



Mayor's Message



At the Our Lady of Fatima Filipino-American Association 41st anniversary celebration in October from left to right: Councilmember Dennis Espinosa (Ward 2), Mayor Brian C. Wahler, Association Secretary Leilani Malig, Association President Veronica Klein, Council President Frank Uhrin (Ward 1) & Councilmember Sharon Carmichael (Ward 3)

I am excited to move into 2024 with our community stronger than ever! Home values continue to grow while our municipal tax rate lowered six years in a row helps to keep your property taxes affordable.

Thousands continue to use our wonderful YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center and families have been enjoying our refurbished parks as well as free Township Recreation programs for youth. Our Senior Center and libraries are filled with residents sharing together in fun and enriching programs.

We're also looking forward to a lot of special events this year like our Street Fair and National Night Out. But another aspect of the warmer weather to come in a few months will be the return of our robust road program. Each year we have been resurfacing and reconstructing streets in all neighborhoods – and 2024 will be another year of big upgrades!

For resurfacing, we give the road a new layer of asphalt. For reconstruction, not only do you get a new street but we often accompany that with new curbs, sidewalks and storm sewer piping.

Providing all of these high-quality services and improvements through a responsible budget often comes from making difficult decisions. That is why it is important to move forward with our long anticipated project, Piscataway Ecological Park, in a way that is answerable to you as taxpayers.

I assure you that the land is dedicated for open space. It cannot and will not be sold to private developers. There will not be apartments, warehouses or stores. All of the land is set aside for your enjoyment in natural surroundings.

So again, Piscataway Ecological Park will be your open space park but the path to its completion will need all of our patience.

While environmental work has been taking place, new regulations from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection now require us to create two detention basins instead of just one to contain all of the rainwater that falls on the park. Also with a longer and more careful process to prepare the land to build the park, the cost is much higher than anticipated.

So as we move forward in 2024 we will need to assess how we can most prudently steward your tax dollars and undertake this enormous project without diminishing our services or adding a financial burden to our community.

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

REACH OUT
For every struggle, there's a solution.

Explore our county services locator and access help now.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY • NJ
middlesexcountynj.gov/services

Richard J. Sullivan: New Jersey's Environmental Protection Pioneer

by Senator Bob Smith

This past year we honored and commemorated the incredible achievements of a Garden State environmental pioneer, Richard J. Sullivan, by renaming the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Building as the Richard J. Sullivan Building. Richard Sullivan's successful career was characterized by his commitment to protect and preserve our state's environment and diverse ecosystems for generations to come. His efforts were significant in revitalizing state parks, combating pollution, preserving land and protecting our water.

Richard J. Sullivan served as the Director of the Division of Clean Air and Water before becoming the first New Jersey DEP Commissioner. Through these historic offices, he advocated for the protection of our beautiful beaches and indispensable wetlands. He promoted clean air and water initiatives resulting in laws that have led to a healthier and cleaner New Jersey. His dedication to our environment furthered groundbreaking legislation that helped lay the foundation for sustainable development and created a lasting impact on our state's environment that we still feel today.



Along with his leadership roles, Richard Sullivan was also a dedicated educator of environmental studies, equipping the next generations with the knowledge necessary to further our environmental protection in New Jersey. His long-lasting dedication and leadership set a standard for environmental protection within the state and helped propel us towards a more sustainable and green future.

The building dedication signals our appreciation for all Richard J. Sullivan has done for our state in the name of environmental protection. His legacy is lasting and cemented in history as one of preservation and conservation. His work continues to motivate us to this day in fighting for a greener, safer planet for future generations.

As Chair of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee and a former professor of environmental studies, I was honored to give the address at the building dedication. As we move into the lame duck session of the 220th New Jersey Legislature and work to pass groundbreaking environmental legislation to battle climate change, we remember Richard J. Sullivan's commitment and unwavering dedication for our state and planet, for leaving a lasting impact in environmental stewardship and reminding us of the importance of protecting our environment and ecosystems. He continues to serve as an inspiration for us to appreciate and fight for our state's green future.

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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Piscataway Senior Center

(732) 562-1133

Skin Care Workshop for the Seniors – Presented by the Catholic Charities Mobile Family Success Center on Friday, January 5th at 10:00 a.m. to highlight how to take care of your skin to protect yourself in the winter.

Rutgers Lifelong Learning (OLLI-RU) will have a presentation on Tuesday, January 9th at 10:00 a.m. about its non-credit, recreational programming for adults ages 50 and older. There are no tests and no grades; just learning for the joy of learning! If you have ever been curious about history, painting, English, yoga, mathematics and more, OLLI-RU is for you. Courses are available year-round both online via Zoom and in-person in New Brunswick and Freehold.

Blood Sugar and Blood Pressure Screenings – Offered by St. Peters University Hospital on Tuesday, January 16th from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Fasting is not required. Please make an appointment by calling the Senior Center at (732) 562-1133.

NJ Senior Medicare Patrol will have two presentations: Fraud and Open Enrollment at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 25th at 10:00 a.m. and Technology and Fraud on Wednesday, March 27th at 10:00 a.m.

Passport Days – Do you need a passport book and/or passport card? A renewal? The U.S. Postal Service will be hosting Passport Days at the Senior Center on Wednesdays, January 17th, February 21st and March 20th from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



All ages are welcome. Make your appointment by calling the Senior Center at (732) 562-1133 as soon as possible as time slots fill up quickly.

Pick up an application & fee schedule at the front desk of the Piscataway Senior Center or use the QR code to get the forms you need. Photos will be taken on site.

Please bring two blank checks for passport & postal fees. Please bring a third check for photos if you need them taken that day. No cash will be accepted. Please also bring a long form birth certificate or naturalization certificate and a driver's license or other photo ID.

AARP Smart Drivers Classes – You must attend a set of both classes held from 9:00 a.m.-Noon at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC). Please call the Senior Center at (732) 562-1133 to register in advance. Cost is \$20.00 for AARP members and \$25.00 for non-AARP members.

- Monday, January 8th & Wednesday, January 10th
- Monday, February 12th & Wednesday, February 14th
- Monday, March 11th & Wednesday, March 13th

The **Office of Middlesex County Surrogate Claribel Cortes** will meet with individuals at the Piscataway Senior Center on Thursdays, January 11th & 25th February 8th & 22nd and March 7th & 21st. Please call the County Surrogate's office at (732) 745-3055 to make an appointment.

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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.





Library Notes



www.piscatawaylibrary.org

Celebrate Muslim Heritage Month at the Kennedy Library on Saturday, January 6th from 1-3 p.m. Students in grades 1-6 and their families are invited to explore activities and information highlighting different aspects of Muslim culture.

Children in grades K-6 and their families are invited to a Lunar New Year Celebration at the Kennedy Library on Saturday, January 20th at 2 p.m. Enjoy Patricia Shih's performance alongside dancer Xiao Fen Krasowitz.

Join us for our 6th Annual African American Read-In on Saturday, February 24th at the Kennedy Library at 11 a.m.

New Jersey Makers Day will be held on Saturday, March 16th. Join us at the Kennedy Library or Westergard Library to make something new!

Don't forget to check out museum passes at the Kennedy Library. With attractions from New York City to Philadelphia and as close as Edison, there's an option for you!

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.

Metlar-Bodine House Museum

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

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

Awards Celebration – Sunday, January 7th

Treat yourself to a stress-free evening of fun, food, & laughter! Our Annual Awards Celebration will be at The Stress Factory Comedy Club at 90 Church Street, New Brunswick on Sunday, January 7th with doors open at 5:30 p.m. and a buffet dinner from 6-7 p.m. The event recognizes the recipients of the Thomas Barton Post Historic Preservation Awards along with special honoree Ms. Junelynn N. Sadlowski.

The evening includes a comedy show with professional comedians and a buffet dinner with cash bar. Tickets are \$60 per person. Please RSVP & pay using the QR code or call the Museum. (Please do not call the Stress Factory.)



Sponsorship packages are available: Gold for \$750 including ten tickets, Silver for \$500 including six tickets and Bronze for \$350 including four tickets. Sponsorship packages also include special recognition, priority seating and a message of congratulations and/or thanks for the honoree or any of the award recipients. All fundraiser proceeds benefit the Museum.

Parking is available at the Church Street Parking Deck.

Spring Benefit – Saturday, April 20th at 7 p.m.

This fun-filled event at the beautiful YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center includes silent & live auctions with an enormous assortment of items, lavish hors d'oeuvres, complimentary wine & beer, cash bar and live music. Proceeds benefit the Museum's general operations, to increase and protect its permanent collection of area artifacts including our American Treasure, the Ross Hall Wall, and enrich The Fellowship's endowment fund securing the Museum's future. Reservation information will be available soon.

Visiting the Museum

The Museum & Dutch Door Gift Shop are open on Thursdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. as well as on some Saturdays. (Please check our website or call in advance for our schedule.) Closed on federal holidays. 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 ten people. Admission is \$5 for adults and children ages five and older.

Recreation

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

Picnic reservations – Township residents as well as Piscataway-based civic organizations and businesses will be able to reserve the pavilions at 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 3rd from 10 a.m.-Noon. 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 – Remember, all Township Recreation youth programs are free!
On Saturdays from January to March; no registration is 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

Starting in April for three-month seasons:

- T-Ball for boys & girls ages five, six & seven. (Players must turn five before 5/1/24 and cannot turn eight until after 4/30/24.)
- Junior Baseball league for boys ages 13-15. (Players must turn 13 before 9/1/24 and cannot turn 16 until after 8/31/24.)
- Girls instructional softball for 2nd & 3rd graders
- Girls modified pitch softball for 4th & 5th graders
- Girls fast pitch softball for 6th, 7th & 8th graders



Adults – You can live or work in Piscataway! Spring seasons with registration usually in April:

- Co-ed pickleball lessons
- Co-ed tennis lessons
- Men's "Over 35" slo-pitch industrial softball. Interested in starting a team? Please e-mail Recreation@PiscatawayNJ.org.

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

Arrive Together



Shown in the group photo from left to right are Prosecutor Yolanda Ciccone of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, General Platkin, Mayor Brian C. Wahler and Mr. Dailey.

At North Stelton AME Church in October, Rev. Dr. Eric R. Billips, Sr. and Senior Counsel to the New Jersey Attorney General Derick D. Dailey were the opening speakers at a roundtable discussion about Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin's Arrive Together program.

The Piscataway Township Police Department is now participating in Arrive Together for which in certain cases a mental health professional will be teamed with a police officer so an emergency situation can result in a more positive outcome.

For more information about Arrive Together, please use the QR code.



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



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 9th. 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, 2024
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.

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 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 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.

YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC)

Summer Camp registration starts on Thursday, February 1st.

Registration for swim lessons, martial arts and all other programming starts on Wednesday, February 14th at 9 a.m. for YPCC members and Wednesday, February 21st for non-YPCC members.



Tuesday, January 2nd
Noon-6 p.m.

Blood Drives
Scan the QR codes to sign up!



Monday, March 4th
Noon-6 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE

The Piscataway Township Civil Rights
Advisory Commission
Presents

“We The People, Building A More Perfect Union”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Recognition Brunch

Come and Enjoy The Celebration

Saturday, January 13, 2024 - 10:00 am

Piscataway Senior Center
700 Buena Vista Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854

Music By Valarie Adams & The Dimensions Band , Dancers & Poetry

RSVP Requested: 732-562-2301 or Email
DKorbman@PiscatawayNJ.org
by Thursday, January 11th

Guest Speaker

Rev. Dr. Ronald L. Slaughter
Senior Pastor of
Saint James A.M.E. Church, Newark, NJ

Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Saunders Sr., Chairman
Honorable Brian C. Wahler, Mayor, Piscataway Township

East Jersey Old Town Village & Cornelius Low House Museum

Visit East Jersey Old Town Village
1050 River Road, Piscataway
Open Wednesday through Sunday
10 a.m.-4 p.m.



The Village features historic structures from the 1700s and 1800s relocated to its site within Johnson Park. They represent different architecture styles found throughout Middlesex County's Raritan Valley. The Village's founder, Dr. Joseph Kler, and a group of local residents saved most of the buildings from demolition and transported them to the Village where they were reassembled and restored to reflect how they would have looked way back when.

Now you can explore these buildings of early residents and the archaeological discoveries from the long-vanished port community of Raritan Landing which was located in the same area as East Jersey Old Town Village on the Raritan River.

Micah Williams: Portrait Artist
Cornelius Low House Museum
1225 River Road, Piscataway



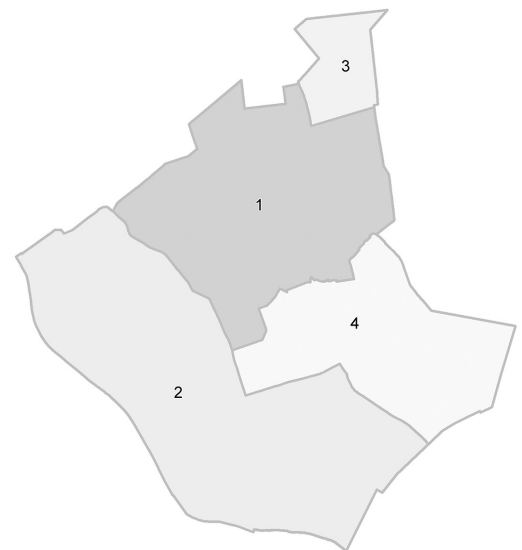
Traveling portrait artist, Micah Williams (1782-1837) was a prolific artist who has 272 known existing paintings. With over 35 paintings on view, visitors can come face to face with Middlesex and Monmouth County residents. The exhibition traces the transformation of the artist from his first career as a New Brunswick silver plater to a traveling portrait artist, placing his work into the larger context of social change and American economic development. The exhibition offers viewers the opportunity to explore family relationships among the sitters as well as a glimpse into a prospering agrarian society of Central New Jersey.

Visitors will be able to try their hand working with pastels and learn more about the making of materials used. Children will be encouraged to add their artwork to our Student Gallery and have it become part of the exhibit.

Fire Election Saturday, February 17th

Did you know that Piscataway has four fire districts each with their own elected board of commissioners? These fire commissioners are independent of the municipal government and set their own tax rates and budgets – and that affects the total of what you pay in property taxes.

On Saturday, February 17th are fire district elections and there will be one polling site for each district. To know what time and where to cast your votes for fire commissioners and the district's budget, please look for information on Township social media and in the Township's weekly e-mail newsletter.



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.