



Mayor's Message



Purple Heart recipient Herman Jackson received a boutonniere from the Piscataway African American Seniors Club as veterans were recognized at its Black History Month celebration luncheon in February at the Piscataway Senior Center.

The wisest investment strategy over the past several years has been owning a home in Piscataway. Between 2017 and 2023, the average assessed home value increased by 38.36 percent.

As much as we all celebrate the success of a prosperous community, we also have to make sure that living in Piscataway remains affordable. That is why for the seventh year in a row we passed an annual budget that lowers the municipal tax rate.

Remember, residential property taxes are determined by the value of your home multiplied by the tax rates set by the municipal government, school district, Middlesex County, fire

districts and Library. While the Township collects property taxes on behalf of every entity, usually only just over a quarter of your total property taxes go to the municipal government.

Nevertheless, the Township is doing its part by again lowering the municipal tax rate to offset much of the significant increase in the value of residential homes. We are keeping our financial house in order while providing top quality municipal services to all residents.

In 2018, we lowered the municipal tax rate by 12.8 percent from the 2017 rate. In 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, it was lowered slightly each year. It was lowered by 8.11 percent

last year and now it has been lowered another 7.39 percent for 2024.

Piscataway also maintains stellar bond ratings, specifically, AA+ stable from Standard & Poor's and its equivalent, Aa1(stable) from Moody's which are both their second highest ratings possible. According to Moody's, "The stable outlook reflects the township's strong and stable reserve position and growing local economy."

Keeping our budget sound from year to year is also due to our great economic development. Not only are families investing in Piscataway but so are new businesses. With logistics centers providing a notable portion of tax revenue, we

are able to resurface and reconstruct many roads, provide free recreation programs for youth and put on many great events throughout the year.

Not only are these companies providing good paying jobs to hard working residents but their boost to Township finances enables us to now put solar panels on roofs and/or parking lot canopies at seven more municipal sites and build 28 additional charging stations for electric vehicles.

Our strong finances and wise budget choices are the foundation for a bright future for everyone. As always, please call my office at (732) 562-2301 if I may ever be of assistance to you.

#First4th

Independence Day Fireworks Show

Piscataway High School football field
Thursday, July 4th
6 p.m. - Food trucks, DJ, rides & activities
9 p.m. - Fireworks start

Rain date: Friday, July 5th. Call the Rec Dept hotline at (732) 562-2389 for info.

Weekly e-mail newsletter

Want to keep up to date on what is happening in Piscataway? Sign up for our weekly e-mail newsletter using this QR code:



Follow us on:

Facebook: [piscataway.township](https://www.facebook.com/piscataway.township)

Twitter: [@PWAYNJ](https://twitter.com/PWAYNJ)

Instagram: [@piscataway_township](https://www.instagram.com/piscataway_township)



Township Calendar

July

- 10 – Planning Board regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 11 – Zoning Board at 7:30 p.m.
- 23 – Township Council at 7:30 p.m.
- 24 – Planning Board site plan/subdivision meeting at 2:30 p.m.
- 29 – EMS Advisory Council at 6 p.m.

August

- 13 – Township Council at 7:30 p.m.
- 14 – Planning Board regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 15 – Zoning Board at 7:30 p.m.
- 28 – Planning Board site plan/subdivision meeting at 2:30 p.m.

September

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

The Piscataway Township Police Department presents

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
★ 2024 ★

POLICE - COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Tuesday, August 6th
5-9 p.m.
Stockton Street
behind the YPCC

POLICE
TOWNSHIP OF PISCATAWAY
FOUNDED 1856
NJ

Your Elected Officials

Brian C. Wahler
Mayor
916 East Lincoln Avenue
(H) 732-699-9225

Gabrielle Cahill
(At Large)
1003 River Road
(H) 732-235-1920

Kapil K. Shah
(At Large)
423 Netherwood Avenue
(H) 732-463-3659

Linwood D. Rouse
(At Large)
149 Fisher Avenue
(H) 732-463-9349

Frank Uhrin
(Ward 1)
32 Desna Street
(H) 732-968-6088

Dennis Espinosa
(Ward 2)
1 High Point Way
(H) 732-354-4290

Sharon Carmichael
(Ward 3)
15 Zirkel Avenue
(C) 848-262-1742

Michele Lombardi
(Ward 4)
76 Carlton Avenue
(H) 732-968-2460

YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC)



Have some spray park fun by coming to Raritan Rapids at the YPCC! Use the QR code to check its calendar for its open days & times in June before it opens daily starting on Monday, June 24th.



Registration for swim lessons, martial arts and other programs:

Members: Starts Wednesday, August 14th at 9 a.m.

Non-members: Starts Wednesday, August 21st

For annual maintenance, the YPCC pools will be closed from Tuesday, September 3rd to Monday, September 9th and will reopen on Tuesday, September 10th.

Blood drives on Monday, July 1st and Tuesday, September 3rd from Noon-6 p.m. Scan the QR codes to sign up. Give blood and save a life!



Monday, July 1st



Tuesday, September 3rd

Metlar-Bodine House Museum

1281 River Road, Piscataway – 732-463-8363 • metlarbodine@gmail.com

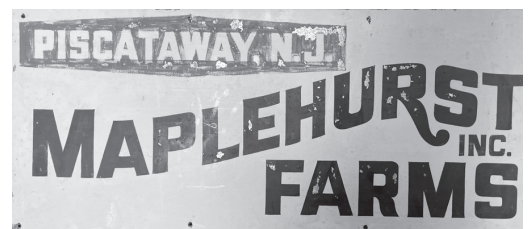
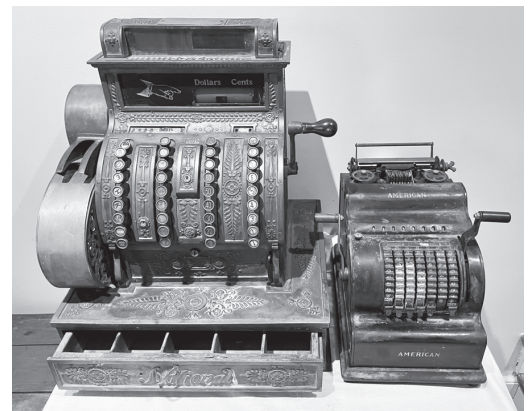
Website: MetlarBodineHouseMuseum.org • Facebook: www.Facebook.com/MetlarBodineHouseMuseum

Museum staff is pleased to announce that several new artifacts have been donated recently to our collection by Marian Hanko, John Solowinski and Herb Sudzin. These artifacts date from the early- to mid-20th century and can be viewed as part of the museum tour.

One-hour guided tours are available on Thursdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. with the last tour starting at 3 p.m. Some Saturday tours are available and we are closed on federal holidays. Our schedule is subject to change so please check our website's box calendar (under Programs/Events) or call. During your visit, be sure to take the self-guided tour of an outdoor architectural exhibit.

Group tours must register in advance and are limited to ten people. Admission is \$5 for adults and children ages five and older.

Please park in the upper parking area. Limited disabled parking is available but a reservation is required so please call us.



Recreation

(732) 562-2382 • Recreation@PiscatawayNJ.org

All Township Recreation youth programs are free.

Adult Pickleball & Youth Tennis lessons – Registrations are scheduled to open in late June/early July. Please continue to check the Township Recreation webpages for updates.

Field Permits - Please contact the Recreation Department to request an application for field or park permits.

Picnic Reservations - Possumtown and Riverside parks pavilions are available to rent by Piscataway residents as well as Township-based businesses and non-profit community organizations through Friday, September 13th. Although all weekends are fully booked, residents may call the office for weekday availability. Proof of residency is required; complete the application and provide payment of \$250 for the pavilion rental and an optional \$150 alcohol permit. No cash payment is accepted; check or money order only and should be made payable to Piscataway Township. Reservations will be taken based on availability until Monday, August 5th.

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The Piscataway Cultural Arts Commission is pleased to present

Concert in the Park
2024 Season

Thursday nights at 7 p.m.
July 11th-August 22nd
Columbus Park extension gazebo

Verdict Reggae Soca Band (July 11th) – “The Verdict Is In” and back in Piscataway bringing you music with a Caribbean flavor. They have played in venues as varied as the Stone Pony to the Super Bowl managers meeting in Miami and even at Carnival in Trinidad so be sure to join us for music with the spirit of Carnival!

Valarie Adams & the Dimension Band (July 18th) – Valarie and the band will surely get you up and out of your chairs as they perform Motown, soul, funk and rock tunes in their energetic style.

Carnaby Street (July 25th) – Carnaby Street takes you back to the British Invasion era with an enthusiastic energetic performance of the best from that era.

Desire Sings (August 1st) – Get ready to be transported back to the doo wop era with Desire. Baby Boomers, this one’s for you... and everyone else.

The vooDUDES (August 8th) – The vooDUDES bring their Gulf Coast music with a Mardi Gras type celebration of Zydeco, classic R&B and music from New Orleans. Be sure to join the fun!

Tequila Rose (August 15th) – For the very best of new and classic country tunes, Tequila Rose is Piscataway’s favorite country band. They will have you dancing and singing along so be sure to bring those country dancing boots!

Kolor Blynd Band (August 22nd) – Piscataway’s own! Kolor Blynd Bland, an eclectic band playing R&B, Pop, Soul, Jazz, Broadway and more will play your favorite tunes from the ‘70s through the 2000s. Dance tunes from Earth, Wind & Fire, Maroon 5 and even The Jackson 5 will have you dancing too. Listen to tunes from Bruno Mars, Prince, Tina Turner, Cheryl Lynn and more. Join us for a rocking good time!

Sponsored by **optimum.**

Can you sing 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. If you can sing it acapella, we invite you to audition for us. Date and time will be determined.

Looking to Display Your Art?

Each month a different artist’s work is displayed at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC). 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 in advance. For more information, please call Exhibit Coordinator Barbara Bridgers at (732) 752-2465 or Commission Chair Kitty Juttner at (732) 563-4117.



Library Notes

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



www.piscatawaylibrary.org

We all have a story about how we came to Piscataway so share yours! Be part of an upcoming exhibit on view at Kennedy Library in September & October. Contact WOTM@PiscatawayLibrary.org for full details. Stories are due by Monday, July 15th.

Don't miss **summer reading fun** at Piscataway Public Library! Events and prizes are available for all ages starting in June. Stop by Kennedy or Westergard libraries for full details.

Tutor.com is a new tool for students and adults whether you're studying, looking for a new job or thinking about grad school. From **homework help to test and interview prep**, 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.

Piscataway Senior Center (732) 562-1133



Monday, July 8th at 1:00 p.m. – History on Hoof presents “Fife and Drum Music of the American Revolution.” Experienced drum and fifers Stacy Roth and Marcia Ann Kasper will entertain you to the soundtrack of George Washington’s Continental Army.

Tuesday, July 9th at 1:00 p.m. – Jay Daniels presents a musical concert “Road Trip Across America,” a selection of songs to honor America’s 4th of July celebration.

Wednesday, July 10th at 10:00 a.m. – NJ Senior Medicare Patrol’s Joel Schneider will present timely and innovative Medicare topics for which all seniors should be aware such as Medicare fraud updates, advances in technology and open enrollment.

Monday, July 22nd at 12:30 p.m. – With grant funding from Middlesex County, the University of the Philippines Alumni & Friends Rondalla will have a string ensemble concert of traditional and contemporary songs and dances from various countries, Broadway themes and light classical music.

Monday, September 23rd at 1:00 p.m. – Jay Daniels presents a musical concert “1964: The Best of Stage and Screen.” The year 1964 saw an upheaval of many cherished musical traditions, and even among the many new sounds and new rhythms, many of the musical traditions of years past found their way into the music of stage and screen. There was even a film adaptation of the star-studded Broadway musical “My Fair Lady.” Jay takes a look at some of these popular works from musicals like “Fiddler on the Roof,” “Funny Girl,” and “Hello, Dolly!” as well as such films as “Mary Poppins” and “The Umbrellas of Cherbourg.”

Passport days – All ages are welcome. Make your appointment as soon as possible by calling the Senior Center at (732) 562-1133 because time slots fill up quickly. Applications and fee schedule are available at the Senior Center front desk. Photos are taken on site for \$15.00. To pay passport and postal fees, please bring two separate blank checks. No cash or credit cards will be accepted.

- Wednesday, July 10th, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, August 14th, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 18th, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

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

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Recycling/Mini-Dump Center's summertime days & hours

Tuesdays – 2 p.m.-8 p.m. (Gates close at 7:45 p.m.)

Thursdays – 2 p.m.-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

Closed holidays include Independence Day (Thursday, July 4th), Election Day (Tuesday, November 5th), Thanksgiving (Thursday, November 28th), Christmas Eve (Tuesday, December 24th) and New Year's Eve (Tuesday, December 31st)

When you arrive, your Piscataway Service Card acts as your ID and must be presented at the gate as proof of residency.

Residents entering the Center must have their vehicles properly insured, inspected and registered. The largest vehicle allowed is a half-ton pick-up truck. No contractors, commercial vehicles, trucks with side boards, boxed U-Hauls or moving trucks are permitted.

Need to dispose of leaves? Grass? Other bagged brush or vegetation? Use your service card to electronically enter the number of bags that you wish to purchase. Grass may be disposed at the recycling yard for a charge of \$1 per 30-gallon bag with bags provided by the resident. A minimum of two \$1 purchases must be made each transaction. Only checks or credit/debit cards are accepted for any purchases made through the DPW office. Checks should be made out to "Township of Piscataway." Please note that grass coupon credits are valid only in the year that they are purchased.

Public Works will not pick up leaf bags until the Fall. Residents who leave leaf bags at the curb after receiving a notice to abate may be subject to a fine. However, residents may bring them to the Center during its summertime hours. Unbagged vegetation such as branches brought to the Center will not be debited from your service card but will be scanned for record purposes.

Need to get rid of lumber, household debris, carpeting, furniture or other such non-recyclable materials? A car-load of



Piscataway BIKE RODEO

PISCATAWAY COMMUNITY CENTER
520 HOES LN
PISCATAWAY, NJ 08854

Bring your bikes, scooters, skates & helmets

Saturday July 13, 2024 9:00am-11:00am

FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

- 10 Bike Games & Challenges
- Pedestrian Safety
- Community Providers
- Multiple Bike Raffles & More

CALL OR EMAIL :

(732) 646-4044

mfscmiddlesex@ccdom.org

To register, use the QR code or the link listed below:



SCAN ME

Register: <https://bit.ly/BikeRodeos2024>



these materials needs one scan of your service card; a pick-up truck needs two scans of the service card to debit each permitted deposit of trash.

What to do with materials such as batteries, tires, motor oil, certain metal items (washers, dryers, dishwashers, hot water heaters, refrigerators, air conditioners), certain electronics (televisions, desktop or personal computers, computer monitors, portable computers, desktop printers, desktop fax machines) as well as any recyclables usually picked up curbside? You can bring these to the Center. As these items are recyclable, none of the services provided will be debited but your service card will be scanned for record purposes.

Some items may not be brought to the Center. No paint, used clothes, hazardous waste, kitchen garbage, contractor debris, dirt, rocks or stones are handled by the Township. The Center will also not accept other electronics such as cell phones, copiers, digital cameras, DVD players, e-book readers, keyboards, MP3 players, modems, mice, personal digital assistants (PDAs), scanners, stereo and radio equipment, telephones, VCRs or any products that contain rechargeable batteries not included in this list. Please contact the Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management at (732) 745-4170 for information on how to dispose of such items.

Need a special curbside pickup? Until mid-October, residents may schedule two curbside trash pickups and one curbside branch pick up. Your service card will be debited accordingly. To schedule, please call the Public Works Department at (732) 562-2390 no later than Friday, September 6th as scheduling curbside pickups is done at least a month in advance.

Please keep in mind that for branches picked up curbside, the bundles must be tied with string and be no wider than one foot in diameter. Crews will not take any branches longer than five feet in length and no wider than four inches in diameter. Any bundles containing construction-type wood, metal or other foreign objects will not be taken. Please stack the bundles neatly at the curb making the pile no longer than ten feet in length, five feet deep and four feet high.

Be mindful of what you flush

The Piscataway sewer system is designed to flow from your home through the Township-owned sewer lines to the treatment plant in Sayreville. In some areas, due to the topography, flow has to go uphill and must be assisted by lift stations known as pump stations. At this point, certain elements have to be excluded as the pumps can get jammed by materials such as fabrics, both woven and non-woven. Other types of products include baby wipes, chemically treated wipes, sanitary napkins and most paper towels. Although many manufacturers of these products list them as flushable, in reality, they are not. We ask that you dispose of these non-flushable materials via your regular garbage collection for deposit at a landfill. By complying, you will reduce the possibility of you having a plumbing company rectify a sewer blockage at an estimated cost of \$125 per hour.

East Jersey Old Town Village

1050 River Road, Piscataway

A Revolutionary Celebration: Independence Day on the Raritan Thursday, July 4th, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Join General George Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette and Baron von Steuben for this annual celebration featuring a reenactment of the feu de joie (fire of joy) that took place on July 4th, 1778. Bring a blanket or a chair and enjoy a concert of patriotic themed music performed by the Mark Heter Band. Enjoy children's crafts, food trucks and more.



Roaring 20s Jazz Party

Saturday, September 14th, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Join us for a Roaring 20s party with Michael Arenella & His Dreamland Orchestra and the sounds of Queen Esther! Learn to cut a rug with dance lessons from The Canarsie Wobblers as we celebrate the "Charleston," the defining song and dance of the 1920s created by New Brunswick's own James P. Johnson. The day will also feature food, beverages, vintage cars, photo ops and historical interpreters like suffragettes and the WWI Harlem Hellfighters.



More exciting events can be found at MiddlesexCountyCulture.com!

Single-Use Plastics Package Advances in Senate

by Senator Bob Smith

This Earth Day, as Chair of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee, I held a joint hearing with the Chair of the Assembly Environment, Natural Resources and Solid Waste Committee on the issue of plastic pollution and its threats to human health. The testimony we heard highlights the increasing and varied dangers posed by the proliferation of plastics in our environment and, ultimately, in our bodies. Microplastics are now all around us, in the water we drink, the air we breathe and the food we eat. With constant exposure to these plastics and the chemicals involved in their production comes serious health risks including an increased risk of cancer and neurodevelopmental disorders as well as threats to reproductive health and fertility.

Though we have taken steps to reduce the prevalence of plastic in our environment, especially as it relates to single-use plastics such as shopping bags and food containers, the scale of this issue warrants further action. Together with my colleagues in the Senate and Assembly, I plan to develop legislation to further limit plastic use so that we can better protect both the public and the environment from the negative impacts posed by plastics.



Recently, the Senate Environment and Energy Committee advanced a three-bill package, which I am sponsoring, aimed at reducing plastic waste, combatting the proliferation of plastic in the environment and protecting human health from the dangers posed by plastics. These bills represent a comprehensive, multifaceted effort to reduce the amount of plastic we use across the economy and they do so by recognizing the responsibility of the companies that produce these plastics to manage their lifecycle rather than solely putting that burden on average consumers.

S-224 would prohibit the sale, distribution and import of certain products marketed as recyclable unless the NJDEP determines that the product is in fact widely recycled. Currently, misleading application of the symbol for recyclable products leads many consumers to mistakenly place non-recyclable products with products that can actually be recycled, leading to entire batches of recyclable products being disposed in landfills to avoid the costs of separating the products.

S-226 would limit the size of shipping boxes that can be utilized by major retailers to ship products to consumers by prohibiting the use of a shipping box that is greater than two times the volume of the product being shipped. The current practice of many large online retailers involves the use of shipping boxes that are far larger than the product actually being shipped which unnecessarily increases packaging waste.

S-3135 would require producers of plastic packaging and certain other plastic products sold in New Jersey to reduce the amount, by weight, of their packaging or products sold annually. The bill would also amend the “Toxic Packaging Reduction Act” to prohibit the sale of packaging that contains certain toxic substances including PFAS, toxic metals and vinyl chloride.

If you are interested in listening to the expert testimony, the Earth Day hearing is available on the New Jersey Legislative website which you can find using the QR code.

Piscataway News

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

LOCAL POSTAL PATRON
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Piscataway News is published to inform residents of events, activities and available services. Township organizations are invited to submit contributions for future issues to: Piscataway News, Mayor's Office, Municipal Building, 455 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854.