

NJAC COUNTY BIZ

An Educational and Informative Newsletter for Counties and Businesses

New Jersey Association of Counties

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Structural Reforms, County Leadership Needed to Lower Property Taxes

by Steve Sweeney, Senator (D-Gloucester), President of the New Jersey Senate



Steve Sweeney
Senate President

As county officials, you don't need a poll to know that our highest-in-the-nation property taxes are the biggest issue facing New Jersey. You hear it every day. It's a heavy burden for middle-income families trying to make ends meet, it makes it harder for millennials looking to buy a starter home, and it's the No. 1 reason that so many senior citizens leave the state to retire.

The 2% cap on county, municipal and school district spending has slowed the rise in property taxes. However, without fundamental structural reforms that will produce lower property taxes, New Jersey residents will struggle with affording to live here.

We can save \$1.7 billion a year for property taxpayers – \$500 a year for the average residential homeowner – by implementing the Path to Progress pension and benefit reforms developed by the bipartisan Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup, a blue-ribbon team of economists, academics, tax policy experts and legislators. It is a plan that properly balances the needs of taxpayers with our obligations to our public employees and retirees.

We must make the long-term changes needed to fix our underfunded pension system while preserving retirement security for both current employees and retirees. We need to spend our healthcare dollars more wisely but maintain the gold standard level care. We need to create K-12 regional and/or countywide school districts that will provide better education at less cost. And we need to expand shared service programs with leadership at the county level.

The legislation we are crafting properly balances the needs of taxpayers with our obligations to our public employees and retirees.

We are recommending the creation of a hybrid pension system for non-uniformed employees that preserves the current defined benefit pension system for all state, county and municipal employees and teachers with more than five years of service.

It would put new hires and non-vested employees with less than five years into a hybrid plan that provides the same pension that other employees receive on their first \$40,000 of income and adds a cash balance account that provides a guaranteed 4% return or 75% of pension fund earnings on income above that.

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To control healthcare costs, we recommend shifting all employees and retirees from the current Platinum level plans to a Gold plan with an 80% actuarial value comparable to coverage offered by the best private sector companies.

This would not only save over \$2 billion for property taxpayers and the state budget, but also reduce payroll premium deductions for public employees by hundreds of millions of dollars.

As a former Gloucester County freeholder-director, I know the critical role that county governments can play in providing the leadership, coordination and built-in economics of scale that make shared services work.

This year's budget allocates \$10 million for shared services, and we have been coordinating with the Governor's shared services czars to ensure that the money is well spent.

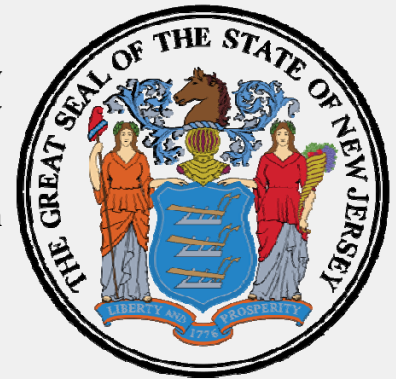
We can all agree that funding should be set aside for a shared services coordinator for each county. Along with the county governments, these coordinators will work with the czars, the state Division of Local Government Services and the leaders of their towns to identify the best shared services opportunities in each county.

We also agree on the need to provide state funding for feasibility studies for the creation of regional K-12 school districts, which will improve the quality of education while promoting cost efficiency.

We would also like to see at least one or two counties with smaller student populations move forward with countywide school district pilots.

These initiatives — along with our plan to have the state take over all Extraordinary Special Education costs from school districts — will provide long-lasting property tax relief.

We cannot wait any longer to fix our long-term fiscal problems and make living in this great state more affordable for all of our citizens.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER



Thomas Edison State University was established by the State of New Jersey and chartered by the New Jersey Board of Higher Education in 1972. The University was founded for the purpose of providing diverse and alternative methods of achieving a collegiate education of the highest quality for mature adults.

To learn more and discuss further please contact Thomas M. Phillips, Associate Director, Strategic Partnerships, Office of Strategic Partnerships via e-mail at tphillips@tesu.edu.

Court Appointed Special Advocates

by Helen L. Davis, Statewide Volunteer Sourcing Coordinator for CASA of NJ, Inc.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, the Natale family filled their SUV with their brood of six and went on their way to a Cub Scout meeting at the local bowling alley. Joey, 14, and Nick 12, were excited about meeting their friends. Kevin, 5, was playing with his plastic dinosaurs, Violet, 3, had her favorite doll in tow and mellow Nathan was staring with innocent abandon at his siblings from the confines of his car seat.

Earlier that morning, Wendy had been fixing bagels and cream cheese, preparing baby formula and corralling toys from around the house.

Even though this describes a typical day in the lives of the Natale family, they are not your typical family.

Five years ago, Wendy and Angelo Natale kept love alive by adopting three children - blood siblings through the New Jersey foster care system. In and, through their love, commitment and devotion, they provided the children with a loving and stable forever home.

The consistent thread in this adoption story is the presence of their CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocate – a community volunteer that's trained to support children in the foster care. A CASA speaks up and advocates in the Family Court system and provides consistency in the life of a foster child.

A CASA is someone that speaks up and advocates for a foster child, and provides consistency in the life of that child, helping to facilitate a strong foundation for the child's growth and development.

Since 2000, CASA affiliates throughout the state of New Jersey, part of a national network of non-profit programs, advocate for children removed from their families because of abuse or neglect. Their primary mission is to provide a voice for abused and neglected children. Working through community volunteers, these programs advocate on behalf of children in foster care and other out-of-home placements to ensure their well-being and ultimate placement in safe and nurturing permanent homes.

Sidebar

Every year in the State of New Jersey, over 7000 children are removed from their homes because of physical, emotional or sexual abuse, neglect or abandonment and are placed into foster homes, group homes, residential treatment facilities, and shelters.

If you are interested in volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, go to www.CASAforchildrenNJ.com and complete the online form; someone from your local county CASA program will contact you and provide additional information.

You can also contact Helen Davis at (973) 975-8050 at CASA of New Jersey. What's most important in becoming a CASA volunteer is a willingness to commit to the time and "heart" necessary to make a lasting difference in the life of a child in foster care.



GREYHAWK Wins Two CMAA Mid-Atlantic Project Achievement Awards

by Kathy Kostiuk, CPSM, Director of Marketing and Business Development for GREYHAWK

Construction management and consulting firm [GREYHAWK](#) received two 2019 Project Achievement Awards from the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) Mid-Atlantic Chapter. MaST II Community Charter School Phase I won for the Private Sector Project Under \$20 Million category. The Rowan College at Gloucester County Math & Engineering Center won for Higher Education Under \$20 Million. Awards were presented at a dinner 12 June 2019 held at the Union League of Philadelphia.

“For both of these projects, GREYHAWK implemented an efficient and effective project management culture to facilitate collaborative relationships and communication with the owner and design and construction team members,” explained GREYHAWK Principal Ronald C. Kerins, Jr., CCM, LEED AP. “We are proud that CMAA Mid-Atlantic recognized GREYHAWK’s professional efforts. We recognize the value of being active in this association and will continue to promote professionalism in the field when managing the design and construction process.”

[MaST II Community Charter School Phase I | Philadelphia, Pa.](#)

The MaST II Community Charter School Phase I involved a 53,000-square-foot school for grades seven through 12. Project delivery via a construction manager at-risk model allowed for aggressive procurement, including negotiation with trade partners and interaction among the design and construction teams. GREYHAWK served as owner’s representative for MaST, providing guidance and oversight for every aspect of the project from initial planning to design, preconstruction, and construction management.

GREYHAWK Project Executive Jay Appleton, PE, CHC, CSSHO, led the project. “Our team assisted MaST leadership in developing the budget and schedule, and in steering architectural planning to the innovative, yet affordable site layout and building configuration. We are deeply honored to have been recognized for our engagement on this project.”

[Rowan College at Gloucester County Math & Engineering Center | Sewell, N.J.](#)

The new Math & Engineering Center supports STEM education and serves as a gateway entrance to the Rowan College at Gloucester County campus, marked by a 60-foot clock tower. GREYHAWK provided construction management services to Rowan College from design development through project completion. Work commenced in April 2017 and the building opened to students for the 2018-2019 academic year. GREYHAWK coordinated all construction management activities, serving as liaison between Rowan College, the general contractor, prime contractors, and subcontractors.

GREYHAWK Construction Manager James Lauria led the project. “We implemented a methodology of communication, coordination, monitoring, documentation, and follow-up to meet the owner’s objectives and attain the award-winning results. It is very rewarding to be recognized for our efforts.”

GREYHAWK has won multiple awards through CMAA’s annual Project Achievement Awards program.

About GREYHAWK

GREYHAWK is an award-winning construction management and consulting firm and a leading provider of construction and program management, construction claims management, scheduling, MEP commissioning, and LEED consulting. For more information, visit <http://www.greylhawk.com>.



Not If, But When: Ransomware Attackers Target Local Governments

by Michael Galello, Industry Marketing Manager for Kronos, Inc.

If you haven't heard, ransomware attacks are when criminals break into a computer network and then encrypt the entirety of the data within it. The data in that system is held hostage until the monetary demand is paid in cryptocurrency, which makes it untraceable. It's a textbook case of extortion and it's happening more and more frequently to local governments. This isn't happening by mistake: attackers are actively targeting governments.

Who has had to pay?

Many cities don't have the resources to completely re-build their network infrastructure from scratch. They're left with one option, which is agreeing to pay the ransom. In June, officials in Lake City, Florida, voted to pay hackers \$460,000 to recover data from a ransomware attack.¹ The mayor of Lake City, Stephen Witt, said that he "would've never dreamed this could've happened, especially in a small town like this." That's common for small towns, but they're frequently the easiest targets. One week before the Lake City incident, Riviera Beach, FL paid \$600,000 to unlock its computer systems and restore essential data. It's not just Florida though; Jackson County, Georgia paid \$400,000 shortly before those two incidents.² In fact, there have been over 170 attacks on governments since 2013.³

What if you refuse to pay?

Cities with large coffers and IT staff might be able to afford not paying ransoms. The cost of saying "no" is almost guaranteed to be more expensive than the ransom. For example, Baltimore, MD declined to pay the ransom and decided to rebuild from scratch. Those costs added up quickly, ultimately settling at \$18 million. The city of Atlanta also chose to not pay a ransom, and it cost almost \$3 million to get all their systems back up and running. Saying no is something every city or county wishes they could do, but that comes at an astronomical price if there wasn't a plan in place for data recovery after a disaster like this.

Mayors Unite Against Attackers

Recently, the U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted a resolution opposing payment to ransomware attack perpetrators. Their reasoning was "paying ransomware attackers encourages continued attacks on other government systems, as perpetrators financially benefit." "The United States Conference of Mayors has a vested interest in de-incentivizing these attacks to prevent further harm, therefore be it resolved that the United States Conference of Mayors stands united against paying ransoms in the event of an IT security breach.

Nobody wants to pay a ransom, and it's widely acknowledged that there will be scenarios where they must be paid. The key to not paying a ransom is to be able to quickly and completely recover after an attack, Mickey Bresman, CEO of Semperis, a provider of identity-based security, said in a statement.⁴ "Having the right type of disaster recovery plan, with a cyber recovery first approach, will allow local government to have better ability to bounce back and not be a helpless victim."

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Not If, But When: Ransomware Attackers Target Local Governments *(continued)*

¹ <https://www.msspalert.com/cybersecurity-breaches-and-attacks/ransomware/lake-city-florida-pays-hackers/>

² <https://www.msspalert.com/cybersecurity-breaches-and-attacks/ransomware/georgia-county-pays-400000/>

^{3,4} <https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/us-mayors-commit-to-just-saying-no-to-ransomware/d/d-id/1335255>

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.



NJAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS METTING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2019
NJ STATE HOUSE ANNEX,
TRENTON, NJ

Forbes Names Credit Union of New Jersey Best-In-State

by Mark Bradley, Vice President, Marketing & Business Development for Credit Union of New Jersey

Credit Union of New Jersey has been named Best-In-State of New Jersey* by Forbes, a global media company focusing on business, investing, technology, entrepreneurship, leadership and lifestyle.

Forbes partnered with market research firm Statista to produce a second time look at the Best-In-State Banks and Credit Unions. The best banks and credit unions in every state were chosen based on an independent survey from a vast sample of more than 25, 500 U.S. citizens spread among all states. The survey was conducted using an online access panel. Each participant was asked to name all banks/credit unions where the consumer has or previously had a checking and/or savings account. The consumer had to rate the bank/credit union regarding various evaluation criteria (e.g. Trust, Terms & Conditions). In total, 173 banks and 186 credit unions were awarded as the Best-In-State Banks/Credit Unions 2019. Credit Union of New Jersey was the sole credit union awarded in New Jersey.

Credit Union of New Jersey provides financial services to over 38,000 members through five full-service offices located in Mercer & Burlington Counties and an e-branch at CUNJ.org. Established in 1943, the \$352 million credit union is headquartered in Ewing Township. Membership information and current rates may be obtained by calling (609) 538-4061 or visiting CUNJ.org.

To learn more about the Credit Union of New Jersey please contact Jaime Gangone, Business Development Officer, Government and Community Affairs via e-mail at JGangone@cunj.org.

*Sources: Forbes, Statista



**Credit Union
of New Jersey**

The freedom to prosper.

ACECNJ Names 5 LAN Engineers to Professional Committees

by Jennifer Gangeri, Director of Marketing for LAN Associates

The American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey (ACEC) has named 5 LAN Associates engineers to its committee boards.

In late June, it was announced that Steven Ramiza would continue to serve as Executive Committee Director for the ACECNJ 2019-2021 term. Tom Wighard will chair the Building & Facilities Committee, Chris Guddemi will sit on the Land Use & Permitting Committee, Ed Knfyd will sit on the Site Remediation & LSRP Committee and Beth Bouvier will sit on the Women Executives in Engineering Committee.



"We are thrilled to see LAN represented on several committee boards," said LAN Vice President Steven Ramiza, ACEC Executive Committee Director. "ACECNJ is the leading organization for the consulting engineering industry. Our involvement in these five committees not only serves as an avenue for LAN to help grow and strengthen the industry and its biggest advocate, the ACECNJ, it's also valuable experience for LAN's engineers."

LAN has been an active member of ACECNJ for more than 30 years. As ACECNJ committee members, the above-mentioned LAN engineers join a distinguished and varied group of planning, design and construction industry professionals.

"ACECNJ is the voice of New Jersey's engineering profession and one of the State's premier business trade associations because we have strong, dedicated member firms like LAN Associates who understand the critical advocacy role we play," said Joe Fiordaliso, President of the American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey. "One of our strengths is the involvement of our member firms and LAN Associates stands out in this regard. LAN professionals serve in numerous leadership capacities including our Executive Committee and various policy committees."

The Women Executives in Engineering Committee, which added LAN environmental engineer Beth Bouvier to its ranks, was established just last year in 2018. It was created to empower and educate women in the field to take a more active role in leadership positions, educational opportunities, networking and mentoring within the New Jersey engineering industry.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to contribute to a committee and its events that support and encourage the success of women in the engineering industry," said Beth Bouvier, when asked about her new appointment to the ACEC Women Executives in Engineering Committee. "When women support other women it's a powerful force. I look forward to becoming more involved in ACEC, which is a great organization within the industry."

The American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey is a leading advocate for the consulting and engineering profession in New Jersey. Their current membership includes 115 engineering firms that employ more than 5,500 people in the State of New Jersey.



Order in the Court: How Technology is Disrupting the United States Judicial System

by Alannah Dragonetti, Head of Marketing for GovPilot

In 1911, Thomas Jennings became the first person convicted of murder based on fingerprint evidence in the United States. In 1987, DNA evidence played a role in putting convicted rapist, Tommy Lee Andrews, behind bars. Eight years later, 150 million Americans tuned-in to catch the verdict of the O.J. Simpson double murder trial—perhaps the most well-known result of the relatively recent appearance of television cameras in the courtroom. The United States judicial system has a long history of contorting to fit the technological developments of the day and this pattern shows no signs of slowing down. Instead of bringing criminal investigations closer to a definitive answer or bringing courtroom proceedings into peoples' living rooms, today's technological innovations are creating a more inclusive courts system.

A Strong Case for Streamlined Court Procedures

Last summer, GovPilot reported that cities, New York, New York and Nashville, Tennessee had begun alerting summons recipients of upcoming court dates via text message. In Manhattan, the rate of failure to appear in court dropped 21%, inspiring other cities to follow suit. As of May 2019, public defenders and court administrators in more than a dozen states, including Virginia, California, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Florida and Washington issue court date reminders via text.

The growing ubiquity of court date text message reminders is part of a larger push to make the United States court system more accessible through the application of technology. Nonprofit, The Pew Charitable Trusts, is leading the charge to democratize civil court. Unlike in criminal court, people involved in civil court—the domain of debt collection, landlord disputes, custody cases and the like—don't have a right to lawyer representation. If they can't afford a lawyer, they must still attend and represent themselves. Pew's research has found that in 1992, as few as 5 percent of people in general civil court cases appeared in court without a lawyer. Today, that number has risen nine-fold, and 45 percent of cases in general jurisdictions have at least one side without a lawyer. When small claims and other cases are included, that number jumps to 75 percent.

Pew aims to remedy this through the development of two online initiatives. The first effort will publish legal information online along with assistance portals. The second involves court-based online dispute resolutions. Both stand to make life easier for people who can't afford lawyers.

“The goal, more broadly,” Erika Rickard, senior officer of Pew's Civil Legal System Modernization department, maintains, “is to give people tools in their hands to be able to navigate on their smartphones or on their desktops an entire court process online from start to finish without having to ever come into a courthouse.”

GovPilot Takes the Stand

GovPilot is proud to have a hand in greasing the slow wheels of justice.

Residents of participating smart cities and counties can Appeal a Court Decision, request a Court Transcript or access to classified data sets, apply to Expunge a Criminal Record, obtain Free Representation or Waive a Court Appearance through the district's official website. Accessible 24/7 via desktop, laptop or tablet device, digital forms break schedule-related barriers and bridge the Digital Divide.

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How Technology is Disrupting the United States Judicial System *(continued)*

An automated backend carries form data to court officials and helps them manage Settlement Cases and perform similar tasks for swift turnaround.

Inclusive, convenient legal operations help participants navigate the local court system and help GovPilot clients win in the court of public opinion.

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.



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.

Sprint Announces Its Fourth 5G Device and First Smartphone With OnePlus

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

Sprint announced its fourth 5G device and first smartphone with OnePlus, a global mobile technology company. Device specifications, pricing and exact timing will be announced soon.

“We value Oneplus’ reputation for balancing high-end quality at a great value,” said Dow Draper, Sprint chief commercial officer. “This new smartphone gives Sprint customers another exciting option for accessing their True Mobile 5G experience.”

Sprint 5G is currently available in areas of Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston and Kansas City, and the company expects to launch service in areas of Los Angeles, New York, Phoenix and Washington, D.C., in the coming weeks. Sprint’s True Mobile 5G network will cover approximately 2,100 square miles and 11 million people total across all nine market launch areas, giving Sprint the largest initial 5G coverage footprint in the U.S.

“We are proud to join with Sprint to bring an ultra-premium smartphone to their network,” said Kyle Kiang, OnePlus chief marketing officer. “As a community-driven company, we are thrilled to tell OnePlus enthusiasts on the Sprint network that the wait is finally over. This is a tremendous opportunity to expose Sprint customers to the award-winning OnePlus brand.

Visit www.sprint.com/sprint5G for more information on Sprint 5G including coverage maps.

About OnePlus

OnePlus is a global mobile technology company challenging conventional concepts of technology. Created around the “Never Settle” mantra, OnePlus creates exquisitely designed devices with premium build quality and high-performance hardware. OnePlus thrives on cultivating strong bonds and growing together with its community of users and fans. For more information, please visit OnePlus.com.

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>



Starting a Cybersecurity Scholarship

by John Minnella, District Manager—NJ/PA/DE Government & Healthcare for SHI International Corp.



Monmouth County

The idea to start a scholarship geared towards advancing young adults in their prospective careers started nearly two years ago. It began with conversations about further collaboration with the [New Jersey Association of Counties](#). NJAC is an organization that acts as an advocate for legislation, regulations, and policy directives that empowers NJ's counties to operate efficiently and effectively. Our relationship prior to these discussions was one merely where we supported them at their annual conference but we had a desire to take it a step further.

When we sat down to discuss future partnership opportunities, I was informed about the NJAC Foundation and their ability to create scholarships by working with the County Vocational Technical Schools. They explained how other organizations in the past donated funds to the NJAC Foundation which jump started this process and I was immediately interested in learning more. The next question is, what would our cause be?

After quick a brainstorming session, the idea landed on helping our future generation of technologists hone their skills around cybersecurity. Not a day goes by where we do not learn of a new data breach, ransomware incident, phishing tactic, or other strategy that bad actors are leveraging to steal our information. Just today, I received a random voicemail explaining that I failed to pay my taxes and the cops were out to get me and I had to speak with them right away...sounds like fraud...or at least I hope so. The need for our communities to have more cybersecurity "good guys & girls" is absolutely essential for our protection which made this scholarship's cause a no-brainer.

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Bergen County

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Starting a Cybersecurity Scholarship *(continued)*

In addition, from an awareness standpoint it is imperative to highlight the importance of cybersecurity at the state & local government level. These agencies and departments have come square into the crosshairs of cyber criminals as incidents have climbed to a prodigious rate. In 2018, there was an increase of 39% in publicly acknowledged ransomware attacks within state & local government and it appears there has been no slowdown of this trend in 2019. This trend may exist due to the fact that many government agencies are simply underfunded and understaffed as they receive nearly one-sixth of the resources a financial organization may receive. All of this leads to government agencies being perceived as easy targets who pay 10 times more than what their private sector counterparts would. We need to fight back!



Burlington County

Through this partnership the NJAC Foundation and SHI were able to generate five scholarships for prospective cybersecurity students throughout Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Monmouth, and Somerset Counties. We were impressed with the positive reception from the students, the Counties, and everyone along this journey which excites us for growing this program in future years. Not only will we look to help more students in the future but we'd like to continue to grow and develop our first five recipients by involving them with SHI's Security Practice. We are all in this fight together and we hope some of these efforts will benefit our local communities.



To learn more about SHI International Corp. please contact John Minnella, District Manager-NJ/PA/DE Government & Healthcare at John.Minnella@SHI.com.

SHARE THE NEWS!

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

Contact
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(609) 394-3467
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Atlantic City Electric Using Helicopter and Infrared Technology to Inspect Regional Power Lines- *Proactive inspections support company's delivery of safe, reliable energy service for customers*

by Frank Tedesco, Senior Communications Specialist for Atlantic City Electric



Infrared technology helps Atlantic City Electric prevent outages for customers by identifying potential issues on the local energy grid, such as "hot spots" where equipment could be heating up and cause future issues.

Atlantic City Electric recently began inspecting more than 1,300 miles of aerial transmission lines by helicopter and infrared camera in South Jersey. The aerial inspections are part of the company's ongoing commitment to deliver safe and reliable service for its customers. Atlantic City Electric crews work year-round to proactively review the company's system and make needed upgrades and improvements. These regular inspections allow the company to proactively locate and repair areas of the energy system, making the system less susceptible to damage during extreme weather and preventing outages for customers.

"Whether it's a record heat wave, intense thunderstorm or major hurricane, inspections, such as these, help us ensure our systems and equipment are prepared to handle the extreme conditions we continue to see across our service area," said Gary Stockbridge, Atlantic City Electric region president. "This work is essential to our operational success and making sure we can provide our customers the safe, reliable energy services they expect from us, no matter what."

The helicopters conducting the aerial inspections will fly low at a moderate speed, completing comprehensive visual inspections of transmission lines and guy wire grounding, which is used to support utility poles and protect against potential issues. Helicopters provide a more efficient and safer option for this kind of work when access to structures on the ground is limited, while minimizing impacts to customers in the local area. The use of an infrared camera provides the team with a clear visual of potential areas of concern on the transmission line and other associated equipment. Following the inspections, Atlantic City Electric will complete any necessary upgrades and maintenance.

Inspections are scheduled to take place in the Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean and Salem counties of southern New Jersey. This work is not anticipated to impact energy service in the company's service area.

This is just one example of how Atlantic City Electric continually works to help improve and strengthen service reliability. Other reliability work includes trimming trees that could potentially impact the system, building new substations, building new underground equipment, and installing stronger, tree-resistant aerial cable. The company also installs innovative technologies to improve system reliability, such as specialized equipment that can automatically restore service more quickly or isolate damage. These new technologies have been a main driver behind the continued drop in the number of outages customers experience.



Helicopters are used to inspect more than 1,300 miles of aerial transmission lines in Atlantic City Electric's service area.

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Using Helicopter and Infrared Technology to Inspect Regional Power Lines *(continued)*

In fact, Atlantic City Electric customers have seen a 22 percent reduction in the frequency of power outages, and when outages did occur, customers were restored 17 percent faster, on average.

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 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.



An Exelon Company

GCIT Students Awarded Scholarships

Gloucester County Freeholder Heather Simmons presented \$500 scholarship awards from the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) Foundation through Investors Bank Foundation, and certificates of achievement from the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders at the July 24, 2019 meeting to two GCIT graduates who will be studying at state colleges in the fall.

Alana Gvozdovich of Mantua will be attending Rutgers University-Camden and intends to study Nursing.

Kylie Howard of Turnersville will be attending Rowan University this fall and intends to study Chemical Engineering.

Freeholder Simmons said, "We are proud of these bright students and the future that are ahead of them and we are grateful to the NJAC Foundation and Investors Bank for making these financial awards available."



Pictured:

Allen Weston, Lilia Madora and Courtney Bomgard from Investors Bank, Freeholder Heather Simmons, Alana Gvozdovich with her parents Vince and Lisa, and Kylie Howard with her parents Loreto and John and little sister Brianna

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

by Marisa Migliaccio, Director of 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.

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Nationwide Economics

Weekly Economic Review & Outlook for August 19, 2019

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

Weekly Review

Consumers lead the economy forward

Consumer spending extended its solid run with a stronger-than-expected 0.7 percent increase for retail sales in July. While Amazon's Prime Day event provided a boost, with sales at nonstore retailers up by an outsized 2.8 percent, there was strength across most major spending categories. Sales excluding autos, which dipped for the month, rose even more rapidly at 1.0 percent – indicating a robust pace of spending by consumers.

The improved spending figures show that the state of the consumer remains strong on the back of a tightening labor market which is boosting incomes. Despite building storm clouds for the economy stemming from tariffs/trade, consumer data suggest that the fundamentals for growth remain on solid footing with little danger of the economy slipping into an imminent recession. The strong start to the third quarter for spending likely sets the stage for continued real GDP growth of around 2.0 percent.

The core consumer price index (CPI) saw further signs of acceleration with a second consecutive 0.3 percent increase for July. The 12-month trend rate climbed to 2.2 percent, still below the 2.5-3.0 percent range that core inflation has run in the later stages of previous cycles. The increases in June and July suggest that underlying inflation has stabilized after a recent downtrend, but it's too early to call this a sustained uptrend.

The gain in the overall CPI was also faster for July, led by an uptick in energy prices and the accelerated pace for the core prices. The 12-month trend inflation rate increased to 1.8 percent last month, still a modest pace.

The faster readings may be reflecting some upward pressure from tariffs. Specifically, prices for commodities, including for apparel and transportation, have outpaced their trend over the past two months – potentially as a result of higher prices from producers to offset tariff costs. To the extent that consumer prices rise as a result, there could be some modest downside for retail spending in coming months if consumers respond to the higher prices.

Faster spending and inflation are likely to catch the eye of the Fed at the September FOMC meeting. Still, inflation remains relatively muted and appears to have taken a backseat to trade/growth concerns for Fed policy decisions. We expect more easing ahead as growth remains weak abroad and the trade situation remains negative. If the Fed can be successful in calming financial market conditions through additional easing, the expansion could be sustained for some time as strength from consumers offsets the slowdown in the business sector.

Another volatile week for bond/equity markets

Bond markets movements continued to roil equity markets after the 10-year and 2-year Treasury note yields briefly inverted – prompting further recession concerns. After posting the biggest one-day drop of the year, domestic equity indices rallied on Friday to end the week down only modestly.

The yield curve is still not fully inverted and the portion that is inverted has not had the length or depth to call it a recession signal at present. Moreover, a positive turn in trade negotiations and Fed easing could stabilize interest rates by year-end – although downside risks are significant.

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Nationwide Economics *(continued)*

The Week Ahead

This week brings important updates on the housing market, with both existing and new home sales, and the index of leading economic indicators. The Kansas City Fed's Jackson Hole, Wyoming conference is also this week, and financial markets will be looking for new information on monetary policy.

Existing home sales hit a low at the beginning of the year and have moved unevenly higher as interest rates have declined. Today, mortgage rates are sitting roughly 75 to 100 basis points below their level at the same time last year, while purchase application activity is up by 12 percent. Additionally, pending home sales have been trending higher. Improving affordability should be a catalyst for the modest gain in sales to an annualized rate of 5.42 million units from the 5.27 million reading recorded for June. This gain would return the selling rate back to last year's level.

New home sales roared higher last month, up by over 7.0 percent. Lower mortgage rates, coupled with a still solid job market, pushed the overall selling rate to an annualized rate of nearly 650,000 units. While this is far short of the 700,000 units in March, this is a solid rebound from the slightly above 600,000 reading in May. Availability of workers and raw land remain a headwind for this part of the housing market. Still, with improvement in the homebuilders' survey index and strong purchase applications in the MBA's survey of mortgage applications, we expect a modest additional rise to 655,000 for July.

The slight dip **index of leading economic indicators** (LEI) for June was surprising, as this closely watched measure of the future prospects for overall economic growth declined for the first time this year. Weighing on the index last month was a backup of jobless claims, weakness in new orders, and a fall in building permits. Better permits data and lower claims should lead to a rebound in the overall measure for July. Offsetting some of these improvements will be the impact of lower credit spreads, a potential sign of slower economic growth ahead. Still, the overall measure should edge higher and point to continued economic expansion.

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



SAVE THE DATE

YEAR END SUMMIT

DECEMBER 2019

TRENTON COUNTRY CLUB, TRENTON, NJ

Exhibit Opportunities and Space Will be Limited

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION

NACo Upcoming Webinars

Securing the Future for Older Americans

September 6, 2019 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Contact Eryn Hurley ehurley@naco.org

[Register](#)

Each year, millions of older adults rely on programs under the Older Americans Act (OAA) for access to food, transportation, caregiving and many other critical services. These programs help older adults live independently and allow them to remain part of the community. However, funding for the OAA is due to expire September 30, 2019. Reauthorizing OAA will best ensure the stability of programs that are vital to our nation's aging population. Join NACo and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) for a webinar on the importance of OAA when it comes to serving older adults in your county, and how you can work with your members of Congress to ensure the legislation's swift reauthorization before the September 30 deadline.



Early Childhood Rural Peer Learning Network

September 17, 2019 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Contact Tracy Steffek tsteffek@naco.org

[Register](#)

Peer Learning Networks are quarterly webinars consisting of smaller networking groups for small/rural, mid-size/suburban and large/urban counties. This webinar allows counties an opportunity to interactively connect with each other on early childhood topics and share best practices. Join NACo to engage in peer-to-peer discussion about how counties can take action for children and learn more about an accountability framework developed by our partners at Child Trends. To learn more information or to sign up to receive updates about Peer Learning Network events, please visit: www.naco.org/ncit.

Test-Drive County Explorer: A Demo of NACo's Interactive Mapping Tool

September 18, 2019 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Contact Teryn Zmuda tzmuda@naco.org

[Register](#)

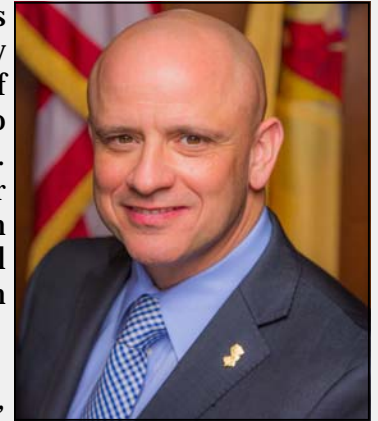
NACo's County Explorer tool provides easy access to the latest available data, with hundreds of indicators across categories ranging from county administration to policy issues, including transportation, infrastructure, health and public safety, each telling a unique county story.

Join us for this detailed webinar that will showcase the user interface and new functionality—while exploring the application of the tool. Webinar participants will learn how to compare counties across multiple data points, access pre-packaged advocacy materials, and leverage the power of county-level data.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On September 23rd, the New Jersey Council on Local Mandates will hear NJAC's complaint that the 2018 vote-by-mail law imposes an unfunded mandate on county governments and is unconstitutional as it requires county clerks to add to the list of registered voters receiving mail-in ballots in all future elections: all voters who requested and received mail-in ballots for the 2016 general (presidential) election. Last month, NJAC prevailed over the Attorney General's motion to dismiss the matter before the Council; and, we're optimistic that the Council will rule in our favor on September 23rd as we've clearly established that the new law imposes additional expenditures upon counties without a funding mechanism and does not fall within one of the constitutional exceptions.



John G. Donnadio, Esq.

Hunterdon County Clerk and NJAC Immediate Past President Mary Melfi and NJAC, recently conducted a survey of five randomly selected counties (*Camden, Cape May, Hunterdon, Sussex, and Union*) to determine the actual costs incurred the 2019 primary election. In summary, these counties spent \$134,380.00 to implement the 2019 primary election and expect to spend that same amount to implement the 2019 general election for a total of \$268,760.00. Please note that that this figure does not include labor costs associated with the substantial increase in vote-by-mail ballots nor does the figure include the costs associated with vote-by-mail ballots for any fire election, special school election, or municipal election at an estimated total cost of \$5.0 million per year.

Late last week, Governor Murphy signed legislation into law to require any voter who requested and received a mail-in-ballot for any elections in 2017 and 2018 by filing a mail-in ballot application following the deadline for applying for a 2016 general election mail-in ballot, to be added to the list of registered voters receiving a mail-in ballot for all future elections without further request from the voter. Voters would have the option to opt out of the vote-by-mail process by notifying their county clerk accordingly. Although the new law appropriates \$2.0 million to offset the costs associated with mailing vote-by-mail ballots, the Governor has frozen the monies until the State generates enough revenue to support the additional costs pursuant to **EXECUTIVE ORDER. 73** signed on June 30th, which authorizes the State Treasurer to release the funds when enough revenue is collected to maintain an \$875.0 million surplus and deposit an additional \$401.0 million into the State's rainy-day fund. In other words, the monies are not currently available. NJAC plans to move forward with its hearing on September 23rd with the Council as county governments have been and continue to spend money to implement the new law and the \$2.0 million in funding is insufficient.

NJAC MEETINGS AND EVENTS

September 13, 2019

Board of Directors Meeting - *NJ State House Annex - Trenton*

December 2019

Board of Directors Meeting & Year End Summit - *Trenton Country Club - West Trenton*

May 6 thru May 8, 2020

NJAC Celebration of County Government - *Caesars - Atlantic City*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR COUNTY?

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>SEPTEMBER</p>  <p>8/30 - 9/1 Soccer Fields Marlton <i>Burlington County</i></p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>James Washington 9/5 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Fenwick Plaza Salem City <i>Salem County</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>Peru VS Ecuador 8:00 p.m. Red Bull Arena Harrison <i>Hudson County</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>Rock, Reggae, Pop 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Kennedy Plaza Atlantic City <i>Atlantic County</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p>NJ Taco Festival 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Fairgrounds Augusta <i>Sussex County</i></p>
<p>8</p> <p>South Jersey Apple Fest 9/7 & 9/8 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Fairgrounds Millville <i>Cumberland County</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>Arts & Music Festival & Car Show 9/8 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Veterans Field Edgewater <i>Bergen County</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>The Piano Guy 8:00 p.m. State Theatre New Brunswick <i>Middlesex County</i></p>	<p>11</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Art in the Park Festival 9/14 & 9/15 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Goffle Brook Park Hawthorne <i>Passaic County</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p>River Fest & Music Fair 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Main Street Bound Brook <i>Somerset County</i></p>
<p>15</p> <p>Heritage Day Pirate Day 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Red Bank Battlefield National Park <i>Gloucester County</i></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>"Miracle Mets" 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Warinanco Sports Center Roselle <i>Union County</i></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Out of the Darkness Walk 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. 9/21 Cougar Field Track Chatham Twshp. <i>Morris County</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p>Fall Fest & Food Truck & Music Festival 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 9/21 Ocean Avenue Wildwood <i>Cape May County</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>The Wurst BeerFest in NJ 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Belcher Road Blairstown <i>Warren County</i></p>
<p>22</p> <p>Camden County Fair 9/21 & 9/22 Fairgrounds Gloucester Township <i>Camden County</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>NJ Kennel Club Dog Show 9/21 & 9/22 Horse Shoe Bend Park Frenchtown <i>Hunterdon County</i></p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Essex County Fair 9/28 Eagle Rock Avenue Roseland <i>Essex County</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p>Rock The Farm Fest 12:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Grant Avenue Seaside Heights <i>Ocean County</i></p>
<p>29</p> <p>Italian American Festival 9/27-9/29 Mercer County Park West Windsor <i>Mercer County</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p>Oyster Festival 9/29 Downtown Red Bank <i>Monmouth County</i></p>					

NJAC CELEBRATION OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT
MAY 6-8, 2020
CAESARS, ATLANTIC CITY, NJ