

NJAC COUNTY BIZ

An Educational and Informative Newsletter for Counties and Businesses

New Jersey Association of Counties

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African American Chamber Of Commerce Of New Jersey Shares Why DEI IS Good For Businesses And Communities

by Ferlanda Fox Nixon, Esq., Chief of Policy and External Affairs for African American Chamber of Commerce of NJ



John E. Harmon, Sr.
President & CEO
AACCNJ

“For the past 15 years, the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ) has sought to economically empower and sustain African-American communities through entrepreneurship and capitalistic activities within the state of New Jersey and via interaction with the National Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc.,” states John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM, the AACCNJ’s Founder, President, and CEO. “We are dedicated to this endeavor because we know the success of New Jersey’s Black residents and Black-owned businesses elevates the state overall and makes it more competitive. To that end, programs that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are essential.” Harmon points to supplier diversity programs as perfect examples of DEI initiatives that are good for both businesses and communities.

A 2021 study by the Hackett Group, an intellectual property-based strategic consultancy and benchmarking firm, makes a strong case for implementation of supplier diversity programs. The study results revealed that companies that participate in a long-term supplier diversity program experienced the following:

- a 133% greater return on investment than companies that used the suppliers they traditionally relied upon,
- lower overall operating costs,
- twenty percent (20%) less money spent on their buying operations, and
- new revenue streams.

“Not only do supplier diversity programs boost the bottom line of companies of all sizes, large and small, they also strengthen local communities,” posits Harmon. “As beneficiaries of supplier diversity programs, women-, veteran-, and minority-owned businesses create wealth in the community and generate jobs. Moreover, thriving women-, veteran-, and minority-owned businesses contribute to the local tax base and thus help to compensate fire fighters, police officers, and municipal employees; support education and health services; repair roads; sustain libraries; and much, much more.”

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African American Chamber Of Commerce Of New Jersey Shares Why DEI Is Good For Businesses And Communities

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Recognizing that a strong local economy is essential in supporting a strong civic base, the AACCNJ steadfastly seeks to enhance its ability to be a critical source of information, inspiration, knowledge, and resources for the more than 80,000 African-American businesses and the more than 1.2 million Black residents throughout New Jersey. The AACCNJ serves as a mechanism for communication, program creation, and strategic implementation of initiatives and resolutions that help build New Jersey's economic landscape at the local, regional, and state levels. The AACCNJ's offerings include advocacy-building, community and government relations, business development, workforce-readiness training, and education attainment.

"We help diverse suppliers grow their businesses so they can become pillars in their communities," Harmon shares. "As I have said on prior occasions, 'we open lines of communication between government officials and suppliers; promote enterprise activity for women-, veteran-, and minority-owned businesses; elevate owners' access to capital and visibility in key markets; and design customized mentorship and entrepreneurial programs for adults and youths,'" he continues. "Just like 'a rising tide lifts all boats,' supplier diversity programs benefit all constituencies."



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



H2M architects + engineers is a multi-disciplined professional consulting and design firm. With a long history of practical approach. creative results. client service, we consistently meet tough architectural, engineering, and environmental challenges head on. From treatment facilities to firehouses, from land surveying to road reconstruction, and from site assessment to remediation, our firm has helped design and build many communities.

For additional information regarding H2M architects + engineers please contact Joe Flynn, Senior Architects at jflynn@h2m.com.



Triad Associates is a woman owned consulting firm founded in 1978 specializing in grant implementation, community and economic development, strategic planning, relocation services and affordable housing implementation to both the private and public sectors.

For additional information regarding Triad Associates please contact Carolyn Zumpino, President at (856) 690-9590.

The Opioid Epidemic—What Americans Are Saying About The Crisis

by Noam Rabinovich, Research Insights Lead for Zencity

In November 2021, a grim milestone was reached, as more than 100,000 people died over a 12-month period from fatal drug overdoses for the first time in U.S. history. A major culprit was fentanyl, which has been laced into illegal drugs and whose involvement can be detected in most of these deaths. Local governments, health professionals, and police departments are increasingly viewing fentanyl as a top concern and are acutely aware of the need to raise awareness about the dangers of this narcotic and, hopefully, save lives. As a first step, Zencity clients turn to Zencity Organic to understand whether their residents are aware and concerned about the presence and impact of fentanyl in their community, how they discuss this narcotic, and what they are asking their representatives to do.

The prevalence of fentanyl in overdose cases and its heavy presence in narcotics sold in the US is not reflected in resident discourse at this time - with only about a quarter of opioids and overdose discourse referencing fentanyl. Although there is some awareness of the dangers of fentanyl and its involvement in overdose cases, it also suggests a lack of attention dedicated to its pervasiveness and adverse impact.

The relative lack of interest elicited by fentanyl can be partially attributed to the level of attention shown by city and county officials, including elected officials and the police. On average, only 21% of official communication on opioids and overdoses referenced fentanyl. By contrast, local news across the country dedicated an average of 33% of their opioids and overdoses coverage to fentanyl. News reports about fentanyl show a strong focus on arrests and drug seizures as part of the broader efforts to combat drug-related crime.

As a result, residents discuss fentanyl in the context of crime and a police issue, mainly focusing on policies and laws that could remove it from the streets. The most common response by residents was gratitude and appreciation for law enforcement for their efforts to get fentanyl off the streets and keep the community safe. Support for harsher penalties for drug dealers, such as longer sentences and no bail, were also prevalent, as was Criticism of the national immigration policy that made it easier for drugs to pass through the border.

Residents are strongly invested in seeing law enforcement address the opioid epidemic, yet the focus on crime reduction means that most mentions of fentanyl are made in the context of arrests and drug seizures - merging the fentanyl discourse into the larger conversation about the opioid epidemic.

By contrast, information about harm reduction and mitigation, such as support for addicts or factual information about the specific dangers of fentanyl, are less prominent in the discourse - a gap that can be filled by official awareness-raising education and messaging.

There is a clear gap in official messaging on fentanyl that focuses on mitigation and reducing harm in the here and now. PSAs by local governments about the health risk posed by fentanyl and substance abuse are often received with many “likes” and “shares” - and are instrumental in educating the public about fentanyl - yet they are few and far between.

Updates about arrests bring the opioid epidemic, and the role fentanyl plays in it, to the forefront - raising awareness about the existence of the drug and its prevalence. However, the lack of focus on mitigation means lesser awareness of available resources and best practices on how to communicate about the dangers of fentanyl or avoid overdoses.



The New PAC Ave Is Ready For You!

by County of Cape May

The Pacific Avenue Redevelopment Initiative, a creative partnership formed by the County of Cape May and the City of Wildwood, announces The New PAC Ave is ready.

Adoption of the Pacific Avenue Redevelopment Plan by the City of Wildwood, which creates the Pacific Avenue Redevelopment Zone (PARZ), sets in motion revitalized and forward-looking zoning for the 1.3-mile length of Pacific Avenue and its downtown center. PARZ incentivizes new investment and home ownership through revised zoning standards that encourages residential development throughout the majority of Pacific Avenue (PAC Ave) while also paving the way for a vibrant downtown residential and retail center where businesses will again thrive. But, there's more!

To incentivize investment and development, PARZ features increased residential density along PAC Ave while solidifying and protecting the adjoining neighborhoods. A second major element to spurring investment on PAC Ave, however, are the tax incentives offered by the City for both qualified commercial and residential projects of all sizes. "The City has worked hard to establish tax incentives to encourage commercial, residential, and mixed-use development in designated areas along the New PAC Ave corridor. We look forward to working with developers who are bringing great projects to the table, and to using our tax abatement strategies to help them make the decision to invest in our downtown community," said Wildwood Mayor Peter Byron. "The New PAC Ave is ready to welcome a new era of building, investment, home ownership, and transformation. We encourage builders and investors to a part of the action," added Byron.

In addition to helping to foster private development, the Pacific Avenue Redevelopment Initiative plans to purchase lands as needed and to prepare them for future private development proposals. "In many cases, the prospect of acquisition and demolition of eyesore properties along the PAC Ave corridor can seem a bit daunting," said Cape May County Commissioner Will Morey. "That is why the County Commissioners established and are deploying a dedicated revolving property acquisition fund for the PAC Ave initiative enabling it to acquire and prepare properties for private redevelopment."

The Board of County Commissioners will accept applications for this initiative from other municipalities as the Initiative progresses. The Atlantic County Improvement Authority (ACIA) has been designated the Redevelopment Entity for the PARZ and provides support and administrative assistance to the PARZ team. Bob McGuigan, Redevelopment Specialist at the ACIA, is the lead point of contact for information about living and investing in The NEW PAC Ave. Bob can be reached at 609-343-2390.



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](#)

Be The Mentor & Colleague You Appreciate

by Nicole Khan, Senior Engineer for Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.



Nicole Khan
Senior Engineer
Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.

Being an engineer is an intrinsic part of my identity. It was not my first occupation, but it is my forever career. I have leveraged my past experiences to push ahead in this industry, to discover my voice, and to become a stronger individual and a better person.

I have also been lucky enough to build a professional circle of trusted advisers, colleagues, and friends. These individuals have helped me grow, challenging my approach and my technical skills to be better, more precise, and more client focused.

With this experience, I realize engineering is much more rewarding with collaboration and when we recognize talent in others. Younger employees benefit from senior staff mentorship – and they are not the only ones. Reach out and pull someone forward and up! Not because it is expected... not because you want something in return... because it is the right thing to do. The true test

of a person’s character is how they treat others who they *do not rely on* to advance their objectives. Let the rubber meet the road and let us improve the industry, together.

My professional advancement has most recently brought me to Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. as a Senior Engineer; it is a great match. My colleagues respect me and solicit my opinions on projects, recruiting, and client development. I am taken seriously. I have a seat at the table. In return, I am loyal to the team. I strongly believe this type of collaboration and respect leads to employee satisfaction and retention.

As a female engineer, I particularly want to help other women in transportation succeed. Diversity of thought is critical in this business. Do not wait for someone else to be the change-agent. Start with you!



NJAC would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for joining us at the New Jersey Association of Counties’ (NJAC) 71st Annual Celebration of County Government attended by a record number of county and business leaders from across the State.

This event is a success because of you! A special thank you to our corporate sponsors below, and please enjoy the photos on page 6, 7 and 8. More can be viewed [here](#).



NJAC Conference Photos







For More Photos Please Click [Here](#)

Aruba Instant On Access Points Give SMB Wi-Fi A Boost

by Joanne Goodstadt, Marketing Manager for PKA Technologies

Businesses today rely on Wi-Fi to support a variety of mission-critical functions, including remote and hybrid work models, mobile computing, Internet of Things environments, guest access, inventory management and much more. However, the need to support continually growing numbers of users, devices and traffic is stretching the limits of existing Wi-Fi networks.

Research suggests that Wi-Fi traffic is doubling every three years. Much of that growth is driven by increasingly sophisticated mobile devices running more data-hungry applications. Increased congestion can result in delays, packet loss and other issues that create performance bottlenecks.

Surveys find that the majority of businesses plan to address these issues by transitioning to the latest Wi-Fi standard. Wi-Fi 6, also known as 802.11ax or High-Efficiency Wi-Fi, was designed to improve speed, increase efficiency, and reduce congestion in heavy bandwidth usage scenarios.

Upgrade with Ease

Gaining the full benefits of the new standard will require some network design modifications. In particular, you'll need to upgrade to Wi-Fi 6 access points (APs) that can support the multigigabit speeds enabled by the new standard. The latest APs offer four times the throughput of Wi-Fi 5 devices with 75 percent less latency. Wi-Fi 6 APs feature more antennas and radio transceivers to achieve higher throughput and will support about three times as many concurrent users as older APs.

The transition and upgrades can be challenging, particularly for small to mid-sized businesses (SMBs) with limited IT resources on staff. However, Aruba Networks has eased the burden with its Instant On portfolio of Wi-Fi 6 solutions for SMBs.

Instant On APs support automatic linking with one another to create a mesh configuration of up to 25 APs — without the need for added cabling. Once the first AP is connected, additional APs just have to be plugged into an AC power source. With a single click, they'll automatically connect to the primary AP. Networks can be set up in minutes from a mobile app or web portal, without any particular networking expertise.

Key Features

Aruba offers a range of APs for different use cases. The top-of-the-line AP 22 was selected as CRN's 2021 product of the year and is Wi-Fi 6 certified by the nonprofit Wi-Fi Alliance industry group. The certification provides assurance that certified devices meet industry standards, including these prerequisites:

- * Backward compatibility with previous Wi-Fi standards.
- * Agile multiband capabilities that enable efficient use of multiple frequencies, including 2.4GHz, 5GHz and 6GHz.
- * Mechanisms for managing spectrum and network resources.
- * Intelligent steering, which allows an AP to suggest another AP, channel or frequency band when the network becomes congested.
- * WPA3 security with improved authentication, authorization and encryption capabilities.

If you're considering an upgrade to Wi-Fi 6, give us a call. Our network architects have deep expertise with the entire Aruba/HPE product line, and we can help you plan and implement a solution that will meet your current and future business needs.



Youth Suicide Prevention

Summer is approaching. Kids will soon be off from school. It's a fun time of the year, typically. But for some youth, summer vacation can cause increased anxiety or stress because it disrupts their normal routines and separates them from their peers. And after the last two years, any level of change, or disruption, can just feel overwhelming. It's especially important that we all keep a watchful eye on any unusual and lasting behaviors such as those listed in the info-graphic. We ask that our system partners in county government—as well as the community-at-large—remain vigilant and share this information with families who may benefit. Help is available. Additional mental health service information can be found on the Department of Children and Families, Children's System of Care website at this link: [DCF | Children's System of Care \(nj.gov\)](https://www.dcf.nj.gov/childrens-system-of-care)

YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

**Children and teens worry. A lot.
Sometimes it gets so bad they want to end their lives.**

Here are some contributing factors:

- A recent or serious loss, including a breakup, parent divorce or death of a loved one.
- Lack of social support from friends or family.
- Being a victim of in-person or cyber-bullying, racism, sexual or physical assault.
- A family history of suicide, mental illness, addiction disorder or abuse.
- Struggling with sexual orientation.
- Societal, cultural or religious stigma related to asking for help.
- Access to lethal means.

DCF's Children's System of Care can help any struggling youth receive:

- **crisis stabilization**
- **individualized care planning**
- **in-home, in-community and out-of-home supports**

If your child needs help, Don't wait!

Call:

NJ HOPE LINE at 1-855-654-6735

Children's System of Care at 1-877-652-7624.



Workforce Management - The Enhancement Your ERP Solution Needs

by Paul Calobrisi, Industry Marketing Specialist II for UKG

Government is a complex industry with a unique structure being a single employer with multiple agencies that all operate separate from one another. An enterprise resource planning (ERP) system provides a solid foundation for back-office administrative functions such as; Finance, HR, and Purchasing but falls short when it comes to supporting your front-line operational scheduling, timekeeping, absence and leave requirements at the individual agency level. As a result, agencies are left to fill the gaps with shadow systems, spreadsheets, or manual entry to meet their individual business needs. This is counter intuitive to the goals of the IT department that is trying to centralize technology, reduce costs, and tighten controls.

A [recent report](#) from GovLoop and [UKG](#) looks at how agencies can enhance their ERP's functionality with modern, cloud-based, workforce management solutions that streamline and automate. In addition, this report outlines the importance of a post-modern ERP strategy, and the many benefits associated with this.

Post-modern ERP strategy

A single ERP solution isn't going to meet all your requirements, but a post-modern ERP strategy will. This involves acquiring the technology required to meet all your needs and working within that partner ecosystem to bring to bear the right solution for the entire organization. This does not mean you have to go out and replace a system, because a lot of the times you might find that there's a gap in your ERP solution that can be easily filled with a workforce management platform or grant management platform that you can bring in, which then eliminates the need for you to suddenly get rid of the entire technology.

Why workforce management?

Workforce management encompasses all the activities, tools, and processes needed for scheduling and tracking workers, as well as workforce planning and forecasting. This integrated set of tools helps governments optimize the balance among customer, employee, and organizational needs, and labor law compliance.

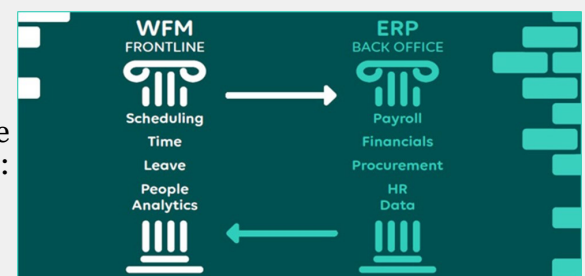
Having an enterprise workforce management solution on the front-end of your ERP creates a powerful solution that can help avoid grievances, and give taxpayers confidence in government spending. Enhancing your ERP solution with an integrated workforce management solution provides better visibility into key data and reduces the amount of human intervention in the process.

Key benefits for your agency:

- **Scheduling** – automation enables scheduling the right people with the right skills in the right place at the right times
- **Timekeeping** – accurately track workers' time and measure their productivity to gain accurate labor and job costs and fairly enforce pay rules
- **Leave Management** – stay on top of absences and manage all types of leave (FMLA, Workers Comp, Vacation, Sick, Military, etc.)
- **Analytics** – workforce management combines the previous three elements to allow for real-time analytics that produce rich insights, provide a full picture of workforce operations, and flag troubling trends so leaders can act to correct them

Want to learn more?

[Click here](#) to see how our workforce management solutions provide operational insights that empower the greatest driver of your success: **your people.**



Atlantic City Electric Expands Efforts With Diverse Suppliers, Spending \$119 Million in 2021 - *Supplier Diversity Is A Major Part Of The Company's Commitment To Powering The Economic Health Of Local, Diverse Communities*

by Frank Tedesco, Senior Communications Specialist for Atlantic City Electric

Atlantic City Electric purchased \$119 million in goods and services from diversity-certified suppliers in 2021, which accounts for 31 percent of the company's total yearly purchases, up \$14 million from 2020 and the most spent with diverse suppliers in the company's more than 100-year history.

"We are proud of our ongoing commitment and partnerships with local, diverse suppliers to support our business needs," said Rodney Oddoye, senior vice president of Governmental, Regulatory and External Affairs at Pepco Holdings, which includes Atlantic City Electric. "Diversity, equity and inclusion efforts are at the heart of everything that we do as a company, including enhancing reliability, customer satisfaction and community impact with the areas we serve. Our employees and our customers continue to see and benefit from our collective efforts to bring a wider range of views and approaches to the work we are doing to power our communities."

For Atlantic City Electric, as well as its parent company Exelon, diversity, equity and inclusion are core foundational values-both in the workplace and in its engagement with the communities it serves. Exelon has increased spending with diversity-certified businesses by more than 53 percent since 2016, reaching more than \$2.9 billion in 2021. Because of its commitment to diverse suppliers, Exelon is a member of the Billion Dollar Roundtable, a top-level national advocacy organization that promotes corporate supplier diversity excellence.

Just last week, Exelon [announced](#) the opening of the application period for the \$36 million Exelon-funded Racial Equity Capital Fund to support minority-owned businesses in the areas where it's utilities operate, including Atlantic City Electric's South Jersey service area. Exelon announced last fall tht it had partnered with the Exelon Foundation to created the Racial Equity Capital Fund to help minority businesses obtain capital to fuel growth and spur job opportunities in communities that have historically been underserved, under-resourced, and overlooked by investors and traditional funding sources.

As part of Atlantic City Electric's commitment to expand its procurement efforts with local diversity-certified suppliers, the company has a program that provides potential suppliers an opportunity to learn more about Atlantic City Electric's procurement processes, as well as its parent company Exelon, advancing the growth and development of each vendor's relationship with the energy company. Since establishing the program, Atlantic City Electric has worked with six new diversity-certified suppliers and looks to expand this opportunity to even more local, diverse suppliers.

Companies interested in working with Exelon can register with the company and provide pertinent information, including their diversity status, at [exeloncorp.com/suppliers](https://www.exeloncorp.com/suppliers).

To learn more about Atlantic City Electric, visit [The Source](#), Atlantic City Electric's online newsroom. Find additional information by visiting atlanticcityelectric.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/AtlanticCityElectric, and on Twitter at twitter.com/AcEleCconnect. Atlantic City Electric's mobile app is available at atlanticcityelectric.com/MobileApp.

Atlantic City Electric is a unit of Exelon (Nasdaq: EXC), a Fortune 200 company and the nation's largest utility company, serving more than 10 million customers. Atlantic City Electric provides clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy service to approximately 565,000 customers in southern New Jersey.



The Reconstruction Of Monmouth County Bridge HL-18

by KS Engineers

KS Engineers, P.C. (KSE) was retained as a Prime Consultant to Monmouth County for the preliminary and final design services for the replacement of Monmouth County Bridge HL-18, which carries Kent Road over the North Branch of the Metedeconk River. KSE was responsible for providing bridge and roadway design, geotechnical engineering, hydraulic engineering, utility design/relocation, survey and base mapping, right-of-way engineering, and agency permitting, in addition to overseeing subconsultant work for environmental permitting support, wetland delineation, and historical/archaeological evaluation.



The existing bridge was a three-span bridge, consisting of two continuous spans and one simply-supported span. The superstructure consisted of precast reinforced concrete T-beams, and the substructure consisted of timber pile bents and timber soldier pile-type abutments. The bridge was posted for 15 tons and was structurally deficient.

KSE developed concepts for design alternatives to replace the existing structurally deficient and load-posted bridge. After approval of the preferred alternative by the County, final plans were submitted which consisted of a jointless, 44-foot, single-span, prestressed concrete box beam superstructure on semi-integral abutments. Key design issues included environmental permitting, maintaining pedestrian access over the bridge during construction by using a temporary bridge, and adding a sidewalk on the new bridge. This new sidewalk provides long-term safety for student pedestrian traffic between the schools on each side of the bridge.

The construction cost was approximately \$2.2 million. Construction began in January 2021 and the bridge was opened to traffic on schedule in August 2021.



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 or loren@njac.org**

New Jersey Office Of Recovery

As you know New Jersey is slated to receive a portion of the national settlement negotiated with pharmaceutical manufactures and distributors who profited from the opioid epidemic which continues to plague our nation. New Jersey’s allocation of this settlement (and there are others coming down) is \$641 million dollars, paid for over the course of 18 years. Although these funds are insufficient considering the cost to our loved ones and communities, it is an opportunity to help those who will face a substance use disorder, are in the throes of active addiction and those who are seeking a life in recovery.

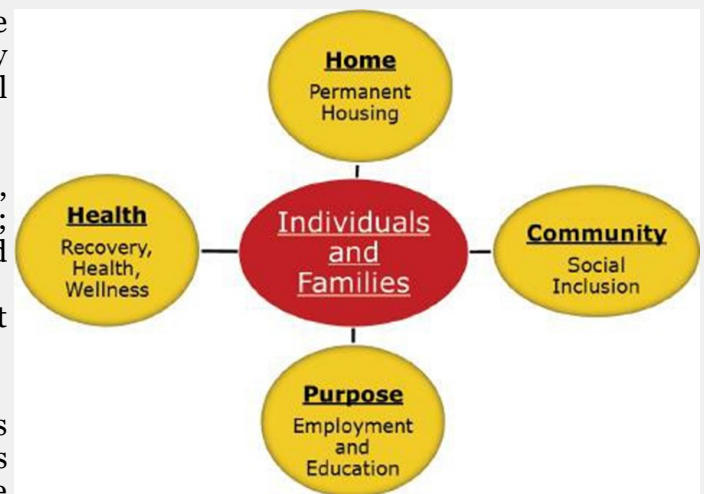
Addiction deaths are increasing despite current initiatives. The influx of funds, to honor those who have suffered from this disease, must be used efficiently and effectively to ensure real solutions. As such, recovery advocates and supporters, have been meeting to discuss and identify new and proven solutions as well as what is hampering recovery in their communities. We believe many life-saving and life changing initiatives exist in our communities. New Jersey needs an Office of Recovery: one that works with the newly formed national Office of Recovery; one that provides a communication channel joining community to community; and ultimately, ensure successful solutions are given resources to restore our people to wellness.

Following is a synopsis of the Office of Recovery proposal.

SAMHSA’s Definition of Recovery From Mental Health Disorders or Substance Use Disorders: *“Recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential.”*

This definition does not describe recovery as an end state, but rather as a process. Complete symptom remission is neither a prerequisite of recovery nor a necessary outcome of the process. Recovery can have many pathways that may include professional clinical treatment; use of medications; support from families and in schools; faith-based approaches; peer support; and other approaches. There are four major dimensions that support a life in recovery:

- **Health:** Learning to overcome, manage, or more successfully live with symptoms and making healthy choices that support one’s physical and emotional wellbeing
- **Home:** A stable and safe place to live
- **Purpose:** Meaningful daily activities, such as a job, school, volunteer work, or creative endeavors; increased ability to lead a self-directed life; and meaningful engagement in society
- **Community:** Relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love, and hope



We must never forget how the opioid settlement funds flowing into our state were, and are, prepaid through lives lost, families destroyed and our collective future compromised. In honor of those suffering and no longer with us, New Jersey must use the settlement funds efficiently and effectively.

We owe our loved ones change: more of the same “business as usual” is failing our people. And a significant part of that change needs to be the establishment of a New Jersey Office of Recovery.

Recovery is a process, not a destination. Recovery, via a variety of paths, is happening in our communities. If we are to abate the growing addiction carnage, we must organize, develop and fund successful long term recovery strategies. Successful programs need to be studied, duplicated and scaled up if appropriate.

continued on page 15

New Jersey Office Of Recovery *(continued)*

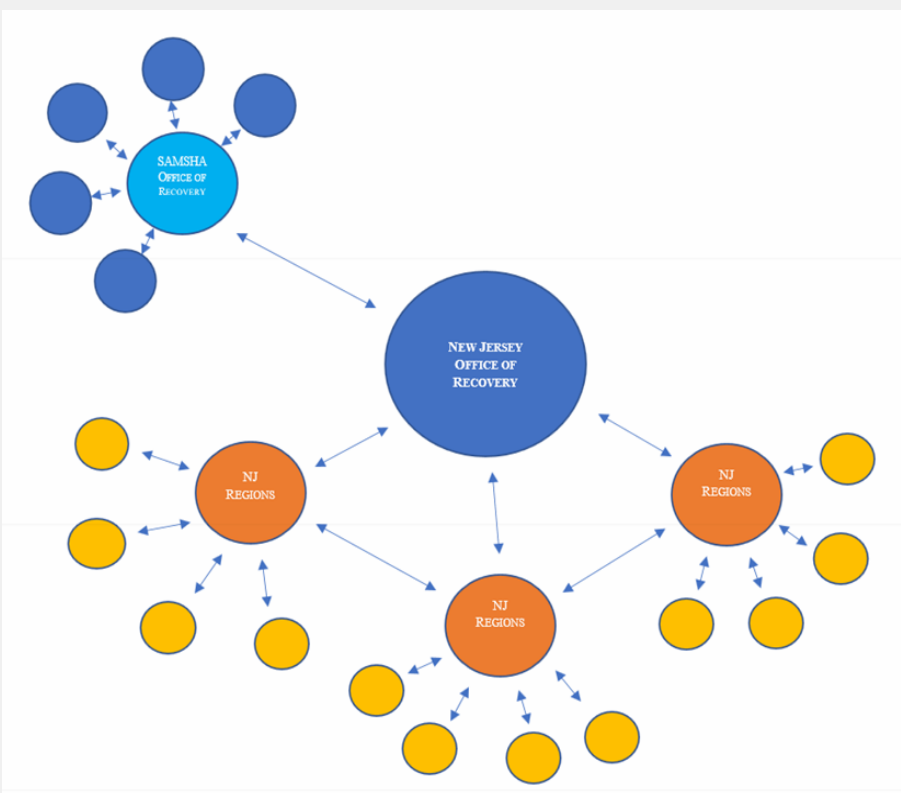
The list of Opioid Remediation Uses, Core Strategies and Approved Uses (Exhibit E of the March 25, 2022 Final Agreement of the Distributor Settlement) contains more than 30 strategies and initiatives which are foundational to servicing an individual’s recovery. And there are many more successful programs in our communities, saving and changing lives, which have not yet caught the attention of those charged with providing supportive resources. Currently there is little to no mechanism, and thus, little attention in our state to what is actually working (and not working) real time. By the time statistics are gathered, compiled, released and reviewed, issues have intensified and opportunities are lost.

New Jersey was on the right track in marshalling the power of the community over a decade ago when it created a single, part time position of Addiction Services Consumer Advocate. After a series of unfortunate decisions, that role was eliminated. The Citizen’s Advisory Council for Addiction, although still showing on New Jersey’s website, has not been active since 2013. New Jersey has not been harnessing the solutions to this epidemic.

How do we improve outcomes? How do we move our loved ones from the tenuous state of “sober” onto a path of recovery? How do we stop the revolving door of detox/treatment/sobriety? The answers lie in our communities. We must establish a communication channel between the state and the community.

SAMHSA has created a national Office of Recovery (<https://www.samhsa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/offices-centers/or>). New Jersey needs to continue the nexus between national efforts and our communities. The New Jersey Office of Recovery is the essential communication hub between community solutions and the state resources. The Office of Recovery will ensure New Jersey resources are applied efficiently and effectively to the most promising and proven solutions.

To achieve meaningful results, it is paramount the staff of the Office of Recovery are authentically grounded in their personal wellness, loyal to the mission, have significant lived experience and hold no conflicts of interest in serving those seeking, or in recovery. The staff are servant-leaders: collaborators that authenticate, report and share. Integrity and purpose must be key qualities for those associated with this office as they are ambassadors for New Jersey recovery.



“Recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential.” New Jersey and its collective communities need an Office of Recovery to restore its full potential.

For additional information please contact Lisa E. Gladwell, Esq., via email at LisaGladwell@aol.com.

**Join MRA International
at our
Annual InterNETworking Event!!!**

Where: Ocean Place Resort in Long Branch, NJ

When: Thursday, July 14th, 2022

Time: 8:30am – 3:00pm

Join us for an exclusive annual event by the beach, which offers unique learning and networking opportunities in an open and relaxed environment.

Our Annual **InterNETworking** event immerses professional educators, IT leaders, and passionate learning enthusiasts to explore industry-leading trends and topics that are actionable and beneficial to the public sector. The goal of our event is to bring innovative technology, practical solutions, and accessible resources to organizations of K-12, Higher Education, and State & Local Government, while offering a unique day of learning, networking, and collaborating.

Please register for the event on our website: <https://www.mrainternational.com/allevnts/>

MRA International is a leading technology expert and a value-added HP and HPE Partner with over 20 years of experience providing unique IT solutions and turn-key results to the public sector.

As a full-service facility with all the benefits of a local, family-owned company, we consistently provide a top-notch level of personal service. We always lead with our clients' best interests in mind and accelerate their success by serving as a trusted partner who understands their business goals and stays one step ahead on new technologies to provide buying recommendations and best support their ongoing operations.

With MRA Warranty Services- our expert technicians will repair or replace your computing device. MRA's expert configuration and deployment services bring you fast, accurate, and globally standardized IT solutions.

For more information, please contact the MRA Sales Team:
Email: sales@mrainternational.com Phone: (732) 222-0997



Save The Dates!

NJAC Continuing Education Virtual Workshop Series

Wednesday, July 6, 2022
Wednesday, September 14, 2022
Wednesday, November 9, 2022

County Government with a Unified Voice!



**Community College
Consortium**
FOR WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Bridging the Skills Gap

330 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08618
609-393-9000

**Train Your Workforce
SO YOUR
Business Succeeds**



FREE TRAINING

NJBIA Basic Skills & Workplace Literacy Free Skills Training ENSURES YOUR ECONOMIC GROWTH

NJBIA's Workplace Literacy and Basic Skills Training Program is a partnership of the New Jersey Business & Industry Association, the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development, and the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The partners (representing business, higher education, and state government) came together to ensure New Jersey businesses have a well-trained and highly skilled workforce for future economic growth and prosperity.

WE CAN HELP:

- **Get your employees trained in your county at NO CHARGE**
- **Language, literacy, and business skills training offered at your local Community College or at your facility**
- **Customized training available for your company's needs**

[HTTPS://NJWORKFORCE.ORG/NJBIA/](https://njworkforce.org/njbia/)



Employment Opportunities

by Burlington County

**HELP
WANTED**

COUNTY PARK SUPERINTENDENT

Burlington County, NJ government is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of County Park Superintendent.

The Park Superintendent is responsible for the operation and management of the County's Parks System consisting of over 1,000 acres of developed parkland; a regional trail network; the County fairgrounds; an Amphitheater and a historic industrial village along with other historic buildings.

The Park Superintendent will oversee an operation with a staff of 48, consisting of Park Rangers, Maintenance and Support staff.

Burlington County prides itself on the quality and appeal of its Parks System. The County Board of Commissioners has dedicated a significant amount of financial resources to ensure that the Burlington County Parks System provides residents with a bucolic, attractive and safe recreational outlet to be enjoyed by the residents.

The successful candidate will have an appreciation of the outdoors through their own personal pursuits as well as having the organizational skills and management ability dedicated to maintaining a level of care that ensures an attractive and inviting Park System.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please send a detailed resume explaining your background and experience in maintaining and working in open space/park like environments. Include your experience working with maintenance staff in terms of results oriented management of personnel and materials.

This position is a Senior level management position within Burlington County government and as such a generous compensation package will be offered based on an individual's experience. Relevant professional degrees and certifications are desirable and should be presented accordingly as part of the application process.

Interested parties should submit a detailed resume and cover letter to the attention of:

Mr. Rick Lombardo, Director of Human Resources
Rlombardo@co.burlington.nj.us

Burlington County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Employment Opportunities

by County of Monmouth

**HELP
WANTED**

DIGITAL MEDIA MANAGER MONMOUTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Monmouth County Department of Public Information is an exciting office that is responsible for relaying information regarding County news and services to residents, visitors, and business owners in Monmouth County. This is done through various communication sources including the County website, social media channels, press releases, photographs, and videos.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

- Under supervision of the Department Deputy Director, manage the County Digital Media team including the photographer, videographer, and social media coordinator.
- Coordinate all official County photography and videography.
- Oversee all County social media accounts and County website.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in communications or related field
- Minimum two (2) years management experience of a digital media team
- Demonstrated knowledge of video production, social media, and photography experience
- Demonstrated knowledge of Adobe Cloud Creative programs (Premiere Pro, Illustrator, Photoshop, etc.).
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Strong attention to detail
- Understanding of AP style of writing
- Must be able to work evenings and weekends as needed

TO APPLY:

In order to be considered for a job opening, an [Application for Employment](#) must be completed for each position. Resumes may be attached but are not considered as substitution for a fully completed job application form.

Completed job applications shall be submitted by email to: mc-humanresources@co.monmouth.nj.us or faxed to 732-431-7924.



Nationwide Economics

Weekly Economic Review & Outlook for May 23, 2022

by Dan Hadden, *Financial Markets Economist of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company* and
Daniel Vielhaber, *Economist of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company*

Near-term recession concerns are overdone

The financial markets have been showing significant concern about a growth slowdown, and possible recession, with equities selling off and prices of Treasury notes climbing (pushing rates down) last week. The underlying data, however tell a somewhat different story. Retail sales continued to grow solidly, housing data weakened but remain strong overall, and regional Fed manufacturing surveys slid but don't suggest a broad slowdown.

Retail sales jumped by 0.9 percent last month with the control group (stripping out autos, building materials, food services, and gasoline stations) moving higher by 1.0 percent. These numbers were better than analysts' expectations and show that despite inflation concerns, consumers continue to spend. Moreover, previous months were revised upward indicating that the consumer ended the first quarter and started the second quarter on solid footing. The Atlanta Fed's GDPNow estimate rose to 2.4 percent for the second quarter mostly based on this report.

Workers have seen steady wage increases so far this year. The Atlanta Fed's wage growth tracker climbed to an all-time high of 6.3 percent for April, just a tad below the 12-month change in the broad price index for personal consumption expenditures. As long as the job market remains hot, consumer spending should stay solid with wages rising.

Existing home sales fell for a third consecutive month to an annualized pace of 5.61 million units. This pace is in line with the average since 2015. The rise in mortgage rates, along with a lack of inventory, has helped to lower sales this year. Rates for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage are now around 5.25 percent, up by about 2256 basis points from this time last year. The median home price of an existing home sold climbed to over \$391,000, a jump of 14.8 percent from a year earlier-indicating that despite the drop in sales, there is still excess demand. Homebuilders are also feeling the pinch of higher mortgage rates, as the NAHB homebuilder survey weakened. It remains at an elevated level but given that all the components in the survey fell, the outlook is starting to dim. Housing starts and building permits both edged lower, but with solid household formations, we may simply see a shift from single-family construction to multifamily as rates rise.

The New York Fed's Empire State manufacturing index dropped sharply, but this survey does not tend to correlate well with the broader ISM manufacturing report. The Philadelphia Fed manufacturing outlook survey also weakened, but the new orders and shipments indices both rose. When stated on an ISM basis, the Philly Fed index increased. This survey tends to correlate well with the ISM manufacturing survey.

Financial markets were whipsawed last week as investors digested economic data and commentary from Fed officials. The S&P 500 index fell for a seventh straight week, the longest losing streak since 2001-but it barely avoided closing at bear market levels (a drop of 20 percent or more from its previous high). The 10-year Treasury note yield swung sharply over the course of the week. It finished Tuesday at nearly 3.00 percent following the strong retail sales report. But it ended the week at 2.78 percent, the lowest level in more than three weeks, likely as concerns about a recession intensified.

There is little evidence that core economic activity (consumer and business fixed investment spending) is slowing dangerously, suggesting that fears of a near-term downturn for the economy are probably exaggerated.

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Nationwide Economics *(continued)*

New home sales declined in each of the first three months of the year and April's pace was likely lower again. Mortgage rates, already on the rise since the beginning of the year, saw their largest increase by monthly average in 35 years in April, climbing to their highest level since 2010 by month's end. Additionally, while neither measure was weak, the NAHB housing market index's components for present sales and traffic of prospective buyers were at six and seven month lows, respectively. We project a decline in the annualized pace of new home sales to 750,000 units-but note that this is often a significantly revised series.

In step with high consumer demand, growth in durable goods orders has been far above median for much of the last year. As growth continued in April, we expect that durable goods orders continued to climb, too. Commercial aircraft orders were a bit lower, however, which should hold overall durable goods orders back modestly. We project growth in durable goods orders of 0.6 percent for April, which would mean strong growth for six of the last seven months.

Wage and salary growth has been rising strongly in recent months in response to the very tight labor market, and that likely continued for April with personal income projected to climb by 0.7 percent for the month. Additionally, retail sales were up solidly for the month, and this should translate into a 0.9 percent gain in personal consumption expenditures (PCE), continuing the trend of robust consumer activity from the first quarter. Lastly according to the CPI report, consumer price growth slowed in April, but mostly due to a decline in energy prices. We project the core PCE price index (which strips out the food and energy components) still saw a relatively fast gain of 0.5 percent last month.

For further information please contact David Sarmir, Senior Retirement Specialist
sarmird@nationwide.com.



SAVE THE DATES:

NJAC Continuing Education Series Virtual Workshops

July 6, 2022

September 14, 2022

November 9, 2022

NACo Webinars

Addressing the Nation's Behavioral Health Crisis with Recovery Funds

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Join us to learn more about how counties are using ARPA dollars to expand the availability and scope of behavioral health services, invest in local crisis centers and construct rehabilitation centers to strengthen community resources.

Visit the [event page](#) for the most up-to-date information. Questions?

Contact ahurley@naco.org.



Food Security as a Driver of Economic Mobility: Strategies for Local Governments

Thursday, June 16, 2022 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time

While a wide range of factors contributes to an individual's economic mobility or movement up and down the economic ladder, the ties between food insecurity and economic inequality are demonstrated. Individuals who experience a lack of food security face mental and physical health consequences that can directly impact their employment status, use of the health care system, and other factors that impact upward mobility. Cities and counties are working to improve the food security of residents by integrating local efforts across jurisdictions and working with key community partners to enhance food production, transportation, and distribution. In partnership with [National League of Cities](#), this webinar will feature an expert overview of the state of food insecurity in the United States as well as example solutions from both cities and counties.

Visit the [event page](#) for the most up-to-date information. Questions?

Contact ahurley@naco.org.

Protecting Public Health: Vector Disease Management and Mosquito Emergency Response

Tuesday, June 21, 2022 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time

County leaders are working across different sectors to coordinate programs and services that impact the well-being of communities, especially when it comes to the strong connection between the environment and public health. Insects like mosquitos not only are an environmental nuisance, but they may also carry vector-borne diseases that threaten public health. Learn from Vector Disease Control International (VDCI) and local leaders to understand the importance of a comprehensive Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) program and how counties can improve community health through vector disease management programs.

Visit the **event page** for the most up-to-date information. Questions?

Contact ahurley@naco.org.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Congratulations to our county service award and cook-off challenge winners.

MAURICE FITZGIBBONS COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF THE YEAR AWARD

JOHN A. CIMINO, MERCER COUNTY COMMISSIONER

For his steadfast, thoughtful, and pragmatic leadership during a challenging but successful legislative year.

COUNTY SERVICE AWARDS

SONYA HARRIS, CLERK OF THE BOARD, ATLANTIC COUNTY

For her vision to introduce legislation that become law, and to meet with her peers on a regular basis to share resources and ideas.

MATTHEW LEITH, JAIL WARDEN, BURLINGTON COUNTY

For his support in conducting research on several complex issues that impacted county jails and correctional police officers.

BETH THOMPSON, SUPERVISOR, BOARD OF ELECTIONS, HUNTERDON COUNTY

For her hard work in compiling comprehensive election data that made the difference in the amount funding for early voting.

JOHN ZAWADZKI, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, MONMOUTH COUNTY

For his dedication and commitment to discussing cybersecurity on behalf of the Association at workshops and public hearings.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

KIM WOOD, CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - RETIRED

For always being positive and supportive of the Association and county government as selected by past winners of the Award.

NJAC BOARD MEMBER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

GERALD THORNTON, CAPE MAY COUNTY COMMISSIONER

For being a gentleman and a scholar during his 39 remarkable years of leadership as a Cape May County Commissioner.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER HALL OF FAME

LEN DESIDERIO, CAPE MAY COUNTY COMMISSIONER

For his tireless 20 years of public service as a Cape May County Commissioner and civic leader in his home town of Sea Isle City.

PETER PALMER BUSINESS ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR

PKA TECHNOLOGIES, FELICE KATZ, PRESIDENT & CEO

For their long-standing support of the Association and mission to provide effective and efficient IT services to county government.

LEGISLATOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

STEPHEN SWEENEY, SENATE PRESIDENT 2010- 2021

For his unwavering dedication to persons with disabilities, South Jersey, regionalization and shared services, and county government.



John G. Donnadio, Esq.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *(continued)*

COUNTY VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL COOK-OFF CHALLENGE - PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

As voted on by all participating conference attendees and tabulated by ES&S.

GOLD MEDAL (\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP): CUMBERLAND COUNTY TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER
Upper-Level Dog Burger

SILVER MEDAL (\$500.00 SCHOLARSHIP): CAMDEN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
Tech Mex Western Cantina

BRONZE MEDAL (\$250.00 SCHOLARSHIP): GLOUCESTER COUNTY VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
Stnocchi's Stuffed Shrimp Gnocchi with a Sweet & Sour Balsamic Glaze

COUNTY VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL COOK-OFF CHALLENGE - NJAC JUDGES AWARDS

As voted on by selected conference attendees from the business community.

GOLD MEDAL TASTE: CAMDEN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
Tech Mex Western Cantina

SILVER MEDAL TASTE: CUMBERLAND COUNTY TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTERS
Upper-Level Dog Burger

BRONZE MEDAL TASTE: MERCER COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
BBQuban

GOLD MEDAL STATION DISPLAY: MIDDLESEX COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
The Green Farmer's Harvest

SILVER MEDAL STATION DISPLAY: ATLANTIC COUNTY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Dr. G's BBQ

BRONZE MEDAL STATION DISPLAY: HUNTERDON COUNTY POLYTECH
Grilled Baby Rack of Lamb over Cannellini Bean Ragout with Aged Balsamic Black Mission Fig Reduction

COUNTY VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL COOK-OFF CHALLENGE - PROFESSIONAL CHEFS AWARDS

As voted on by professional chefs in Atlantic City.

GOLD MEDAL TASTE: MERCER COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
BBQuban

SILVER MEDAL TASTE: CAMDEN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
Tex Mex Western Cantina

BRONZE MEDAL TASTE: HUNTERDON COUNTY POLYTECH
Grilled Baby Rack of Lamb over Cannellini Bean Ragout with Aged Balsamic Black Mission Fig Reduction

GOLD MEDAL FOOD PRESENTATION: MERCER COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
BBQuban

SILVER MEDAL FOOD PRESENTATION: BURLINGTON COUNTY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Matcha Foie Gras with Pistachio Pomegranate & Herb Fins

BRONZE MEDAL FOOD PRESENTATION: HUNTERDON COUNTY POLYTECH
Grilled Baby Rack of Lamb over Cannellini Bean Ragout with Aged Balsamic Black Mission Fig Reduction

Additional fantastic dishes included a Salmon Pastrami prepared by the Cape May County Technical Schools; Braised Pork Belly with Ginger Soy Apple Slaw & Apple Jack Glaze prepared by the Monmouth County Vocational School District; and Smoked Scallops prepared by the Somerset County Vocational Technical School. And, a special thanks to the Harmonious Hoots of Union County College for captivating the audience at the Acapella Sing-Off and to the Atlantic County Institute of Technology for a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem at the Board of Directors Kick-Off meeting.

EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			<p>1 SCVTHS Car Show</p> <p>6/5 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. FREE</p> <p>SCVTHS Bridgewater Somerset County</p>	<p>2 Thursday's Rock</p> <p>7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. FREE</p> <p>Hall of Records Freehold Monmouth County</p>	<p>3 Woodbridge Summerfest</p> <p>6/4 12:30 p.m. FREE</p> <p>Merrill Park Colonia Middlesex County</p>	<p>4 Jersey City Jazz Festival</p> <p>12 p.m. - 8 p.m. FREE</p> <p>107 Morgan Street Jersey City Hudson County</p>
 <p>2022 AG BEER FESTIVAL</p> <p>2 p.m. - 8 p.m. 6/4-6/5</p> <p>Bader Field Atlantic City Atlantic County</p>	<p>6 Kenny G: Sunset Jazz Series</p> <p>8 p.m. FREE</p> <p>Wiggins Waterfront Park Camden Camden County</p>	<p>7 Rhythme Blues By The Brook</p> <p>6/4 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. FREE</p> <p>Cedar Brook Park Plainfield Union County</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Annual Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation Pow-Wow</p> <p>6/11 & 6/12 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Salem County Fairgrounds Woodstown Salem County</p>	<p>11 BBQ Bash 2022</p> <p>4 p.m.</p>  <p>Millville Cumberland County</p>
<p>12 The Princeton Festival 6/10-6/26 Scalia/Ginsburg</p> <p>7 p.m. 6/11, 6/12, 6/18</p> <p>Morven Museum & Garden Princeton Mercer County</p>	<p>13 Movie Luca</p> <p>8 p.m.-8:30 p.m. FREE</p> <p>National Park Battlefield National Park Gloucester County</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	 <p>6 p.m.-11 p.m.</p> <p>Morey's Piers & Beachfront Water Parks Wildwood Cape May County</p>	<p>17 Movie Raya and the Last Dragon</p> <p>8:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. FREE</p> <p>Pennington Park Delanco Burlington County</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 Tequila Rose Millburn Summer Concert Series</p> <p>7 p.m. -8:30 p.m. FREE</p> <p>Taylor Park Millburn Essex County</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Lopatcong Music in the Park</p> <p>6/22 7 p.m.-9 p.m. FREE</p> <p>Lopatcong Park & Pavilion Lopatcong Warren County</p>	<p>22 Music Under the Stars</p> <p>6/23 7 p.m.-9 p.m. FREE</p> <p>Deer Path Park Flemington Hunterdon County</p>	 <p>6/23-7/10</p> <p>Meadowlands East Rutherford Bergen County</p>	<p>24 Rock, Ribs & Ridges Festival</p> <p>6/24-6/26 6 a.m.-8 p.m.</p> <p>Sussex County Fairgrounds Augusta Sussex County</p>	<p>25 Summer Oktoberfest With Bavarski</p> <p>6 p.m.</p> <p>Germania Park Dover Morris County</p>
<p>26 Fireworks & Food Truck Festival</p> <p>4 p.m. -11 p.m.</p> <p>Johnson Memorial Park Jackson Ocean County</p>	<p>27 Tri-County Cruisers Annual Car Show</p> <p>6/26 9 a.m.-4 p.m.</p> <p>475 Valley Road Wayne Passaic County</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>		