SPRING



Mayor's Message



Mayor Brian C. Wahler & Township Councilmembers were happy to join many residents at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC) in January for a flag raising event in recognition of India Republic Day.

Good quality roads are a top priority in Piscataway. Because of economic development, we have the funds to resurface and reconstruct many of them each year. New businesses mean our tax base expands and that puts road crews to work!

For quite some time you have seen streets improve in every neighborhood. Now, we will have the biggest road project in the history of our Township.

This year will have a major upgrade to Centennial Avenue between River Road and Knightsbridge Road. This long stretch of roadway will be reconstructed fully. With sidewalks on its north side and a multi-use path on its south side, it will also feature new asphalt, storm sewer upgrades and new curbing.

This significant project is estimated to cost a hefty \$9 million. But, it is not just our dynamic local economy that is making this project possible. An infusion of \$4 million of state funding from Governor

Phil Murphy and our local state legislators enables us to move forward.

A sizable part of our 2025 road budget will be going to this project but we understand the importance of improving this main thoroughfare.

Plans call for work to begin this spring but the timeline can be affected by NJDOT approval of our plans, how quickly utility companies will do their necessary work and having good weather.

What is important is that roads are not only in good condition but also that they are safe.

Is your child playing outside? Are you taking an evening walk? You know what the biggest problem is: speeding cars.

Helping slow down drivers is our Police Department with its Traffic Safety Division having the third consecutive year of the Piscataway Promotes Safe Streets campaign. Your neighborhood streets are likely 25 mph. We're sure though you have seen cars going faster than that. We need to stop this problem. We're doing a lot of work but this is all of our responsibility. We're asking everyone to drive slower and safer.

Have you seen our free yard signs with "Slow Down in our Town," "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here" and other slogans? We're going to have more to give out this year. We hope you will put one in your yard to encourage drivers to slow down.

Maybe you have seen the eight pole-mounted radar signs around the Township? Five more will be installed this year.

When a road is notorious for speeding, that is when we put a special detail on site. In fact,

since the program began, we have had more than 400 selective speed enforcement details with nearly 3,900 motor vehicle stops. As a result, over 4,200 summonses were issued, specifically more than 2,400 speeding tickets.

Piscataway Police also held nearly three dozen seminars and events focusing on safe teen driving. This year our Traffic Safety Division is partnering with Piscataway High School's Students Against Destructive Decisions Club for its own "Pway You Know, Drive Safe, Drive Slow" campaign.

We have had measurable success but there is still much more to be done.

As always, please call my office at (732) 562-2301 if I may ever be of assistance to you.

Memorial Day Parade



American Legion Post 261 is pleased to host the Piscataway Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26th.

Primary Election: Tuesday, June 10th

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Please check the Township Clerk's webpages at PiscatawayNJ.org for information about polling sites.

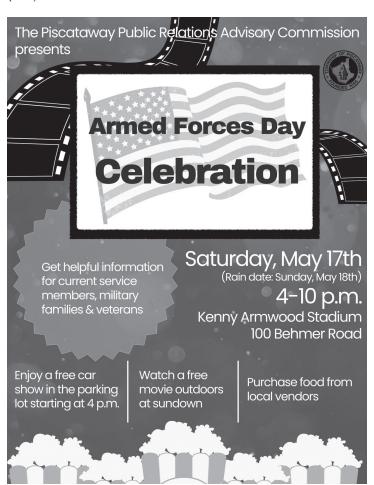
Please note that some ward and district boundaries have changed as a result of redistricting based on new Census numbers.

Voter registration deadline: Tuesday, May 20th

Deadline to apply via mail for a mail-in ballot: Monday, June 3rd

Deadline to apply in-person for a mail-in ballot: Monday, June 9th by 3 p.m. at the Middlesex County Clerk's office at 26 Kennedy Blvd., Suite B, East Brunswick.

For information or questions, call the Township Clerk's office at (732) 562-2310.



Township Calendar

April

- 9 Planning Board regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Zoning Board at 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Township Council at 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Planning Board site plan/subdivision meeting at 2:30 p.m.
- 24 Zoning Board at 7:00 p.m.
- 28 EMS Advisory Council at 6 p.m.

May

- 6 Township Council at 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Zoning Board at 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Planning Board regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Zoning Board at 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Planning Board site plan/subdivision meeting at 2:30 p.m.

June

- 5 Township Council at 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Planning Board regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Zoning Board at 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Township Council at 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Planning Board site plan/subdivision meeting at 2:30 p.m.
- 26 Zoning Board at 7:00 p.m.







Check it out at

www.piscatawaynj.org

Piscataway Senior Center (732) 562-1133

Keeping Your Mind Sharp - Middlesex County Office of Health Services presentation on Tuesday, April 22nd at 10:00 a.m.

Senior Medicare Patrol presentation on Wednesday, April 23rd at 10:00 a.m. This workshop focuses on teaching seniors strategies and techniques to protect their Medicare & Medicaid accounts from fraud, waste, errors and abuse and the consequences to themselves and society of the current scams targeting seniors.

Jay Daniels performances:

- Jersey Boys and Jersey Girls Wednesday, May 7th at 12:30 p.m.
- Come Fly With Me Wednesday, June 4th at 12:30 p.m.
- Road Trip Across America Wednesday, July 16th at 12:30 p.m.

Middlesex County 90+ birthday celebrations in May – We celebrate our eldest and wisest residents in Middlesex County during Older Americans Month in May with the 90+ Birthday Celebration & Luncheon! This joyful, free event is open to all Middlesex County residents who are 90 years of age or older. We invite you to help spread the word to any eligible seniors or their caregivers. More details will be shared soon so keep an eye out for updates!

Piscataway Historical & Heritage Society (PH&HS) presentation on Thursday, June 5th at 10:00 a.m. Join PH&HS for coffee & bagels as you learn about this dynamic organization dedicated to preserving Piscataway's rich history while connecting our community. From the stories of our past to the possibilities of our future, we are here to celebrate and protect the legacy of Piscataway!

Defensive driving classes – You must attend both AARP Smart Drivers classes held at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC) on Tuesday, June 17th and Thursday, June 19th from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Please call the Senior Center at (732) 562-1133 to register in advance or use the QR code. You must have a driver's license. Cost is \$20.00 for AARP members and \$25.00 for non-AARP members.

East Jersey Old Town Village

1050 River Road, Piscataway

Opening Weekend – Saturday, April 5th & Sunday, April 6th from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

While the Village is open year-round, Opening Weekend features the start of the historical interpreter season (April-October). Opening Weekend features an occupation of the Village by British, Hessian and Loyalist military and civilian historical reenactors. Enjoy historical weapons demonstrations, 18th century music, children's crafts, food trucks and more.

Union Muster – Saturday, April 26th & Sunday, April 27th from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Experience the sights and sounds of the Civil War era at East Jersey Old Town Village! No battles took place in New Jersey during the Civil War but over 80,000 soldiers from the Garden State took part in the conflict and over 6,000 lost their lives in the war. Meet the Union soldiers and civilians who fought for freedom and helped preserve a nation. Witness historical weapons demonstrations, listen to 19th century music and enjoy children's crafts, food trucks and more.



History Day – Saturday, May 17th from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Join us as we kick off Middlesex County's 250th Anniversary of American Independence, a multiyear series of programs and events marking the journey to a new nation. Learn about

the history in your backyard from local, state and national historical organizations. Visit Revolutionary War and Civil War camps. Take a free shuttle to see exhibitions at some of our county's historic sites including the Cornelius Low House and the Metlar-Bodine House. Bring a blanket or a chair and enjoy live music, participate in hands-on activities and watch skilled artisans at work. With wagon rides, children's crafts, food trucks and more, there is something for everyone!

Geocaching Block Party – Saturday, June 21st from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Geocaching is the original, reality-based treasure hunt using the global positioning system (GPS). If you have a smartphone, you can geocache. Enjoy food trucks and everything else the Village has to offer including historical exhibits and living history interpreters.

Department of Public Works - 505 Sidney Road - (732) 562-2390

Recycling Center & Mini Dump hours through December 31, 2025 Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-8 p.m. (Gates close at 7:45 p.m.) Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Gates close at 4:15 p.m.) Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays & holidays

Closed holidays include Election Day (Tuesday, November 4th), Veterans Day (Tuesday, November 11th), Thanksgiving (Thursday, November 27th) & Christmas Day (Thursday, December 25th)

Make sure you have your Piscataway Service Card for all services provided by the Department of Public Works. Only checks and credit/debit cards may be used to add funds to your Service Card for grass credits or additional leaf bags. No cash is accepted.

Credits are required for grass disposal, may be purchased in the Public Works Office starting Wednesday, March 5th and are good for the current year only. Cost: \$1 per credit; minimum purchase is two credits. Credits will be placed on the service card account when purchased.

The grass credits do not include a bag. The bag up to 30 gallons is to be supplied by the resident. The Recycling Center will accept bagged grass with credits starting Tuesday, April 1st.

Credits are also required for lumber, household debris, carpeting, furniture and all other non-recyclable materials that are acceptable as trash for disposal at the recycling yard. Not permitted are kitchen garbage, hazardous or toxic waste, chemicals, paints, contractor debris, dirt, concrete or any other type of rock debris.

Every year credits will be placed into the account for four trash visits and two curbside pickups. A passenger vehicle requires one credit and a pickup truck or full size van requires two credits. Residents must provide a service card for recyclable materials such as batteries, tires (maximum two per trip), motor oil, branches, leaves, metal, various plastics and glass, cardboard and paper. A list of recyclable materials is available on the Township website.

Brush may be brought to the Mini Dump but may not be longer than five (5) feet in length or greater than four (4) inches in diameter. Recycling and brush trips are unlimited but residents must have their service card for each visit.

Electronic devices covered by the NJ Electronic Waste Management Act includes televisions, desktop & personal computers, monitors, printers and fax machines. They may be brought to the Recycling Center during hours of operation. Electronics will not be picked up curbside.

Hazardous materials – Residents are encouraged to recycle hazardous household materials and paint at Middlesex County's designated locations at announced dates & times. Piscataway Township does not accept any hazardous waste, toxic waste materials, chemicals or paints at its Recycling Center & Mini Dump. Please access the Middlesex County Improvement Authority website for recycling information using this QR code.

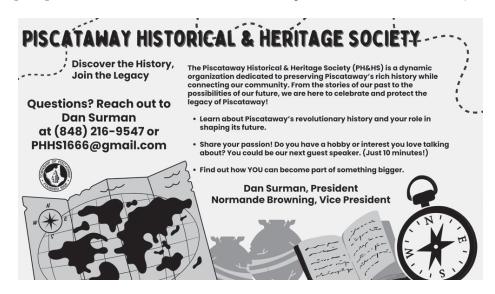


Bulk pick-ups – Residents may schedule two (2) bulk trash curbside pickups and one (1) brush curbside pickup per calendar year by calling (732) 562-2390 for an appointment. Residents must have their service card before calling. The last appointments can be scheduled in mid-September and the final curbside pickups end in the second week of October. During the summer months there may

be a six to eight weeks wait so please schedule as early as you can. Branches must be bundled and tied. No bagged brush is allowed.

Arriving – All residents entering the Mini Dump must have their vehicles properly insured, inspected and registered. Open-toed shoes and flip flops are not allowed to be worn. Children are not permitted to leave their vehicle and roam the recycling yard. No trucks larger than half-ton pickups and no trucks with sideboards are allowed. Pickup trucks and full size vans are required to provide two (2) credits per visit.

Parking is available in the visitor lot facing Sidney Road. Please enter through the building's main entrance.



Metlar-Bodine House Museum

1281 River Road, Piscataway – 732-463-8363 • metlarbodine@gmail.com Website: MetlarBodineHouseMuseum.org • Facebook: www.Facebook.com/MetlarBodineHouseMuseum

A Salute to Metlar-Bodine's House Museum's 2025 Interns!

The volunteer team at the Metlar-Bodine House Museum includes college students who contribute their time and talents while learning and pursuing career interests. The Museum continues this tradition in 2025 with three outstanding students: David Hart, Hayley Logan and Grace Vignuolo. The archival work of these students involves research, cataloging and preservation while also participating in other aspects of museum activities such as tours, oral histories and exhibits.

David Hart, a Rutgers University senior majoring in history with a minor in English, began volunteering in Fall 2024 and now is working as part of the RU Public History Program Internship.

Hayley Logan joins us for required field experience as part of the Simmons University graduate School of Library & Information Science Archives Management certificate program. Hayley graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst as a history major with education and classical civilization minors and spent a summer with the Oxford University History and Art History Program.

Grace Vignuolo, a Rutgers graduate with a major in art history and minor in classical civilization, began working with the Museum in Summer 2024 and is enrolled in the RU graduate program in the School of Library and Information Science with a concentration in archives and preservation.

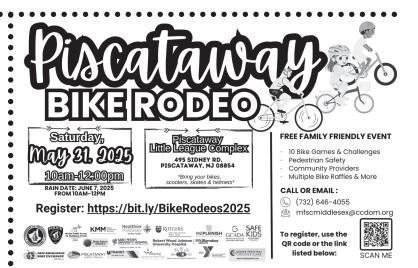
Many thanks to these three wonderful interns!

Shredding schedule

The Clean Communities & Recycling Programs of Piscataway Township present the "Shred It & Forget It" free mobile community shredding program at the Little League parking lot, 495 Sidney Road, for Piscataway residents only. Personal paper documents only; no trash and no other recyclables.

Saturday, May 3rd
 Saturday, June 21st
 Saturday, September 13th
 Saturday, November 15th

Each shredding event happens rain or shine, starts at 8 a.m. and ends at Noon or until the truck is full. Proof of residency required. For more information, please visit the Township website.



Looking to Display Your Art?

Each month a different artist's work is displayed at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC) as the Piscataway Cultural Arts Commission's Artist of the Month. Artwork may be any medium as long as it adheres to weight, fragility and family friendly guidelines. You will need about twenty pieces and we need to see some of your work in person or via a website. For more information, please call Exhibit Coordinator Barbara Bridgers at (732) 752-2465 or Commission Chair Kitty Juttner (908) 230-2862.

Can You Sing the Star Spangled Banner?

We are looking for a few good voices to sing our national anthem at the Concert in the Park series that takes place on certain Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in the summer. If you can sing acapella, we invite you to audition for us. Date and time will be determined. Auditions are open to adults as well as high school juniors and seniors.





pplfriends.org or call the Library for full details.

Library Notes

Kennedy Library | 500 Hoes Lane Westergard Library | 20 Murray Avenue



The Friends of Piscataway Public Library will host its **Book Sale** from Wednesday, April 2nd through Sunday, April 6th. Visit

Hear from **Kaia Alderson**, a successful author of Piscataway, who will be discussing her work writing, researching and publishing historical fiction with another local author, Monica-Chenault Kilgore of Middlesex Borough, on Saturday, April 5th at 1 p.m.

Enjoy art and performances by your friends and neighbors at **Community Arts Day** on Saturday, May 3rd from 1-4 p.m. at Kennedy Library.

Preschool Night at the Library will take place on Wednesday, May 7th at 5 p.m. at Kennedy Library. Preschool-aged children and their families are invited to join us for a fun evening presented in cooperation with Children's Corner Preschool.

Check out the Food for Thought program series and community exhibit. Full details at piscatawaylibrary.org/food.

Join us in June for **Summer Reading** with activities available for all ages.

Use tutor.com for homework help, resume proofreading & interview practice, test prep and more. See what's available by visiting PiscatawayLibrary.org/Tutor.

Check out **museum passes** at Kennedy Library. With attractions from New York to Philadelphia and as close as Edison, there's an option for you! Special thanks to the Friends of Piscataway Public Library for its support of our museum passes.

Full event details and registration are available on the Library's online calendar at PiscatawayLibrary.org or by calling (732) 463-1633, Ext. 4126. Registration is required for most events. Email Library@PiscatawayLibrary.org with any questions.

Recreation

(732) 562-2382 • Recreation@PiscatawayNJ.org
All Township Recreation youth programs are free and for Piscataway
youth only.

Pop Warner football & cheerleading – Mandatory in-person registration starts in May for the fall season (dates to be determined).

Picnics – Reservations for Possumtown and Riverside parks pavilions may be made by calling the Recreation Department at (732) 562-2382 for picnics held by Piscataway residents, businesses and organizations. Weekend picnics are subject to availability. Proof of residency is required. \$250 park fee; \$150 optional alcohol permit. Check or money order only; cash will not be accepted.

Columbus Park tennis courts – Lights will be turned on beginning in April from dusk until 9:30 p.m.

Youth tennis lessons – Online registration for youth tennis lessons will open on Tuesday, April 1st.

Adult Pickleball lessons – Online registration will open on Tuesday, April 1st and the cost is \$40 per person. Registration is limited.

Over 35 Softball - Open to teams comprised of Middlesex County residents ages 35 & older. Please email Recreation@PiscatawayNJ.org if you are interested in entering a team.

Tree ordinance

Trees are a vital part of our quality of life.

For clean air, shade from the heat and their simple beauty, we need to make sure that all of our neighborhoods maintain healthy trees.

And the trees you have on your property benefit us all.

That is why Piscataway is taking another step forward in protecting our greenery – because that is protecting our community.

And residents with good trees make good neighbors.

As you maintain your home surroundings, if you want to cut down more than three trees on your private property, the Township will need to approve it first.

If you are thinking about a major renovation, please be sure to fill out an application.

We want you to be happy in your home and we also want all homeowners to be happy in their neighborhoods.

We appreciate everyone's understanding, and as our community grows, so will our trees.

What do we need to do to have a chance to survive global climate change?

by Senator Bob Smith

According to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2024 was the warmest year on record replacing the previous record holder, 2023. July 22, 2024 was the hottest day ever recorded on Earth. Global sea level has risen by more than seven inches since the early 20th century. In New Jersey, the average annual temperature has risen by four degrees Fahrenheit since 1900. Forest fires around our planet have increased in frequency and intensity. Witness California.

In the summer of 2023, we had three weeks in New Jersey in which we were breathing smoky air from Canada that sent hundreds of New Jersey residents to their local hospitals. In 2023, 47,000 citizens of the European Union died from heat-related illnesses! Currently, Central Europe is flooded and California continues to burn down. If you need any financial proof of the impact of global climate change, take a look at renewal premiums for homeowners' insurance, auto insurance, et cetera.

In 2021, Hurricane Ida killed 32 of our friends and neighbors by dropping nine inches of rain, two to three inches per hour, in places in New Jersey that have never experienced that magnitude of rainfall. Flooding issues are only getting bigger in New Jersey. In 2019, I sponsored the "Clean Stormwater and Flood Reduction Act" which permits counties and municipalities to establish stormwater utilities. The rest of the United States has over 1,800 stormwater utilities. As of June 2024, New Jersey has one in the City of New Brunswick. Your local municipality should create a stormwater utility to provide funding for flood protection.

Global climate change impacts are going to be very expensive. We need to start saving funds for catastrophic relief. Not only will infrastructure be destroyed but essential services like schools, firehouses, police stations and water and sewage treatment plants will be devastated by flooding and fires. We need to be able to provide help to repair or replace essential services by putting aside funding now for these inevitable repairs.

We are in big trouble. What can we do to have a chance to survive? In New Jersey we need to reduce our carbon and methane footprints drastically through electrification and decarbonization. To do that, we need clean and renewable sources of electricity and we need an electric grid that works. Our current electric grid's lack of capacity is stifling New Jersey's clean energy transition because new renewable sources are unable to come online. Is the grid fixable? Yes. To get it to where it needs to be we must reconductor the grid with replacement wires with much greater electrical capacity. Once we have an electric grid that can handle clean and renewable energy sources, step two is to transition out of fossil fuel-derived electricity. I have proposed an amendment to the New Jersey constitution that would stop new fossil fuel plants from replacing those at the end of their useful life.

Electricity generation from these plants would need to be replaced at the end of their useful life by clean and renewable electricity generation. This would provide for a manageable transition to clean power over the next twenty years. But, we need to find a way to do this without a massive ratepayer impact.

We can take legislative actions to accomplish this goal: direct existing societal benefits charges towards this purpose, ask new facilities to participate in grid reconductoring and modernization efforts or implement a renewable energy bond issue. These are all tangible and practical solutions.

Another source of infrastructure funding is legislation setting up a "Climate Superfund" wherein those fossil fuel companies that have known for decades of the dangers of their products become part of the solution to these impacts. Under this legislation they would be liable for the damages that they knowingly created. And it can be done in such a way as to not increase gasoline prices.

In 2025, New Jersey needs new energy sources in order to keep electric bills down and to keep jobs and money in-state. Offshore wind is a key factor in New Jersey's clean energy transition but has been taking untruthful hits. Offshore wind does not kill whales. Numerous scientific studies have confirmed that the danger to whales is the lack of a speed limit for significant-sized boats off our shores and changing sea currents due to global climate change.

Offshore wind energy is a major renewable source of electricity that we can't harness soon enough. We may also need to reconsider nuclear power from small modular nuclear reactors built on the sites of existing nuclear plants. Encouraging non-carbon-based energy is urgently needed.

One of the largest sources of greenhouse gases is our buildings. We need to adopt new building codes to require <u>new</u> construction to be as least impactful as possible and we need to incentivize existing structures to renovate.

We have millions of square feet of warehouse roofs. Any new warehouses are required by law to pre-wire 40 percent of their roofs for solar and to install EV chargers. New Jersey could become a powerhouse for solar energy if we fully utilize the rooftops in our state for renewable electric power generation. Imagine the potential for electrifying truck fleets which could be charged by this abundant and sustainable energy, dramatically reducing costs and emissions. Also, dual-use farming should be in our future where farmers continue to do traditional farming but also harvest renewable electricity from solar arrays on their land. Rutgers University is about to provide "best practices" for this revolutionary farming.

None of these efforts are cheap or easy to do. But they can be done if we mobilize now and spread costs equitably. Our grandchildren deserve no less.

YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC)

Swim lessons registration dates

- Spring 2 session Wednesday, April 9th for YPCC members and Wednesday, April 16th for YPCC non-members
- Summer session Wednesday, June 11th for YPCC members and Wednesday, June 18th for YPCC non-members

Healthy Kids Day 2025 on Saturday, April 26th

29th Annual Janice Garbolino Memorial YMCA 5K at Roosevelt Park in Edison on Sunday, April 27th. Start time is 8:30 a.m. To register and for more details, please use the QR code.



Raritan Rapids – Our 2025 season tentatively begins on Memorial Day weekend with its special hours on Saturday, May 24th & Sunday, May 25th from Noon-6 p.m. and Monday, May 26th from Noon-4 p.m. Entry is included in YPCC memberships while non-members and guests of members are welcome with an entry fee. Raritan Rapids will be open on following weekends and then daily for the summer on Monday, June 23rd. Please check the YPCC website for more details including its open days & times.

Swim 1922 Olympian Event - Fun and safe informative workshops on water safety for kids, teens and adults on Saturday, June 21st from 1-4 p.m.

Blood drives -

Scan the QR codes to sign up. Give blood and save a life!



Monday, May 5th, Noon-6 p.m.



Monday, July 7th, Noon-6 p.m.

Fantastic job
Piscataway! Over the
past four years, more
than 1,000 pints of
blood have been
collected by New
Jersey Blood Services
at YPCC.



Councilmember Michele Lombardi's

2025 Community Clean Up Day!



9:00 a.m.
Riverside Park
430 River Rd





For more information, please reach out to Jennifer Johnson at jjohnson@piscatawaynj.org or (732) 562-2322

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Piscataway News

Mayor's Office 455 Hoes Lane Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

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