

# FORMER NEWARK OFFICIAL AND TWO OTHERS INDICTED

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## QUANTAVIA HILBERT ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY



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## NOVEMBER ELECTION PREVIEW

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## COLIN POWELL (1937-2021)

Bethesda, MD - One of the most prolific, trailblazing, and at times controversial, military and political leaders in the United States has reached his permanent end of service.

Renowned military officer and diplomat Colin Powell died at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center due to complications from COVID-19. Although he was fully vaccinated, Powell was also battling multiple myeloma, which severely weakened his health. Powell, 84, is survived by his wife Alma Johnson, their three children and grandchildren.

Colin Luther Powell was born on April 5, 1937 in New York City to Jamaican immigrants. After high school, he graduated from City College of New York with a degree in Geology of all things. During

his days at CCNY, he joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps, which led him to joining the Army full time after college.

Powell served two tours in Vietnam throughout the 1960s. Upon returning to the U.S., he climbed the ranks to four-star general, and served at the prestigious post of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which was during the George H.W. Bush administration.

After George W. Bush was declared as the winner of the 2000 Presidential Election, the son of Powell's former boss appointed the longtime military man as his Secretary of State. Powell was the first black person to serve in that capacity, and it was the highest post achieved in the nation's government by someone black at that time, just years before



Served as nation's first Black Secretary of State from 2001 - 2005

Barack Obama ascended to the presidency.

"He was a great public servant, starting with his time as a soldier during Vietnam," said former U.S. President George W. Bush. "Many Presidents relied on General Powell's counsel and experience. He was National Security Adviser under President Reagan, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under my father and President Clinton, and Secretary of State during my Administration.

"He was such a favorite of  
(Continued on page 14)



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Dhiren Shah  
Editor-In-Chief

*Hello Readers,*

The most notable patriot in our time was Colin Powell. He was the first African American to serve as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State. He is originally from New York with Jamaican heritage, and studied at City College. He was the chairman of the Board of Visitors. He worked with presidents Nixon, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. After his retirement, he was active in the political arena and when Barack Obama was running for president in 2008, he endorsed Obama in a surprise announcement.

He had a likeable personality. He was a real patriot. He kept the nation ahead of any political dreams. I haven't heard any negative news about him as a person. He was well known amongst everyone, including residents of the United States and all over the world. From Nixon to Biden, everyone asked for his advice.

In addition to being the first African American Joint Chiefs of Staff chair and Secretary of State, he held many other positions and honors, including being a two-time recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Vice President Kamala Harris said that Powell did it with dignity and grace.

President Biden has the lowest approval rating since he took office. Every month, he is losing his popularity and now it is about 38 to 43% approval of his job, and 48 to 53% disapproval. He should stop blaming Trump and work for the best interest of the people of the United States of America. He is 78 years old, and

he may not run for the presidency again, so he has to make a big change to work for the people, rather than politicians and lobbyists. Maybe his approval rating might go down, but when people see that he is really doing the job for the people, his approval rating will go up.

His handling of the economy is another issue. Under his leadership, the price of oil has gone up drastically, as well as rates for commodities. Many economists are talking about inflation. If inflation comes, the middle class will hurt the most. Hopefully, experts under Biden will find a way to sustain our economy and not let foreign countries take advantage. We have to be careful about China, Russia, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and many other countries. He has improved our relationship with European countries. He is well awake for global warming. However, in the coal, steel and the shipping industries, prices will go up. He must get support from

big industry owners, like Amazon, Facebook, General Motors, Twitter, Ford Motors, and others leading many industries. Without their support, prices will not stay within a certain limit, and inflation will wreck the livelihood of people.

November's election is around the corner. Early voting will open up this coming Saturday. Please take your time and make sure your important vote is part of the process. Each drop of water makes the ocean, and each vote will make the change in our lifestyles. Incumbent Phil Murphy (Democrat) and Jack Ciattarelli (Republican) are the main people running for governor. There are three other candidates, who do not have any real chance according to the polls. Murphy is the leading candidate by about 10 points, 50 to 40, and he may be the likely winner in the upcoming election.

*Have a wonderful week.  
I'll talk to you next week.*

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**WEATHER FOR THE WEEK**

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	AM Rain likely	Partly Cloudy / Rain	Partly Cloudy
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# The Doctor Is In



**Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED**

## Yes, You Still Need The Flu Vaccine!

We are approaching flu season again. This would have been a major cause of worry among Americans two years ago, but after the carnage the coronavirus has wreaked in the last year and a half, the flu doesn't seem like much of a big deal. Spoiler - it is.

Still.

In truth, the coronavirus is deadlier than the flu. The mortality rate of the coronavirus is estimated to be possibly ten times higher than most strains of the flu. But the flu still has a mortality rate, and that means it must be taken seriously.

Very seriously, in fact. The WHO (World Health Organization) estimates that 290,000 to 650,000 people die of flu-related causes every year worldwide. Those are still scary numbers, irrespective of how many people the coronavirus kills.

Last year, flu season was quiet, which was a very welcome development. Most experts believe this is because of the social distancing regulations and similar restrictions put in place to curtail the spread of the coronavirus. And it worked. However, an overwhelming majority of states in the world have eased those restrictions, largely due to the protective efforts of the vaccine. And I fear what this means for the flu.



People often think the flu vaccine is unnecessary if you have the coronavirus vaccine. That couldn't be more wrong. The two infections are caused by different viruses, and, by implication, don't require the same vaccine. Yes, they are both respiratory diseases. Yes, they both have lots of similarities in their spread and symptoms. Notwithstanding, the viruses that cause them are different.

The flu is caused by the influenza virus (usually influenza A and influenza B), while the SARS-CoV-2 virus causes COVID. Two different viruses, as you can see. The vaccines are also different. A coronavirus vaccine will not protect you from the flu, and vice versa.

Most adults in the United States already have the coronavirus vaccine, and about 60% are reportedly open to getting the flu vaccine, an increase from last year's 40-ish percent. Right now, only about 8% of American adults have gotten the flu vaccine. That number needs to go up, and fast too.

Adults shouldn't require anyone to preach to them about vaccines, but that's a far cry from where we stand now in this country. Not only do we, I mean health practitioners, have to convince people to get vaccinated, but we also have to deal with a barrage of insults, political views, misconceptions, lies, and so on about them. It's exhausting, as if we weren't busy enough as it is.

Also, another common mis-

conception is that the flu vaccine from last year would work for you this year. The reason last year's vaccination will not work for you is that flu strains are always changing. Scientists have to spend months predicting the strains for the year and then making a vaccine for the strains. So, last year's flu strains are not necessarily this year's. This is why we have to keep getting the flu vaccine annually, at least till science figures it out.

One question you may be wondering is the possible interference between the coronavirus and flu vaccines. Let me help you out there - none. In fact, you can receive both vaccines at the same time. The CDC fully supports this. And there's also no problem of overworking our immune system with the vaccines. If only you knew what your immune system is exposed to on a daily.

The last, and perhaps most annoying, of the misconceptions I hear is that the flu vaccine can give you the flu. The flu vaccine can't give you the flu because it doesn't contain the live virus. Getting a flu shot will not give you the flu - no chance at all. However, you may still get the flu shortly after getting the flu shot because it takes about two weeks for the body to build immunity against the virus, but you can be assured that the chances for hospitalizations and deaths with the vaccine are significantly lower than without them.

*(Continued on page 15)*

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# FORMER NEWARK OFFICIAL AND TWO OTHERS INDICTED

**NEWARK** - A former Newark city official and officer of the Newark Community Economic Development Corp. (NCEDC), along with two Newark business owners, were indicted today by a federal grand jury in connection with a conspiracy for the official to obtain corrupt payments intended to influence and reward him for assisting the business owners with the acquisition and redevelopment of various Newark-owned properties, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced.

Carmelo G. Garcia, 45, of Hoboken, a former Newark official, and Frank Valvano Jr., 52, of Florham Park, and Irwin Sablosky, 60, of Springfield, co-owners of a New Jersey-based pawnbroker and jewelry business, are charged with: one count of conspiracy to defraud the city of Newark and the NCEDC of Garcia's honest services facilitated by the use of interstate wire transmissions; 17 counts of honest services wire fraud; and four counts of use of interstate facilities to promote

and facilitate bribery in violation of the Travel Act.

Garcia is additionally charged with three counts of receiving bribes in connection with the business of a federally funded local government and organization and Valvano and Sablosky are additionally charged with three counts of offering those bribes. The defendants will be arraigned in federal court on a date to be determined.

According to documents filed in the case and statements made in court: From at least 2017 through April 2019, while serving as a high-level Newark official, and prior to that, as an executive officer of the NCEDC (now known as Invest Newark), Garcia sought and received significant monetary payments and other benefits from Valvano, Sablosky, and others in exchange for Garcia's use of his official positions and influence to advance real estate development matters of interest to Valvano and Sablosky., including securing Newark-approved redevelopment agreements (RDAs) to pur-

chase and acquire various Newark-owned properties for redevelopment, and to ensure that Garcia did not use his influence and authority to act against their interests.

Garcia also received jewelry, including multiple high-end watches and chains, from Valvano's and Sablosky's pawnbroker and jewelry business, including a Rolex watch with a "Selling Price" of \$8,900, a Cartier watch with a "Selling Price" of \$3,295, an Omega watch with a "Selling Price" of \$7,295, and a chain with a "Selling Price" of \$9,345.

Phone records and text messages obtained by law enforcement show extensive communication between Garcia, Valvano, Sablosky, and others throughout this period of time, including text messages in which Garcia arranged to personally collect cash provided by Valvano and Sablosky. In one instance, in June 2018, Garcia, then the City's acting deputy mayor and director of the city's Department of Economic and Housing De-

velopment (DEHD), received an envelope containing \$25,000 in cash, supplied by Valvano through an intermediary, in the restroom of a New Jersey restaurant. Text messages obtained by law enforcement show that Garcia used his personal cellular phone to coordinate the location and timing of the meeting.

In other text messages, Valvano and Sablosky discussed additional payments of money and jewelry the two had made to Garcia, and also to an associate of Garcia (identified in the indictment as "Individual 1"), as well as their ongoing efforts to obtain RDAs with the city to acquire and redevelop Newark-owned properties. E-mails obtained by law enforcement further show the official actions, assistance, and influence Garcia provided in violation of his duties in exchange for the cash and other non-cash benefits he received from Valvano and Sablosky and the actions that Valvano and Sablosky were seeking from Garcia for those benefits.

*(Continued on page 14)*



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## FIGHTING THE TEXAS ABORTION LAW

### UNITED STATES

New Jersey's Acting Attorney General Andrew J. Bruck announced that his state has joined a brief in the U.S. Supreme Court supporting the federal Department of Justice's (DOJ) challenge to a Texas law that effectively bans most abortions in the state.

Specifically, the brief asks the nation's highest court to find that a federal judge's October 6 injunction temporarily halting enforcement of the Texas law was proper, and that a Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling staying that injunction on October 14 was incorrect.

Among other things, the amicus brief argues that Texas's abortion law clearly violates the constitutional right to an abortion prior to viability - a Fourteenth Amendment right long recognized by the Supreme Court and cemented by "nearly a half century of binding precedent."

"S.B. 8 is a clear and present danger to the bodily autonomy of women and their right to privacy," said Governor Phil Murphy. "Acting Attorney General Bruck's announcement is a welcome development. We will fight this misguided, offensive, and reckless assault on abortion services and women's health and we will not rest until the right to choose is no longer under threat."

In announcing the Supreme Court filing by a coalition of 24 Attorneys General, Acting Attorney General Bruck contrasted the manner in which Texas lawmakers have stripped Texas residents of a right long protected by legal precedent with New Jersey's own recent actions. Indeed, the Acting Attorney General announced that the state Board of Medical Examiners had voted unanimously to adopt new rules eliminating medically unnecessary regulations on abortion in

New Jersey, and opening new avenues for access to reproductive healthcare services across the state.

"A federal judge rightly rejected the Texas law because it takes away a fundamental right under our Constitution, and because it threatens harm to untold numbers of persons who need or who provide this essential healthcare," said Acting Attorney General Bruck. "We fully agree and we call on the Supreme Court to halt enforcement of this blatantly illegal measure."

The Texas law (S.B. 8) bans most abortions after approximately six weeks, and contains no exceptions for pregnancies that result from rape, sexual abuse and incest, or for pregnancies involving a fetal defect incompatible with life after birth.

The brief argues that S.B. 8 is tantamount to "an across-the-board ban on constitutionally protected conduct" and asserts that the law has made it all but impossible to obtain an abortion in Texas. The brief further argues that Texas' law has created widespread fear among abortion providers of being targeted under a provision that deputizes private citizens and private entities - but not Texas state or local officials - to enforce the law by filing civil lawsuits.

Under the law, private parties are allowed to recover a minimum of \$10,000 from individuals who facilitate an abortion prohibited by the law, including anyone who performs or induces a prohibited abortion, anyone who aids or abets the performance or inducement of a prohibited abortion, and anyone who intends to participate in a prohibited abortion.

The multi-state brief refers to Texas' granting of enforcement powers to private citizens - and not state officials - as an evasive "scheme" employed for the purpose of "trampling constitutional rights under the color of state law."

On October 6, a federal judge in Texas issued a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the Texas law, and in a 113-page ruling that accompanied the injunction agreed with the position taken by both DOJ and the amicus states.

In his ruling, the judge wrote that, "A person's right un-

der the Constitution to choose to obtain an abortion prior to fetal viability is well established. Fully aware that depriving its citizens of this right by direct state action would be flagrantly unconstitutional, the State (Texas) contrived an unprecedented and transparent statutory scheme to do just that."

On October 8, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals temporarily held the injunction in abeyance, and, on October 14, issued a stay blocking the injunction issued by Judge Pitman. These rulings cleared the way for the Texas law to go into effect.

DOJ has since asked the Supreme Court to vacate the Fifth Circuit's stay, which would put Judge Pitman's preliminary injunction back in force

## KIDNAPPING IN HAITI

### CARIBBEAN

As the social, economic, and political climate in Haiti continues to descend into chaos, several people looking to help victims have now become victims themselves.

On Oct. 16, 16 Americans and one Canadian were abducted by kidnappers in Haiti, who have demanded \$1 million for each person in exchange for their freedom. The group was comprised of missionaries and their families. So far, the FBI and other authorities are trying to find avenues to free the group from the kidnappers, known the "400 Mawozo."

"Many people, including CAM management and Haitian and U.S. authorities, are working diligently to bring our loved ones home safely," the Christian Aid Ministries of Millersburg, Ohio wrote in a statement.

"The ages of the adults being held captive range from 18 to 48. The ages of the children are 8 months, 3 years, 6 years, 13 years, and 15 years. Today, we again commit our workers to God's care. 'For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways' (Psalm 91:11). Pray that our workers could respond to hatred with Jesus' love, overcome the spirit of fear with faith, and face violence with a genuine desire to bless their oppressors.

"We request prayers for the

Haitian and American civil authorities who are working to resolve this situation. We believe the command of the Bible in I Timothy 2:2-3 - 'Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.'

"This group of workers has been committed to minister throughout poverty-stricken Haiti. Their heart-felt desire is to share the love of Jesus. Before the kidnapping, their work throughout Haiti included supporting thousands of needy school children, distributing Bibles and Christian literature, supplying medicines for numerous clinics, teaching Haitian pastors, and providing food for the elderly and vulnerable. In recent months, they were actively involved in coordinating a rebuilding project for those who lost their homes in the August 2021 earthquake. When kidnapped, the group was returning from a visit to an orphanage that receives support from Christian Aid Ministries."

As of deadline, the U.S. government has remained adamant that it would not pay the multi-million dollar ransom.

## MISSILES GALORE

### ASIA

Two Asian nations have drawn both the ire and concern from one particular Western superpower.

On Oct. 19, the United States condemned a suspected submarine missile launch from North Korea, which was in violation of agreements that the latter would refrain from efforts to engage in such activity. North Korea has been admonished several times by the U.S. and United Nations for its defense endeavors, including its aspirations and efforts to create a nuclear arsenal.

Although North Korea has been lately known for the mysterious status of dictator Kim Jong-un, the country has been more active in its missile program since the U.S. debacle in Afghanistan, with the possible reason that they do not view current

(Continued on page 13)



# Finance At Your Fingertips



Moses Ayiku, Jr. MBA OP/ED

## Investing In Financial Securities: Stock And Bonds - Part 2 Cryptocurrencies

Today, investing has become even more complex with the introduction of diverse financial assets. Cryptocurrencies have evolved into an investment option. The challenge is that most people do not understand cryptocurrencies. A simple rule in investing is that one should steer clear of investment options that one does not understand. However, with a concerted effort one can learn about cryptocurrencies and then determine whether it is a viable investment option.

What makes cryptocurrency so interesting?

It can be a long-term store of value. Unlike fiat money, most cryptocurrencies have a limited supply, capped by mathematical algorithms. This makes it impossible for any political body or government agency to dilute their value through inflation. Bitcoin, Ethereum, and other cryptocurrencies are revolutionizing how we invest, bank, and use money.

Cryptocurrency is a form of payment that can be exchanged online for goods and services. Many companies have issued their own currencies, often called tokens, and these can be traded specifically for the good or service that the company provides.

One major reason why cryptocurrencies are gaining attention is because it's a decentralized processing and recording system and can be more secure than traditional payment systems.

Blockchain technology is the technology used by cryptocurrency. A blockchain is simply a digital ledger of transactions. This ledger (or database) is distributed across a network of computer systems. No single system controls the ledger. It's a decentralized processing and recording system and can be more secure than traditional payment systems. The decentralized network of computers keeps a blockchain running and authenticates its transactions. Transactions are secure.

To start learning about blockchain, you must start off by learning the basics of Blockchain and cryptocurrency. You can begin this by joining various blockchain communities and visiting Bitcoin forums on Reddit, crypto vlogs on YouTube, and Blockchain news on Coindesk.

The following are some of the best Cryptocurrency Trading Courses:

- BitPanda
- Coursera - Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Explained
- Coursera - Cryptocurrency and Blockchain: An Introduction to Digital Currencies.
- Coursera - Bitcoin and Cryptocurrency Technologies.
- EdX - Bitcoin and Cryptocurrencies.
- LinkedIn Learning - Cryptocurrency Foundations.

The key is knowledge! One must make the effort to gain quality knowledge about cryptocurrencies before investing in them. By acquiring this knowledge, one is in a better position to make informed investment decisions.

Next week, we shall continue to share pertinent information about investing in the stock market.

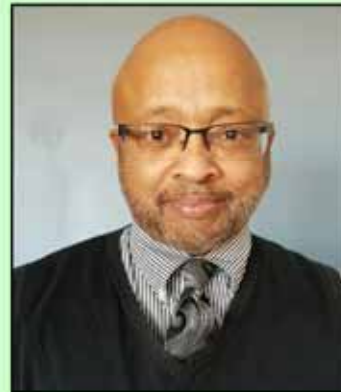
Please feel free to share with me your questions and experiences on investing in stocks. I will do my best to respond, and, in some cases, I will write on some of these questions.

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## ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

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Bloomfield	5961	127	5982	127
Caldwell	686	16	692	16
Cedar Grove	1721	121	1729	121
East Orange	8042	326	8081	327
Essex Fells	211	2	211	2
Fairfield	1013	32	1012	33
Glen Ridge	466	14	470	14
Irvington	5372	242	5403	242
Livingston	2125	89	2142	89
Maplewood	1556	41	1568	41
Millburn	997	11	1006	11
Montclair	2631	74	2652	75
Newark	40648	1054	<b>40839</b>	<b>1055</b>
North Caldwell	575	7	578	7
Nutley	3414	68	3443	68
Orange	3871	141	3887	141
Roseland	539	17	543	17
South Orange	1124	16	1136	16
Verona	1155	18	1159	18
West Caldwell	1167	54	1176	54
West Orange	5118	234	5147	235
<b>Total</b>	<b>94656</b>	<b>2823</b>	<b>95136</b>	<b>2829</b>

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of October 20, 2021)**  
**NJ: 1,029,748 cases / 24,973 deaths (Plus 2,810 probable)**  
**United States (approx.): 45.177 Million / 729,400 deaths**  
**Worldwide (approx.): 241.864 Million / 4.92 Million deaths**



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# NOVEMBER ELECTION PREVIEW



Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake held an event at Libretti's Restaurant in Orange on October 14 in support of her re-election campaign. Photo By Dhiren Shah

By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - There are contests for state, county and municipal elective seats on the Nov. 2 General Election ballot.

Finding a contest or contests, however, is a matter of which town a participating registered voter is in and whether an opposing party or an independent runner's challenge had made that ballot.

Those dissatisfied with the runners on the ballot may submit his or her own write-in candidate. "Local Talk," as of Oct. 18, does not know of anyone making a concerted write-in campaign.

Also on the ballot are two statewide public question referenda plus single questions in Maplewood and Montclair as well as boards of education elections in eight "Local Talk" towns. Details are found in Local Talk's Sept. 30 edition.

## GOVERNOR - LT. GOVERNOR

Incumbent Democrats Phil Murphy, of Rumson, and Sheila Y. Oliver, of East Orange, are making their second and last runs for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. The 1947 State Constitution prohibits incumbents from running for more than two consecutive terms.

Republicans Jack Ciattarelli, of Hillsborough, and Diane Allen, of Moorestown, are the major party challengers.

Joanne Kuniansky, of Newark, and Vivian M. Sahner, of Union City, are on the Socialist Workers Party ticket.

Madelyn R. Hoffman, of Flanders, and Heather Warburton, of Hammonton, are the Green Party's candidates.

Gregg Mele, of Bridgewater, and Eveline

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN  
BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE  
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**A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**  
*Candle Light Vigil*

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DUE TO COVID-19. WE WILL HONOR THEM AS A  
COMMUNITY IN SONG, PRAYERS, AND A MOMENT OF  
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Brownstein, of Rumson, are on the Libertarian Party platform.

Voters are to pick a state senator and two general assembly members per **STATE LEGISLATURE DISTRICT**. Which LD you are in may change once 2020 U.S. Census-driven state and federal redistricting, done every 10 years, is finalized for the 2023 elections.

**Legislative District 27 (South Orange, Maplewood, West Orange, five "West Essex," six Morris County Municipalities):**

The State Senate race is between incumbent Richard Codey (D-Roseland) and challenger Adam Kraemer (R-West Orange).

The General Assembly contests pit incumbent Democrats Mila Jasey, of South Orange, and John McKeon, of West Orange against challenging Republican Millburnites Kevin Ryan and Jona-

than Sym.

**LD 28 (Irvington, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Nutley, parts of Newark's South and West Wards):**

The State Senate race has incumbent Ronald L. Rice (D-Newark) jousting with challenger Frank Contella (R-Nutley).

The General Assembly contests pit incumbents Cleopatra Tucker (D-Newark) and Ralph Caputo (D-Bloomfield) against challengers Anthony D'Angelo and Monique Headen (both R-Newark)

**LD 29 (Belleville, Remainder of Newark):**

State Senate incumbent M. Teresa Ruiz (D-Newark) is running without known competition. Meanwhile, the General Assembly ballot has incumbent Democrats Shanique Speight and Elana Pinto Marin up against "Salters for All" independent Debra Salters. All three are from Newark.

(Continued on page 12)



# 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** - Garden Spires Urban Renewal LP and its Reliant managers will have company while they review a Garden Spires Tenant Association petition they had received here Oct. 15.

The petition, signed by 187 residents of the twin 20-story towers' 560 units, urge GSUR, Reliant and owner Omni America/New York, to repair the water leaks, eradicate mold, fill holes in walls and exterminate rodent infestation that have resurfaced since March 2020.

That month was when Omni and its contractors had completed a \$57.8 million rehabilitation of the 56-year-old low and moderate-income buildings. Former MLB player Maurice "Mo" Vaughn and his Omni America partners began the rehab after they bought it and the 110-unit Spruce Spires from First King properties for \$45.3 million in 2018.

Some of that rehabilitation money included funds from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development. GSUR has continued the acceptance of HUD Section 8 vouchers from its qualified tenants.

City of Newark Code Enforcement inspectors, last month, has issued violations of the above problems plus defective stoves, overloaded garbage dumpsters and faulty entrance doors. HUD inspectors, on Sept. 21, gave Garden Spires a 96 out of 100 score rating.

Mayor Ras Baraka, Central Ward Councilwoman Lamonica McIver, Code Enforcement Manager Thomas McDonald and

NJ Department of Community Affairs officials are also looking over GSUR and Omni's shoulders. Baraka had ordered the evacuation of Garden Spires' last 800 tenants over conditions in 2017 and had sued to get the DCA and HUD to suspend First King's \$8 million monthly subsidies prior to its sale.

Omni spokesman Ronn Trossian said that GSUR is replacing the entire kitchen plumbing system due to a problem "that could not have been foreseen during the rehab process". That replacement includes shutting off water to particular kitchens during weekday business hours.

Garden Spires' current and new inspection cycles end and resume on Oct. 28.

**IRVINGTON** - The ECPO Homicide Task Force and Irvington Police are looking for two suspects who left a township man dying in the 20 block of Arverne Terrace here early Oct. 16.

Irvington Public Safety Director Tracy Bowers said his officers, responding to gunfire calls, found Alexander F. Saye, 24, "with multiple gunshot wounds" at 12:25 a.m. Saturday. Medics declared Saye dead at the scene.

Saye's funeral arrangements have not been announced as of press time.

## 1 Dead in Rollover

The identity of a person who was killed in an Oct. 17 rollover crash was not released as of press time. A preliminary county/township investigation has the driver of the car lost control, crashed, overturned and burned at Coit and Herpers streets 9:45 p.m. Sunday.

Arriving Irvington firefighters found the severely injured driver after putting out the car's blaze. Medics declared him dead at the scene. Two injured passengers were admitted into local hospitals.

**EAST ORANGE** - East Orange General Hospital's new ownership, for the second time in eight years, is just New Jersey Health Commissioner Dr. Judy Persi-

chilli's signature away.

The New Jersey State Health Planning Board, on Oct. 14, approved Prospect Medical Holdings' sale to the EOH Acquisition Group. Prospect's sale is a lateral in that one for-profit company is selling to another for-profit company.

Prospect, of Los Angeles, had asked for - and received - changing EOGH's non-profit status from the state as part of its 2016 purchase. PMH had invested \$58 million in renovating the hospital through 2021. A new emergency ward was opened in 2018.

Paige Dworak, who had been interim CEO under Prospect ownership, remains at the EOGH helm. The state's first female hospital CEO will also have a 20 percent ownership stake in the new group. Attorney Troy Schell, of Claremont, Calif., and Ben Klien, the Englewood owner of 36 behavioral health and substance abuse treatment centers, also share ownership.

Dworak, on Oct. 15, said that EOHAG will more than complete Prospect's renovations. Coming improvements include Essex County's first in-patient detox center, a 100-bed substance abuse center and a medical group focused on primary care and family medicine.

The 100-year-old, 201-bed hospital, at 870 employees, is this city's largest private employer. It has had a string of D safety grades from The Leapfrog Group since 2019 and an F in Fall 2018.

**ORANGE** - The full City Council, in a pair of unanimous votes here Oct. 19, has allowed Mayor Dwayne D. Warren and one of his staff members to "lawyer up" regarding a lawsuit from a former City of Orange Township employee.

All seven council members passed Resolutions 462 and 463 - 2021 Tuesday night. 462-2021 permits Daniel C. Stanziale, of North Haledon, to represent Warren, Louis Copeland and the township for no more than \$20,000. 463-2021 retains Lamb Kretzer LLC, of Secaucus to represent Copeland for \$10,000.

Both resolutions refer to a suit recently filed by Essex

County District 3 Commissioner Tyshammie Cooper against Warren, Copeland and the Township in State Superior Court-Newark.

Cooper v. City of Orange Township, Warren and Copeland, Docket Number is ESX--L006733-21, was not immediately available as of press time. It is not clear whether the suit pertains to the City Business Administrator's Aug. 7, 2019 withdrawal of a bill retaining an attorney for Cooper, her Jan. 31, 2020 dismissal as Mayor's Chief of Staff - or both.

Warren had swiftly dismissed Cooper as his chief of staff in 2020. She held that job since 2016 for a reported \$109,000 annual salary.

Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk, without explanation, withdrew Resolution 266-2019 at that Aug. 7, 2019 Council meeting. The resolution would have Whipple Azzarello, Esq. represent her. Pulling that resolution would mean that Cooper would have to hire her own legal counsel.

Cooper, on one hand, was named among 11 persons of interest in 2017 subpoenas issued by the U.S. Department of Justice over the city's handling of Orange YWCA-Rec Center and Orange Public Library contracts and finances.

Cooper, on the other hand, has been elected and re-elected as District 3 Commissioner in 2018 and 2020. The former East Orange Fourth Ward Councilwoman represents East Orange, Orange, South Orange and Newark's West Ward on the county level.

**WEST ORANGE** - Public and private entities are seeking permanent housing for the 45 families displaced from a Hutton Park apartment complex that was damaged by Ida and since condemned.

Ron Jolyn Realty and township officials have been arranging for the demolition of both 61-year-old two-story buildings at 275 Northfield Ave. since Oct. 14. They were acting on the Oct. 8 recommendations of three engineering firms in their 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Oct. 11-12 evacuation.

(Continued on page 14)



# QUANTAVIA HILBERT ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY

Photos By  
Dhiren Shah



By Dhiren Shah

It is rare and refreshing for a candidate to make a commitment to running so early. On Thursday October 14, 2021, Quantavia Hilbert announced her candidacy for West Ward Councilperson in the City of Orange Township. The election will be in May 2022.

The purpose of the candidacy is to bring the community back to where it used to be. Orange Township used to be a

with four councilmen supporting Quantavia's candidacy. Those were current West Ward councilman Harold J. Johnson, Council President Kerry J. Coley, Councilpersons-at-large Clifford Ross and Weldon Montague III. Also in attendance was Democratic Committee member William Hathaway, Jr.

Quantavia said, "Today, I announce my campaign for West Ward City Council member in Orange, New Jersey. Thank you to all the people who



very nice community, which used to care about the residents who were living in the township. Now, it is a more mixed community. However, Ms. Quantavia's belief is to restore the community that cares about each other.

It was a big announcement at Bella Italia Restaurant, a favorite place for people to gather in Orange, whether from that town, East Orange, and more. About 60 persons in attendance

attended my Pre-campaign launch Party. This night was pivotal and joyous. See you at the polls MAY 2022!"

She added, "My platform is built upon: Promoting resources for working families, supporting local businesses, and building a sustainable community for all generations."

Quantavia said that she will be committed to economic development for minority businesses along with issues revolv-

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From Left: Orange Councilman Clifford Ross, Councilman Weldon Montague III, Councilman Harold J. Johnson Democratic Committee member William Hathaway Jr., Council President Kerry Coley, and Dr. Daniel Desrivieres

ing around housing, parking and the cost of a modern infrastructure. As a local business owner, she implements effective plans to minimize operations cost for all of her projects, and always leads with the people in mind. Also, she emphasized the need for recreation and programming for seniors and the youth.

She has also emphasized empowering and uplifting the youth through programs and partnerships with corporations, school districts and community leaders.

Patrick Reid was the master of ceremonies. Reid said that

there is a need to, "grow our community, grow our businesses, and create jobs for residents for our community." He added, "I believe Quantavia is dedicated to that philosophy."

Her connection to her civic duty stretches from New York to East Orange to Orange. She has worked with several community programs, which impressed many supporters.

The momentum was good, and support from the local community, including the Haitian and Spanish speaking community, stood out in the mix.





**From  
The  
Pastor's  
Heart**

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Premature Deaths**

I cannot recall when I signed up to be in a social media group that I am in. Sometimes I regret that I am in it, while at other times, I am thankful that I am in it because I have an opportunity to observe the diverse actions of so many people- some I know and others I do not know.

One of the things I observed this week, as I am sure you might have observed yourself, at some point, is that many people who are sharing information have never read what they are sharing. The quick time in which they turn around information shared with them is evidence that they could not have read it. Some people also get outraged and defensive at what they think they might have seen, allowing others to know there was no

careful analysis of what they saw.

Of course, let me observe that I have seen that a few individuals who have been challenged in what they share are humble enough to say, "Sorry, I did not really read it; I just passed it on as it was sent to me." What a time to live in.

This is a valid question we might ask ourselves. People are being subjected to more and more deception because only a few are taking the time to get the knowledge they ought to and share what is right to be shared. Too many individuals are struggling with (1) ignorance, (2) arrogance, (3) negligence, and (4) fear. And we are not to doubt the consequences. Let me quote a few Bible passages to support what I have just enumerated.

**Ignorance**

Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge."

Isaiah 5:13, "Therefore my people go into exile for lack of knowledge; their honored men

go hungry, and their multitude is parched with thirst." (ESV).

**Arrogance**

Hosea 4:6, "Because you have rejected knowledge, I will reject you."

Jeremiah 5:4, "Then I said, 'They are only the poor; they have played the fool, for they do not know the way of the LORD, the justice of their God.'"

**Negligence**

Proverbs 10:21, "The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of judgment."

**Fear**

Isaiah 35:4, "Speak to those who have a fearful heart."

**Check out the consequences.**

If you have paused to read the above texts carefully, I am sure you have seen the consequences of ignorance, arrogance, negligence and fear as I have outlined them. There might be more consequences evident to

you, but here I list eight obvious to me.

1. Personal destruction
2. Exile
3. Condemnation - judgment
4. The betrayal of justice
5. Disease - Deteriorated health
6. Destitution
7. Deception
8. Death

If you do not care to note what has been extracted from the Bible, just think of what is happening in the social and mass media world concerning the pandemic and vaccinations. Have you noticed that ignorance, arrogance, negligence and fear have led to many of the consequences we face? I have taken this circuitous route to remind us, again, as the prophet Hosea did, that "a people without understanding will come to ruin." (Hosea 4:14)

In effect, let us pause, humble ourselves, take time to read, take time to analyze what we read and ask God for understanding so that we will not be deceived, destroyed or subjected to premature death.

**ELECTION** (Cont. from page 9)

The Essex Republican Party Organization did not field any candidates here.

**LD 34 (East Orange, Orange, Montclair, Passaic County's Clifton):**

The State Senate contest is an all-Montclair battle among incumbent Democrat Nia Gill, Republican challenger Scott Pollack and "Stop the Insanity" independent Clenard H. Childress, Jr.

The General Assembly contests feature incumbents Thomas Giblin (D-Montclair) and Britnee Timberlake (D-East Orange) against challengers Irene DeVita and Tafari K. Anderson (both R-Clifton)

The **ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF** race is between incumbent Armando Fontoura (D-Fairfield) and challenger Nicholas G. Pansini (R-Bloomfield).

**MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

In **EAST ORANGE**, city voters, barring an exception, are to ratify the East Orange and Essex County democratic committees' "Team Green" for mayor and half of their ward city council members.

Theodore "Ted" Green is seeking his third straight term as mayor.

Respective First, Third, Fourth and Fifth Ward incumbents Christopher Jones, Bergson Leneus, Tameika Garrett-Ward and Alicia Holman are running with Green and unopposed on their ballots.

Team Green / incumbent Christopher Awe and "Independently Empowering the Community" independent Simone Jelks-Bandison are squaring off for the Second Ward council seat.

In **MAPLEWOOD**, Incumbent Nancy Adams and newcomer Jemaime Cripe are running for both Township Committee seats. The Democrats are running unopposed.

In **GLEN RIDGE**, incumbent

Ann Marie Morrow and first-time runner Rebecca Meyer are running for both Borough Council seats. They are running with Civic Conference Committee endorsement - and unopposed.

Picking candidates and deciding on public questions can start today now that the Essex County Clerk and Board of Elections are accepting Vote By Mail Ballots. VBVMs can either get mailed no later than 8 p.m. Nov. 2 with a postmark or deposited in a designated dropbox.

There is at least one dropbox per Essex County municipality. Montclair and South Orange have two locations each and Newark five. Check essexclerk.com for their addresses.

Those who want to vote early in person may do so Oct. 23-31 10 a.m.-8 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sundays. Consult essexclerk.com for the early polling stations in Bloomfield, East Orange, Irvington and West Orange (one each) plus Newark (four).

The county clerk and board

of elections superintendent will post or publish a full list of Nov. 2 polling stations in the days ahead.

Those who want to vote in person but have already received their VBMBs are out of luck this election. Aug. 31 was the mail ballot opt-out deadline.

Oct. 12 was this election's voter registration deadline. One can still call the county clerk and/or elections superintendent to verify registration, have not received a VBMB - or other questions or problems.

The New Jersey Department of State's Division of Elections, as of Oct. 19, has reported that Garden Staters have already returned 312,099 of the 925,155 VBMBs that were mailed out last month for this election.

The so-far mailed or dropped-off ballots are 33.7 percent of what the counties have mailed out. Those returned ballots, compared to the 6,561, 568 pool of statewide registered voters, amounts to five percent of the said electorate.



# SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.



The New Jersey high school football week just finished week six. Despite being on the road against a Pope John football team, the East Orange Jaguars were up to the task and won their 7th straight game, by the final score of 21-13. Leading East Orange was Senior Raeden Oliver with 205 passing yards and Damon Phillips with 125 yards on the ground. The Jaguars are a perfect 7-0 on the season.

In other Essex County towns, the Orange Tornadoes looked to win back to back games at their Bell Stadium home, but fell short to the Livingston Lancers 49-14. Despite the loss, Orange got a spark from Jaylen Dixon who scored on a 78 yard kickoff TD return. The 1-6 Tornadoes will play at Millburn on Friday. Meanwhile, the Irvington Blue Knights won a defensive game against Ridgewood 7-0 to improve to 5-2 on the season.



Photos By  
Keith Munford

Switching to the NFL, the Jets were not able to lose this week because they were on a bye. The Giants couldn't used one, as they got ran over by the Los Angeles Rams 38-11. Giants QB Daniel Jones threw three INTs and had a fumble, while Rams QB Matthew Stafford went 22-28 for 251 yards, 4 TDs and 1 INT.

In other news, the New York Yankees announced that they have re-signed manager Aaron Boone to a three-year deal. Finally, the Chicago Sky won the WNBA Finals 3-1 over the Phoenix Mercury to win the title.

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**WORLD NEWS** (Continued from page 6)

U.S. President Joe Biden as a threat to their ambitions.  
 While the North Korea news left a sore spot for American officials, there was much more dire news the previous day. On Oct. 18, China had successfully launched a hypersonic missile that could travel via space around the globe and hit unprotected areas of the southern U.S., as there seems to be no way to defend against it.  
 In addition to China having such technology, Russia is also believed to be either close, or like China years ahead of the U.S. in wielding the weapon.

**ATTENTION:**  
 Take notice that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:4-56.6, application has been made to the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission, Trenton, New Jersey, to receive title papers authorizing the sale for, Make Ford, Year 2016, VIN/Hull Identification Number 3FA6POHD76R361125. Objections, if any, should be made in writing, immediately in writing to the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission, Special Title Unit, P.O. Box 017, Trenton, New Jersey 08666-0017



**COLIN POWELL (1937-2021)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Presidents that he earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom - twice. He was highly respected at home and abroad. And most important, Colin was a family man and a friend. Laura and I send Alma and their children our sincere condolences as they remember the life of a great man."

While Powell will certainly be most remembered for his commendable service, he was not without error. In 2003, Powell pushed for the U.S. to enter Iraq under the later proven false pretense that the country was producing weapons of mass destruction. The recommendation proved costly, as no such weapons were found, while many soldiers lost their lives.

Among those mourning the

late trailblazer was none other than the current Commander-in-Chief, President Joseph R. Biden.

"As a Senator, I worked closely with him when he served as National Security Advisor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and as Secretary of State. Over our many years working together - even in disagreement - Colin was always someone who gave you his best and treated you with respect," said Biden in a statement.

"Colin embodied the highest ideals of both warrior and diplomat. He was committed to our nation's strength and security above all. Having fought in wars, he understood better than anyone that military might alone was not enough to maintain our peace and prosperity. From his front-seat view of history, advis-

ing presidents and shaping our nation's policies, Colin led with his personal commitment to the democratic values that make our country strong. Time and again, he put country before self, before party, before all else - in uniform and out - and it earned him the universal respect of the American people.

"Having repeatedly broken racial barriers, blazing a trail for others to follow in Federal Government service, Colin was committed throughout his life to investing in the next generation of leadership. Whether through his care for the women and men serving under his command and the diplomats he led, or through the work he shared with his wife Alma at the America's Promise Alliance to lift up young people, or through his years leading the Eisenhower Fellowships, Colin's

leadership always included a focus on future.

"Above all, Colin was my friend. Easy to share a laugh with. A trusted confidant in good and hard times. He could drive his Corvette Stingray like nobody's business - something I learned firsthand on the race track when I was Vice President. And I am forever grateful for his support of my candidacy for president and for our shared battle for the soul of the nation. I will miss being able to call on his wisdom in the future.

"Jill and I are sending all our love and strength to Alma, their children, Linda, Annemarie, and Michael, their grandchildren, and the entire Powell family. Our nation mourns with you.

"Colin Powell was a good man. He will be remembered as one of our great Americans."

**INDICTED** *(Continued from page 5)*

Defendants also took steps to conceal their corrupt and fraudulent arrangement. For example, they used coded language in their electronic communications to refer to the corrupt cash payments that Garcia accepted and agreed to accept, referring to the payments, for instance, as "docs" and "butter." Also, Valvano informally kept track of the money and jewelry that Garcia received from Valvano and Sablosky in the form of handwritten notes drafted in a manner intended to obscure Garcia's

identity. The notes, for instance, included a list of figures, some annotated with dates or other notations, under the letter "C," a veiled reference to Garcia using only the first initial of his first name.

The honest services fraud conspiracy and honest services wire fraud charges each carry a maximum potential penalty of 20 years in prison. The Travel Act charges each carry a maximum potential penalty of five years in prison. The bribery concerning governments receiving federal funds charges each carry a maximum penalty of 10 years

in prison. All charges are punishable by a fine of \$250,000 or twice the amount of the pecuniary gain from the offense. The indictment also seeks forfeiture of ill-gotten gains obtained from the bribery scheme.

Acting U.S. Attorney Honig credited special agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge George M. Crouch Jr. in Newark; special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Michael Montanez; and special agents of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Develop-

ment, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Christina Scaringi, with the investigation leading to the charges.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey J. Manis, Elaine K. Lou, and Jihee G. Suh of the U.S. Attorney's Office's Special Prosecutions Division.

The charges and allegations contained in the indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

**TOWN WATCH**

*(Continued from page 10)*

The engineers, in their report, said that "The slope behind the apartment complex is unstable. There is a high risk of further failure, which would likely result in significant property damage and possible loss of life."

They had come to their recommendations after inspecting a rockfall behind the apartments in the Sept. 1-2 wake of Tropical Storm Ida.

Part of the rock face (where nearby Seton Hall Preparatory School's Kelly Athletic Field rests on) slid into the rearmost apartment building, taking toppled trees and several parked cars with it. Parts of that building's roof, basement and rear

brick facade were damaged.

The engineers' assessment reached the West Orange Municipal Building after it had closed Oct. 8 for the federal holiday weekend. Township officials, once they saw the report upon Oct. 11's start of their business day, promptly coordinated with Ron Jolyn's owners, attorney and other entities.

Mayor Robert Parisi and apartment owners held an Oct. 14 information meeting at the Wilshire Grand Hotel - one of three evacuees were taken to. Attorney Steven Eisenstein, of Roseland, gave each leaseholder a check for returned deposit, October rent and \$1,250 in extra relocation costs. Part of the hotel rent is being paid by Parisi's sunshine fund.

The mayor gave a list of

emergency and apartment referrals, including the food pantry at Orange's Ebenezer Baptist Church. Essex County brought a "pop-up" COVID testing and vaccination station. FEMA took applications for relocation and other assistance.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - The alleged Oct. 6 hajib removal in a Seth Boyden School class has been under Maplewood Police and ECPO investigation since late Oct. 12.

South Orange-Maplewood School District Superintendent Dr. Ronald Taylor, citing the district's memorandum of understanding with the MPD, said he has deferred the investigation to Chief of Police Jim DeVaul and Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II 4

p.m. that Tuesday.

Taylor, in his announcement, also cited the need to have the Seth Boyden community continue its instructional mission safely despite the glare of the international spotlight.

"Our Central Office and Seth Boyden's main office have been flooded with hundreds of calls," said Taylor. "We have received over 2,000 emails, a majority of which have been from parties outside our community and New Jersey."

Taylor said that most of the correspondences condemned the second-grade teacher's alleged actions and "strongly advocated for adverse personnel action." Some of the messages and calls, he added, were "Threatening, disrespectful and threatening."

*(Continued on page 15)*



**THE DOCTOR IS IN**

(Continued from page 4)

The summary of all of this? Get the flu vaccine; you need them. Get the coronavirus vaccine if you haven't; you need them too. Stay safe.

*This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board Certified Internist & Board Eligible Pediatrician, who works as a Hospitalist, and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organiza-*

*tion 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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**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 14)

County prosecutors and township detectives are investigating threats made to the district, the school and the 30-year teacher.

**BLOOMFIELD** - Although the Violante family has vowed to reopen their Oct. 10 fire-damaged meat market and catering business, they have understandably not set a reopening date.

Co-owners Theresa and Aniello "Neil" Violante, Jr., Catering Manager Dina Violante, Neil and Dina's three sons and three employees have been assessing damage and salvaging what they can from 126 Bloomfield Ave. The Violantes, who own the two-story commercial-residential building, have to first pass Bloomfield building inspectors' "fit for habitation" muster.

The first Bloomfield Fire Department units arrived to find flames coming out from the market's back kitchen and smoke filling its floorspace around 11:30 a.m. Oct. 9. The incident commander pulled two more alarms for all Bloomfield hands and mutual aid.

Units from Orange, West Orange, Belleville, Montclair and Nutley either covered BFD stations or came to the scene. Bloomfield Police detoured traffic away from Grove Street and partially rerouted Bloomfield Avenue. The fire was brought under control by Noon. There were no reported injuries but occupants in the four apartments were displaced.

Violante's was originally closed to handle its Columbus Day catering clients Oct. 9-11. "Local Talk" noticed its mobile kitchen trailer being readied for an away event 10 a.m. that Sunday.

Theresa and the late Aniello Violante, Sr. started their market at 149 Hoffman Blvd., on the southeast corner of North Grove Street, in East Orange in 1969. They moved to their present location here in 1979. "Junior" Violante succeeded his father when the family patriarch died in 2010.

**MONTCLAIR** - The township's Oct 8 denial of a park use permit renewal has left a parents

group having to decide on whether to replace its COVID testing vendor or otherwise radically change its short-lived program.

Lani Sommer-Padilla, speaking on behalf of her 10 fellow parents, asked the Township Council Oct. 12 to amend the permitted use ordinances for Montclair's parks. The ordinance has long prohibited for-profit entities from advertising, offering or selling "any article, service or thing" in a township park.

The parental group of 11 had opened two free after-school coronavirus testing sites adjacent to two Montclair elementary schools Sept. 30; the Montclair Inn by the Hillside School and Nishuane Park by the Nishuane School. While the sites were open to the community at-large, Montclair school students were the main group they wanted to receive tests.

The group, who was concerned at what they saw was Montclair Public Schools' slow pool testing start for 2021-22, partnered with the Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence and MediRite Urgent Care. MFEE handled the "pop up" sites' publicity while MediRite provided the on-site PCR tests and registration by its website. (Students under 16 need written permission from their

parents or guardians.)

Sommer-Padilla and colleagues received permission to use Nishuane Park Sept. 30 but were denied its renewal for a prospective October return. Township administrators, who said the Sept. 30 permission was "a mistake," cited MediRite's for-profit status for the denial.

Sommer-Padilla, at the Oct. 12 meeting, said that MediRite allowed the pop-up sites to test insured and uninsured students. She acknowledged that the company collects reimbursement from insurance carriers or the state.

Montclair Public Schools, as of Oct. 14, halted its own 2021-22 pool testing when word surfaced that vendor Ginkgo Bioworks is being investigated by some of its investors over potential securities law violations. While Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Ponds said the district was pleased with Ginkgo's services last year, their \$287,302 program was being "paused out of an abundance of caution."

**NUTLEY** - Mayor Mauro Tucci is inviting his Belleville, Bloomfield, Clifton, Little Falls, Montclair and Woodcliff Lake (formerly West Paterson) colleagues to his Third River Mayor's Group. The recently announced group will seek comprehensive solutions to flooding along the river.



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