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# CDC MAKES MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT

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# J&J VACCINE GETS CLEARED

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## SHERIFF FONTOURA ACCUSED OF HARASSMENT

*12 Others Also Accused in Case*

By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - An Essex County Sheriff's Office deputy has recently made public her multi-level harassment charges she had filed here in U.S. federal court against Sheriff Armando Fontoura and 12 other named and unnamed officers and officials Dec. 30.

Sheriff's deputy Shari Carr, of Montclair, and Clifton attorney Valerie Michelle Palma Deluise, to selected media outlets the last week, claim that the



former had been subjected to demotion and workplace harassment based on her race and gender.

Both have named Fontoura, of Fairfield, Essex County Deputy Director of Human Resources Jacqueline Jones and her supervising sheriff's officer John Goncalves in their suit. Their suit also lists "John/Jane Does 1-10" and "Essex

*(Continued on page 3)*

## NEWARK HOMELESS SHELTER UPDATE



By Lev D. Zilbermints

After a month and seven days, the City of Newark provided "Local Talk" with the crime statistics for HELP Center at 224 Sussex Avenue. The place has such as poor reputation that homeless people prefer to sleep on the streets rather than put their lives in danger.

In its February 25 issue, "Local Talk" initially reported

that HELP Center, located at 224 Sussex Avenue in Newark, had alleged cases of drug addiction, rape, stabbings, theft, fraud, freezing cold rooms, spoiled or outdated food, aggressive security taking out their issues on tenants, no police presence, and tenants being evicted without due process.

Data provided by the City of

*(Continued on page 14)*



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Turn to  
**PAGE 9**



**Editorial**

**Dhiren Shah**  
Editor-In-Chief

*Hello Readers,*

While the coronavirus is getting under some control in the U.S., it is still out of control in India. Every day, there seems to be well over 300,000 new cases. That's not for the month or week, that's EACH day. As of April 28, there are now over 200,000 dead. However, the number of new cases and deaths could be well short of the actual numbers, because it's not easy to count every single case due to many areas not having resources to accurately record them. I talked to a few of my relatives, and they all believe that it will be over within a month or two. Most of the Indians have not come to reality. They don't accept the truth. I appeal to all the Indian readers to please tell your family and friends living in India to be serious about COVID-19 and follow the CDC recommendations, as

well as the local government's regulations. In the city of Ahmedabad, the police fine 1,000 Rupees per person for not having a mask. They issue about 1,000 tickets a day, which is 1 million Rupees. Despite catching 1,000 a day, there are still many more not getting caught, and spreading the virus.

Fortunately, help is coming from the U.S. and other countries. Many are sending surplus vaccines, oxygen, and other much needed items. Although Prime Minister Modi has done well to get aid, he has not been really singled out for not properly handling the virus. President Trump took way more criticism for simply asking states to open up than Modi did for actually opening up things like religious ceremonies and the like despite the virus not being contained.

Speaking of Trump, his former attorney Rudy Giuliani had his apartment searched by federal officials. This is regarding a criminal investigation into his dealings with Ukraine, where they want to prove if Giuliani illegally lobbied for Trump's administration on behalf of Ukrainian officials that he might have also had

side deals with. Also, officials want to see if he was digging for dirt on the Biden family at the same time. Whether he is guilty or not, this is such a downfall from the time when Giuliani was "America's Mayor."

By the time you read this, President Joseph Biden would have made his first address to Congress. It will not be a full house, as many legislators will be watching remotely due to COVID-19 precautions. It will be interesting to see if Biden will say anything to bridge the gap between Democrats and Republicans or just hammer home his agenda harder.

Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura and 12 others have been accused of harassment. It is not every day that you hear anything about the Sheriff, either good or bad. Many of our readers have wondered why Fontoura keeps getting reelected despite not doing anything worthwhile for the many years he has held that office. Is it just voter indifference, or is there something else going on? He faces a primary election on June 8.

Recently, Essex County announced that it was ending its

contract with ICE. Instead, the Essex County Correctional Facility (ECCF) will house the overflow of inmates from Union County's facility. It's not done as a courtesy, as Union will pay Essex to hold the inmates, just like ICE paid for its detainees to be held at ECCF. So far, there is no idea as to what will happen with the dozens of ICE detainees at ECCF when they will be fully removed by sometime in August.

There has been quite the push lately to make jails more financially viable, after things like bail reform has reduced the population in the jails. This is some type of strange game, as there is a financial advantage regarding people who are incarcerated. In the end, I see some kind of disaster coming from this, even bigger than what happened at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility, where at least 10 people have been charged after inmates were assaulted.

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next week.*

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

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**WEATHER FOR THE WEEK**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Rain / T-Storm poss.	Partly Cloudy / Windy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	T-Storm Likely	Mostly Cloudy
HI 77	HI 69	HI 66	HI 76	HI 84	HI 80	HI 70
LO 59	LO 42	LO 50	LO 59	LO 62	LO 57	LO 52

**SHERIFF FONTOURA**

**ACCUSED OF HARASSMENT**

*(Continued from page 1)*

County" as defendants.

Carr and Deluise began talking with News 4 NY April 17 - 10 days after U.S. Chief Magistrate Judge Mark Falk had negotiated a pre-trial timetable between the parties.

"Carr v. Essex County" has been in its evidence discovery phase since April 21. Both sides are to complete their discoveries Oct. 20.

Carr asserts that she had been harassed by Fontoura plus some top brass and officers 2017-19.

Action taken against Carr included her demotion from being a detective in the fugitive bureau to an officer in the transportation bureau. The demotion meant that she was working in a

county building basement.

Carr said she was left off a valor awards program until just before the ceremony's start.

Carr told News 4 that she was also instructed not "to have contact with any elected official on-m or off-duty."

That latter directive, said Carr, came directly and indirectly from Fontoura. She said that included Essex County Democratic Committee-related public functions.

Fontoura, said Carr, told her that Jacqueline Jones felt "uncomfortable" by her presence. Jones happens to be the wife of longtime Essex County Democratic Committee Chairman Leroy Jones, Jr., of East Orange.

"I told the sheriff that I had been attending fundraisers on my own personal time," said Carr. "He told me to stay away

from Democratic Committee functions."

Carr continued to attend the said functions until she said Fontoura "dragged" her out of a fundraiser held at West Orange's Mayfair Farms.

The sheriff's alleged directive came as a shock to Carr. Carr had attained Detective ranking in 2016. She was among eight Detective Bureau officers personally hailed by Fontoura for "Excellent Police Duty" During the May 17, 2017 National Police Week Awards.

Carr had also been photographed with the likes of Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver (D-East Orange) at official functions.

"Shari Carr was exercising her (U.S.) Constitutional freedom of association," said Deluise. "The Constitution should not be bent to the will of the sheriff."

Deluise and Carr went to federal court here because they assert that Carr's civil rights, as an African American woman, were violated.

Carr, in her filing, claims public humiliation, loss of reputation and severe emotional distress. Deluise is seeking compensatory and punitive damages above recouping the suit's court costs.

Attorneys representing the defendants, since their Jan. 28 response, have denied Carr's most serious harassment allegation.

An Essex County spokesman has referred questions for the named defendants to designated attorney Courtney Gaccione. Gaccione, representing the county said that neither she or her client will "not comment on pending litigation."

**SPORTS WRAP**

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The Irvington High School girls flag football team made history this past week in winning their first ever game, a 12-8 win against East Orange 12-8.

Meanwhile, in softball, Orange High defeated West Side 18-7 this past week. Senior Celine Jabson picked up the victory for the Lady Tornadoes with 5 strikeouts along with scoring 4 runs and stealing 3 bases. The OHS squad then blew away Weequahic High in a 17-0 shutout.

Finally, for Essex County talent, a national soccer showcase will take place at Alden Street Park, featuring local area youth on Saturday.

On April 29, the annual National Football League will kick off. Clemson QB Trevor Lawrence is likely going to be the

top pick for the Jacksonville Jaguars, while the New York Jets will pick #2 overall. Early reports have the team likely taking BYU star QB Zack Wilson to replace the recently traded Sam Darnold.

Meanwhile, the New York Giants have the 11th pick, and have a lot of choices. They could take one of two Alabama WRs, either Jaylen Waddle or Devonta Smith if he falls to that spot. Either player would be a great complement to receiver Kenny Golladay, who was acquired from the Detroit Lions.

In NBA news, the New York Knicks had a nine game winning streak snapped with a loss to Phoenix. However, NY is still in the top four of the Eastern Conference, which would have them host a first round series.

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**UNITED STATES**

**CDC Makes Major Announcement**

On April 27, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced updated guidance on mask wearing in the United States.

Among the new rules regarding fully vaccinated people is that the CDC has suggested that they no longer have to wear masks / face coverings while outdoors. It is recommended that they still wear masks in certain situations.

Per the CDC: The following recommendations apply to non-healthcare settings. For related information for healthcare settings, visit the CDC's website section on Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination.

Fully vaccinated people can:

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
- Visit with unvaccinated people (including children) from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
- Participate in outdoor activities and recreation without a mask, except in certain crowded settings and venues
- Resume domestic travel and refrain from testing before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.
- Refrain from testing before leaving the United States for international travel (unless required by the destination) and refrain from self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States.
- Refrain from testing following a known exposure, if asymptomatic, with some exceptions for specific settings

- Refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic
- Refrain from routine screening testing if asymptomatic and feasible

For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- Take precautions in indoor public settings like wearing a well-fitted mask
- Wear masks that fit snugly when visiting indoors with unvaccinated people who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease
- Wear well-fitted masks when visiting indoors with unvaccinated people from multiple households
- Avoid indoor large-sized in-person gatherings
- Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- Follow guidance issued by individual employers
- Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations

A person is considered "fully vaccinated" two weeks after receiving the 2nd dose of a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or a single dose of the recently cleared Johnson and Johnson (Janssen) vaccine.

**INDIA**

**Help Coming as COVID-19 Situation Worsens**

After multiple consecutive days of more than 300,000 new COVID-19 cases, India is getting some much needed help.

On April 25, United States National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan spoke by phone with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, expressing deep sympathy for the people of India following the recent spike in COVID-19 cases. Mr. Sullivan affirmed America's solidarity with India, the two countries with the greatest number of COVID-19 cases in the world.

Building on the seven-decade health partnership be-

tween the United States and India - including battles against smallpox, polio, and HIV - they resolved that India and the United States will continue to fight the global COVID-19 pandemic together. Just as India sent assistance to the United States as our hospitals were strained early in the pandemic, the United States is determined to help India in its time of need.

To this end, the United States is working around the clock to deploy available resources and supplies. The United States has identified sources of specific raw material urgently required for Indian manufacture of the Covishield vaccine that will immediately be made available for India. To help treat COVID-19 patients and protect front-line health workers in India, the United States has identified supplies of therapeutics, rapid diagnostic test kits, ventilators, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that will immediately be made available for India. The United States also is pursuing options to provide oxygen generation and related supplies on an urgent basis.

The U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC) is funding a substantial expansion of manufacturing capability for BioE, the vaccine manufacturer in India, enabling BioE to ramp up to produce at least 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2022. Additionally, the United States is deploying an expert team of public health advisors from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and USAID to work in close collaboration with the U.S. Embassy, India's health ministries, and India's Epidemic Intelligence Service staff. USAID will also quickly work with CDC to support and fast-track the mobilization of emergency resources available to India through the Global Fund.

The two National Security Advisors agreed that the U.S. and India would stay in close touch in coming days.

On April 26, U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, committing that the United States and India will work closely together in the fight against COVID-19. Biden

pledged America's steadfast support for the people of India who have been impacted by the recent surge in COVID-19 cases. Prime Minister Modi expressed appreciation for the strong cooperation between both countries.

The two leaders resolved that the United States and India will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in the effort to protect the health of their citizens and communities.

**EUROPE**

**EU vs. AstraZeneca**

Citing a shortfall in what it was promised, the Commission representing dozens of nations is taking a vaccine supplier to court.

On April 26, the European Commission on behalf of the European Union announced that it was taking legal action against AstraZeneca because it failed to meet certain conditions in delivering doses to the EU.

"What matters to us in this case is that we want to make sure there is a speedy delivery of a sufficient number of doses that European citizens are entitled to," said Stefan De Keersmaecker, EU spokesperson for health, food safety and transport during a press conference.

In their defense, AstraZeneca issued the following statement: "AstraZeneca regrets the European Commission's decision to take legal action over the supply of COVID-19 vaccines.

"Following an unprecedented year of scientific discovery, very complex negotiations, and manufacturing challenges, our company is about to deliver almost 50m doses to European countries by the end of April, in line with our forecast. AstraZeneca has fully complied with the Advance Purchase Agreement with the European Commission and will strongly defend itself in court. We believe any litigation is without merit and we welcome this opportunity to resolve this dispute as soon as possible.

"We appreciate the work done by political leaders and healthcare professionals across the Member States that has made the rollout of vaccination cam-

*(Continued on page 5)*

# REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY FOR SUMMER I CLASSES AT ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

Web and in-person registration for Summer I 2021 classes at Essex County College is underway. The College's Summer I term starts Monday, May 10 and runs until June 24, 2021.

Students may also register for Summer II and Fall 2021 classes at this time.

Please note that instruction will begin virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but some courses may be allowed to roll into face-to-face as the term progresses. The College follows all CDC recommended safety guidelines, including wearing a mask and social distancing while on campus.

"Essex County College offers more than 50 Associate degree programs and Academic Certificates in a wide range of disciplines. Essex graduates transfer as juniors to many New Jersey colleges and universities, as well as top schools around the country. Register early to get the classes you want," said Dr. Alvin Williams Executive Dean of

Faculty and Academics.

For more information, please click on this link: <https://www.essex.edu/registration/>. Students may be eligible for scholarships and qualify for the Educational Opportunity Fund program. Additional registration information is available through the College's Welcome Center, located on the 2nd Floor at the Newark campus, or by calling the Center at 973-877-4477/3389.

"Essex County College continues to provide high quality and affordable educational opportunities despite the pandemic. Our Summer I term allows students to complete a semester in a more compressed time. Our many support services help students stay on track to graduate and realize their dreams," said ECC Interim President Dr. Augustine A. Boakye.

The College is fully accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, with open access to everyone.

## WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 4)

paigms in Europe possible, and we are committed to helping as much as we can. Vaccines are difficult to manufacture, as evidenced by the supply challenges several companies are facing in Europe and around the world. We are making progress addressing the technical challenges and our output is improving, but the production cycle of a vaccine is very long which means these improvements take time to result in increased finished vaccine doses.

"Much work is ahead of us in the EU and elsewhere, as we continue to deal with the terrible pandemic and the roll out of vaccination programs. AstraZeneca has an important role to play, and our intent remains to do that fairly and equitably at no profit during the pandemic in the EU and around the world.

"The EU has supported the COVAX facility for equitable distribution of vaccines to low-

and middle-income countries. AstraZeneca is currently the leading supplier to more than 100 countries through COVAX providing 97% of its supply to date. Each dose has been made with vaccine serum originating from outside the EU.

"We look forward to working constructively with the EU Commission to vaccinate as many people as possible. Many thousands of our employees working around the clock have been driven by a passion to help the world at no profit; they remain firmly committed to delivering our vaccine to the people of Europe and around the world."

## AFRICA

### Somalian Violence Condemned

The UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) issued a statement, alongside international partners, strongly condemning an outbreak of violence in the capital Mogadishu and urging all

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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. 18A:22-10, 18A:22-11, and 18A:22-12, scheduled a Virtual Budget Hearing for Monday, May 3, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

sides to "exercise maximum restraint, resume dialogue, and avoid unilateral actions that may lead to a further escalation."

According to media reports, fighting began April 25 between pro-Government forces and opposition military units after President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed moved to extend his term last week, which had officially ended in February, for another two years.

Reports from Mogadishu said that localized skirmishes have spread to other parts of the country, with fears growing that extremist group al Shabaab could exploit the divisions.

"We have repeatedly warned that the extension of mandates would lead to a political crisis and undermine peace, stability and security in Somalia," the statement read.

Signatories to the statement expressed particular alarm over an emerging fragmentation along clan lines of the Somali National Army, saying that it detracts from the primary task of combating Al Shabab and protecting the

Somali population.

"Use of security forces for pursuit of political objectives is unacceptable," they spelled out.

The co-signers reiterated that the Sept. 17 agreement, whereby the leaders of the Federal Government and all five Federal Member States approved an indirect electoral model for the country's upcoming polls, "remains the only agreed model for elections" and on that basis, urged those signatories to "return immediately to talks."

UNSOM and its international partners welcomed the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council to appoint a Special Envoy and recommended that this high-level representative arrive in Mogadishu to begin work, as soon as possible.

"We stand ready as partners to extend our support to this envoy, and meanwhile we continue efforts to bring the parties together," they said, reaffirming their "respect for Somali sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, and independence."

# Finance At Your Fingertips



Moses Ayiku, Jr. MBA OP/ED

## Investing in Stocks - Part 2

Perhaps one of the most popular investment options, stocks, always captures peoples' imagination! It brings with it the hope that one can buy a stock that will rise in price so high that it gives a positive and significant return.

Everyone researches and tries to project, which stocks are going to perform well in the future! This is not an easy task and there are so many things to consider. Why does it excite so many people to learn about and invest in stocks? Simply put, stocks present an opportunity to make money.

When people have excess funds, or money that they do not plan to spend anytime soon, investing the money in stocks becomes a very credible option for them. That is why we spent time earlier discussing the importance of setting up a budget, opening a bank account, developing a savings plan, and saving money.

Now that one has saved some money, the next step is what to do with it. Keeping large amounts of money in a savings account is not always ideal. Savings accounts in most cases provide a return of about 0.04% APY. (APY means Annual Percentage Yield; this is the normalized representation yield of an interest rate, based on a compounding period of one year.)

The APY simply tells us how much you would earn from an investment in one year. APY is like APR or Annual Percentage Rate. The rate is relatively low. One is not going to see a significant growth in their money by putting it in a savings account for a long period. However,

er, stock market prices rise on average by about 10% every year before the impact of inflation is factored in. That is why we all want to buy stocks! It is a far more lucrative option to look at a possible 10 % return on your savings than a 0.04% return!

The big point that we all should be clear about is this; putting your money in a savings account will truly not earn you much at all. In a way, this the advantage of keeping money in a savings account is that the risk of you losing your money is almost nonexistent. Stocks on the other hand, while giving us an opportunity to make money, also come with risk. One could also lose money buying stocks. If you plan to invest in stocks, this point should be very clear to you. Stocks are risky and you could make money, but you could also lose money.

Stocks represent an opportunity to grow your money in two ways.

### 1. By getting dividend payments

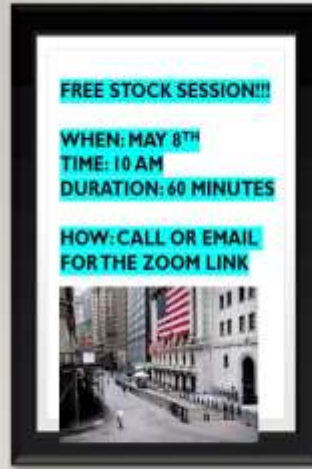
Dividend payments are the monies that owners of stocks receive annually in most cases (some companies provide dividends quarterly). Please note that not every company pays dividends to its stockholders. Further, even when they do pay dividends, companies may not pay it every single year. The decision for a company to pay dividends depends on many reasons. One of the most important reasons why a company would pay dividends is if and when it has made a sizeable profit in the preceding accounting year.

### 2. By getting capital gains

When one buys stock at a particular price, the price changes over time. If the price rises and you sell your stock at the increased price, the difference between what you paid for the stock and what you sold the stock for is what we refer to as capital gain. Note that capital gain is described as realized capital gain when you actually sell your stock and capture this return.

If you hold onto the stock

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- Moses Ayiku Jr. MBA Finance M.Phil. Economics Instructor/Mgt Consultant
- Moses has worked in the business and financial sectors for 30 years, including a stint on Wall Street. He is a former certified stock analyst. Moses is a graduate of Rutgers Business School and has been an adjunct professor of Business and Economics for 15 years. He designed and introduced the course, "Wall Street Comes to Newark" at Essex County College over 5 years ago. Moses taught Economics/Business at Essex County College for 12 years as an Adjunct Faculty.

# ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Weekly Statistics from April 21 - April 28, 2021

**\*Statistics have been updated to reflect the removal of duplicate entries in the state database, meaning that some numbers will be lower than in previous weeks**

Municipality	4-21-2021	Deaths	4-28-2021	Deaths
Belleville	5665	107	5619	110
Bloomfield	5235	118	5218	118
Caldwell	602	16	603	16
Cedar Grove	1526	119	1520	119
East Orange	6888	290	6914	294
Essex Fells	187	2	189	2
Fairfield	860	31	868	31
Glen Ridge	380	13	387	13
Irvington	4450	218	4518	220
Livingston	1780	82	1794	85
Maplewood	1251	35	1273	36
Millburn	819	10	812	10
Montclair	2236	71	2245	71
Newark	37895	931	<b>36538</b>	<b>947</b>
North Caldwell	492	6	487	6
Nutley	2998	62	2998	63
Orange	3484	128	3481	129
Roseland	463	16	468	16
South Orange	833	16	835	16
Verona	984	17	981	17
West Caldwell	1059	51	1055	51
West Orange	4539	226	4541	227
<b>Total</b>	<b>84626</b>	<b>2565</b>	<b>83344</b>	<b>2597</b>

### OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of April 28, 2021)

**NJ: 869,344 cases / 22,884 deaths (Plus 2,625 probable)**

**United States (approx.): 32.18 Million / 573,600 deaths**

**Worldwide (approx.): 148.9 Million / 3.14 Million deaths**

and the price has risen, that represents potential or unrealized capital gain. In other words, your stocks are worth more because the price of the stock has risen compared to the price you bought it at. However, you cannot enjoy that price increase un-

til you sell your stock.

You can, however, note in your portfolio that the stock you purchased has increased in value and hence your investment portfolio has increased in value. Your investment portfolio is

(Continued on page 10)

# JOHNSON & JOHNSON VACCINE GETS CLEARED

Following a thorough safety review, including two meetings of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have determined that the recommended pause regarding the use of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine in the U.S. should be lifted and use of the vaccine should resume.

The pause was recommended after reports of six cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals following administration of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. During the pause, medical and scientific teams at the FDA and CDC examined available data to assess the risk of thrombosis involving the cerebral venous sinuses, or CVST (large blood vessels in the brain), and other sites in the body (including but not limited to the large blood vessels of the abdomen and the veins of the legs) along with thrombocytopenia, or low blood platelet counts.

Teams at the FDA and CDC also conducted extensive outreach to providers and clinicians to ensure they were made aware of the potential for these adverse events and could properly manage and recognize these events due to the unique treatment required for these blood clots and low platelets, also known as thrombosis-thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS).

The two agencies have determined the following:

- Use of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine should be resumed in the United States.
- The FDA and CDC have

confidence that this vaccine is safe and effective in preventing COVID-19.

- The FDA has determined that the available data show that the vaccine's known and potential benefits outweigh its known and potential risks in individuals 18 years of age and older.
- At this time, the available data suggest that the chance of TTS occurring is very low, but the FDA and CDC will remain vigilant in continuing to investigate this risk.
- Health care providers administering the vaccine and vaccine recipients or caregivers should review the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine (Vaccination Providers) and Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers, which have been revised to include information about the risk of this syndrome, which has occurred in a very small number of people who have received the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine.

CDC's independent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices met to discuss the latest data on TTS, hearing from the vaccine manufacturer Janssen and the COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Technical (VaST) Subgroup, as well as a risk benefit analysis. ACIP is committed to be vigilant and responsive to additional information that could impact the risk benefit analysis of any of these vaccines. Vaccine safety monitoring will continue and any new information about TTS will be

# BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY  
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

- ▶ Stop Bank Levies!
- ▶ Stop Wage Garnishments!
- ▶ Stop Creditor Harassment
- ▶ Stop Foreclosure!!
- ▶ Stop Eviction! Protect Cosigners
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"Safety is our top priority. This pause was an example of our extensive safety monitoring working as they were designed to work - identifying even these small number of cases. We've lifted the pause based on the FDA and CDC's review of all available data and in consultation with medical experts and based on recommendations from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. We have concluded that the known and potential benefits of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine outweigh its known and potential risks in individuals 18 years of age and older. We are confident that this vaccine continues to meet our standards for safety, effectiveness and quality. We recommend people with questions about which vaccine is right for them have those discussions with their health care provider," said Janet Woodcock,

M.D., Acting FDA Commissioner.

"Above all else, health and safety are at the forefront of our decisions," said CDC Director Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky. "Our vaccine safety systems are working. We identified exceptionally rare events - out of millions of doses of the Janssen COVID-19 administered - and we paused to examine them more carefully. As we always do, we will continue to watch all signals closely as more Americans are vaccinated. I continue to be encouraged by the growing body of real-world evidence that the authorized COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and they protect people from disease, hospitalization, and death. I urge anyone with questions about the COVID-19 vaccines to speak with their healthcare provider or local public health department."

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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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<b>Newark:</b> 202 Stuyvesant Ave.	Tel. 973-374-8807
<b>West Orange:</b> 77 Main Street	Tel. 973-324-2090
<b>West Orange:</b> 95 Main Street	Tel. 973-736-5552
<b>West Orange:</b> 92 Old Northfield Road <small>(currently closed for renovations)</small>	Tel. 973-736-5552

# The Doctor Is In



**Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED**

## The Impact Of The Coronavirus On Other Conditions

We all know what the coronavirus is capable of doing on its own. I mean, 570,000 deaths, 32 million cases, and billions of affected lives is strong enough resume. But it goes far beyond that. The coronavirus, aside from sending people to the hospital, is also keeping people away from the hospital. Weird virus.

In recent months, the number of visits to hospitals is increas-

ing. That alone isn't news, but it gets interesting when you consider that many of these visits are by vaccinated people. So, the visits are not because of the coronavirus. Then what? Many of these vaccinated people are in hospitals because of medical conditions they haven't been treated for because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Last year saw many facilities shut down or radically change how they are managed, from schools to churches to hospitals. While hospitals and many other healthcare facilities did not shut down, priority was placed on the coronavirus, leaving other dangerous medical conditions to worsen.

I remember many people running from hospitals because of the fear of getting the coronavirus. I can't blame them; the havoc the virus can wreak is really not to be underestimated. Some others even visited hospitals but got sent back or met long queues and just went back.

While this all sounds basic, the effects go far deeper than one may imagine. For one, many of the people that couldn't get the healthcare they desired because of the virus have deteriorative conditions. This implies that their conditions gradually got



worse with time because of the coronavirus despite not necessarily having the coronavirus.

Some of these conditions, like cancer and diabetes, are best treated in the early stages. The longer it persists, the worse it becomes to treat or manage. Aside from treatment, early diagnosis is also important in these conditions, which was very difficult or impossible in many hospitals.

I know there are many things wrong with our healthcare system, but I don't think you can blame the state of our healthcare system for this. You can't blame the doctors, or the nurses, or any healthcare worker for this. How could you? Beds were literally lining up with corpses. In some

hospitals, they had to turn back COVID patients because of a lack of facilities or staffing. And this was absolutely necessary.

The coronavirus is a very infectious disease. Although the death rate is not ridiculously high, standing at around 3%, more cases will mean more deaths. If one million people get the virus, at a 3% death rate, 30,000 people will die. If ten million people get the virus, though, 300,000 people will die. The point I'm trying to make is that the decision to prioritize coronavirus cases was the right one to prevent more cases and deaths.

This decision has, however, taken its toll on other conditions,  
*(Continued on page 12)*

## FINANCE *(Continued from page 6)*

simply the summary of all your investments in different stocks and other financial investments or assets.

Unfortunately, stock prices can also fall! This is something every investor in stocks should be aware of. Investing in stocks means you are taking a risk. There is no guarantee that the stock that you buy will have their prices going up. The prices could go down. If you buy stocks and the price goes down, you in effect are making a loss and we refer to that as a capital loss.

For example, Mike bought 10 stocks of Apple for \$10 each in January 2020. In December of that same year the stock price had fallen to \$5 per stock. Mike spent \$10 \* 10 stocks or \$100 to acquire his 10 stocks. By December, his stocks are now worth \$5 each so his stock value for his 10 stocks would be the current price of the stock times

the number of stock that Mike owns in that company.

In other words, Mike owns 10 stocks \* \$5 (current price of the stock) would be \$50. Mike started with a portfolio of stock worth \$100 in January 2020 and ended up with a portfolio of stock worth \$50. The capital loss would be the difference between how much Mike spent on his stock and the current value.

In the beginning Mike spent \$100 for 10 stocks. With the price falling per stock to \$5, Mike has thus had a capital loss of \$50. Everyone investing in stocks should keep this reality in the forefront of their minds; there is never a guarantee on what will happen to stock prices of individual stocks.

One could make a capital gain, or one could get a capital loss. If the prices of your stock rise, then you will get a capital gain. If the prices of your stocks fall, you would have a capital loss.

Anyone who wants to invest

in stocks should ensure that they learn as much as possible about stocks. As we have indicated, buying stocks entails risk. Before you begin to actually buy and sell stocks, it would be advisable to learn about stocks first.

The next step would be to learn about the different investment principles and guidelines. People who invest regularly in stocks tend to buy stocks after they have conducted detailed research about different companies and their products. The beauty about researching stocks is that there is a lot of information about companies that are listed on a stock exchange.

As part of the rules of listing, all companies are to provide their financial accounts or Financial Statements on a quarterly, half year, and annual basis. Studying the accounts for previous years of operation is a key step in understanding a company. The Annual Reports of companies are documents prepared

every year that include information such as the financial performance for the previous year, the management of the company as well as details on the products or services that the company products.

By going through past Annual reports of a company, one can get a great deal of information to assist in decision making as to whether to buy a particular stock or not. Other things to look out for include looking for the dividend pay record of a company. In other words, does the company pay dividends regularly and if so, how much do they typically pay out as dividend payments?

Please feel free to share with me your questions and experiences on stocks and investments. I will do my best to respond, and, in some cases, I will write on some of these questions.

Your questions and comments can be sent to [localtalk-news@gmail.com](mailto:localtalk-news@gmail.com)

# 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** - Restaurateur John Steward, 86, may have died April 10, but mourners who remember him and his long-standing John's Place have been adding tributes onto his obituary page as late as April 20.

Steward owned, operated and led his same-named place at 24 Wright St. 1990-2015. People from most walks of life, from the celebrated to churchgoers looking for a post-worship meal, often stood in line, waiting to enter the corner store for soul food.

"Local Talk" once visited John's Place as part of a date, sharing uptown tea. Steward himself greeted visitors with "It's good to be seen!" if you said, "Good to see you." He was also a mentor to his family and employees.

Steward, who was born July 13, 1934 in Albany, Ga., was also born into the business. Mother Amelia Nelson Steward, opened her first Steward's restaurant along Prince Street in the 1940s. She, John and father John Sr. moved to Newark in 1936.

While Amelia moved Steward's to Lyons Avenue, John graduated from Charlton Street Elementary and Newark Technical High schools. He worked in GM's Linden assembly plant until he began working alongside her in 1965. John left to open his own restaurant in 1990.

Steward was joined by son Darryl C. Steward, working together until the latter's 2014 death. Nephew Godfrey Allen took up Darryl's managerial role until John decided to close and

retire around 2015.

The West Orange resident suffered a heart attack and died in Livingston's RWJ St. Barnabas Hospital 10 days short of his and Dorothy "Dot" Steward's 50th wedding anniversary. Daughter-in-law Venus, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren are among his survivors. Whigham Funeral Home hosted his April 16-17 walk-through prior to his private funeral.

**IRVINGTON** - Township and county detectives are looking for a suspect who left behind at least two men with gunshot injuries from a Crescent Lane housing complex here in daylight April 17.

Irvington Public Safety Director Tracy Bowers said that the first IPD units responded to gunfire reports from the lane's teens block at 1:45 p.m. that Saturday. They found a man who was critically injured at the complex - who was rushed to Newark's University Hospital for treatment.

While IPD started a crime scene investigation and notified the ECPO Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force, a second man from the lane walked into RWJBarnabas Newark Beth Israel Hospital with non-life-threatening bullet wounds.

In another case, County homicide detectives are looking for the suspect who left an Orange man - identified as Eliameau Maxime, 32, fatally wounded along Union Avenue in the predawn hours of April 24.

Maxime was declared dead at 5:10 a.m. Saturday at University Hospital. His funeral arrangements were not announced as of April 27. Another man was also shot but was treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

**EAST ORANGE** - City motorists and residents alike may be reading more into the East Orange Parking Authority's announcement that it will resume overnight permit parking enforcement May 1.

The EOPA, for the record, will again require vehicles with

parking permits to park overnight on designated streets as of 2:01 a.m. Saturday.

Those who still have their 2020 annual overnight permits will be correspondingly honored in 2021. Those who need to buy the 2021 annual permits will be prorated from the month of purchase with no other discounts.

The overnight parking permit re-enforcement, at first glance, may be seen as another step towards post-pandemic normality. The resumption, however, may be considered another turn in the city's convoluted parking history.

The city has been searching for an equitable policy for the last 110 years, when the first apartment buildings were going up and residents began buying cars. The decades-long ebb and flow have resulted in a patchwork of overnight and visitor/commuter permits, guest passes, public and private lots and curbside parking among the five wards.

Mayor Ted Green, the City Council, EOPA and city police had been surveying residents about what would best work in their neighborhoods. Two phases of a curbside parking pilot program were tested before the March 2020 COVID-19 global outbreak.

Those seeking permits, a list or map of designated streets and/or questions are to contact [Eastorangeparkingauthority.org](http://Eastorangeparkingauthority.org), (973) 672-1116, 60 Evergreen Place, Suite 503.

**ORANGE** - A Georgia man pleaded "not guilty" to conspiracy and fraud charges, related to a former City of Orange administrator, before a Newark federal judge on the same day he was indicted April 16.

Isaac Newton, 53, of Loganville, Ga., pleaded not guilty to nine fraud and conspiracy charges by teleconference before U.S. Magistrate Judge James B. Clark III that Friday. Newton had surrendered to U.S. Department of Justice attorneys in Atlanta, once he learned of the USDOJ-New Jersey grand jury's indictment earlier in the day.

Newton is accused of conspiring with then-City of Orange department head Willis Edwards III for furnishing term papers for Edwards for \$38,000 between June 2015 and 2016. Newton had a relative write the papers, which Edwards passed on to a local university's professors towards his doctoral dissertation as his own.

Edwards then provided \$38,000 of fraudulent invoices to the city as "Professional Services for Strategic Advisory and Operational Planning." He had Orange make out the checks to Newton.

Edwards' four years as Orange's business administrator, or like titles, ended with his resignation Dec. 31, 2015. The former State Assemblyman-turned Georgia resident faces a 31-count indictment since Sept. 20 in relation to Orange Public Library contracts and the financing of the Orange YWCA/REC Center project.

Newton is facing five counts of wire fraud, two counts of mail fraud, a count of conspiring to commit said fraud and a count of unlawfully obtaining at least \$5,000 from a federally funded local government.

Each count of mail and wire fraud and conspiracy thereof carries up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The unlawful obtaining count carries up to a 10-year sentence and a \$250,000 fine. Newton was released April 16 on a \$100,000 bail bond.

**WEST ORANGE** - The Township Council may consider Mayor Robert Parisi's proposal to designate 6.5 acres of the Rock Spring Golf Club "an area in need of rehabilitation" as early as their May 4 meeting.

Although May 4's agenda has not been posted as of press time, West Orange elders had witnessed Township Planning and Development Consultant Paul Grygiel's Rock Spring AI-NOR presentation during their April 20 workshop session.

Parisi's administration is asking for the designation to parcel off 6.5 of the township-owned

(Continued on page 13)



## From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### Becoming More Neighborly

Some incidents in life are so dynamic that they will be hard to erase from memory and must be reflected on for a long time. One such incident I refer to is George Floyd's death and the testimonies at the trial that led to Chauvin's guilty verdict.

As is believed, the testimony of the four youngsters, but especially that of Darnella Frazier, who was 17 years old when she filmed the video of Derek Chauvin kneeling on George Floyd's neck for nine minutes and twenty-six seconds, was most decisive in the trial. The video went viral and prompted the tidal wave of public outrage across the world. But at the trial, when Frazier testified, she sobbed as she recited her regrets for not physically intervening to help Floyd. She said she felt very responsible for his death.

Yes, the testimony of Darnella Frazier and others who took action and testified as eyewitnesses, secured the guilty verdict of Chauvin will be repeated many days to come. As is being noted, their testimony is unique because multiple other persons across America are being beaten

up and murdered at the hands of persons like Chauvin and are not being convicted. In many cases, we are told that there are witnesses who could make a difference, but they are complicit with what is taking place and therefore refuse to tell what they have seen.

There is a good reason that Luke records the interaction between Jesus and the young lawyer. It is an interesting read, and I invite you to read it as recorded in Luke 16:25-34: "Teacher," he [the young lawyer] asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he [Jesus] replied. "How do you read it?" He [the young lawyer] answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this, and you will live."

But he [the young lawyer] wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply, Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took

pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day, he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

This story is not an "Allegory," as Augustine and other commentators might have thought. It is for real. It happened then and is happening now. Many persons are being beaten up and left for dead like the man on the Jericho Road was, and as George Floyd was, and few persons are willing to act as neighbors and intervene. Again, thank God for Darnella Frazier and others in George Floyd's story and those in other stories we are not naming in this reflection.

But it is a fact of interest that while most people are showing outrage as their immediate response to many tragedies, as shown on TV, their outrage is not sustained, nor is it carried to other individuals who are being left for dead. Or let us say that too many individuals are only willing to "save their own skins" or preserve themselves, than risk anything to make sure that they offer the help needed to trans-

form the conditions of those suffering in their presence.

Let me ask, as the George Floyd bill sits in the congress, how many of us are truly concerned about it to make those who are resisting it be sensitized to it? How many are aware that the bill is not just about George Floyd but about the multitude of other persons who are being beaten up and murdered each year?

Of course, I am not just concerned about the public policy changes that can be made but also about our individual and personal responsibilities, namely, in our attitude displayed to those about us. Let us think of the many other persons suffering from other oppressive conditions and ask ourselves:

- What are we doing to help heal a wound?
- How are we help to bind a broken heart?
- How are we seeking to uplift a mind, encourage a soul, and find peace and rest?

Darnella Frazier's actions and that of the other individuals in the George Floyd and Derek Chauvin's case might seem distant from the story of the Good Samaritan. But each story must challenge us about our individual and corporate responsibilities to our neighbors. We must not give a blind eye to the plight of the disenfranchised as we see them being beaten up and murdered. We must lend a helping hand in rescuing those who need our help.

### DOCTOR (Continued from page 10)

particularly the degenerative ones. This is one of those cases where you can't really blame anything but the damn virus. Maybe we will have been better poised to handle all of the other degenerative conditions during the peak of the pandemic if we had better healthcare, but at the time, there was nothing we could do other than focus on the virus.

Now that the vaccines are being rolled out, people that had put off their treatment, both of their volition or forced by hospitals, for fear of the coronavirus, are coming to get the healthcare services they need. Many of these conditions are in a worse

state, and some of the conditions could have been totally avoided if there was early enough care. But again, it was out of anyone's hands.

It goes even deeper than delayed treatment of illnesses. The coronavirus has led to lots of mental and physical issues. Physiotherapists see several conditions that arose from too much sitting or a sedentary lifestyle because of the stay-in order. Psychiatrists also have to work overtime because of many mental illnesses, like depression, that arose from coronavirus-related issues. People are literally losing their minds without even getting infected with the virus; it's a sad sight, really.

The good news in all of this is that the vaccines are available, and many of these people can finally get the care they need and deserve. You just have to pity the doctors that will leave the stress of the coronavirus to deal with tons of delayed-treatment illnesses.

I believe after all of this, you will understand perfectly when I say, please follow social distancing rules, wear a mask, and try to get the vaccine as soon as you can. We may be in the last lap, but the fight is far from over. Stay safe.

*This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board Certified Internist & Board Eli-*

*gible 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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### START DATES

#### May 17

- CNA| Day & Evening
- PCT| Day
- CCMA| Day

#### July 19

- CNA| Day & Evening
- CCMA| Evening

#### August 30

- CNA| Day & Evening
- PCT| Day & Evening

#### September 6

- CNA| Day & Evening
- CCMA| Day



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### TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 11)

golf course's 138 acres. The spun-off land would then be developed for residential housing in the St. Cloud section.

Parisi had left that limited redevelopment open since the township and then-Rock Spring parent Montclair Golf Club negotiated its sale in 2019. The 1920s-era 18-hole private course re-opened for public use around April 15, 2020.

The mayor, who said that "there's no rush" to Rock Spring's partial redevelopment as a Gold Club for housing, has been looking to widen the township's tax base through more ratable properties. Projected residential property taxes, said Parisi earlier this year, would help build a parking garage for course patrons and replace a \$5 million clubhouse.

West Orange countered a bid Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo (D-Roseland) had

made to MCC. Township elders were concerned that all 138 acres would have led to a massive residential development had they not bought the course grounds.

Several St. Cloud residents were concerned that housing on the 6.5 acres would lead to crowding at the nearby St. Cloud Elementary School and more traffic on Northfield Avenue.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - Officials within and from outside Columbia High School are working to keep a "culture of normalized harassment" while reopening the school.

CHS Principal Franch Sanchez, South Orange-Maplewood School District Student Representative Lily Forman and two teachers, at the Board of Education's April 19 meeting, brought up how students brought up their experiences of sexual harassment and/or assault to them in person or online since

early March.

Sanchez, in his late March memo, said he had started meeting with administrators, teachers, staff and Schools Superintendent Dr. Robert Taylor on improving incident reporting, counseling and providing resources.

The CHS principal added that he had reported students' allegations to Maplewood and South Orange police. None of the parties would confirm whether the reports are being investigated.

The two-town school board, on April 19, introduced a revised sexual harassment policy - which CHS history teacher Greg Tuttle questioned as not going far enough.

"By sticking to the script and employing a conservative stance on curriculum," said Tuttle, "we've become tone-deaf in our classrooms."

"This issue has been a consistent problem in our district," said Taylor, "so I hope recent events can spark the action need-

ed to change that trend."

**BLOOMFIELD** - Township authorities are looking for a suspect who had opened fire outside an Ampere bar after its closing time and fled early April 17.

Bloomfield Public Safety Director Samuel DeMaio said that his police officers had first responded to 142-44 Bloomfield Ave, on a fight report at 2:30 a.m. that Saturday. The BPD officers, upon arrival, were then told of gunfire in the area.

"The initial report of the fight involved unknown suspect (s) and the establishment's security manager," said DeMaio. "The initial fight ensued into two gunshots fired at a vehicle."

A field investigation "recovered two shell casings from the front of the establishment."

The Avenue Steak House Bar & Grill has a posted 2 a.m. closing time.

(Continued on page 15)

# Legally Speaking



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

## **Decriminalization of Marijuana Under 21**

The new decriminalization of marijuana law defines how the police should treat those under the age of 21 who are found to possess or consume any amount of marijuana, hashish, cannabis or alcohol in any public place EXCEPT SCHOOL.

First offense: The police shall issue a written warning which must include the person's name, address, and date of birth, but the warning shall not be provided to the person's parent or guardian.

Second offense: The police shall issue a written warning,

and also provide written informational materials about drug treatment services in the community. And, the police must provide copies of the first and second warnings to the person's parent or guardian.

Third offense and offenses thereafter: In the event a person is between 18 and 21, The police shall issue a written warning and again provide the individual with information about drug treatment services in the area. In the event the person is under 18, the police shall provide notice of the written warnings and notice of drug treatment services in the community to the individual's parents or guardian.

The police are required to keep a sworn statement with a description of the factual circumstances that support a finding of a violation.

I can see the temporary problem with the execution of the new law. One could get a "first offense warning" is multiple towns. Therefore, I would expect that first warnings will in the very near future be computerized and available to every police department. Otherwise, one can envision some errant teen getting a "first warning" in Newark,

East Orange, Irvington, Bloomfield, South Orange...So expect the tracking to happen in a short time.

You should note that under the new law, officers may not fingerprint individuals under the age 21 for their first, second, third or subsequent offenses. However, if an individual is under 21 is in possession of more than 6 ounces of marijuana or 17 grams of hashish, that individual is also in violation of the drug law (N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10(a)(3)(b)), a fourth-degree crime and may be issued a complaint-summons and fingerprinted at their first court appearance.

In this age of the police seem to get away with murder, the new law also prohibits the police from engaging in certain actions when investigating an individual under age 21 for possession of marijuana, hashish, cannabis, or alcohol. More importantly, police officers who violate these provisions may be charge criminally with depriving the individual of his civil rights, regardless of whether the officer intended to do so or not. Police officers cannot:

- Ask an individual under 21

for consent to search the person to determine a violation of that crime. However, if the individual is over 18 and the officer reasonably believes that other criminal activity is going on, the individual may grant consent to search.

- Search the person's personal property or vehicle to determine if there is a violation of a drug offense merely because they claim to speak marijuana, hashish, or alcohol as these no longer provide probably cause to suspect that a crime is in progress.
- The unconcealed possession of an alcoholic beverage, marijuana, hashish, or cannabis item that is observed in plain sight shall not constitute probable cause to initiate a search of an individual under the age of 21 or that individual's personal property or vehicle to determine a violation of any law.
- When responding to a violation of any of the drug laws, police MUST activate their body cameras which MUST remain activated throughout the encounter.

## **HOMELESS SHELTER UPDATE**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Newark validated reports of aggravated assault, rape and theft taking place at the HELP Center between October 2019 - January 27, 2021. The picture that emerges from this data is one of fear, crime, lack of police presence and lack of transparency and oversight by the powers that be.

According to the police records provided by the Office of the Clerk of the City of Newark, there were 8 aggravated assaults; 1 aggravated assault/shooting; 2 rapes; 1 robbery; and 16 thefts. All of this occurred between March 4, 2018 and January 18,

2021. In addition, rlsmedia.com reported on January 27, 2021 that a stabbing at 224 Sussex Avenue was under investigation.

Analyses done by Local Talk staff showed that crimes happened more in January (8) and March (5), than other months. October had 3 crimes; May, June and December, 2 each. February, April, July, August, September and November all had 1 crime each. However, this does not necessarily mean that some months have less crime than others. It is far from clear that the summer/early fall months of July, August and September with 1 crime each, are better. Plausible enough, tenants can be elsewhere during the warm weather.

This might contribute to a decline in crime. Conversely, January and March, being winter months, might have more crime due to tenants having to stay inside. The climate factor might contribute to an increase or decrease in crime.

Munirah El Bomani, an activist, does not think that crime statistics reported by Newark Police give an accurate picture. Talking via text messages, Bomani wrote, "Violence reported or not reported. 224 Sussex Avenue Shelters need reorganization and more accountability based on the number of crimes, complaints. And amount of homeless dollars being allocated. Where is the safety, transparency

and oversight?"

In other words, what "Local Talk" received were just the reported crimes, the tip of the iceberg. There are talks that the unreported crimes are thought to be many times greater than those that were reported. Some homeless people are afraid to report what is going on for fear of eviction or their own safety.

Bomani, the activist, sums up the horrible conditions this way.

"The homeless are too frightened to go there (224 Sussex Avenue) for so many reasons that are being swept under the rug by the powers that be. The homeless have no trust in the leadership."

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 13)

**MONTCLAIR** - One of the three Montclair Board of Education's outgoing members who Mayor Sean Spillar began replacing April 19, had decided not to go quietly away.

Sergio Gonzalez, when the MBOE microphone was passed to him from colleagues Jessica de Koninck and Eve Robinson April 19, made his parting comments memorable by accusing Spillar of having a conflict of interest. Spillar, who makes BOE member appointments, was recently promoted by the New Jersey Education Association as its president.

"I absolutely can say that the Montclair Education Association leadership has worked tirelessly to usurp the BOE's legal status as the decisive policy-setting power in the district," said Gonzalez. "It appears to me that Mayor Spillar is clearly determined to prevent our BOE to perform this critical function."

Gonzalez accused Spillar of trying to make Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jonathan Ponds leave Montclair Public Schools. The Dell Technologies executive added that none of Spillar's appointees have a Latin or Asian-Pacific Islander ethnicity or background.

Gonzalez, de Koninck and Robinson were appointed by Mayor Robert Jackson before he declined re-election. Spillar, who was elected last May, chose Crystal Hopkins, Kathryn Weller-Demming and Eric Scherzer as his first MBOE appointees.

Spillar, in his April 20 response, thanked Gonzalez for his service but expressed his "disappointment that he's making several false and puzzling assertions regarding the appointment of new BOE members.

"He had the opportunity to help shape school policy and take action," added the mayor of Gonzalez. "I'm not aware of any instance where he raised his concerns at a board meeting or was prevented from providing leadership on these issues."

**BELLEVILLE** - The Township Council approved a \$1.9 million severance package for former municipal employees, despite the numbers not adding up by one public speaker's calculations, here April 13.

The council passed what Mayor Michael Mulham's administrators have entitled "the issuance of \$1,982,078 in emergency notes for expenses related to contractual required severance liabilities resulting from the layoff or retirement of

employees in or by" the township."

Belleville's elders granted the \$1.9 million bond ordinance although one of their former colleagues, Vincent Frantantoni, pointed out several problems with the measure.

Frantantoni, in printed and spoken remarks, had cited the results of an OPRA request he had filed with the township earlier this month.

The former councilman said that Belleville wants to raise \$1.9 million in bonds for a documented payout of \$458,909. The township is raising four times the amount they intend to payout.

Frantantoni further pointed out that the payout will be going to 25 former employees. The payout, on one hand, comes out to an average \$19,595.80 per person. The raised funds, on the other hand, will be an average \$79,283.12 per person.

Frantantoni also asked if the raised and payout figures include unused sick leave and/or vacation time.

**NUTLEY** - An April 19 code interpretation by the township's Zoning Board of Adjustment may have effectively knocked out plans to build a 24-hour warehouse and truck terminal here.

The board had ruled that a warehouse that has parking or storage space for at least three 1.5-ton trucks makes that facility a prohibited use in Nutley's construction codebook.

Put another way, a resident may not have three large or truck-based pickup trucks parked on most Nutley driveways, except for automotive sales and service. (Some readers may remember when automakers took advantage of the around 1990 pickup truck boom by building such vehicles on car-based chassis.)

A developer had wanted space for up to 40 18-wheel tractor-trailer trucks for a warehouse to be built at 275 Kingsland St. The triangular lot, in part bordered by the Norfolk Southern-owned ex-Erie Newark Branch railroad tracks, would have been accessed to and from Kingsland Street.

The warehouse/terminal, which would have been built without a tenant lined up, would be close to Kingsland's part of Route 7 and the ON3 property/ex-Roche Pharmaceutical site - on paper.

Site neighbors and concerned citizens brought a 1,500-signature petition to the zoning board to call off approving the facility. They had also cited the lot as being part of an underground aquifer plume that had been contaminated by pollutants from Hoffman-LaRoche.

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