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EAST ORANGE MAYOR TED R. GREEN TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19



EAST ORANGE - December 8, 2020: Mayor Ted R. Green has announced that he will self-quarantine for two weeks after finding out that he tested positive for COVID-19 over the weekend.

Despite taking an abundance of safety measures, Mayor Green believes he may have been exposed to the virus in the days following the passing of his father,

Theodore R. Green, Sr., who died the day after Thanksgiving on Friday, November 27. Once he learned that he had prolonged exposure to someone who recently tested positive, Mayor Green went to East Orange General Hospital for a rapid test on Saturday after the burial services for his father.

(Continued on page 14)

NEWARK "TRICKLES DOWN" WATER ADVISORY

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - The Newark Water Department followed most standard customer service procedures when it was informed by some of its customers of a problem earlier this season.

Customers along NWD's Pequannock Water System - including those in Nutley, Bloomfield and Belleville - began noticing cloudy water coming out of its taps on three days of a seven day period. The calls to the city's water and sewer utility started that first day.

Newark's Pequannock and Wanaque water supply systems serve some 400,000 daily customers in New Jersey's largest city and client municipalities along the way. The Pequannock system also supplies customers in Newark's North, West, Central and South wards.

Water testers at the department's Pequannock Treatment Plant in West Milford had meanwhile detected the cloudy water, called turbidity, during routine testing that first day.



NWD, in its explanatory press release, found high readings of 1.1 to 2.11 Nephelometric Turbidity Units from among five samples taken 1-11:30 a.m. the first day. The readings were exceeding the 1.0 NTU threshold set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - and far above the department's normal .20 NTU readings.

Newark and other water departments are required by the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection to report any water quality standard exceedances to its customers.

The department, having defined the problem, soon traced the problem's cause to its source

(Continued on page 11)



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Turn to
PAGE 9



Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

India has two incidents that drew my attention. First, a former Minister of the State of Gujarat in India has been arrested, and as I heard he was taken into custody. Interrogation in the US has a system where a suspect is asked questions for finding out the facts in the investigation. Remand in India has been prompted by the magistrate for find out the facts as well, but they use a third world country system with torture as well.

Former Minister Kanti Gamit organized a dual ceremony, Tulsi Vivah (a religious ceremony) and Engagement of his Granddaughter. He prepared food and invited

2000 people when the city of Ahmedabad had a curfew for 57 hours (from Friday evening to Monday morning) due to spike in COVID-19 cases.

The second incident in India involves flexing power. For eleven days, the farmers have held a peaceful protest in the city of New Delhi against the new farm law. On December 7th, the chief minister of New Delhi (it's a union territory) announced he would meet with the leaders of the protest in their support. The Central Government Police cordoned off the area and put the chief minister (equal to a governor here) under automatic house arrest without the permission of any judge. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was under the house arrest until the protest was over. This is nothing but flexing the power. On December 8th, the home minister of India, Amit Shah, promised to sign a settlement contract, as agreed on by both parties.

New York's Governor is going overboard. He made a deal with the CDC for not giving out any information to any other government agencies. Also, while getting the vaccine, they will not ask any questions about social security numbers or a driver's license. If Cuomo is paying for all the expenses, then it's okay. But if taxpayers are, then no way.

One day, politicians will propose that illegal immigrants that are living here will have the right to choose their representative, and have the right to vote. The way it is going, it seems likely.

America is made of immigrants, but there is a system and everyone must go through the process. I have mentioned once before about two Indian brothers. One wants to come legally, due to their family members living here in America; the process takes 15 years or more. The other brother will come as a visi-

tor ,and stay here illegally and get all the rights. In my opinion, the brother waiting for 15 years is doing the right thing, but some politicians will use those illegal immigrants to get votes, money and resources, helping them to stay in power.

In Pennsylvania, a Northeastern school board has recommended firing an intermediate school principal. Scott D'Orazio was accused of sharing a social media post. Allegedly, he made a post on his personal Facebook page calling the Black Lives Matter movement a "Leftist Lie." On December 7th, the school board unanimously authorized the administration to summon School Principal Scott D'Orazio for a hearing. The date and time have not yet been decided. .

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	Mostly Sunny	Cloudy (Rain possible)	AM Rain	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
HI 50	HI 54	HI 54	HI 57	HI 45	HI 39	HI 44
LO 31	LO 37	LO 38	LO 39	LO 32	LO 26	LO 33

SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway

This year has been a strange one in the sports world. The New York Giants went from flirting with the 1st pick to flirting with the division title, after taking their fourth straight win. Backup quarterback Colt McCoy led Big Blue to a stunning 17-12 win at Seattle. Backup running back Alfred Morris had two touchdowns in support of a tough Giants defense that somehow stopped Russell Wilson, sacking him multiple times throughout the game.

Across the country, the New York Jets snatched defeat from the jaws of victory, in a shocking 31-28 loss to the Las Vegas Raiders. Gang Green led the game with only seconds remaining, when Raiders QB Derek Carr Raiders quarterback threw a wide open deep ball to Henry Ruggs for the winning touchdown pass to keep the Raiders in the playoff hunt. The play was stunning, because defensive coordinator Gregg Williams called a blitz that allowed a re-

ceiver to get behind the defense, with no timeouts left. Not long after, Williams was fired for his inept play calling.

In other football action, the Rutgers football program lost at home to Penn State 23-7 in a less than stellar Big Ten game. Meanwhile, that conference has a dilemma, as Big Ten favorite and National Title contender Ohio State had its game with Michigan cancelled. OSU needed the game to meet the six-game minimum requirement to participate in the College Football Playoff.

In college basketball, Seton Hall has had a rough start to this season. A tough 71-70 loss on the road to Louisville was coupled with an 83-70 loss at Oregon and a 76-63 loss to Rhode Island. The Pirates did however win a big game at Penn State, beating the Nittany Lions 98-92 in overtime. Forward Sandro Mamukelashvili scored a career high 30 points, while Myles Cale had 16. SHU will open its Big East season at home against St. John's on Friday.

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BLOOMFIELD CONVICTED FELON CHARGED WITH DRUG OFFENSES AND POSSESSING THREE FIREARMS WITH EXTENDED MAGAZINES, INCLUDING AM-15 RIFLE

NEWARK - An Essex County man was charged in connection with possessing several firearms, including an AM-15 rifle, as well as quantities of crack cocaine and heroin with the intent to distribute, U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito announced Dec. 8.

Cedric Lewis, 30, of Bloomfield, is charged by complaint with two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, two counts of possession with intent to distribute controlled substances and one count of possession of firearms in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. He was arrested in Atlanta, Georgia, on Dec. 4, 2020, and was detained following an initial appearance in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

According to documents filed in this case and statements

made in court: Law enforcement officials learned about Lewis' involvement in an incident on Sept. 20, 2020, where Lewis was in a car in Elizabeth, New Jersey, while he possessed 118 jugs containing suspected crack cocaine, as well as an AM-15 rifle with a high-capacity magazine that contained thirty rounds of .300 caliber ammunition.

On Sept. 25, 2020, law enforcement lawfully searched Lewis' apartment and recovered the following: one 9 millimeter pistol with an extended magazine; one .40 caliber pistol with an extended magazine; drug paraphernalia and a scale; \$800 in United States currency; one clear plastic bag containing a distribution quantity of suspected crack cocaine; several bundles of distribution quantities of suspected heroin; and 9 suspected Xanax pills.

The narcotics offenses each carry a maximum potential penalty of 20 years in prison, and a fine of \$1 million. The counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm each carry a maximum potential penalty of 10 years in prison. The count of possession of firearms in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime carries a statutory mandatory minimum penalty of five years in prison – which must run consecutively to any other sentence imposed – and a maximum potential penalty of life in prison. Each firearm count carries a maximum fine of \$250,000.

U.S. Attorney Carpenito credited members of the Essex County Sheriff's Office, under the direction of Sheriff Armando B. Fontoura; special agents of the ATF, Newark Field Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Charlie J. Pat-

erson; deputy marshals with the U.S. Marshals Service in the District of New Jersey, under the supervision of U.S. Marshal Juan Mattos Jr.; as well as deputy marshals with the U.S. Marshals Service in the Northern District of Georgia, under the supervision of U.S. Marshal Michael S. Yeager, with the investigation leading to the charges and arrest.

He also thanked the Bloomfield Police Department for its assistance with this case.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Benjamin Levin of the U.S. Attorney's Office Violent Crimes Unit in Newark.

The charges and allegations contained in the complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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 - Those who remember Clifford J. Minor, Sr., 78, who died here Nov. 17, as Cory A. Booker's main 2010 mayoral challenger, are just scratching the surface of his six decades' service to law and order.

Minor headed the "Newark's Choice Team" who included then at-large Municipal Council candidates John Sharpe James and former Deputy Mayor Ras Baraka. Although a majority of voters returned Booker over Minor, 59 to 35 percent, and turned back Minor's running mates May 11, 2010, James and Baraka would gain council seats in later elections.

Minor, who had graduated from the former Central Avenue School, was a city police officer who studied in law school at night. Det. Minor, juris doctorate in hand, retired in 1981 to run his own law practice.

Sharpe James, upon his July 1, 1986 inauguration appointed Minor as Newark Municipal Court Presiding Judge. He was also Essex County Prosecutor 1992-97, before incoming Gov. Christine Todd Whitman declined renewing his appointment. Minor returned to private practice here at 50 Park Place.

Minor, however, pleaded guilty in federal court April 5, 2011 to a count each of bribery and perjury in exchange for a two-year sentence at a prison farm. He had admitted to accompanying a client to provide a false confession in 2007 in order to free another detainee. Minor was disbarred in 2014.

The low-key Ridge Street resident's private services followed his Nov. 25 visitation here at the Whigham Funeral Home. Wife Carol, son Clifford, Jr., two

granddaughter and a great-granddaughter are among his survivors.

IRVINGTON - Authorities said that a fight between two men in a Tremont Terrace house has left one dead and the other remaining at large.

Irvington police officers, said township public safety director Tracy Bowers and Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II, had responded to the address on the 10 block on a fight in progress call at 6:18 p.m. Nov. 14.

The officers then found Sameer Tahij Parchment, 23, lying on an apartment floor and bleeding from a gunshot wound. Arriving local EMS medics declared Parchment dead there at 8:22 p.m.

Parchment's public funeral arrangements have not been announced. His father, Samuel T. Parchment, had died May 25, 2005.

EAST ORANGE - The public first paid last respects to Theodore R. Green, Sr. - father of Mayor Ted Green - during his Dec. 4 visitation in Orange's Woody's Home for Services. They also witnessed a livestreamed Dec. 5 funeral at Newark's New Life Family Bible Church, where he was a deacon.

A post-Rosedale Cemetery burial tribute was held for Grandmaster Green here at the Green's School of Martial Arts 12:30 p.m. that Saturday. The ceremony was performed by the school's artists and teachers.

The Green family patriarch and retired Peshine Avenue School of Newark educator had died here Nov. 27.

Second wife Lelia Green, son Terence, daughters Tracey Green, Patrice Adams and Nakiyyah Adams and 22 grandchildren are also among his survivors. First wife Lula Mae Green, who had died here on March 8, sons Kenoise and Jason and daughter Leah predeceased him.

Condolences may be sent to the family via Green School of Martial Arts, 116 Rhode Island Ave., and/or Office of the Mayor, 44 City Hall Plaza 07018.

ORANGE - Firefighters from 12 neighboring towns helped their

Orange colleagues in extinguishing a Valley warehouse fire here Dec. 7.

The first OFD units who had responded to 911 calls of a fire at 540 Mitchell St. found the three-story brick building with smoke billowing from its second floor at 9:20 p.m. Monday.

The incident commander pulled two more alarms while firefighters pried open the building's front door and windows. Personnel had a hard time trying to find the seat of the blaze and with fire traveling within the building's walls.

City of Orange DPW workers may be reboarding 540 Mitchell while you tread this. The City had attained the long vacant 1905 building as part of its Central Valley Redevelopment Area. It had awarded a 2014 environmental remediation contract for the 12,4805 square foot corner structure to Billings, of Union.

It is not known whether Harvard Lofts, across Mitchell by South Jefferson Street, was evacuated. The warehouse may have been part of the Monroe calculator factory complex, whose Art Deco core building became Harvard Lofts' parking garage. Units from East Orange, West Orange, South Orange, Bloomfield, Montclair, Irvington, Maplewood, Livingston, Cedar Grove, Verona, Caldwell and North Caldwell helped bring the stubborn fire under control by 11:30 p.m.

WEST ORANGE - A house fire here at the Lourdes section Nov. 23 brought out firefighters from the township and Montclair.

The first WOFD units who responded to a 4 p.m. fire call that Monday found flames coming out from a Harrison Avenue kitchen window. The incident commander pulled a second alarm and ordered firefighters to run hose lines to that window of the 2.5-story wood frame house.

While one crew extinguished the blaze within five minutes, a second crew searched in what turned out to be an unoccupied house.

A mutual aid unit from Montclair had meanwhile arrived to offer assistance. At least two West Orange police officers blocked Harrison between Chestnut Street and Virginia Avenue to detour traffic.

Firefighters investigated the fire's cause there until 5:30 p.m.

SOUTH ORANGE - The owners of a Village Center event space were scheduled to answer charges in Maplewood-South Orange Municipal Court Dec. 8 of violating Gov. Phil Murphy's indoor gathering limit executive order here Nov. 21.

Village Chief of Police Kyle Kroll said that Suite Spot co-owners Russell Bennett, 66, of West Orange, and Othneil Stewart, 41, of Montclair, were each given summonses for exceeding the Governor's 10-person indoor gathering limit.

South Orange Fire Department officers, responding to activated smoke detectors from 24 First St. 1 a.m. that Saturday, told Kroll that they found between 100 to 150 partiers inside. Village President Sheena Colum, on Dec. 1, said that this was not the first time village first responders had come to the former Cryan's Beef & Ale House. Colum said that South Orange Municipal Attorney Gerald Poss had recently issued a cease and desist letter.

State Police Superintendent Col. Patrick Callahan had mentioned the Nov. 21 violation in his part of Murphy's Nov. 30 Coronavirus Briefing.

MAPLEWOOD - The Kings Food Market here at 159 Maplewood Ave., "Where Inspiration Strikes" since 1942, will have breathed its last Dec. 11.

Shoppers who went to the Jefferson Village store here Nov. 27 were greeted with a sign that it would be closed for inventory Nov. 30 - Dec. 1. It reopened for a 50-percent discount sale Dec. 2 - a sale that is to last until Dec. 11 or its goods have been exhausted, whichever comes first.

The news was a shock to most patrons, since it was among six Kings stores that had been excluded from Albertson's Acme Division's \$96.4 million purchase at an Oct. 14 bankruptcy auction. Kings of Maplewood, said a KB Holdings spokeswoman as late as Oct. 20, was being shopped around to other grocers. It had been long held as late as 2015 that Kings Maplewood store was one of its more profitable markets, despite not having its own parking lot.

(Continued on page 15)

NEW JERSEY & 47 OTHER STATES FILE FEDERAL ANTITRUST SUIT AGAINST FACEBOOK

TRENTON - On Dec. 9, New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal joined with 47 other Attorneys General in suing Facebook, Inc. for allegedly violating federal antitrust laws by monopolizing the market for personal social networking services, and by using illegal mergers and other anti-competitive tactics to maintain its monopoly power.

Filed in federal court, the multi-state complaint alleges that Facebook has aggressively maintained "monopoly power" in the market for personal social networking services for a decade. According to the filing, the popular web platform has undermined competition and dominated the market "by deploying a buy or bury strategy" to eliminate competition from emerging rivals, which in turn has harmed Facebook's consumers, advertisers, competitors and the economies of the states.

The complaint alleges that Facebook's illegal conduct resulted in heftier profits for the company and a diminished experiences - including fewer privacy options - for users of Facebook's core platform, as well as for users of the once-rival platforms that Facebook acquired, like Instagram and WhatsApp.

"Social networking companies like Facebook exert incredible influence and power over how we experience the world today," said Attorney General Grewal. "Meanwhile, they monetize our data and sell targeted ads based on our personal information and usage patterns. But big tech companies that acquire and exert their power and influence over our behavior through unlawful means and in illegal ways must be held to account. And that is precisely what we are doing with today's lawsuit against Facebook: we are showing that no company is too big or too powerful to avoid scrutiny."

Among other things, the states allege that Facebook profited by significantly increasing the "ad load" on its social media pages (including on Instagram, which saw a 50 percent ad load increase in 2018 following its

acquisition by Facebook).

In addition to Facebook users seeing more ads and less of the "family and friends content" they sign on to enjoy, the complaint alleges users have suffered both as Facebook has increased the amount of personal information it extracts from them and because it has failed to remove fake accounts, hate speech, misinformation, and other content that harms their experience and public welfare more generally.

The states further assert that businesses advertising with Facebook are often charged "quality adjusted" prices to promote their products or services, but cannot gain a reliable sense of how the ads are performing because Facebook does not permit full, independent verification of its advertising performance metrics.

One count of the three-count lawsuit alleges that Facebook violated the Sherman Act by unlawfully maintaining a monopoly in the market for personal social networking services. Two other counts allege that the company enhanced its monopoly power and violated the Clayton Act through its unlawful acquisitions of once-rival social media platforms Instagram and WhatsApp.

Through these unlawful acquisitions, the complaint alleges, Facebook has stifled the type of competition that would otherwise lead to enhanced user experiences, including greater variety and quality of user options, as well as more features and a broader array of privacy protection options.

The complaint seeks a variety of relief, including asking the court to find the Instagram and WhatsApp acquisitions illegal enjoining Facebook from making certain future acquisitions without advance notification to the participating states.

Deputy Attorney General Robert N. Holup of the Consumer Fraud Prosecution Section in the Division of Law's Affirmative Civil Enforcement Practice Group is handling the Facebook matter on behalf of the State.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Orange Board of Education has scheduled its next virtual regularly scheduled Public Board Meeting for Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 7:30 p.m., Closed session to begin at 6:00 p.m.

THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS ENDORSES GROUNDBREAKING HEALTHCARE BILL, 'HEALTHY TERMINALS ACT'

The following statement is attributable to the New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus:

"The New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus fully supports of the Healthy Terminals Act (S989/A2487) that raises the standards for thousands of New Jersey's Airport Workers.

As we have learned during this unprecedented pandemic of COVID-19, healthcare is a right that should be afforded to all. The high risk of daily exposure to health ailments for our thousands of airport workers at Newark Liberty International Airport requires that efforts are made for their health as frontline workers. The Healthy Terminals Act would require employers to compensate covered workers with a standard benefits supplemental rate that

may be used to purchase healthcare.

The Healthy Terminals Act would grant covered workers additional compensation that can be used to acquire healthcare. This bill would cover approximately 12,400 workers and it would benefit an estimated 10,085 minimum wage workers, many of whom work for subcontracted companies, and many of whom are Black and Brown New Jerseyans. The Healthy Terminals Act will promote racial justice in our state, and will increase health care coverage amongst the communities that have been hardest by COVID-19.

This legislation is compassionate, pragmatic and cost effect promoting health justice. It reduces the burden of public expenditure for healthcare and shifts the burden to private insurance. The public savings to reduced Medicaid and uncompensated care annually are in the millions. Finally, this legislation makes healthcare insurance accessible and affordable to frontline workers most in need at this time."



UNITED STATES

Fort Hood Consequences

On Dec. 8, the Secretary of the Army directed the relief or suspension of 14 Fort Hood commanders and other leaders down to the squad level based on the findings of an independent review of the command's climate and culture.

The following leaders are relieved: Maj. Gen. Scott L. Efland, deputy commanding general (Support), III Corps; and Col. Ralph Overland and Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley Knapp, the 3rd Cavalry Regiment commander and command sergeant major.

The secretary also directed the suspension of Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Broadwater and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas C. Kenny, 1st Cavalry Division commanding general and command sergeant major, pending the outcome of a new Army Regulation (AR) 15-6 investigation of 1st Cavalry Division's command climate and Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program.

The Army is also opening a separate AR 15-6 investigation into the resourcing, policies and procedures of the 6th Military Police Group (Criminal Investigation Command).

As a matter of policy and to protect individual privacy, the Army will not release the names of the battalion level and below commanders and leaders who received administrative action.

In addition to these administrative actions involving Fort Hood leaders, Secretary McCarthy directed additional steps to address the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee's findings and recommendations.

These actions come after the brutal murder of 20-year-old Ar-

my Specialist Vanessa Guillen, who had made complaints about sexual harassment, but to no avail. Not long after her murder, fellow Specialist Aaron Robinson shot and killed himself after authorities tabbed him as a suspect. The deaths of Guillen and Robinson are just two of 25 linked to the base this year alone.

INDIA

Farmers Go On Strike

After an impasse in negotiations over new laws, farmers in India have had enough and they're not going to take it anymore.

On Dec. 8, the farmers voted to go on strike, with the support of more than a dozen opposition parties. The tensions between the farmers and government have reached the level of Trump vs. Biden weirdness, with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal allegedly put under house arrest after visiting the border to see the farmers. Delhi police refuted the allegations, claiming it was standard action to avoid physical clashes.

"I prayed for the protesting farmers while sitting in my house. If I wasn't stopped, I would have supported them," the Chief Minister said in a translated quote.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is in control of the country's interests under Prime Minister Modi, has suggested that new laws permitting private sector funding to enter the industry would be a good thing. The reforms would allow easing of restrictions on things such as pricing, logistics, and the selling of farm produce. However, the farmers disagree, as the aforementioned three items would likely lead to private entities hoarding product at a convenience, and then selling at a price that would hurt the farmers.

Translation: Good old fashioned American-style monopolizing. Talks between both sides are still ongoing.

EUROPE

Securing 5G Networks

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) has launched an audit to assess whether the EU and its Member States are implementing secure 5G networks in a timely and concerted manner. The audit follows on from the ECA's recent review of the EU's response to China's state-driven investment strategy, which flagged 5G security as an issue of concern. The auditors will examine the EU's 5G set-up, the European Commission's support for the Member States, and the latter's 5G roll-out and consideration of security concerns. They will focus on network security, encompassing cybersecurity and hardware.

"The way 5G is deployed across the EU will affect many aspects of citizens' life, through developments such as e-health, smart cars and smart electricity networks. 5G will also impact Europe's digitalization efforts and, due to its cross-border nature, the functioning of the single market," said Annemie Turtelboom, the ECA Member leading the audit. "It is therefore essential that this new key technology is implemented in a fast, secure and concerted way."

The fifth generation of mobile and wireless telecommunication systems ('5G') offers ultra-high-speed connection supporting not only individual users but also a high number of connected devices, known as the 'internet of things'. In this way, it marks a revolutionary advance on the former standards, 3G and 4G.

A European Commission study estimates that benefits of €113 billion a year will arise from the introduction of 5G capabilities across four key strategic industries - automotive, health, transport and energy. It also indicates that 5G investments are likely to create 2.3 million jobs in the Member States.

However, another reason why 5G demands a concerted EU approach is that its infrastructure and potential threats to its security are of a cross-border nature. Any significant vulnerabilities and cybersecurity incidents concerning networks in one Member State would affect the EU as a whole.

In recent years, the EU has allocated considerable funding to 5G projects in Member States, including loans by the European Investment Bank. The EU's action plan envisaged the launch of 5G services in all Member States by the end of 2020; by October this year, 5G had been deployed in 17 EU countries plus the United Kingdom. Delays in achieving appropriate 5G coverage, as well as security issues, may have huge implications for the EU's competitiveness and strategic independence.

CARIBBEAN

Migrants Repatriated

The Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Napier repatriated 12 migrants from an interdicted illegal voyage and transferred two men, who were rescued in a separate case, to a Dominican Republic Navy vessel Dec. 7 near Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

The migrant interdiction is the result of ongoing multiagency efforts in support of Operation Caribbean Guard and the Caribbean Border Interagency Group (CBIG).

"I commend the performance of the Joseph Napier crew in both of these cases," said Lt. Matthew Miller, cutter Joseph Napier commanding officer. "Their swift and assertive actions ensured the safe transfer of two rescued boaters and 12 migrants to Dominican Republic Navy authorities."

The migrant interdiction occurred Sunday morning, when the crew of a Puerto Rico Police Joint Forces of Rapid Action marine unit stopped a 35-foot makeshift boat, approximately

(Continued on page 11)

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY KICKS OFF "DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER" CAMPAIGN



NEW JERSEY - To help ensure safety on the State's roadways, the Division of Highway Traffic Safety ("the Division") announced the kick-off of a statewide traffic safety campaign targeting drunk and impaired drivers on Dec. 4.

Right now, law enforcement agencies across the state will be patrolling New Jersey roads looking for drunk and impaired drivers as part of the annual "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" holiday campaign, which runs through January 1, 2021.

New Jersey's campaign is part of a nationwide effort to reduce crash risks during the holiday season. To assist with New Jersey's enforcement efforts, the Division has awarded grants totaling \$656,340 to 114 agencies across the state to fund enhanced patrolling and high-visibility sobriety checkpoints throughout New Jersey during the month of December.

"This has been a year of tremendous loss for New Jersey residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and we are all feeling especially grateful for the loved ones with us this holiday season," said Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal. "Help ensure that everyone can safely celebrate this year by driving sober and unimpaired. Drunk driving crashes are tragic and preventable. We are stepping up patrols and enforcement to keep New Jersey roadways safe for all who use them this holiday season."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ("NHTSA"), drunk

driving crashes claim the lives of more than 10,000 people nationwide each year.

Of the 559 people killed in traffic crashes in New Jersey last year, nearly a quarter of them - 129 - lost their lives in crashes involving drunk drivers.

"Our mission is to ensure that travelers on New Jersey roadways reach their destinations safely - especially during the holiday season when crash risks increase," said Eric Heitmann, Director of Division of Highway Traffic Safety. "We pursue this mission through programs like Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over that raise public awareness of the dangers of impaired driving and provide law enforcement with funding for enhanced enforcement. This season, make sure a designated driver is part of your holiday celebration plans. Anyone driving under influence can count on encountering a law enforcement presence on the State's roadways."

Last year, the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over holiday campaign resulted in 1,380 DWI arrests (alcohol and/or drugs) statewide; and participating police agencies issued 4,960 and 2,023 speeding and seat belt summonses, respectively. A number of departments reported noteworthy accomplishments, including 14 agencies making 13 or more DWI arrests during the campaign.

For more information, follow the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, and visit NJSafeRoads.com.

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"As our Community is impacted by another wave of COVID-19, the Heart Center of the Oranges is here to safely assist our patients. We encourage patients to take advantage of our Telemedicine visits to prevent the spread of the virus. We encourage everyone to come in for the flu shot as soon as possible – *Dr. Rajiyah*

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<small>(currently closed for renovations)</small> | Tel. 973-736-5552 |

The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

Flu Season Is Upon Us, Protect Yourself & Your Loved Ones

While the influenza (commonly known as Flu) viruses are detected year-round in the US, they are most common during the fall and winter. The exact timing and duration vary every year, but it's safe to say that flu activity increases in October and peaks between the months of December and February and sometimes can last into late May!

The figure shows peak flu activity in the US from 1982 to 2018 flu seasons. During this 36-year period, flu activity most often peaked in February, meaning that for 15 years, the number of flu cases peaked in February, followed by December (7 years), January (6 years) and so on.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the burden of illness during the 2018-2019 season was high with an estimated 48.8 million people getting sick with influenza, 22.7 million people going to a health care provider, 959,000 hospitalizations and 79,400 deaths of which 118 were 0-4 years, 500 were 5-17 years, and 68,448 were 65 years or older! The influenza burden was higher than any season since the 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic.

Can you imagine losing your loved one? Losing one human life is daunting but losing 79,400 that could have potentially been prevented is unfathomable.

Hence, this is why we advocate that everyone get a Flu Shot before the start of the Flu Season - we want to prevent people from going to the hospital and potentially dying from a preventable illness.

I Got The Flu Shot Last Year, And Still Got The Flu!

It's true that those who receive the flu shot can get the flu, but why is that? That's because the virus changes every season, like you do your clothing, your hair, which allows it to hide against the previous year's flu shot. However, scientists work diligently to predict what the virus will do and develop a vaccine that can fight it.

Every year, the CDC conducts studies to determine how well the influenza (flu) vaccine protects against flu illness. While its effectiveness can vary, recent studies show that flu vaccination reduces the risk of flu illness by between 40% and 60% among the overall population during seasons when the flu vaccine matches most circulating flu viruses.

So, if you get the flu shot, and the vaccine is well-matched to the circulating virus, you can reduce your risk of getting the Flu by almost 50%!

How Can The Flu Shot Help Me?

There are many reasons to get a flu vaccine each year. Below is a summary of the benefits of flu vaccination:

- Flu vaccination can keep you from getting sick with flu.
- Flu vaccine can be life-saving in children.
- Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, including those

who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness, like babies and young children, older people, and people with certain chronic health conditions.

- Flu vaccination can reduce the risk of flu-associated hospitalization for children, working age adults, and older adults.
- Flu vaccination helps prevent serious medical events associated with some chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and chronic lung disease.
- Vaccination helps protect women during and after pregnancy.
- Flu vaccination has been shown in several studies to reduce severity of illness in people who get vaccinated but still get sick.

So, if you're a parent with young children, by getting the Flu Shot, you can help protect your kids. If you're someone with many chronic diseases like diabetes or heart failure, getting the flu shot can reduce your risk of these diseases worsening if you were to be infected with the flu.

What Will The Flu Virus Do To Me If I Catch It?

Flu Symptoms have a broad range, but typically people come to the doctor with the following concerns:

- Fevers as high as 102F to 103F or feeling feverish/chills
- Sore throat & cough
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

I have had the flu a couple of times in the past, most recently

while in medical school and it was the year, I forgot to get my flu shot. Not only did I feel all of the above symptoms, I was in bed for two straight days, only getting up to eat or drink something and ended up missing so much schoolwork that it took me 2 weeks to catch up! Lucky for me, it was only school work I had to catch up on.

How Can You Get The Flu & What You Can Do To Prevent It

The virus spreads via tiny droplets that are released when one who has the flu coughs, sneezes or talks. Yes, you read that correctly, talks! These droplets can land on surfaces or in people's mouths, or noses. The virus can survive on surfaces for hours and those whom touch them, and subsequently touch their nose, mouth or eyes, can get inoculated by the virus and develop the flu!

To prevent yourself from catching the flu, get the flu shot! You can further decrease your risk by washing your hands thoroughly before eating. Because the virus can be found on door handles, shopping cart handles, tables, we advise that you carry hand sanitizer and utilize it as often as necessary.

I Got The Flu. What Do I Do?

Most people with the flu have a mild illness and do not need medical care or antiviral drugs.

However, if you get sick with flu, antiviral drugs may be a treatment option, especially those who are in the high risk groups, such as the elderly especially 65 years of age and older, young children, pregnant females and people with certain medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes and heart disease.

When used for treatment, antiviral drugs can lessen symptoms and shorten the time you

(Continued on page 12)

NEWARK "TRICKLES DOWN"

WATER ADVISORY

(Continued from page 1)

on or by the sixth day.

"The turbidity at the treatment plant," said NWD's release, "rose rapidly due to an equipment failure of a valve overloading our coagulant chemical treatment plant."

The failed valve was adding more chemical disinfectant than required, causing the cloudiness. The turbidity is an indication that "disease-causing organisms" that a proper amount of disinfectant would kill were flowing downstream.

NWD employees, after replacing the faulty valve, cleaned the lines feeding the new valve and continued sampling for turbidity, chlorine and coliform. Those levels had returned to normal on the seventh, or last, day.

The department then followed up with an explanatory letter to its customers. The Belleville, Bloomfield and Nutley water departments then relayed that NWD explanation to its customers as advisories.

Nutley and Bloomfield buy some of its water from Newark-Pequannock. Belleville buys all of its water from NWD and five percent of its customers, mostly in its Silver Lake section, also use Newark's water mains and service lines.

"Our water system recently violated two drinking water requirements," said the NWD letter. "Although at this time it is not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

The Bloomfield Water Department, however, posted its advisory on Nov. 2 and Belleville Nov. 9. Nutley notified its 436 households served by Newark Nov. 17.

NWD released its explanatory letter Oct. 28 regarding the cloudiness and its correction found Sept. 20, 25 and 26.

There has been no explanation as of press time from Newark on why it took 32 days to advise the three other departments - or from the other departments another six to 25 days to advise their local customers.



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WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

three and half nautical miles west of Aguadilla. Coast Guard watchstanders diverted the cutter Joseph Napier to assist.

Once on scene, the crew of the cutter Joseph Napier safely embarked 10 men and two women from the grossly overloaded boat. The crew of the Joseph Napier provided the migrants with lifejackets before embarking the Coast Guard cutter, and once they were safely aboard, they received food, water, shelter and basic medical attention.

Later Sunday afternoon, Coast Guard watchstanders in Sector San Juan received a communication from a Good Samaritan aboard the motor vessel Stata Glory, who reported being on scene with a disabled vessel with two people aboard, approximately eight nautical miles south of Mona Island, Puerto Rico. The cutter Joseph Napier diverted and once on scene embarked the two men from the disabled vessel that was taking on water from incoming swells. The men, who claimed to be Dominican Republic nationals, had no life jackets, marine radio or cell phone communications onboard.

Cutter Joseph Napier is a 154-foot fast response cutter homeported in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Weekly Statistics from Dec. 2 - Dec. 9, 2020

Municipality	12-2-2020	Deaths	12-9-2020	Deaths
Belleville	2290	75	2504	78
Bloomfield	2173	79	2390	84
Caldwell	210	11	228	11
Cedar Grove	665	116	734	117
East Orange	3029	239	3222	242
Essex Fells	67	2	70	2
Fairfield	349	22	403	22
Glen Ridge	98	9	127	9
Irvington	2204	168	2316	170
Livingston	848	73	914	74
Maplewood	544	27	568	28
Millburn	325	6	360	6
Montclair	897	52	968	52
Newark	16252	711	17906	727
North Caldwell	131	5	154	6
Nutley	1038	39	1157	40
Orange	1590	96	1679	97
Roseland	188	14	209	14
South Orange	280	5	299	5
Verona	308	15	348	15
West Caldwell	417	50	460	50
West Orange	2142	194	2290	197
Total	36045	2008	39306	2046

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of 12-9-2020)

NJ: 381,486 cases / 15,674 deaths (Plus 1,868 probable)

United States (approx.): 15.31 Million / 288,000 deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 68.67 Million / 1.56 Million deaths

In addition to East Orange Mayor Ted R. Green testing positive for COVID-19, former New York City Mayor and President Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani has also tested positive for the coronavirus.



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**This World Is
Not My Home**

Just about the time I got up to write this reflection today, the news flash reported by the *New York Times* stated that over one-third of Americans live in areas where hospitals, hit hard by COVID-19, reported critical shortages of intensive-care beds.

"Not surprising," I said, for, on our 5:00 a.m. prayer line, several members reported two or more relatives and friends who needed our prayers. These relatives and friends are struggling with sickness because of COVID-19 or other serious health issues. Aside from the reports of illnesses, there were also reports of deaths.

After listening to the reports, I broke out spontaneously, in a verse of an old Jim Reeves' song I loved to sing in my times of distress:

*This world is not my home
I'm just a passing through
My treasures are laid up
somewhere beyond the blue
The angels beckon me from
heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home in
this world anymore.*

I did not continue to sing since no one had asked me, but I could hear another team member humming along. That interaction caused me to think of the chorus that says:

*Oh lord, you know I have no
friend like you
If heaven's not my home then
lord, what will I do
The angels beckon me from
heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home in
this world anymore.*

Yes, I have had great comfort in my times of distress in singing the song. I have to sing this song because, for all I see around me, especially in these times of the pandemic, the economic disaster, the social dislocations, and political confusion, I need to keep my sanity, by thinking that there is something more meaningful for my future and the future of humanity, than sickness, death and economic destruction.

With all of the promises of V (Vaccine) Day, and the stimulus assistance that is being put into the economy, I have joined the writer of Hebrews by saying, "For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come." (Hebrews 13:14 NLT)

If this world is all that we have got, then our lives are truly sad. Those who are pinning their hopes on the stock market need to be reminded that one day it is up, and another day it is down. We are just moving from one

"time of trouble" to another. Like it or not, we have to admit that we are merely pilgrims on a journey.

That is how the Bible describes our life in this world. The description suggests that we should not put too much emphasis on this world. Jesus said it clearly, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21 NKJV)

Having said the above, I hope that no one is thinking that I am saying an individual is not to enjoy this world in the time we have here. No, I am not trying to make anyone so "heavenly minded" that they are of "no earthly good," but all I want to do is to remind everyone that while it is a wonderful thing to be able to enjoy the things we have been blessed with during our life here on earth, we must not forget that this world, in its current state, is not the goal of our life. Solomon, the wise king, came to this sobering realization after he tried all of life's vanities. He then issued a warning to the youth of all generations, using these words:

*Rejoice, O young man, in
your youth,
And let your heart cheer you
in the days of your youth;
Walk in the ways of your
heart,
And in the sight of your eyes;
But know that for all these
God will bring you into judgment.*

*Therefore remove [c]sorrow
from your heart,
And put away evil from your
flesh,
For childhood and youth are
vanity.
(Ecclesiastes 11:9, 10
NKJV)*

One of the street philosophers in the local community in which I grew up used to say, tritely, "We have to live until we die." But there is a profound seriousness to his thought, for no matter how we count the years, we have just a short life to live in this world, and we need to make every minute we have count toward our heavenly goal.

In effect, we need to have a mindset like the biblical patriarchs and matriarchs that we "can't feel at home in this world anymore." There is no doubt that the devil will continuously seek to trap us with earthly pleasures and troubles, but we must learn to trust God. We must live in the world like our friends in the border camps and focus on the perfect home prepared for us.

If you are reading this reflection and need words of comfort, here is what Jesus said when he was leaving the earth: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:1-3 NKJV)

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 10)

are sick by 1 or 2 days. They also can prevent serious flu complications, like pneumonia. For people at high risk of serious flu complications, treatment with antiviral drugs can mean the difference between milder or more serious illness possibly resulting in a hospital stay. CDC recommends prompt treatment for people who have influenza infection or suspected influenza infection

and who are at high risk of serious flu complications.

Do I Need To Go To The Emergency Room Or Urgent Care If I Am Think I Have The Flu?

Absolutely not! Here, at Mobile Medicine NJ we believe that the emergency room should be used for people who are very sick. If you think you have the flu, reach out to us and we can come to you, at your home, and at your time to evaluate you and

if necessary, we can do a quick flu test. Schedule with us at any time at www.gardenstatemobilemedicine.com

Many urgent care issues can be managed via Telemedicine services. If you want to be seen right away, with the click of a button, schedule a Telemedicine with us right away, at www.mobilemedicinenj.com or calling or texting at (732) 314-7410.

Protect yourself and your family (and friends and co-

workers) from the flu this year!

Thank you for reading. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at any time via the aforementioned services.

References

- "Influenza (Flu) | CDC." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm.



PUBLIC NOTICE

NJ TRANSIT administers the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) **Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities** Grant Program in the State of New Jersey. The intent of this program is to improve mobility for seniors and people with disabilities by providing financial support, through programs planned, designed, and carried out to meet the transportation needs of these populations.

This year NJ TRANSIT will be soliciting application for FFY2020. Organizations may apply for operating, mobility management and capital transportation projects.

Below are the exact dates in which the application will be available on S-RIDES <http://s-rides.njtransit.com> :

NJ TRANSIT WILL BE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FROM ORGANIZATIONS WHO WISH TO APPLY AS FOLLOWS:

- **FFY2020** S5310 application will be available starting on **December 11, 2020** (closing date of **February 5, 2021 at 3:00 PM**)

Be advised that there is a monetary match requirement for all FTA projects. Subrecipients applying for operating projects must provide a 50% match, mobility management projects require a 20% match and depending upon funding availability capital projects may require a 20% match.

It is the intention of NJ TRANSIT to submit a statewide grant application to the federal government by Sept 2021. In order to be selected, your organization must be an active participant in the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning process. Information on this process is contained in the application.

This is a competitive grant process. If an application is selected for inclusion in the statewide grant and the FTA approves the grant, then NJ TRANSIT enters into an agreement with the approved applicants for the purposes detailed in your application.

NJ TRANSIT encourages minority-based organizations to apply under the Section 5310 Program.

To complete a grant application all organizations must go to the following website: <http://s-rides.njtransit.com>. Please remember that this application cycle closes on February 5, 2021 at 3:00 PM.

There you will find the application cover letter, application guidelines and the program's State Management Plan, which describes the purpose of the grant program, and NJ TRANSIT'S management of the program. NJ TRANSIT is also inviting the public to review the current State Management Plan revised for this year's program and welcomes your comments.

If you have any questions, comments or need information in another language or alternative format, call (973) 491-8767 or email us at GRANT5310@NJTRANSIT.COM.

Title VI: NJ TRANSIT's Notice to Beneficiaries: NJ TRANSIT operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, or national origin, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Any person who believes she or he has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, or wishing to obtain additional information regarding NJ TRANSIT's Title VI obligations, may contact NJ TRANSIT Customer Service at 973-275-5555. A complaint or inquiry may also be filed by writing to NJ TRANSIT Customer Service – Title VI, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, NJ 07105. A complaint must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discrimination.

Legally Speaking



Cassandra Savoy, Esq.
OP/ED

Do I Need To Think About A Power Of Attorney?

People often come to my office telling me, “I have Mom’s power of attorney so you can talk to me about...” I am usually suspicious because a Durable Power of Attorney provides the holder with extraordinary powers. Let the Giver of a Durable Power of Attorney BEWARE!

A power of attorney is a legal document that gives one person the authority to act on behalf of another. The most common purpose of a power of attorney is to handle legal and financial needs for someone

else. Usually, elderly parents, or grandparents, give the authority for a son or daughter to act in their behalf.

Sometimes it’s a person who has become disabled. For example, the person suffers a stroke or a heart attack and loses mobility or the ability to speak or to write, or to see. There are advantages and disadvantages to giving someone a durable power of attorney.

On the one hand, giving someone a durable power of attorney is an inexpensive way to give some the ability to act on your behalf. However, here is a short list of the kinds of powers a Durable Power of Attorney gives your representative: Your representative can access your bank accounts. They can speak to the bank about your accounts. They can often write checks on your accounts to pay your bills. They can use your credit cards. They can sell the stock you worked so hard to purchase while you worked at Verizon.

If they are clever, they may be able to obtain a mortgage on the house it took you 30 years to pay off. They can purchase a car or rent an apartment using your credit. So, if you are thinking of giving a Durable Power of Attorney to someone, think carefully before you need it.

I represented an 80-year-old who had raised her granddaughter and her grandchildren had lived with her from the cradle to college. She had a stroke and during the crisis, she gave a durable power of attorney to her eldest granddaughter. Her granddaughter had a college education.

She trusted her granddaughter believing her to be honest and with high morals. The granddaughter had a job so my client had no idea that the granddaughter would use her money inappropriately. By the time my client regained her ability to pay attention to her finances, her savings account had been wiped out, she had \$10,000 in credit card debt and her mortgage was eight payments in arrears placing her house in jeopardy of foreclosure.

It makes sense to anticipate that you MAY become disable or incapacitated at some point in your life and may need help and decide with a great deal of care who you should trust with everything that you have. The decision to give a Durable Power of Attorney should not be made during a recovery when your focus is on getting better and you are taking mind altering drugs. On the upside, the Dura-

ble Power of Attorney only lasts during your lifetime and for so long as you are disabled or incapacitated.

If you can imagine that one of your close relatives might, on the off-chance abuse your trust, you might want to consider a Limited Power of Attorney which restricts the authority of the representative to certain tasks. For example, you might grant the authority to pay only our current bills from the checking account, the account where your pension and social security are deposited. You might want to deny access to investment and savings accounts. You may want to name the purposes for which checks can be written. You might want to deny access to credit cards altogether or provide a limit.

Remember, if you grant only limited authority, and your disability persists, she can always petition the court to be your guardian. The guardianship process is a little tedious, but not so tedious that your representative should not go through it. The court will impose all kinds of restrictions on the use of your money.

Do you need to think about a power of attorney? Probably, yes. The key is to plan and not act under duress.

EAST ORANGE MAYOR TED R. GREEN TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

(Continued from page 1)

Though asymptomatic, Mayor Green’s doctor ordered him to be admitted to East Orange General Hospital for precautionary evaluation and oversight.

“I want people to understand that this virus is no joke. I’ll be the first one to admit that I was in denial and didn’t think it could happen to me,” said Mayor Green. “Day in and day out, we have been preaching the same message - wash your hands, wear your masks and practice social distancing. East

Orange, we may not like it, but this is what we have to do to protect ourselves and each other. Don’t ever take your health for granted. No one is exempt from this virus.”

Since the pandemic began in March and just days after the passing of his mother, Lula Mae Green, Mayor Green has been going non-stop to keep the city running and the East Orange community safe.

Streamed weekly town hall meetings, emergency food distributions, rental assistance, free COVID-19 testing, PPE giveaways and alternative virtual programs are just a few of the many initiatives the Green Administration has implemented to provide

resources to residents in need and to keep the community informed and aware of how to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

As of December 8, 2020, there are 3,110 positive cases in the City of East Orange and 242 deaths with a nearly 250% increase in positive cases between September to December. To help curb the spread during this “second wave,” Mayor Green has ordered that non-essential businesses close at 8pm while all others close by 10pm with the exception of drive-up or pick-up services. He also has been working jointly with fellow Mayors Ras Baraka, Tony Vauss and Dwayne Warren in neighboring

Newark, Irvington and Orange to collaborate on efforts to curb the virus in each urban municipality.

“I have been fortunate to not experience any symptoms, but I have witnessed firsthand how rapidly this virus can turn a seemingly healthy person into a person fighting to breathe. We have to take it seriously. We can’t afford to do anything less,” added Mayor Green. “The holiday winter season is here and more people are spending time indoors. This is absolutely not an issue that we can be divided upon. We have to remain united in our efforts to flatten this curve if we ever want to move forward to some semblance of normalcy.”

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 4)

That same spokesperson, on Nov. 26, said that no buyer could be found. A state WARN 60-day layoff notice was issued to its employees Oct. 20 and had since been offered jobs in other Kings. Mayor Frank McGehee, on Dec. 1, said that he too is looking for a Kings successor.

The nearest and last remaining Kings in "Local Talk" territory, however, is Kings of Upper Montclair, 650 Valley Rd. That store, among the 26 Kings and Balducci's Albertsons-Acme had bought, is to remain a Kings.

Kings of Maplewood, which opened in 1942, was among the chain's first stores. Joseph Bildner, of West Orange, and three of his brothers had also opened stores in South Orange (25 Valley St.), East Orange, (North Grove and Main streets), Orange (250 Central Ave.) and Newark (79 Mt. Vernon St.) 1940s-60s.

Son Allen Bildner sold Kings to England's Marks & Spencer in 1988, starting a chain of owners leading to KB Holdings, of Parsippany. Although KB earned \$589.4 million in revenue as of July 25, it was owing \$114.2 million to its suppliers for an \$8.6 million loss. KB, after a year's research, decided to sell Kings and Balducci's Aug. 25 through a Chapter 11 bankruptcy auction.

Kings had looked across the street to the now-Clarus Maplewood at 160 Maplewood Ave as its ground floor tenant in 2014 -but decided against moving into the former 1958 Post Office site. A plaque honoring long time manager Angelo's plaque remains in Ricalton Square.

MONTCLAIR - An agreement between Cuban Pete's owner Dominick Restaino and the State of New Jersey's Department of Health prior to their Nov. 19 hearing at State Superior Court-Trenton made that session moot - and has kept the Bloomfield Avenue eatery open.

Attorneys representing Restaino and Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli, on Oct. 30 agreed that the owner pays the state \$1,141.03 in expenses for their padlocking 428 Bloomfield Ave. Oct. 26. Montclair Police, Essex County Prosecutor's Office attorneys and county sheriff's officers had locked Cuban Pete's gates on behalf of a Trenton Superior Court judge's Oct. 9 order.

Restaino must adhere to all present and any future relevant executive orders issued by Gov. Phil Murphy. That includes Murphy's Nov. 10 order to close all indoor dining, except for takeout or delivery, 10 p.m.-5 a.m. daily.

Cuban Pete's seating, since its Nov. 6 reopening, is no more than 49 diners - 25 percent of its 197-seat capacity. All indoor and outdoor tables must be spaced six feet apart. All other mask and social distancing rules apply.

"The parties acknowledge that if Cuban Pete's at any time is found in non-compliance with any of the above conditions," concluded the agreement, the N.J. Health Department "will issue another closure order, file another show cause order and seek the court's permission to lock the premises."

It is not clear whether fines for the three citations authorities have issued Restaino between June and October have been dismissed or dropped. Cuban Pete's violations had been mentioned by Murphy and State Police Col. Callahan during one of their Coronavirus Briefings.

BLOOMFIELD - Five of "Bloomfield's Finest" were congratulated for their service upon their official Dec. 1 retirement.

Mayor Michael Venezia and Public Safety Director Samuel DeMaio sent off Capt. Glenn Wiegand, Capt. "Patsy" Spatola, Lt. Thomas Icolari, Det. Michael Volante and Off. Ben Christiano that Monday afternoon here at the Ralph J. Colasanti Law Enforcement Building.

Wiegand, Spatola, Icolari, Volante and Christiano - with their families present - each received handshakes and plaques from Venezia and DeMaio. They each served Bloomfield or at least 25 years.

"Thank you for your dedication," said DeMaio. "You'll be greatly missed."

The retiring fivesome, indeed, took a collective 125 years experience, with them out the building's door.

GLEN RIDGE - The borough's Starbucks here has been named by one of its former employees in a wrongful termination suit filed in Newark federal court Nov. 17.

Betsy Fresse, of Newark, said that she was terminated by Starbucks Aug. 22, 2019, some 11 weeks after she was told by her manager there that she was not required to wear a t-shirt that the corporate office had just shipped over.

The shirts, which arrived at 710 Bloomfield Ave.in early June, were made with the Starbucks logo and a variation of the LBGTQ rainbow flag during Pride Month. Fresse said she did not wear the shirt during her barista shifts "because her religious beliefs prevented her from being so.

Fresse said she received a call several weeks later from Starbucks' ethics and compliance helpline about her request to be exempted from wearing the shirt. She explained that wearing the shirt would compromise her religious beliefs.

Starbucks sent Fresse a letter of separation Aug. 22, declaring that "her compartment was not in compliance with Starbucks' core values." The letter said that she had refused to wear the shirt handed to her and said that her employees "need Jesus."

Freese said that she had treated all customers with respect and "holds no enmity toward individuals who ascribe to the LGBTQ lifestyle." She has requested and received Sundays and particular nights off to attend religious services.

A Starbucks corporate spokesperson maintains that its employees are not required to wear the said shirts or, aside from the trademark green apron, "requires partners to wear any approved items that they've not personally selected."

BELLEVILLE - The township's planning board, going by Dec. 10's meeting agenda, will not be deciding on modifying the School One site's use until next year.

Belleville's planners had listened to a proposal from CME Associate's engineer to consider adding residential use to the commercially-zoned block. CME is asking that residential dwelling units be added along the block's Academy Street or north side.

The block with the township's Valley Redevelopment Area is bordered by Academy, Main, Rutgers and Stephens streets. It had been where School One stood until Belleville Public Schools closed it in 1980 and sold Block 9403, Lot 1 to the township for \$1 in 2011.

"81 Stephens St." remains a vacant lot since the township demolished School One in 2013. The board had approved plans for a Quick Check convenience store and filling station in 2016 - but nothing has since happened there.

Current lot owner O&R Urban Renewal Corporation, LLC may file a site plan application once the planning board decides on the proposed residential subdivision.

NUTLEY - Nutley Superintendent of Schools Dr. Julie Glazier, depending on how the township's board of education votes Dec. 21, may have something added to or subtracted from her contract.

What Glazier and the school board have in mind will not be known until after the panel holds a special closed session that Tuesday night. They had posted a notice of the agenda addition here Dec. 8.



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2. SOCIAL DISTANCING
3. WEAR A MASK
4. KEEP SANITIZING
5. THINK ABOUT OTHERS



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