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**INDEX**

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Editorial & Weather     | 02 |
| Town Watch              | 04 |
| World News Flash        | 06 |
| Murphy Signs Bag Ban    | 07 |
| Free Food & More        | 08 |
| From The Pastor's Heart | 10 |
| The Doctor Is In        | 12 |
| Sports Wrap             | 13 |
| Legally Speaking        | 14 |

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**THIS MIGHT TAKE A WHILE... ESSEX COUNTY'S ELECTION NIGHT 2020**



*By Walter Elliott*

**NEWARK** - Gaining clarity with the 2020 General Election results, which remain preliminary and unofficial as of press time, may depend on what governmental level one is examining.

The Presidential election, on one hand, is heading for resolution - but the question is more when than if.



*Orange School Board candidate Tyrone Tarver, who was endorsed by Local Talk, was among the winners on Election Night*

**UNITED STATES** - And the winner of the 2020 Presidential Election is...to be determined.

Americans waited patiently and well into the night of Nov. 3 and day of Nov. 4 to find out who the Commander-in-Chief would be going forward. However, as of press time, the results are still not clear. Millions of votes have yet to be counted, and there has been no confirmation of a winner in Nevada, Georgia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania - a state that will drag out until at least Friday.

Overnight, Biden addressed supporters and the media, express-

ing confidence in a victory. Later, President Trump did the same, and gave his doubts as to the results, saying in his mind he had already won. In his speech, he brought up the Supreme Court and the possibility of using the highest court in the land to resolve any disputes.

The only certainty is this: In 2016, Trump collected 306 electoral votes. At a conference to confirm the presidency, there were two faithless electors, dropping the total to 304. To keep the presidency, Trump could only af-

The Associated Press, as of 2:30 p.m. EST Nov. 4, has challenger Joe Biden carrying 50.19 percent of the popular vote. Incumbent Donald Trump carries 48.19. The 50/48 split was found after 140.1 million votes having been counted so far.

"Having been counted so far" is the valuable phrase here in this Coronavirus-prompted hybrid General Election. There are ballots, mostly Vote By Mail, that need to be counted here and among the other states, territories, military bases and from citizens living out of the country.

Each state and territory, however, has its own ballot submission or vote cast deadlines.

Here in New Jersey, Vote By Mail Ballots that were not postmarked were to be personally given at county clerks offices or put into designated drop boxes have 48 hours' reception grace from when all polls closed at 8 p.m.

That is the procedure the Essex County Board of Elections and County Clerk's offices have been going by. This county

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued on page 10)*



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Turn to  
**PAGE 9**



Dhiren Shah  
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Local Talk is celebrating our 20th Anniversary (as of November 1) but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot hold any event. So, in keeping with our goal to uplift the community, we are joining with the African American Heritage Parade Organization to distribute food, flu shots, eye exams and much more. Also, for the first time, we will be awarding a few individuals who deserve to be recognized for their community service and involvement.

What a roller coaster in our minds. Finally, Election Day arrived and is gone already. However, we do not have a clue as to who will be our president. Both

sides are crazy. Thank God that there were no violent protests from either side. Hopefully, it stays peaceful in the coming days or weeks.

According to NBC: "As of Wednesday afternoon, NBC showed Biden leading Trump by approximately 21,000 votes. Wisconsin has 10 Electoral College votes, and Biden's victory brings his Electoral College total to 237." Fox News showed Biden is leading to Trump by 248 to 214.

If Fox News' prediction is good, then Biden needs only 22. Out of that, Michigan is predicted to give Biden 16 electoral votes. Now, Biden needs only 6 votes to win the presidency.

On the other hand, Democrats were hoping to win Senate majority along with the House of Representatives. But to the pollsters' surprise, only 1 seat has been flipped in the Senate race by the Democrats so far, and majority stayed with Republicans. Instead of 53, now Republicans

will have 52 seats. Senators have 6-year terms. Every state has 2 Senators, which means the 50 states yield 100 Senators. This year 50 Senators had expiring terms.

Also in the House, the Republicans gained 4 more seats, but needed 21 seats to take the majority. Congresspersons in the House have elections every 2 years for all the seats. So, each term is 2 years. I do not agree with the 2-year term, because it is a waste of money. Most of the time, the same congressperson is getting elected, because they have name recognition. Why not make it a 4-year term and save taxpayer money on elections?

In NJ's 10th Congressional District, Donald Payne Jr. won with the usual landslide. He received over 85% of the vote while Republican candidate Jennifer Zinone received a little over 11%. Local candidate and independent Akil Khalfani received 1.2% of the vote.

Amy Kennedy lost the elec-

tion to Jeff Van Drew, despite having the Kennedy name. That was surprising to many. Under Nancy Pelosi's leadership, everyone was predicting huge turnover for control of both the House and Senate. She has failed in her mission. As I listen to many news outlets, her handling of the stimulus package negotiations has turned some independent voters to Trump and the Republican side.

Now we all have to wait for days, a week, or weeks for the final result of the presidential election. As we all know, Trump will ask for a recount and investigation the votes, and also will go the lower level courts, and finally, the Supreme Court. He will not give in easily.

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next week.*

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**WEATHER FOR THE WEEK**

| <u>THURSDAY</u> | <u>FRIDAY</u>  | <u>SATURDAY</u> | <u>SUNDAY</u>  | <u>MONDAY</u>  | <u>TUESDAY</u> | <u>WEDNESDAY</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Partly Cloudy   | Partly Cloudy  | Sunny           | Mostly Sunny   | Partly Cloudy  | Partly Cloudy  | PM Rain Possible |
| HI 67<br>LO 49  | HI 70<br>LO 48 | HI 71<br>LO 49  | HI 70<br>LO 53 | HI 68<br>LO 56 | HI 69<br>LO 60 | HI 70<br>LO 60   |

# LIFE MESSAGE



By Michele Lowe,  
East Orange, NJ

The skin, the tone, Me...I'm not going to walk in fear. I stand for Righteousness, Positivity, Life, and My Future. See overall this year 2020. If you weigh life out right, now the reason for crime is 50/50.

Black on Black Crime. You can't force a change from someone. All you can do and be is the best for life. Life is full of lessons, so you make mistakes and learn from your mistakes. And do all it takes. We all entered life as 1 individual. So everyone stay focused. Like a wise person told me, Time does not wait, but crime can stop. The time we are living in today, we the people should get it together.

Now, I'm not pin-pointing or judging. No one is perfect. I'm not perfect. We have to live by example for our young generation. We also leave something behind before our time is up. So, on that note, let's leave a great legacy. And live a peaceful life. Thanks.

Advertorial

## ESSEX COUNTY'S ELECTION NIGHT 2020

(Continued from page 1)

clerk and election board, following Gov. Phil Murphy's June executive order, is also allowing seven days for the U.S. Postal Service to deliver postmarked ballots to the Hall of Records here in Newark.

Although Essex County and its 20 county counterparts have been counting some three weeks early, the results will not be deemed official for another two weeks. The fortnight grace is allowance for any challenges and/or recounts.

Turning to the Electoral College, Biden, as of 3 p.m. Nov. 4, is carrying 21 states for 248 electoral votes. That tally includes New Jersey (and Essex County)'s 14 votes.

Biden has carried Essex and 12 other counties against Trump's carrying Ocean and Cape May counties. Another six counties' falling into Trump or Biden's camp may be decided on or by Nov. 10.

Of 2.9 million state votes counted so far, the Biden/Trump split is 61.02 percent to 37.95 percent.

Trump is carrying 23 states nationwide for 214 electoral votes. Trump needs 54 more such votes to reach at least 270 votes - and get re-elected. Biden needs 22 to become the 46th President.

Those 22 to 54 votes are to

come from six states that are still counting: Alaska, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. It may take another week before Pennsylvania to finish counting.

It appears, however, that little else has changed in the makeup of Congress down to county and municipal level elections in "Local Talk News" territory. The more local the politics in Election 2020, the more one can find upsets and close finishes.

The following results, as posted by Essex County Clerk Christopher Durkin's Elections division 8:33 p.m. Tuesday, also does not include write-in candidates or ballots.

### PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Voters county and statewide carried top challenger Joseph R. Biden over incumbent Donald J. Trump. Biden (D-Wilmington, Del.) received 206,048 votes across Essex County. Trump (R-Palm Beach, Fla.) tallied 56,149.

Libertarian Party candidate Jo Jorgeson, of Columbia, S.C., attained 941 votes. Green Party candidate Howie Hawkins, of Syracuse, N.Y. garnered 682. Party for Socialism and Liberation candidate Gloria Estala La Riva, of Albuquerque, N.M., drew 186. Alliance Party candidate Roque "Rocky" De La Feunte, of San Diego, Calif., registered 163. Constitution Party candidate Don Blankenship,

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of Charleston, W. Va., carried 85 votes. Unity Party candidate Bill Hammons, of Colorado Springs, Co. mustered 74.

(All of the above candidates have running mates for Vice President - whose names were omitted for space.)

**CONGRESSIONAL** vote tallies in Essex County tended to reflect or parallel results either statewide or in districts outside of the county.

U.S. Senate Cory A. Booker, for example, was substantially re-elected over main challenger Rikin "Rik" Metha. Booker (D-Newark) tallied 200,374 votes. Metha (R-Morris Township) mustered 53,243.

Green Party Candidate Madelyn R. Hoffman, of Flanders, garnered 1,834 votes. "Of, By, For!" independent Veronica B. Fernandez, of Franklin, Sussex Co., attained 1,177. "LaRouche Was Right" runner Daniel Burke, of Princeton, received 189.

**House of Representatives:**

Eighth Congressional District voters, within and outside of Essex County, retained Albio Sires. Sires (D-W. New York) received 20,421 votes. Jason Todd Mushnik (R-Bayonne) mustered 6,702. Libertarian Party candidate Dan Delaney, of Hoboken, completed the field with 180.

10th CD voters returned incumbent Donald M. Payne, Jr. over main challenger Jennifer "Jen" Zinone. Payne (D-Newark) garnered 108,155 votes to Zinone (R-Bayonne)'s 8,903.

Essex County College professor Akil Khalfani's write-in campaign placed him third in the Nov. 3 standings. There were 1,434 voters who took the West Orange resident's call to "Go Off The Line" with him. "Building Your Legacy" independent Kahliah Fitchette, of Newark, placed fourth with 1,287. Libertarian Party candidate John Mirrone, of Elizabeth, mustered 277.

The 11th CD saw incumbent Mikie Sherrill repel challenger Rosemary Becchi. Sherrill (D-

(Continued on page 10)

# 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** - At least five businesses are among those the city's COVID-19 Task Force had shut down over the Halloween weekend for violating some of Gov. Phil Murphy's Coronavirus-curbing Executive Orders. The task force - made up of Newark Public Safety Fire Division, ABC and Code Enforcement officers - closed the following Oct. 31:

- King Soccer, 6 Elizabeth Ave.: Cited for operating without a Certificate of Occupancy and Closed.
- La Rouge Lounge, 972 Broad St.: Code Enforcement issued citations for operating above 25 percent capacity, not practicing social distancing and patrons failing to wear Personal Protective Equipment. Fire inspector issued citation for illegal hookah use.
- Lit21, 1034 McCarter Hwy.: Cited and closed for operating after 8 p.m. curfew, no PPE use, overcapacity and serving alcohol from the bar.
- ViVo Lounge, 167 Ferry St.: Cited and closed for having patrons eating inside after 8 p.m.
- Zepe's Cafe Bar, 240 Elm St.: Cited and closed until Nov. 2 for "a crowd of patrons not socially distancing." Place was issued a warning by ABC Oct. 30.

Mayor Ras Baraka and Public Safety Director Anthony Ambrose added, without elaborating, that the task force had confiscated 10,000 bottles of alcohol and arrested two alleged organizers of an Oct. 30 warehouse par-

ty. The raid sounds similar to ones NYPD had respectively made arrests on and closed in The Bronx and in Queens' Williamsburg section.

**IRVINGTON** - Township police officers are looking for a resident who they said had stabbed two other acquaintances here early Oct. 30.

Responding IPD officers found a 29-year-old Newark man and a 22-year-old township woman with stab wounds at an address at 3:10 a.m. that Friday. The stabbing location has not been disclosed as of 3 p.m. Nov. 3.

The victims, before being sent to a local hospital for treatment, had identified their attacker as Moszena Ward, 25. They said that they and Ward were having a dispute. Ward remains at large as of press time.

**EAST ORANGE** - The influence of former Fourth Ward Councilwoman Florence M. Johnson, who died here Oct. 24, can be found among the tributes relatives and friends had left on her tribute page furnished by Woody's Home for Services.

The tributes and recollections were not only from here and Newark Arts High School alumni but also from individuals from across the state who remember her as one of New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's biggest boosters.

Johnson, 82, sought to bring various audiences to NJSO, whether they were performing in NJPAC or in Branch Brook Park. She was known for arranging bus service for seniors and lunches for them from local supermarkets while taking them to the latter's annual summer concert venue.

Born Florence Reed in Newark Aug. 27, 1938, she may well have found her musical muse while attending Arts High. The Class of 1956 graduate was also a member of the school's alumni association and kept her 50-year membership with Bethany Baptist Church.

Johnson, who worked as a property manager for 21 years in the greater Newark area, became involved with East Orange institutions once she moved here. The former East Orange Housing Authority Commissioner was

also an officer of the East Orange Historical Society.

"Flo Jo," as she was known in her later years, is survived by sisters Donna Burke, Joan Davenport, Patricia Jackson, Carol Rowland and Sandra Sanders, among other relatives.

Johnson, whose visitation and service was held Oct. 31 in Woody's Orange funeral home, was privately interred Nov. 2. Memorial donations may be made to support.njsymphnyorchestra.org.

**ORANGE** - The city, barring unforeseen challenges, will be getting a Wawa convenience store and service station here at 164 Main St.

At least a majority of the Orange Planning Board approved the preliminary and site plan application made by 164 Main, LLC, here behind 347-349 Main St. Oct. 28. The OPB site, held under a tent for social distancing, was in 347-49 Main's rear parking lot - where The Embassy Theater auditorium was before its October 2005 demolition.

The city planners' speed - hearing and approval in one sitting - is another unique or unusual feature of the Wednesday night session.

The Belleville and Maplewood planning boards each held at least two sessions before respectively approving "11 Franklin LLC" and "1515 Springfield LLC" applications in 2018 and 2015.

Another distinction is what Orange Historic and Preservation Committee member Brabdon Matthews posted in his Facebook response. 164 Main, said Matthews, had bypassed the OHPC on its way to approval. The site is across South Main Street from Orange Commons Park and will be where the North Orange Baptist Church stood until around 1970.

The above said sister Wawas are the same size of what will replace the 1976-built Orange Commons Shopping Plaza on that 1.39-acre lot west of Hickory Street.

**WEST ORANGE** - The county's Richard J. Codey Arena may have reopened to its COVID-related operating hours and rules, post "aggressive sanitizing" since Nov. 2, when you

read this.

An entire NJ Devils Youth Hockey Team has meanwhile been quarantined away from the arena until at least Nov. 12 after one of its players had tested positive Monday for the Coronavirus.

A "county spokesman," on Nov. 3, said that the youth and his team are one of several who practice and play games in the arena under the NHL NJ Devils banner. The Devils organization notified the arena of the positive test Monday, who then notified the county parks and recreation department.

"We've an aggressive schedule to sanitize the arena," said the spokesman. "Our health officer noted that any contact tracing for the player would be conducted by municipal health officers in the municipality where the player resides."

The arena had reopened during the pandemic for youth hockey games, private hockey and figure skating lessons, pre-registered skaters and small private groups or camps who rent the ice rink. The rink is otherwise not open for birthday parties or public skating.

What intensive sanitizing being done is in addition to rigorous cleaning and disinfecting of high touch areas, including skate lacing and removal, under federal CDCP protocols.

The team quarantine and arena sanitation does not affect the rest of what South Mountain Recreation Complex facilities that are open.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - The hybrid in-person reopening of South Orange-Maplewood School District classrooms, for the want of promised univent filters, has been postponed to Jan. 19.

SOMSD Superintendent Dr. Ronald G. Taylor, in his Oct. 26 open letter to the two-town public school community, said that he and the Board of Education is having the contractor responsible for outfitting the 11 school buildings for social distancing use complete the promised installation. Taylor and district officials had discovered that the filters, intended for classroom unit ventilators, were not installed while performing a late-

(Continued on page 5)

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 4)

October walkthrough inspection.

"During our Oct. 19 BOE meeting, we shared that our univents had been updated with filters with a Merv-16 rating," said Taylor. "Unfortunately, our extensive inspection and investigation revealed that this was simply not true. Filters had not been installed as had been reported throughout all district classrooms; the vendor wasn't contacted until after verification paperwork was submitted to the district."

Taylor added that the district's about 1,000 univents are being fitted with Merv-8 filters; the units cannot accept Merv-16 filters. That work, including repairing unit blowers and motors "as needed," will take six to eight weeks to complete - once the filters arrive.

"Our vendor (said) that the filters are inexpensive and can be easily installed once they arrive," continued the superintendent. "However, as you can imagine, the filters that we seek are in high demand."

On the positive side, Taylor said that the univent work is in line with the SOMSD-wide HVAC improvement project. Other features of the social-distancing outfitting -- including Plexiglass and hand sanitizer station installation, signage and carpet removal -- have been completed.

The SOMSD buildings were targeted for a six-phase Nov. 12 reopening before the filter issue had surfaced.

**MONTCLAIR** - Montclair Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Ponds and the Board of Education brought district parents mixed news Oct. 30 regarding their intended Nov. 9 and 23 reopening of buildings for hybrid in-person learning.

On one hand, the Oct. 28 positive test result of a Watchung School staff member has pushed reopening it and other MPS Pre-Kindergarten-Fifth Grade Schools to Nov. 16. Montclair High School and the middle schools are to now reopen Nov. 30.

MHS, on the other hand, will have a full-time principal when it does reopen. MBOE members

were to decide from several final round candidates as early as their Nov. 3 meeting. (A virtual public forum of the finalists was held at 7 p.m. Nov. 2.)

Whoever the named person will be would relieve Eileen Gilbert as interim principal. Gilbert, who succeeded Terry Trigg-Scales as interim principal Oct. 30, will return to her regular assistant principal position.

Trigg-Scales, who was tabbed to fill in for the departing Anthony Grosso in September, issued her resignation letter that Friday. Details on why she stepped down was not made public here as of Nov. 3. Trigg-Scales continues as West Orange Board of Education Vice President.

The Watchung School is meanwhile being sanitized and disinfected by MPS workers and contractors - an effort in addition to the district-wide outfitting of all facilities for social distancing.

"Close contacts with the individual within the school have been notified and will quarantine," said Ponds Oct. 28. "The district is coordinating closely with the Montclair Department of Health, following CDC, state and local health department guidance. Although disappointing, this (Oct. 30) decision reflects our best judgement regarding the health and safety of all concerned."

**BLOOMFIELD** - Bloomfield Public Schools, said Superintendent Salvatore Goncalves here Oct. 26, will not reopen for in-person hybrid learning until January 2021.

Goncalves, at the virtual Bloomfield Board of Education meeting that Tuesday night, has pushed elementary and special education students' Back to School Day to Jan. 25; teachers are to report inside for in-classroom virtual learning Jan. 19.

A date or dates for Bloomfield Middle and High schools' reopening to their students, relative to Jan. 25, are to be announced.

"It has become apparent to me that members of our community and in particular our Teachers Association have taken with the assurances we've attempted to provide in terms of our environmental readiness to open up



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Orange Board of Education  
Public School District**

The Orange Board of Education has in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 and 10:4-13, has scheduled a Special Virtual closed Meeting for Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. There will be a short Public virtual Comment Period followed by a Closed Session to discuss Board Self-Evaluation. The Public Session will then be reopened and adjourned. No Action Will be Taken.

- Board Self-Evaluation

school in a hybrid/virtual model beginning in Nov. 30," said Goncalves. "The extra time will provide the administration the opportunity to work with our contracted professionals to provide the (Bloomfield Education Association) leadership the opportunity to become more appreciative of the nearly \$600,000 the district has spent on PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for returning to live instruction during this continuance of this pandemic."

The BTA is the largest contract bargaining group that BPS works with. Both the teachers' union and school administrators are responsible for the health and safety of the around 6,600 Pre-Kindergarten-12th Grade students in the township system.

Goncalves and his administrators have aired several videos to the public in mid-October on how BPS intends to safely reopen the schools.

**BELLEVILLE** - Township officials, veterans groups and, hopefully, relatives of John A. Distasio will Honor his memory by

renaming the corner of Garden and Dawson avenues here 10 a.m. Nov. 14.

The Old Fourth Ward street corner is closest to 145 Garden Ave., where the late airman, his parents, a brother and six sisters lived when the U.S. entered World War Two. John Arthur, who was born March 8, 1926, was attending Belleville High School and was working in Newark's International Stirling Products when he enlisted with the U.S. Army Air Corps April 5, 1944.

Sgt. Distasio was assigned to the USAAC's 372nd Bombardment Squadron, 30th Bomber Group- Heavy, and as a B-24 tail gunner in the war's Pacific Theater.

Distasio was among a crew of seven that was conducting a raid on the Philippines' Celebes Island when their plane had crash-landed there June 22, 1945. The would-have-been BHS Class of 1944 graduate's body was never found.

Mother Maria Distasio, in 1960, had requested a headstone

(Continued on page 14)



## UNITED STATES

### *Nationwide Election News*

While the fate of the presidency dangles in the air, there were some other developments on Election Night 2020.

First, on the other side of the Capitol power struggle, Democrats are likely to keep control of the House of Representatives. However, Republicans defied the odds, and are likely to keep control of the Senate. Should Biden win, a GOP majority thwarts any efforts to “pack the court” among other things.

On the state level, New Jersey voted overwhelmingly to legalize recreational marijuana. It will be a while before pot hits dispensary shelves however, as some safety protocols need to be hammered out in the next few months. Next, Prop 22 passed in California, which means that companies like Uber and Lyft can classify their drivers as independent contractors, making those companies exempt from having to pay out things like health insurance.

Oregon has decriminalized possessing small amounts of drugs like heroin, cocaine, and LSD. Down south, Florida has approved a \$15 per hour minimum wage by 2026, and Mississippi will get a new state flag, replacing the controversial Confederate one. Finally, Maryland, Louisiana, and South Dakota all approved sports gambling.

In Delaware, history was made as Sarah McBride became the first openly transgender state senator in the nation. Also, the record set by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez as the youngest person to serve in Congress has been broken by Madison Hawthorne, a 25-year-old Republican who took the 11th Congressional District in North Carolina. Last but not least, Kanye West’s bid for the White House was barely noticed, as he hardly garnered anything in the 11 states where he appeared on the ballot.

## EUROPE

### *Terror Strikes Vienna*

The UN Secretary-General has strongly condemned the violent attacks in the Austrian capital of Vienna, which left at least two people dead and several others wounded.

According to media reports, gunmen opened fire the evening of Nov. 2 at multiple locations in central Vienna. One of the victims was killed at the scene of the shootings, while a second died of their injuries. At least 14 wounded people are in hospitals, some with serious injuries. Members of the security forces are also among the wounded.

Secretary-General António Guterres is following with “utmost concern” the still evolving situation in Vienna’s city center, his spokesperson said in a statement.

“(He) strongly condemns these attacks and reaffirms the solidarity of the United Nations with the people and the Government of Austria,” the statement added.

Mr. Guterres also offered his condolences to the families of the victims and wished those injured a speedy recovery.

Vienna is also host to a number of key UN offices, including, among others, the headquarters of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

In a message posted on her twitter account, Ghada Fathi Waly, the Executive Director of UNODC, who also serves as the Director-General of the UN Office at Vienna (UNOV) also offered sympathies to the victims.

“My heart goes out to the victims and all those affected by this horrific attack in our host city,” she said, adding that the UN community in Vienna “stands with the people of Austria at this tragic and difficult time.”

## ASIA

### *Typhoon Wrecks Philippines*

“Superstorm” Typhoon Goni has left several towns inaccessible and destroyed thousands of

homes in the Philippines, the UN humanitarian wing has said, adding that relief efforts have been complicated by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Bicol region, where Typhoon Goni made landfall Nov. 1, currently has some 425 active COVID-19 cases and the risk of transmission remains high, especially in typically crowded evacuation centers, according to the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

About 361,000 people are sheltering in evacuation centers across the affected regions while another 54,400 are hosted by relatives and friends. Bicol’s main COVID-19 laboratory has also sustained damage, prompting the suspension of testing.

The UN International Organization for Migration (IOM), one of the UN agencies involved in the response, warned that with the coronavirus pandemic, “the most vulnerable displaced populations have become even more vulnerable.”

“IOM will continue to work with our Government partners to support their monumental recovery efforts to address the most urgent humanitarian needs,” said the UN agency’s Chief of Mission in the Philippines, Kristin Dadey.

Humanitarian teams are on the ground in some of the hardest hit areas, assessing damage.

After making landfall in Bicol, the storm - known locally as Rolly - hit the town of Tiwi in Albay province, causing rivers to overflow and flood much of the region. Thus far, some 11 towns are reported to be cut off and at least 10,000 houses destroyed or damaged, including more than 300 houses buried under volcanic rock. Power lines and telecommunication links are also disrupted.

Initial reports indicate damage to some 16,900 hectares of cropland, affecting about 18,000 farmers, with production losses estimated at 66,600 metric tons of rice, corn and high-value crops, valued at about \$24 million.

Eleven people were reported killed in Catanduanes and Albay provinces from the onslaught of the typhoon. Numbers are feared to increase in the coming days.

Goni made two other landfalls in Quezon and Batangas provinces, progressively weak-

ening as it crossed the Philippines Nov. 2, sparing the capital Manila.

## CARIBBEAN

### *COVID-19 and Climate Change*

The twin crises of COVID-19 and climate change present a once in a generation opportunity for the Caribbean and its development partners to form a new alliance for inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery, the UN Secretary-General told regional Heads of Government on Oct. 29.

António Guterres was addressing a virtual meeting of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), where he praised countries for their leadership during the crisis, even as they confront shocks to their economies, tourism sector, trade and remittances.

“Your unique voice is vital as we tackle shared threats such as climate change, citizen insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic that expose deep and systemic inequalities,” he said.

The UN chief stated that the pandemic’s socioeconomic impacts have been worse than the virus itself for some developing economies, including the Caribbean. He highlighted his push for a relief package equivalent to at least 10 percent of the global economy, as well as an appeal for debt relief.

“As you have long advocated, the world must look beyond incomes and factor in the vulnerabilities of countries. The private sector, including the credit rating agencies, also must be engaged in relief efforts,” he said.

Mr. Guterres also underlined his solidarity with CARICOM members in addressing climate change.

“Your leadership and moral voice on the front lines is crucial for charting a recovery that will accelerate the decarbonization of the global economy and build a more inclusive and resilient future,” he said.

The Secretary-General emphasized his full support for the Caribbean vision of becoming the first fully climate-resilient region in the world. However, he noted the “significant barriers” countries face, including for access to climate finance.

# GOVERNOR MURPHY SIGNS LEGISLATION BANNING SINGLE-USE PAPER AND PLASTIC BAGS IN NJ

*New Law Will Be the Strongest Bag Ban in the Nation*

**TRENTON** - On Nov. 4, Governor Phil Murphy signed S864, which prohibits the use of single-use plastic and paper bags in all stores and food service businesses statewide. This bill is a significant step to reduce harm and pollution that these products cause to our environment.

“Plastic bags are one of the most problematic forms of garbage, leading to millions of discarded bags that stream annually into our landfills, rivers, and oceans,” said Governor Murphy. “With today’s historic bill signing, we are addressing the problem of plastic pollution head-on with solutions that will help mitigate climate change and strengthen our environment for future generations.”

Starting May 2022, both plastic and paper single-use bags, as well as disposable food containers and cups made out of polystyrene foam, will be banned. Paper bags require resources and energy to produce, contributing to pollution. Moving forward, the focus throughout the state will be on using reusable bags.

The following products will be exempt for an additional two years after May 2022:

- Disposable, long-handled polystyrene foam soda spoons when required and used for thick drinks
- Portion cups of two ounces or less, if used for hot foods or foods requiring lids
- Meat and fish trays for raw or butchered meat, including poultry, or fish that is sold from a refrigerator or similar retail appliance
- Any food product pre-packaged by the manufacturer with a polystyrene foam food service product
- Any other polystyrene foam food service product as determined necessary by Department of Environmental Protection.

Under the new law, food service businesses will be allowed to provide single-use plastic straws only upon request starting November 2021.

“From our cities to our shores, single-use plastic bags unnecessarily litter New Jersey’s most treasured spaces and pollute our ecosystems,” said New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe. “By banning single-use plastic bags, Governor Murphy and our legislature continue to make a New Jersey a national leader in environmental protection and the DEP stands ready to implement these new measures and educate the public.”

“Environmental activists and supporters of this bill have been waiting years for this moment. Plastic pollution has caused untold damage to the environment and to our public health,” said Senator Bob Smith, chair of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee. “Taking action to fight plastic pollution now is key to moving towards a plastic-free future. I want to thank the Governor for being a strong partner on this legislation.”

“If you go to the shore, you see plastic buried in the sand and floating in the ocean. There are an estimated 150 million metric tons of plastics currently in our oceans and about eight million metric tons are added each year,” said Senator Linda Greenstein, vice-chair of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee. “We have heard from countless activists and residents around the state, and they have made it clear that they are sick of plastics polluting our ecosystem. Now that this bill is signed by the Governor, New Jersey is closer than ever to a cleaner, greener future.”

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From  
The  
Pastor's  
Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Make Your Calling  
And Election Sure**

Over the last few days, another election cycle has been closing in on us here in the United States. Now that the final votes are cast and are being counted and winners, and losers, are being declared, some people are gleeful, while others are sad, and some are fearful, while others are despairing.

Some therapists have noted that many individuals will be suffering from Post-Election Stress Disorder (PESD) or some other form of depression after the elections, even for a few days. Most individuals I know have said they are glad it is over. The last two years that the cycle has been in play were profoundly stressful, to put it mildly.

The appeals and pressures of the two major parties to motivate their own to vote or to sway undecided voters their way have been challenging, especially in a pandemic. It is of interest that some people have even used threats to get individuals to vote or not to vote. But winners claim that their efforts have paid dividends, as evidenced in the results they have worked so dili-

gently to achieve.

What is of interest to me, is, to ask, how many workers or participants in the elective process, whether by voting, encouraging others to vote, or donating to the party of their choice, are as diligent about their "calling" and "election" for the kingdom of God? I am not sure how many might think that there might be such an intersection as I wish to draw, but there is a connection for me.

What I am asking of others I am asking of myself also. How diligent am I as I think about securing God's kingdom? It is not that I do not know my own heart, but I do want the assurance that the same judgment I bring on myself reflects that which God is bringing on me. Or put another way, I need that clear-eyed vision to determine if my participation in the divine election is assured.

Yes, what has bought me to see the intersection, as I have, are the words of the Apostle Peter, as he wrote to the church he pastored:

"Therefore, brethren, be even more **diligent** to make your **call** and **election** sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." - 2 Peter 1:10-12 NKJV, (Emphasis mine)

Growing up in the days when we read the passage in the Old King James Version, we recited

it thus "make your calling and election sure," then came the New International Version, which puts it thus, "make every effort to confirm your calling and election." The question we asked was, what does such a phrase mean? I asked the question, personally, thinking that it was our privilege to cast a vote as participants in the divine election and hope that we would be on the winning side.

But then I came to realize that the election and the calling were not what I did, but it was what God has done for me from the foundation of the world and ratified at the cross through the death of his Son Jesus Christ. So it was up to me to cast my vote or make my choice or give my heart on the side that God has already chosen for me.

As is clearly to be understood, God is the one who does the calling and electing of all who will believe. One popularly quoted text from Scripture confirms this:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life. - John 3:16 NKJV. (Emphasis mine).

Yes, the phrase "Whoever believes in Him" confirms the openness of the divine election. This thought is most significant because God does not force anyone to accept it. It is a free offer of salvation by faith. Alongside the calling and the election, there is a promise of the kingdom that

is sure and steadfast.

It is not the kind of empty promise made in election seasons in just about every country of the world. It is not the kind of fantasy that the devil waves before us, as he did to Christ when he took him to the top of the hill and showed him "the kingdoms of the world, and their splendor" and said, "all these will I give to you if you will fall down and worship me." (Matthew 4:8, 9)

Yes, the **calling** and **election** are "sure." They are already certified. Any effort that is made to secure them will not be frustrated. Peter's encouragement for each of us who wishes to secure them is to be diligent in faith. Read his encouragement about diligence in the earlier part of the chapter. You will note that he says we must add godly qualities to our faith, such as goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love. (2 Peter 1:5-7)

By adding these qualities, a person will not "stumble" but will receive a rich "welcome into the eternal kingdom" of God. Many are saying that the election just past is not to be about character, but policies. I beg to differ, because character determine policies. Let us remind ourselves, that God looks at character before actions or anything else. It is about character.

I need not say more on this, except to encourage you, as a reader, to "make your calling and election sure."

**ESSEX COUNTY'S  
ELECTION NIGHT 2020**

(Continued from page 3)

Montclair) mustered 61,901 votes to Becchi (R-Parsippany)'s 34,882.

**NEW JERSEY PUBLIC  
QUESTIONS**, county and statewide, that were approved by

voters.

*Question 1* - A Constitutional amendment to legalize recreational marijuana use - was approved here 176,159 to 69,092.

It should be noted that legislation setting up the sales and distribution criteria has to be drawn up and passed by the State Legislature before anyone can avail him or herself of the

passed question. The bill, which will carry the state 6.125 percent tax and a two percent tax for hosting municipalities, may be presented before Dec. 1.

*Question 2* - Property tax deduction and exemption for peacetime veterans - was carried 195,262 to 44,826.

*Question 3* - A Constitutional amendment to change the redistricting schedule should the

state receive U.S. Census data after Feb. 15, 2021 - was approved 159,315 to 72,428.

**ESSEX COUNTY**

**COUNTY CLERK** Incumbent Christopher J. Durkin turned back Kristina Christoforou's challenge. Durkin (D-Roseland) drew 198,395 votes  
(Continued on page 13)

**THIS MIGHT TAKE A WHILE...**

(Continued from page 1)

ford to lose 36 electoral votes. With Trump losing Michigan and Wisconsin, along with the already decided loss in Arizona, then that in itself would result in a 269-269 tie. This would have

been decided by state Houses, not the House in Washington, and because the GOP runs 26 of the 50, then he would have likely won the tiebreaker.

However, in addition to losing Arizona, and unofficially losing Michigan and Wisconsin as of 3 pm, Trump also lost a

Congressional District in Nebraska, which gave one electoral vote to Biden. Even if Trump were to win Pennsylvania, he would have to flip Nevada and its six electoral votes. Otherwise, Biden would win 270 to 268 - the bare minimum.

Whichever way the election

goes, there are two things that are for certain. First, the polls are pretty much worthless. But most of all, America is still very much divided, and it will be difficult for either candidate to unite the nation.

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## The Doctor Is In



**Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED**

### The Different Coronavirus Vaccines And When They Will Roll Out

late stages of testing. And by several, I mean over 200, 213 precisely. However, only four of those are considered front-runners. They are from Johnson and Johnson, BioNtech and Pfizer, AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford, and finally, Moderna and the National Institutes of Health.

These four front-runners are in phase 3 clinical-stage, and that is great news, considering we have only known about the virus for close to a year now. Naturally, vaccines take lots of years to develop. Lots and lots of years, and even then, they may not be 100% effective. In fact, the probability of the vaccines eliminating the coronavirus anytime soon is closer to zero than you can imagine. So, don't think the coronavirus will be gone in the next one, two, or

planning on testing on about sixty thousand people, for BioNtech, about forty-four thousand people will get the vaccine, while AstraZeneca and Moderna will enroll close to thirty thousand participants. The volunteers are usually people most susceptible to getting the virus, which are people above 65, and people with other medical conditions, and some other minorities.

These four vaccines don't have the same mechanism of action. Look, the development of a vaccine is not a simple one at all. Pharmaceutical companies spend hundreds of millions and even billions of dollars in research and development, so I won't go too much into the details of their production. Even I don't fully understand them. However, what you need to know is that Johnson and Johnson, and AstraZeneca, plan on using adenoviruses. The former uses one that with some genetic modifications while the latter is made from a chimpanzee adenovirus that is nonreplicating in nature. The other two front-runners use mRNA, a fairly new model of vaccine development.

That's on the vaccines we have now. As to when the vaccines will be developed, there is no definite answer. Unsurprisingly, vaccines take time to make because any mistake in its development will significantly affect its safety and can lead to worse effects than what it is treating. The FDA has to approve the vaccines before they can be manufactured in large quantities. And to get approval, the vaccines have to pass all clinical trials and review stages. Efficacy is crucial, but so is safety. So, it makes sense that vaccines take time. Averagely, they take about ten years to make.

That doesn't mean we have to wait ten years for a vaccine, though. The nature and circumstances surrounding the coronavirus mean a vaccine has to be developed faster than usual. Reports are suggesting 2021 or, although much more unlikely, the end of 2020. Even if a vaccine is developed this year, it will still take about eight months or so before it can be distributed across the country.

But we first have to get an approved one.

Some weeks ago, there was a setback when two of the front-runners, Johnson and Johnson, and AstraZeneca, had to pause developments due to complications. The trials have resumed now, but it just goes to show how delicate the whole process is. After the vaccine is made, it'd likely be distributed first to health workers, high-risk patients before it gets to the rest of the population. The pharmaceutical companies do not determine who gets it first; the CDC does, and it has begun releasing plans on how the vaccine will be distributed. But that's not the river in front of us now.

On a closing note, the development of a vaccine does not mean a deviation from safety rules, like wearing masks, social distancing, and regular hand-washing. Please do all of these. Please. Stay safe.

*This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board Certified Internist & Board Eligible Pediatrician, who works as a Hospitalist, and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless. He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine NJ.*

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Hello. These are, no doubt, tense times, largely due to the general elections. Everyone is watching the polls and who will be our next president. However, we cannot afford to lose focus on another issue; some may argue an even bigger one - the coronavirus. I just know you are sick of hearing it by now, and I understand. I am too. The greatest nightmare of a medical doctor is seeing people die, and the coronavirus has claimed the lives of over 230,000 Americans. That's sad.

One of the commonest questions I hear people ask is, 'when will a vaccine be ready?' Some don't even believe one will ever be ready. There's some good news in that regard, and at times like this, let's cling to every form of good news we have. The good news is that there are several vaccine candidates in the

even ten years. I have a better shot at winning the presidential election than a coronavirus vaccine eliminating the coronavirus in a few years. Only one infectious disease has been totally eradicated, the smallpox, and guess how many years it took - 200!

Notwithstanding, the vaccines are progressing at a relatively rapid rate. The third stage of the clinical trial is about the fourth stage overall in developing a vaccine. The first is the preclinical analysis, followed by Phase I, II, and III clinical trials, then the regulatory review, and, lastly, the approval and manufacturing of the vaccine in large quantities.

At the third stage of the clinical trial, which the four leading candidates are right now, the vaccine is tested in thousands of people. Johnson and Johnson is

# SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway

The New York Jets are still winless this season, after an expected loss to the Super Bowl champions. Kansas City handled Gang Green 35-9, with KC QB Patrick Mahomes throwing five touchdowns.

While the Jets had no chance, the Giants should have beaten Tampa Bay at home, but chocked away the lead to lose 25-23. Despite nearly tying, NY QB Daniel Jones had his bad game topped off by a controversial fail on a 2-point conversion, with the Buccaneers cleared of a pass interference call.

There may not be any doubt as to how uncompetitive the local teams are, but the rest of the games are a concern. Several players have tested positive for COVID-19

In college football, Rutgers isn't a powerhouse just yet. team who loss a tough game. Turno-

vers doomed the Scarlet Knights to a 37-23 home opener loss to #17 Indiana. RU is now 1-1 on the season. Of course, the big story in the sport is the positive COVID-19 test of Clemson QB Trevor Lawrence, who missed a game against Boston College and will miss the game against Notre Dame.

In New Jersey High School Football, senior running back Montez Boswell led the Orange Tornadoes with 4 touchdowns in a 41-6 win over winless Millburn. The East Orange Jaguars mauled the Bloomfield Bengals on the road 46-0. West Side's Rough Riders are now 4-1 on the season, beating Columbia 28-6.

This weekend, Orange will be at home against a tough Belleville team, West Orange will be hosting Barringer, Montclair will host Irvington, and Paterson's Eastside will be playing East Orange.

## ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Weekly Statistics from Oct. 28 - Nov. 4, 2020

| Municipality   | 10-28-2020   | Deaths      | 11-4-2020    | Deaths      |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Belleville     | 1352         | 67          | 1480         | 68          |
| Bloomfield     | 1403         | 69          | 1509         | 69          |
| Caldwell       | 152          | 11          | 162          | 11          |
| Cedar Grove    | 528          | 114         | 538          | 114         |
| East Orange    | 2258         | 233         | 2341         | 233         |
| Essex Fells    | 42           | 2           | 46           | 2           |
| Fairfield      | 209          | 17          | 220          | 18          |
| Glen Ridge     | 59           | 9           | 59           | 9           |
| Irvington      | 1744         | 162         | 1808         | 164         |
| Livingston     | 631          | 71          | 657          | 71          |
| Maplewood      | 398          | 27          | 416          | 27          |
| Millburn       | 199          | 6           | 208          | 6           |
| Montclair      | 589          | 52          | 622          | 52          |
| Newark         | 10520        | 672         | 11404        | 674         |
| North Caldwell | 84           | 4           | 86           | 4           |
| Nutley         | 666          | 36          | 715          | 36          |
| Orange         | 1214         | 93          | 1271         | 93          |
| Roseland       | 124          | 14          | 128          | 14          |
| South Orange   | 164          | 5           | 166          | 5           |
| Verona         | 204          | 14          | 215          | 14          |
| West Caldwell  | 334          | 49          | 344          | 49          |
| West Orange    | 1558         | 186         | 1633         | 187         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>24432</b> | <b>1913</b> | <b>26028</b> | <b>1920</b> |

### OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of 11-4-2020)

NJ: 245,257 cases / 14,591 deaths (Plus 1,800 probable)

United States (approx.): 9.441 Million / 233,300 deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 47.88 Million / 1.22 Million deaths

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



### ESSEX COUNTY'S

#### ELECTION NIGHT 2020

(Continued from page 10)

from among all 22 county municipalities. Christoforou (R-Fairfield) collected 51,872.

The **BOARD OF FREE-HOLDERS'** makeup remain unchanged. All four AT LARGE Essex County Democratic Committee incumbents repelled their Essex Republican Party Organization challengers countywide.

Patricia Seabold, of Livingston, topped the tallies at 190,552. Freeholder President Brendan Gill, of Montclair, was next at 189,378. Newarker Rufus I. Johnson was next at 188,185. Romaine Graham, of Irvington, completed the sweep with 186,026.

Alexandra Campisi, of Fairfield, was the best of the ERPO runners at 55,555. Gynise Gotto, of Belleville, was next with 53,821. Monique Hedden, of Newark, finished third with 53,631. Bernarda Quezada, of Newark, completed the field at 53,201.

#### WARD DISTRICTS

Fourth District Democratic incumbent Leonard M. Luciano turned back Republican Adam Kraemer's challenge. Luciano, of West Caldwell, tallied 48,270 votes. Kraemer, of West Orange, carried 29,697 votes. The other four Freeholder Ward District incumbents ran unchallenged on the ballot.

Robert Mercado, of Newark, retained his First District seat with 17,847. Newarker Wayne L. Richardson was returned to his Second District seat with

38,814. Tyshammie Cooper, of East Orange, tallied 39,506 in the Third District. Carlos Pomares, of Bloomfield, mustered 48,840 in the Fifth District.

#### MUNICIPAL

**BLOOMFIELD'S** three ward Township Council members were returned unopposed on the ballot for three-year terms. First Ward Council Member Jenny Mundell, with 4,634 votes, was returned for her second term. Second Ward Councilman Nicholas Joanow, at 5,597, continues his incumbency. Third Ward Councilwoman Sarah Cruz gets her full elected term with 4,639 votes.

**GLEN RIDGE** voters re-elected one incumbent and returned a former incumbent onto the Borough Council. David Lefkovits was returned to the council with 2,241 votes. The former councilman, in his last election, was narrowly defeated. Lefkovits is to succeed former Mayor Daniel Murphy, who declined re-election, Jan. 1. Deborah Mans received her second term with 2,231 votes. Both Mans and Lefkovits ran with Civic Conference Committee endorsement - and without balloted opposition.

**MAPLEWOOD** voters returned newly minted and long-standing Township Committee members for three-year terms. Victor De Luca, whose 20-year committee tenure included 12 years as mayor, was returned with 11,413 votes. Dean Dafis received his second term with 11,335 votes. Both Dafis and De Luca ran as Democrats. The Maplewood Republican Party

(Continued on page 15)

# Legally Speaking



**Cassandra Savoy, Esq.**  
OP/ED

## How To Be Smarter The Second Time Around!

It is sad to say that marriages today are not like those of yesteryear where you got married at eighteen and you were still married at 85. In those days, you got a job at eighteen at the Ford plant and you could work there until retirement. Or, you got a teaching job, and grew with the system. Life was relatively simple and there were far fewer stressors than in today's world.

Today, one is more likely not to get married at eighteen, but be divorced at twenty-eight. Job instabilities, needing more, having less place tremendous strains on marriages. And, at the end of the relationship, you feel like she/he took all the good stuff I worked so hard to get.

People leave one relationship and start another. They have blended families. Each has children from a prior relationship. Each has possessions, pensions, savings, real estate from a prior

relationship. One has inherited income property from her parents. And so, the problem is that you want to be smarter the second time around than you were the first time. While you want to share with your new spouse, you don't want to be taken to the cleaners in the unfortunate event that the marriage does not work out.

So what do you do? The first thing is that you each need to list what you want to protect and maintain as your personal property regardless of what is acquired during the course of the marriage. For example, if you saved \$75,000 in a 401K before the ceremony that you don't intend to share in the event of a break up, list it. If your intent is to share the rental income from the two-family you inherited from your parents, but not the property itself, list it. If he is moving into the house you purchased before you knew him, make it clear that he is not now the owner and despite the fact that he might contribute to the mortgage, or make a few repairs, and maintain the lawn, the house remains yours in the event of a break up. Get your list together well before the wedding.

Once each of you has a list BOTH of you should consult with an attorney. Your attorney will help you negotiate a prenuptial agreement, and equally as important, tell you how to treat your assets to protect your ownership of them. For example, your new husband moves into your house that you purchased

with your inheritance from your parents. You live in your house with your new husband and his son and your daughter. You want to do some home improvements so you and the new husband sign a mortgage for the improvements placing both names on the mortgage.

Sounds good, but that might create what the courts call an equitable interest in your house and in the event of a divorce, you could end up buying out his interest in your house. An attorney will help you figure out how to share your assets without giving claim to them to second husband.

So why would both of you need a lawyer? After all, you really do trust her, right? Well, if only one of you gets a lawyer, the first claim the non-lawyered party will claim is that, "I had no idea what I was signing" "I trusted him." "I never thought he would cheat me." He had an attorney who explained it all to me. When there is unequal bargaining power, the court will often rule in favor of the underdog.

Each of you needs independent counsel. Don't be penny wise and pound foolish. You have his list, pay a lawyer to take a look at it. Second, you will want a lawyer to put the precise terms you want into the agreement. The agreement should not say, "if we divorce, I get the house." Your attorney might be able to negotiate other terms. For example, in the event you need to buy-out your part-

ner's interest, you may be able to cap the amount of the buyout at the start. For example, you will get 20% of the increased value of the house. Tell your lawyer about the changes you propose. Just because your partner made a list does not mean that you are required to accept it as is.

A prenup is a contract where equal parties negotiate for terms. As I have said on many occasions, the court does not protect a fool from a bad bargain, so let your attorney negotiate for your benefit. It is the point/counterpoint that yields an agreement that is fair to both sides.

The one big thing you need to do is not do the prenup two days before the wedding. A second way to void the agreement is to claim that I signed it under duress. "The wedding cake had been ordered. I had my dress tailored. The hall has been rented and the band is warming up. If I didn't sign in, the whole thing would have been called off, and the sheer embarrassment of it all would have killed me. What was I to do, but sign whatever he wanted?" New Jersey courts have absolutely no problem voiding agreements that were not entered freely, and voluntarily, at arms length.

If you are planning a second trip down the aisle, and you have assets you want to protect, make a plan starting with a list of assets you want to protect. Have an honest conversation with your soon-to-be spouse.

### TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 5)

for her son at Arlington National Cemetery, Section ME, Site 24. J. Distasio's name was also inscribed on Arlington and Manila American cemeteries' Wall of the Missing.

**NUTLEY** - One of Nutley High

School's latest graduates has been charged with the Oct. 19 stabbing of a current NHS student here in the Avondale section.

Police Chief Thomas Strumolo and Public Safety Commissioner Alphonse Petracco, on Oct. 21, more than confirmed social media chatter about the Oct. 19 stabbing "of a juvenile" at Mt. Vernon Place

and Woodcrest Lane 10 p.m.

Police, who found the victim "with a knife laceration and bleeding," had him taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Strumolo and Petracco added that Antonio Lampon, 18, was arrested and had been charged with aggravated assault and weapons possession charges. Lampon had been tied to a "white Mazda SUV" that had

fled the stabbing scene.

Lampon, according to contemporary sports articles, was a member of the NHS Raiders Boys Soccer Team last autumn. The senior had transferred from Newark's St. Benedict's Prep HS.

Authorities have not said to what degree Lampon and the victim knew each other.

**ESSEX COUNTY'S ELECTION NIGHT 2020**

*(Continued from page 13)*

Organization did not field a candidate.

**WEST ORANGE** voters' top three nonpartisan Township Council picks kept an incumbent but replaced the other one. Councilwoman Michelle Casalino, at 8,226, was the top vote-getter from among the seven balloted runners. Tammy Williams, at 7,759, took the second TC seat. H William "Bill" Rutherford, at 7,539, received the third and last seat. Monica Perkowski, at 7,490, placed fourth. Councilman Jerry Guarino's re-election bid, at 5,842, left him fifth. Susan Scarpa placed sixth at 5,532. Brent Scott completed the field at 4,153.

**BOARDS OF EDUCATION**

**ORANGE** voters have apparently split two of three tickets on their way to returning one incumbent and empaneling two newcomers. First-time runner Fatimah Turner - of either the "Good to Great," or "OBOE Democratic Team" platforms - topped the nine candidate rankings. Turner, a social worker-turned Orange Housing Authority commissioner, drew 2,156 votes.

Samantha Crockett, of the "Passion, Purpose Planning," is ranked second. The first-timer drew 1,712 votes. Voters meanwhile returned current OBOE President Tyrone J. Tarver to the board. Tarver, who co-founded the movement to change the OBOE from a mayor-appointed board to a voter-elected panel, received 1,755 votes.

Tarver, who ran a solo campaign, is the only returning incumbent. Board member Jeff Wingfield, on the ODT ticket, received 1,520 votes for fourth place. Sharon Forde, of "Our Kids Matter," finished fifth at 1,352. Lenore Young, of PPP, amassed 1,309 votes.

Former OBOE President and ODT runner Ernest Lydell Carter's second straight return bid tallied 1,216 votes. OKM teammate Marsha Escallaire mustered 794. Solo runner Charles H. Pryor II completed the balloted field at 521.

**WEST ORANGE** voters helped a first-time runner Melinda C. Huerta upset West Orange Board of Education President Ken Alper. Huerta amassed 8,722 votes to Alper's 8,120. There was only one seat open this year on the five-member board.

**SOUTH ORANGE-MAPLEWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT** voters split two tickets to seat three full-term board members while coronating the only runner for an unexpired term.

A majority of SOMA voters selected Susan Lewis Bergin, Courtney Winkfield and Ellen Malespina to the three three-

year seats. South Orange villager Bergin and Maplewoodian Winkfield, of their own "Collaborate, Belong, Thrive" team, tallied 10,375 and 10,192 votes.

Malespina, of South Orange and "Choice For Change," attained the third seat with 7,718. Deborah Engel, of Maplewood, finished fourth at 7,709 - nine markers short. Melanie "Parent For Change" Finnern, of Maplewood, completed the balloted field at 5,406.

Voters ratified appointee Kamal Zubieta's bid to complete the last two years of Anthony Mazziocchi's term. Zubieta, of Maplewood, who was appointed in January, tallied 10,983 votes.

**BELLEVILLE** voters' two Board of Education Trustees choices included an incumbent who has garnered some unwanted attention in the preceding week.

"Moving Forward Together" leader Frank Velez III, at 3,072, is Nov. 3's top vote-getter among six candidates. Voters returned Trustee and "Building Belleville's Future" team leader Erika V. Jacho with 2,799 votes. Jacho, who was seeking her second term, had been charged by township police Oct. 20 with DWI and refusing an alcohol test.

Lissa "Excellence in Education" Missaggia is ranked third at 2,435 and "BBF" running mate Fernando A. Acevedo, Jr. fourth at 2,415. "Integrity in Education" incumbent Michael Sheldon placed fifth at 2,179. MFT running mate Yael Cavero-Isakowitz, at 662, completed the field.

**BLOOMFIELD** voters retained one "Certified, Empowered Leadership" incumbent but replaced two others from among six candidates. Board member Jessica Salinas, at 6,771, was the top vote-getter. First-time runner Nadeshia Greene, of "Vote For Equity," took the second seat with 6,025 votes. VFE colleague Kasey Dudley took the last seat with 5,855. Incumbents and CEL teammates Ellen Rogers and Thomas Heaney found themselves in fourth and fifth place at 5,704 and 5,254. Satenik Margaryan, of VFE, rounded out the field at 4,621.

**GLEN RIDGE** voters picked three members-elect from four candidates. Tracey St. Auburn, the sole incumbent running, tallied 2,250 for her successful re-election. Rookie runners Jocelyn Gottlieb and Duval Graham took the other two seats at 2,250 and 2,221. Larry Rudman, who ran independently and without Civic Conference Committee endorsement, completed the field at 1,419.

**NUTLEY** voters filled its three school board seats with two incumbents and a newcomer. Board member Salvatore Ferraro was returned with 7,704 votes. Current BOE Vice President Lisa Danchak-Martin was also re-elected at 7,653. Former board member Salvatore Balsamo, at 7,438, was brought back to the last seat.

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