

Our two new members of the Township Council are Councilmember Sharon Carmichael (Ward 3) and Councilmember Dennis Espinosa (Ward 2)



**Sharon Carmichael
Ward 3 Councilmember**

Sharon Kay Carmichael hails from Dillon, a small town in South Carolina. It was the longtime home of the Carmichael family and Sharon's mother Wilma – whom was very smart, outgoing, and outspoken – excelled as an “A” student and drum major in her high school's band.

Wilma Carmichael understood the power of education and hard work, and as a young woman believed that better opportunities may be found “up north.” So, she traveled to New Jersey, found work and moved herself and her two young daughters, Sharon and Antoinette, to their new home in Newark.

Sharon and her younger sister began their elementary education at Bergen Street School near their home in the Clinton Hill section of the city. However, her mother, focused on her girls' education, was able

to take advantage of a program for them to attend a different public school out of their district where she thought a better education would be available. So, Sharon and her sister would take the Number 14 bus across the city to Chancellor Avenue School in the Weequahic section. Wilma had one requirement for her daughters: bring back As and Bs.

Sharon learned much from her mother and would uphold the family tradition of excellence by becoming the valedictorian at Weequahic High School. With scholarships in hand, Sharon would come to New Brunswick to attend Douglass College where she earned her bachelor's degree in math and computer science.

She caught the attention of AT&T which selected her for its Long Lines program but Sharon would first have to pass an intensive, three-month computer coursework held in White Plains, NY to get the job. She succeeded, but rather than stay in Westchester County, she preferred moving to Central New Jersey to work at AT&T in Piscataway where there were opportunities for UNIX/C programmers. Sharon would be a programmer for many years then rise to become a technical team manager and later a Project

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**Dennis Espinosa
Ward 2 Councilmember**

It was a true blessing for the young immigrant couple from Ecuador to work for a clothing factory manager named Fabrizio. When Cesar & Lupita Espinosa needed additional hours on the sewing floor to earn more money or help navigating a new life in Hudson County, it was Fabrizio who would make sure they had what they needed. He made such a positive impact in their first years in a new country that when they had their third son Dennis – the first to be born in the United States – his middle name would be Fabrizio.

Life had moved quickly for the young couple. Years earlier Cesar and his brother Oswaldo were traveling salesmen in Ecuador making a living by selling men's ties and other apparel. Oswaldo would teach Cesar to play the guitar and while in the capital city of Quito, Cesar would have the

fortune to meet and serenade Lupita. They would marry young, 19 and 16 respectively, and have their first two sons.

With a desire for new opportunities and a cousin with a connection for jobs in America, Cesar & Lupita would find a home in downtown Jersey City, first just themselves and once they were settled, brought into New Jersey their two boys whom had been living in Ecuador with grandparents. Cesar would eventually be promoted to floor manager and ultimately came to own his own garment manufacturing business.

Unfortunately, the marriage would not last and Lupita would be a single mother in Jersey City with three children. She was very careful with money, always a saver, and set a system of values and orderliness for her boys where compassion was always prioritized.

All three sons would grow up to thrive in their careers including Dennis who knew that in order to be successful in your job you have to really enjoy it. He took a strong interest in electronics just as the computer technology industry was beginning. After two years of attending other universities, Dennis discovered that they did not offer courses in the new growing information

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Dennis Espinosa Ward 2 Councilmember

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The Espinosa Family from left-to-right: Dennis, Devin, Ryan & Rosie

technology (IT) industry so he decided to attend the Chubb Institute in Jersey City. He would wind up teaching some classes while there and graduated with honors.

Meanwhile, he too would marry at a young age. Dennis was introduced to his now wife Rosie by a mutual friend and they realized they both worked at the mall, he at a clothing store and her as a hair stylist.

Several years into their marriage they knew that they wanted to live close to family but also have more space and peacefulness. A

real estate agent introduced them to Piscataway where they appreciated its diversity and found exactly what they wanted. Purchasing a home in 2003 they would have their sons Devin and Ryan soon thereafter.

Sadly, Lupita would pass away before their first son Devin was born and Dennis & Rosie knew that raising a family would now be more difficult but the challenge would bring them closer together. Ryan was born a few years later and the Espinosas would flourish in Central New Jersey. Dennis continues his long career in computer technology now as a Global IT Project Manager, Rosie works in children's services for the State, Devin studies at Rutgers University and Ryan attends Piscataway High School.

Dennis also found a new calling to get involved in the community in youth sports. When Devin began playing soccer, Dennis would start as a supportive parent but eventually would become a coach and now also serves on the Board of the Piscataway Soccer Club. He has appreciated knowing the same children and their parents from year to year. From their many conversations he learned to appreciate their families' different stories and different needs and that has led to an interest in serving the public in a greater capacity.

Dennis joined the Township Planning Board in 2020 and when Ward 2 Councilmember Jim Bullard decided to retire, Dennis would run for the open seat and win. He looks forward to many more conversations with residents to make our Township an even better place to live for all families.

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 at (732) 563-4117.



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

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Senior Center (732) 562-1133

The wonderful Piscataway Senior Center staff is available on Mondays-Fridays, 7 a.m.-3 p.m., to help our older residents register for bus transportation for grocery shopping and medical appointments. In-person classes are held daily at the Senior Center. Registration by phone is required.

Be an AARP Smart Driver!

Call the Senior Center to register in advance for two-day defensive driving classes from 9 a.m.-Noon taught by instructor Irwin Horowitz at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC):

- Monday, January 30th & Wednesday, February 1st
- Monday, February 13th & Wednesday, February 15th
- Monday, March 20th & Wednesday, March 22nd

Blood pressure screenings

St. Peter's University Hospital will hold blood pressure screenings on Tuesday, February 7th from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

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Metlar-Bodine House Museum

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

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

“Mothers of Invention” presentation at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center, 520 Hoes Lane, by professional storyteller, author & historian Ms. Carol Simon Levin on Sunday, February 5th (snow date Sunday, February 26th) from 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Cost is \$12 members & \$15 non-members. Please register & pay by Thursday, February 2nd using the QR code or call the museum to pay by check.

American history is filled with influential female inventors and Ms. Simon Levin will portray First Lady of Engineering Lillian Moller Gilbreth, a motion study pioneer and New Jersey mother of twelve. She will also share the stories of other overlooked women innovators including many women of color. From Margaret Knight (the 19th century “Female Edison”) to Hollywood superstar Hedy Lamarr, these “Mothers of Invention” changed our lives yet their accomplishments were all too often ignored, discounted or credited to others. The program is entertaining as well as revealing and is age appropriate for older elementary school students to adults.



Tour the Metlar-Bodine House Museum

The Museum & Dutch Door Gift Shop are open on Thursdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from Noon-4 p.m. Closed on federal holidays and the schedule is subject to change so please check our website's box calendar (under Programs/Events) or call.

One-hour guided tours are available with the last tour starting at 3 p.m. Group tours must register in advance and are limited to eight people. Admission is \$5 for adults and children ages five and older.

COVID response: The safety of visitors, museum volunteers and staff is of utmost concern. Although most mask requirements have been lifted, we recommend, regardless of vaccination status, that masks be worn indoors during your visit due to space limitations.

Recreation

Picnic reservations

Township residents as well as 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 Saturday, February 11th at 9 a.m. Proof of residency is required. Cost is \$250 for the park and \$150 for an optional alcohol permit. No cash will be accepted; check or money order only.

Youth

All Township Recreation youth programs are free!

On Saturdays from January to March; no registration required:

- Grammar school instructional basketball for kindergarten-4th grade girls and kindergarten-4th grade boys
- Children's Arts & Crafts for kindergarten-6th grade
- Gym hockey for 6th-12th grades youth as well as adults

Coming up in April for three-month seasons:

- T-ball for boys & girls ages five, six & seven. (Players must turn five before 5/1/23 and cannot turn eight until after 4/30/23.)
- Junior baseball league for boys ages 13-15. (Players must turn 13 before 9/1/23 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

Adults

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. Registration for these programs typically opens in April. Interested in starting a team? Please e-mail Recreation@PiscatawayNJ.org. Pickleball and tennis lessons will also be offered.

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

Free Rabies Vaccination Clinics

Saturday, January 28th, 9 a.m.-Noon – Last names beginning with A-K

Saturday, February 4th, 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 will continue with the drive thru model that was started two years ago. 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.

The Township Clerk's office will not be open on the rabies clinics dates to accept license applications for dogs and cats. Instead, please find the license applications on the Township Clerk's webpages and note that new applications for 2023 will not be uploaded until January. You can also pick up the form at the clinics.

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 or place all materials in an envelope in the tax & sewer dropbox outside Town Hall at the same address.

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

Sharon Carmichael Ward 3 Councilmember

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The Carmichael Family from left-to-right: Raqiyah, Sharon, Marc & Jasmine



Sharon (far right), AME Church New Brunswick Director of Christian Education, with North Stelton Winners of the AME Church First Episcopal District Founder's Day Contest

Manager with a master's certificate from Stevens Institute of Technology.

While originally living in Somerville, she chose to move to Piscataway for more affordable homes and educational opportunities for her kids. For Sharon, living in a community means being involved in her community. Volunteering was a way to give to others and be engaged strongly in her children's lives. She was always an involved parent as her children Raqiyah,

Marc and Jasmine enjoyed Girl and Boy Scouts, school extracurricular activities and other local programs such as soccer, track, cheerleading, T-Ball, Little League, basketball, Pop Warner and the Superchiefs Marching Band. Sharon also worked with the PTO in her children's schools acting for a time as secretary in the Randolphville PTO. She was often reliable help. It never felt like a lot to Sharon but that it was just what you were supposed to do.

All three of Sharon's children would become well educated and successful. Raqiyah would attend Penn State and Hampton University and become a popular DJ for New York radio station WBLS, author, activist for human rights and a writer for Showtime. Marc would attain his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering and pursue his M.D. at Stanford University. Jasmine would become an accomplished actress, even performing in London, and work as an Adjunct Professor of Performance Ensemble at Rutgers. Sharon is also blessed to be the proud grandmother of five.

Remembering her church upbringing and wanting that same influence in her family life, Sharon joined North Stelton AME Church in Piscataway in 1991. She expressed a desire to be an active member and was mentored by Christian Education Directors Gwen and Reggie Dorsey to be the Secretary to the Board of Christian Education. Sharon's role would lead to becoming the Director of Christian Education followed by a Presiding Elder District level appointment to New Brunswick District Director of Christian Education. Sharon recalled that her mother too became intensely involved in spiritual affairs, serving as Sunday School Superintendent of all her church's diocese and becoming an ordained evangelist and elder.

Sharon never thought that she would be as involved but believes that God had other plans for her. She became very involved in all levels of the AME Church. She was the New Brunswick District Public

Relations Director, creating its first website, newsletter and monthly calendar for the district. She later was elected the First Episcopal District Director of Public Relations, a position in which she currently serves.

Sharon became a parent volunteer in the New Jersey Orators, a program that trains youth ages 7-17 in public speaking, after enrolling her daughter Jasmine who excelled in the program. In her work as a volunteer, Sharon learned the art of public speaking and decided to coach the 11- & 12-year-old group. Sharon's involvement would last 21 years, 17 as a coach and four as the Competition Chair.

Always a thinker and planner, Sharon realized the importance of financial planning for her retirement and her family's future. She researched options and became so interested in the opportunities she found that she joined a wealth management group, studied insurance and finance, completed securities industry financial courses and passed the New Jersey State life and health insurance exams which resulted in her earning a license as an independent insurance producer.

When longtime Councilmember Steven D. Cahn decided to retire from the Township Council, Sharon was presented with another opportunity to be of service to the community. She would win election to the Ward 3 seat where she looks to continue as a servant leader and utilize her project management and public relations skills to increase resident awareness and involvement and broaden opportunities for everyone.

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

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.nj.gov/transportation/commuter/potholeform.shtm

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 10th. 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, 2023

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



You must present your Piscataway 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. No commercial contractor vehicles are permitted.

For more information about the Piscataway Service Card, please visit its webpage using the QR code or call DPW at (732) 562-2390.

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 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 Piscataway.

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.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for Piscataway's new "Rave" emergency notification system.

If you are already signed up for Swift 911 you will be automatically enrolled in Rave and do not need to sign up again. However, you are encouraged to review and update your information in the new platform to ensure accuracy.



To sign up for Rave,
use this QR code

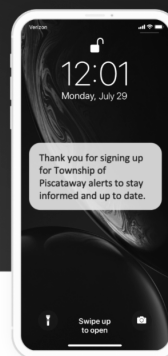
Always Be Notified

Sign up for Township of Piscataway alerts and receive important notifications via text message.

- SEVERE WEATHER ALERTS
- TRAFFIC UPDATES
- EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS
- EVENT REMINDERS



This service is provided by the Town of Piscataway at no cost to the public; however, message and data rates may apply depending on your provider and phone services. Please refer to your mobile phone's service plan for more information. Visit www.ravealerts.com to create your free safety profile.



To learn more about
Rave, use this QR code



Library Notes



www.piscatawaylibrary.org

Special events coming up!

- **Day of Racial Healing** on Tuesday, January 17th
- **The Tiny Art Show** will be on display this February at the Kennedy Library. Want to display your own 4'x4' painting? Kits are available for pickup at the Kennedy Library or join us for one of our in-person art-making events! Visit PiscatawayLibrary.org/TinyArtShow for more information.
- **Salsa Is Nuyorican** on Wednesday, February 15th
- **4th Annual African American Read-In** on Saturday, February 25th
- **New Jersey Makers Day and Maker March**: Make, create and do-it-yourself during March. Visit PiscatawayLibrary.org/MakerMarch for details.

Please visit the calendar on PiscatawayLibrary.org to register and for a full schedule of events. Registration is required for most events. Questions? Contact us at Library@PiscatawayLibrary.org or (732) 463-1633, Ext. 4126.

Stop by the Kennedy Library to borrow **Museum Passes**. These passes can get you free admission to the American Museum of Natural History, the Bucks County Children's Museum and other regional attractions.

Have you watched a movie on the **video streaming service Kanopy**? Access it with your library card! Visit PiscatawayLibrary.org/EContent for details.

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

Protecting Future Homeowners

By Senator Bob Smith



With global climate change, the threat of extreme weather, severe storms and flooding grows more each day. The destruction of homes during Superstorm Sandy and Tropical Storm Ida was financially devastating to many families. Because our coast and other flood zones are more vulnerable to property damage, we must act now to protect those seeking to buy or rent a new home by informing them of property flood risks.

Given New Jersey's unique vulnerabilities to sea level rise and flooding events, I am sponsoring legislation that would require disclosing flood risk information such as if a property is in a flood risk area and any past damage it sustained by flooding. Disclosing these figures in a real estate transaction is timely, effective and only fair to potential renters and homeowners so they can make informed decisions about where to live.

My bill, S-3110, requires the NJ Department of Community Affairs to create a form used by realtors and landlords to notify prospective buyers and renters of flooding risks to the property before they become obligated under any contract. The form would indicate if any of the property is located in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area or a Moderate Risk Flood Hazard Area and if the property has ever experienced any flood damage.

Thankfully, New Jersey continues at the forefront of proactive efforts against climate change such as building resilient infrastructure and creating durable communities. As we continue with the struggle of climate change both environmentally and economically, we must continue to ensure that all of our residents stay both safe and well informed. Fighting against climate change is our new reality and we must continue to prepare for its effects.

YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC)

Spring programs Aquatics, arts, dance, sports & more!



Swim classes



Arts, dance & sports



General information

Session details

- Registration begins for YPCC members on Wednesday, February 15th and non-members on Wednesday, February 22nd
- Class sessions are seven weeks
- There are no guaranteed make-up classes for any session
- Registration opens at 9 a.m. on the above-mentioned days. No reservations; first come, first serve
- Two charges for enrollment: first at registration and second on the 15th of the first month of the session

Summer camp

There's nothing like Camp Lenape at the YPCC where your child ages 5-12 years old can make new friends, learn and discover, get creative and have fun trying new things in a safe and nurturing environment. Rates are based off of your chosen days and weeks throughout the summer and registration begins on Wednesday, February 1st.



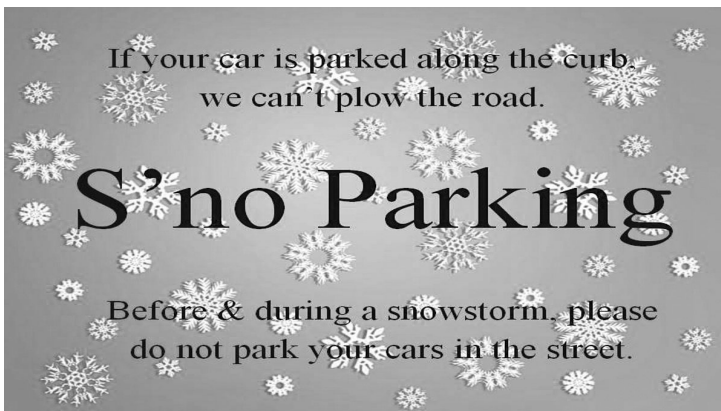
Tuesday, January 3rd
Noon-6 p.m.

Blood Drives

Give blood and save a life!



Monday, March 6th
Noon-6 p.m.



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



Piscataway News

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