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## 3 BREAKS + 2 TOWNS = CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE 1 WEEK OF WATER WOES SUES NORMAN TOWERS FOR \$50,000,000



By *Walter Elliott*

**NUTLEY** - Some of the 130,000 water customers here, in five other "Local Talk" towns plus nine more towns in Essex, Passaic and Hudson counties may be getting their full use back after press time, if they have not had by now.

Those using water from the North Jersey Water District Commission, Newark Water Supply and/or the Passaic Valley Water Commission - depending on which utility and which town you are in - may be still asked to refrain from unessential use.

Montclair and Glen Ridge, as of press time, remain under their

self-imposed 3 p.m. Oct. 8 water state of emergency. The "essential use only" edict has shut off water fountains in Montclair's public libraries, ended lawn watering and prompted food service businesses to use bottled water.

Bloomfield had lifted its boil water advisory 5 p.m. Oct. 9 but advised its residents and businesses to conserve water until township-wide normal water pressure returns.


Newark Water and Sewer Utilities Director Kareem Adeem, on Oct. 7, had advised customers in its East Ward and the lower part of the South Ward that they

*(Continued on page 9)*



## BREAKING NEWS

**BREAKING NEWS:** A finalist on "American Idol" has died in a vehicle crash in Tennessee. Willie Spence, 23, died Tuesday after hitting the rear of a tractor-trailer that was stopped on the shoulder of Interstate 24 East near Chattanooga, according to news outlets, which cited a Tennessee Highway Patrol report.



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**Editorial**  
 Dhiren Shah  
 Editor-In-Chief

**Hello Readers,**

Every week, there are shootings and murders in our community. However, when it comes to announcements made by all the leaders, the crime rate has been reduced every year. Do you believe the stats they are creating for recording purposes? I don't.

On October 3rd, Letrell Duncan left school to go home, but he got shot and left our world in a tragedy. The death of the up and rising sports star left a painful blank space in the community. Many nonprofit organizations gathered for a vigil afterwards. The speakers were great: Lawrence Hamm, Bashir Muhammad Akinyele, Keesha Eure, Dr. Cynthia Lewis, Marquies Kendel, Sharif Amenhotep, Baba Zayid Muhammad, and East Orange Mayor Ted Green.



But the result is the same. Good effort, but no solution. Good orators, but flawed laws still controlled by our representatives. The key question is why guns get in the hands of youngsters in the streets. How they are getting them and why do they need them. Gun and drugs are easily available on the streets as I've heard. But how and why? The questions have remained the same for decades.

The main thing is they are making good and easy money. If they struggle in the life like a gentleman, it is harder to even survive for food and shelter. The US government spends billions of dollars, but not with the right distribution. Billions goes to someone's pocket who supports the politicians at election time in my opinion.

The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) approved the Omicron targeted vaccine booster for children as young as age 5. Now, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) has done so as well. This booster targets both the original coronavirus strain and gives protection against the dominant BA.4 and

BA.5 omicron versions as well. These approvals will help youngsters going to school without fear of the virus.

2020 presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard announced she is leaving the Democratic Party. She is the first Hindu and one of the first two female combat veterans elected to congress. In 2016, she resigned as vice chairperson of the Democratic National Committee to support and endorse Senator Bernie Sanders for president. She said in her podcast for leaving the Democratic party, "I can no longer remain in today's Democratic party. It's now under the complete control of an elitist cabal of warmongers, driven by cowardly wokeness."

She added that the Party's stance on making everything about race, its contempt towards religion, and its policies on police and how they are driving the country closer to nuclear war contributed to her decision. There is less than a month left until the November 8, 2022 elections. Her departure might impact some of the close races.

Legendary football player Herschel Walker has been in

news lately over an abortion controversy. He has made anti-abortion statements in the past, but one woman claims that he paid for her abortion. However, the money she received is different than the bill. The abortion clinic has a \$575 bill, when she got a check from Mr. Walker, it was for \$700. Walker is running against democratic candidate Raphael Warnock in a close race to serve as Georgia's Senator, Warnock is leading in the poll by 1 to 3 points. The race could very dictate which party has control of the Senate, as if Republicans make a net gain of just one on Election Day, they can essentially block all Democratic legislation if they get control of the House as well.

According to the polls, any party can gain control of the senate. Now we have to wait and watch the temperament of the people. How will they vote?

*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>
Rain and Wind	Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	AM Rain	Mostly Sunny
HI 70 LO 57	HI 68 LO 46	HI 69 LO 54	HI 70 LO 51	HI 63 LO 44	HI 54 LO 36	HI 55 LO 40

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# The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

## Losing Weight Helps Protect Your Knees From Arthritis

Do you have pain in your knees from arthritis? Well, you're not alone, with the CDC reporting that 58.5 million other adults in the United States have the condition. While many are quite familiar with the struggles the condition brings, not many know that arthritis is not a life

sentence of pain relievers.

There are ways to manage the condition to live a healthy life. Even better, you can prevent your knees from developing the condition altogether by making a simple body change - losing weight. Okay, maybe not so simple, but you can protect your knees from arthritis, so it's worth the effort. To fully understand how and why this works, let's consider what arthritis is in the first place.

Arthritis is a general term for disease conditions that usually occur due to friction within your joints. Normally, joints are made up of two or more bones and other structures like cartilage, ligaments, tendons, and in many cases, synovial membrane. The synovial membrane, which contains fluid, and the articular cartilage prevent the bones from rubbing against each other and causing friction that results in pain. The tendons and ligaments connect the bones to muscles and bones, respectively, and provide support to the joints.

When any of the joints in the body experience inflammation or



a breakdown in the structures within it, arthritis arises. However, depending on the type and manner of the inflammation or degeneration, there are different types of arthritis. Some types of arthritis conditions include:

- Rheumatoid arthritis (an autoimmune condition that attacks the joints),
- Gout (a buildup of uric acid crystals in the body that affects the joints),
- Osteoarthritis (a wear and tear break arthritis characterized by the breakdown of cartilage within joints)
- Psoriatic arthritis (inflammation of the joints in a skin condition known as psoriasis),
- Fibromyalgia (a widespread condition that causes pain all over the body)
- Juvenile arthritis (an autoimmune attack on the joints in children and adolescents), etc.

The most common type of arthritis is osteoarthritis, also called degenerative arthritis. For you to move, some weight is transferred to your joints, particularly weight-bearing joints like the hip, knee, and ankle. When the weight carried by your joints is too much, it increases the pressure on them. In turn, the risk of inflammation or breakdown of the cartilage within the joints increases. This explains why obesity is one of the major risk factors for osteoarthritis.

Now, since the knee is one of the major joints involved in weight-bearing and many physical activities, it is more prone to being affected by excess weight.

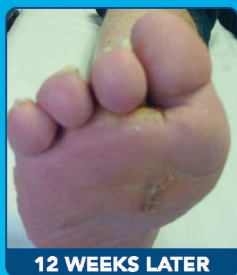
Research has shown that an excess weight of just 10 pounds can put 15 to 50 pounds of pressure on your knees. This means that the more excess weight you have, the more pressure you put on your knees. In other words, the more excess weight you have, the higher your chances of losing your knees to arthritis.

However, pressure is not the only way fat affects your knees. Studies have also shown that fat cells can release certain substances known as inflammatory agents into your body. These inflammatory agents attack your joints and lead to a breakdown of cartilage in your joints. The breakdown of the cartilage increases wear and tear between the bones in your joints, which can result in a lot of pain due to the friction generated by any movement.

Further, fat does not just increase the risk of developing arthritis; it worsens the disease progression and increases the risk for other complications. The effects of excess weight on your knees and your other joints can be scary, considering that losing weight is not easy.

There's good news, though. You do not need to lose a lot of weight to begin to experience better outcomes in regard to your knees. According to the American College of Rheumatology/Arthritis Foundation, a weight loss of just about 5% can yield beneficial effects on knee function and treatment outcomes. However, recent research has shown that it might even be better to achieve a greater weight loss percentage, particularly 20% and above. Still, a  
*(Continued on page 5)*

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# SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway, Jr.

In this recap of Week 6 of the New Jersey high school football season, the locals pulled off some surprise wins. First, the revamped Orange Tornadoes went on the road and blew away North Bergen 42-6, wrecking that team's homecoming game. Orange has won two in a row and now sits at 3-3 on the season.

The 3-3 mark shockingly ties them with defending state champion East Orange Jaguars, whose quest to repeat has been lost in the jungle. However, they did help themselves with a big 25-12 win over West Orange, dropping the Mountaineers to 4-2.

Irvington's champion Blue Knights won a barnburner of a game slipping by Montclair 22-21. The West Side Roughriders are 6-0 on the season with a big game coming up play a tough Weequahic both teams are up for grabs for a win who will stay

undefeated in Newark. In other action, Shabazz chomped Central 26-6, Columbia beat Bloomfield 13-3, East Side raided Kearny 34-0, Barringer blanked Millburn 17-0, and Nutley beat rival Belleville 28-8. Finally, Weequahic is marching toward a title run after a 44-0 beatdown of Boonton. Also at 6-0 is Caldwell after dumping Madison 35-7.

In pro ball, the New York Giants scored a 27-20 upset victory in London over the Green Bay Packers. Big Blue is now 4-1 on the season. Also pleasing to the eyes of metro residents is the New York Jets, who beat the Miami Dolphins 40-17 to put themselves at 2-2 on the season.

Finally, the season is over for the 101-61 New York Mets after losing their Wild Card Series 2-1 to the San Diego Padres. The third and decisive game saw Padres pitcher Joe Musgrove hold the Mets to one hit in seven innings of work.

## THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 4)

weight loss of about 5% is a good starting point.

Since knee arthritis causes pain and limits movements in many cases, it might be difficult to lose weight with exercise. Yet, it is possible to exercise with all the pain. You can see a physiotherapist to determine the types of exercise advisable for you. What's more, you can try exercising in water (swimming). Studies have shown that exercising in water helps to manage the pain caused by physical movement in arthritis. The exercises must be combined with a proper diet that does not deny you the necessary proteins and minerals for your bones but also supports your weight loss.

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

*purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless. He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine NJ.*

### References

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## BIDEN TOSSES WEED CONVICTIONS

### UNITED STATES

On Oct. 6, President Biden made good on one of his campaign initiatives, granting scores of Americans relief in the process.

In keeping with his philosophy that “no one should be in jail just for using or possessing marijuana,” the President used his pardon power to exonerate those who had federal conviction for just that.

“Sending people to prison for possessing marijuana has upended too many lives and incarcerated people for conduct that many states no longer prohibit. Criminal records for marijuana possession have also imposed needless barriers to employment, housing, and educational opportunities,” said Biden upon granting the pardons.

“And while white and Black and brown people use marijuana at similar rates, Black and brown people have been arrested, prosecuted, and convicted at disproportionate rates.

“Today, I am announcing three steps that I am taking to end this failed approach.

“First, I am announcing a pardon of all prior Federal offenses of simple possession of marijuana. I have directed the Attorney General to develop an administrative process for the issuance of certificates of pardon to eligible individuals. There are thousands of people who have prior Federal convictions for marijuana possession, who may be denied employment, housing, or educational opportunities as a result. My action will help relieve the collateral consequences arising from these convictions.

“Second, I am urging all Governors to do the same with regard to state offenses. Just as no one should be in a federal prison solely due to the possession of marijuana, no one should

be in a local jail or state prison for that reason, either.

“Third, I am asking the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General to initiate the administrative process to review expeditiously how marijuana is scheduled under federal law. Federal law currently classifies marijuana in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, the classification meant for the most dangerous substances. This is the same schedule as for heroin and LSD, and even higher than the classification of fentanyl and methamphetamine - the drugs that are driving our overdose epidemic.

“Finally, even as federal and state regulation of marijuana changes, important limitations on trafficking, marketing, and under-age sales should stay in place.

“Too many lives have been upended because of our failed approach to marijuana. It’s time that we right these wrongs.”

## NOBEL PEACE PRIZE AWARDED

### EUROPE

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2022 to one individual and two organizations.

The Peace Prize laureates represent civil society in their home countries. They have for many years promoted the right to criticize power and protect the fundamental rights of citizens. They have made an outstanding effort to document war crimes, human right abuses and the abuse of power. Together they demonstrate the significance of civil society for peace and democracy.

This year’s Peace Prize is awarded to human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski from Belarus, the Russian human rights organization Memorial and the Ukrainian human rights organization Center for Civil Liberties.

Ales Bialiatski was one of the initiators of the democracy movement that emerged in Belarus in the mid-1980s. He has devoted his life to promoting democracy and peaceful development in his home country.

Among other things, he founded the organization Viasna (Spring) in 1996 in response to the controversial constitutional amendments that gave the president dictatorial powers and that triggered widespread demonstrations. Viasna provided support for the jailed demonstrators and their families. In the years that followed, Viasna evolved into a broad-based human rights organization that documented and protested against the authorities’ use of torture against political prisoners.

Government authorities have repeatedly sought to silence Ales Bialiatski. He was imprisoned from 2011 to 2014. Following large-scale demonstrations against the regime in 2020, he was again arrested. He is still detained without trial. Despite tremendous personal hardship, Mr. Bialiatski has not yielded an inch in his fight for human rights and democracy in Belarus.

The human rights organization Memorial was established in 1987 by human rights activists in the former Soviet Union who wanted to ensure that the victims of the communist regime’s oppression would never be forgotten. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov and human rights advocate Svetlana Gannushkina were among the founders. Memorial is based on the notion that confronting past crimes is essential in preventing new ones.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Memorial grew to become the largest human rights organization in Russia. In addition to establishing a center of documentation on victims of the Stalinist era, Memorial compiled and systematized information on political oppression and human rights violations in Russia. Memorial became the most authoritative source of information on political prisoners in Russian detention facilities. The organization has also been standing at the forefront of efforts to combat militarism and promote human rights and government based on rule of law.

When civil society must give way to autocracy and dictatorship, peace is often the next victim. During the Chechen wars,

Memorial gathered and verified information on abuses and war crimes perpetrated on the civilian population by Russian and pro-Russian forces. In 2009, the head of Memorial’s branch in Chechnya, Natalia Estemirova, was killed because of this work.

Civil society actors in Russia have been subjected to threats, imprisonment, disappearance, and murder for many years. As part of the government’s harassment of Memorial, the organization was stamped early on as a “foreign agent.” In December 2021, the authorities decided that Memorial was to be forcibly liquidated and the documentation center was to be closed permanently. The closures became effective in the following months, but the people behind Memorial refuse to be shut down. In a comment on the forced dissolution, chairman Yan Rachinsky stated, “Nobody plans to give up.”

The Center for Civil Liberties was founded in Kyiv (Kiev) in 2007 for the purpose of advancing human rights and democracy in Ukraine. The center has taken a stand to strengthen Ukrainian civil society and pressure the authorities to make Ukraine a full-fledged democracy. To develop Ukraine into a state governed by rule of law, Center for Civil Liberties has actively advocated that Ukraine become affiliated with the International Criminal Court.

After Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Center for Civil Liberties has engaged in efforts to identify and document Russian war crimes against the Ukrainian civilian population. In collaboration with international partners, the center is playing a pioneering role with a view to holding the guilty parties accountable for their crimes.

By awarding the Nobel Peace Prize for 2022 to Ales Bialiatski, Memorial and the Center for Civil Liberties, the Norwegian Nobel Committee wishes to honor three outstanding champions of human rights, democracy and peaceful co-existence in the neighbor countries Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. Through their consistent efforts in favor

(Continued on page 12)

# CITIZENS VS. COUNCIL PT. III COUNCIL PRESIDENT CRITICIZED

By Lev D. Zilbermints

**NEWARK** - As reported in a previous edition, Munirah Bomani is not the only activist alleging that the Newark Municipal Council is violating the First Amendment rights of Newark residents. Lisa Parker, a long-time resident of Newark, shared her views with "Local Talk."

According to Ms. Parker, the new Municipal Council President, LaMonica McIver, has no experience with the job. Rather, alleges Ms. Parker, Council President McIver abuses her power by ordering police to remove residents who criticize council members or their actions.

In an email sent to "Local Talk", Ms. Parker wrote, "Since July 2022, when LaMonica McIver became Council President, I have been removed 3 times. In the 25 years that I have been consistently coming to council meetings to advocate for community concerns... I have never been removed. (Ever) since George Branch was on the Municipal Council."

Former Councilman George Branch lost his seat to current U.S. Senator Cory Booker in 1997. Booker outspent Branch in the 1997 Municipal Council and mayoral elections.

Ms. Parker stated that the Municipal Council is trying to intimidate residents who speak at Municipal Council meetings.

"This administration has now militarized the council chambers with police officers in riot gear as a way to intimidate residents that speak out. McIver has no experience in this role [Council President], but because of bastardizing of the Municipal Clerk's office and the continued lawless actions of the administration to not follow processes/protocols to the Faulkner Act, activists are subjected to arbitrary reasons to remove speakers."

"Local Talk" contacted Council President LaMonica McIver via email on September 27 to get her side of the story. When asked for her response to Ms. Parker's claim that she did not have enough experience to

be Council President, McIver emailed back, "No comment."

Ms. Parker wrote in a second email, "There is a delicate balance between overreach in government to abuse, suppress public forums and honoring public policies. The contradiction is when our elected representatives do not hold themselves accountable for their responsibility to govern by a standard of practice. Yet the same elected representatives are imposing and enforcing arbitrary methods to suppress, violate and abuse their office. I have and will continue to protect and advocate for civil liberties and rights."

Asked about "bastardizing of Municipal Clerk's Office", Ms. Parker explained that Ken Louis, the previous City Clerk, was more ethical. Now, "with Ken Louis retired, his office was the last bastion for ethics in our government. His office followed directives from the mayor and compromised separation of Executive and Legislative branches. That is why we are in a space in this town of incompetence. There are poor services and growth for only the inner circles of this administration."

Ms. Parker gave six different examples of what she termed "abuse of power by the administration and the Council President."

### Six Examples of Abuse of Power as cited by Ms. Parker

According to Ms. Parker, the Municipal Council denied a Special Election in November 2021 for former Council President Mildred Crump's seat. Instead, "it was given to her son Larry as though we have a monarchy, not a democracy." However, according to Rule XXIV of Municipal Council Rules, "All nominations to any office or position submitted to the Municipal Council shall be in writing and include the nominee's full name, home address and occupation." If five or more members of the Municipal Council vote to confirm, the nominee shall be confirmed in his or her

(Continued on page 11)

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## ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

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Belleville	12,890	154	12,940	154
Bloomfield	14,329	166	14,381	166
Caldwell	1,966	17	1,971	18
Cedar Grove	4,600	137	4,617	137
City of Orange	9,442	174	9,473	174
East Orange	19,652	387	19,732	387
Essex Fells	592	2	593	2
Fairfield	2,360	39	2,364	39
Glen Ridge	1,509	18	1,517	18
Irvington	13,506	282	13,549	282
Livingston	7,904	108	7,933	108
Maplewood	6,292	49	6,314	49
Millburn	4,475	18	4,494	18
Montclair	8,404	90	8,434	90
Newark	90,636	1,266	90,926	1,266
North Caldwell	1,735	10	1,750	10
Nutley	7,741	86	7,766	86
Roseland	1,670	26	1,677	26
South Orange	4,185	22	4,192	22
Verona	3,952	25	3,969	25
West Caldwell	3,276	67	3,289	67
West Orange	15,647	269	15,729	269
<b>Total</b>	<b>236,763</b>	<b>3,412</b>	<b>237,610</b>	<b>3,413</b>

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of October 12, 2022)**  
**NJ: 2,341,341 cases / 31,689 deaths (Plus 3,116 probable)**  
**United States (approx.): 96.803 Million / 1.063 Million deaths**  
**Worldwide (approx.): 622.972 Million / 6.561 Million deaths**

# LOCAL TALK

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### CITIZENS VS. COUNCIL PT. 3

(Continued from page 1)

may experience "low water pressure or no water" as the result of the NJWDC main break in Nutley.

Belleville Township, on Oct. 6, posted an advisory that some residents may "experience low water pressure or some discoloration" in the break's wake. The township, on Oct. 11, announced its scheduled fire hydrant flushing in two neighborhood areas.

"Local Talk," on Oct. 11, noticed that Nutley's Bloomfield Avenue between Centre and Chestnut streets, remains closed by township police while NJWDC contractors J. Fletcher Creamer, of Hackensack, and Alves Trucking, of Newark, complete their repair work. NJTransit buses to or from Nutley and Clifton are among the detoured traffic.

Both Montclair Mayor Sean Spiller and NJWDC spokesman William J. Maer said, on Oct. 9, that the 72-inch diameter transmission main "had been sealed." Flushing and disinfecting the

lines, testing the water samples and bringing the lines up to full pressure, however said Spiller, would take "another 24 hours."

Montclair, said its mayor, has gone as far as reaching out to Hackensack-based New Jersey American Water for interconnection and the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management to bring in water trucks to help the Montclair Fire Department's firefighting Oct. 8.

Montclair and Glen Ridge, on one hand, had used its interconnection with PVWC to bypass the broken North Jersey Water main. Verona and Cedar Grove customers on the Passaic Valley line, on the other hand, noticed reduced water pressure and asked their utility to reduce Montclair and Glen Ridge's volume.

The week of water woes were due to three main breaks, a day and two miles apart in Nutley and Bloomfield.

The NJWDC 72-inch diameter main break southeast of Nutley's Bloomfield Avenue and Church Street received regional attention since leaking water

first bubbled up late on Oct. 7.

This 100-year-old main is part of a trunk line that runs from the Wanaque Reservoir through Wayne, Clifton, Paterson, Passaic, Nutley, Montclair, Glen Ridge, Bloomfield and Belleville to Kearny, Jersey City and Bayonne. Newark, as an NJWDC member, also draws part of its water from this line.

Kearny, in an Oct. 8 statement, advised its residents of using "water from a different source" and of "fluctuating water pressure."

Nutley's water, OEM, police and fire units were on the scene until North Jersey utility workers and contractors' arrival. Four Nutley squad cars remain at the scene Oct. 12 for traffic diversion.

Creamer workers and NJWDC inspectors would trace the leak's start to a shutoff valve bolt that had rusted and blown open, causing thousands of gallons of water to erupt through the break and into nearby house backyards and apartment building basements.

Portable water pump genera-

tors and boarded up basement windows were still seen along Bloomfield Avenue's east side dwellings between Church and Centre streets at 9 a.m. Wednesday.

Nutley officials, flooded basements aside, maintained that their water service remained unaffected from the break.

What happened in Nutley, however, could not stay in Nutley.

The North Jersey aqueduct shares a trench with a 48-in. Newark Water Supply main and a 42-in. Passaic Valley line of similar vintage. The NJWDC rupture nicked and broke the Newark line, which serves part of the South Ward and the bulk of the East Ward.

Nutley's news overshadowed Bloomfield's own Oct. 5 problem, beneath the latter's part of Garrabrant Avenue.

Bloomfield Mayor Michael Venezia said, at 9 p.m. Oct. 6, that a 48-in. NSW line interconnection had broken the night before. While township workers and contractors corrected that

(Continued on page 11)

# 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** - The former dean of students at a high school here may or may not put in an entrapment defense when he is scheduled to make a plea in State Superior Court-Jersey City on Oct. 24.

Didier Jean-Baptiste, 54, of Jersey City, faces charges of second-degree attempted luring and third-degree attempted endangering the welfare of a minor after being arrested at his apartment by Harrison police and Hudson County Sheriff's officers Oct. 6. The charges stem from an exchange of a man, posing as a 14-year-old boy, on a Harrison street, as recorded on the latter's cell phone Oct. 4.

The man, who later revealed himself as "Hunter XK" of "New Jersey Predator Intervention," gave the Harrison police officers he had met at that town's Hamilton Street Speedway station some 10 minutes earlier that Tuesday night the recording plus the license plate number of the latter's Volkswagen Golf he had driven away in. That recording was, in turn, given to the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit.

"Hunter" posted the 16 min., 38 sec. recording of his encounter with "JD" on NJPI and YouTube. Six pages of his Messenger social media exchange with "JD" was also published by RLSMedia.com. The latter exchange included "JD" posting his headshot.

Jean-Baptiste, St. Benedict's Class of 1986, was fired from his post as Dean of Seniors and College Placement by the prep school Oct. 5 as soon as they

were advised by HCPO detectives. The "adult lay leader of the community," said St. Benedict's Facebook posting that Wednesday, "of inappropriate conduct off of school property."

The school and Hudson County Prosecutor Esther Suarez that the alleged encounter did not involve any present or past member of St. Benedict's student body. Jean-Baptiste, after processing, was released on a summons.

**IRVINGTON** - Police detectives here and in Newark are determining whether the three teens who were arrested by Paterson police there Oct. 5 were the ones who committed a series of armed robberies in either or both of their jurisdictions.

A spokesman for Irvington Public Safety Director Tracy Bowers said that PPD personnel called the township's police headquarters Oct. 6, saying that they found a white 2021 Toyota Highlander, reported as being stolen from Irvington earlier this month, in their city.

Paterson officers added that they had arrested three teenage boys who were occupying the SUV and that they were remanded to Passaic County's juvenile detention center there.

The Toyota Highlander had been present in a string of Oct. 5 -6 stickups in Irvington. Its three gun-wielding occupants may have also carjacked a Range Rover near Nesbit Terrace.

NPD had reported that three males and the Toyota with NJ license plates R22-PRP had pulled into the Millennium gas station at 108 Bloomfield Ave. at 12:30 a.m. Oct. 5. They announced a robbery and beat the station attendant before fleeing. City police called for local EMS to treat the employee's non-life-threatening injuries.

This is a developing story under investigation.

**EAST ORANGE** - City residents and community activists are not waiting for Letrell Elijah Duncan's slated Oct. 15 formal funeral to mourn - and to call for action.

A "Local Talk" estimated group of 85 gathered around 186

Lincoln St. Oct. 10 where Duncan, 16, an East Orange Campus High School scholar-athlete, lay dying after being shot just after school dismissal Oct. 3. It was a vigil formed in part by the People's Organization for Progress and the Newark Anti-Violence Coalition. (Duncan was rushed to Newark's University Hospital, where he was declared dead at 3:45.)

Although the daylight vigil was smaller than the "several hundred" people who gathered at Rowley Park Oct. 6, it drew members of Duncan's family and several elected officials. Many of the speakers pleaded to area youth to "stop being so hard on each other" and for the at-large shooter to "do the right thing - turn yourself in and repent."

"Why should they have a gun to shoot another teenager?" asked a tearful grandmother Pamela Courten, "Letrell's job was to bury me. The worst thing I did last week was to pick out a coffin for him."

"I shouldn't be here at a vigil for one of our own who had a bright life ahead of him," said Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green. "I should be approaching our businesspeople, asking them to fund after school recreational and cultural activities."

Essex County CrimeStoppers still posts a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the suspect's arrest. A GoFundMe.com page is still taking contributions for Duncan's funeral arrangements.

**ORANGE / BLOOMFIELD** - It will not be long before one has to go to a Bloomfield Avenue front lawn to see the last remnant of Orange Elks Lodge No. 135.

Greater Essex Lodge No. 12 members re-erected Orange Elks' bronze elk statue and its pedestal on their 296 Bloomfield Ave. lawn over the summer. The "Orange Elk," was set 475 Main St in Orange from May 30, 1929, until it was removed in stages July 7 and 15, 2021.

Orange Elks members were invited to join the then-Newark-Bloomfield Lodge No. 12 in early 2021. What started out as Bloomfield Lodge No. 788 had opened its doors to their Newark

brothers and sisters when they had moved away from their 828 Sanford Ave., location in 2002. The Bloomfield lodge also took Newark's 21 number.

(Newark Elks Lodge No. 21 used to be on that city's Green Street until it had built 1050 Broad St. in 1923. 1050 Broad became the Essex House in 1933 after a Depression-era foreclosure. 828 Sanford is now the Berean Seventh Day Adventist Church.)

While the Elks were putting up the statue last summer, Caravella Demolition took down the Orange Elks' 1864 mansion and 1970s additions. The East Hanover contractor was hired by VA 475 LLC, of Brooklyn.

VA 475 had received approval from the Orange Planning Board July 12 to replace the lodge with a "multi-family building with commercial space" on the ground floor.

**WEST ORANGE** - Township firefighters, with mutual aid from Orange and other colleagues, put out a fire in the Gregory section here Oct. 7.

WOFD fire personnel, upon their arrival here at 280 Northfield Ave. at 3:44 p.m. Friday, found flames coming out from the 2.5-story single-family Tudor-style wood frame house's gable attic window.

The incident commander called for "all hands" and mutual aid while simultaneously attacking the attic fire and ordering an occupant search.

The fire was contained to the attic. West Orange Police meanwhile detoured traffic, including buses on NJTransit's No. 73 route from the immediate avenue.

Firefighters found no occupants. The 1930-built house had been posted on several real estate websites last month as being up for sale.

Units from Orange, among other mutual aiding departments, supplied coverage of WOFD stations.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - A recent experience in Columbia High School may serve as reminders that the

(Continued on page 14)

**CITIZENS VS. COUNCIL PT. 3**

(Continued from page 7)

position. Also, "prior to the confirmation of a nominee, the Mayor shall cause the Police Department to conduct an investigation and background check of said nominee to verify he has no criminal record. If this investigation discloses evidence of a criminal record, the nomination shall not be considered by the Municipal Council."

In her second example, Ms. Parker alleges that during campaign season in April 2022, LaMonica McIver family members yelled out in Council chambers "B-tch, sit down!". This was in reference to a resident speaking in a public forum. There were no apologies from McIver about this incident.

"McIver used the reason for removing residents as "No disruption or calling from speakers." This is a contradiction, since her family were the ones calling out," Ms. Parker wrote in her email.

Council President McIver replied to "Local Talk", "I cannot speak to the specifics as I don't recall such incident and at that time of April 2022, I was not the President of the City Council."

As her third example, Ms. Parker said that she was removed from Council chambers for saying that she could not hear a speaker. According to Ms. Parker, the speaker was an attorney in Central Ward. Council President McIver allowed him to continue speaking, although no one could hear him with a mask on.

The fourth example was "eight years there has been no response from elected (officials) on the dais to address community concerns."

Fifth, "residents speak out about the non-responsiveness by the elected officials in regards to resolutions on the Council agenda. These include land deals for pennies, oversight in budget, etc. all are issues that are never addressed."

Sixth, according to Ms. Parker, "the administration edits public forums comments, interruptions of audio during Council meetings. The Council President is using her title like a gun and badge to counter remarks made

in Council settings, singling out speakers when she does not like what is being said. Residents and activists are exhausted from the level of abuse and corruption demonstrated by this administration with no recourse to raise awareness through media, no oversight by state for compliance. ... Nothing from organizations like the ACLU, NAACP, Urban League to name a few."

**Response from other residents and activists**

Donna Jackson, a frequent speaker at Municipal Council meetings, criticized the Council for dual office-holding. Jackson called the practice "illegal."

"This is the worst, corrupt... the worst administration" in Newark history, said Jackson.

Debra Salters, a Newark resident and activist, told "Local Talk" that Council President LaMonica McIver was supposed to get an unanimous decision before removing anyone from the meeting. Salters said, "Mildred Crump started removing people from Council meetings. City Council says stuff but does not want public to respond. They are dictators."

Shakima Thomas, a West Ward resident, told "Local Talk" via email that in her opinion, Council President LaMonica McIver was being hypocritical and lacked discipline when running a Council meeting.

According to Thomas, "I would also like to add that Council President McIver seems to want order in the Council Chambers and enforces such. However, at times she interrupts residents during their speaking moments. I think there is a bit of hypocrisy and a double standard when she holds residents accountable for yelling out and interrupting others; however, she does not exercise any discipline or self-accountability when she interrupts people while the clock is running.

"To interrupt a person's train of thought while they are speaking is a form of censorship. I don't think she's that much of a mind reader to know someone is not going to be speaking to the ordinance. It's people's time to say what they want. If what they say is not about the ordinance, then that person is responsible for what they are say-

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ing during their time at the podium. It's their right to choose their own words."

When asked if she was interrupting speakers while they spoke, Council President McIver responded, "This is not true. Feel free to view previous Council meetings."

Asked "when residents interrupt and yell during Council

meetings, you hold them accountable. But all things being equal, residents say you interrupt them. Thus, the allegation that residents say is that there is one standard for speakers, another for Municipal Council. "

McIver gave the same answer, "This is not true. Feel free to view previous Council meetings."

**WATER WOES**

(Continued from page 9)

break, Venezia issued a Bloomfield-wide boil water advisory due to low water pressure.

"When our water was switched over from the Newark Water Supply to North Jersey and Passaic Valley (our backup systems) at our Garrabrant Avenue interconnection, our water pressure dropped below 20 PSI (pounds per square inch)," said Venezia, "which, under state regulations, require us to be under the boil water advisory."

Venezia, on Oct. 9, said that water pressure had improved to "consistently between 40 and 50 PSI. (Regular is 70 PSI.)" The pressure, on Oct. 10, reached 70

PSI between Belleville Avenue and Bloomfield's southern border and 40-50 PSI between Belleville and Watchung Avenues - but "good but not full pressure" Watchung Avenue north to the Clifton border.

Water samples were taken that Sunday morning to NJ DEP for reading and testing.

Bloomfield Township Engineer and Fire Department personnel began flushing its hydrants once the advisory was lifted.

Spiller, on Oct. 10, said that he has called upon Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) to hire a North Jersey water infrastructure czar to oversee and coordinate needed reconstruction.



## From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### Breaking The Curse Through Repentance

There is a certain kind of philosophy being pushed in contemporary culture that is gaining currency, even among some preachers. The philosophy is that people should not repent or apologize for the wrongs that they have done. The argument is that one needs to "double down."

One political leader tried it to win an election, and many others are now jumping on the bandwagon. They argue that apologizing or repenting would make them seem weak. While the wrongs they have done are being exposed, they seem unprepared to confess or speak in terms of public regret or repentance. Interestingly, many politicians and preachers (as I have noted) are standing on the side of the ones in the wrong to help them win.

Enough of figurative speech. To bring the point home, we all need to admit that even the most conscientious among us occasionally fail to confess a wrong or repent because it is not within our fallen nature to admit guilt or shame. On the contrary, it is

always easier to pass the blame. Why? Because admitting that we are wrong or have a hidden sin is emotionally uncomfortable and painful to our sense of self.

As is said, "Human nature is so cunning and deceitful, so desperately wicked, that it seizes upon religious tradition and custom to justify itself in the things that *it desires* in the inward parts. For there is room in the careful, sanctimonious observance of the outward trappings of godliness to offer impressive reverence and idolatrous veneration that strangely comforts the uneasy conscience." ([https://library.timelesstruths.org/texts/Foundation\\_Truth\\_32/The\\_Idols\\_Under\\_the\\_Mo](https://library.timelesstruths.org/texts/Foundation_Truth_32/The_Idols_Under_the_Modest_Skirts/)dest Skirts/)

Do you know or remember Rachael, the second wife of Jacob, how, on their way to Canaan from Padan Aram, she stole her father's idols? Then, when her father Laban chased down Jacob and his family and accosted them for stealing the idols, Rachael sat on them and told her father that she could not get up because she was having her period. (Genesis 31)

Rachael was sitting on the idols, but she lied to her father. Someone calls it a "respectful lie." Only she (and God) knew that they were there. Her father was searching for them, but did not find them. Her husband did not know where they were. And when Laban accused Jacob of stealing the idols, Jacob became very angry. Jacob had not stolen

the idols, and he would not find out that Rachael had them until Laban departed for his home.

As Jacob was about to continue his journey, he knew he needed divine blessings for himself and his family, so he called the family to repentance. Here is the scriptural reflection:

"And Jacob said to his household and all who *were* with him, "Put away the foreign gods among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments." <sup>3</sup>Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way I have gone. <sup>4</sup>So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which *were* in their hands, and the earrings which *were* in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which *was* by Shechem. And they journeyed, and the terror of God was upon the cities around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob. (Genesis 35:2-5 NKJV).

Has the point been made clear? We cannot receive the blessings of God, and we cannot drive away the curses in our lives without repentance. It has been rightly argued that repentance has always been the cure for the generational curse. When Israel turned from idols to serve the living God, the "curses" were broken, and God saved them (Judges 3:9, 15; 1 Samuel 2:10-11).

What is valid for national life

is also true for our individual lives. That is why when Jesus sent out his disciples, they preached that people should repent. "And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them." (Mark 6:12). When Peter preached at Pentecost, those who were convicted asked, "What shall we do to be saved? Peter offered the simple answer, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38)

There is no getting around repentance. Hiding our sins will only increase our guilt. Hiding our sins might hide our shame for a little, but as is said, "Look, your sins will find you out." (Numbers 32:23). Failing to repent only continues the curses of sins, whether in the life of our national, or family systems or our individual lives.

As repentance demands, we need to turn away from the wrong and go in a radically new direction. You might not be able to go back and take inventory of every past mistake but be open to what the Lord is asking you to do, then repent. Never forget that unrepented sins are an open door that offers the legal rights for demons to stay in your life.

So repent! As the prophet, Hosea, says, "Break up your fallow ground and give the Lord a chance to bring righteousness into your life." (Hosea 10:12, my paraphrasing)

## WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

of humanist values, anti-militarism and principles of law, this year's laureates have revitalized and honored Alfred Nobel's vision of peace and fraternity between nations - a vision most needed in the world today.

## RUSSIA LASHES OUT AT UKRAINE

### WORLD

UN chief António Guterres said that large-scale strikes by the Russian military on the Ukrainian capital Kyiv (sometimes known as Kiev) and other locations on Oct. 10, were deeply shocking and represented

"another unacceptable escalation" of the war.

The strikes which have reportedly caused widespread damage to civilian areas and led to dozens of deaths and injuries, showed that "as always," civilians were paying the highest price for Russia's invasion of Feb. 24, the statement released by the UN Spokesperson added.

Speaking earlier in the day in Geneva, UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi reported that Kyiv, Dnipro, Lviv, Zaporizhzhia, Chernihiv, Odesa were among those hit in the latest uptick in violence, which he described as "horrific strikes."

This was "another day of anguish" for Ukrainian people, the High Commissioner for Refugees said.

Mr. Grandi also noted that that the situation across the war-torn country remains deeply concerning. "At least 6.2 million people are internally displaced and many more need humanitarian support," he told UNHCR's annual Executive Committee meeting.

With winter fast approaching and "millions of Ukrainians, especially the aged and disabled... counting on all of us," the UN refugee agency head cautioned that there were limits to what humanitarians can do.

"We must be realistic in our expectations," he said. "This requires an 'all hands on deck' approach and I appeal to those with expertise and resources to redouble efforts in support of the Government's winterization plans."

Outside Ukraine, the UNHCR chief noted that people continue to flee their homes because of the war, crossing the border into neighboring countries.

The European Union deserved praise for deciding to issue temporary protection permits to enable "millions of Ukrainians to find safety immediately and go where they had support networks, without putting pressure on asylum systems," he maintained.

In one fell swoop, this single EU policy decision had "debunked so many myths" about the supposed dangers of opening countries' borders to people in need of international protection, Mr. Grandi insisted.

# CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE SUES NORMAN TOWERS FOR \$50,000,000

By Lev D. Zilbermints

**EAST ORANGE** - An Essex County College adjunct professor and congressional candidate is suing Norman Towers and L & M Construction for \$50,000,000 alleging intimidation, bullying, and unlawful ejection.

According to court papers, the defendant, Norman Towers, let to plaintiff, Cynthia Johnson, the apartment 9L. "to date, defendant has refused to replace/repair any/all items demolished during the federally funded renovation that was held at Norman Towers."

Court papers show that Ms. Johnson charges Norman Towers and its owner, L&M Construction, with five separate counts. These include breach of contract; quantum meruit; unjust enrichment; breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing; violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and fair dealing.

According to court papers, the first count is breach of contract. Specifically speaking, "Defendant has breached the Lease by failing to comply with habitability laws within the state of New Jersey. Defendant has harassed and interfered with Plaintiff's right to live peacefully and with no interfering violations within the apartment." Finally, "defendants et al have all violated plaintiff's rights to a safe and healthy life within her place of abode and within the city limits of East Orange."

Cynthia Johnson gave "Local Talk" several interviews in which she explained in detail what happened. According to Cynthia

Johnson, her mother, Susie Johnson, moved into Norman Towers in 2015. Susie moved into Norman Towers because she could not live with her daughter, Cynthia Johnson. In 2017, Cynthia found her mother a bigger apartment to accommodate her. The new apartment had two bathrooms and two bedrooms.

According to Cynthia Johnson, management told her that they needed four days to make renovations and repairs to the apartment. Management asked Cynthia Johnson to move with her mother elsewhere for the durations of the repairs. Thinking that the repairs would only last four days, both women agreed to move temporarily to 240 South Harrison Street in East Orange.

**Renovations and repairs take too long. Life-saving medical devices turned off and not replaced.**

Instead of the repairs taking four days, it took four months, then nine months. It was not until February 2022 that a new refrigerator was installed in the apartment. While the repairs were being done, the medical devices that helped to keep Susie Johnson alive were turned off. These included a feeding machine, oxygen machine, a low air-loss mattress among others. According to court papers, "Plaintiff violated the Americans with Disability Act by purposefully demolishing Mrs. Susie Johnson's (elderly and disabled) medical equipment knowing that it is life sustaining equipment."

"Plaintiff failed to replace the aforementioned equipment that was needed to save

her life."

"Plaintiff knowingly failed to provide adequate housing for Mrs. Johnson which resulted in her being placed in a nursing facility where she contracted COVID and subsequently passed away. Mrs. Johnson was made homeless by Plaintiff's reckless endangerment ignoring ADA laws."

Ms. Johnson said that management entered her apartment without her consent. This is borne out by a police report dated April 9, 2021, which stated that the construction company entered the apartment without consent.

According to the police report, "Ms. Cynthia Johnson said she had multiple meetings with management, stating that she did not want anyone inside her apartment without escort. Ms. Johnson was concerned with the medical equipment being damaged or voided warranty that she quotes to be worth more than \$100,000. The medical equipment was now placed on the bed as well as in the hallway by construction crew and movers. At this time, it is unknown if any equipment is damages or missing.

According to management, all residents were given notice in advanced (sic). They also noted the apartment has been unoccupied for over 3 months.

It should be noted that there was no damage to the apartment door, suggesting entry was made with a copy of the key by Management."

I sought more information from L&M Construction, but have not heard from them a of deadline.

# STOP THE VIOLENCE SOFTBALL GAME HELD IN IVY HILL PARK

Story & Photos  
By Thomas Ellis II

This past Saturday, Oct. 8 was the Stop the Violence Community Softball Game, in which members of the community faced off against the Newark Police Department's 6th Precinct. It marked the fifth time the two teams played.

The score at the end of the game saw the NPD 6th Precinct beat the community team 14-9. Captain Brown was the pitcher for the NPD. During and after the game, there was also a cookout. Deputy Chief Lee Douglass worked the grill during the whole event, and made sure everyone was fed.



## DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY TAKES PART IN EFFORTS TO PROTECT OLDER ADULTS

**NEWARK** - The Justice Department has announced the results of its efforts over the past year to protect older adults from fraud and exploitation. During the past year, the Department and its law enforcement partners tackled matters that ranged from mass-marketing scams that impacted thousands of victims to bad actors scamming their neighbors. Substantial efforts were also made over the last year to return money to fraud victims. Today, the Department also announced it is expanding its Transnational Elder Fraud Strike Force to amplify efforts to combat scams originating overseas.

From September 2021 to September 2022, Department personnel and its law enforcement partners pursued approximately 260 cases involving more than 600 defendants, both bringing new cases and advancing those previously charged.

This past year, the District of New Jersey brought charges against multiple defendants for devising and carrying out fraudulent schemes that specifically targeted elderly victims. This included seven leaders of the Cape Town Zone of the Neo Black Movement of Africa, also known as "Black Axe," and an eighth man who conspired with a Black Axe leader, all of whom were charged with multiple federal crimes relating to internet-based romance scams and advance fee schemes they perpetrated from South Africa. The District also obtained guilty pleas from multiple defendants whose lottery sweepstakes scams

and romance scams had targeted elderly victims in New Jersey.

As part of the District of New Jersey's elder fraud efforts, the Office engages in outreach to raise awareness about scams and exploitation and preventing victimization. This year, these outreach efforts included a presentation to seniors at the Springfield, New Jersey community center on April 28, 2022, entitled "Identity Theft & Fraud Prevention," in cooperation with representatives from the Union County Prosecutor's Office and the Springfield, New Jersey, Police Department.

The Department also highlighted three other efforts: expansion of the Transnational Elder Fraud Task Force, success in returning money to victims, and efforts to combat grandparent scams.

The Department announced that as part of its continuing efforts to protect older adults and bring perpetrators of fraud schemes to justice it is expanding the Transnational Elder Fraud Strike Force, adding 14 new U.S. Attorney's Offices. Expansion of the Strike Force will help to coordinate the Department's ongoing efforts to combat largest and most harmful fraud schemes that target or disproportionately impact older adults.

In the past year, the Department has notified over 550,000 people that they may be eligible for remission payments. Notifications were made to consumers whose information was sold by one of three data companies

prosecuted by the Department and were later victims of "sweepstakes" or "astrology" solicitations that falsely promised prizes or individualized services in return for a fee.

More than 160,000 of those victims cashed checks totaling \$62 million, and thousands more are eligible to receive checks. Also notified were consumers who paid fraudsters perpetrating person-in-need scams and job scams via Western Union. In the past year, the Department has identified and contacted over 300,000 consumers who may be eligible for remission. Since March of 2020 more than 148,000 victims have received more than \$366 million as a result of a 2017 criminal resolution with Western Union for the company's willful failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program and its aiding and abetting of wire fraud.

Over the past year, the Department pursued cases against the perpetrators of "grandparent scams," otherwise known as "person-in-need scams." These scams typically begin when a fraudster, often based overseas, contacts an older adult and poses as either a grandchild, other family member or someone calling on behalf of a family member. Call recipients are told that their family member is in jeopardy and is urgently in need of money. When recently sentencing one of eight perpetrators of a grandparent scam indicted under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, a federal judge described such

scams "heartbreakingly evil." The Department is working with government partners and others to raise awareness about these schemes.

Reporting from consumers about fraud and fraud attempts is critical to law enforcements efforts to investigate and prosecute schemes targeting older adults. If you or someone you know is age 60 or older and has been a victim of financial fraud, help is available the National Elder Fraud Hotline: 1-866 FRAUD-11 (1-833-372-8311). This Department of Justice Hotline, managed by the Office for Victims of Crime, is staffed by experienced professional who provide personalized support to callers by assessing the needs of the victim and identifying next steps. Case managers will identify appropriate reporting agencies, provide information to callers to assist them in reporting or connect them with agencies, and provide resources and referrals on a case-by-case basis.

The hotline is staffed seven days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. ET. English, Spanish and other languages are available. More information about the Department's elder justice efforts can be found on the Department's Elder Justice website, [www.elderjustice.gov](http://www.elderjustice.gov).

Some of the cases that comprise the announcement are charges, which are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

### TOWN WATCH

*(Continued from page 10)*

COVID-19 pandemic is not over and to keep your facemasks handy.

CHS's freshman class were mandated to wear facemasks Sept. 28-30. The Ninth Graders were then told that the school had gone back to mask optional in Oct. 3.

School Principal Frank Sanchez said, on Sept. 28, that "more than three individuals" had tested positive for the virus in the previous 14-day period. More than three positives in a fortnight, going by N.J. Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services standards, qualifies as a COVID outbreak.

"We asked them to stay masked on the bus and indoors at school," said Sanchez, "unless they are actively eating or drinking or taking a mask break."

That three day mandate, said South Orange-Maplewood School District spokeswoman Anide Eustache Oct. 3, did not affect CHS's 10th, 11th or 12 Grade students. Columbia is the high school shared by South Orange and Maplewood.

"At this point," added Eustache, "no other school has experienced an outbreak war-

ranted for our local health departments to mandate masking."

**GLEN RIDGE** - Some quick thinking by church members and swift response by the Bloomfield Fire Department here Sept. 24 may have kept the parish from getting burned out for the second time in 131 years.

Rector Diana Wilcox and several Christ Episcopal Church of Bloomfield and Glen Ridge members said they first saw "a deep haze" and smelled "burning electrical wires" when they had opened 74 Park Ave. that Saturday morning. Wilcox dialed 911 after she and her members

searched the electrical panels and light fixtures in vain.

Four BFD units responded and followed the haze and smell's source to the church's boiler room. Firefighters found a broken water pipe that would have fed the boiler, which had automatically kicked on during the cold overnight.

"The water pipe that cools the system had a leak and all the water had spilled out, causing the system to overheat," said Wilcox. "Thankfully, it had a safety switch that shut the system down. There's a lot of wood

*(Continued on page 15)*

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 14)

just above the boiler system so, had not the switch worked, it's likely that our church would've been up in flames."

Wilcox and church members were able to hold a scheduled funeral service for 30-year member Sheila P. Jackson. Jackson, 80, of Orange, died on Sept. 11.

Christ Church's present 1832 building replaced one on Bloomfield's Liberty Street that had burned down. When Glen Ridge had separated from Bloomfield in 1895, the new boundary bisected the property.

**MONTCLAIR** - Officials and parishioners here at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is entering its first full season as an oratory.

The Archdiocese of Newark, in an agreement made with parish leadership made before Labor Day, has recast OLMC as an independent congregation and equal partner with the nearby Immaculate Conception Church. Both Our Lady and IC remain equal partners of the St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish which the late Archbishop John J. Myers had formed in 2016.

OLMC now has its own full-time rector, Fr. Giandomenico Flora, who is offering Masses Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30 a.m., Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. The Naples-born Flora, who was appointed by Cardinal Joseph Tobin, is to have a to-be-announced installation service.

By "oratory," OLMC's parishioners will discuss the institution's future with Rector Flora and the archdiocese. An oratory is a place of prayer run by priests who have not taken vows. A pastoral council will oversee Our Lady's operations.

The Archdiocese has also granted \$55,000 to complete church repairs and furnishings. \$300,000 has been spent in the last five years for the replenishment and revamping.

OLMC members had voiced their concern that they would be absorbed - and not partnered - by IC in the newly-named parish. 94 Pine St. sanctuary and related buildings, they reasoned, would then be liquidated.

**BELLEVILLE** - A township resident has joined a Cedar Grove resident in taking the Shoprite of Belleville to Superior Court-Newark over two separate shopping cart mishaps three months apart.

Doris Stanzione, 61, has recently filed for personal injury damages over her July 12, 2020 incident at 726 Washington Ave. Stanzione said that she was left

"seriously and permanently injured" when her right arm and elbow was pierced "by a loose metal bar in the defendant's supplied shopping cart." She was loading groceries from the cart into her car in the supermarket's parking lot.

Laura Cordasco, 66, of Cedar Grove, had filed a separate suit against Shoprite of Belleville over an Oct. 1, 2020 incident.

Cordasco said that she was pushing a cart towards the supermarket's entrance when the cart's automatic wheel locks suddenly applied itself. The devices usually lock up when equipped cars go beyond an invisible fence-like area in the parking lot.

The wheel's seizing, she said, caused her to "violently thrown over and above the cart with her whole body." She said she has been left severely injured and requires medical care.

The plaintiffs are asserting that Shoprite has failed to maintain the carts and keep the property free of hazards. The grocer has not immediately responded to a call for comment.

**NUTLEY** - A Change.org petition to have the late Nutley High School hockey team captain David Fierro inducted into the Nutley Hall of Fame, as of press time, is more than halfway to its 1,000 signature goal.

The 2003-founded Nutley Hall of Fame Committee's judges selects Nutleyites who had "outstanding achievements at the state, national or international level regardless of their field of endeavor." Prospective inductees must be born in Nutley, lived in the township for at least 10 years and/or have graduated from NHS. The Nutley Public Library-related group's next induction is slated for November 2023.

Fierro, NHS Class of 2013, more than rejoined the team after a shoulder injury sidelined him for a year. The team captain scored a record-shattering 125 points in the 2012-13 season's 25 games - 31 points more than the previous record holder.

That same season, Fierro was ranked 17th among the state's top hockey players and a newspaper named him "Player of the Week."

Fierro's feat is more remarkable given that his township does not have a hockey rink. The then-Nutley Maroon Raiders' home ice is at West Orange's Codey Arena. The team, since Fierro's time, have since added coed players from South Orange-Maplewood's Columbia HS (in 2017) and from Bloomfield (in 2020).

David Thomas Fierro, 27, who was born in Paterson Oct. 2, 1994, had attended Rutgers golf turf management school

and moved to Newton. He was Essex Fells Country Club assistant supervisor and greenskeeper when he died Oct. 1.

Parents Joseph and Mari-Jo, brother Joey, sisters Nicole Viaches and Vicki Vassas are among his survivors. His funeral was held Oct. 8 here at the S.W. Brown & Son Funeral Home before a private cremation. Memorial donations may be made to the Nutley Clifton Youth Ice Hockey Association, 190 Rutgers Place, Nutley 07110.

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