

Our Melting Pot of Celebration

*Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Saunders, Sr., Chair
Piscataway Civil Rights Advisory Commission*



Reverend Dr. Kenneth L. Saunders, Sr., Chair & Mrs. Shirley A. Saunders of the Piscataway Civil Rights Advisory Commission with U.S. Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. & Mayor Brian C. Wahler at a previous Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Breakfast

I would suspect that one of the reasons that Piscataway is one of the most sought after places to live is because of our many cultures.

Our community is rich with multiple traditions and cultural heritage. As Chair of the Piscataway Civil Rights Advisory Commission and as a resident for over 30 years, my family and I continue to enjoy being a part of such a melting pot of celebration and recognition of diversity.

How interesting it is to learn and to witness the many lifestyles of our neighbors and

to appreciate our differences as we share our own!

It is my honor to champion and support the rights of all of our constituents here in this wonderful Township. I believe that everyone should be respected and respectful of others' religions, traditions, heritage and general ways of life. Our differences are what makes us unique throughout the State of New Jersey.

Let's continue as a Township to build the bridges that lead to cultural awareness, humanity and community!

Piscataway's 75-acre open space park can now move forward!



The large property at S. Washington Avenue & Metlars Lane remained in litigation limbo for more than two decades. However, a breakthrough in mediation

brought about a settlement between the vast majority of the Halper family, which previously operated a commercial farm there, and the Township.

As a result, the Township is now proceeding with an environmental clean-up of the land to create Piscataway Ecological Park. Free from the risk of development such as high-density housing, the 75 acres will be solely for the open space enjoyment of our residents.

"Recreation will be limitless in Piscataway when our Ecological Park is combined with our more than two dozen traditional parks, fantastic Community Center and many free youth sports," Council Vice President Michele Lombardi (Ward 4) said. "This open space park will give all generations the

opportunity to experience the beauty and peacefulness of our natural surroundings."

"Smart planning and a commitment to green space makes our community an even more extraordinary place to call home," Councilmember Jim Bullard (Ward 2) said.

"Piscataway Ecological Park will give all families the serenity of the great outdoors and the wonderful health benefits of outdoor exercise."

The smart growth of Piscataway has included thriving, state-of-the-art

Continued on page 7

Main: 732-562-2300

Const. & Bldg. Regulations	732-562-2325
Engineering/Planning/Zoning	732-562-6560/6570
Finance	732-562-2316
Fire Prevention (non-emergency)	732-562-2315
Health Office	732-562-2323
Housing Certificate of Occupancy Office	732-562-2393
Libraries: Kennedy	732-463-1633
Westergard	732-752-1166
Mayor's Office	732-562-2301
Municipal Alliance Substance Abuse Task Force	732-562-2397
Municipal Certificates of Continued Occupancy (MCCOs) office.....	732-562-2393
Municipal Court	732-562-2330
PCTV Cable TV/Channel 15	732-562-2305
Personnel	732-562-2308
Police:	
Main (non-emergency)	732-562-1100
Detectives	732-562-2366
Juvenile	732-562-2371
Public Information (Police)	732-653-7380
Records	732-562-2378
Service	732-562-6577
TDD	732-562-1100
Traffic	732-562-2340
Property Maintenance	732-562-7621/7638
Public Information (Township)	732-653-7384
Public Works	732-562-2390
Purchasing	732-562-2320
Recreation	732-562-2382
Recreation (Program Cancellation)	732-562-2389
Senior Citizen Center	732-562-1133
Senior Citizen Transportation	732-743-2218
Sterling Village	732-699-0033
Tax Assessor	732-562-2328
Tax Collector	732-562-2331
Township Clerk	732-562-2310

Follow us on:

Facebook: piscataway.township

Twitter: @PWAYNJ



Free Rabies Vaccination Clinics



**Saturday, January 29th, 9 a.m.-Noon –
Last names beginning with A-K**

**Saturday, February 5th, 9 a.m.-Noon –
Last names beginning with L-Z**

Department of Public Works Garage,
505 Sidney Road, Piscataway

To determine vaccine eligibility please bring your pet's vaccination records.

We appreciate your patience as you prepare for additional time to go through this new process that started last year. Residents will remain in their cars at all times. Staff will guide residents and will take away the pet – either a dog by a leash or a cat or small dog in an appropriate carrier as provided by the resident – to get its rabies shot.

Residents must wear facemasks while interacting with staff. License applications for dogs and cats are on the Township Clerk's webpages. Please download the appropriate form and mail with payment, proof of rabies vaccine, self-addressed stamped envelope and proof of spaying/neutering if applicable to the Township Clerk's office, 455 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854.

A heavy active snowstorm or a restriction from the state related to the coronavirus pandemic may result in clinic cancellation. Please look at the Township website and social media for up-to-date information.

Your Elected Officials

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

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

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

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

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

Jim Bullard
(Ward 2)
23 Independence Court
732-463-3927

Steven D. Cahn
(Ward 3)
986 Sunset Road
732-748-1224

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

A Message from Mayor Brian C. Wahler



Cleaning up an industrial brownfield site and building an environmental LEED Silver certified building - that's part of the great economic development happening in Piscataway where good paying jobs are being created for hard working residents.

Alongside Piscataway's own Senator Bob Smith, Council President Kapil K. Shah (At-Large) and Council Vice President Michele Lombardi (Ward 4), Mayor Brian C. Wahler was pleased to speak at the September ribbon cutting for Bob's Discount Furniture.

I am thrilled to let you know that Piscataway remains in an extremely good financial position. Most recently, Standard & Poor's reaffirmed the Township's AA+ stable rating, its second highest rating, as it continues to keep Piscataway among its high ranked municipalities.

As you know, the Covid pandemic caused much financial hardship throughout the country. Many local governments had deep revenue drops during the pandemic – and that affected their ability to provide services to their residents. Nevertheless, Piscataway remained vibrant and resilient because of the economic development championed by the Township Council and myself.

In its report, Standard & Poor's stated, "The 'AA+' rating reflects our view of the township's strong management team and codified policies and procedures... Fiscal 2020 showed positive current fund operations as a result, which we believe will be sustained in coming years, given long-term projections and management's close monitoring of the budget. Robust redevelopment efforts within the township, in both the residential and commercial sectors, ongoing throughout the pandemic, continues to generate tax base growth."

So again, our Township's strong financial health comes from our economic development. Because the Township Council and I attracted

more companies to locate facilities in Piscataway, what were unused office buildings and brownfields are now thriving sites of new commerce. This new commercial revenue paid for the construction of the \$32 million YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC), built with no residents' tax monies.

Standard & Poor's 2021, 2020 & 2019 general obligation rating of AA+ stable matches the 2018 upgrade by Moody's of its general obligation rating from Aa2 to Aa1(stable), its second highest rating possible.

So, the state-of-the-art logistics centers that line the I-287 corridor not only create good paying jobs for hard working residents, they also infuse our community with much needed tax revenue. The Township Council and I lowered our municipal tax rate by 12.8 percent four years ago and we have maintained this lower rate because of this business tax revenue.

Please remember, these logistics centers are on private property. The property owners could have chosen instead to build high-density housing as a few detractors in town would like. If the Township wanted to stop any development, it would have to condemn the property and buy it from the private owners – and that is a big price tag that would be paid by the taxpayers.

This is why as most of us in Piscataway agree that the logistics centers close to I-287 provide both a key role in our good fortune and a vital complement to our great neighborhoods and outstanding recreation – and that will include a 75-acre open space park for all to enjoy.

As we move forward in 2022, Piscataway will continue to practice sound financial management, and that's an invest in all of us.

Piscataway Cultural Arts Commission

The Piscataway Cultural Arts Commission is pleased to announce that future art exhibits will be on display at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC). If you are an artist with a collection of work you would like considered for display, please contact Commission Chair Kitty Juttner at (732) 563-4117 or Exhibit Coordinator Barbara Bridgers at (732) 752-2465. Artists who have previously exhibited with the Commission are also encouraged to call.

The 219th Session of the Legislature Almost Over

By Senator Bob Smith



This past legislative session there were fewer in-person bill signings due to the pandemic which made one sunny day in Seaside Heights especially memorable when Governor Murphy signed four of my bills into law.

I often talk about how significant these past few years have been for greatly expanding and growing renewable energy to combat climate change. This day saw the signing of bills streamlining the local planning and zoning process in relation to charging infrastructure, encouraging the development of zero-emission vehicle fueling and charging infrastructure in redevelopment projects, allowing farmers to keep farming crops and livestock while also farming electrons, and establishing the successor

program to the solar renewable energy certificate program in the BPU, including the solicitation process for certain solar power generation facilities. With the dual-use solar project and utility-scale solar program laws now established, we can significantly increase our renewable energy footprint in a way that both preserves farmland and open space. This clean energy can then go into the electrical grid to help power electric vehicles via charging stations installed around the state.

Other notable legislation passed and signed into law by Governor Murphy includes P.L. 2020, c.117 which prohibits single-use plastic carryout bags and P.L. 2020, c. 24 requiring large food waste generators to separate and recycle food waste. Before the session is over on January 15th we hope to see passage of legislation restricting the sale and use of neonicotinoids (bee killing pesticides), establishing post-consumer recycled content requirements, establishing energy efficiency standards, and codifying State Energy Master Plan goals.

As we embark upon a new year and a new legislative session, we are moving toward a brighter future for our health, our environment and our green economy. Global climate change is real. We have witnessed the devastation caused by storms like Hurricane Sandy and most recently Hurricane Ida, proving how dangerous dependence on fossil fuels continues to be for the future of human civilization. Fighting global climate change is the agenda for the 220th Legislative Session.

Recreation

Picnic reservations – Township residents and Piscataway-based civic organizations and businesses will be able to reserve the pavilions at Columbus, Possumtown and Riverside parks for summertime events. Reservations can be made in person at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC) on a date to be announced and proof of residency is required. Cost is \$225 for the park and \$150 for an optional alcohol permit. No cash will be accepted.

Youth programs – The Township Recreation Department offers many great programs for children and adults throughout the year, all free to Piscataway residents. The following are on Saturdays from January to March:

- Grammar school instructional basketball for 1st-4th grade boys and 1st-8th grade girls.
- Children's arts & crafts for kindergarten to 6th grade.
- Gym hockey for adults and 6th-12th grades youth.

Coming up in April for three month seasons are:

- T-ball registrations.
- Junior baseball league for boys ages 13-15. (Players must turn 13 before 9/1/22 and cannot turn 16 until after 8/31/23.)
- Girls instructional softball for 2nd & 3rd graders.
- Girls modified pitch softball for 4th & 5th graders.
- Girls fast pitch softball for 6th-8th graders.



Adult programs – Just for adults who either live or work in Piscataway, we have spring seasons for co-ed volleyball and industrial softball, specifically men's slo-pitch and "Over 35" men's slo-pitch. Interested in starting a team? Please e-mail Recreation@PiscatawayNJ.org.

Please visit the Recreation Department pages on the Township website for information about these and several other wonderful programs.

YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC)

New Programming

The YPCC is excited to offer some new program options for both children and adults starting in 2022. For youth, an indoor soccer league as well as weekly dance and art classes will be offered. Adult options will include basketball and volleyball leagues, pickleball and golf simulator tournaments. Please visit the YMCA of MEWSA website for updates about these offerings along with program dates and registration information.

Summer Camp 2022

Details about the 2022 Summer Camp season will be available on the YMCA of MEWSA website starting on January 22nd! Summer camp registration will open February 1st and an early bird discount will be available from then through April 15th. For more information, visit the website or contact Camp Director Meghan Doriety at Meghan.Doriety@ymcaofmews.org.

Have your special event at the YPCC!

Plan a birthday party, event or meeting at the YPCC! Whether you are looking for a space for your book club, a fun-filled family party or renting out the whole YPCC, we have you covered. Visit the YMCA of MEWSA website for more information or contact Senior Program Director Daniel Hontz at Daniel.Hontz@ymcaofmews.org.



Metlar-Bodine House Museum

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

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

Piscataway's "American Treasure" - The Ross Hall Wall and the First 4th of July

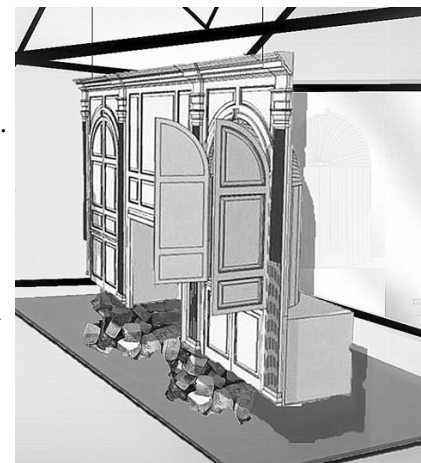
The only surviving tangible link to the first national celebration of Independence Day is the artifact known as The Ross Hall Wall. "Not just a Wall" has been declared an "American Treasure" by the National Park Service and will be exhibited in the Forever the 4th Gallery soon to be constructed at the Metlar-Bodine House Museum, Piscataway's historical and cultural museum.

The architecturally magnificent parlor wall from the 1742 Ross Hall mansion which once stood on River Road is now recognized as a physical representation for the origin of America's first national holiday, the 4th of July.

In 1778, directly after the victorious Battle of Monmouth, Washington and 11,000 patriots rested along the banks of the Raritan River. Headquartered at Ross Hall, the General wrote his military order stating Independence Day will from that day forward be celebrated on July 4th.

He ordered his soldiers to perform a three hour Feu de joie (heard by the British fleeing from Sandy Hook) and be given an extra ration of rum for their efforts. Washington celebrated with a ball at Ross Hall attended by his senior officers and generals including Alexander Hamilton and the Marquis de Lafayette. During the war years, Washington repeated this exact celebration on July 4th, twice more in other states, solidifying the date and its appropriate festivities.

The prestigious "American Treasure" title includes a \$150K grant to be matched by the Township. The grant award will fund The Wall's conservation, its return to New Jersey and its installation and interpretation. When exhibited, The Wall will be hung, allowing visitors to experience a 360 degree view of the intricate 18th century carpentry techniques while reflecting on how close it came to being destroyed. Dedication is presently scheduled for July 4, 2023.



Cacao to Chocolate

Zoom program on Monday, January 24 at 7 p.m.

Once upon a time, chocolate was expensive and exclusive only to the wealthy. Learn more in a Zoom program presented by culinary historian and demonstrator Susan McLellan Plaisted, MS RD CSP LDN, Proprietress of Heart to Hearth Cookery. Program fee is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. The meeting ID and Zoom link/instructions will be available upon program registration. To register, please visit the museum's website (Programs & Events, Box Calendar) or call the museum at (732) 463-8363.

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

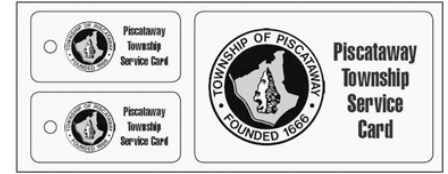
During the Covid-19 pandemic, the DPW offices are closed. Please call the number above for any questions or assistance.

Pothole reporting:

For potholes on Township roads, please call the Township DPW at (732) 562-2390.

For potholes on county roads, please call Middlesex County at (732) 940-3800.

For potholes on state roads, please visit www.njdotProblemReporting.com



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. This program resumes on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. The last appointments may be made in mid-September and the program ends during the second week of October.

Christmas trees

Christmas trees will not be picked up. Residents may bring them to their local Piscataway firehouse only during the month of January or they can be brought to the Recycling Center during the hours as shown below. Trees must be devoid of all decorations. Trees will be recycled.

Recycling Center / Mini Dump

Recycling Center hours through December 31, 2022

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

Since January 1, 2020, instead of paper coupons, etc., residents have been using the new Piscataway Service Card featuring a unique UPC code for DPW services. If you have not yet acquired the Service Card, please call the DPW office at (732) 562-2390 or go online to the Township website at www.PiscatawayNJ.org. When you access the home page, you will see a list of choices at the top of the page. Click on "SERVICES". A drop down menu will appear. Click on "SERVICE CARD" second from the bottom and follow the instructions. Please note that you will be required to scan your driver's license or valid ID that has your name and address that you must send back to our office as an attachment with your return email. We will mail the Service Card to you within a few days. Only checks and credit/debit cards may be used to add funds to your Service Card. No cash is accepted.

You must present your Service Card at the DPW gate to enter the recycling yard; it will be your proof of residency. For a loaded passenger vehicle, SUV or minivan, the recycling yard attendant will scan your card once. The largest vehicle allowed in the Recycling Center is a half-ton pickup or trailer no larger than four feet by eight feet for which two scans of the card will be made. No trucks with built-up sideboards are permitted.

Depending on the type of vehicle, one or two scans will be made for lumber, household debris, carpeting, furniture and all other non-recyclable materials. Cards will not be scanned for recyclable materials such as batteries, tires, motor oil, branches, leaves, metal, various plastics and glass, cardboard and paper. Each year, cards will be automatically replenished with the free services provided by the Township.

Electronic devices covered by the NJ Electronic Waste Management Act include 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.

Not permitted at the Recycling Center are kitchen garbage, hazardous or toxic waste, chemicals, paints, contractor debris, dirt, concrete, asphalt or any other type of rock debris.

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Senior Center

When the Piscataway Senior Center is closed to its guests, its wonderful staff is available by phone at (732) 562-1133 on Mondays-Fridays, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. to help our elderly residents register for bus transportation for grocery shopping and medical appointments.

Also during closed times, congregate meals through the Middlesex County Nutrition Program are delivered to Township seniors by Piscataway Senior Center staff. If you are in need of home delivered meals, are at least 60 years old and are not able to grocery shop or cook for yourself, please call (732) 793-9844. Examples of meals are stuffed chicken with broccoli, chicken parmesan sub sandwiches, cheeseburgers, crab cakes, and turkey & gravy. Non-meat meals such as veggie burgers, tofu & vegetable stir-fry, and cheese omelets with salsa are also available.





Library Notes



www.piscatawaylibrary.org

Kids ages 0-5 and their families are invited to join us at the Library for **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten**, a nationwide initiative that encourages families to read aloud together with an activity that helps jumpstart children's imaginations and develops essential early literacy skills. For full details and to register, visit PiscatawayLibrary.org/1000Books

Help us update our local history collection by sharing your memories. Visit PiscatawayLibrary.org/Community for full details and to participate.

Join us for **New Jersey Makers Day** and **Maker March** to make, create and do-it-yourself during March 2022. Visit PiscatawayLibrary.org/MakerMarch for details.

Join the **Beginner's 1 Sewing Group** for interactive virtual classes. Chat, ask questions and watch how an experienced sewist performs techniques and uses tools and equipment. Classes take place on alternate Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Registration is required.

Learn to crochet! Join us at Kennedy Library for a **Crochet-Along** from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Fridays. Check the Library's calendar for full details; no registration required.

The Library is proud to offer **Brainfuse** as a resource for students and adult learners. Brainfuse provides free access to live tutors, flash cards, virtual study rooms, test prep, resume review and more. Visit PiscatawayLibrary.org/Brainfuse to get started today.

Questions? Contact Library@PiscatawayLibrary.org or (732) 463-1633, Ext. 4126. At this time, registration is required for most events. Please visit the calendar on PiscatawayLibrary.org for registration and a full schedule of events.

East Jersey Old Town Village & Cornelius Low House

Discover Greatness: An Illustrated History of Negro Leagues Baseball

East Jersey Old Town Village
February 2nd-May 1st

A traveling exhibit from the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, Discover Greatness, features close to 90 framed photographs showcasing the history of African American baseball from the late 1800s to the 1960s.

Treasures of Middlesex County

Cornelius Low House
Now open!

Discover historically significant artifacts dating back more than 300 years. Items include muskets from the Middlesex Brigade, historic maps, 18th century documents, local ceramics, furniture from 18th and early 19th century craftspeople, and more.

Please check with the Middlesex County website about these and other programs because events and schedules may change.



Piscataway's 75-acre open space park *Continued from page 1*

logistics centers along the I-287 corridor, bringing good paying jobs to hard working residents, and producing needed local revenue for Township improvements. Piscataway Ecological Park is a key part of this smart growth and will provide a proper balance of land use within our community.

"A few naysayers in town may continue to advocate that open land should be used for high-density apartments," Mayor Brian C.

Wahler said, "but most Piscataway residents recognize that a flourishing community comes from a strong balance of vibrant businesses, good homes and quality recreation."

At a November 2021 Township Council meeting, a contract was awarded to the environmental engineering firm to begin the remediation process.

..... **Piscataway Community TV News**

Watch Piscataway Community Television shows on Optimum Channel 15 and Fios Channels 40 or anywhere at PiscatawayNJ.org/PCTV. Keeping in touch on Facebook and YouTube (Piscataway Community TV).

PCTV plans even more digital expansion in the near future so watch for announcements.

Check out our winter schedule; we are constantly adding new shows.

If your non-profit organization would like to announce events on our Bulletin Board, please send the details to pctv15@optonline.net. You may also drop off a hard copy at the station. For more info call 732-562-2305

PISCATAWAY COMMUNITY TELEVISION- CHANNEL 15 (Cablevision) CHANNEL 40 & 42 (Verizon)

Channel 15 (Cablevision) serves Bound Brook, Bridgewater, Dunellen, Green Brook, Manville, Middlesex, Piscataway, Raritan, South Bound Brook. Channel 40 & 42 (Verizon) serves Berkeley Heights, Bound Brook, Branchburg, Fanwood, Franklin, Manville, Mountainside, New Providence, North Brunswick, North Plainfield, Piscataway, Somerville, South Bound Brook, South Brunswick, South Plainfield, Summit & Warren

CONGRATULATIONS
Piscataway Community Television
and
Piscataway Senior Center



EXCELLENCE in PROGRAMMING

Experience the 24/7 HD Livestream
Full Broadcast Schedule & Interactive Community Bulletin Board
at
PiscatawayNJ.org/departments/PCTV

Youtube.com/PiscatawayCommunityTV Facebook@PiscatawayTV

Piscataway News

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455 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

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PISCATAWAY, N.J. 08854

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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.