Accelerating Surface Transportation (or FAST) program. The FAST program is to be modeled after the Department of Education's Race to the Top and would award funding to a states, tribes or MPOs to spur the adoption of bold, innovative strategies and best practices in transportation. Twenty-five percent of the FAST funds would be set-aside for the higher performing MPOs. While local governments would be eligible applicants under the TIGER program, they would have to partner with the state or MPO in order to receive funding from the FAST program;
- Make changes to the TIFIA (Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act) program, which would include defining a "rural infrastructure project" as a "surface transportation infrastructure project located outside of a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area." It would also give the secretary of transportation the authority to use up to \$5 million from the program to assist with the TIFIA-related fees collected from the sponsors of small projects (projects with eligible costs not exceeding \$75 million) - these fees are typically between \$300,000 - \$500,000;
- Establish a Critical Immediate Investments Program, to reduce the number of structurally deficient bridges on the interstate system, target safety investments on non-state-owned roads, and support a state of good repair on the National Highway System;
- Add a discretionary component under the Bus and Bus Facilities program, under which projects would be competitively selected for funding; and
- Amend the urbanized area transit formula (5307) program to allow general public demand-response service operators in large urbanized areas to use Section 5307 funds for operating assistance.



"We're pleased the Administration's bill focuses on increasing federal investments, while also providing new resources and incentives for local governments," said **NACo President Linda Langston**, Supervisor for Linn County, Iowa. "With the pending insolvency of the federal Highway Trust Fund and expiration of MAP-21, we're encouraged by the renewed attention by the Administration and key transportation leaders in Congress."

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is expected to be the next to release its bill, with the House following a goal of introducing legislation in the late Spring or early Summer.

In April, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee leadership announced their plan to provide a six-year bill that would authorize highway and transit programs at current funding levels, plus inflation. With current Highway Trust Fund projections, even level funding will not be possible without congressional action to fix the trust fund's advocacy.

NACo continues to advocate for county priorities in MAP-21 reauthorization, including increased investment in locally owned infrastructure in local areas of all sizes.

For more information, please contact Jessica Monahan at (202) 942-4217 or [jmonahan@naco.org](mailto:jmonahan@naco.org).



## Federal Grants

### Second Chance Act Two-Phase Juvenile Re-entry Demonstration Program: Planning and Implementation

**Deadline:** June 2, 2014

**Available:** Maximum of \$750,000; during the planning phase grantees will have access to \$50,000 of the award

**Number of Awards:** Up to 15

[www.ojjdp.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2014/2ndChanceDemo.pdf](http://www.ojjdp.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2014/2ndChanceDemo.pdf)



### Research and Evaluation on Firearms and Violence

**Deadline:** June 3, 2014

**Available:** \$1,500,000 total program funds

**Number of Awards:** one - multiple

[www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/slo01085.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/slo01085.pdf)

### Hazardous Fuels Wood to Energy Grant Program

**Deadline:** June 3, 2014

**Available:** Maximum of \$250,000 over a period of 2 years

**Number of Awards:** 12

[www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/w2e/2014/2014-04-14\\_2014%20Final%20W2E%20Instructions%20and%20Application%20Forms.docx](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/w2e/2014/2014-04-14_2014%20Final%20W2E%20Instructions%20and%20Application%20Forms.docx)



*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](mailto:loren@njac.org).



## CONGRATULATIONS

Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno presented **Investors Bank** with the Business Associate of the Year Award during her speech on May 9th at the NJAC Annual Conference.

**Richard D. Gardner**, Freeholder Deputy Director of Warren County, received the Maurice Fitzgibbons Freeholder of the Year Award at the 2014 NJAC Annual Conference.

**Senator Jim Whelan** of New Jersey Legislative District 2 and **Assemblyman Declan O'Scanlon** of New Jersey Legislative District 13 were the recipients of the 2014 Legislator of the Year Award during the May 8th President's Legislative Luncheon at the 2014 NJAC Annual Conference.

The 2014 County Service Awards were presented during the NJAC Annual Conference to: **James Ferguson**, Atlantic County Counsel; **Mary Melfi**, Hunterdon County Clerk; **Spencer Keats**, Monmouth County Supervising Drafting Technician; and **Kathy Lockbaum**, Salem County Welfare Director.

On April 21st **Calvin Okwuego** was named as a legislative intern for NACO. He previously worked as a legislative assistant to Essex County Freeholder Carol Clark.

**Conner Strong & Buckelew** named Bill Motherway as President of its New York operations.

For the second consecutive year, litigators of **Genova Burns Giantomasi & Webster LLC** have been recognized by the New Jersey Law Journal in its Litigation Department of the Year competition. The firm was honored for its excellence in the field of Labor & Employment Litigation.

On May 9th, **MONOC** paramedic Eric Noble was presented with MONOC's Medal of Honor for his instinctive reaction to an ambulance fire.

Chris Patackis joins **Parsons Brinkerhoff** as Senior Engineering Manager.

**Tradition Energy** announced on April 28th that Derek Salvino has joined the firm as Vice President of their Market Research Department.

Christopher Formant was named as President of **Verizon Enterprise Solutions** on April 21st.

# 2014 Special Olympics USA Games Hosted in New Jersey



The Special Olympics USA Games will be hosted by New Jersey June 14 - 21, 2014. Nearly 3,500 athletes will compete in 15 Olympic-style team and individual sports, with the support of 1,000 coaches; 10,000 volunteers and 70,000 family members, friends, and spectators.

Athletes and coaches will be arriving soon. The Cessna Citation Airlift will take place at the Mercer County Airport on June 14th and June 21st. Cessna Citations will transport over 800 athletes and coaches from across the country with an arrival expected every three minutes.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) for the 2014 USA Games begin on June 11th and will include more than 100 law enforcement representatives and Special Olympic athletes from all 50 states, taking part in a five-day, multi-state

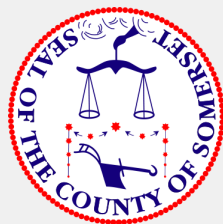
Torch Run, leading up to the Opening Ceremony of the 2014 USA Games. The 2014 USA Games LETR will conclude with the Flame of Hope being delivered to the Prudential Center in Newark on June 15th for the Opening Ceremony of the games.



The competitions are held in Mercer, Middlesex, and Somerset Counties. Princeton University will host events of wheelchair races, wheelchair shot put, walks, runs, relays, long and high jumps, ini-Jay, swimming, and Penathlon. Basketball and volleyball can be seen at Rider University while bocce, powerlifting, and more basketball games are hosted at the College of New Jersey. Mercer County Parks Commission will host cycling, soccer, tennis, golf, and the demonstration of a Triathlon. The Lawrenceville School will host Flag Football. The Hun School of Princeton will also be hosting basketball and gymnastics will be performed at the Peddie School. The Brunswick Zone-Carolier will host bowling and more cycling will be in Skillman Park.

The Closing Ceremony will be held on Friday, June 20th, at the Sun National Bank Center in Trenton where speeches, event highlights, live entertainment, and the extinguishing of the Special Olympic Flame of Hope will officially close the 2014 USA Games.

To learn how you can make a donation to the 2014 Special Olympics, volunteer, and be a spectator to the events, visit [www.2014specialolympics.org](http://www.2014specialolympics.org). You may also contact Carrie Gildea, Senior Communications Manger for the Special Olympics of New Jersey, at (609) 896-8000 x297 or [CDG@sonj.org](mailto:CDG@sonj.org).





# Hughes' Administration Conducts Full-Scale Emergency Drill

by Julie Wilmot, Mercer County Director of Public Information

On May 10, 2014 a two hour full-scale emergency exercise was held at the Trenton-Mercer Airport that included more than two dozen agencies and more than 300 volunteers and deemed a success.

A full-scale exercise is mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration to be held once every three years to measure the level of preparedness of first responders and to allow the agencies that will respond to a true emergency to train together in a single venue.



“Every agency at every level, from the local fire department of the FBI, has to be on the same page should a major disaster occur in Mercer County,” said **Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes**. “We brought together all of these agencies because we are taking a regional approach to preparedness, coordination and response. I’m confident this exercise will leave us better prepared for a real emergency.”

Representatives of various agencies and offices participated in the handling of the “incident,” which for the purpose of this exercise was the simulation of a commercial aircraft crash due to low-level wind shear. Rick Bus Co. provided two school buses that represented the split fuselage of the aircraft. Fire and rescue units immediately reported to the “scene” and passengers were “triaged” and “treated.” Family and friends were “escorted” and “media” inquiries were responded to.

Following the Airport Emergency Plan, agencies such as the National Transportation Safety Board, the Federal Aviation Administration, the FBI, the New Jersey Division of Aeronautics, the County Office of Emergency Management and County Emergency Communications were contacted and their designated representatives were requested to report to Trenton-Mercer. A command post, a joint information center, and an emergency operations center were established to direct the response. The entire scenario was staged at the New Jersey National Guard hangar off Scotch Road in Ewing.

At the scene, airport aircraft rescue and firefighting personnel worked to extricate victims, played with enthusiasm by Ewing High School students, the Naval Sea Cadets, and youth of the King David Lodge No. 15 F&AM, Trenton, and extinguish the fire. EMS transported all live victims to area hospitals and a temporary portable morgue was set up. The “airline” established an information center at a local hotel for family members, and the airline, the Hughes administration and fire officials staged a mock news conference at Ewing Township Municipal Building.

Airport staff and other participants in the exercise will now evaluate the response and use information gained to improve or revise, if necessary, the Airport Emergency Plan and Emergency Procedures. Also in attendance were Freeholders Andrew Koontz and Lucylle Walter, Ewing Business Administrator James McManimon and Lawrence Councilmen David Maffei and Jim Kownacki.

Numerous agencies participated in the full-scale emergency exercise, including in the planning, organizing,



*continued on page 18*

# Hughes' Administration Conducts Full-Scale Emergency Drill

(continued)

advising, and operational stages. They, including others, are as follows:

Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes  
 Mercer County DOT & I  
 Mercer County Office of Emergency Management  
 Mercer County Emergency Services Communications Center  
 New Jersey Division of Aeronautics  
 Federal Bureau of Investigations  
 Federal Aviation Administration  
 Ewing Township Police Department  
 Ewing Township EMS  
 Frontier Airlines  
 Lambertville-New Hope Ambulance Squad  
 Midwest Air Traffic Control Services  
 Prospect Heights Fire Company  
 Pennington Road First Aid Unit  
 Raritan Valley EMS  
 Trenton EMS  
 Upper Makefield Fire Company

Mercer County Office of Communications  
 Mercer County Sheriff's Office  
 Mercer County Prosecutor's Office  
 Trenton-Mercer Airport Administration  
 TTN Aircraft Rescue and Firefighters - #34  
 New Jersey State Police  
 US Transportation Security Administration  
 Capital Health System Emergency Medical Services  
 Franklin-Somerset First Aid Squad  
 Green Knoll Rescue Squad  
 Manville Rescue Squad  
 Monmouth County EMS Task Force  
 Pennington Road Fire Company  
 Princeton Rescue Squad  
 Ringoes Rescue Squad  
 Union-Titusville Fire Company  
 West Trenton Fire Company

For more information, contact Julie Wilmot, Mercer County Director of Public Information, at (609) 278-7137 or [jwilmot@mercercounty.org](mailto:jwilmot@mercercounty.org).

## JOIN *the* NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES for its 4th Annual Night of Baseball

**July 24, 2014**

**7:05 P.M.**

call (609) 394-3467 for more details



us.



## New Jersey Energy Savings Improvement Program

by Peter Roehrig, Account Executive of Honeywell (Building Solutions)



**Peter Roehrig**

Thanks to a New Jersey law referred to as the Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP), public entities in the State have a unique opportunity to cut their energy bills and reinvest the savings in their buildings. The law allows you to perform significant energy-related facility improvement projects without capital investment. Instead, and “ESIP project” is entirely paid for over the course of 15 to 20 years with the energy and operational savings resulting from the upgrades.

Since ESIP projects are strictly paid for by re-directing a portion of existing energy and operational expenditures, they are budget neutral. Also, the average ESIP project is at least three times your annual energy spend, and sometimes the leveraging factor is six times or greater,

depending on the amount of energy savings potential in your buildings. With access to funding of this magnitude, public entities can make dramatic improvements to their facilities, including new lighting, boilers, HVAC systems, controls, even new roofs and solar systems can be included.

The New Jersey Department of Property Management and Construction has approved multiple energy services companies (ESCOs) to help develop and deploy ESIP projects. An ESCO may be selected via the competitive contracting process as outlined in the state law (C.18A:18A-4.1 for schools). For more information, the Board of Public Utilities has issued guidance on ESIP, and can be found at [www.njcleanenergy.com](http://www.njcleanenergy.com).

More than 50 counties, municipalities, K-12 school districts, and colleges have already taken advantage of this opportunity in New Jersey. These projects have addressed not only energy consumption and infrastructure needs, but have also contributed to enhanced occupant comfort and productivity and energy resiliency and community preparedness.

Community leaders are encouraged to consider this effective strategy to help cut energy waste, upgrade buildings, improve occupancy comfort and performance, and invest in sustainability and energy resiliency.



You may contact Peter Roehrig, Account Executive, at (518) 360-5798 or [peter.roehrig@honeywell.com](mailto:peter.roehrig@honeywell.com).



## NJAC Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, June 27th  
9:30 a.m.

State House Annex Building - Trenton  
Committee Room 4



## NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**July 11, 2014**  
to  
**July 14, 2014**

***Registration is now open!***

NACo’s 79th Annual Conference and Exposition provides an opportunity for all county leaders and staff to learn, network, and guide the direction of the association. The Annual Conference, held each July, is hosted by a NACo member county.

This year the conference will be held in the Orleans Parish (New Orleans) of Louisiana. The Annual Conference provides county officials with a great opportunity to vote on NACo’s policies related to federal legislation and regulation; elect officers; network with colleagues; learn about innovative county programs; find out about issues impacting counties across the country; and view products and services from participating companies and exhibitors.

### REGISTRATION FEES

	Early Bird May 30	Advance May 31– June 10	On-Site New Orleans, LA
NACo Board of Directors	\$515	\$540	\$650
NACo County Members	\$515	\$540	\$650
State Association of Counties Staff	\$515	\$540	\$650
NACo Corporate Member	\$515	\$540	\$650
County Non-Member	\$740	\$765	\$850
Corporate Non-Member	\$765	\$815	\$900
Government (Federal and State)	\$565	\$615	\$770
Spouse/Guest	\$150	\$170	\$180
Youth	\$150	\$170	\$180
Working Press (Editorial Staff ONLY)	Complimentary		

More information about the conference, registration, hotels, and New Orleans can be found on [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org). Register online today and save \$25.00.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**John G. Donnadio, Esq.**

Our 2014 annual celebration of county government was a tremendous success that included representation from all 21 counties, 70 vendors, and over 500 guests. All of our premier events took place in the main exhibit hall designed to provide maximum opportunities for sharing resources and ideas with county and business leaders from across the State.

Congratulations to Warren County Freeholder Deputy Director Richard D. Gardner, who received the “Maurice Fitzgibbons Freeholder of the Year Award” for his leadership, enthusiasm, and commitment to county governments throughout the State; and, to Atlantic County Counsel James Ferguson, Hunterdon County Clerk Mary Melfi, Monmouth County Supervising Drafting Technician Spencer Keats, and Salem County Welfare Director Kathy Lockbaum for their well-deserved “County Service Awards.”

Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno presented Investors Bank with NJAC’s “Business Associate of the Year Award,” and provided keynote remarks where she highlighted the need to pass legislation that would extend the 2% cap on binding interest arbitration awards. Special thanks to Investors Bank and PSEG for presenting grant checks of \$16,000.00 and \$12,000.00 respectively to the NJAC Foundation, which will award scholarships to county vocational-technical school students who plan to continue their education at a New Jersey county college or state college or university.

As expected, the nation’s only County Vocational-Technical School Cook-Off Challenge once again stole the show as culinary arts students from Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, and Warren counties competed for titles in taste, creativity, and food presentation. Hudson County retained its title as Champion in the People’s Choice Category with Ocean County earning a silver medal and Monmouth County taking bronze. Although this year’s event was a huge success, we’ve already begun planning on how to make next year’s celebration even better.

### *Did you know....*

**Waterloo, New York is considered the birthplace of the Memorial Day holiday because the people of Waterloo were the first people to proclaim a day on May 5, 1866 to honor the soldiers who died in the Civil War. They closed their businesses and placed flowers and flags on the graves of their soldiers. Flags were flown at half-mast.**



*This information was obtained from [www.sunniebunniezz.com](http://www.sunniebunniezz.com)*


«MAY 2014»

.....Is National Stroke Awareness Month

MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
			15	16	17	18
					Free Cancer Screening 9am - 11am Somerset Medical Center Somerville	King and I 7pm Levoy Theatre Millville
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sky Viewing at the Observatory 8:30pm Meadowlands Environment Center Lyndhurst	Singles Casual Social 5:30pm Farm & Fisherman Tavern Cherry Hill	Shout Down Drugs Music Competition  all day  Performing Arts Center Newark	Historic Smithville Mansion Tours 1pm - 3pm Eastampton	Exhibition: One Year After Sandy  1pm - 5pm  Hoboken Historical Museum	Int'l Kite Festival 9am Beach at Rio Grande Ave. Wildwood	Memorial Day Concert 10am American Legion Hall Woodbury
	27	28	29	30	31	
	"The Butler" 6:30pm Public Library Mountainside	Passport Services, Notary Renewal/Registration & Veteran's ID Services 5pm-7pm Hawthorne		Music and Merlot 6pm - 9pm Hopewell Valley Vineyards Pennington	Garden State Philharmonic Strand Center for Arts Lakewood	

«JUNE 2014»

.....Is National Myanthesia Gravis Awareness Month

MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1
						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Seniors Sit n' Stitch 10am - 9pm Moore Yarn Airport Plaza Hazlet	50th Year in Gallery Arts Tributes 10am - 8:30pm Public Library Plainsboro	Spring Festival of Show - Godspell 7pm Cenetary Stage Co. Hackettstown	County Nursing Homes of NJ Mtg. 10am Warren Haven Nursing Home Oxford	Walk for Wellness and Prevention 9am - 1pm Harbor Square Mall Egg Harbor Twp.	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Women's Business Forum 12pm - 2pm PNC Bank Flemington	The Honey and The Hive 11am Morris Museum		Vanessa Carlton in Concert 8pm Newton Theatre Newton	Ted Perian's UOM Band LIVE 7pm - 9pm Auburn Road Vineyard Pilesgrove	