

NJAC COUNTY BIZ

An Educational and Informative Newsletter for Counties and Businesses

New Jersey Association of Counties

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Atlantic City Electric Offers Important Energy Saving Tips And Energy Assistance Information For Customers During Cold Snap - *Company encourages customers to take steps to manage energy use and seek energy bill assistance if needed*

by Candice Womer, Senior Communications Specialist for Atlantic City Electric an Exelon Company

Winter is officially here. As even colder temperatures can be expected through the coming months, leading to increased energy usage and potentially higher bills, Atlantic City Electric is committed to helping all customers use less energy by providing energy efficiency information to help keep bills as low as possible during the current cold snap and throughout the winter season. The company also continues to encourage customers to take advantage of millions of dollars in energy assistance available across New Jersey.

Atlantic City Electric recognizes customers may use more energy than expected as temperatures get colder, and some continue with a hybrid work schedule. Atlantic City Electric offers the following tips to help reduce energy use and costs:

- **Check your thermostat.** Set your thermostat a few degrees lower in the winter, if health permits. You can save about two percent on your heating bill for every degree you lower your thermostat. When you are asleep or out of the house, try turning your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours to save approximately 10 percent on your heating bill. Consider investing in a smart thermostat that can connect to your mobile devices, helping you stay on top of your energy usage.
- **Unplug your devices.** Mobile phones, laptops and other electronic devices will continue to use energy after they are fully charged.
- **Adjust your blinds.** Keep your blinds up during the day to capture the radiant heating benefits of the sun. Close your blinds and curtains after the sun goes down to keep the cold air out and the heat in.
- **Install energy efficient light bulbs.** Energy-efficient LED bulbs use up to 75 percent less energy than standard bulbs.
- **Check for air leaks.** Check the ductwork for air leaks about once a year if you have a forced-air heating system. To do this, feel around the duct joints for escaping air when the fan is on.
- **Insulate your home.** Trap escaping air from windows and doors by using caulking or weatherstripping around leaky areas, install storm windows in winter and close chimney flues.
- **Adjust hot water heater.** Lowering the temperature on your water heater/hot water tank can help save money and energy.
- **Dust or vacuum radiators.** Dust and grime impede the flow of heat. Keeping radiators clean helps maintain their efficiency.

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Atlantic City Electric Offers Important Energy Saving Tips And Energy Assistance Information For Customers During Cold Snap *(continued)*

- **Maintain home heating equipment.** Have your heating equipment serviced periodically by a professional service representative.
- **Look for the ENERGY STAR®** label on home appliances, electronics, and other products. ENERGY STAR® products meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Customers can also manage their bill through My Account, Atlantic City Electric's online energy management tool that shows how much energy a customer is using. More information is available for customers at atlanticcityelectric.com/MyAccount.

Atlantic City Electric is committed to helping to keep every customer connected by offering payment arrangements as well as programs that can help customers manage their monthly energy bill, including [Budget Billing](#), which averages payments over a 12-month period. The company also offers energy efficiency programs and energy saving information to help customers reduce their energy usage. Information regarding these programs can be found at atlanticcityelectric.com/WaysToSave.

The company is continuing to connect customers who may be facing financial challenges with available energy assistance resources. In addition to Atlantic City Electric programs, the company works with community and government partners to get funding into the hands of those customers who need it most to help meet their energy needs. Customers can visit atlanticcityelectric.com/EnergyAssistance or call 800-642-3780 to learn more about energy assistance programs and services.

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.



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AN EXELON COMPANY

NJAC Save the Dates!

Virtual Workshop
February 21, 2024

Virtual Workshop
April 17, 2024

NJAC Celebration of County Government
May 1-3, 2024
Atlantic City, NJ

IN MEMORIAM

Passing Of Passaic County Sheriff Richard Berdnik - *Statement From The Passaic County Commissioners On The Passing Of Sheriff Richard Berdnik*



With an immense sense of loss, we, the Passaic County Commissioners, acknowledge the passing of Sheriff Richard Berdnik. Sheriff Berdnik was not just a figure of law enforcement; he was a pillar of our community, a dedicated servant to the people of Passaic County, and, most importantly, a friend.

For over forty years, Richard H. Berdnik dedicated his life to public service. His journey from a police officer in Clifton to becoming the 49th Sheriff of Passaic County is a testament to his dedication to our community. He understood the complexities of law enforcement and worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between the police and the community, fostering an environment of trust and mutual respect.

As we mourn his untimely departure, our hearts go out to his wife Monica, their children and grandchildren, and the men and women serving the Passaic County Sheriff's Office. We also recognize the immense pressure and stresses faced by those in law enforcement, and encourage all who need help to seek it out.

Sheriff Berdnik's life and service have left an indelible, positive mark on Passaic County.





When your organization faces a severe cyber incident, will you be ready? The speed of your response, as well as the effectiveness of your tools and playbooks, will determine how quickly you can recover. Extend the capabilities of your team by putting the world-class **vendor-agnostic** Unit 42 Incident Response and Cyber Risk Management teams on speed dial. Unit 42 is on the approved vendor panel of more than **70 major cybersecurity insurance carriers**.

Here’s how the Unit 42 Retainer works:

You purchase a set number of credits that can then be used for Unit 42 Incident Response and/or Cyber Risk Management services.

Each retainer service request is subtracted from your total prepaid credits

Unit 42 incident response experts are available 24/7 to help you quickly investigate critical security incidents and eradicate threats, so you can recover and get back to business fast.



If you would like to have a discussion about Unit 42 or the report please contact bstagg@paloaltonetworks.com to schedule a meeting.

Boswell Engineering Appoints Frank Masella, P.E. And Peter Pannucci, Jr., P.E. As Vice Presidents

by John Cassetta, Senior Vice President for Boswell Engineering

Boswell Engineering's Chairman, Professor Antonio Bevilacqua, and President/CEO, Kevin J. Boswell, P.E. are proud to announce the promotions of Peter Pannucci, Jr., P.E. to serve as Vice President of Boswell Engineering Inspection, and Frank Masella, P.E. to serve as Vice President of Boswell Power and Energy Inspection.

Professor Bevilacqua and Kevin Boswell are confident in Pete and Frank's proven leadership capabilities - their records of success with Boswell span 26 and 32 years, respectively. The newly-promoted Vice Presidents' careers are distinguished by their keen abilities to partner with clients and successfully manage multiple construction projects. These skills will be important factors in the firm's continued growth in providing quality Construction Management/Inspection services to present and future clients in our Engineering and Power and Energy divisions.

Boswell Engineering, founded in 1924, is a fully integrated engineering firm providing design, construction management, and project management services associated with roadways and bridges, water/wastewater treatment facilities, sanitary and storm sewer systems, utility, power and energy projects, and marine/underwater engineering and inspection. Engineering News-Record (ENR) recently ranked Boswell Engineering nationally among its Top Design and Construction Management Firms and regionally among its Top Design firms in the New York/New Jersey Region.

Boswell Engineering is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Italconsult USA, a company with the international reach of Italconsult S.p.A. - a global design, engineering, project management, and architectural consultant currently ranked 67th among ENR's Top 225 International Design Firms. Boswell now has greater opportunities to expand its services and client base in the U.S. and worldwide within Italconsult's multi-national structure.



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**

Embracing AI For Your Local Government's Future With AWS, Palo Alto Networks, And Cohesity

Thursday, February 22, 2024
10:00am - 2:00pm

American Hotel
Lenox Room
18-20 East Main Street
Freehold, NJ 07728
Lunch will be available!

Mark your calendars! Embark on a journey with AWS, Palo Alto Networks, and Cohesity as they showcase their seamless integration with AWS Security services. Discover how they bolster cybersecurity solutions and empower your agency to embrace the future of artificial intelligence (AI).

Streamline your procurement process through the [AWS Marketplace](#) via New Jersey National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) M4002 contract, available through Carahsoft. Don't miss the opportunity to elevate your local government's capabilities with cutting-edge services and solutions.

Agenda and Registration Link Below or contact Amanda Bradley AWS Account Manager at amspen@amazon.com.

<https://carahevents.carahsoft.com/Event/Details/433501-aws>



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

UZURV

The Adaptive Transportation Network Company, works with agencies, and partners across the country to provide equitable, safe, and high-performing ADA paratransit service. UZURV drivers are fully FTA-compliant, including drug and alcohol tested, and provide door-to-door service.

For additional information regarding UZURV please contact John Duncan, Executive Vice President at sales@uzurv.com.



Happy New Year!

In March of last year, NJ Clean Communities Council (NJCCC) and the Association of NJ Recyclers (ANJR) collaborated to host the very 1st NJ Sustainability in Motion Conference at Caesars in Atlantic City. The conference exceeded all expectations and provided a huge **Sustainability** platform for business, municipal and government leaders to promote and share their ideas, initiatives, and commitment to sustainability.

The 2023 Conference was a resounding success and we sold out with 5-weeks to go:

- * 360+ attendees
- * 255 general attendees
- * 47 exhibitors (several taking double booths)
- * 35 speakers/moderators. Including the Mayor of Atlantic City - NJ DEP
- * 17 sponsors
- * Post Survey comments included the importance of Networking opportunities and Education. 90% of those surveyed noted that that would be very likely/likely to attend the 2024 Conference.
- * Many of our '23 Exhibitors have already registered for '24

The Executive Committee began work in summer of '23 to make the 2024 Conference even better. Along with Caesar's staff we have re-worked the floor plan to include more exhibitors. We have re-structured the seminar/meeting sessions to include additional rooms/space.

This year, the **2024 NJ Sustainability in Motion Conference** is scheduled for March 6-8th at Caesars in Atlantic City. The annual Clean Communities Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, March 7th at 5pm.

This conference will bring together public works directors, recycling professionals, and materials managers from all around the state as well as clean communities coordinators, elected officials, consulting firms, equipment vendors, non-profit organizations, corporate representatives, and industry experts. The agenda will continue to focus on broad topics such as recycling, food waste, litter abatement, emerging recycling technologies, energy efficiency and sustainable business practices.

Some exciting new additions for 2024 include a NJDEP Roundtable Discussion, which will provide an opportunity for conference attendees to interact with NJDEP representatives from various divisions.

We are asking that you participate this year as a Sponsor, Exhibitor and/or as an attendee. There are many ways to show your support for this amazing Conference. The conference announcement, sponsorship prospectus, awards booklet and registration information can be found at:

<https://www.njsustainabilityconference.com/>

NJCCC and ANJR are eager to once again promote this first-of-its-kind conference in NJ and engage all of the stakeholders working towards a more sustainable NJ. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. Please let me know if you have any questions and if this is something you think your organization can support.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact us at info@njsustainabilityconference.com.

Save The Dates And Join Us!

by MRA International

February 4th – 6th, 2024, The Hershey Lodge at Hershey Pennsylvania

- Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo & Conference (PETE & C)
- Visit us at [booth #420](#) to learn about the latest technology products we can offer to the vast audience of teachers, administrators, technology directors, school board members, and more!

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.

For more information, please contact the MRA Sales Team:

Email: sales@mrainternational.com

Phone: (732) 222-0997



NJ Public Sector—Thomas Edison State University Educational Benefit Webinar

Study with the Leader in Online Education!

THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY

This LIVE EVENT will be held Wednesday, February 7, 2024
1:00pm-2:00 pm

The NJ Public Sector Employee Education Benefit is Ready for You!

[Register NOW](#) for this Informative Meeting

Come with your questions – we will have a live Q&A!

Can't make the webinar? Please visit the NJ Public Sector Program [landing page](#) and feel free to [schedule an appointment](#) to get more information and have your questions answered.





Downside protection with an opportunity for growth



Now more than ever, people want protection from volatility. Nationwide Indexed Principal Protection® (NW-IPP) is a long-term savings option that protects principal. That means no matter what the market does, the account is protected **and** it retains the opportunity for upside potential.

Common retirement savings options



Potential benefits of NW-IPP

Principal protection

- Principal investment protection from market declines can help provide confidence through unstable market conditions

Growth potential

- Any gains are locked in and become part of the principal at the end of the one-year Index Term*

Balanced approach

- NW-IPP is a group fixed indexed annuity, so as part of a wide range of investment options, it may offer a balance between protection and growth

Flexibility of choice

- Two contribution options: payroll deductions or a lump-sum dollar amount exchanged from another investment option in the plan (no minimum required)
- Money can be exchanged out of this investment option at any time without penalties (restrictions may apply)



Find out more by visiting our [website](#). Contact your Nationwide Representative to learn more or to discuss adding this solution to your Plan.

2024 NACo Legislative Conference

February 10-13, 2024

Washington D.C.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference brings together nearly 2,000 elected and appointed county officials to focus on federal policy issues that impact counties and our residents.

Attendees have the opportunity to engage in second-to-none policy sessions, meet the members of the 118th Congress and interact with federal agency officials.

This is a one-of-a-kind advocacy opportunity to strengthen our intergovernmental partnerships for years to come.

Access our registration portal [here](#) to register for the conference.

For questions or assistance with registration contact us via email or phone at 202.942.4292 or nacomeetings@naco.org and indicate "Leg Conference 2024" in the subject line.

Webinar



NACo Cyberattack Simulation: Medical Ransomware

February 26 - March 1, 2024 1:00 p.m. –2:00 p.m. EST

Presented by the NACo County Tech Xchange and Professional Development Academy

The advent of technology in the healthcare sector has revolutionized patient care, but it has also brought forth unprecedented challenges, notably the growing threat of medical ransomware attacks. These malicious incursions not only disrupt healthcare services but also jeopardize patient data security and compromise the integrity of medical institutions. Understanding the intricacies and potential ramifications of such attacks is critical for effective mitigation and preparedness. This cyber simulation focuses on medical ransomware, aimed at comprehensively examining its impact on healthcare systems, especially as they relate to different local government relationships, such as jails and nursing homes. The simulation involves replicating realistic scenarios of ransomware infiltrations within medical environments, considering various attack vectors. The simulation aims to facilitate a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding medical ransomware attacks and provide a platform for refining response strategies and enhancing resilience against such threats.

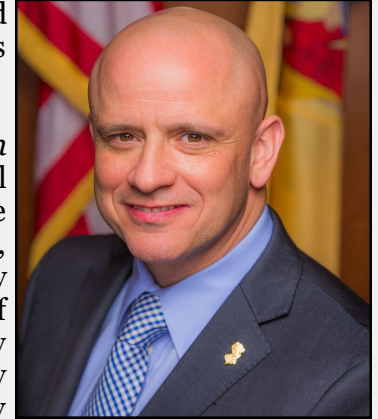
[Register](#)



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In addition to several bills signed into law during the lame-duck session as reported in the January edition of State House News, NJAC worked on the following measures to close the 2023/24 legislative session:

PRIVATIZATION CONTRACTIONS: Although **A-5430** (*Reynolds-Jackson D-15/Wimberly D-35*) was scheduled for a vote on December 18th, the General Assembly did not consider the matter, which would have effectively prohibited the use of privatization agreements by counties, municipalities, school districts, authorities, and more. Thank you to NJAC board members and county administrators who contacted their legislative delegations in opposition to the bill of which NJAC, the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), the New Jersey State League of Municipalities (NJLM), the New Jersey Business and Industry Association (NJBIA), and the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce respectively oppose. NJAC is primarily concerned with the fact that this legislation would effectively prohibit the use of privatization contracts by requiring county governments to pay new employees' wages and benefits at a rate not less than the wages and benefits paid to displaced employees. As noted below, counties enter into privatization contracts to recognize important cost savings in salary, wage, pension, and health benefit costs that comprise nearly 65% of overall operating budgets and as one of the only few available resources to manage the ever-increasing property tax burden. NJAC is also concerned that this legislation would create an overly burdensome and unnecessary level of bureaucracy by requiring the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) to review and approve privatization contracts. Moreover, elected county officials and management should retain the autonomy to enter into privatization contracts that they believe are in the best interest of local residents. As a means to deliver often mandated services in a more cost effective and creative manner, and without impacting the level of service provided, counties throughout the State have carefully chosen to privatize various services and functions that may include dietary and laundry services at county jails and juvenile detention facilities; maintenance services at county administrative, judicial, and prosecutorial facilities; home health services; risk management services; and, much more. Importantly note that several counties have considered privatizing welfare services and transportation services for the aged and disabled, but ultimately decided against it after conducting comprehensive feasibility studies. NJAC expects the Legislature to revisit the measure again in 2024.



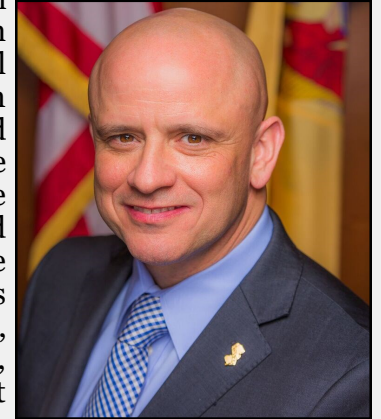
John G. Donnadio, Esq.

WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIM INCREASES: Although the Legislature was set to vote on **A-5659** (*Verrelli D-14/Mukherji D-33*) and **S-4059** (*Lagana D-38*) during voting sessions in late December, neither house considered the measure, which would increase attorney fees in workers' compensation cases from an amount not to exceed 20% of a judgement to an amount not to exceed 25%. Since county governments across the State employ over 30,000 public sector employees and will endure double digit increases in their property and casualty insurance premiums in 2024, NJAC is concerned that this legislation would unnecessarily increase workers' compensation awards by at least 25%. Additionally, the measure would also nullify the steps county governments as employers have taken to effectively manage workers' compensation claims. Additionally, NJAC is concerned this legislation would effectively eliminate a judge's discretion to carefully consider the reasonableness of both an attorney's rate of pay and the number of hours the attorney expended on a matter before making awards in workers' compensation cases. Instead, this legislation would appear to summarily grant enhanced judgements to prevailing parties without requiring a comprehensive analysis as required under current law. Moreover, the measure would not appear to serve as an incentive for attorneys to zealously represent injured workers and their families as its stated intent, since the bill would no longer hold lawyers accountable for carefully itemizing the reasonableness of their fees. NJAC expects the Legislature to introduce a variation of this bill in 2024.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *(continued)*

ARPA DEADLINES: NJAC recently corresponded with the State's congressional delegation respectfully requesting support for an initiative led by senators Cornyn and Padilla to extend the funding obligation deadline of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) from December 31, 2024 to December 31, 2025. Although our members have worked diligently to spend down SLFRF monies as required under the law and in accordance with U.S. Department of Treasury guidelines, county governments across the State are advocating for the extension, so they may more effectively invest crucial fund dollars in preparing for future public health emergencies, completing large scale infrastructure improvement projects, and complying with federal procurement rules and environmental regulations. Moreover, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, county governments are also struggling with unanticipated contractor delays, pervasive workforce and supply chain shortages, and substantial increases in the cost of goods and services. All of which have made it increasingly difficult to complete projects in a timely manner. As such, an extension to the SLFRF funding obligation deadline would afford county governments with the opportunity to utilize the resources and flexibility necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of residents as contemplated by ARPA.



John G. Donnadio, Esq.

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](#)

EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				<p>Frozen II Movie Sing-Along 4:00p.m.-4:45p.m. Public Library <i>Avalon</i> Cape May County</p>	<p>HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY! </p>	<p>Tracy Morgan 8:00p.m. MAYO PAC <i>Morristown</i> Morris County</p>
<p>Lunar Fest NJ 12:00p.m.-4:00p.m. The Woodland <i>Maplewood</i> Essex County</p>	<p>The Rock & Roll Playhouse: Bruce Springsteen for Kids 12:00p.m. 2/4 The Vogel <i>Red Bank</i> Monmouth County</p>	<p>Mardi Gras 12:00p.m.-10:00p.m. 2/10 Sunken Silo Brew Works <i>Lebanon</i> Hunterdon County</p>	<p>Hudson County Health & Wellness Expo 12:00p.m.-4:00p.m. 2/10 Newport Centre <i>Jersey City</i> Hudson County</p>		<p>AC Research Club 2:00p.m.-4:00p.m. Public Library <i>Atlantic City</i> Atlantic County</p>	<p>The Music of Neil Diamond 8:00p.m.-10:00p.m. The Landis Theatre <i>Vineland</i> Cumberland County</p>
<p>Business Education Workshop 8:00a.m.-10:00a.m. 2/9 Salem Community College <i>Carneys Point</i> Salem County</p>	<p>Romeo & Juliet 2:00p.m. 2/11 The Little Theatre <i>Hackettstown</i> Warren County</p>	<p>Moulin Rouge on Broadway featuring Boy George 5:00p.m.-10:00p.m. 2/14 Miller's Ale House <i>Paramus</i> Bergen County</p>	<p>Happy Valentine's Day! 14 FEBRUARY</p>		<p>A True Beginner Basket 10:00a.m.-3:00p.m. <u>Registration</u> Cloverdale Farm County Park <i>Barnegate</i> Ocean County</p>	<p>Annual 24 Hour Play Fest 8:00p.m.-8:00p.m. 2/16-2/17 Footlighters <i>Cinnaminson</i> Burlington County</p>
<p>Fiddler on the Roof 2:00p.m.-6:00p.m. The Ritz Theatre Company <i>Haddon Township</i> Camden County</p>	<p>HAPPY PRESIDENT'S DAY </p>	<p>Sussex County Chamber of Comm. Annual Dinner 6:00p.m.-10:00p.m. 2/21 Bear Brook Valley <i>Fredon Twshp.</i> Sussex County</p>	<p>Into The Woods 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m. The Pingry School <i>Basking Ridge</i> Somerset County</p>		<p>NJ Home & Garden Show 02/23-02/25 NJ Convention & Expo Center <i>Edison</i> Middlesex County</p>	<p>INDOOR TOPT FEBRUARY 23 & 24  2/23 @ 6:00p.m. 2/24 @ 4:00p.m. CURE Arena <i>Trenton</i> Mercer County</p>
<p>South Jersey Nerd Fest 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m. Holiday Inn <i>Swedesboro</i> Gloucester County</p>	<p>Black History Month Celebration 3:00p.m. 2/25 UnionPAC <i>Rahway.</i> Union County</p>			<p>Sondheim Tribute Revue 7:30p.m. StateWorks @ Studio 237 <i>Pompton Lakes</i> Passaic County</p>		