

NJAC COUNTY BIZ

An Educational and Informative Newsletter for Counties and Businesses

New Jersey Association of Counties

ISSUE 97 - JULY 2019

PSE&G Energy Efficiency Program Can Help Counties, Non-Profits and Small Businesses

by Karen Reif, Vice President, Renewables and Energy Solutions, for PSE&G



PSE&G

We make things work for you.

Public Service Electric and Gas Co. has a long history of providing its customers with energy efficiency programs that are designed to help save them both money and energy. These programs have historically targeted customers that are underserved with energy efficiency options, including hospitals, residential multifamily buildings and small businesses, non-profit organizations and local government agencies.

PSE&G's Energy Saver Program has helped many government agencies, non-profits and small businesses located in Urban Enterprise Zones improve their energy efficiency by providing a free onsite energy audit, recommending energy efficiency upgrades and providing a detailed cost estimate for the work. Energy efficiency upgrades can include lighting retrofits involving sensors and controls, refrigeration, motors and HVAC equipment as well as site-specific custom projects. PSE&G pays for 100 percent of the upfront costs and the work is done by an authorized contractor. When the work is complete, participants repay only 30 percent of the total, interest free, over 36 months on their PSE&G bill (or in one lump sum payment if they prefer).

The PSE&G Energy Saver Program has helped cut energy costs at participating facilities by up to 30 percent, which is why more than 1,500 government agencies, non-profits and small businesses have participated in the program since 2009, saving \$50 million in energy costs. To learn more about how the Energy Saver Program helped make the Bergen County Zoo more energy efficient, [click here](#).

In an effort to build on this success, PSE&G included two specific initiatives, the Small, Non-Residential Efficiency Program and the Engineered Solutions Program, as part of its recent \$2.8 billion, 22-program Clean Energy Future-Energy Efficiency proposal. The Clean Energy Future filing will vastly expand PSE&G's energy efficiency reach to both residential and commercial customers and, if approved, also allow PSE&G to continue its work and help even more customers save money and energy.

In addition to the energy efficiency component of the Clean Energy Future proposal, PSE&G has also proposed extensive electric vehicle charging, energy storage and advanced metering/Energy Cloud programs. These efforts are designed to improve New Jersey's environment, create green jobs that will help drive the economy and create new opportunities through advanced technology.

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- Pg. 1** PSE&G Energy Efficiency Program
- Pg. 2** Get to Know Your County Official
- Pg. 3** Schools Receive \$43,000 in Scholarships
- Pg. 5** MRA inter-Networking
- Pg. 6** West Caldwell School of Technology Expansion
- Pg. 8** Can Machines Make Local Government Policies More Human
- Pg. 10** Sprint Enables Customers to Track Just About Anything
- Pg. 12** Welcome to Our New Members
- Pg. 13** ACE Energizing Three Major Projects
- Pg. 14** Share the News
- Pg. 15** From Your Desktop to Your Datacenter
- Pg. 16** Nationwide Economics
- Pg. 18** NACo Conference & Webinar
- Pg. 19** Message from the NJAC Executive Director
- Pg. 20** NJAC Night at the Ball Park
- Pg. 21** What's Happening in Your County?

continued on page 3

Get to know your County Official.....

How many years have you served as Warren County Freeholder?

It has been six months since I was elected to serve as Warren County Freeholder.

What was the first public position you held?

The first public position I held was on the Pohatcong Township Council.

Why did you choose to run for Warren County Freeholder?

I have always applauded the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders, but when a retirement took place I believed I would be able to offer the perspective of a new generation on the board. Like many areas in New Jersey, our county continues to see a declining population. I am determined to fight to keep this county affordable and work with all stakeholders to help our residents have access to jobs.



James R. Kern, III
Freeholder
Warren County

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

In my opinion, there is not one decision that is more difficult than the other, but all require the ability to address the immediate concerns of your residents while also being able to understand how the larger picture will be impacted.

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

Most readers may be surprised to know that I ran for Township Council and was elected while finishing my senior year at Rutgers University.



Who is your role model?

I have had several role models in both my personal and professional life, but all have given me the same advice, which is "helping others succeed is the greatest thing one can accomplish".

Why do you love Warren County?

Warren County is the most picturesque place in New Jersey. We have beautiful forests, rivers, and towns that make for a great place to live or visit and explore.



PSE&G Energy Efficiency Program *(continued)*

The programs support Governor Murphy's clean energy agenda and are consistent with both the 2018 Clean Energy Act and the New Jersey Master Plan.

Although remaining funding for the current Energy Saver Program is limited, there is still an opportunity to learn more or apply at www.pseg.com/energysaver. To learn more about the Clean Energy Future proposal and other ways that PSE&G is powering progress, go to www.psegpoweringprogress.com



63 Graduates of County Vocational-Technical Schools Receive \$43,000 in Scholarships

by New Jersey Council of County Vocational -Technical Schools

Sixty-three students from across the state who graduated from county vocational-technical schools this year received more than \$43,000 in scholarships from the NJAC Foundation to continue their career-focused education at New Jersey colleges and universities.

The scholarships are funded by grants from four New Jersey-based corporations committed to supporting hard-working young people seeking to further their education in the Garden State.

The foundation partnered with the New Jersey Council of County Vocational Technical Schools to identify well-deserving students to receive the scholarships. The students were selected by their schools for the scholarships and approved by the NJAC Foundation.

Students who were awarded scholarships are continuing their education in a variety of career-focused majors, from cyber security to green-focused fields such as environmental science, civil engineering and landscape architecture.

Students are attending schools across the state, including all three campuses of Rutgers University, Kean, Montclair, New Jersey City, Ramapo, Rowan and Stockton universities, New Jersey Institute of Technology and The College of New Jersey. Students are also attending county colleges, including Atlantic, Bergen, Brookdale, Ocean, Raritan Valley, Salem and Warren.

The most popular major among the scholarship recipients is engineering followed by computer and information technology. Several students plan to continue their education in health-related fields, criminal justice and graphics.



Investors Bank, through its foundation, donated \$21,000, which provided \$500.00 scholarships to two students in each of the 20 counties that nominated eligible students.

Since 2011, Investors Bank has awarded the NJAC Foundation grant monies totaling \$157,000.00, which has helped an estimated 250 county vocational-technical school graduates afford college expenses.

continued on page 4

Graduates Receive \$43,000 in Scholarships *(continued)*

“Investors Bank and Investors Foundation are proud to support the NJAC Foundation,” said Investors Bank President and CEO Kevin Cummings. “NJAC has been integral in providing educational opportunities to so many of our bright students here in New Jersey—work that is vital for the long-term success of our communities. We applaud NJAC and wish the scholarship winners all the best in their future endeavors.”



PSEG

PSEG gave \$12,000 through its foundation, which provided \$850 scholarships to one student in each county where PSE&G maintains service territory or a generation facility.

The scholarships will be awarded to students who plan on studying environmental science, green design, green technology, alternative energy, and other related subjects. Students from Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, and Union counties were eligible.

“As our nation grows increasingly proactive about protecting the environment for future generations, I’m thrilled that PSEG and the NJAC Foundation have once again partnered on this important and timely initiative to support county vocational-technical school graduates across the State,” commented NJAC Foundation President Donald De Leo.

Since 2011, PSEG has awarded the NJAC Foundation grant monies totaling \$106,000, which has helped an estimated 138 county vocational-technical school graduates.



SHI International Corp. donated \$5,000 to the foundation, which provided \$1,000 scholarships to five students in Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Monmouth, and Somerset counties who plan on studying technology and cybersecurity.

Founded in 1989 and headquartered in Somerset, New Jersey, SHI International Corporation is a global provider of technology products and services that delivers custom IT solutions to academic, corporate enterprise, and public sector customers.



NJM Insurance Group contributed \$5,250, which provided one \$1,750.00 scholarship to a student in each county where NJM Insurance Group maintains a corporate office, which includes Atlantic, Mercer, and Morris counties.

Since 2014, NJM Insurance Group has awarded the NJAC Foundation grant monies totaling \$31,250.00, which has helped an estimated 18 county vocational-technical school graduate continue their education at home in the Garden State.

The scholarships will be presented to students by their county officials over the summer.

The NJAC Foundation is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization affiliated with the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) and is committed to providing financial assistance to county vocational-technical school graduates who plan on continuing their education at a county or state college.

Since 2011, the NJAC Foundation has awarded over \$250,000.00 in scholarships for students to continue their education at home in the Garden State.

CAREERTECHNJ
New Jersey Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools

REGISTER TODAY!



July 18th | 8:30am - 2:30pm | Ocean Place Resort Long Branch, NJ

A MULTIFACETED NETWORKING EVENT MEETING THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Join MRA International for an exclusive event that will bring public sector professionals together to network by the beach in an open and relaxed environment. InterNETworking 2019 offers unique themes that are co-creative, interactive, solution-oriented and carefully crafted to intrigue and disrupt thinking. Topics include: **Disaster Recovery Planning, Ransomware Protection, Cybercrime, Digital Transformation, and more.**

WHY ATTEND INTERNETWORKING 2019?

ERIC KLOPFER
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
KEYNOTE

HERMINO RODRIGUEZ
City of Sarasota

TOM RYAN
Santa Fe Public School District
KEYNOTE



Critical Connections



Professional Development



Esteemed Industry Speakers



Innovative Technology

Want to bring your team? InterNETworking is an effective meeting ground that brings together leadership teams and professionals working in the public sector domain to focus on issues that impact their organizations.

MEET US BY THE BEACH AT THE BEAUTIFUL OCEAN PLACE RESORT



MRA International, Inc.
295 Morris Ave Long Branch, NJ 07740

REGISTER AT: www.mrainternational.com/start/allevnts
*Registration is filling up fast! Get your name on the list today.

Essex County Executive DiVincenzo and The Essex County Vocational Technical School Board Announce Groundbreaking for \$30 Million Expansion and Modernization of the Essex County West Caldwell School of Technology

by Anthony Puglisi, Director of Public Information for Essex County

Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. announced on Tuesday, June 11th that the Essex County West Caldwell School of Technology will undergo a \$30 million expansion and complete renovation. Construction is scheduled to begin after school recesses for the summer and be completed by January 2021. The improvements being made will ensure classes are being held in modern settings that can accommodate the curriculum.

“My goal is to make sure students attending our Schools of Technology have the resources to study the most progressive curriculum in the most modern, up-to-date facilities. The West Caldwell Campus has served its students well for half a century, but it’s time we improved the classrooms so they can accommodate the study tracks for emerging professions,” DiVincenzo said. “We began the process by constructing the Donald Payne School and will touch all of our school buildings by renovating Newark Tech after the West Caldwell campus is reopened. Our students deserve the best,” he noted.

“On behalf of our students, I want to thank County Executive DiVincenzo for providing the resources to build modern school buildings for our students. Providing up-to-date facilities allows us to create classrooms that complement and support our curriculum. This investment shows our commitment to education and preparing our students for their future,” Essex County Schools of Technology Superintendent Dr. James Pedersen said.

“With the coming of a new campus, we, the students, are looking forward to the improved classrooms and technology and making new memories in new hallways,” said sophomore Bryan Figueroa. “We are thrilled that we will be the first class to enjoy the new school and to graduate from it. We look forward to a new school that will demonstrate what our school is about,” sophomore Cameron Chambers said.

The announcement of upgrades to the school infrastructure were well-received.

“School infrastructure is a crucial problem in New Jersey, and really has become an issue of social injustice for our students. But that problem doesn’t exist in the Essex County Vocational Technical School District because of the leadership provided by the County Executive to get the district the resources it needs to modernize its facilities,” NJ State Senator and Deputy Chief of Staff Teresa Ruiz said.

Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin addressed the students with “If you dream big and reach for the stars, you can become and achieve anything you set out to do. When you come back and study in this building, the stars will shine even brighter.”

“This is a great day for West Caldwell, seeing the investment being made into this campus. To the students, when you come back, it will feel great being able to attend classes in a brand new setting,” West Caldwell Mayor Joseph Tempesta said.

continued on page 7

\$30 Million Expansion *(continued)*

“During my tenure with this school district, I have seen a lot of infrastructure improvement projects, and today highlights changes being made at the West Caldwell Campus. This expansion will provide our students with an opportunity to learn in a state-of-the-art facility,” West Caldwell Tech Principal Ayisha Ingram-Robinson said.

“This is an exciting time at the Essex County Vocational Technical School District. The recently opened Donald Payne School and the plans to renovate the school in West Caldwell demonstrate the commitment to provide an outstanding environment for students,” Essex County Executive Superintendent Joseph Zarra said.

“I get excited whenever I visit our schools because our students are our future and they are the meaning for why we are working to improve our school buildings,” Essex County Deputy Chief of Staff William Payne said.

“If the school looks half as good as the renderings, the building will be remarkable. This is a great move because it will benefit our young people,” Freeholder Rufus Johnson said. “On behalf of the Board of Freeholders, we love to collaborate with the County Executive, especially when it comes to providing resources to benefit kids and young people. It’s evident our county parks and schools are second to none,” Freeholder Len Luciano said.

The construction project involves building a two-story addition onto the front of the school, renovating existing space to accommodate current and new curriculum, and creating an outdoor courtyard. Included among the improvements are:

- A new Career & Technical Education Construction Lab
- A new Greenhouse and renovated space for the Agricultural Science CTE Lab
- An outdoor courtyard that will be used by the Agricultural Science program
- A new Media Center, which will be the first facility of its kind at the West Caldwell Campus
- Three Life Skills classrooms, two Community Living rooms and one Retail Classroom for special services students
- A renovated cosmetology facility with an adjoining classroom for academic instruction
- A renovated cafeteria seating for 135 students and new kitchen facilities
- Renovations to the culinary and baking CTE Labs
- Updated accommodations for school administrative offices
- Eight new classrooms in the new addition for math and four language art classes
- A new weight room for physical education class and athletics
- A new aerobics/dance room for physical education and the performing arts program
- An enhanced Music Production facility
- Enhanced security measures to monitor the interior and exterior of the facility

DiCara, Rubino Architects from Wayne received a \$1,790,000 contract to design the improvements to the West Caldwell campus. Dobco, Inc. from Wayne was awarded a publicly bid contract for \$29,855,000 to perform the construction work. Joseph Jingoli & Son, Inc. from Lawrenceville was awarded a \$840,855 contract to provide construction management services to answer questions and ensure delays are avoided. Promatech from Moorestown, N.J., was awarded an \$81,300 contract to perform contract monitoring and compliance. The construction is being funded through the Essex County Vocational Technical Schools’ Capital Budget with 90 percent of the costs being reimbursed by the State of New Jersey. The school is scheduled to be opened by December 2021.

continued on page 8

\$30 Million Expansion *(continued)*

The Essex County Vocational Technical School District is New Jersey's first and one of its largest Vocational Technical School Systems. Created in 1914, the school system provides both occupational and academic instruction for high school and adult students in Essex County. The district has four high schools: Bloomfield Tech, Newark Tech, North 13th Street Tech and West Caldwell Tech. In addition, the system provides adult programs in the evening at its Adult Training Center at Newark Tech. The district has an enrollment of approximately 2,200 students and provides high level state-of-the-art career skill development and academic opportunities in over 25 occupational areas. For more information on Essex County's Vocational Technical Schools, visit www.essextech.org.



Can Machines Make Local Government Policies More Human?

by Alannah Dragonetti, Head of Marketing for GovPilot

Robots are coming for humans' jobs. That's not a threat, it's a fact. In many cases, they already have. It happens all the time. A new technology is born and an old industry dies. Man vs. machine is very real, but the results of two recent local government initiatives prove that humanity's relationship with technology doesn't have to be adversarial.

THE ROBOTS
ARE COMING

Government Technology Offers Unique Value to Vulnerable Populations

Home to beautiful beaches, mansions and movie stars, Los Angeles County residents are thought to be living the dream, but for the loved ones of those with autism, Alzheimer's disease, or dementia, the area's high temperatures, bustling streets and bodies of water are the stuff of nightmares.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, 60% of people with dementia will wander at some point while a study conducted by the Interactive Autism Network concludes that 49% of children with autism will engage in wandering behavior. The case of Manhattan Beach resident, Nancy Paulikas, is a tragic example of the consequences. Afflicted with early onset Alzheimer's, Paulikas went missing in October 2016, when she wandered off from her family as they toured the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Her remains were discovered on a burned Southern California hillside two years later. (It is worth noting that over 10,000 adults were reported missing in Los Angeles County in 2018 alone.)

County Supervisor, Janice Hahn, cited stories like Paulikas' when championing the establishment of LA Found—a countywide initiative to help locate individuals with Alzheimer's, dementia, or autism who wander. In collaboration with other county departments and stakeholders, LA Found has developed and implemented improved community alert methods, law enforcement procedures and other worthwhile initiatives. Last October, LA Found leveraged advances in tracking technology to further its mission.

continued on page 9

Can Machines Make Local Government Policies More Human?

LA Found partnered with public safety nonprofit, Project Lifesaver, to distribute 30 radio frequency equipped arm bands to at-risk individuals and their caretakers, who were given rechargeable batteries and instructions on how to maintain the device. Arm bands communicate with police, helping them triangulate the location of the person wearing it.

So far, the program has used the bracelets to successfully locate and recover four individuals who had wandered off. LA Found has since secured additional funding to purchase more bracelets. 235 Los Angeles County residents are currently enrolled in the Project Lifesaver pilot.

Public-Facing Tools Benefit those Eligible for Benefits

Across the country, New York City is doing its part to ensure that no citizen falls through the cracks. For roughly a decade, the New York City Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity has been in possession of an API that determines residents' eligibility for over 30 social service benefits programs at the local, state and national levels. Now, developers are making the technical workings of that API available to the public.

The API is not only public, but significantly more user-friendly than its internal iteration. This redevelopment—a collaborative effort across agencies launched in summer 2016—saw the product team create a simpler 10-step screening process, rewrite portions of it in plain language, implement additional language and perfect its mobile-responsive design. The finished product is published on the Access NYC website.

Through granting the public access to the API, the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity hopes to help citizens who are eligible for benefits but are unaware they qualify or are in the dark about how to apply.

LA Found and the newly improved and publicized NYC Benefits Screening API are two recent examples of local government using the latest machines to add a human element to policies and procedures. Offering a number of modules that open data and clear communication channels to improve relations between local government officials and constituents, GovPilot helps clients achieve the same.

About GovPilot

GovPilot is a cloud-based Government Management Platform. GovPilot allows governments to replace antiquated paper processes with digital automation. By incorporating a digital environment, local governments can operate at increased efficiency levels. GovPilot unifies fragmented departments and data to facilitate better communication between elected officials, employees and the public to promote more informed decision-making. The platform offers local governments approximately 100 plus digital, automated processes to choose from. Governments can select digital FOIA, Building & Construction Permitting, Code Enforcement and other processes. GovPilot offers its customers unlimited user licenses, allowing data to be managed and shared by stakeholders 24/7, from the office, the field, or the comfort of their home.

For more information about this topic, please contact Alannah Dragonetti by telephone at (201) 222-1155 or via email at alannah@govpilot.com.



Sprint Enables Customers to Track Just About Anything with Tracker + Safe & Found

by Isabel Mejia, Client Director of the Sprint Works Program for Sprint

A simple device attached to vehicles, kids, pets, bikes, luggage and more for real-time location tracking.

Sprint recently announced the availability of Tracker + Safe & Found. Customers can now track just about anything thanks to this small matchbook-sized device and the Safe & Found app, only available from Sprint.

The device can easily attaché to vehicles, children's backpacks, pets bikes, luggage and more to provide real-time location tracking.

There are countless ways to use Tracker + Safe & Found:

- Parents of younger children who don't yet have a wireless device can attach Tracker to their child's backpack and receive a notification when their kids arrive at school.
- With a handy dog collar accessory, pet owners can keep tabs on your family's "escape artist" and get an alert if Fido runs off to go explore.
- Small businesses can keep tabs on their vehicles and other valuable assets.
- Concerned about lost luggage? Travelers can throw the Tracker inside their suitcases! Also, thanks to the light sensor, customers are notified if their luggage is opened.

Tracker + Safe & Found runs on Sprint's nationwide 4G LTE network² with GPS and a powerful Wi-Fi-assisted location service. Powered by the Safe & Found app, Tracker is one of the industry's leading location and parental control platforms to provide real-time location tracking. Different from other tracking platforms, Safe & Found can simultaneously locate where the Tracker is and provide location updates for smartphones and tablets. Unlike other devices that rely solely on Bluetooth, Tracker + Safe & Found provides users location updates from miles away.

Users can quickly and easily know the location of an keep track of children, pets and virtually anything else they love and care about, all in a single app. It's a great service that can help families, pet owners, small businesses and more.

Tracker, manufactured by Coolpad, comes with a long-lasting, rechargeable battery, and features:

- Real-time location tracking.
- Personalized safety zones (also known as "geo-fencing") and notifications.
- Water-resistant assembly.
- Location updates even from miles away.
- Ability to review historical data.
- Built-in light sensor detection.
- On-device speaker (that can make it easy to find).
- Check-ins and other alerts.

Tracker + Safe & Found is available in Sprint retail stores, at www.sprint.com or by calling 800-SPRINT1. Customers can return Tracker after 30 days' use if they're not 100% satisfied. With Sprint's 100% Total Satisfaction Guarantee, Sprint will refund device costs, service charges and related fees.

continued on page 11

Sprint Opens New 5G Experience *(continued)*

The Sprint Works Employee Incentive Program:

Sprint offers the program for Government & Public Safety Employees.

Mention Corp ID code: **GVRT_ZZZ** at the time of purchase.

Additional information may be found at this link: <http://sprint.co/2nHfydU>

Sprint offers the program for Education K-12 employees:

Mention Corp ID code: **GDVRT_ZZZ**

Additional information may be found at this link: <http://sprint.co/2EhDJtB>

Sprint offers the program for Higher Education employees or students:

Mention Corp ID code: **GVRT_ZZZ**

Additional information may be found at this link: <http://sprint.co/2EhDJtB>

Sprint offers the program for Healthcare employees:

Mention Corp ID code: **HCVRT_ZZZ**

Additional information may be found at this link: <http://sprint.co/2E4iXyi>



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.

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

[Click here for an application.](#)

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



OSI Technology is a woman owned technology communications provider with 36 years of experience providing converged solutions.

To learn more and discuss further please contact Joanne Pagoulatos, Founder & CEO, at JPagoulatos@osi-technology.com.



PERMA Risk Management Services provides alternative risk solutions and expertise to organizations in the public entity and private business sectors. With more than 25 years of direct experience, PERMA has a deep understanding of every aspect of alternative risk solutions from markets and regulatory requirements to management, underwriting, and loss control.

For more information please contact Nancy Ghani, Account Executive, at nancyg@permainc.com or call (856) 552-6890.



Selective Benefits Group is a co-fiduciary financial advisor and consultant for municipal 457b deferred compensation plans.

To learn more about Selective Benefits Group please contact Andrew S. Bluestone, CFP at abluestone@sbggroup.com or call (973) 417-6880.

Atlantic City Electric Energizing Three Major Projects to Enhance Reliability to More Than Half of South Jersey's Energy Customers- *Projects part of the company's larger effort to make the regional energy grid more reliable and more resilient*

by Frank Tedesco, Communications for Atlantic City Electric

Atlantic City Electric is completing work on three major infrastructure projects that will improve reliability for hundreds of thousands of customers. The Orchard to Lewis substation and transmission line upgrades spanning Salem County to Atlantic County, the Monroe to Tansboro transmission line upgrades in Camden and Gloucester counties, and the Rio Grande substation enhancement project in Cape May County are all part of the company's ongoing efforts to modernize and enhance the local energy grid and make it more resilient to better serve customers across southern New Jersey.

"We are seeing the impacts of more frequent and more severe storms that are bringing stronger and more damaging winds and extreme flooding throughout our communities," said Gary Stockbridge, Atlantic City Electric region president. "These new projects are critical upgrades to the local energy grid and represent a broader effort underway across our service area to modernize our energy infrastructure and making it more resilient against these powerful storms and the growing threats from extreme weather."

Atlantic City Electric has completed the Orchard to Lewis substation and transmission line upgrades, replacing 41 miles of transmission line between the Orchard substation in Salem County and the Lewis substation in Atlantic County. The project improves reliability for more than half of the company's 556,000 customers and included several substantial transmission system upgrades and substation upgrades across five counties and 13 municipalities.



Atlantic City Electric used an Erickson SkyCrane helicopter to install stronger steel transmission poles in Atlantic County as part of a reliability enhancement project which includes several substantial transmission system upgrades and substation upgrades across five counties and 13 municipalities from Atlantic to Salem counties. The use of the helicopter minimized the environmental and customer impact and provided a safer option in completing this work.

The project also improves transmission line capabilities from 138 to 230 kilovolts, providing increased power transmission to benefit customers. Additionally, crews installed new modern electric devices and used innovative technologies to further improve system reliability and resiliency. As part of this work, crews used an Erickson SkyCrane helicopter to [install stronger steel transmission poles](#) and to remove existing lattice transmission towers. Using a helicopter minimized the environmental impact in completing the work and provided a more efficient and safer option for crews when access to energy infrastructure was limited.

The Monroe to Tansboro transmission line upgrades will improve reliability for more than 83,000 customers in Camden and Gloucester counties. This project upgrades more than 8 miles of existing transmission line through portions of Winslow and Monroe townships. Crews are installing new, state-of-the-art steel utility poles capable of withstanding winds up to 120 miles per hour, stronger aerial transmission line cable, switches, and other modern electric devices to enhance service for customers in the area.

The Rio Grande substation enhancement project will improve reliability for thousands of customers in Middle and Lower townships in Cape May County.

continued on page 14

ACE Energizing Three Major Projects *(continued)*

The project consists of upgrading a substation located on Route 47 in Rio Grande. Crews are installing new electric equipment, including three new transformers, new devices that are used to control and protect the equipment at the site, animal guarding, and a new control building that exceeds flood level elevation requirements.

Atlantic City Electric is undertaking dozens of other targeted reliability projects in communities throughout its service area. These upgrades continue to improve reliability for customers by reducing the frequency and duration of outages. Many of these infrastructure projects focus on strengthening local energy infrastructure against more frequent and severe weather to help communities across South Jersey become more resilient to the impacts of storms and hurricanes.

Visit atlanticcityelectric.com/reliability to learn more about other reliability enhancement projects.

Readers are encouraged to visit [The Source](#), Atlantic City Electric's online news room. For more information about Atlantic City Electric, visit atlanticcityelectric.com. Follow the company on Facebook at facebook.com/atlanticcityelectric and on Twitter at twitter.com/aceleconnect. Our mobile app is available at atlanticcityelectric.com/mobileapp.



Atlantic City Electric crews install new electric equipment, including three new transformers, and other modern devices as part of the company's Rio Grande substation enhancement project that will improve reliability for thousands of customers in Middle and Lower townships in Cape May County.



An Exelon Company

Atlantic City Electric is a unit of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation's leading energy provider, with approximately 10 million customers. Atlantic City Electric provides safe and reliable energy service to approximately 556,000 customers in southern New Jersey.

SHARE THE NEWS!

Let us know what educational or informational articles you would like published in the NJAC COUNTY BIZ.

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

From Your Desktop to Your Datacenter, PKA Tech is Your Go-To Full Service Solutions Provider

by Marisa Migliaccio, Marketing for PKA Tech IT Solutions

Nationally Recognized

PKA Tech, a certified women-owned business enterprise (WBENC), has been supplying IT solutions since 1996. Located in the NY Metro area, PKA Tech forges strong alliances with Hewlett-Packard Enterprise, Intel, and other industry leaders to assure the highest levels of customer service and client success. Our mission to design and implement solutions that enable businesses to be agile and adaptive to the ever-changing market conditions, while taking cost out of infrastructure requirements.

Desktop to Datacenter Solutions



Authorized Subcontractor



NASPO (formally WSCA)
 HPE MMNVP-134 NJS PA # M-0483-E-40116
 HPE AR1464 NJS PA # M-7000-88130 DATA COMM
 HPI MMNVP-133 NJS PA # M-4383-89974
 NJ Certification #55450-15 | NJEdge | The Quilt | NJPA | PEPPM

Contact Information



Angie Moncada, 908.346.0187
 Strategic Account Manager
 angie.moncada@pkatech.com

Nationwide Economics

Weekly Economic Review & Outlook for June 17, 2019

by Ben Ayers, Senior Economist of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and
Ankit Gupta, CFA, Economist of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

Weekly Review

Consumers still leading the way forward

Building fears of a sharp slowdown for the economy are being refuted by solid consumer data. Retail sales rose by 0.5 percent for May, a solid rate that suggests that job gains and accelerating wages continue to drive consumer spending. Moreover, April data—originally reported as falling by 0.2 percent—were revised upward to an increase of 0.3 percent. Core retail sales were up by 0.5 percent for May as well, showing that spending gains were widespread across categories.

The solid data for May and the upward revisions for April indicate that the pace of consumer spending has not slowed by much and certainly not by as much as feared a month ago. Based on the recent economic data, Real GDP growth for the second quarter is likely to be around an annualized pace of 2.0 percent, a slowdown from the first quarter's rapid pace. At the end of April, the Atlanta Fed's GDPNow estimate for this quarter's growth was 0.9 percent—indicating that data over the past month have significantly boosted estimates for current quarter growth. Concerns about a worsening of trade/tariffs are still a significant risk to the outlook, but solid fundamentals suggest that economy remains far from recession.

But where is the inflation?

Monthly inflation in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was slower than expected for May with a gain of only 0.1 percent. The core CPI also rose by 0.1 percent - the fourth consecutive month of very modest core inflation. The 12-month inflation rates for overall and core CPI were 1.8 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively. This suggests that price inflation remains stubbornly low, a surprising result with the unemployment rate at a 50-year low and signs of burgeoning wage growth.

There does not appear to be much (if any) price inflation from tariffs yet, perhaps because importers are swallowing most of the increases through reduced profit margins. If the tariffs were broadened to all Chinese imports or tariffs are imposed on all imports from Mexico, there could be some upside for inflation later this year. In the next few months, however, the stronger U.S. dollar (which makes imported goods/services less expensive for U.S. purchasers) and falling energy prices are likely to keep monthly inflation readings in check. This suggests that the pace of inflation will struggle to move higher from current levels.

We continue to expect the Fed to keep monetary policy unchanged for a long period of time, likely well into 2020. While job growth slowed in May and inflation remains stuck at a low level, economic growth appears to be moving forward at a solid pace around the average for the entire expansion thus far. Unless future data show a worsening of growth prospects, or inflation falls even further below the Fed's long run goal, we think the Fed will remain on the sidelines.

As opposed to current market expectations, we view the odds of a rate cut during 2019 as below 50 percent. Still, there is a rising chance that an external shock or a sharper slowdown for the economy could prompt stimulatory action from the Fed later this year.

continued on page 17

Nationwide Economics *(continued)*

The Week Ahead

Data this week will include housing starts and existing home sales for May, though the focus will shift to the June Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting this week.

The June FOMC is on Wednesday and it will present the Fed's views on economic conditions, inflation, and monetary policy. The Fed has two congressional mandates-to establish economic conditions that results in the lowest unemployment rate along with stable inflation. It has largely achieved these goals with the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years at 3.6 percent and with inflation (measured using the broad price index for core personal consumption expenditures) running between about 1.5-2.0 percent over the past year. But because inflation remains stubbornly under the Fed's long-term goal of 2.0 percent and there are concerns about the impact of tariffs on growth, the Fed probably has an easing bias today. Still, with the Fed's mandates roughly accomplished, it is unlikely to make any changes to monetary policy at this week's meeting.

Recent declines in mortgage rates to the lowest levels since October 2017 have combined with solid job growth and strong household formations to boost housing demand. This has boosted new home sales and homebuilders expect further gains according to the NAHB monthly survey. As a result, builders are stepping up construction of new homes, and we expect this to continue for May, housing starts rising modestly to an annualized pace of 1.26 million units.

Unlike new home sales, on the other hand, existing home sales have been relatively trendless thus far in 2019. Part of this paucity of sales increases has come from a continued lack of homes for sale. Still, pending home sales picked up two months ago and we expect this to boost reported existing home sales for May. The process from contract signing to contract closing may be longer than usual today as the drop in mortgage rates has caused a burst of refinancing activity. Still, we expect existing home sales to have increased to an annual pace of 5.41 million units for May.

For further information please contact Emanuel Mahand, Program Director Of DE/NJ/PA, at MAHANDE@nationwide.com, or Bina Kumar, Managing Director - East Region, at kumarb1@nationwide.com.



(1) Hosting Opportunity Remains!

**NIGHT AT THE BALL PARK
THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019**

7:00 P.M.

ARM & HAMMER PARK, TRENTON, NJ

**CALL TODAY TO LEARN MORE
(609) 394-3467**

NACo Upcoming Meeting & Webinar

SLLC Supreme Court Review

July 23, 2019 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Contact Lisa Soronen lsoronen@naco.org

[Register](#)

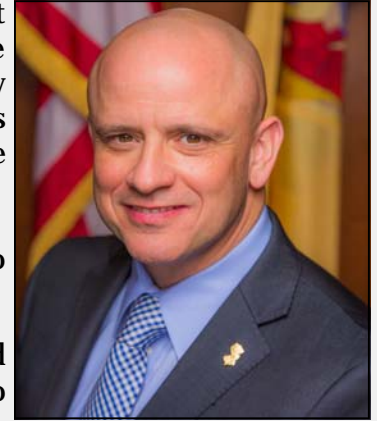
The census citizenship question case and the Maryland and North Carolina partisan gerrymandering cases are expected to be the blockbusters of the current Supreme Court term for states and local governments. Join Judith Vale, Senior Assistant Solicitor General at the Office of the New York State Attorney General, who co-wrote the State of New York's brief in the census case and Paul Hughes, Mayer Brown, who argued an agency deference case and co-wrote Maryland's brief in one of the partisan gerrymandering cases, in a discussion of these cases and other cases of interest to states and local governments on topics including: religious displays on public property, takings, alcohol regulation, and employment.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The failure of State leaders to permanently extend the 2% cap on binding interest arbitration awards in December of 2017 has inequitably altered the collective bargaining process in favor of labor and at the expense of property taxpayers. With this in mind, NJAC and our partners plan to hold strategy sessions and develop best practices for local governing bodies on how to effectively navigate the unlevel playing field. Some initial recommendations include:

1. Make sure to utilize general counsel and an experienced labor attorney to negotiate directly with a collective bargaining unit.
2. Be prepared with a comprehensive financial analysis that includes a complete and accurate picture as an arbitrator must consider a local governing body's ability to pay.
3. Be prepared with data and all relevant information to address false claims and statements made by a collective bargaining unit.
4. Stay strong on health benefit concessions, particularly with retirees and rolling back Chapter 78 requirements.



John G. Donnadio, Esq.

In addition, NJAC will continue to urge State leaders to permanently extend the 2% cap on binding interest arbitration awards as police and fire unions have been aggressively leveraging its expiration to win contracts in excess of 50% of the 2% spending cap imposed on local governing bodies for nearly a decade. As has been well documented, the 2% cap on binding interest arbitration awards allowed local governments to live within their limited means and kept public safety employee salaries and wages under control, simply because parties were closer to reaching an agreement from the onset of negotiations. Moreover, the 2% cap on binding interest arbitration awards established clear parameters for negotiating reasonable successor contracts that preserved the collective bargaining process and took into consideration the separate and permanent 2% spending cap. The equation is clear, failure to renew and permanently extend the 2% cap on binding interest arbitration awards is unsustainable without increasing property taxes or eliminating essential services.

Separate, but related, counties and municipalities are facing litigation concerning health benefits for certain retirees under Chapter 78. In summary, N.J.S.A. 40A:10-21.1 provides that a retiree must contribute to the cost of health benefits coverage as determined by N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.28c, which for example, provides that for family coverage *"an employee who earns \$110,000 or more shall pay 35 percent of the cost of coverage."* However, N.J.S.A. 40A:10-21.1b.(3) provides for an exemption from the retiree health benefit contribution payment levels as follows: *"(3) Employees described in paragraph (2) of this subsection who have 20 or more years of creditable service in one or more State or locally-administered retirement systems on the effective date of P.L.2011, c.78 shall not be subject to the provisions of this subsection."*

continued on page 20

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *(continued)*

Chapter 78 took effect on June 28, 2011; and, NJAC has long understood this section of law to mean that a retiree must have accrued 20 years of creditable pension service before June 28, 2011 to qualify for the exemption. Despite a clear reading of the statutory law, several lawsuits allege that retirees are only obligated to pay no more than 1.5 percent of the monthly retirement allowance for health benefits as an exemption under N.J.S.A. 40A:10-21b.(3), which was intended to take effect on either June 28, 2011 or after the expiration of an applicable collective binding negotiations agreement in force on that effective date. In other words, these complaints contend that if an employee is subject to the health benefit contributions under N.J.S.A. 40A:10-21.1 and is covered under a binding negotiations agreement on the date that Chapter 78 took effect, then the Chapter 78 health benefit contribution requirements would not take effect until the expiration of the collective binding negotiations agreement. In this case, the retiree was covered under such an agreement from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2014. In summary, county administrators, county counsels, labor attorneys, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities (NJLM), the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), and the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) concur that a retiree must attain 20 years of creditable pension service before June 28, 2011 to qualify for the exemption under N.J.S.A. 40A:10-21.1b(3)

Join the 9th Annual NJAC Night of Baseball

July 18, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Hartford Yard Goats vs. Trenton Thunder

Arm & Hammer Ball Park

1 Thunder Road

Trenton, NJ 08611

Call (609) 394-3467 if you would like to attend.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR COUNTY?

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<u>JULY</u>	1	2 Cumberland County Fair <i>7/2 -7/6</i> County Fairgrounds Millville <i>Cumberland County</i>	3		5	6 NBHA Barrel Racing <i>7/6 -7/7</i> County Fairgrounds Pilesgrove <i>Salem County</i>
7 Jobonanno & The Godsons FREE 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. North Branch Park Branchburg <i>Somerset County</i>	8	9 Christmas in July <i>7/13</i> 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Village of Waterloo Stanhope <i>Sussex County</i>	10 Ocean County Fair <i>7/10 -7/14</i> Robert J. Miller Air Park Berkeley <i>Ocean County</i>	11 L.E.A.D. Fest State Fair <i>7/10 -7/14</i> Mercer County Park West Windsor <i>Mercer County</i>	12 Black Potatoe Music Festival <i>7/11 -7/14</i> The Red Mill Museum Clinton <i>Hunterdon County</i>	13 South Jersey Caribbean Festival 12:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Wiggins Park Camden Waterfront Camden <i>Camden County</i>
14 Dragon Boat Festival 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Lake Lenape Park Mays Landing <i>Atlantic County</i>	15	 16 <i>7/16 -7/20</i> County Fairgrounds Springfield Township <i>Burlington County</i>	17	18 4-H County Fair <i>7/18 -7/20</i> 4-H Fairgrounds Cape May Court House <i>Cape May County</i>	 19 <i>7/18 -7/21</i> 4-H Fairgrounds Chester <i>Morris County</i>	20 Newsies The Musical 8:00 p.m. Stephen J. Capestro Theatre Edison <i>Middlesex County</i>
21	22	23 Gloucester County 4-H Fair <i>7/25 -7/28</i> County Fairgrounds Mullica Hill <i>Gloucester County</i>	 24 <i>7/24 -7/28</i> East Freeholder Showgrounds Freeholder <i>Monmouth County</i>	25 Winard Harper & Jeli Posse FREE 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Lincoln Park-Fountain Jersey City <i>Hudson County</i>	26 Guthrie Brothers 6:30 p.m. Skylands Botanical Gardens Ringwood <i>Passaic County</i>	 27 Meadowlands East Rutherford <i>Bergen County</i>
28 KINDERHOOK 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Shippen Manor Oxford <i>Warren County</i>	29	30 La Fuerza Positiva FREE 7:00 p.m. Riverfront Park Newark <i>Essex County</i>	31 Marc Muller's Grateful Jamband FREE 7:30 p.m. Echo Lake Park Mountainside <i>Union County</i>			

NJAC NIGHT AT THE BALL PARK
JULY 18, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M.
ARM & HAMMER PARK, TRENTON, NJ