





**Editorial**

*Dhiren Shah*  
Editor-in-Chief

*Hello Readers,*

A most critical point of our lives is going on right now. So many viruses came and gone by, but they did not disrupt society as a whole. However, this virus that shares a name with a beer of all things - Corona - has disrupted the planet. As of July 1, 2020, there are over 10.5 million cases and 512,000 deaths, but we have over 5.7 million recoveries. That means the medical professionals has cured around 11 persons for every 1 death.

Compared to the rest of the world, the US is slower in recovery. Its recovery to death ratio is 8.7 to 1. On June 29th, the deaths were low at 346. The highest

death count was on April 21, with 2,749 deaths. New Jersey has 423 new positive cases as of July 1. It is a good achievement, and I give credit to Governor Phil Murphy. On June 29th, he postponed opening up indoor dining at restaurants.

Indoor dining is not advisable right now. Georgia, which opened indoor dining in the middle of June, and Texas, whose governor allowed 75% capacity of indoor dining, have seen spikes in positive cases. The same thing happened to California, which has about 223,000 cases. So, I agree with Governor Murphy that slowly and gradually, things should reopen.

The lockdown became problematic for many businesses, especially small businesses. They received some help from the PPP (Payroll Protection Program), but that was for 8 weeks only. What about after 8 weeks? Also, the government made a huge mistake giving the unemployed \$600 per

week until July 31, 2020. The majority of them were receiving more money without working, so why should they make a huge effort to look for a job? So, many businesses received PPP loans, but could not find employees. Plus, the government changes the rules every now and then. It is hurting people. It is their livelihood. We are not saying that lawmakers should not make policies, but we are asking them that once you make the policy, do not change it.

Only 4 months are left until the big election for the presidency. Listen to both sides of the news. We have a limited choice, so pick the best in your opinion. I am waiting for the August vice presidential pick from Joe Biden. It is a very important pick, as if something happens to Joe Biden, the vice president pick would become president, and that person must be capable of handling the situation and making important decisions.

Finally, Local Talk has returned to the printing press. For the past three months, we have been exclusively online due to the pandemic. We always intended to resume the print edition, because the community needs this format, as not everyone is great with technology. Also, reading something besides a screen is very important for our younger readers.

Last but not least, we decided that when we resumed printing, we would not just simply come back; we would come back better than ever. As you can see, the paper is in a new format, with improvements as you can see throughout. Going on 20 years, our mission has not changed. We seek to uplift the community and quality of life through the power of media.

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next week.*

**STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR LOCAL TALK WEEKLY NEWSPAPER**

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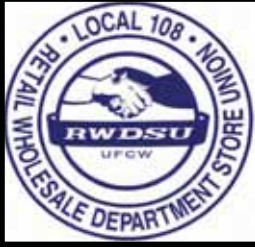
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**WEATHER FOR THE WEEK**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HI 90 LO 72 	HI 89 LO 69 	HI 82 LO 66 	HI 86 LO 69 	HI 89 LO 70 	HI 87 LO 71 	HI 88 LO 71 



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## Town Watch

**DISCLAIMER:** *The following items are primarily drawn from first responders. Responders' accounts may not be their full activity range. Grand juries hand down indictments when evidence presented them warrant a trial. Named suspects/defendants are innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.*

**NEWARK** - New Jersey's largest city has witnessed the removal of both of its Christopher Columbus statues, the latter at Bloomfield Avenue and Columbus Plaza, by 7 p.m. June 26.

Witnesses said that a heavy-duty flatbed tow truck and a crane backed up before the plaza's northeastern corner here at 6:30 p.m. Friday. Workers then quietly dismantled and, with the crane, placed it on the flatbed before driving away. A Newark police car was seen nearby on a bystander's video.

This particular Columbus statue was erected before St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church in 1972; the plaza would be renamed in his honor in 1974. A group of local Italian American locals, including the publisher of the adjacent "Italian Tribune," had raised funds to build the monument.

This monument became a focal point for the annual Columbus Day Parade here into the 2000s. The names of the parade's grand marshals were engraved at its pedestal.

The Bloomfield at Columbus Plaza statue came down about 23 hours after Mayor Ras Baraka directed that the 1926 Columbus statue be removed from Washington Park downtown for storage. That dismantling was made after sundown that Thursday.

A spokesman here at the Mayor's Public Information Office said that Baraka and the city were not involved with the Friday night Columbus statue removal. The spokesman said he did not know who performed Friday's taking away.

At least four statues of "The Discoverer of America" remain standing in the "Local Talk" area: Belleville, Bloomfield, Orange and West Orange. West Orange Mayor Robert Parisi has called for the statue in his township be removed. Petitions are being circulated for the dismantling of Bloomfield and Or-

ange's statuary.

**IRVINGTON** - A visitation for former Irvington Fire Capt. Robert R. Roberts has been set for 4-8 p.m. July 2 at Fanwood's Memorial Funeral Home, followed by a Funeral Mass 10 a.m. July 3 at Scotch Plains' St. Bartholomew Roman Catholic Church.

Roberts, 86, died at his Scotch Plains home, surrounded by his family, June 25. No cause of death has been disclosed.

The captain devoted most of his first 46 years as an Irvington native son. Born here March 11, 1934, the Irvington High School Class of 1952 graduate enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1953 before returning here upon his 1955 honorable discharge.

Roberts joined the Irvington Fire Department in 1970, working his way up to the rank of captain. He served for 30 years, doubling as the township's sub-code official, until his 1990 retirement. Roberts turned to running and bicycling, where he competed in nine marathons - including Boston's 100th running and the New York City Marathon.

Moving to Scotch Plains in 1976, Roberts and wife Marion Monteverdi Roberts raised sons Michael, James, Thomas and Steven plus daughter Mary-Beth. They were also grandparents to Meghan, Nicholas, Kevin, Patrick, Ryan, Connor and Sean.

Brother Edward and sister-in-law Kathy DiGiovanni are also among Roberts' survivors. His burial is to be at East Hanover's Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

**EAST ORANGE / ORANGE** - The June 25 arrests of the respective owner and manager of a Paterson-based regional school bus company may have brought back some painful memories of a 2018 series of collisions among neighbors and bus riders here.

Attorney General Gurbir Grewal and Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II announced Thursday morning that they had charged A-1 Elegant Tours owner Shelim Khalique, 51, of Wayne, and manager Henry Rhodes, 56, of Paterson, on five falsification and misconduct charges.

Both Khalique and Rhodes have been charged with third-degree tampering of public records plus second-degree charges

of misconduct by a corporate official, theft by deception, false representations for a government contract and conspiracy thereof.

Khalique and Rhodes, while running A-1/Eastern Star Transportation 2016-19, are accused of failing to conduct narcotic and criminal background checks of their drivers, failing to record which drivers held suspended NJMVC regular and commercial licenses and failing to maintain vehicular inspection records. The A-1 officials, who changed its name to Eastern Star July 25, are accused of having its drivers evade impending inspections by allowing them to take their buses home overnight.

A-1/Eastern Star once held up to \$1 million in school bus transportation contracts with Newark Public Schools, the Essex Regional Education Services Commission, Paterson and Passaic public schools plus districts in Hudson and Union counties.

One of its drivers was arrested on DWI and endangering the welfare of a minor after he had struck several cars, two utility poles and a fire hydrant in East Orange and Orange in a 20-minute stretch Sept. 21, 2018. The crashes, which started at East Orange's Park and North Arlington avenues and ended at Orange's Thomas Boulevard and Dodd Street, happened while a nine-year-old child and an adult bus aide were aboard.

The aide told EOPD officers that she tried to revive the Paterson driver after he had first passed out. The child had complained of "side pain" and was treated by contracted EMS at the scene. The driver's Newark attorney said his client was an A-1 mechanic who was asked to drive that morning - and had suffered a heart attack.

**WEST ORANGE** - Riders who take Coach USA's Community Coach 77 or DeCamp Bus Line's four active routes will have to take alternative modes on Friday, July 3.

Both private bus lines, in their respective web sites and Twitter feeds, will not be running Friday. They will be observing the Independence Day holiday Friday since the actual July 4 date falls on a Saturday this year.

The Independence Day holiday observance is the first since

both private carriers resumed running limited rush hour directional service only June 8.

NJTransit riders may meanwhile need to consult that company's website to see if its commuter rail, light rail or bus routes are running on a regular Saturday, a Sunday or a special "Holiday" schedule. Some bus routes have also begun running on a new June 27 timetable or schedule.

**MONTCLAIR** - What looks like Montclair Public Schools' loss in high school principal Anthony Grosso will likely be the Cedar Grove Schools' gain as its new district superintendent Aug. 24.

Grosso, who had been Montclair High School's principal since October 2018, tendered his resignation here June 24 - the day after the Cedar Grove Board of Education approved his new contract in their special meeting.

Grosso's Wednesday resignation prompted the Montclair Board of Education to schedule a virtual special meeting, via Sisco Webex, 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

It is not known whether they would appoint an interim MHS principal from one of its assistant principals or transfer a principal from another school. Thursday night's agenda was not posted as of 3 p.m. June 25.

Grosso's resignation ends his 20 years' service with Montclair Public Schools. Except for a year's outside stint as a Saddle Brook principal in 2014, he had been principal of the Watchung School, the Glenfield Middle and MHS 2015-20. Grosso started with MPS as a teacher and, later, an assistant principal 2001-13.

"The Montclair BOE congratulates Anthony Grosso on his appointment," said Board President Latifah Jannah June 24. "He's been a valued educator in Montclair for many years and we wish him well in his new endeavor."

"Kr. Grosso's an excellent principal, an excellent educational leader," said MPS Interim Superintendent Dr. Nathan Parker, "and, I think, he'll do an excellent job in Cedar Grove."

**BLOOMFIELD** - A township man has been remanded to South Kearny's Hudson County Cor-

(Continued on page 7)

# NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EXEMPTS DOULAS FROM HOSPITAL DELIVERY SUPPORT PERSON LIMITS DURING COVID-19



**TRENTON** - Recognizing the role of doulas as an essential part of an expectant mother's care team, the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) issued an executive directive on June 29 exempting doulas from limits on support persons throughout a woman's hospital stay during the COVID-19 pandemic. As COVID-19 hospitalizations decrease statewide, there is now sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and testing capacity to allow doulas to resume their duties during labor and delivery as a member of a pregnant woman's health care team.

Doulas support healthy pregnancies by providing culturally appropriate, social and emotional support to pregnant women throughout the prenatal period, labor and delivery, as well as the postpartum period. Research demonstrates that support from a doula is associated with lower caesarian section rates, fewer obstetric interventions, fewer complications, and the improved health of mothers and babies after delivery.

Under the directive, hospitals are required to allow at least one designated support person to be with the expectant mother during her hospital stay - the patient's spouse, partner, sibling or another person she chooses. Doulas will no longer be count-

ed toward this limit and can accompany the designated support person for the mother's hospital stay. Hospitals may allow additional support individuals if the hospital has determined that sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available.

"New Jersey currently has among the worst maternal and infant mortality disparities in the country," said First Lady Tammy Murphy, who has led the state's efforts to address maternal and child health. "The culturally responsive care that a community doula can provide to a mother has shown to greatly improve birth outcomes for mothers and babies of color. Doulas are a critical part of Nurture NJ's efforts to make New Jersey the safest place in the nation to deliver a baby."

Maternal and infant health has been a key focus for the Murphy Administration. First Lady Murphy has made maternal and infant health a priority through her statewide Nurture NJ campaign, a multi-pronged, multi-agency initiative focused on reducing maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, and ensuring equitable maternal and infant care among women and children of all races and ethnicities.

New Jersey ranks 47th in the nation for maternal deaths, according to America's Health



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Rankings. Additionally, black women and babies experience disproportionate maternal and infant health outcomes. A black woman is five times more likely than a white woman to die from pregnancy-related complications, and a black baby is three times more likely than a white baby to die before their first birthday.

As part of this effort, DOH has increased outreach, support and services to women of color to improve health and birth outcomes. Doulas have long been engaged to support women during pregnancy, delivery and post-partum care.

In September 2019, First Lady Murphy and DOH announced a \$10.5 million grant over five years from the Health Resources and Services Administration to advance health equity and address disparities in maternal health outcomes. This funding supports the work of the New Jersey Maternity Care Quality Collaborative, a statutorily mandated multidisciplinary team of stakeholders who will oversee the transformation of maternal healthcare in the state.

On January 23, 2020, Maternal Health Awareness Day, First Lady Tammy Murphy announced the partnership between the Murphy Administration, the Nicholson Foundation, and the Community Health Acceleration Partnership to develop a comprehensive, statewide maternal and infant health strategic plan as part of Nurture NJ. The strategic plan, which will build on the Administration's progress over the past two years, aims to reduce New Jersey's maternal mortality rate by 50 percent and eliminate racial disparities in birth outcomes.

The strategic plan will include a statewide assessment of existing infrastructure to support improvements in maternal and infant health. The plan will examine community investments, clinical and social factors, private sector engagement, and policy development. Work will be further informed by speaking directly to women across the state; interviewing and engaging the Administration's 18 collaborating agencies; working with leading state health providers; and talking to a range of community-based organizations, including our community doula programs. In parallel, the plan will incorporate national best practices for improving maternal and infant health and eliminating disparities, in order to identify areas where state activities could better align with scientific evidence. To set up Nurture NJ for long-term success, the comprehensive plan will include specific, actionable recommendations for all stakeholders, and a concrete implementation plan for ensuring equity for mothers, babies, and their families.

Under DOH's Healthy Women, Healthy Families initiative, DOH awarded \$4.7 million to community-based agencies in 2018 to improve black infant, maternal mortality, including \$450,000 for doula training in municipalities with high black infant mortality.

To date, the state has trained 79 doulas using the Uzazi Village model, which focuses on training doulas to serve women of color in their own communities. Through doula pilot programs, doulas have assisted or are assisting 349 women, resulting in 252 births to date.



## UNITED STATES

### **SCOTUS Makes Abortion Ruling**

For the third time in a month, the majority conservative Supreme Court has yielded a liberal ruling.

In a 5-4 decision in the case of June Medical Services v Russo (formerly Kee), the Court ruled that Louisiana's state law requiring doctors performing abortions to have admission privileges at a state-authorized hospital within 30 miles of an abortion clinic was unconstitutional.

Chief Justice Roberts broke with his conservative beliefs, siding with liberal Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Stephen Breyer. Conservative Justices Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, Clarence Thomas, and Samuel Alito dissented.

In making his decision, Roberts cited a previous decision of Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt that had a similar ruling. (In law, there is a saying: "precedent takes precedent" - meaning that courts honor previous rulings in cases of similar consequence.)

In response to the ruling, the White House Press Secretary released this statement: "In an unfortunate ruling today, the Supreme Court devalued both the health of mothers and the lives of unborn children by gutting Louisiana's policy that required all abortion procedures be performed by individuals with admitting privileges at a nearby hospital.

"States have legitimate interests in regulating any medical procedure - including abortions - to protect patient safety. Instead of valuing fundamental democratic principles, unelected Justices have intruded on the sovereign prerogatives of State governments by imposing their own policy preference in favor of abortion to override legitimate abortion safety regulations."

Previously, the conservative leaning court has ruled with liberals on matters of DACA and LGBTQ employment rights, dealing defeats to the Trump Administration each time.

## EUROPE

### **Border Closed to Americans**

On June 30, the European Union allowed for travel between 14 countries; however, one particular country was not among them.

Travel within the bloc is being permitted by EU officials, based on those countries meeting certain requirements in regard to COVID-19 containment. However, the United States has not met those metrics, meaning travel to and from the U.S. is not being permitted at this time.

According to data from Johns Hopkins University, of the 10 million plus cases and 500,000 plus deaths, the United States leads all nations in both case and fatality count, with more than 2.5 million cases and 125,000 deaths - 1/4 of the world in either category.

The EU travel list will be reviewed every 14 days for any essential updates. To qualify under the plan, a country must have either stable or declining COVID-19 cases over a 14 day span.

If the traveling person is considered of "essential function or need" then exceptions will be made.

## AFRICA

### **Ebola Milestone Reached**

As the world does its best to handle one microscopic outbreak, the World Health Organization (WHO) is celebrating the end of another.

On June 25, WHO marked the end of the 10th outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), acknowledging the leadership and commitment of the Government of the DRC, many partners and donors, and the efforts of the communities affected by the virus.

WHO congratulated all those

involved in the arduous and often dangerous work required to end the outbreak, but stresses the need for vigilance. Continuing to support survivors and maintaining strong surveillance and response systems in order to contain potential flare-ups is critical in the months to come.

"The outbreak took so much from all of us, especially from the people of DRC, but we came out of it with valuable lessons, and valuable tools. The world is now better-equipped to respond to Ebola. A vaccine has been licensed, and effective treatments identified," said WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"We should celebrate this moment, but we must resist complacency. Viruses do not take breaks. Ultimately, the best defense against any outbreak is investing in a stronger health system as the foundation for universal health coverage."

The outbreak, declared in North Kivu on August 1, 2018, was the second largest in the world, and was particularly challenging as it took place in an active conflict zone. There were 3,470 cases, 2,287 deaths and 1,171 survivors.

Led by the DRC Government and the Ministry of Health and supported by WHO and partners, the more than 22-month-long response involved training thousands of health workers, registering 250,000 contacts, testing 220,000 samples, providing patients with equitable access to advanced therapeutics, vaccinating over 303,000 people with the highly effective rVSV-ZEBOV-GP vaccine, and offering care for all survivors after their recovery.

The response was bolstered by the engagement and leadership of the affected communities. Thanks to their efforts, this outbreak did not spread globally. More than 16,000 local frontline responders worked alongside the more than 1,500 people deployed by WHO. Support from donors was essential, as was the work of UN partner agencies, national and international NGOs, research networks, and partners deployed through the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network. Hard work to build up preparedness capacities in neighboring countries also limited the risk of the outbreak expanding.

Work will continue to build on the gains made in this response to address other health challenges, including measles and COVID-19.

"During the almost two years we fought the Ebola virus, WHO and partners helped strengthen the capacity of local health authorities to manage outbreaks," said Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

"The DRC is now better, smarter and faster at responding to Ebola and this is an enduring legacy which is supporting the response to COVID-19 and other outbreaks."

As countries around the world face the COVID-19 pandemic, the DRC Ebola response provides valuable lessons. Many of the public health measures that have been successful in stopping Ebola are the same measures that are now essential for stopping COVID-19: finding, isolating, testing, and caring for every case and relentless contact tracing.

In DRC, community workers were provided with training and a smartphone data collection app that enabled them to track contacts and report in real time rather than fill in laborious paper reports. Even when violence locked down cities, the community workers, many of them local women, continued to track and trace contacts using the application, something that was crucial for ending this outbreak.

While this 10th outbreak in DRC has ended, the fight against Ebola continues. On 1 June 2020, seven cases of Ebola were reported in Mbandaka city and neighboring Bikoro Health Zone in Equateur Province and an 11th outbreak was declared. WHO is supporting the government-led response with more than 50 staff already deployed and more than 5,000 vaccinations already administered.

WHO salutes the thousands of heroic responders who fought one of the world's most dangerous viruses in one of the world's most unstable regions. Some health workers, including WHO experts, paid the ultimate price and sacrificed their lives to the Ebola response.

**2020 PRIMARY**

**ELECTION PREVIEW**

*(Continued from page 1)*

12's combined nonpartisan municipal and board of education elections in that it will be done by almost all-Vote By Mail ballot. Voters must make their choices, sign the ballots and have them postmarked or delivered on or by 8 p.m. Tuesday.

July 7's process, however, can be called "VBM Election 2.0" for several reasons.

Murphy (D-Rumson) has directed Essex County Clerk Christopher Durkin here and his 20 statewide county clerk colleagues to have at least one traditional voting machine polling station open Tuesday 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. Essex County's polling booth is to be here at its Hall of Records, 465 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., for those who have not received their VBM ballots by now or are otherwise unable to complete them.

The Governor also asked the state's 21 county clerks to locate five satellite VBM drop boxes as an alternative to the United States Postal Service. Those five Essex County locations are:

- East Orange City Hall, 44 City Hall Plaza.
- Montclair Municipal Building, 205 Claremont Ave.,
- Newark City Hall, Green Street entrance, 920 Broad St.
- West Caldwell Municipal Building, 30 Clinton Rd.
- West Orange's South Mountain Arena Recreation Complex, 560 Northfield Ave.

Murphy had also extended the VBM ballot reception grace period from 48 hours to July 14. The extended period, on one hand, may counter the some 300 May 12 postmarked ballots that the Hall of Records had received from the USPS after 8 p.m. May 14. The downside, however, is that no official results may be known until July 14.

The following is a summary of candidates seeking their respective party endorsement to run to occupy the White House and Congress to the county Hall of Records and town halls.

**PRESIDENT**

The Democratic nominee contest, on the ballot, is between former Vice President Joseph R. Biden, of Delaware, and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Biden, however, is considered the presumptive candidate since Sanders halted his campaign in late March.

Republican primary is a contest-on-ballot between incumbent Donald J. Trump (New York) and former Massachusetts Governor William "Bill" Weld, of Boston.

**CONGRESS**

New Jersey party members are to choose a candidate each for the Senate and at least four candidates for the House of Representative.

2020's sole U.S. Senator primary is to winnow a candidate each from among six runners.

The Democratic primary pits incumbent Cory A. Booker (Newark) against challenger Lawrence "Larry" Hamm (Montclair). Hamm is heading a "Not Me, Us" slate that has also fielded runners for some of the Essex County Board of Freeholders' positions.

Republican party voters here and statewide have four runners to pick from: Eugene Anatgnos (East Hanover), Tricia Flanagan (Lawrenceville), Rikin "Rik" Metha (Morris Township), Natalie Lynn Rivera (Sicklerville) or Hirsh V. Singh (Atlantic City).

"Local Talk" party voters are to meanwhile decide party banner holders in their three House of Representatives' Congressional districts.

8th U.S. District: Including Belleville and Newark's North and East wards.

This C.D.'s Democratic primary has incumbent Albio Sires (West New York) facing challenges from Hector Omar Osequera, Jr. (Not Me, Us-Union City) and Will Sheehan (Sanders 2020-Bayonne).

Whoever gets the Democratic favor is to face presumptive Republican nominee Jason Todd Mushnik (Jersey City) Nov. 3.

10th U.S. District: Incl. East Orange, Glen Ridge, Irvington, Maplewood, Orange, South Orange; Newark's other three

*(Continued on page 22)*

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**TOWN WATCH**  
*(Continued from page 4)*

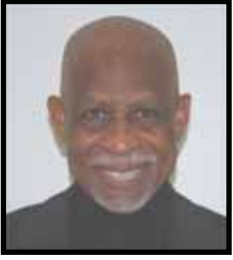
rectional Facility since his June 27 arrest on charges of aggravated and sexual assault of two people at a June 23 party in Jersey City.

Hudson County Prosecutor Esther Suarez said, on Saturday, that Olumuyiwa Olumodeji, 35, was arrested by her detectives at their Jersey City office just after 9 a.m. Saturday. HCPO detectives were investigating the re-

port of a 23-year-old woman who was sexually assaulted while she and Olumodeji were at a party that Tuesday at a Manila Avenue address.

Olumodeji has been charged with first-degree aggravated sexual assault and second-degree sexual assault.

He has also been charged with second-degree aggravated assault - allegedly on a man who tried to restrain him from leaving that party.



## From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### The Search For The Truth

Searching for the truth these days is like "looking for a needle in a haystack." There is so much misinformation around us that it takes an intense sense of purpose, perseverance, patience, and persistence to find the truth.

Let's take as an instance where the coronavirus came from. One of the first suggestions said that it came from a bat - a zoonotic origin and then through a Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, China. Another early suggestion that is still circulating on the internet is that the virus came from an effort to manipulate the SARS-CoV-2.

Another theory is that the virus was genetically engineered to be a bioweapon. One lab theory claims that the virus was started in the United States and then sent to China and spread across the world. Just about all of the theories concerning the virus have been debunked, although those who seek to peddle falsehoods are still sharing them.

The politics of the virus has even led the President of the United States to give the virus a name, which I need not enter into this reflection, for many have already identified it as "a racist" name. Whatever the origin of the virus, what is most significant at this point is that the world is still amid a pandemic that is causing the death of thousands and if not brought under control, will cause the lives of millions.

While the search goes on for the truth concerning the origin of the World Health Organization, the health organizations of the United States, and multiple organizations in other countries, there is a need for those who want the truth to pray for wisdom.

Yes, I said there is a great need to know the truth, in a culture of lies. The search for truth in this time of falsehoods is not to only connected to the coronavirus, but in every area of our lives, we need to seek for the truth for without the truth our world is headed for "hell."

As Jordan Peterson says, "Life without truth is hell." Warren Wiersbe says, "Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy."

The renowned 19th Century German, Bohemian novelist Franz Kafka said, "Truth is what every man needs to live, but can obtain from no one. Each man must reproduce it for himself from within. Otherwise, he must perish. Life without truth is not possible. Truth is perhaps life itself."

The great American poet, critic, essayist, editor, and diplomat Russell Lowell said, "Truth forever on the scaffold, Wrong forever on the throne, Yet that scaffold sways the future, and, behind the dim unknown, Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own."

I can give a slew of quotes from a variety of voices about the need to find and live by the truth, but I turn to the one person who is, for me, the most significant in his declarations concerning finding the truth, namely, Jesus Christ. The apostle John records him to say, "You shall know the **truth**, and the **truth** shall make you free" (John 8:32). In another recording, John says what Jesus said of himself, "I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No

one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

What a profound declaration that Jesus makes of himself. He is the Truth. What I quoted first from Jesus might sound like any of the other voices that I quoted in the third paragraph above. But, the claim of Jesus that "He is the truth" is profoundly distinctive. Jesus claims challenges Kafka's that "Each man must reproduce it [truth] for himself from within." In the cultural climate which we are living, personal perspectives and preferences seem most acceptable to us.

We look into ourselves or to our society to find truth, but please note that we often become frustrated because we are looking for truth in the wrong places. What Kafka and our contemporary psychologists and philosophers say about truth is not being discounted. We need to find the truths by which we can live in the world:

1. We cannot live without truth
2. Life without truth is hell
3. Love without truth is hypocrisy
4. Life without truth is not possible
5. The secret of living is to find a life of truth

But above the truth that we find in the world is the truth we find in Jesus Christ. The thoughts above are great, but if they do not connect to that truth that Jesus Christ is the one who can shine the spotlight of truth on the mind, the soul, the heart, in the social order or wherever truth is being sought, then there will be no severe encounter with the absolute truth.

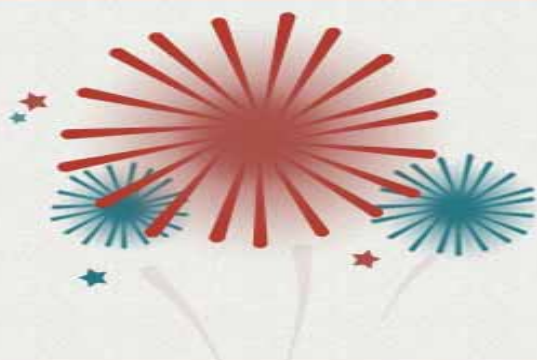
A very spiritual author I read often underlines my point this way: When every conceivable thing is being brought in to confuse the people of God, let your spiritual eyesight be strength-

ened; let your faith in the Word of God be firm. Know for yourselves that the words and teachings of Christ, which are the words and teachings of Jehovah, contain the highest instruction men can gain. When any would seek to confuse your minds, repeat to them the words of Christ, "No man can serve two masters" (Matthew 6:24). Let the Word of the Lord stand forth clearly and distinctly. Letter 98, 1909.

Human fallacies are abundant and apparent. Unseen agencies are at work to make falsehood appear as truth; errors are clothed with a deceptive garb that men may be led to accept them as essential to higher education. And these fallacies will deceive many of our students unless they are thoroughly guarded and unless they are led by the Spirit of God to take the grand and holy truths of the Word into their hearts and minds, accepting these as the principles underlying the higher education. No instruction can exceed in value the clear instruction of God, which comes for the enlightenment of all who will be enlightened... There can be no education higher than that which was given by the Great Teacher. Letter 98, 1909.

There is nothing more detrimental to the soul's interest, its purity, its true and holy conceptions of God, and of sacred and eternal things than constantly giving heed to and exalting that which is not from God. It poisons the heart and degrades the understanding. Pure truth can be traced to its divine Source by its elevating, refining, sanctifying influence upon the character of the receiver. Letter 12, 1890.

In my pastoral mode, my question is simply this, "Are you really in the search for truth?" Then my recommendation is that you find it in Jesus Christ.



# HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY



# The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

## First Wave or Second, Coronavirus is Killing Us All

America is worried. "A combined 86% of Americans say they are very or somewhat concerned with the pandemic," according to a recent article in USA Today citing a new survey from the Democracy Fund + UCLA Nationscape Project, one of the largest public opinion surveys ever conducted. This figure is "3 percentage points down from the recorded high during a survey conducted from March 26 to April 1."

These respondents are us, our patients, our families, friends and colleagues expressing their concern over the pandemic. It doesn't help that the people we look up to for providing us with health statistics - I am looking at you CDC - were vacillating or were seen to be vacillating. For many of us it appears as if they are complicit in a game of politics, instead of being straight with us, the American public about the real state of affairs.

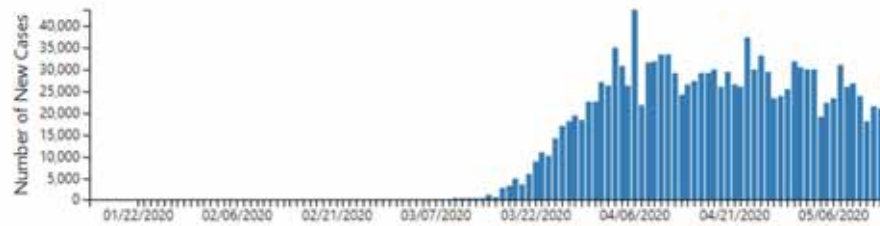
### Less fake news - more guidance

In a way, it is a good thing that the White House Coronavirus Task Force is being wound down, or disbanded. CDC has finally been unleashed to help us all with guidance on opening up business after the shutdowns and shelter-in-place orders. These days a search for coronavirus and CDC actually gets you use-

ful search results, such as the Resuming Business Toolkit, instead of all the credible mainstream media disputing what was stated at the most recent taskforce briefing. It does not help that some states, like Florida are seen to be actively hiding the facts from us. Beating this pandemic requires a fact-based, whole of government response, as those nations who have beaten the coronavirus found out. It requires decisive leadership who can do what it takes ignoring political implications.

### So where are we now as a country?

Here's what the numbers of new cases reported look like, in



a chart from CDC: As things stand now, new daily cases are rising in 26 states, says NPR's tracker which has a day to day average running totals.

Most of the cases are coming from Texas, the Carolinas, Arizona and Florida. While these states top the data due to relatively higher numbers, most exceeding 1,000 cases a day, states like Oregon, Oklahoma and Florida all have more than doubled the number of cases compared to figures from two weeks ago. South Carolina has seen a 200% increase in cases.

You can also check the Politico Live Tracker for the number of positive cases, tests performed and the number of deaths state by state.

### Coronavirus, alive and kicking

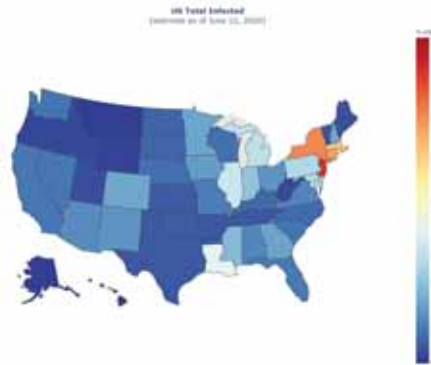
There is no doubt that the coronavirus is sweeping across the United States. Whether you and I like it or not, and whether the United States of America, the most powerful nation on earth, is ready or not, one thing is certain: There will be a second wave of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Then comes the question

whether it is here already or not. People disagree on this. A flood of new cases in Arizona, the Carolinas, Florida and Texas makes a lot of people believe that there is a relationship between early opening of these States for business has brought on the second wave.

But the definition of a second wave means that the first wave has abated, cases have gone down and then there is a resurgence. For most of the above states, that is not really the case. They were never in the eye of the storm like New York or New Jersey were. So a drop in cases and a resurgence does not meet their state of affairs.

### New Jersey tops list of most infected states



Source: covid19-projections.com

Look at these COVID-19 projections using machine learning. As of June 13th, most of the states seem to have less than 10 percent infections, as a percentage of total populations. My state of New Jersey has the unwelcome honor of being the most infected with 18 percent of us having or having had the coronavirus disease. New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts are second third and fourth, with 15.2%, 14.3% and 13.2% of infection rates respectively.

Now, take a look at the vast swaths across America which remain blue in this map and then look at the statistics I cited above. These states are all in the first wave, while we in the more infected states may be facing the

second wave. This wave stuff only makes sense if everyone did everything at the same time with some semblance of coherent policy implementation. Our country, built on the "my way or highway" attitude of individualism and personal freedom gets in the way of doing things rationally. This is the cause for confusion.

If everyone closed-up business together and had "shelter in place" guidance at the same time, we would not be arguing about the waves and definitions. Nor would we have headlines like these: Travel From New York City Seeded Wave of U.S. Outbreaks. But we did not. Now we are seeing businesses open and case number rising across America while places like NY and NJ are being more cautious.

CDC says we are not out of the woods and have issued guidance on how to open up business safely, or as safely as you can with a highly infectious invisible enemy like the coronavirus. While I admit it is very important to get people to work, and open up businesses, even with strict adherence to CDC guidance - which I would call common sense, guided by science - there will still be people who will not adhere to them.

When some states opened for business, many businesses were insisting on people wearing masks and taking basic precautions. And some customers were protesting, even violently. Let us say that is normal. But as usual, some of us make the whole country look foolish. Here's one headline from the Guardian in the UK: No masks allowed: stores turn customers away in US culture war.

With citizens like these, who needs enemies? We'd all be laughing if it is not so tragic. Thanks to our individualism and lack of assertive leadership at the national level, the coronavirus is killing us. You won't be able to exercise your freedom when you are dead. Remember that, and remind everyone who does not take the basic precautions of social distancing, wearing masks and washing their hands.

In the meanwhile, stay safe, everyone.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION**

**Currently there are 9 (nine) BOE members as a Type II district, of the nine members 3 (three) member's seats are due for election/re-election on November 3, 2020**

**The petitions are now available in the Office of the Orange Board Business Administrator/Board Secretary between the hours of 8:30 A.M. through 4:00 P.M.  
The Board Secretary's Office is located at:-**

**451 Lincoln Avenue,  
Orange, New Jersey 07050  
1<sup>st</sup> floor.**

**Or**

**You may obtain a copy from the Orange Board of Education  
Website**

**<http://www.orange.k12.nj.us>**

**Or**

**From Essex County Clerk's Office Website**

**<http://www.essexclerk.com/Content/pdf/forms/School-Board-Petition-Packet-2020.pdf>**

**for joint petition**

**<http://www.essexclerk.com/Content/pdf/forms/Joint-Petition-School-Board.pdf>**

**The filing deadline for petitions is Monday, July 27, 2020. Petitions MUST be returned to the Office of the Essex County Clerk, 465 Martin Luther King Blvd Newark Room 246.**

**Monday, July 27, 2020, by 4:00 P.M.**

**Adekunle O. James,  
Orange Board of Education  
Secretary**

**JOINT/BRACKET NOMINATING PETITION FOR  
NOVEMBER ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTIONS**

*Certain County Boards of Elections require the use of a county specific nominating petition. Additionally, note that at the time of publication, there are two pending bills in the New Jersey legislature (S-2433 / A-4307) that would require an electronic process for the collection of petition signatures and their submission for elections during the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Therefore, school board candidates should check with their respective county clerk about current filing requirements. Please contact your County Board of Elections for details.*

TO: \_\_\_\_\_, County Clerk of the \_\_\_\_\_ County.

**A. NOMINATING STATEMENT:** We, the undersigned, are qualified voters of the \_\_\_\_\_ School District representing \_\_\_\_\_ (Municipality) in \_\_\_\_\_ (County), New Jersey. We hereby endorse the following as candidates for membership on the above named Board of Education and we hereby request that the names of said candidates be printed on the official ballot to be used at the ensuing election for the Board of Education to be held \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

<b>1. Candidate Name*</b>	<b>Residence &amp; Postal Address*</b>	<b>Term of Office*</b>	
		(Select one) <input type="checkbox"/> Full Term	# Years
Telephone	Email**	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexpired Term	
<b>2. Candidate Name*</b>	<b>Residence &amp; Postal Address*</b>	<b>Term of Office*</b>	
		(Select one) <input type="checkbox"/> Full Term	# Years
Telephone	Email**	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexpired Term	
<b>3. Candidate Name*</b>	<b>Residence &amp; Postal Address*</b>	<b>Term of Office*</b>	
		(Select one) <input type="checkbox"/> Full Term	# Years
Telephone	Email**	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexpired Term	
<b>4. Candidate Name*</b>	<b>Residence &amp; Postal Address*</b>	<b>Term of Office*</b>	
		(Select one) <input type="checkbox"/> Full Term	# Years
Telephone	Email**	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexpired Term	

\*Required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:60-5

\*\*Required by N.J.S.A. 19:13-4

**B. DESIGNATION** (Optional. No more than three words that convey the principles which the candidates represent, but no designation may contain the name, or a derivative or any part thereof, used as a noun or an adjective, of any political party that is entitled to participate in a primary election.)

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**C.. SIGNATORIES:**

We, the undersigned petitioners, hereby certify that the said (Name of Candidate) \_\_\_\_\_ is legally qualified under the laws of the State to be elected a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education. (At least ten signatures, one of which may be the candidate's, are required to nominate a candidate.)

#	NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			

**D. AFFIDAVIT:**

\_\_\_\_\_, circulator of this nominating petition, being duly sworn or affirmed according to the law on oath, deposes and says: The present petition is signed by each of the signers thereof in his/her own handwriting; the signers are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, legally qualified to vote at the school district election for which the candidates are nominated; and that the petition is prepared and filed in absolute good faith for the sole purpose of endorsing each candidate and placing the candidate's name on the official ballot in order to seek election as a member of the Board of Education. The circulator further affirms that he/she is eligible to vote in the state of New Jersey, and meets the age, citizenship and residency requirements as required by New Jersey law.

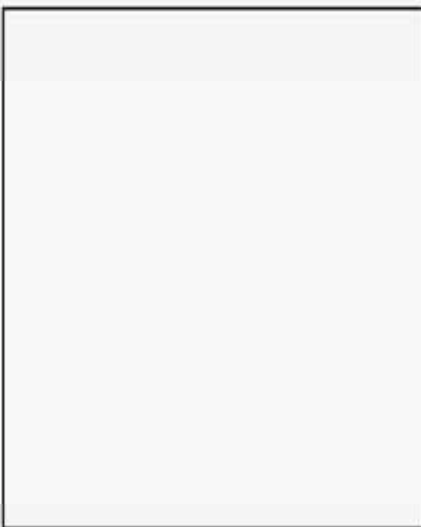
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Circulator's signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Typed or printed name of circulator)

SWORN OR AFFIRMED AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS

\_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

(Affix notary stamp here)



\_\_\_\_\_  
*Notary Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed or typed name of notary*

My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

**E. NOTICE**

All candidates are required by law to comply with the provisions of "The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act," *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.* For further information, please call the Election Law Enforcement Commission, (609) 292-8700.

**F. CANDIDATE'S ACCEPTANCE/OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a candidate for membership of the board of education named in the foregoing petition, do hereby certify that I am qualified to be a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education; that I consent to stand as a candidate for election and, if elected, agree to accept and qualify into that office. I further affirm and declare I am not disqualified as a voter pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:4-1*, nor have I been convicted of a disqualifying crime pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1*.

I further do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the Governments established in the United States and in this State, under the authority of the people. So help me God.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Candidate Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed or typed name of candidate*

SWORN OR AFFIRMED AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS

\_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

(Affix notary stamp here)



\_\_\_\_\_  
*Notary Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*printed or typed name of notary*

My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

**QUALIFICATIONS** - Candidates filing a nominating petition for board membership must meet the following qualifications:

- a citizen of the United States of America
- at least 18 (eighteen) years of age to qualify for office
- able to read and write
- a resident of the municipality from which he/she is to be elected for at least one year preceding the date of the election
- not disqualified as a voter pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:4-1*
- a registered voter in the district
- not convicted of a disqualifying crime pursuant to *N.J.S.A.18A:12-1*

No board of education member shall be directly or indirectly involved in any contract with, or claim against, the board.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- Within 30 days of election or appointment to the board, a member must undergo a **criminal history background investigation** through the New Jersey Department of Education.
- The School Ethics Act and nepotism legislation impact the ability of board members who have relatives working in the school district to act in areas such as personnel and collective negotiations. Please consult your board secretary for details.
- Two or more candidates for any given term of office may notify the secretary of the board in writing or the county clerk if the annual school election is to be held in November, at least seven days before the drawing date that they wish to have their names with their chosen designation, if any, bracketed together, so that their names and designation, if any, are selected as a group at the drawing and their names and designation are printed together on the ballot. The candidates shall determine among themselves the order in which their names are to appear within the bracket prior to so notifying the secretary. *N.J.S.A. 19:60-8(d)*.

*(Note: County Clerks are encouraged to fill out this section prior to distribution to school board candidates.)*

Completed nominating petitions shall be filed with the county clerk on or before 4:00 p.m. on the last Monday in July, which is **July 27, 2020** for the General Election. The county clerk's office is located at (county clerk address) \_\_\_\_\_ and the days, dates and business hours during which the office is open to receive petitions are:

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY CLERK/DESIGNEE

At: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    *TIME*                      *DATE*

## School Board Elections - November

Contact & Filing Entity: Office of the Essex County Clerk, Election Division:  
973-621-4922

Filing Deadline for School Board Election: by 4:00pm on the last Monday in July

### 2020 Instructions for Annual School Election Petitions

Candidate Nominating Petitions must be filed with the County Clerk by the deadline of Monday, July 27, 2020 before 4:00 p.m.

The County Clerk's Office is located at 465 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Hall of Records Room 246 Newark, NJ 07102 Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the County Clerk's Office at 973-621-4922 for more information or email [jferry@clerk.essexcountynj.org](mailto:jferry@clerk.essexcountynj.org)

A Petition Form can be downloaded by visiting the Essex County Clerk's Office Website at [www.essexcountyclerk.com](http://www.essexcountyclerk.com) or in person at the County Clerk's Office.

### Notice to All School Board Candidates

A new law effective July 1, 2018 permits School Board Candidates to circulate petitions jointly and be bracketed together on the ballot if they wish with 1 or 2 other candidates. It also permits a short non-political slogan not to exceed 3 words. Candidates are required to file a specific affirmation that they have not been convicted of crimes that would disqualify them from office with their petition. Please call the County Clerk's Elections Office if you have any questions at 9763-621-4922.

### Qualifications and Instructions for Petition

#### Qualifications

Candidates filing a nominating petition for school board must meet the following qualifications:

- Must be a citizen of the United States of America
- Must be at least 18 years of age



- Must be able to read and write
- Must be a resident for at least one year preceding the date of election in the municipality where he/she is to be elected
- Is not disqualified as a voter pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:4-1
- Is not disqualified from membership for the conviction of crimes pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1\*
- Is a registered voter in the school district

*\*Within 30 days of election or appointment to the board, a member must undergo a criminal history background investigation through the New Jersey Department of Education.*

### **Instructions for Petition**

1. Before circulating the petition complete section "A. Nominating Statement" and section "B. Signatories" above the area for the signatures, printed name, residence mailing address and e-mail address.
2. Then have voters sign, print their name and print their complete residence.
3. Once all signatures are gathered the person who circulated the petition for the signatures must take the oath in section "C.Verification" before a notary public.
4. Section "D. Notice" is the notice to which all candidates must comply.
5. In section "E. Candidate's Acceptance and Oath of Allegiance" the candidate must take the oath before a notary public.

### **ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE PRESIDENT STEPPING DOWN**

(Continued from page 1)

She credits Dr. Munroe for spearheading the College's efforts to resolve the Middle States Commission on Higher Education accreditation compliance, resulting in the College being removed from probation and the restoration of its accreditation.

"In the next few weeks, we will have a Search Committee in place. The Committee will conduct a thorough national search for the next President of Essex County College," said Ms. Bolden. "As we have for more than 50 years, Essex County College remains committed to Students First," she added.

Dr. Munroe said he is especially proud of a number of student-centered programs he

launched during his time at Essex County College. He led the development of the College's next 5-year strategic plan entitled Students First. He initiated and chaired the College's Rapid Response Retention Task Force focused on improving enrollment, retention, persistence, and completion. Dr. Munroe also focused on wrap-around student services addressing several critical needs. These include launching a student focused Food Pantry Program to address food insecurity, and a comprehensive Student Wellness Center. Munroe also expertly led the College during the COVID-19 pandemic and launched the Tuition Free Program for Essential Workers.

"This fine institution, born out of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s to provide access to all, continues to live out its mission," said Dr. Munroe.

"Serving as President for the past three years has been an honor. We have achieved a great deal, together, on behalf of our students and our community. I have enjoyed working with entire College family. I want to give special thanks to ECC's President Emeritus, Dr. A. Zachary Yamba, who was pivotal in supporting me during my time at Essex County College."

Essex County College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Over 40 percent of the College's students major in one of the high in-demand STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) programs. ECC has one of the top Nursing and Health Sciences programs in the state. This is a critical time nationally for the college academic community as they pivot in how education is delivered to stu-

dents during this pandemic period. Essex County College stands ready to meet the changing needs of students and others looking to grow in their academic or professional life.

Essex County College has and will continue to play a critical role in workforce development in Newark, Essex County and throughout New Jersey. As a premier county college in the state, ECC believes as careers change and people look to certifications to fortify current or future employment, more people will look to the College for its unique certification programs.

The entire College family wishes Dr. Munroe the very best as he moves on to his new position at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, the largest college within the City University of New York urban university system.

**NOMINATING PETITION FOR SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

Completed nominating petitions shall be filed with the County Clerk on or before **4:00 p.m.** on **July 27, 2020**. TO:

**Christopher J. Durkin, Essex County Clerk, 465 Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd, Hall of Records RM 246 Newark, NJ 07102**

**A. NOMINATING STATEMENT:**

We, the undersigned, are qualified voters of the \_\_\_\_\_ School District of Essex County, New Jersey.

We hereby endorse the Candidate(s) as a candidate(s) for membership on the Board of Education representing

(Municipality) \_\_\_\_\_ for the (Full or Unexpired) \_\_\_\_\_ term of

(Number of Years) \_\_\_\_\_ years, and we hereby request that the name of said candidate(s) be printed on the Official Ballot to be used at the ensuing election for the Board of Education to be held on **November 3, 2020**.

CANDIDATE NAME(S)                      ADDRESS                      CITY                      E-MAIL ADDRESS

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. SIGNATORIES:**

**At least ten signatures, one of which may be the candidate(s) are required to nominate a candidate.)**

We, the undersigned petitioners, hereby certify that the said candidate(s) is/are legally qualified under the laws of the

State to be elected a **Member(s) of the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education.**  
**(Person Circulating Petition must complete Oath on Reverse Side)**

**Printed Name    Address    Signature**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_

The above candidate(s), having been endorsed for the office mentioned in this petition, does hereby request that there be printed opposite his/her/their name on the said School Board Ballot the following designation:

**\*\*An Affidavit page must accompany each Nominating Petition page\*\***

**C. AFFIDAVIT**

\_\_\_\_\_ being duly sworn or affirmed according to the law on his/her

**Print Name of Witness (person circulating petition)**

oath deposes and says: That the petition is signed by each of the signers thereof in his/her own handwriting; that the said signers are, to deponent's best knowledge and belief, legally qualified to vote at the school district election at which the candidate(s) shall be voted for, and that the said petition is prepared and filed in absolute good faith for the sole purpose of endorsing the candidate(s) therein named and placing the candidate(s) name on the official ballot in order to secure his/her/their election as a member of the Board of Education. The circulator further affirms that he/she is eligible to vote in the State of New Jersey, and he/she meets the age, citizenship and in-residency requirements as required by New Jersey law.

SWORN OR AFFIRMED AND SUBSCRIBED  
BEFORE ME THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF

\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS  
(Person circulating petition)

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY'S SIGNATURE

My Commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

**D. NOTICE: All candidates are required by law to comply with the provisions of "The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act," N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq. For further information, please call the Election Law Enforcement Commission, (609) 292-8700.**

**E. CANDIDATE(S) CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE/OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am qualified to be elected a Member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education;  
Municipality

I consent to stand as a candidate for election and, if elected, agree to accept and qualify into that office.

I further do solemnly swear (or affirm) and declare I am not disqualified as a voter pursuant to N.J.S.A 19:4-1 and I have not been convicted of a disqualifying crime pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1.

I further do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the Governments established in the United States and in this State, under the authority of the people. So help me God.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name of Candidate) (Print Name of Candidate) (Print Name of Candidate)

SWORN OR AFFIRMED AND SUBSCRIBED  
BEFORE ME THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF

\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY'S SIGNATURE

My Commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Candidate)

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Candidate)

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Candidate)

**QUALIFICATIONS**

Candidates filing a nominating petition for board membership must meet the following qualifications:

- He/she is a citizen of the United States of America.
- He/she must be at least 18 (eighteen) years of age to qualify for office.
- He/she must be able to read and write.
- He/she has been a resident of the municipality from which he/she is to be elected for at least one year preceding the date of the election.
- He/she is not disqualified as a voter pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:4-1.
- He/she is not disqualified from membership for the conviction of crimes pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1\*
- He/she is a registered voter in the district.

**NO BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER SHALL BE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INVOLVED IN ANY CONTRACT WITH, OR CLAIM AGAINST THE BOARD.**

- \*\* Within 30 days of election or appointment to the board, a member must undergo a criminal history background investigation through the New Jersey Department of Education.
- The School Ethics Act and nepotism legislation impact the ability of board members who have relationships with school district employees to act in areas such as personnel and collective negotiations. Please consult your board secretary for details.

Rev 2020

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Honorable Christopher J. Durkin  
 Essex County Clerk  
 465 Dr. MLK, Jr. BLVD  
 Hall Of Records-Room 246  
 Newark, New Jersey 07102

We, the undersigned candidates for nomination for the office of Members of Board of Education in the Municipality of \_\_\_\_\_ have filed joint petitions with the slogan \_\_\_\_\_ and we request that we be placed on the same line of the ballot with candidates using this slogan.

We also request that our names on the Annual School Board Election ballot be shown in the order below.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate



**INTERVIEW WITH CHARLES N. HALL**  
(Continued from page 1)

national union is 1.3 million strong. Local 108 represents workers in warehousing, retail, municipal government, supermarkets, transportation, nursing homes and other fields. I also serve on the UFCW and NJ AFL executive boards. I am a first vice president on the Essex West Hudson labor council. I am very much involved in the community and serve on several communities and government boards. I am privileged to serve as the chairman of the African American Parades Organization. It's a statewide Organization. I like to help people, and this is what unions do.

I guess titles are nice, but I'm really just a kid born and raised in the great city of Newark. I have the privilege and honor to wake up and go to work and fight for people and try my best to help them. This is what unions do, help people.

**DS:** Charles, why do you think people need unions?

**CH:** Unions give workers a voice in the workplace. It gives them an opportunity to bargain over their working conditions and economics. To be clear they can bargain over things like wages, benefits, health and safety and all workplace matters. Workers need to have good medical benefits and a retirement plan. Union contracts provide grievance resolution for workers who are treated unfairly.

I like to think of unions as the great equalizer. Unions give workers a seat at the table. What I mean is that they get to communicate their issues and concerns to the management of the company, though their union and chosen representatives are their co-workers. We all know how difficult it would be for an average worker to meet with

the president or top management of a company.

Here is a fact for you: union workers earn more money than non-union workers in jobs that are unionized. In this world we live in, workers need somebody to have their back. You don't have to go too far back in history; just look at what has happened in the last 10 years. The wealthy have gotten richer than ever before, while the poor and working poor, those with the least, have gotten poorer. Our middle class is struggling because of the rising cost of living. Unions are the answer to correcting the imbalance in our economic system. Collective bargaining helps raise wages across the board.

**DS:** Tell us about unions' involvement in politics.

**CH:** We get involved in politics to advocate for our members and working families. You know the old saying, "If you are not at the table, then you're probably going to be dinner." It's truer than people know.

Unions are a working family's seat at the table. I think people take for granted the benefits they receive. Let's take for example the increase in minimum wage, earned sick leave, paid family leave and other legislated pro-worker benefits. These benefits are introduced and pushed for by unions and worker friendly politicians. A lot of hard work goes into making these benefits a reality. Legislative benefits are for all workers, not just union members. At the same time, unions are at the bargaining table, fighting to improve the legislative benefits. I personally have been involved in pushing for minimum wage increases, serving on several state commissions.

Unions must be involved in politics to push for legislation that benefits working families. We must also be there to fight  
(Continued on page 23)



# Money-Saving Programs For RWDSU MEMBERS

## PROGRAM

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Auto Buying Discounts

Auto Insurance

Budget Truck Rental

Car Rental

Avis

Budget

Dollar

Hertz

Payless

Thrifty

Credit Cards

Credit Counseling

Everyday Discounts

Flower & Gift Discounts

Free College

Health Savings Discounts

Homeowners Insurance

Home Security Program

Legal Services

Life Insurance

Medical Bill Negotiating Service

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**2020 PRIMARY**

**ELECTION PREVIEW**

*(Continued from page 7)*

wards and the lower two-thirds of Bloomfield, Montclair and West Orange.

Incumbent Democrat Donald M. Payne, Jr. (Newark) is facing challenges from independent runner John J. Flora (Jersey City) and Sanders 2020/Not Me, Us member Eugene David Mazo (Newark).

Jennifer "Jen" Zinone (Bayonne) is the presumptive Republican nominee.

11th U.S. District: Incl. Nutley and the upper thirds of Bloomfield, Montclair and West Orange.

Incumbent Mikie Sherrill (Montclair) is seeking the Democratic nod towards a second straight term. Republicans are to meanwhile endorse Rosemary Becchi (Parsippany).

**ESSEX COUNTY**

**Board Of Chosen Freeholders**

At Large (Four): Incumbents Patricia Seabold (Livingston), Rufus Johnson (Newark), Brendan Gill (Montclair) and Romaine Graham (Irvington) are running together on the Essex County Democratic Committee

party line.

Democratic "Not Me, Us" challengers are Sabre Burroughs (Newark), Anthony Diaz (Newark) and Simone J. Jelks-Bandison (East Orange).

Monique Headen (Newark), Gynise Gotto (Belleville), Bernarda Quezada (Newark) and Alexandra Campisi (Fairfield) are running together under the Essex Republican Party organization banner.

**District Freeholder (One of Five):**

*District One: Balance of Newark.*

Incumbent Democrat Robert Mercado, barring any write-in party primary campaigners, is running unchallenged. The ERPO did not field a primary candidate.

*District Two: Irvington, Maplewood and Newark's South and Central (part) wards.*

Wayne Richardson (Newark) is also running unchallenged towards the Nov. 3 General Election.

*District Three: East Orange, Orange, South Orange and Newark's West and Central (part) wards.*

Tyshammie Cooper (East

Orange) is running unchallenged in the Democratic primary. No GOP.

*District Four: West Orange and "West Essex."*

Incumbent Leonard Luciano (West Caldwell) and Jennifer Larsen (Not Me, Us-West Orange) are vying for the Democratic nod. Either one is to face ERPO-runner Adam Kreamer (West Orange) Nov. 3.

*District Five: Bellville, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Montclair, Nutley.*

Incumbent Carlos Pomares (Bloomfield) is running unchallenged in the Democratic primary. The ERPO did not file a challenger.

*County Clerk:*

Incumbent Democrat Christopher Durkin (South Orange) and challenging Republican Kristina Christoforou (Fairfield) are running unchallenged for their respective party endorsements.

**MUNICIPALITIES**

*West Orange At Large Council*

Incumbents Michelle A. Ca-

salino, Jerry Guarino and Joseph Krakoviak are running unchallenged.

*Maplewood Township Committee*

Incumbents Victor DeLuca and Dean Dafis have no Democratic primary challengers. The township's Republican committee did not file a candidate.

Township Clerk Elizabeth Fritzen said that a polling station will be set up for 6 a.m.-8 p.m. July 7 at the Hilton Community Center, 120 Burnett St., The Woodland at 60 Woodland Ave., and at the Municipal Building at 574 Valley St.

*Bloomfield Ward Council*

Incumbents Jenny Mundell, Nicholas Joanow and Sarah Cruz are running without a primary challenger for their respective First, Second and Third Ward seats. There are no Bloomfield Republican candidates on the ward ballots.

Those who have not received their VBM ballots by now are to call and/or e-mail Durkin's Elections Division office.

# SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway

For over three months, the major sports in America have been shut down due to the coronavirus outbreak. Now, the sports world is about to open up again, and it's about time.

First, "Spring Training" is now underway in Major League Baseball, with Opening Day set for July 24th. This could be July 23rd depending on what is finalized. It is scheduled to run 60 regular season games, and end on September 27th, with the World Series starting October 30th.

Meanwhile, the NBA will resume its regular season at the Walt Disney world of sports complex on July 30th. The reopening plan calls for 52 of the 88 seeding games to be on national television, with the playoffs

starting August 17th, and the NBA Finals at the end of September. There will be 22 teams taking the court, not including the Knicks.

In the case of both leagues, players will be tested on a regular basis and not allowed to venture outside of certain parameters. Also, there will be no fans in attendance, to assure safety against COVID-19.

Finally, while the leagues have opened up, there are some notable players who have opted out of participating. Washington Nationals player Ryan Zimmerman and Rockies star Ian Desmond are a few of those who opted out in MLB, while Wizards forward Davis Bertans, Blazers forward Trevor Ariza, and Lakers guard Avery Bradley are some of those who have opted out in the NBA.

## ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY As of 7-1-20 at 12 pm EDT

Municipality	6-30-2020 12 pm	7-1-2020 12 pm	Deaths
Belleville	987	990	61
Bloomfield	1,082	1,087	64
Caldwell	112	114	8
Cedar Grove	469	467	108
East Orange	1,956	1,952	213
Essex Fells	23	23	2
Fairfield	134	135	18
Glen Ridge	39	39	8
Irvington	1,419	1,418	149
Livingston	494	495	68
Maplewood	317	317	26
Millburn	145	145	6
Montclair	427	425	49
Newark	7,788	<b>7,818</b>	<b>628</b>
North Caldwell	41	41	4
Nutley	490	490	35
Orange	1,003	1,008	82
Roseland	87	86	15
South Orange	100	101	4
Verona	123	125	13
West Caldwell	266	266	43
West Orange	1,242	1,245	174
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,744</b>	<b>18,787</b>	<b>1,778</b>
<b>Negative tests</b>	<b>81,791</b>	<b>83,327</b>	

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of 7-1-20 at 4 pm EDT)**  
 New Jersey: 171,928 cases / 13,224 deaths (Plus 1,854 probable)  
 United States (approx.): 2.658 Million / 127,700 deaths  
 Worldwide (approx.): 10.538 Million / 512,700 deaths



Photos Courtesy RWDSU

### INTERVIEW WITH CHARLES N. HALL *(Continued from page 21)*

against things that hurt working families. This why we are involved in politics.

**DS:** Charles, I know that you represent workers who were considered essential in this time of COVID -19. What did your union do to help members in this pandemic?

**CH:** Let me say first, I am extremely proud to be a part of the labor movement. Unions have been the voice for workers throughout our country. The national AFL-CIO-CL, and international unions, including my United Food and Commercial Workers Union and RWDSU

council, lead the discussion on workers safety, PPE and hazard pay. Our unions also met with federal and state-elected officials on stimulus funding and other benefits. Yes, workers did have a friend and seat at the table. I can't imagine what workers in supermarkets, poultry, beef and pork plants, nursing homes and many industries would have been subjected to if not for unions. "If not the union, who would have been the voice and concerned for average working people?" Here in NJ, we made sure that Governor Murphy knew the issues and concerns of workers.

*The second part of this interview will be published next week.*





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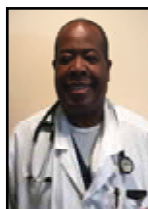
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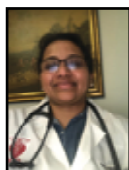


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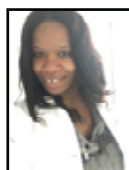
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◀ Beena Mathew - DNP

Mary Elias - NP ▶



◀ Daniela Annitto - NP

Shandel Douglas - NP  
 Marie Tunis - NP  
 Jamila Jones - DNP  
 Nmandu Utuk - NP  
 Janice Howell - NP

**OTHER LOCATIONS**



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 West Orange, NJ 07052  
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 Fax: 973-324-2089

Sleep Lab 77 Main St.  
 West Orange, NJ 07052  
 Tel.: 973-243-0379  
 Fax: 973-324-2269

60 Vose Ave.  
 South Orange, NJ 07079  
 Tel.: 973-763-5200  
 Fax: 973-763-1978

2091 Millburn Ave.  
 Maplewood, NJ 07040  
 Tel.: 973-378-2266  
 Fax: 973-378-8751

92 Old Northfield Rd.  
 West Orange, NJ 07052  
 Tel.: 973-736-5552  
 Fax: 973-736-5582

95 Main Street  
 West Orange, NJ 07052  
 Tel.: 973-672-3829  
 Fax: 973-736-0400

202 Stuyvesant Ave.  
 Newark, NJ 07106  
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