Eleven New Jersey libraries have been selected to participate in a pilot project, initiated by the New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC), to assist eligible residents with accessing and downloading audio books and magazines from the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) web site. This national database is made available by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a division of the U.S. Library of Congress. The goal of the project is to allow public libraries to provide local assistance to TBBC members and their caretakers with the complicated BARD downloading process. NJ residents who are affected by a physical impairment, a reading disability, or a visual impairment may be eligible.

“This initiative will help us expand the services of the Talking Book and Braille Center to new, underserved populations in New Jersey,” said Adam Szczepaniak, director of TBBC. “It will help to make a difference for those who, for whatever reason, have difficulty reading printed material. This is an important partnership for TBBC.”

A wide range of free services are currently available to registered TBBC members including digital audiobook players and audiobook cartridges, braille books, downloadable audiobooks and audio magazines. Users also have access to news reading services such as Audiovision, TBBC’s own NJ newspaper reading service, and the National Federation for the Blind’s Newsline, which offers over 300 newspapers, magazines and wire services.

Participating pilot program libraries include: Atlantic County Library, Galloway Township Branch; East Brunswick Public Library; Jersey City Public Library; Johnson Public Library (Hackensack); Kenilworth Public Library; Monroe Township Public Library (Middlesex); Morris County (Whippany); Mount Laurel Library; Pequannock Township Public Library; Scotch Plains Public Library; and Somerset County Library, Bridgewater.

For more information about the BARD pilot project and other TBBC services, visit http://njsltbbc.org/.
The Swedesboro Branch of the Gloucester County Library System has been awarded a Local History grant from the Gloucester County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

The funds, provided by the New Jersey Historical Commission, will allow the Swedesboro Library to offer three public programs focusing on the history of the area now known as Swedesboro.

“Having been a lifelong resident of Gloucester County, I am still intrigued by the rich history of our area,” said Freeholder Director Robert M. Damminger. “According to 2010 census information, Gloucester County had the highest population growth in New Jersey from 2000 to 2010 at 13.2%. That growth equates to 33,615 new residents over the last ten years, and I am sure many of them are interested in the history of our region,” stated Director Damminger.

Freeholder Lyman Barnes, Liaison to the Gloucester County Library System, said that the historical programs are designed to help participants gain insight into early-American life for Swedish settlers.

Freeholder Barnes said, “This is going to be a wonderful series on the origin of one of our most historical boroughs. Whether you drive through it, shop in it or live in it, I do encourage everyone to come out and learn about the importance of Swedesboro.”

All programs are free and open to the public. The Swedesboro Branch is located at 1442 Kings Highway, Swedesboro.

For more information call the library at 856-467-0111.
Daylight Savings Time Marks A Great Time to Change Batteries in Smoke Alarms

This marks the beginning of Daylight Savings Time when everyone sets their clocks forward one hour. Maxons Restorations would like to remind you that this is a great opportunity to also change the batteries in your smoke alarms.

Almost two-thirds of residential fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

- No smoke alarms were present in 40% of the home fire deaths.
- In 23% of the home fire deaths, smoke alarms were present but did not sound.

Maxons wants to be sure you and your family stay safe this spring and throughout the year.

Here are some helpful hints:

Check Your Smoke Alarms
After inserting fresh batteries in your Smoke Alarm, make sure the Alarm is working by activating the safety test button.

Count Your Smoke Alarms
Maxons highly recommends that you have a properly functioning Smoke Alarm in every sleeping room and in the hallway directly adjacent to those rooms.

Clean Your Smoke Alarms
Help your Smoke Alarm remain sensitive and ready to protect you by gently using a vacuum cleaner once a month to remove dust and cobwebs.

Retire Your Old Smoke Alarms
Smoke Alarms work every minute of every day. After millions of sensing cycles, they should be retired. Replace your Smoke Alarms with new devices every 10 years.

Plan & Practice Your Escape
Children are at increased risk of dying in a home fire because they often become scared and confused when a fire erupts. Make sure your children recognize the sound of your home’s Smoke Alarm and teach them to respond instinctively to its signal.

Plan & Practice Your Escape Route
Create at least two different escape routes from every room and practice them with the entire family. Be sure all family members know the lifesaving practice of crawling below the dangerously thick smoke and intense heat of a fire.

Check Your Flashlights
Make sure your emergency flashlights work when you need them. It is a good idea to keep a working flashlight and a whistle near your bed, in the kitchen, basement and family room.

Install Fire Extinguishers
Install at least one fire extinguisher in or near your kitchen and know how to use it.

For more information and additional fire prevention tips click on Maxons Fire Prevention Tips.

For information, reviews and features available for Smoke & CO click here for the Consumer Response reviews.

For safety tips and installation guides for your detectors from the FDNY click here.
The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires employers to provide all new hires and current employees with a written notice about ACA’s health insurance exchanges (Exchanges), effective March 1, 2013.

On January 24, 2013, the Department of Labor (DOL) announced that employers will not be held to the March 1, 2013, deadline. They will not have to comply until final regulations are issued and a final effective date is specified.

EXCHANGE NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

In general, the notice must:

- Inform employees about the existence of the Exchange and give a description of the services provided by the Exchange;
- Explain how employees may be eligible for a premium tax credit or a cost-sharing reduction if the employer’s plan does not meet certain requirements;
- Inform employees that if they purchase coverage through the Exchange, they may lose any employer contribution toward the cost of employer-provided coverage, and that all or a portion of this employer contribution may be excludable for federal income tax purposes; and
- Include contact information for the Exchange and an explanation of appeal rights.

This requirement is found in Section 18B of the fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), which was created by the ACA. The DOL has not yet issued a model notice or regulations about the employer notice requirement.

WHEN DO EMPLOYERS HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE EXCHANGE NOTICE REQUIREMENTS?

Section 18B provides that employer compliance with the notice requirements must be carried out “[i]n accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary [of Labor].” Accordingly, the DOL has announced that, until regulations are issued and become applicable, employers are not required to comply with the exchange notice requirements.

The DOL has concluded that the notice requirement will not take effect on March 1, 2013, for several reasons. First, this notice should be coordinated with HH’s educational efforts and IRS guidance on minimum value. Second, the DOL is committed to a smooth implementation process, including:

- Providing employers with sufficient time to comply; and
- Selecting an applicability date that ensures that employees receive the information at a meaningful time.

The DOL expects that the timing for distribution of notices will be the late summer or fall of 2013, which will coordinate with the open enrollment period for Exchanges.

The DOL is considering providing model, generic language that could be used to satisfy the notice requirement. As a compliance alternative, the DOL is also considering allowing employers to satisfy the notice requirements by providing employees with information using the employer coverage templates as discussed in the preamble to the Proposed Rule on Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Programs and Exchange.

Future guidance on complying with the notice requirements under FLSA section 18B is expected to provide flexibility and adequate time to comply.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor
Are You Planning to Submit for Sustainable Jersey Certification in 2013?
By: Winnie Fatton, Project Manager

To be certified in 2013, your application is due by June 16.
Review the certification cycle timeline to plan ahead and keep on track. The timeline outlines the complete submittal and review process. Certification Timeline

Need help getting started?
Participate in a certification webinar. We have webinars scheduled for new and previously certified towns. The webinars will orient staff and volunteers to our new website, review the certification requirements, and help with tips for developing a strategy for success.

Registration Links for the Certification Webinars:
Planning for Recertification Webinars: March 19, 2013, 7:30-9:00 pm and March 21, 2013, 7:30-9:00 pm

Planning for Certification Webinars: March 18, 2013, 7:30-9:00 pm and March 20, 2013, 1:00-2:30 pm

Remember, Sustainable Jersey certification is free and as a participating community you can take advantage of a host of Sustainable Jersey benefits, including the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants program, which will be announced soon.

For more information visit www.SustainableJersey.com, email info@sustainablejersey.com or call 609.771.2938.

Sussex County Transitional Care Program Addresses National Concern
By: Sarah Balzano, R.N., Transitional Care Coordinator

The Sussex County Department of Human Services is pleased to announce that Newton Medical Center and Premier Health Associates have partnered with them in implementing the Transitional Care Program in Sussex County. Through this partnership, patients who are Medicare recipients receive support services at no cost to help them maintain their health after they are discharged from the hospital. These services help to prevent readmissions to the hospital or unnecessary emergency room visits. This partnership ensures that patients receive care at the right time, in the right place and at lower cost. It demonstrates the clear understanding by all parties that the services provided through the Transitional Care Program are extremely valuable to Sussex County residents.

In February 2012 the Sussex County Department of Human Services initiated this innovative program. The program kick-off “Understanding Transitional Care: A Conversation with Mary Naylor, PhD, RN, FAAN” held at Sussex County Community College started the conversation. Mary D. Naylor is the chief architect of the nationally acclaimed Transitional Care Model (TCM). TMC emphasizes patient-centered coordination and continuity of care, prevention and avoidance of complications and subsequent hospitalization, all accomplished through the active interdisciplinary collaboration of

(Continued on page 6)
Sussex County Transitional Care Program

(Continued from page 5)

physicians, nurses, social workers, family caregivers and the network of community human service agencies. The County of Sussex, Newton Medical Center, Premier Health Associates, Bridgeway, Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice and the State of New Jersey have worked together on this national initiative.

The program is funded through $100,000 in funds from Newton Medical Center, $45,000 in grants from the State of New Jersey and $100,000 in County funds. In addition, Premier Health Associates is covering the cost of Dr. George Wang, a Gerontologist from the John’s Hopkins University, as Medical Director for the program. Dr. Wang states, “The Sussex County Transitional Care Program is taking an innovative model of health care delivery and putting it into practice right here in our own backyard. As a clinical investigator, I appreciate the importance of having all the right ingredients in the right place in order to take an innovative model like this and make it a reality in daily clinical practice. It appears that we have all the right ingredients and the right people to keep this successful program going—and the citizens of Sussex County are the beneficiaries.”

These services include the assistance of a Transitional Care Nurse who, along with Social Workers, will make sure that patients fully understand their discharge instructions and follow-up care. The Transitional Care team may also arrange transportation for and accompany patients to their first post-discharge primary care appointment. Patients are visited while in the hospital and at home following discharge. These visits are to assist the patient and/or their caregiver(s) in the creation of a Personal Health Record that includes all pertinent medical information and personal goals, a review of all medications that are taken at home and newly prescribed at the hospital and to communicate concerns, problems or issues to their primary care physician.

By collaborating with the Division of Senior Services and the Division of Social Services, the Transitional Care Program is able to help link patients to other important services. These services may include, but are not limited to, home health aides, prescription assistance, light housekeeping services, health and wellness programs and transportation. Transitional Care patient known as “BS” stated, “I thank God everyday that I was part of this program. My Social Worker helped me with my medical bills and assisted me in getting temporary transportation to my numerous medical appointments. She eventually helped me get my driver’s license back. What a Godsend.” Caregiver Judith Szabo wanted to thank her Social Worker for her “caring, compassion and knowledge of life’s realities.”

Since its inception in April 2012, the Transitional Care Team has provided 960 hospital visits and 215 home visits to 410 patients and made 936 phone calls. The County of Sussex, Newton Medical Center and Premier Health Associates understand that the transition from the hospital back home is a difficult one. The Transitional Care Program’s services are designed to improve health, avoid costly and unnecessary hospital/emergency room visits and, most importantly, to assist the older adults in our community to remain in their homes by providing them with the support they need.

For additional information on the Transitional Care Program, please contact Sarah Balzano, R.N., Transitional Care Coordinator, for the Sussex County Department of Human Services, at 973-579-0559 ext. 1247.

NJAC
County Government with a Unified Voice!
Annual Conference
May 8 - May 10, 2013
Caesar’s, Atlantic City
REGISTRATION OPEN
This will be the second year for the County Vocational-Technical School Cook-off Challenge, which was an enormous success in 2012.

The Cook-Off will be held on Friday, May 10, 2013 from 12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. We encourage everyone to come and enjoy the terrific dishes prepared by the talented culinary students, as well as cheer on your participating county.

These students are not only learning how to cook good food, but also how to eat good food. They are building a familiarity with different ingredients and types of cuisines, as well as discerning the different flavor profiles in a dish.

There will be plenty of opportunities for those in attendance to discern their palate. After all, one has to be able to tell the good from the bad and the near-perfect from the perfect. If you have an appreciation for food you will recognize cooking is chemistry. It’s a mixture of craft and science with an eloquence of art.

There will be eleven County Vo-Tech School's from throughout the State participating in this year’s cook-off, and they will compete for title in taste, creativity, and food presentation.

See you there!
Studies of enterprise IT environments have shown that U.S. enterprises over-buy licenses for 60% of their software portfolios and are non-compliant on another 30% of their software assets. In particular, enterprises – including government agencies – over-spend on desktop applications. Recovery of this overspend offers government agencies the chance to deliver improved services to taxpayers, without incremental budget.

TechXtend uses IT asset intelligence technology to uncover precisely where an agency is wasting money on software licenses. By ‘mining’ software licenses, TechXtend can provide the insight that agencies need in order to stop overbuying software licenses, to remove the cost of maintaining and supporting under-utilized software and hardware, and to get fair value from annual software license reviews and “true-up” negotiations. The monies recovered may be used to reduce operating budgets and/or to invest in critical new projects such as virtual desktop infrastructure.

### Virtual Desktop Infrastructure: A Technology Investment to Help Deliver Better Services

A Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) can help address the spiraling costs of managing large numbers of physical desktops across an agency, without compromising the service that users enjoy. However, trying to plan for a migration from a physical to virtual desktop infrastructure, without knowing the extent to which the current physical environment is being used, is like trying to size an ERP system without knowing how many people will use it. In order to get the maximum benefit from VDI, it’s essential to thoroughly understand software and hardware usage profiles ahead of implementation.

Using a specialized asset intelligence tool, TechXtend can focus on the agency’s application use and the impact on underlying desktop hardware utilization; we can build an accurate profile of those desktops that can be most easily migrated to a virtual environment. Information on utilization within the existing physical estate ensures that server hardware specifications are capable of supporting the migrated workload, yet are not over specified.

As part of our VDI implementation services, TechXtend will:

- Accurately determine the number and type of desktop software licenses required to support the move to VDI, thus ensuring that all opportunities for license fee savings, by moving to VDI, are fully captured.
- Analyze the aggregate and concurrent intensity and profile of desktop hardware usage across the entire estate, to determine the ongoing server hardware resource requirements for VDI and ensure that adequate resource is provisioned to maintain service, without the excess cost of over specification.
- Monitor the acceptance of VDI in terms of application use under the VDI model and ensure license compliance, thus tracking how well VDI is being exploited and whether any drift back to physical desktop use is occurring, as well as the extent to which such drift creates a license compliance exposure.

### For More Information

With a 30-year history in serving the Public Sector, TechXtend specializes in solutions for virtualization/cloud computing, storage & infrastructure management, and business intelligence & information management.

Contact TechXtend by phone (732.389.8950 x7246) or email (state.gov@techxtend.com) to discuss how we can help recover money in your agency’s budget to fund your virtual desktop project.
National County Government Month (NCGM)
Smart Justice: Creating Safer Communities is the theme for National County Government Month. A booklet full of ideas to celebrate NCGM is available. NACo will again present valuable awards to six counties for their outstanding NCGM activities. Learn More
Contact: Jim Philipps · 202.942.4220

Helping Counties Improve Community Health
In partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute, NACo will be providing counties with information and insight about how to develop effective local programs and policies that can improve overall community health. Learn More
Contact: Maeghan Gilmore · 202.942.4261

Pipeline Safety Grant Applications Deadline: March 29
The pipeline safety technical assistance grant program will provide up to $50,000 in funding to communities and non-profit groups for engineering or other scientific analysis of pipeline safety, or to help promote public participation in official proceedings pertaining to pipeline safety. Apply and Learn More and Register
Contact: James Davenport · 202.661.8807

NACo Annual Conference is now: 2013 County Solutions and Marketplace
A new name goes along with the new format for the NACo Annual Conference. Registration opens, today, March 12. The event, hosted by Tarrant County (Ft. Worth), Texas, has been trimmed to four days — Friday, July 19 until Monday, July 22. Make sure you take a look at the new schedule because this isn't the conference of the past. Register and Learn More
Contact: Kim Struble · 202.942.4261

'Don't Mess With our Bonds,' Locals tell Washington
NACo president Chris Rodgers and leaders from the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors called on Congress and the Administration to reject proposed changes in the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. Read More

HOW THE BOND INTEREST TAX EXEMPTION SAVES COUNTIES MONEY
Under the federal tax code, investors are not required to pay federal income tax on interest earned from most bonds issued by state and local governments. The tax exemption for municipal bond interest has been in law since the creation of the federal income tax 100 years ago.

As a result of this tax exemption, state and local governments receive a lower interest rate on their borrowing than they would if their interest was taxable to investors. The tax exemption can save states and localities up to two percentage points on their borrowing rates under typical market conditions.
HELP WANTED

Hospital Administrator/Hospital Director, Essex County Hospital and Institute for Mental Health Policy, Research and Treatment is seeking to hire a full-time Administrator/Director. This 186 bed psychiatric hospital is located in Cedar Grove, NJ.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to: The leadership and day to day operations of the hospital, for application and implementation of established policies; Acts as liaison among the governing authority, medical staff, and personnel of the hospital; Establishes formal means of accountability from those to whom he/she has assigned duties. Regularly schedules inter-departmental and departmental meetings, to maintain liaison between the medical staff and other departments; Names appropriate departmental representatives to the multi-disciplinary committee of the hospital; Develops standards and methods for measurement of hospital activities; Long term planning, development of operating objectives and budget; Review financial reports, contracts; and, Recruiting, hiring and maintaining personnel.

Requirements are minimum 5 years experience in the management and supervision of various departments in a hospital or other health care facility. A Master’s degree in Hospital Administration, Health Sciences or Public Administration.

Those Funny Little Codes

They are starting to show up everywhere: signs, envelopes, product packaging, fountain drink cups, postcards and registrations! They are called QR (Quick Response) Codes-those mysterious square labels with black lines on a white background-and companies, governmental entities, non-profits, and even individuals are beginning to use them to communicate important information about themselves.

QR codes are two-dimensional barcodes, much like the barcodes you see on product packaging in retail stores. Unlike a product barcode, however, QR Codes can store different types of information such as a paragraph of text, phone number, or website address (URL).

Using your smart phone and a free QR Code app that you download, you can quickly scan the Code (using your camera phone and app) and get more information about the product. If the Code contains a URL, you get linked immediately to that website. Most smart phones are equipped with the ability to dial a phone number in a QR Code automatically; the user just has to select the number (rather than manually dial each number).

So why should you care? There are a few reasons counties and officials might want to pay attention to QR Codes.

Conserve Print Space: QR Codes can be displayed quite large, such as on a billboard or as small as a dime. This means you can print one on the envelope you send notices in or maybe you might want to put one on a campaign sign, or at a community memorial site.

Fingertip Information: The use of mobile devices has exploded in recent years. Basically, cell phones are small computers, giving us instant access to friends, family, colleagues and everything the Internet holds.

QR Codes simplify the way in which we communicate by requiring less button pushing, less transcribing and less searching. They give users information at the point of sale or point of interest, which is much more reliable than hoping a person will stop and perform a search on their phone or wait until they get home to look it up.

No Cost Involved: QR Codes are free to generate and free to read: Just type “QR Code Generator” in your browser search bar and you will find lots of websites that will create them for free. And, as was stated earlier, there are several free QR Code apps you can download.

It’s hard to go wrong with a great resource like QR Codes. Community members can get county information more quickly and more in-depth. So long as constituents have a smart phone and county officials spend a few minutes it can all happen very inexpensively.
Happy St. Patrick’s Day

As a result of Superstorm Sandy, BSG understands that most your attention has been redirected to focusing on recouping financial losses, rebuilding infrastructure, and assisting residents that were impacted by the event. As a result, certain responsibilities and requirements can sometimes be inadvertently overlooked.

Birdsall Services Group (BSG) would like to remind you that the annual reporting is due May 2 2013 for the Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program to hopefully help you avoid any regulatory penalties.

Environmental Alert
Reminder…Annual Reporting is Due May 2

Annual reports are now submitted online using the NJDEP Online Portal and are due on May 2, 2013 for the 2012 permit year.

For further information contact Kristi Butkowski at (732) 380-1700 x1310, kbutkowski@birdsall.com or Chris Gulics at (732) 380-1700 x1324, cgulics@birdsall.com.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program

Due to the failure of Congress to reach a deal on balanced deficit reduction to avoid sequestration, the President issued a sequestration order canceling approximately $85 billion in budgetary resources across the Federal Government for the remainder of the Federal fiscal year.

Based on the President’s report to Congress, there will be a 5.1 percent reduction in the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, reducing 2013 payments to counties by this amount. In 2012, the total payments to over 1,850 counties were $393 million. The formula, which is set by law, considers acreage, population, prior year revenue payments, and incorporates an inflationary adjustment. As a result of the sequester the amount will be reduced by 5.1 percent, a total of $20 million for the entire program. This is about 2.3 percent or $9 million below the 2012 program level.

The Department of Interior (DOI) will issue payments as usual in June 2013. If sequestration is subsequently corrected, DOI would issue the payments to counties with the balance of the PILT payments due to the local governments.

For further information Click Here.
Mission Statement

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

From the NJAC Executive Director’s Desk . . .

THE 2013 NJAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE, MAY 8TH THRU MAY 10TH AT CAESAR’S IN ATLANTIC CITY, NJ.

THE 2013 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
As Second-Vice President, Mercer County Freeholder Ann Cannon will serve as Chair of the Conference Committee. This Committee is responsible for planning NJAC’s annual and year-end conferences, and is open to board members, county affiliate members, and business associates. The 2013 Conference Committee members include County Officials: Jeffrey Dublin, NJAC President and Hudson County Freeholder; Claire French, Monmouth County Clerk and NJAC First Vice President; Rick Gardner, Warren County Freeholder and NJAC Immediate Past President; and Frank Bruno, Somerset County Surrogate and NJAC Surrogate Alternate Board Member. Business Associates: Art Guida, Director of External Affairs for PSE&G; Brian Turano, Vice President of Government Banking for Investors Bank; Ohan Najarian, Marketing Associate for Najarian Associates; Ron Bird, Director of Finance for Security Capital Advisors; Nicole Fox, Executive Director for Passaic County Improvement Authority; Reyna Burger, Marketing Manager for Suburban Consulting Group; Caryn Gaetano, Account Executive for ACCESS/CNA Services; Emily Hammer, Principal for SSP Architectural Group; and Erin Roudebush, Account Executive for Johnston Communications.

TO REVIEW SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, REGISTRATION, EXHIBIT KIT, AND ARRANGE FOR LODGING Click Here.

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