

NJAC COUNTY BIZ

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Ensuring Preparedness during School Safety Crises: Whitepaper Presents Real-World Examples and Recommendations

by Dr. William M. Toms, Faculty Member of Fairleigh Dickinson University and Beth Clay, Marketing Director for Mutualink

The problem of school safety and security needs to be addressed through strategic collaboration, according to a new [whitepaper](#) authored by Dr. William M. Toms, a faculty member at Fairleigh Dickinson University and retired New Jersey State Police Major, in collaboration with [Mutualink](#), a company specializing in interoperable communications for schools, public safety, defense, and more.

“Ensuring Preparedness during School Safety Crises” is a valuable resource for school administrators, school security personnel, policy makers, public safety agencies, and other stakeholders with a role in protecting students while at school.

The model of local school district autonomy has a proud and storied past in our nation. Communities and regional school districts need to follow various federal and state standards. However, these communities and school districts operate autonomously, and often times distinctly differently than another school located just down the street. From community to community, funding for schools varies tremendously across geographic regions.

This disparity in funding and home rule oversight of schools, in addition to possibly many other factors, has widely impacted the assessment of desired academic outcomes for student success. This cannot be the same ends that we seek for securing our schools. Statewide funding mechanisms are needed to ensure schools have sufficient budgets and safety and security expertise when planning to protect our children.

Likewise, there is a call for enhanced cooperation and communication among all stakeholders to address the complex problem of school security. In addition to community partners and first responders, private sector entities like Mutualink can serve as important strategic partners for school districts with regard to safety and security. The company specializes in interoperable multimedia communications and has extensive experience delivering collaboration solutions to law enforcement, the military, hospitals, and of course, schools.

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Get to know your County Official.....

How many years have you served as Monmouth County Sheriff?

I have been Monmouth County Sheriff for 5 1/2 years.

What was the first public office you held?

The first public office I was elected to was, Monmouth County Sheriff.

Why did you choose to run for Sheriff?

I sought the office of Monmouth County Sheriff to be able to apply my 25 years of experience in public safety service (Paramedic, EMT, Volunteer Firefighter, Colts Neck Police Officer, Toms River Police Officer and Monmouth County Undersheriff, as well as Acting Sheriff) to leading and administrating the largest and oldest law enforcement agency in the county in which I was brought up.

What had been the most difficult decision you have had to make while serving as Monmouth County Sheriff?

Superstorm Sandy was a trying time since it wreaked havoc on the coastal area throughout Monmouth County. For the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, Office of Emergency Management, public safety came first. During the days and hours leading up to the storm we had to make some very difficult decisions as to when and who needed to be evacuated. After that, the decision of where, when, and how to set up shelter for residents became a tremendous effort along with how we could provide for them during this difficult time. These were challenging decisions that needed to be made and I'm proud to say that despite the damage from Superstorm Sandy, we were able to maintain public safety. There was no loss of life or major injuries.



Shaun Golden
Sheriff

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

Your readers would be most surprised to learn of my love for country music.

Who is your role model?

My dad Alfred Golden is my role model.

Why do you love Monmouth County?

How could you not love Monmouth County? There is so much to offer in the county. Monmouth County is centrally located with easy access to New York City and Philadelphia. It has some of the most beautiful beaches in the country, and there are parks located throughout the county which offer recreation for those of all ages. The schools are ranked among the best in New Jersey. You can still find farmland preservation and there is a thriving equine industry.



Ensuring Preparedness during School Safety Crises: Whitepaper Presents Real-World Examples and Recommendations *(continued)*

Strategic collaboration between school administrators and public safety agencies will result in reduced response and resolution time in the event of an emergency. In real-world exercises, Mutualink's technology has been shown to reduce incident resolution time by as much as 40% in active shooter drills.

New York is a successful example of strategic collaboration with statewide and local officials. The State of New York has implemented a pilot program in 20 schools in two counties, intended to link to police and other entities in the event of an emergency. Mutualink's technology creates a network of connected communities, which improves situational awareness and response time while protecting privacy and minimizing costs. By partnering with experts such as Mutualink, school administrators can focus on educating, knowing that advanced technology is helping to achieve unprecedented communication and collaboration to protect their students.

The paper also offers experience-based insights into preventing, operationalizing, and mitigating school-related emergencies.

"For schools to provide an optimal setting for learning and growth, they must not only be safe, but provide a feeling of security to all stakeholders – faculty, students, parents, board members and community supporters," according to Dr. Toms.

For more information, contact Beth Clay of Mutualink at (203) 774-3474 or bclay@mutualink.net.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER



Claims Alliance LLC provides a comprehensive panel of all specialties throughout the country paired with a myriad of medical cost containment services. The entire technology system is built using HIPPA compliant regulatory mandates. To learn more about Claims Alliance LLC visit www.claimsalli.com or contact Linda Reina at L.Reina@claimsalli.com.

Dewberry Wins Multiple Awards for New Jersey Infrastructure Projects

by Sandra A. Ammar, Capstone Communications



Three infrastructure projects designed by Dewberry, a nationally recognized professional services firm, have been recognized with major awards from state organizations in New Jersey. Dewberry's design of the Route 7 Wittpen Bridge over the Hackensack River and the firm's environmental consulting services for the Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) Energy Strong program have both received 2015 Leading Infrastructure Awards from the New Jersey Alliance for Action. The Easterly Hackensack River Bridge Deck Replacement project has received a Grand Award from the New Jersey chapter of the American Concrete Institute.

Route 7 Wittpen Bridge: Leading Infrastructure Award—New Jersey Alliance for Action

Dewberry provided engineering and environmental services as a subconsultant to Jacobs Engineering Group for the design of the Route 7 Wittpen Bridge over the Hackensack River and related interchange work in Hudson County. Now under construction, the project involves the replacement of the 1930s-era vertical lift bridge, the realignment of Fish House Road on the west side of the river, and final connection to the recently completed 1&9T St. Paul's Viaduct project on the east side. The new bridge will be located north of the existing bridge and will meet modern design standards, provide higher vertical clearance for navigation, and allow for economic development of nearby brownfields and local industries.



Photos of the Easterly Hackensack River Bridge courtesy of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority

A key component of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Portway Corridor, Route 7 connects to the Holland Tunnel and New York City as well as business and industrial areas in New Jersey. The improvements will strengthen access to and between the Newark-Elizabeth Air/Seaport Complex, intermodal rail facilities, trucking and warehousing/transfer facilities, and the regional surface transportation system. In addition to the environmental assessment and replacement bridge design, the project required a complex multi-stage maintenance and protection of traffic scheme to maintain two lanes of traffic in each direction on Route 7. Dewberry is coordinating closely with The Conti Group, the contractor for the award-winning project.

PSE&G Environmental Services: Leading Infrastructure Award—New Jersey Alliance for Action

For PSE&G, Dewberry has provided a range of environmental services for the \$1.2-billion Energy Strong program, which is aimed at building resilience and redundancy into its electric and gas systems to withstand severe weather. The program includes upgrading substations, replacing and modernizing cast iron gas mains, and increasing the ability to restore power.

Easterly Hackensack River Bridge: Grand Award—New Jersey Chapter, American Concrete Association

For the Easterly Hackensack River Bridge Deck Replacement project, Dewberry provided engineering services for the high-performance concrete deck replacement, structural repairs, and seismic retrofitting. The six-lane bridge, located in Secaucus and Kearny, carries I-95 and New Jersey Turnpike traffic over the river. The Conti Group served as general contractor for this ambitious project, which has substantially increased the live load carry capacity. The project was completed for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

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Dewberry Wins Multiple Awards for New Jersey Infrastructure Projects *(continued)*

About Dewberry

Dewberry is a leading, market-facing firm with a proven history of providing professional services to a wide variety of public- and private-sector clients. Recognized for combining unsurpassed commitment to client service with deep subject matter expertise, Dewberry is dedicated to solving clients' most complex challenges and transforming their communities. Established in 1956, Dewberry is headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia, with more than 40 locations and 2,000+ professionals nationwide. To learn more, visit www.dewberry.com.



Dewberry®

Atlantic City Electric Presents Merit of Excellence Award Posthumously to Arthur E. Treon

by Frank Tedesco, Media Relations Manager for Atlantic City Electric



Representatives of Atlantic City Electric recently presented the company's ninth annual Merit of Excellence Award for Commitment to Public Safety to Arthur E. Treon, who died in November. The posthumous presentation was made to Treon's wife, Dora, during the annual New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Conference at the Tropicana Casino & Resort.

"We are honored to recognize Arthur for his many years of service and dedication to emergency management and public safety," said Vince

Maione, Atlantic City Electric region president. "He was a respected leader throughout the state, and many relied on his expertise and willingness to assist with any issue pertaining to public safety."

The Merit of Excellence Award for Commitment to Public Safety was created to honor those who commit their time and talents to the residents and visitors of our region and to recognize individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to emergency preparedness and safety in southern New Jersey.

Treon, a lifelong resident of the Cape May area, served as lieutenant with the Cape May County Sheriff's Office, where he rose through the ranks and held various positions. He continued his career as deputy coordinator with the Cape May County Office of Emergency Management.

Treon also served the community through his involvement with the Town Bank Volunteer Fire Company, where he served as vice president, president, lieutenant, captain, deputy chief and department chief throughout his career. After stepping down as chief, Treon embraced the roles of training officer and safety officer. He was also chief instructor with the Cape May County Fire Academy.

Atlantic City Electric supports the New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Conference through its Emergency Services Partnership Program, which provides resources for safety initiatives, education, recruitment and retention activities, and scholarship opportunities for police, fire and emergency management officials.

For more information about Atlantic City Electric, visit www.atlanticcityelectric.com. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/atlanticcityelectric and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/aceleconnect. Our mobile app is available at www.atlanticcityelectric.com/mobileapp



Threat of Data Loss

by Millennium Communications Group

Data loss is a huge threat to organizations, yet many do not protect or plan for it. Any information the organization deems an asset needs to be protected, to ensure the data is not at risk of being lost. It is possible, if the damage is bad enough, you may not be able to recover the lost data. This is the worst form of damage that can occur, but it happens because businesses lack contingency plans for such a loss. Data may be recoverable in certain instances, but it can take time and company resources to try and retrieve it.

Data loss may also affect systems that reference other databases. For example, most ads created in Photoshop need the links to each image in order to display that image, without the link the image will not display and the ad will be ruined. Also, many sales databases pull from other sources, but when that data is no longer available there will be nothing to pull from causing an error. Important emails, customer information, and customer documents, if not properly backed up, can be lost and may lead you to lose a sale. This can also affect the bid process, if a computer crashes and has existing bid information, now that bid information is lost and you may miss a deadline.

Productivity also takes a major hit. When data is lost it makes everyone's jobs harder. Your staff is stressed trying to deal with the lost data. Your IT staff is stressed and pressured to try and recover the data. All of this takes time away from what normally needs to get done and requires people to focus their attention elsewhere instead of on their normal daily jobs. Lower productivity also hurts companies financially; wasted time is wasted money and opportunity. We live within an increasing global economy where customers expect you to operate all hours of the day. Downtime is not tolerated by you, your customers, or business partners. Furthermore, in extreme situations data loss can lead to an organization going out of business. In less dire situations many organizations experience idle employees and managers being unable to report on revenue or invoices. Lawsuits and fines can also be an issue, especially if the data is essential to the business, many shareholders may view that as negligence causing them to leave your company, or pull their investments.

Millennium Communications Group Inc. can help. We offer extensive IT solutions and data storage solutions that can help your organization protect itself against data loss. Send us an inquiry and we will set you up with one of our industry experts to get you started. If you are interested in more information on our solutions and services check out our website www.millenniuminc.com or contact us at info@millenniuminc.com 800.677.1919.



Public Archaeology Day at Red Bank Battlefield

by Debra Sellitto, Communications & Public Information for Gloucester County

The Gloucester County Board of Freeholders announced today that residents and visitors are invited to come and learn about the Battle of Red Bank (Fort Mercer) archaeology project on Saturday, June 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Red Bank Battlefield Park.

Gloucester County was awarded an American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) grant to investigate the history and archaeology of Fort Mercer. John Milner Associates (JMA) the Historical archaeology firm performing the study will lead the public day.

Freeholder Director Robert M. Damminger said, "This is a great opportunity to learn about the history that is right in our backyards and learn about archeology first hand."

Freeholder Frank J. DiMarco said, "Whether or not you have visited the park in the past this dig will show an entirely new perspective of Fort Mercer." DiMarco is the liaison to the Department of Parks & Land Preservation.

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Public Archaeology Day at Red Bank Battlefield *(continued)*

Historical archaeology isn't just about the artifacts, but also uses the historical documents, maps, aerial photographs, and topography to learn about the past. All of these various sources of information will be showcased during the public day.

There will be five "battle stations" where visitors can learn about the history of the fort and the landform at Red Bank, and experience archaeology first-hand.

Stations 1 and 2: ARCHAEOLOGY EXCAVATION

Professional archaeologists, assisted by members of the Gloucester Chapter of the Archaeological Society of New Jersey, will be excavating test units in two areas: 1) in the approximate location of the interior fort wall (a little north and west of the Monument) and, 2) along the north fence line, where the eastern fort gate or entrance was located.

Station 3: METAL DETECTION

Under the direction of JMA professional archaeologists, metal detectors with the Battlefield Restoration and Archaeological Volunteer Organization (BRAVO) will be working in 40m by 40m grid squares, with 10-12 metal detectors operating under the supervision of an archeologist. Metal detection is one of the best archaeological techniques for recovering battle-related artifacts and for understanding the ebb and flow of the fighting.

Station 4: GROUND-PENETRATING RADAR (GPR)

JMA geoarchaeologists will be working in the GPR area, which will be along the east side of the fort - it will likely move, as portions of the wall and ditch are explored. The 1777 fort's ditches are different from the ditches you see today, which date from the 1930s.

Station 5: DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

Dr. Robert Selig, the project historian, will be stationed near the Fort entrance and will discuss the general history of the battle. We plan for him to have a handout that briefly tells the battle chronology, and he will also have a handout with several first-person accounts printed on it, so visitors can compare and contrast the written documents.

For more information, contact Debra Sellitto at (856) 3846905.



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.**

Absenteeism and Its Effects

by Jennifer Dowd, Marketing Manager for Kronos Public Sector

In a recent study conducted by SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management), research was conducted on the total impact employee absences have on organizations and their workforces. The study explored the many residual effects that employee absences have on an organization, including how they affect co-worker and supervisor productivity, the use of replacement workers and overtime to cover absences, direct and indirect costs of paid time off, and the importance of policies and procedures to manage employee absences.

Uncovered in the study were interesting facts on absenteeism in the U.S. including the Public Sector workforce. The total cost of paid time off as a percentage of payroll, when accounting for both direct and indirect costs, ranged from 20.9 to 22.1 percent in the U.S. This is almost a quarter of an employer's total payroll. Unplanned absences have more negative effects on organizations compared to planned absences with additional workload and disrupting work of others among the top-three perceived effects of unplanned absences. "Increases stress" rounded out the top three negative effects list.

In the U.S., unplanned absences add to workload (69 percent), increase stress (61 percent), disrupt work of others (59 percent), and hurt employee morale (48 percent). In a related "Staying@Work" study by Towers Watson and National Business Group in 2013, nearly eight out of ten organizations cited stress as the top workplace health issue – more than smoking, poor nutrition, and employee obesity. In the same survey, employees named inadequate staffing as their top source of stress.

Aside from these negative experiences for employees, the employers also have to look at how it impacts them. Take for example leave liability. Public Sector organizations continue to accept written requests via e-mail or paper form for time-off requests, and many still use homegrown systems, manual spreadsheets, or paper timesheets to manage and enforce time-off policies. Some don't even have a formal, written attendance policy in place. Visibility into these costs and trends will provide governments the ability to predict and budget for these unavoidable expenses. Is this achievable with manual workforce management systems? An assessment of current processes will quickly determine what is and is not feasible. Absenteeism is a cost worth looking into.

To learn more about Kronos, please contact Wesley Witherington, Kronos Sales Executive State of New Jersey, Public Sector and Education, at wesley.witherington@kronos.com or via telephone at (973) 331-5465.



PSEG and Investors Bank Award Grants to NJAC Foundation



Upcoming Sustainable Jersey Events

by Winnie Fatton, Project Manager for the Sustainable Institute at the College of New Jersey



Challenge Your School or Community To Be More Sustainable: Show How Small Actions Can Create Real Change

June 17, 2015 – 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. [REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR](#)

Is your school or town thinking about doing a green challenge? Sustainable Jersey's green challenge action asks people to pledge to "take a challenge," and to make a specific change in their lives or in their behavior towards greater sustainability.

Sounds like a good idea, but are you wondering how you'll decide what challenge to propose or how to keep track of pledges?

Sustainable Jersey is partnering with the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) to offer municipalities, schools, organizations or individuals the opportunity to prove that small actions create real change.

For two weeks, October 15-29, 2015, participants are challenged to change one habit for Earth. You ask your community or school members to choose their challenge, and they will be connected with other EcoChallengers, and collectively will prove that small actions create real change. This webinar will provide more information about the EcoChallenge, and explain how you and your town, school or organization can participate.

NWEI's EcoChallenge offers a great way to fulfill the "Green Challenges & Community Programs" action in both the Sustainable Jersey and Sustainable Jersey for Schools program(s), since it provides a ready-made challenge and system for tracking the collective impact of many people making sustainable changes in their everyday lives.

For two weeks, October 15-29, 2015, participants are challenged to change one habit for Earth. You ask your community or school members to choose their challenge, and they will be connected with other EcoChallengers, and collectively will prove that small actions create real change. This webinar will provide more information about the EcoChallenge, and explain how you and your town, school or organization can participate.

SHOW ME THE MONEY: Learn How to Finance Your Building Upgrades Through Energy Savings

June 24, 2015- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm [REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR](#)

Do you have large municipal or school buildings that need upgrades such as high efficiency motors, transformers, water heaters or boilers? If you are wondering how to pay for these upgrades, this webinar will explain how to leverage energy savings from installing energy efficiency measures to cover upfront costs!

An Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) is a financing tool that allows New Jersey municipalities and school districts to become more energy efficient, saving money and tax dollars!

Speakers include:

Mike Thulen, NJ Clean Energy Program
Tony O'Donnell, Sustainable Jersey

You'll hear about Sustainable Jersey's ESIP How To Guide and find out about:

- Current state law regarding ESIPs
- The nine step process to develop and implement an ESIP
- NJ Clean Energy Programs that can provide additional financial and technical assistance for your project
- Lessons learned from organizations that have undertaken ESIPs

There will be time for Questions and Answers.



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Burlington County is seeking the following.

Burlington County is seeking an experienced professional to plan, develop, evaluate, and recommend policies, regulations, and operational procedures pertaining to the County's risk management program, including the areas of worker's compensation, employee safety, property and liability, and other specialized insurance programs. In addition to excellent leadership, management, analytical and writing skills, the Risk Manager is expected to identify the County's exposure to loss and determine techniques to handle these exposures in a fiscally responsible manner. The Risk Manager will maintain solid working relationships with diverse stakeholders, and exhibit knowledge and experience in the Public Sector (preferred) with familiarity of shared services, third party administration, planning, budgeting, performance measurement and reporting required. A minimum of five years' experience in the field of Risk Management, commercial insurance and self-insurance policies and practices is preferred.

Interested candidates should submit their resume and cover letter to the attention of:

Dr. Patricia Brining, HR Director
49 Rancocas Road
Mount Holly, NJ 08060
Or email: jobs@co.burlington.nj.us

Hunterdon County is seeking the following.

Hunterdon County is seeking a Payroll Administrator.

Seeking individual to supervise and coordinate the activities engaged in preparing payroll. Duties include preparing biweekly payroll utilizing Edmunds including reviewing payroll deductions and analyzing payroll for accuracy, submits employer/employee withholdings including FICA, Pensions, and State Health Benefits; records employee/employer deductions in ledger; appropriately calculates changes in salaries and payroll deductions; tracks indirect costs; assists CFO with preparing reports for budget preparation and contract negotiations; and assists the CFO and HR Director with the administration of supplemental benefits including deferred compensation, AFLAC, and flexible spending. Two years of experience in the preparation of payrolls, preferably government with PERS/PFRS experience preferred. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university required. Applicants who do not meet the above education requirement may substitute experience on a year for year basis with 30 semester hour credits being equal to one year experience. NJ Residency required. Interested applicants who meet the minimum qualifications may submit resume with salary requirements to personnel@co.hunterdon.nj.us.

Nationwide Economics

Weekly Economic Review & Outlook for June 8, 2015

by Michael Groom, Financial Markets Economist of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Ben Ayers, Staff Economist of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

Weekly Review

Positive economic news returned with a strong employment report for May, displacing much of the downbeat feel from economic data in recent months. The job growth figure of 280,000 for May widely surpassed expectations, raising average monthly job growth for 2015 above 200,000. Additionally, average hourly earnings rose by a robust 0.3 percent in May, pushing up 12-month wage inflation to the highest level of the recovery at 2.3 percent. Even a tick up in the unemployment rate to 5.5 percent was a positive sign, as it was caused by a rise in the labor force participation rate—showing more optimism about finding jobs.

Moreover, the ISM manufacturing index rose for the first time in six months in May. Taken together, last week's economic data confirm that growth prospects are turning brighter.

The impact from the jobs report on the path of monetary policy decisions is likely to be neutral. Federal Reserve officials have reiterated their belief that the slower growth in the first half of the year was temporary—a viewpoint supported by May's jobs figure. But core inflation remains below the Fed's 2.0 percent goal—and it has yet to begin moving upward. Stronger economic data this summer, particularly from the labor market, probably will set the stage for the first rate hike in September or October.

The first week of June was not as kind to financial markets with greater volatility in bond and equity markets. Despite strong economic data, risk assets struggled with uncertainty surrounding the ongoing Greek debt negotiations. For the week, the S&P 500 stock index fell by 0.7 percent and the 10-year Treasury note ended at 2.40 percent, up by a sharp 30 basis points. Interest rate movements remain volatile—driven last week by (1) rising government bond yields in the EU changing investor flows; and (2) better economic prospects following the stronger growth reading from May. There remain continued risks of near-term downward pressure on long-term rates, but the trend should be upward.

Weekly Outlook

Economic data will be lighter this week, led by retail sales for May and consumer sentiment from the first half of June.

- Growth in retail sales has disappointed in recent months as consumers have pocketed expanded income from the faster pace of job growth and savings at the gasoline pump rather than heading to stores. Following a surge in light vehicle sales in May, however consumer spending may be finally picking up. We expect total retail sales to rise by a strong 1.3 percent in May, the fastest pace in more than a year. Retail sales excluding autos are likely to climb by less than overall retail sales, but should grow by a strong 0.6 percent.
- Fluctuations in oil prices have driven much of the monthly movements this year for the major price indices. With average oil prices trending higher throughout May, the Producer Price Index (PPI) is anticipated to move higher. We expect an increase of 0.2 percent for the PPI in May, although the 12-month trend rate should remain below zero.
- Consumer sentiment surprised on the downside in May, falling sharply to the lowest level of the year, perhaps due to growth concerns driven by the weak first quarter and higher gasoline prices. We expect a modest rebound in the first half of June to 91.5—with a jump in job growth partially offset by higher gasoline prices.

For further information please contact Emanuel Mahand, Program Director of New Jersey, at MAHANDE@nationwide.com, or Bina Kumar, Managing Director - East Region, at kumarb1@nationwide.com.



South Mountain Conservancy Unveils New Art Installations at Wildflowers Sculpture Park in Essex County South Mountain Reservation

by Anthony Puglisi, Public Information Officer for Essex County

On Friday, June 5th, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. and the South Mountain Conservancy unveiled new outdoor sculptures in the Wildflower Sculpture Park in Essex County South Mountain Reservation. Inaugurated in 2012, the Wildflower Sculpture Park is a collaborative initiative by the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs and the South Mountain Conservancy to introduce art into the landscape of the Reservation.



“Essex County South Mountain Reservation is a beautiful destination with spectacular skyline views, stunning vistas and gorgeous natural backdrops. The inspirational and thought-provoking nature of the artwork, combined with the environment and natural setting, will offer breathtaking and dramatic scenes for park visitors to enjoy,” DiVincenzo said. “We are pleased to be partnering with the South Mountain Conservancy to raise awareness about our reservation and to expand the art park. The art installations on display here will provide visitors with a new reason to enjoy our open space resources and help unite the disciplines of art and nature,” he added.

An open call for artists to submit ideas was conducted and four artists were selected. They are as follows:

Willie Cole created “Just Add Water,” which consists of several large spheres made of plastic water bottles. The installation is an example of art imitating nature and serves as a commentary on the rapid development and abundance of disposable waste in the environment. Over the past 30 years, Cole has had major exhibitions in museums and cultural institutions around the world including the Montclair Art Museum, The Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, where several of his sculptures were featured in “Reconfiguring an African Icon: Odes to the Mask by Modern and Contemporary Artists from Three Continents.”

Ben Pranger developed “South Mountain Bird Tower.” The sculpture is a 400-pound structure made from concrete and steel that could potentially function as a bird habitat. Pranger has shown his work throughout the United States, including having solo exhibitions at Perimeter Gallery in Illinois, Kohler Art Center in Wisconsin, Second Street Gallery in Virginia and Gallery Aferro in Newark. He has participated in artist residencies at Kohler Art/Industry, Fine Arts Work Center of Provincetown, the Marie Walsh Sharpe Program, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and has received sculpture grants from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation and the New Jersey Council for Art. He has taught at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, Hollins University in Virginia and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. “I made this piece specifically for this location and I enjoy hearing what people have to say about it,” Pranger said. “It’s a man-made sculpture that is open to the environment,” he added.

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South Mountain Conservancy Unveils New Art Installations at Wildflowers Sculpture Park in Essex County South Mountain Reservation *(continued)*

Roseland artist Donna Conklin King made the installation titled "Restore." Inspired by the Japanese art of Kintsugi (golden repair), the artwork is a symbol of the restoration of the Wildflower Preserve. A golden fissure connects trees on each side of the fence before returning underground to signify the cycle of life and mankind's responsibility to care for the land. Environmentally conscious, Conklin's work often repurposes household objects, such as porcelain Tchotchkes, broken China, food containers and dryer lint. Her drawing and printmaking work is in many public and private book collections including the Museum of Modern Art, Newark Public Library and the National Portrait Gallery Artist's Book Collections. Conklin also created the larger-than-life tiled snake in front of the new Essex County Turtle Back Zoo Education Building. "As a resident of Essex County, I am proud to have an opportunity to have my artwork displayed here," Conklin King said.

Lester James Johnson carved "Balls in a Cage" and "Totems One and Two" from found trees. His intent is to create art that symbolizes the transformation and metamorphosis of nature. Johnson was born in Johnsonville, S.C., and has participated in many group and individual art shows in the tri-state area since 1972. He participated in two videos, one produced by Al Clarke for City Without Walls, and a second, "The Healing Art," produced by the Artists for Mental Health. Johnson's art style is self-described as "living outside the box." "More people are discovering the parks as their backyards. Having my work displayed here is an unbelievable opportunity for my work to reach more people," Johnson said.

The idea behind the Wildflower Sculpture Park was to build on the concept of the Wildflower Project, which is a fenced-in area about 14 acres in size. Organized by the South Mountain Conservancy, native plants installed in the enclosed area are protected from deer browsing for food and act as a seed bank for the rest of the reservation. This was done in 2009 in conjunction with Essex County's forest regeneration program for South Mountain Reservation in which 43 enclosures were constructed throughout the reservation to aggressively re-grow native vegetation.



For more information click [here](#).

CONGRATULATIONS

Robert Zupp, TD Bank, formerly vice president and head of government banking product management, was recently promoted to be a senior vice president and head of government banking product management..

Bergen County, who recently announced a pilot program, funded by forfeiture funds, federal grants and the local prosecutor's office, will supply 47 body cameras to the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development Harold J. Wirths, was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of Highlands Bancorp, Inc. and Highlands State Bank effective May 27, 2015.

2015 NACo Annual Conference Registration is Open

Celebrate NACo's 80th Annual Conference and register for this summer's event, **July 10-13** in Mecklenburg County, N.C. NACo's 80th 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 Mecklenburg County, (Charlotte) North Carolina. 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.

To register [click here](#) or Contact: [Kim Struble](#)



NACo Election Credential Forms Mailed May 12

Credentials and voting information for NACo's 2015 election were mailed May 12 to the chief elected official (CEO) and clerk of each member county.

Registered attendees for the annual conference also received a link to credentials information via e-mail.

In order to vote, a county must have paid its 2015 dues and have at least one paid registration to the annual conference. The CEO must indicate on the credentials form, the names of the voting delegate and alternate authorized to pick up a county's voting materials. There can only be one alternate designated on the form.

State association of counties presidents will pick up unclaimed ballots on the evening before the election unless a county's CEO indicates on the credentials form that the state association president cannot pick up the ballot. A county may also choose not to cast its ballot.

Each member county must return a form, signed by the chief elected official, in order to vote. In addition to being mailed, the credentials form is also available via a link on the NACo website at www.naco.org/credentials. The deadline to return the form is Friday, June 19.

This year's election will be held on Monday, July 13 at 10 a.m. during the Business Meeting at the NACo Annual Conference in Mecklenburg County, N.C. Counties will vote on resolutions that set NACo legislation and association policy for the coming year. Delegates will also elect NACo officers for the coming year. The position of second vice president is typically contested.

The county must be a NACo member "in good standing" in order to vote, meaning that a county's dues for 2015 must be paid before the voting occurs. Also, the county must have at least one paid registration for the annual conference and have proper credentials.

The credentials form attests to a county's eligibility to vote. The form contains information on the number of votes a county is eligible to cast, as well as the identity of the delegate who is authorized to cast the county's votes.

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NACO Election Credential Forms Mailed May 12 *(continued)*

The number of votes per county is determined by the amount of dues it pays. Dues are based on population.

- **Counties with dues of \$450 to \$499 receive one vote**
- **Counties with dues of \$500 to \$999 receive two votes**
- **Counties with dues of \$1,000 to \$1,499 receive three votes, and so on.**

The maximum number of votes a county can receive is 121.

The Credentials Committee ensures that all member counties participating in the election process, either for NACo officers or policy, are able to do so in the most efficient and fair manner. The committee confirms requests for credentials pick up, helps guarantee that the process runs smoothly, resolves credentials disputes, and assists during the election itself.

The 2015 Credentials Committee members are:

- **Gerald Hyland**, supervisor, Fairfax County, Va. — Chair
- **Alisha Bell**, commissioner, Wayne County, Mich. — Member
- **Helen Purcell**, recorder, Maricopa County, Ariz. — Member
- **Tony Hyde**, commissioner Chair, Columbia County, Ore. — Member
- **Daniel Chadwick**, executive director, Idaho Assoc. of Counties — Parliamentarian
- **Ron Houseman**, administrative liason, Cape Girardeau County, Mo. — Reading Clerk
- **Patty O'Connor**, taxpayer services director, Blue Earth County, Minn. — Tally Clerk

If you have any questions, please contact Alex Koroknay-Palicz, membership coordinator, at akpalicz@naco.org or 888.407.NACo (6226) x291.

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants Now Available for FY 2015

by Eryn Hurley, Justice and Public Safety

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that the application period for the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program are now open. Both grant programs provide funding to local, state, tribal and territorial governments to help strengthen the ability of communities to prepare and recover from natural disasters.

The FMA Program, which provides assistance to help reduce and eliminate the risk of flood damage to buildings and structures that are insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), has been allocated \$150 million under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-4). These funds are to be distributed to grantees on competitive basis for FY 2015. It is important to note that local units of government, including counties, are considered sub-applicants and must apply through their respective states.

In FY 2015, the PDM Program has been allocated \$30 million under P.L. 114-4 to provide funding for communities to implement a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program. Like FEMA's FMA Program local units of government are considered sub-applicants and must apply through their states.

The application process for both the FMA and PDM grant programs will be open until 3:00 P.M. EDT on August 28, 2015. Eligible applicants can apply by visiting FEMA's Grant Portal at <https://portal.fema.gov>. For additional information please visit <http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance>.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



John G. Donnadio, Esq.

On June 9th, the New Jersey Supreme Court invalidated the provision of Chapter 78 signed into law in 2011 that required the State to make increased payments as an employer to the *State* pension systems. In general, the Court held that this specific provision of Chapter 78 violated the Debt Limitation Clause of the State's Constitution and that the 2011 law did not create an enforceable contract as a result. You may review the decision in its entirety at www.judiciary.state.nj.us. Importantly note that the Court's ruling does not impact employee obligations under Chapter 78 nor does it affect the local Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) or the local Police and Fire Retirement Systems (PFRS).

As has been well documented, the local pension systems funded by counties and municipalities through the collection of local property taxpayer dollars are actuarially sound as counties and municipalities have made full employer contributions as required under the law for over a decade. In fact, the local PERS is currently funded at 73.9% and the local PFRS is currently funded at 76.9% according to the latest valuation reports. Moreover, the local pension systems are well funded and solvent. Based again on the latest valuation reports, local PERS currently holds actuarial valued assets of approximately \$20.0 billion with estimated retirement allowances due of \$1.5 billion, while PFRS currently holds actuarial valued assets of approximately \$22.0 billion with estimated retirement allowances due of \$1.5 billion.

Although NJAC recognizes that the State must take meaningful steps to make the State government funded pension systems more affordable for taxpayers and sustainable for members, NJAC objects to any initiative that would affect, alter, integrate, or commingle the local pension systems as counties and municipalities have met their obligations as employers and the local pension systems are fiscally sound as a result. NJAC remains concerned with the New Jersey Pension and Health Benefits Study Commission's recommendation to adopt a unified State/local approach to benefits funding, and is encouraging all twenty-one counties adopt the Association's model resolution urging State leaders to protect local property taxpayers and governing bodies by preserving the structure and integrity of the fiscally solvent local pension systems.

Also, don't miss NJAC's next board of directors meeting scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on June 26th in Committee Room 4 of the State House Annex in Trenton. We kick off each board meeting with a networking session and then conduct business before the county administrators hold a meeting of their own at Noon.

Finally, make sure to mark your calendars for July 23rd for NJAC's 5th annual "Night at the Ballpark," where you'll have the opportunity to network with county officials from across the State and see the Binghamton Mets take on the Trenton Thunder at the Arm and Hammer Waterfront Park in Trenton. First pitch is at 7:00 p.m. and please visit our website at www.njac.org for additional details.

«JUNE 2015»

MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
 <p>15 Lindsey String Count Basic Theatre Red Bank 8 p.m. <i>Monmouth County</i></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Toms River Farmers Market Toms River 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. <i>Ocean County</i></p>	 <p>18 Farmers Market Wagner Farm Arboretum Twp. Mun. Grounds Warren 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. <i>Somerset County</i></p>	 <p>19 NJ State Fair Meadowlands 6/19 - 7/5 East Rutherford 5 p.m. <i>Bergen County</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p>House Music Festival Weequahic Park Newark 8 p.m. <i>Essex County</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>ARTfest Hewn Arts Center Jersey City 11:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. <i>Hudson County</i></p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Frantic Fun Run 5K Fosterfields Living Historical Farm Morristown 5 p.m. <i>Morris County</i></p>	<p>24</p>	 <p>25 County Fairgrounds Columbus 6/25 - 6/28 7 p.m. <i>Burlington County</i></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Freedom Festival Free Mercer County Park West Windsor 3 p.m. - 11 p.m. <i>Mercer County</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p>Challenge Atlantic City Triathlon Bader Field Atlantic City 6 a.m. </p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>					

«JULY 2015»

MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
		<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Music Under the Stars Deer Path Park Flemington 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. <i>Hunterdon County</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Concert Featuring The Wave Band Athletic Field Woodbury High School 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. <i>Gloucester County</i></p>	 <p>4 Freedom Festival Waterfront Park Camden 5 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. <i>Camden County</i></p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Quinton Township Community Day & Car Show Township School 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Salem <i>Salem County</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p>County Fair Cumberland County Fairgrounds 7/7 - 7/11 Millville <i>Cumberland County</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p>Tusk (Tribute to Fleetwood Mac) Oak Ridge Park Clark 7:30 p.m. <i>Union County</i></p>	<p>9</p>	 <p>10 DE River Railroad Excursions Phillipsburg 10 a.m. <i>Warren County</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p>The Machine (Pink Floyd Tribute) Theatre Newtown 8 p.m. <i>Sussex County</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>The Innovative Bead Show NJ Convention & EXPO Center 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Edison <i>Middlesex County</i></p>
<p>13</p> <p>Classic Broadway Rhino Theatre Pompton Lakes 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. <i>Passaic County</i></p>	 <p>14 4-H Fair Fairgrounds 7/16 - 7/18 Cape May Court House <i>Cape May County</i></p>					