

NJAC COUNTY BIZ

An Educational and Informative Newsletter for Counties and Businesses

New Jersey Association of Counties

ISSUE 60 - APRIL 2016

From Steel to STEM: MAST Construction Services Celebrates Topping Out at HCCC

by Filomena E. Fanelli, Impact PR & Communications, Ltd. for Mast Construction

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) recently held a topping out for the school's new Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) building, which is under construction in Jersey City. Located at 257-263 Academy Street near Journal Square, the construction currently is the largest STEM project in Hudson County, according to college president Dr. Glen Gabert.



Michael Sidoti
Project Manager
MAST Construction

During the ceremony, the building's uppermost beam was signed by the project team, including Eric Chait and Michael Sidoti, both project managers with MAST Construction Services (www.mastconstruction.com), an award-winning, Little Falls, NJ-based project and construction management services and owner's representative firm. MAST is the construction manager for the project. Also signing the beam were Dr. Gabert and

several Hudson County representatives.

Scheduled to open in August 2017, the new \$30 million STEM building will encompass 70,000 square feet on six floors, including computer, science, engineering, physics, electrical, biology, histology and chemistry labs, along with lecture halls and classrooms. When complete, the building will also include offices, student lounges and a coffee shop.

"Hudson County Community College's new STEM building demonstrates the school's ongoing dedication to serving its students and the community," said Ted Domuracki, MAST's founder and president. "We are pleased to be a part of the school's efforts and look forward to the completion of this tremendous state-of-the-art facility."

Previously, MAST provided construction management services for the \$33 million Hudson County Community

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Get to know your County Official.....

How many years have you served as Gloucester County Improvement Authority Acting Executive Director?

I have been the Acting Executive Director for approximately 4 1/2 years.

What was the first public position you held?

I was a District Representative for Congressman Rob Andrews in 1994. I had interned for him while attending Rutgers University - Camden before I graduated in 1992. It developed a deep enough interest that I pursued a Masters Degree in Congressional Studies at The Catholic University of America in DC from 1993-1994. At that time I was also fortunate to intern for Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York.

I have also worked in Camden County and for the State of New Jersey. I earned another Masters Degree from Temple University in Political Science.

Why did you choose to apply for Acting Executive Director at GCIA?

I had been working for the GCIA for approximately 7 years before the position opened up. It was a natural progression in my career to this point. Our agency is one of the most active Improvement Authorities in the state with almost 200 employees providing diverse services that include: running the county's nursing home, providing childcare, operating the county's Solid Waste Complex, running a multi-use equestrian facility and providing construction and financing services. It is a humbling and challenging position. I consider myself fortunate to be able to provide for my family while working hard on behalf of the taxpayers of this great county.

What has been the most difficult decision you have had to make while serving as Acting Executive Director?

Personnel decisions are always the hardest.

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

I sailed the high seas as a swashbuckler extraordinaire.

Who is your role model?

Like many people, my father is my role model. He had a great deal of adversity to overcome starting at a young age. As the son of immigrants, his father died when my dad was a child. He helped to support his family while still in grammar school. He was drafted into the Army and served in combat during the Korean War, rising to the rank of Sergeant First Class. With the help of the GI Bill, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration while working in a factory. Born and raised in Buffalo he was forced to uproot and relocate our family when he lost his job, like many folks during the 1970's. He started over again and provided for his family. Through him, I was able to see a solid work ethic. Many lessons from him, good and bad, I impart to my children. He was funny, loving, compassionate, intensely loyal and honest. Those are core qualities that were instilled in me and I hope to also instill in my family.



George Strachan
Acting Executive Director,
GCIA

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From Steel to Stem *(continued)*



College Library Building, a 117,000-square-foot project that encompasses five floors, classrooms.

Founded by real estate and construction professional Ted Domuracki, MAST Construction Services, Inc. has completed more than 200 projects totaling more than \$1.56 billion on behalf of its public and private sector clients. The 15-year-old firm specializes in working in several market sectors, including educational, institutional, recreational, governmental, commercial, mixed-use residential and continuing care communities.

For more information, visit www.mastconstruction.com or call (973) 837-1515.



Get to know your County Official..... *(continued)*

What do you love about Gloucester County?

Gloucester County is an extraordinarily great place to live and raise a family. It provides convenient access to not only Philadelphia and the beach but is a semi-rural setting. It reminds me of growing up in Mt. Laurel when it wasn't as developed as it is now. I am proud to be part of Gloucester County's governance. There are a great deal of good people here who care deeply about their community and are willing to step up into leadership roles to make a positive difference.

The GCIA is a great organization in terms of the various service it provides to the residents. We do so in the most cost effective manner as possible while at the same time providing the greatest service level.



**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.

William Kosinetz, Sussex County CIO is Named One of the “Top 25 Doers, Dreamers, & Drivers of 2016”

by Eyragon Eidam, Staff writer for Government Technology Magazine



With nearly 30 years under his belt as chief information officer of Sussex County, N.J., William Kosinetz knows a thing or two about IT in local government. But despite his longevity, he's in no way bound by tradition.

“We can't get any more efficient on our old legacy business processes,” Kosinetz said. “We can no longer rely on old practices, safe relationships, legacy technology and known vendors. We've exhausted the efficiencies of our existing legacy business processes.”

With the support of county leaders, Kosinetz has launched a number of tech-fueled efficiency initiatives — for one, Sussex County is 100 percent virtualized. The county's initiatives are based on what Kosinetz calls a “bimodal plan” for IT: a reliable enterprise foundation paired with digitized business processes. The result? Much more efficient government.

“We need to digitize our business processes, that's the first thing. The second thing is pursuing a digital business model,” he explained, adding that off-the-shelf tools are readily available to help get them there.

But the road map for the county doesn't dead-end there. Kosinetz has his eye on a route that could completely reshape the way Sussex County does business. Despite the obstacles of human behavior and its aversion to change, he said patience ultimately wins out in making organizational business changes.

He envisions a future in which sensors, personnel and machines work in unison to provide taxpayers with totally efficient, accountable government. “What if every asset was digitally connected to our network; say every building had hundreds of sensors, every process was digitized, every person and machine has an activity stream that you can subscribe to?” he asked.

“We need to be digital leaders in order to define our future,” Kosinetz recommended. And it's advice he is definitely following.



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.**

National County Government Month

April is marked as National County Government Month, and themed as Safe and Secure Counties.

Somerset County Freeholder Director Patricia L. Walsh invites residents to learn about Somerset County through informational displays and activities at various county locations during National County Government Month.

“Somerset County will join county governments nationwide in celebrating National County Government Month to raise public awareness and understanding about county government so residents can take full advantage of available programs and services,” said Freeholder Director Patricia L. Walsh.



Patricia L. Walsh
Freeholder Director

“We have been participating in the National County Government celebration since its inception in 1991. We look forward each year to providing opportunities for you to learn about the many programs and services Somerset County Government offers, she said.

Somerset County has programs for youth, older adults, and professionals working with those populations; health-related programs; free clinics; drop-off events; and so much more. Visit www.co.somerset.nj.us for more information.

An information display hosted by the Somerset County Board of Freeholders/Public Information Office with literature from any county divisions will be available in the lobby of the Somerset County Bridgewater Library at 1 Vogt Drive from Saturday, April 9th, to Saturday, April 15th. Residents are invited to help themselves to materials. Call (908) 526-4016 for library hours or visit www.somerset.lib.nj.us/locationlist.html.

Freeholder Director Walsh was at the Somerset County Bridgewater Library on Thursday, April 14th, greeting visitors at the display and answering questions.

The Somerset County Board of Freeholders and the county Office on Aging & Disability Services hosted a Bubbles 4 Autism press conference this past Tuesday, April 12th, at noon on the lawn of the historic courthouse located at East Main Street in Somerville.

A few other events taking place throughout the month in Somerset County are:

April 16 - The Somerset County Sheriff's Office will hold a medicine collection drop-off event from 9 a.m.—2 p.m. at the Warren Township Public Works Garage located at 1 Bardy Road in Warren. Residents can safely dispose of unwanted and outdated prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications. For more information, contact Lt. Steve SanAntonio at (908) 231-7168 or Officer Thomas Wallace at (908) 231-7138. You may also visit www.bit.ly/Drop-offMeds.

April 16 - The Somerset County Solid Waste Management (SWM) Division will hold a free household hazardous waste drop-off even for Somerset County residents and farmers from 9 a.m.—2 p.m. at the Warren Township Public Works Garage located at 1 Bardy Road in Warren. No registration is necessary, but proof of residency is required. Details can be obtained by calling Melissa Harvey, SWM Manager, at (908) 231-7681 or email Harvey@co.somerset.nj.us. Visit www.bit.ly/RecycleDrops for recycling drop-off events.

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National County Government Month *(continued)*

April 18 thru 22 - SWM is partnering with the Somerset County Road Division to collect scrap tires, with or without rims, from 8 a.m.—3 p.m. at the South County Public Works Garage located at 410 Roycefield Road in Hillsborough. The program is free. Residents and farmers can drop off up to eight tires per household. Call (908) 541-5021 for more information or email road-div@co.somerset.nj.us or go to www.bit.ly/TireRecycle.

April 19 thru 29 - The county of Office Emergency Management will have an information display focusing on preparing yourself and pets for emergencies. More information about emergency preparedness can be found at www.bit.ly/EmergencyMgmt.

April 20 - The Somerset County Park Commission will host a free ranger-led guided hike at the [Sourland Mountain Preserve](#) on East Mountain Road in Hillsborough from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Participants should meet in the main lot on East Mountain Road. Registration is not required unless you are with a group. The rain date is scheduled for April 27th. For more information, call (908) 231-0802 x23.

April 21 - Quail Brook Senior Center in Somerset is offering the opportunity to experience electronic keyboard music lessons beginning at 10:30 a.m. Call (732) 563-4213 for details.

April 26 - Release your inner voice with karaoke at the Montgomery Senior Center in Skillman. Karaoke begins at 11:30 a.m. For details, call (609) 466-0846.

Monmouth County is emphasizing the Safe and Secure Counties theme by focusing on areas such as the County's outstanding law enforcement departments; its preparedness for dealing with natural disasters; executing emergency management plans; and the economic opportunities in the County.



Thomas A. Arnone
Freeholder Director

“Monmouth County’s substantial populations increase over the last 25 years and its economic growth are not coincidental. People feel comfortable living here and are confident the businesses they operate will be successful,” said Freeholder Director Thomas A. Arnone. “Our County law enforcement officials and prosecutor’s office deserve credit for working collaboratively with municipalities to ensure everyone feels secure. Our first responders are well-trained and ready to take immediate and appropriate action to assist those in a crisis situation. We are proud of the safety and emergency response programs that are in place which make Monmouth County a desirable place to live and work.”

“Law Enforcement plays an important role in protecting communities, residents, visitors and properties,” said Sheriff Shaun Golden. “The staff is experienced and understands the current issues which affect the public. Our job is to ensure we work with federal and local authorities to prevent or solve crimes and justice is served. Learning new investigative techniques and sharing expertise with other counties

benefits everyone, including the business community and residents. Our county’s economy thrives when people are confident they are safe and secure.”

“Providing a secure environment for the citizens of Monmouth County is an ongoing responsibility,” said Monmouth County’s Acting Prosecutor Christopher Grammiccioni. “Protecting the freedom we enjoy is a top priority which involves successfully prosecuting criminal offenses. We know an important factor in the quality of

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National County Government Month *(continued)*

life is feeling safe and that is our mission for the residents and businesses in this county.”

Freeholder Director Arnone also credited the county agencies and departments for the exceptional and professional service they provide, such as snow plowing, road repairs, health screenings, treatment for addictions and encouraging economic development.

He pointed out this month’s Made in Monmouth Expo, which took place on April 9th at Monmouth Community College, marked the fifth effort to promote products made by companies based in the county and the increasing yearly attendance as a sign of the county’s positive reputation.

The County recently partnered with other state and local agencies sponsoring a job fair at Brookdale Community College. More than 500 job seekers attended the event and had the opportunity to meet with 142 employers. The Monmouth County Spring Job Fair is a partnership between the Board of Chosen Freeholders, Workforce Development Board, Division of Workforce Development, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Monmouth-Ocean Development Council and Brookdale Community College. A fall job fair will be held in September.

Once again, the County has partnered with the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties to sponsor a food drive throughout April at numerous county offices and municipal libraries.

Log onto the official Monmouth County Government website at www.visitmonmouth.com for the most current information about Monmouth County programs, services, and facts.

Throughout the month of April, the Union County Sheriff’s Office is providing Situational Safety Training. This seminar trains employees on protecting themselves and the public in the event of a critical incident such as an active shooter occurrence at County facilities. On April 5th, Sgt. Erik Finne of the Union County Sheriff’s Office, Union County Sheriff Joseph Cryan, Union County Manager Al Faella, and Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski joined before a Situational Safety Training Seminar for county employees held at the Administration Building in Elizabeth.



Pictured from left to right:

- **Sgt. Erik Finne**
- **Sheriff Joseph Cryan**
- **County Manager Al Faella**
- **Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski**

Visit the websites or telephone the offices of other counties in New Jersey to find out how they are participating in National County Government Month.

Join TechXtend Half-day Technology Solutions Summit

On Tuesday May 24th, 2016 TechXtend is holding a half-day Solutions Summit at the DoubleTree Hotel in Tinton Falls, NJ.

Please save the date and invest just a few hours of your time (9:00 AM - 1:00 PM) to an event that we guarantee you will deliver tremendous value.

Beginning with a breakfast buffet, TechXtend will take you through a morning of technology sessions and demos with 12 of our leading vendors. This is a perfect opportunity to learn more about TechXtend's cutting edge solution areas.

- **Compute** — the most innovative hardware solutions from the desktop to digital signage
- **Virtualization & Cloud** — come see the latest solutions in backup, storage and disaster recover
- **Security** — Meet TechXtend's best-of-breed partners from the TechXtend Security portfolio
- **Networking** — let us show you something you didn't know you could get out of your network hardware

Date:

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Time:

9:00AM – 1:00PM EST

Location:

[DoubleTree](#)

by Hilton Hotel Tinton Falls

700 Hope Road

Eatontown, NJ 07724

732-544-9300



[Directions »](#)

[REGISTER NOW »](#)

Our agenda will introduce you to the TechXtend way of helping our customers:

1. **Extend their IT budget** — maybe nobody ever got fired for buying IBM but they also didn't stretch their IT budget. Come see solutions that will exceed your performance expectations and save you \$\$.
2. **Achieve higher ROI** — our vendors achieve substantial ROI for our customers through innovation and solutions that just work. Let them tell you what they can do for your organization.
3. **Lower total cost of ownership** — with better approaches and innovation comes technology that can offer lower TOC. See how you can attain better performance while reducing your ongoing costs for the tech you need today.

To maximize the benefit of this event for our customers we ask you to complete a very brief survey

[TAKE SURVEY »](#)

For more information and to reserve your place at the Summit [register now](#). **Please reserve your spot by May 10, 2016.**



Having a Vision for your Vision

by Mark Roberts, Manager of National Accounts for Careington International & Careington Benefit Solutions

Getting your eyes examined on a regular basis, at least once a year, is essential for your overall health, especially once you past the ripe old age of 40! However, eye examinations are an important part of health maintenance for everyone regardless of age, according to AllAboutVision.com. Adults should have their eyes tested to keep their prescriptions current and to check for early signs of eye disease. For children, eye exams can play an important role in normal development and learning. And, most seniors have some sort of vision problem.

Vision is closely linked to the learning process. Children who have trouble seeing or interpreting what they see will often have trouble with their schoolwork. Many times, children will not complain of vision problems simply because they don't know what "normal" vision looks like. If your child performs poorly at school or exhibits a reading or learning problem, be sure to schedule an eye examination to rule out an underlying visual cause.

The American Optometric Association says that periodic eye and vision examinations are an important part of preventive health care. Many eye and vision problems have no obvious signs or symptoms, so you might not know a problem exists. Early diagnosis and treatment of eye and vision problems can help prevent vision loss and other health issues.

Each patient's signs and symptoms, along with your optometrist's professional judgment, will determine what tests your optometrist conducts. If you have questions about any diagnosed eye or vision conditions, or treatment recommendations, don't hesitate to ask your doctor for additional information or explanation.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, some eye conditions can cause vision loss and even blindness. These include:

- Cataracts, a clouding of the eye.
- Diabetic retinopathy, which causes damage to the blood vessels in the back of the eye.
- Glaucoma, damage to the optic nerve, often with increased eye pressure.
- Age-related macular degeneration, which gradually affects central vision.

Other eye conditions, such as refractive errors, which happen when the shape of your eye doesn't bend light correctly, are common problems easily corrected with glasses, contact lenses, or laser surgery. An estimated 11 million Americans aged 12 years and older could see better if they used corrective lenses, or had eye surgery, if appropriate.

Visiting the eye doctor can be intimidating, especially if you haven't been in a while, according to VSP. Knowing how to prepare for the visit and thinking ahead is an important part of the eye exam process. Here are some questions to ask your eye doctor to help you make the most of your next visit:

- Has anything about my eyes changed since my last visit that I should know about?
- What are my options for improving my vision?
- Am I a candidate for laser vision correction?
- What are the advantages of wearing both contact lenses and glasses?
- How many hours per day can I wear contacts?
- Should I look out for anything in particular when it comes to my eyes and overall health?
- How can I protect my vision while playing sports?
- Should I be doing anything differently to care better for my eyes?

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Having a Vision for your Vision *(continued)*

The New Jersey Optometric Society issues membership only to licensed optometrists and can provide consumers with information on those who practice in the state. The organization was founded in 1903, and it is focused on improving the quality and availability of vision care by providing reliable and current information regarding eye care and health care policies.

One of its most important responsibilities is to educate the public to enhance and ensure competent, quality patient care along with promoting the importance of routine comprehensive eye exams. Additionally, the society assists its members in conducting their practices successfully in accordance with the highest ethical standards of patient care and efficiency. You should check to see if your eye doctor is a member in order to ensure quality of care and accountability.

Residents of New Jersey counties statewide can access affordable vision care through membership in the MyCountyCares program. More information is available at www.mycountycares.com for membership. Don't neglect your eyes, which are the window to your soul. Your life and health depend on having good eyesight. Do you have a vision for your vision?



For additional information please contact Mark Roberts at MarkR@Careington.com or call (800) 441-0380.

Eastern Armored Services, Inc.

by Rich Norton, CEO for Eastern Armored Services, Inc.

Eastern Armored Services, Inc. (EAS) has been meeting customers' cash-in-transit needs since 1992. We have the expertise to provide our clients with superior customized service. EAS has 42 years of industry experience and is an approved vendor for the State of New Jersey and Federally DOT certified.

Violent crimes happen every day, but that doesn't have to impact your business if you take the proper precautions. Reduce risk by securing your cash, jewels and other items of value by using Eastern Armored Services. EAS has become an elite provider in the armored transportation industry. Our reputation is built on safety, reliability, and excellent customer service. Each guard is full trained, licensed, and equipped with safety gear exceeding industry standards. Every precaution is taken to ensure the safety of your employees and business assets.

EAS respects the importance of our time and money, which is why you can rest assured that their guards will show up on-time; saving your company the unnecessary cost of having to pay employees overtime while waiting for a driver to arrive. Each client receives a customized plan to meet their specific needs. Services include, time-specific pickups, same-day cash processing, vaulting/storage services, cash/coin processing, and a guaranteed rate for two years.

EAS services all 21 New Jersey Counties, New York City, Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware. Clientele include over 400 municipalities, banks, hospitals, colleges, hotels, libraries, bookstores, utility companies, car dealers, churches, jewelry stores and corporations.

Eastern Armored Services' reputation speaks for itself, from its excellent customer service to its new fleet, and personable staff. Your money will get from here to there safely, quickly and easily. This is why their motto is: "Right on the Money."

To learn more about Eastern Armored Services, Inc. please contact Rich at RichNorton@easternarmored.com or via telephone at (609) 890-1762.



Sheriff's Office Collects 2,719 Pounds of Unwanted Medicines for Proper Disposal in 2015

by Steve SanAntonio, Lieutenant - Administrative Division for Somerset County Sheriff's Office

A total of 2,719 pounds of unused and/or outdated prescription and over-the-counter medicines were collected through various Somerset County programs in 2015: Rx Mission Drive-In/ Drop-off events held at five scheduled Household Hazardous Waste locations, at a drop-box outside the Sheriff's Office, through the Sheriff's Office annual participation in Operation Take-Back Day and the American Medicine Chest Challenge and through a consortium with the Sheriff's Office, EmPoWer and [Safe Communities Coalition of Hunterdon and Somerset](#), to collect medications from several senior centers and facilities.

Sheriff Frank J. Provenzano said, "On our recent event at the Bernards Township Public Works Garage on Saturday, March 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., a total of 97 pounds of medicines was collected by our Sheriff's Officers for proper disposal." "The Somerset County community has consistently stepped up and taken a proactive approach toward protecting the environment," said Sheriff Provenzano. "The success of these programs is a testament to their commitment."

"According to a national study, 70 percent of people who reported using prescription drugs for non-medical use in the past year got those medicines from a home medicine cabinet, friend or relative," he said. "Thanks to our residents' enthusiastic efforts, the incidence of this happening has been reduced substantially in our county."

Drop-off events prevent unused or expired medications from being flushed down toilets and sinks or discarded in landfills, which can lead to potential contamination of groundwater and/or wastewater treatment plants. They also keep drugs out of the hands of people susceptible to substance abuse and prevent accidental poisoning by children.

In addition to scheduled drop-off events, residents wishing to dispose of medications year-round can do so by dropping them off at the Sheriff's Office medicine collection drop box, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The drop box is located in the lower level of the Somerset County Administration Building at 20 Grove St. in Somerville, near the entrance to the Sheriff's Office.

"Drug-collection programs, which are free and anonymous -- no questions asked -- have proved to be a huge success in Somerset County," said Sheriff Provenzano. "For our community's safety, I look forward to continued efforts in safety and education for our residents to achieve victory against drug abuse."

For the convenience of residents, additional drop boxes are located at participating municipalities. Following are municipal 24/7 medicine drop-box locations that are part of the program: Bernards Township Police Department, 1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-(908) 766-1122; Branchburg Police Department, 590 Old York Road at Route 202 North, Branchburg, NJ 08876-(908) 526-3830; Franklin Township Police Department, 495 Demott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873-(732) 873-2300; Hillsborough Township Police Department, 379 S. Branch Rd., Hillsborough NJ 08844-(908) 369-4323; and North Plainfield Police Department, 263 Somerset St., North Plainfield, NJ 07060-(908) 769-2937.

For more information regarding medicine collection in Somerset County, contact Lt. Steve SanAntonio at 908-231-7168 or Sheriff's Officer Thomas Wallace at 908-231-7138.

To stay up to date with Somerset County events and information, sign up for free [email alerts](mailto:www.co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe.html) at www.co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe.html or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



Nationwide Economics

Weekly Economic Review & Outlook for April 4, 2016

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

Weekly Review

The labor market added 215,000 payroll jobs in March as that portion of the economy continues to show no sign of a slowdown. For the first quarter as a whole, payrolls grew by 628,000—a drop-off from the torrid pace of the prior quarter, but still a solid gain. Job growth would be even stronger without the drag from 41,000 lost jobs in the energy sector over the last three months. Average hourly earnings recovered a bit in March, rising by 0.3 percent after a surprising decline the previous period. While 12-month wage growth remains tepid at 2.3 percent, the 3-month annualized rate is up to 2.7 percent even with the drop in February and could be a sign of further gain to come.

The unemployment rate surprisingly rose to 5.0 percent and is now flat over the past six months. A 1.8 million person increase in the size of the labor force since September (the largest gain over two quarters since 2000) has caused the unemployment rate to pause its steady decline. The labor force participation rate has moved higher reaching 63.0 percent in March for the first time since early 2014—suggesting additional re-entry of discouraged workers in response to improving job prospects. This is something that Fed Chair Janet Yellen has emphasized in her discussions about a still-not-tight job market and why the Fed has been cautious in its tightening.

In other positive economic news, the ISM manufacturing index moved above 50 for the first time since September, implying expansion for the sector in the near term. The new orders and production components of the index were up sharply in March as manufacturing activity picked up in spite of continued weak demand from abroad. The recent decline in the U.S. dollar should also provide a boost to the sector.

The Chinese manufacturing sector also received good news last week as the Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) moved above 50 for the first time since July. This report should alleviate some concern about growth in China, where fears of a hard landing are receding. Global growth, although still uninspiring, appears stable with little sign of an outright slowdown on the horizon despite pockets of weak growth associated with the sharp declines in the prices of oil and other commodities.

Better economic news, and dovish Fed rhetoric helped move major stock indexes to the highest levels of 2016.

Weekly Outlook

A relatively quiet week for economic data, including the trade balance and factory orders for February, along with a reading on the service sector's health in March.

The trade deficit has moved sharply over time with currency fluctuations, domestic oil production, and relative economic growth between the U.S. and its major trading partners. The largest trade deficit was in August 2006, when it was nearly 50 percent greater than it is today. Due primarily to weak export demand, we expect the U.S. trade deficit to widen slightly to -\$46.5 billion in February.

Unlike the manufacturing sector, the services economy has expanded steadily in recent years. We expect that growth to continue, with the ISM non-manufacturing index moving up to 54.9 in March.

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Nationwide Economics *(continued)*

Factory orders are a leading indicator of the health of the manufacturing sector, which has been impacted by weak global demand, a strong dollar, and inventory corrections over the past year. We forecast factory orders will contract by 1.7 percent in February, mostly from the already-reported decline in durable goods, which was driven primarily from a drop in commercial aircraft orders.

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.



Doing More With Less

by Enrique Torres, Public Sector Account Manager for Sprint

Smaller budgets and staffing reductions are challenging state and local governments to do more with less. Sprint can help with integrated, next-generation communications solutions designed to increase operational efficiencies, manage a mobile workforce, eliminate communication boundaries and empower local, state and government agencies to give their employees a better way to work. Our range of services include:

- Smartphone and tablet solutions that make secure, instant communication between government employees easy and mobile
- Reliable connectivity that helps your people get more done, even when they're on the move
- Comprehensive mobility-management solutions that make it easier to manage any device your employees want to carry
- Contract discounts for state and local government with various group purchasing organizations (GPOs) and alliances. Through these programs government entities may be eligible to receive a discount on select regularly priced Sprint monthly service.
- Rapid Deployment Solutions from Emergency Response Team (ERT) by Sprint provides critical voice, data and IP communication and connectivity almost anytime, virtually anywhere to groups



Whether it's 3G/4G mobile broadband, machine-to-machine, mobile resource management, dispatch operations and interoperability or emergency response you are looking for, Sprint offers many solutions to meet any and all of these needs.

Sprint's focus on meeting the mobile communications needs of state and local government reflects our dedication to serve. Public Sector wireless services in the State of NJ can be purchased at the County, City and Local government level via the WSCA contract.

For Further Details, please contact the following:

Enrique Torres via e-mail Enrique.torres@sprint.com or telephone (917) 578-8285 or Andrew Kevitch via e-mail at Andrew.kevitch@sprint.com or via telephone at (215) 416-9229.



#gettingbettereveryday

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Frank Mazza & Son, Inc. is a state contract vendor. We offer floorcovering and are very experience in the retail/commercial sales area. We are located in Hammonton, New Jersey and are more than just a flooring specialty store. We are experts trained in flooring sales and design and will help to find the perfect floor. For more information about the services provided please contact Gary Mazza, President at (609) 561-5300 or via e-mail at gmazzafms@comcast.net.

Founded in 1853 in Hartford, CT, Aetna is committed to providing Health and Life Insurance to the Counties in the State of New Jersey.



To learn more and discuss further please contact Rick Rispoli, Sales Vice President at RispoliR@aetna.com or call (973) 244-3525.

Kapsch TrafficCom is a provider of **intelligent transportation systems (ITS)**. Our systems employ information and communication technologies to support and optimize road transportation, including infrastructure, vehicles, users and industry. Our current focus is on ITS that aims to ensure the security, availability and quality of the infrastructure – we call this operator/authority-oriented ITS. The addressees are therefore governments and regional authorities or organizations, such as concessionaires.



We are a provider of process automation solutions, including waste water treatment and SCADA. If you would like to learn more about our services please contact [David Hernandez2@kapsch.net](mailto:David.Hernandez2@kapsch.net) or call (201) 386-2382.

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To learn more please contact Jeff Randazzo, Branch President at Jeff.Randazzo@sharpusa.com or via telephone at (201) 644-2810.

Smiths is a global technology company listed on the London Stock Exchange. A world leader in the practical application of advanced technologies, Smiths Group delivers products and services for the threat & contraband detection, medical devices, energy, communications and engineered components markets worldwide. Our products and services make the world safer, healthier and more productive.



To learn more please contact Tara Brown via e-mail at Tara.Brown@smithsdetection.com.

Teaming with a Grant Firm to Fund Your Priorities

by Ed Farmer and Susan Scavone, Millennium Strategies, LLC

We are looking forward to next month's NJAC's Annual Conference where our firm Millennium Strategies will co-present a workshop focused on grants with Passaic County Administrator Tony DeNova. The workshop will be held on Friday, May 20th at 10:30 am. The workshop "Teaming with a Grants Firm to Fund Your Priorities" will detail how our successful partnership with Passaic County generated more than \$6,200,000 in grant funding between 2013 and 2015. The experience in Passaic County highlights three critical elements for successful grant procurement: strategy, coordination and execution.

Strategy

At the outset of each client engagement, we work closely with the county administration to create a comprehensive grants strategy that reflects their unique mission and vision. A cohesive strategy is developed through meeting with individual department directors and administrators in order to understand the short term goals as well as long range objectives. The strategy will succinctly identify the priority projects covering a wide range of topics including, but not limited to: arts and culture, economic development, historic preservation, open space preservation, parks, tourism and transportation. The purpose is to utilize new grant funding to offset the county budget for projects or to provide additional services to county residents that without alternative financing, would otherwise not be possible. The strategy also incorporates features such as how best to leverage county assets and partnerships such as local non-profits to enhance a county's capacity for implementing programs thus creating more opportunities for funding.

Coordination

Coordination is the key to implementing a successful grants strategy. One of the challenges we often face is the narrow window of time between grant announcement and ultimate submission deadline. We practice clear client communication which enables us to prepare and submit timely, quality applications. Our client receives detailed memoranda of potential funding opportunities that include an explanation of what Millennium will do and what the County's responsibilities are in order to complete the grant application and produce the best possible product for submission. Our ambition is to provide valuable guidance yet not inundate department directors and administration with information that is not critical or becomes white noise and therefore useless.

Execution

In the end, it all comes down to precise execution that produces consistent results. Our unique research capability gives us an understanding of the myriad grants offered by government agencies as well as private foundations. We then align a grantor's objectives with a specific county project. This knowledge taken together with our combined decades of grants experience enables us to write compelling and creative applications. One recent example includes how we secured funding from the Horizon Foundation for NJ's "Heart Healthy" initiative for para-exercise equipment for the Passaic County park system. We leveraged the Friends of Passaic County Parks 501(c)3 organization to apply for this grant because we knew the criteria Horizon was looking for was non-profits rather than county or municipal government. What's more, Horizon was not contemplating funding park equipment per se. Rather Horizon was focused on measures to fight obesity. We crafted our application around that objective and through our efforts, Passaic County parks were awarded two separate grants under this program.

We look forward to sharing more examples with you at the NJAC Annual Conference on Friday, May 20th.

ABOUT US: Celebrating our 10th Anniversary, Millennium Strategies is a full service grants consulting firm currently represent 66 municipalities, counties and non-profits in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware. We help our clients finance their critical projects with funding through federal, state and county grants as well as private foundations and charitable organizations. Since our inception, Millennium Strategies has procured over \$140,000,000 in both public and private grant funding. In 2015, Millennium's clients were awarded \$39,859,749 in grant funding.

MILLENNIUM
STRATEGIES

Cybersecurity: a Shared Responsibility

by John Tugman, Chief Information Officer for Morris County

As government organizations that serve the public, we are required to be readily accessible to our residents via the Internet, to do business with them online; to offer and share information – often privileged and sensitive information and data – that must be safeguarded. It is vitally important that we protect such confidential information, such as but not limited to employee Personal Identification Information (PII), medical records, legal documents, etc. from cyber compromise.

The fact that many malicious cyber actors are highly organized, well-funded crime syndicates or in some cases state-sponsored agents has rapidly heightened the importance and complexity of cyber security. No longer is it reasonable to argue that 1) We're not very visible; 2) We've never had a breach; and 3) The probability is so low I will take my chances.

No nation, industry, county and local government, or individual is immune to cyber risks. As a nation, we face constant cyber threats against our critical infrastructure and economy. As government entities, cybersecurity risks threaten our financial standing, our reputations and the identity of our citizens and employees.

Cyber compromises that occurred in 2015 are evidence about the need for vigilance. Widely publicized attacks took place on various institutions: CVS and Walgreens photo services; the Federal Government's Office of Personnel Management; Anthem Inc. (Blue Cross/Blue Shield); and Sony, to name a few. The exploitation of these organizations in most cases resulted in the loss of millions of dollars and exposed vital Personnel Identification Information (PII) of millions of clients and customers.

Breaches are also financially costly, with studies finding the average cost at \$3.8 million to the entity that is targeted.

To defend against cyber compromise Morris County has adopted a "Three Prong Defense in Depth" approach that includes:

- **Education:** Well informed employees offer a foremost defense to cyber threats. The Morris County CIO partnered with the County College of Morris (CCM) to provide data privacy seminars and help teach county employees about cyber dangers and basic precautions they can adopt to insure safe computing. CCM is a recognized Committee on National Security Systems certifying institution.
- A Cyber Security County Intranet blog, to include an FAQ section, is under construction to complement educational programs.
- **Public Service E-mail blasts:** The County IT department regularly sends e-mails to all county employees about current threats and includes tips and hints on how to protect yourself at work and home.
- **Membership with the Multi State-Information Sharing and Analysis Center,** which is a no-cost free source of cyber security subject matter experts, educational material, guidance and support services.



John Tugman
Chief Information Officer
Morris County



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Cybersecurity: a Shared Responsibility *(continued)*

Morris County also is a member of the Stop.Think.Connect™ Cyber Awareness Coalition. Educational programs like these are cost effective in helping protect county governments from cyber breaches.

Since our way of life now depends on Information Technology, cybersecurity must be a priority.

For more information, please contact John Tugman at (973) 285-2869.



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Have you registered yet?

Visit www.njac.org.

Something Not So Fun About Spring-Taxes!

by Marianne Herzog, PhD of the New Jersey Psychological Association

For many, tax time is “stress time.”

Activities related to money are universally stressful and anxiety producing. Supporting ourselves financially is the modern-day “hunt.” Our minds and bodies react to things related to income, expenses, budgets, and spending as if we actually have to go out and catch and kill our next meal. Because of this, facing financial realities - **such as occurs** when filing income taxes - can move us into a less than relaxed state.



Our minds and our bodies react as if we are in danger.

When the “fight or flight” – or “stress” response gets started, the following things happen:

- Our heart rate increases
- We breathe faster
- Blood moves from the inner workings of our body (such as digestion) to the areas that are most useful when we are in danger, the large muscles in our legs and arms
- Our mind becomes more “hyper-vigilant”—watching out for signs of danger

The Situation at Tax Time: We are in “fight or flight” mode.

Consequently, we are experiencing physical and cognitive (thinking) difficulties. Our mind-body is trying to help; it is in “protective” mode. But, these reactions to something that is not physically dangerous can actually interfere with our ability to think and understand the things we have to do to get this job done.

Our thoughts are our feelings and feelings are thoughts and don’t believe what they are telling you!

If we become concerned about not having enough (“uh-oh, hungry”), instead of rationally making a plan and taking action, the hyper-vigilant mind turns to looking for the cause of the problem (the “danger” of taxes) at every turn. We may look for reasons for the “danger” through obsessive worrying, experiencing such thoughts as: “I never do the right thing;” “I should have ...;” “Why did s/he...?” “I did everything wrong ...;” “S/he’s such a;” “It will be [a disaster]!”

There are inherent problems with these thoughts.

- They are “automatic”—so we aren’t aware that we are thinking them; and,
- They are “distorted” in some way (they don’t say the whole picture--that we never make the right choice, that we don’t measure up, that we are always doing the wrong thing, labeling ourselves in a way that doesn’t allow us to see ourselves differently, and predicting a negative future); and,
- End up making us feel bad—frustrated, angry, depressed, anxious
- Conversely, we also **think thoughts based on how we are feeling**. So, if we are feeling anxious, we think “there’s danger,” if we are angry, we think, “___d i d something wrong,” if we’re depressed, we think, “I’ll never get it right.”

So, our thoughts affect how we are feeling and our feelings affect how we think. Our thinking can become distorted and also go “around in circles,” so that we are unable to think clearly enough to follow the steps necessary to tackle the task of gathering materials and doing what needs to be done for preparing our taxes.

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Something Not So Fun About Spring-Taxes! *(continued)*

Fortunately, there are many ways we can use the mind-body connection to our advantage.

We can activate the “relaxation response” to calm our mind-bodies so we can do what we need to do to respond to the task-at-hand of filing our taxes. When the relaxation response is activated, the “stress response” cannot be operating. Because the mind and the body affect each other, we can use either to start the process of calming the entire mind-body system.

***** Important, with regard to the following suggestions - always take care of yourself and don't do anything that hurts, is uncomfortable, or doesn't feel right to you. *****

Using our Body to Relax Tension

- Reduce tension and initiate the relaxation response through constant rhythmic movement such as walking, dancing, running on a treadmill, etc.
- Taking care of yourself through getting enough sleep, exercising, eating well, and reducing caffeine/alcohol
- Using techniques such as “Progressive Relaxation” (lie down and go through each muscle group - head, face, neck; arms, chest, etc. - take time to tense each group, while taking in a deep breath, holding both, and then letting go of both the muscle tension and breath, as you say to yourself, “relax and let go”); yoga; guided meditations

Using our Mind: Thinking Our Way into Relaxed Attention to Responsibilities

- Noticing what your thoughts are (they are usually “automatic” so you have to focus on what you are thinking when you notice you are feeling bad in some way, and see if you can find what the thought was)
- Figuring out what kind of “distortion” there is in your thinking
- Substituting more realistic thoughts –
 - “I can't blame myself for what I didn't know; now I know the steps I need to take for next time;”
 - “I don't always do the wrong thing; for example, I'm very good at ___, and that would actually be useful to remember during this time;”
 - “It is not helpful to think of myself as a “___,” and I will not label myself something that prevents me from seeing the many options I have for doing things differently.”

Mind-Body Approaches: Breathing Exercises/Focusing on the Present to Calm the Brain

When you are feeling anxious, notice your breath; are you breathing or holding your breath? Are you breathing completely, with a nice long (relaxed) inhale, followed by a complete (relaxed) exhale? When we are anxious, we often breathe very shallowly, only filling our upper chest with air, not using our full lung capacity. Also, in reverse, breathing mainly into the chest actually activates the “stress response,” resulting in feeling anxious.

Practice “belly breathing,” your stomach should rise on the inhale, fall on the exhale.

The following breathing and focusing exercises use the mind-body connection to directly affect the brain's natural response to what it perceives as a threat.

“Full” or “complete” breath:

1. Place your hand on your abdomen.
2. Exhale completely, with the sound of aaahh.
3. Begin to breathe in, imagining that you are filling your stomach with air (your hands should move outward).
4. As you continue to breathe in, next imagine filling your mid-section.

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Something Not So Fun About Spring-Taxes! *(continued)*

5. And then, finally, your chest area.
6. As you exhale, attempt to empty the chest area first, followed by your mid-section, then stomach (hands in).

Through breathing completely, our bodies and brains get the oxygen they need and the complete exhale actually sends a message to the brain, “everything is okay,” which tells the mind-body, “it’s safe to relax.”

Walking/Focus on the Present Moment (our mind is most anxious when it is focused on the past or future) As you walk, ride the bus, or go about the activities of your day, continually bring your focus back from your thoughts to the present moment; notice the things around you, what you are seeing, hearing, smelling, feeling (such as the sensation of your body where it is touching the chair, floor, armrests).


So, before, during, and after filing your taxes, take a walk, breathe in the fresh air, listen to the birds, feel the warm sun, and notice the light. Taxes probably won’t be the best part of spring, but they don’t have to ruin your enjoyment of it!

Marianne Herzog, Ph.D. is a licensed psychologist in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She provides mental health consultation with the children, families, and staff members of Early Head Start and Head Start programs in Philadelphia and Camden, which includes writing informational articles and presenting workshops on a variety of psychologically-related topics. A popular offering among staff members and parents are Dr. Herzog’s trainings on the mind-body connection in stress management and her guided breathing, meditation, relaxation, and imagery sessions. Dr. Herzog provides psychotherapy in private practice in Lafayette Hill, PA. She draws on a variety of psychological perspectives in addressing such issues as anxiety, depression, parenting, life transitions, stress management, and relationship difficulties. She finds mind-body approaches to therapy particularly valuable, and includes mindfulness-based strategies in helping people discover their own unique strengths and paths to healing. Dr. Herzog is a member of the American Psychological Association (Health and Psychotherapy Divisions) and both the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Psychological Associations. She is a member of both the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Psychological Associations’ e-Newsletter committees and editorial staff, and a contributor to their publications.

The New Jersey Psychological Association (NJPA) is recognized as one of the strongest state psychological associations in the country. NJPA is an indispensable network of resources for the public and media, a staunch advocate for psychologists in the state, and an influential presence helping shape mental health policies in New Jersey. Visit us at www.PsychologyNJ.org to locate a psychologist or to find the most current news, articles, and events that may be of interest to you. Follow us on Twitter @njpsychassn, connect with us on [Linked In](#), and subscribe to our [quarterly newsletter](#)! For more information, contact Executive Director, Keira Boertzel-Smith, JD or Communications Manager, Christine Gurriere at (973) 243-9800.



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Partners in Safety

by Lynn Lemire Bryan, Corporate Communications for New Jersey Resources

Spring is finally here! With eager home and business owners ready to start outdoor projects, it's the perfect time to spread the message about the importance of safe digging practices. And since April is Safe Digging Month nationwide, New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) is reminding everyone to **"CALL before you dig – it's FREE and it's the LAW."**

The message is simple. At least three, but not more than 10 business days prior to outdoor construction or digging (not including the day you make the call), contractors and property owners – whoever is excavating – must call New Jersey One Call at **811** or **800-272-1000** for a free markout of public underground lines.

Don't make assumptions about whether or not to have your utility lines marked. Every digging project, large or small, requires a call to 811. Examples include, but are not limited to, planting trees and shrubs, installing a sprinkler system, creating a new garden bed and building a walkway, patio or deck. One quick call to this easy-to-remember, toll-free number will help avoid potential injuries, service disruptions and damages which can occur when an underground natural gas, electric, communications, water or sewer line is unintentionally hit. Preparation is the key to keeping you, your neighbors and your property safe, as well as protecting your wallet from costly fines and repairs.



Once the call is made, professional locators visit the dig site to mark the approximate locations of underground public utility lines with flags, paint or both. A yellow marker indicates a natural gas service line. Before any digging, make sure the markout is in place. Since inclement weather may wash away painted markings, consider taking photos of the markout. Respect the marks and move your planned project if it is near a utility line markout. And always hand dig within two feet of buried piping and lines. Immediately report all damage to utility lines, no matter how minor, to your local utility. If a natural gas line is damaged, immediately call 911 and contact your local natural gas utility. That number for NJNG customers is 800-GAS-LEAK (800-427-5325).

Throughout the year, NJNG's Partners in Safety team continues to promote safe digging practices at numerous FREE Dig Safely Fairs around our service territory. NJNG partners with local businesses and home improvement stores to host these fairs in popular store parking lots. Everyone is encouraged to attend – homeowners, tenants, business owners, township officials, contractors of every kind – to learn more about living and working safely with natural gas. Fun activities and contests for the kids are also included to encourage families to attend. After all, safety is a family affair. And the FREE lunch is an added bonus!

In addition, NJNG's Partners in Safety team works directly with municipalities and contractors to provide FREE damage prevention training and resources to municipal administrators, code officials, emergency responders, public works departments and excavators – in fact, anyone who can all benefit from safety training. Highlights include damage prevention, recognizing trouble signs and signals, smart responses to unsafe conditions and how to report potential safety issues.

Safety is our top priority. Make it yours too. To join us as a Partner in Safety, host a Dig Safely Fair in your community or request training, brochures or additional information, contact our team at 732-919-8114 or safetyawareness@njng.com.



Gloucester County Shows Off New \$16M Emergency Communications System

by Matt Gray of NJ Advance Media

Gloucester County's [new 700 MHz public safety communications system](#) is officially up and running and county officials gathered to showcase the project



Gloucester County Office of Emergency Response Director Tom Butts, left, and Freeholder Director Bob Damminger view an upgraded dispatch station at the county communications center in Clayton

With the advent of digital TV broadcasts in the early 2000s, public safety entities around South Jersey began experiencing interference on the 500 MHz band.

In some cases, police officers working in the field were not able to communicate with dispatchers.

In response to these kinds of issues, the Federal Communications Commission set aside a portion of the 700 MHz band for public safety communications.

Gloucester County contracted with Motorola Solutions, Inc., to construct the network at a cost of \$16 million.

[County upgrading communications system](#)

About 3,000 radios, including mobile units for vehicles and handheld units, were distributed to emergency responders around the county, including police, fire and EMS. All responders are now

on the new system, county officials said.

The system consists of nine simulcast sites around the county that include microwave dishes, antennas, shelters for equipment and backup generators. These sites receive and transmit radio signals across the county's 329 square miles.

"This project was one of the largest public safety infrastructure upgrades the county has ever undertaken," said Freeholder Joe Chila, liaison to the Department of Public Safety. "We are grateful for all of the cooperation and input we received from our police, fire and EMS professionals from throughout the county."



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MAY 18, 2016

to

May 20, 2016

[REGISTER TODAY HERE!](#)

Public Sector Organizations Automate Processes to Better Manage Overtime

by Jennifer Dowd, Marketing Director for Kronos Incorporated

Striking the delicate balance between public service and managing taxpayer dollars is a challenge that the public sector is tasked with each day. With growing scrutiny about escalating overtime costs, public sector organizations are increasingly turning to workforce management solutions to more effectively manage overtime.

Public service does not stop at specific hours of the day and unexpected peaks in demand can arise anytime, so overtime can be an invaluable tool to address these needs. However, if overtime is not managed, it impacts more than operational expenses, jeopardizing employee morale and quality of work.

Counties with workforce management solutions across all departments experience better overtime management. A major benefit is real-time visibility into anticipated and unexpected overtime. Organizations can view specific units where overtime is heavy and quickly identify and resolve the underlying issue. In addition, employees can easily access their own time-worked, vacation, and overtime information through self-service features. This increased transparency also helps improve employee engagement.

Managing overtime includes understanding root causes of unnecessary overtime and applying it in a more consistent manner. If an organization has an existing ERP system interfacing to their workforce management system, decision makers can see a fuller picture, allowing them to work with staff to not only ensure that overtime abuse is restricted but also review trends and plan budgets accordingly. While exact timing of events cannot always be planned ahead, budget can be allocated based on historical trends.

According to Mollie Lombardi, co-founder and chief executive officer, Aptitude Research Partners, Public sector organizations are operating in a complex environment. Employees want more mobility and ease of use in the technologies they interact with and organizations need to ensure compliance with union and other rules. All of these issues are driving the need for automation. When it comes to overtime, we have to understand that public service does not end its workday at 5:00 p.m. so more automation is needed to grasp the impact of overtime in the moment while empowering and engaging the workforce.

As local governments struggle with the realities of good and bad overtime, now is the time to consider how existing time and labor processes impact this issue.

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.



CONGRATULATIONS

Standard and Poor's reaffirms **Atlantic County's** AA Rating as of March 10, 2016, one week after Moody's Investors Service assigned the county it Aa2 rating. Atlantic County has maintained the Standard and Poor's AA rating since 2008.

The MIDJersey Chamber of Commerce has named **Orsola Andersen** Vice President.

The US EPA has recognized **Ricoh** with the highly coveted 2016 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award.

Reminder of Available Energy Assistance Programs

by Frank Tedesco, Media Relations Manager for Atlantic City Electric

Atlantic City Electric reminds customers they have numerous options to apply for energy assistance if they are having difficulty paying their energy bills. Registration for the **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** expires on April 30th.

“In New Jersey, we are fortunate to have a wide range of programs that offer our customers financial assistance with their energy bills,” said Alita Corbett, Customer and Community Relations Manager for Atlantic City Electric. “Through continued community outreach, we encourage residents to take advantage of the available programs offered through the State.”

Low income energy assistance programs include:

- LIHEAP, administered by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, provides critical home heating and cooling assistance to those who qualify. For more information or to apply for LIHEAP assistance, call 1-800-510-3102 or visit energyassistance.nj.gov.
- The Universal Service Fund (USF) helps ensure energy bills are more affordable for eligible customers. Call 1-800-510-3102 or visit energyassistance.nj.gov for details.

Moderate income energy assistance programs include:

- The Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric (PAGE) program provides relief on natural gas and electric bills for low to moderate income New Jersey households that are experiencing a temporary financial crisis. For more information, call 1-855-465-8783 or visit njpoweron.org.
- The TRUE Grant program assists customers who are ineligible for low income programs by providing up to \$750 toward their Atlantic City Electric bill. Visit njpoweron.org or call -855-465-8783 for more information.
- New Jersey SHARES is a non-profit corporation that provides assistance to income eligible New Jersey households with energy, telephone, and water bills. Visit njshares.org or call 1-866-657-4273 for details.

In addition, senior citizens and disabled adults can take advantage of Lifeline, a utility assistance program that offers \$225 to persons who meet certain income guidelines. This benefit includes utility customers as well as tenants whose utility bills are included in their rent. For more information about Lifeline, call 1-800-792-9745.

Atlantic City Electric partners with community-based organizations and social service agencies throughout New Jersey to ensure that low income and at-risk customers know about the federal dollars available to help them with their utility bills.

For more information about energy assistance programs, visit www.nj211.org or call 211, New Jersey's non-emergency helpline, available 24/7 throughout the State.

Customers can also contact Atlantic City Electric's Customer Care Center at 1-800-642-3780 and ask about Budget Billing or register for *My Account*, a web-based interactive tool that provides customers with a detailed analysis of their specific electric use and offers ways to save energy and save money on their monthly energy bill.

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.



Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program Grants

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is seeking applications for the [Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program](#) (JMHCP), which supports innovative cross-system collaboration for individuals with mental illnesses and/or co-occurring mental illnesses and substance use disorders who come into contact with the justice system. BJA will prioritize applications from law enforcement agencies that demonstrate a collaborative project with mental health partners to plan, implement, or expand strategies that are tailored to the needs of people with mental illnesses.

Historically, JMHCP has funded individual programs, such as specialized law enforcement-based programs, diversion and alternative sentencing, correctional and community supervision services, and other programming. Although these individual programs have been vital to building capacity in communities and states across the nation, BJA is moving toward investing more in system-wide enhancements of county practices. Looking forward, the goal for JMHCP is to move from facilitating small-scale programming to systemic change in the way that justice systems do business, evolving and expanding county and state criminal justice systems' routine business practices to include universal screening and assessment, enhanced comprehensive diversion programs, and appropriate program placement for treatment and supervision based on risk level and needs. More than a [dozen counties](#) received grant awards under this program last year.

There are three types of grants supported under the JMHCP grant program:

- **Category 1:** Collaborative County Approaches to Reducing the Prevalence of Individuals with Mental Disorders in Jail: Grantees awarded Category 1 awards will demonstrate a system-wide coordinated approach to safely reduce the prevalence of individuals with mental disorders in local jails. *Grant amount up to \$250,000 for 24 months.*
- **Category 2:** Planning and Implementation: Grantees awarded Category 2 awards will design and implement targeted interventions to address the needs of individuals with mental disorders in the criminal justice system and improve public safety. *Grant amount \$250,000 for 36 months.*
- **Category 3:** Expansion: Grantees awarded Category 3 awards will expand upon or improve well-established collaboration strategies. *Grant amount \$200,000 for 24 months.*

Eligible applicants are limited to states, units of local government, federally recognized Indian tribes (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior), and tribal organizations. BJA will only accept applications that demonstrate that the proposed project will be administered jointly by an agency with responsibility for criminal or juvenile justice activities and a mental health agency. Only one agency is responsible for the submission of the application in [grants.gov](#). This lead agency must be a state agency, unit of local government, federally recognized Indian tribe, or tribal organization.

Applications are due May 17. [Learn more and apply.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Nastassia Walsh, NACo Program Manager at nwalsh@naco.org or (202) 942.4289.

Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant

The [TIGER](#) program has the straightforward objective of making capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure, but the reality of TIGER grants is that they support a range of project types in a wide variety of communities across the country. If you're making an application please mark your calendar for a **deadline of April 29th.**

Community Connectivity Initiative

by Jacob Terrell, Associate Legislative Director for NACo's Telecommunications & Technology

A new initiative recently launched by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) intends to motivate and support communities that develop and implement community-based broadband plans, which align with the goals of cities and counties across the nation.

The project, dubbed the Community Connectivity Initiative, will include four major program elements: a self-assessment tool, a report with recommendations, planning and implementation support, and a National Community of Practice that builds on best practices, documents success and provides multiple forums for collaboration.

NACo's partnership with NTIA on the Community Connectivity Initiative will focus on engaging county leaders to help identify a community's overall accessibility to broadband services and best practices in overcoming obstacles in the pursuit of expanding broadband access. In the coming weeks NACo will work with NTIA on developing a webinar for county leaders to become familiar with the initiative, and opportunities to interact with NTIA directly.

The Community Connectivity Initiative is part of a broader effort announced by the White House March 9, to connect 20 million more Americans to the Internet by the year 2020. The White House's announcement focused on the Administration's new ConnectAll Initiative.

NTIA serves as the Executive Branch agency responsible for advising the president on telecommunication and information policy. NTIA was tapped to spearhead the Community Connectivity Initiative as part of a recommendation by the Administration's Broadband Opportunity Council Report.

For additional information please contact Jacob at jterrell@naco.org.

The 2016 NACIO Awards of Excellence Now Open

The National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) is now accepting entries for the 2016 Awards of Excellence Competition! This contest recognizes and awards outstanding public relations and public information work being done in counties and state associations across the nation. Winners of the contest will be awarded at the NACo Annual Conference held this July in Los Angeles County, California.

The NACIO 2016 Awards are a comprehensive look at the initiatives and efforts put forth from January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2015, and will recognize excellence in nine categories: Annual Reports, Brochures/Multiple-Page Booklets, Publications, Writing, Graphic Design, Photography, Audiovisual Productions, Special Projects, and Electronic Communications. Each category will include several subcategories. Please note that the projects must have been produced during the calendar year, but they do not have to be new projects. They can be an ongoing program or initiative. Several subcategories for the 2016 contest reflect new communications practices. Category G-3 is for podcasts or other audio programming. There are three new subcategories in the Electronic Communications category - I-2 (Best Facebook Page), I-3 (Best Twitter Feed) and I-4 (Email Newsletter to citizens).

The Awards of Excellence is open to counties and state associations who are members of NACIO as well as non-members. NACIO members receive discounted entry fees. Please visit the [Awards of Excellence page](#) on the NACIO website to learn more and to view the official [Call for Entries form](#). Early bird applicants will be able to save on contest registration costs now through April 15. The final deadline for all award submissions is Friday, April 29, 2016.





John G. Donnadio, Esq.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NJAC is pleased to announce that it's hosting a brainstorming session of county officials to discuss potential shared services and regionalization opportunities for county court facilities and operations. *Space is limited, so please contact Kim Nolan at knolan@njac.org to reserve your seat for this important and timely meeting scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on May 6th at NJAC's office in Trenton.* And, NJAC's 66th Annual Celebration of County Government is approaching fast and we've put together an outstanding event from May 18th through May 20th at Caesar's in Atlantic City that includes:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS - Please visit our website at www.njac.org for the schedule of educational workshops where county professionals may earn important continuing education credits by completing our diverse and unique seminars approved for accreditation by the Department of Community Affairs, Rutgers, the American Planning Association, and the Board of Continuing Legal Education. Our informative and timely workshops have been certified for a variety of credits for finance officers, purchasing officials, clerks, public works employees, engineers, planners, and attorneys in CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, QPA, CTC, RPPO, RPPS, CLE, PDH, CPC, APA Planning, and Ethics.


AN OUTSTANDING COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL COOK OFF - We're thrilled to once again be hosting the 5th Annual County Vocational-Technical School Cook-Off Challenge, where culinary art students from county vocational-technical schools in Atlantic, Burlington, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, Union, and Warren counties have been selected to compete for titles in taste, creativity, and food presentation. Each team will consist of 5-6 students and 2 staff members, and must produce 400 samples of appetizers at a total cost of less than \$500.00. NJAC officials, Atlantic City chefs, and convention guests will have the difficult task of judging the tough competition.

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS LUNCHEON AND REPORTERS ROUNDTABLE - This highly anticipated event kicks off with the presentation of our annual "County Service Awards," where we'll honor exceptional county professionals from across the State for their hard work and dedication to county government. We'll also present the prestigious "Maurice Fitzgibbons Freeholder of the Year Award" to a NJAC board member committed to advancing the goals and objectives of the Association. We're also hosting a "Reporters Roundtable," where NJ media personalities Michael Aron, Nick Acocella, and others will candidly discuss hot topics facing our great State such as pension and health benefits reform, the Transportation Trust Fund, and our aging infrastructure.




OUTSTANDING NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES - All of our main events will take place in the main exhibit hall designed to provide you with maximum opportunities to meet community and business leaders from across the State. We've also added several new features this year that include WiFi and charging stations, the opportunity for sponsors to pitch their businesses at several events all conference long, and innovative activities strategically placed throughout the exhibit hall and registration area designed to enhance networking and your overall conference experience. And, don't forget to decorate your booth and have plenty of pens, key chains, and magnets to give away as we're presenting awards and prizes for the Best Exhibit Display, Best Booth Giveaway, and Friendliest Vendor.

STRONG COUNTY REPRESENTATION - We're expecting representation from all 21 counties; and, our county administrators, finance officers, welfare directors, improvement authorities, and jail wardens' plan on holding regular meetings during the conference. Additionally, several county governing bodies, improvement authorities, and affiliate members plan on exhibiting as vendors. Finally, we're very excited about the opportunity to host the first annual "County College A cappella Sing Off." If you haven't done so already, please make sure to check out our website at www.njac.org for additional details about this highly anticipated event.

«APRIL 2016»

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					15 Mercer Lake Sprints Regatta 4/15 - 4/17 Mercer County Park West Windsor Mercer County	16  10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Pitman Gloucester County
17 Cherry Blossom Tours 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. 4/17 - 4/23 Welcome Center Branch Brook Park Newark Essex County	18	19 In The Mood 7:30 p.m. Bergen PAC Englewood Bergen County	20 Celebrating Diversity 11 a.m. Roxey Ballet Lambertville Hunterdon County	21	22 Olivia Newton John 9 p.m. Xanadu Theatre Trump Taj Mahal Atlantic City Atlantic County	23 Exit Zero Jazz Festival 4/22-4/24 <i>Various Locations</i> Check out the link above Cape May Cape May County
5th Annual  11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Moorestown Mall Moorestown Burlington County	25	26	27 Feature Film "Steve Jobs" 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. County Library Manchester Ocean County	28 Jackie Evancho 8 p.m. - 11 p.m. Mayo Performing Arts Center Morristown Morris County	29 Starstruck Dance Challenge 4/29 - 5/1 Garden State Exhibit Center Somerset Middlesex County	30 Summer of Love 8 p.m. Shea Center at William Paterson University Wayne Passaic County

«MAY 2016»

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
1 NY All-Star Big Band 3p.m. Alonquin Arts Theatre	2	3 "How the Civil War Changed Medicine" 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. American Legion Hackettstown Warren County	4 Villagers Performing Arts Festival (<i>auditions</i>) 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Villagers Theatre Somerset Somerset County	5	6 Big Apple Comedy Club 8 p.m. Newton Theatre Newton Sussex County	7 ECO Fair 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wheaton Arts & Cul- tural Center Millville Cumberland County	
 8	9 Steve Wynn & the Miracle 3 9 p.m. Monty Hall Jersey City Hudson County	10	11	12	13 "Veronica's Room" 8 p.m. Westfield Community Players Westfield Union County	14  7:30 p.m. BB&T Pavillon Camden Camden County	
 15 Walking Tours at Fort Mott 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily Pennsville Salem County			18			19	20 NJAC Annual Conference Caesar's in Atlantic City Register here to attend, exhibit, advertise in the conference directory and host an event!