

# LOCAL TALK

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VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 11 \* JANUARY 19 - JANUARY 25, 2023

25¢

“LET’S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES”

**OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER**

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1576 Springfield Avenue • Maplewood, NJ 07040

Phone: 973-622-1111 • www.localtalkweekly.com

E-mail - Newspaper: localtalk@aol.com \* Printing: localtalkprinting@gmail.com

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## REMEMBERING THE GREAT REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



Photos By Darleen Troutman



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## THE DANGERS OF FREEWAY DRIVE



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Photo By Afreda Coachman Daniels



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

**Hello Readers,**

January 15th is quite historic, as that is the day when Dr. Martin Luther King was born. He believed in non-violence as the way to fight against injustice. He combined this with his own principals in following the ideology of Mahatma Gandhi's non-violence protests. He is the pioneer of waking up the masses, and his "I Have a Dream..." speech, the best one, we have listened to many times. However, while most people have tried to follow in his footsteps, politicians are taking advantage of his popularity. We should listen to his beliefs and try to act upon them. People accept the popular-

ity of his name, but I don't think we are following his vision.

Kathmandu is a beautiful place to visit in Nepal. The airport is at the towering mountains of Himalaya and harder to land and take off. There was an accident this past Sunday, which was the worst airline accident there in the past three decades. Over 70 people were killed in this crash. I hope the government can take help from other countries to make a better runway, in which planes can land and take off safely at Kathmandu airport.

There was a helicopter crash in Kyiv, the capital city of Ukraine, killing about 14 people and injuring 25 others. Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that the war has many dimensions and war time accidents are a result of war. Even if it is an interior accident, Zelenskyy is trying to blame it on the war. All the supporting countries will support his claim. This is ridiculous.

Classified documents were found at President Biden's office

in Washington DC and home in Delaware. The White House has not given any clear indication on who did it and why it happened. This will impact the case against former President Donald J. Trump and his boxes of classified documents found at Mar-a-Lago. Both cases should be handled equally. Attorney General Merrick Garland has appointed a special counsel to investigate Biden's case.

Also, President Biden has no record of a visitor's log. Anyone except members of the family must sign a logbook and be searched while entering the home or office of a president or vice president for security reasons. Per NPR news on July 17, 2017, in the case of Donald Trump, a government watchdog won a battle against the Trump Administration to turn over visitor records for the president's Mar-a-Lago residence. So, now Biden will be investigated for classified documents and a visitor's logbook.

Former GOP candidate Solomon Pena has been arrested for plotting and hiring people to shoot some of the Democratic candidates. There were six shootings at Democratic candidates against whom he lost the election. This is ridiculous, and he must be sent to jail for a long period of time and barred from any election and any business with government agencies.

The Biden administration has condemned the appointment of several far-right Republicans to the House committees overseeing investigations. However, the same thing happened under Nancy Pelosi's time against Donald Trump. The Democrats did one-sided committee appointments, and now the Republicans are doing the same thing. Both are wrong in my opinion. It is not for the betterment of American people. It is dirty politics.

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next week.*

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

- Publisher & Editor-in-chief : Dhiren Shah
- Editors : Kristopher Seals / Anuj Shah
- Journalists / Writers : Kristopher Seals | Walter Elliott | Bro. Thomas Ellis | Dhiren Shah | William Hathaway Jr. | Dr. Daniel Louis | Ahmed Screven, Esq. | Anuj Shah | Lev Zilbermints | Kinjal Shah | Asha Shah | Akshat Shah, MD | Ivy Mahabir | Kalindi Bhatt | Dr. Robert Kennedy
- Photographers : Dhiren Shah | Kristopher Seals | Thomas Ellis II | D. Adams, Jr.
- Distributors : Larry Wright | Walter Elliott | Fred Simpson
- Newspaper Designer : New Image Art Studio
- Web : [www.localtalkweekly.com](http://www.localtalkweekly.com)

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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            | Cloudy, Rain Possible | Partly Cloudy   | PM Rain       | AM Rain       | Partly Cloudy  | Mix of Rain / Snow |
| HI 42           | HI 49                 | HI 44           | HI 46         | HI 46         | HI 44          | HI 43              |
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# The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

## Organizations Leading Covax: What Does the Future Hold?

When the coronavirus hit, countries worldwide were scampering to find ways to prevent the death of both their citizens and their economy. However, even in the early stages, it was clear that the only way out of the coronavirus was by developing a

vaccine. Before the end of 2020, the coronavirus vaccine was developed. The speed with which the vaccine was developed was unprecedented and is a testament to just how much effort was invested into the vaccine development.

After the vaccines came, a new problem arose - how to distribute the vaccine across the countries of the world. Unsurprisingly, the high-economy countries, headed by the United States, purchased millions of doses for their citizens. This left many middle-income and poor countries in limbo for months. Fortunately, Covax came to the rescue.

Covax is an initiative led by four main organizations to provide the world with coronavirus vaccines. The organizations are the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the World Health Organization (WHO), and UNICEF. Covax aimed at accelerating the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines.



Of course, there was a challenge of getting the vaccines in the early stages. This is, as I mentioned, because of rich countries buying available vaccine doses for their citizens. However, with time, the Covax initiative started excelling in the distribution of vaccines to countries that needed them the most: the low- and middle-income countries.

As of November 2022, the Covax initiative had shipped over 1.8 billion COVID vaccines to 146 countries. By all standards, that's an impressive achievement. Still, the initiative could not achieve its goal of vaccinating 70 percent of individuals on the planet by the middle of 2022.

Nonetheless, 71.3 percent of the world's population has received at least one dose of the vaccine, which is still respectable. However, when you add the context that only about 25 percent of low-income countries have received at least one dose of the vaccine, the story starts to get concerning. This is why it is such a shock to many that the board members of Gavi have agreed, in principle, to phase out the initiative by the end of 2023.

This isn't to say the Vaccine Alliance will neglect the coronavirus; instead, it will start treating it as an illness rather than an emergency health concern. Many experts have kicked out against this move, citing the unpredictability of the coronavirus as a good enough reason to maintain the initiative. And they have a point.

The coronavirus just will not go away, despite the numerous efforts of scientists and vaccine developers. As vaccines drop, the virus just finds a way to make itself better at resisting the vaccine's protective efforts. Now, you need at least three doses of the vaccine to have a confident level of protection against the coronavirus. Now, consider low-income countries, where 75 percent of people haven't even gotten one dose.

Despite the agitation of many against the move to phase out the Covax initiative, it is not a totally unsurprising move. The initiative, despite the generous efforts of even the United States and other countries, in helping vaccine donation, is not sustainable. The cost implication is just too high, and unless something drastic happens in terms of finances, it is not expected that the initiative will be able to function past 2024 anyway.

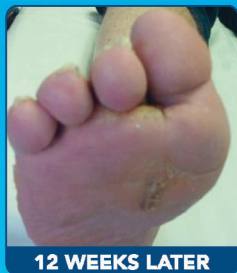
Also, proponents of the move to phase out Covax believe the coronavirus will become a disease we will have to live with rather than one we can eradicate. That's more than just a belief now, as studies are increasingly suggesting we may have to find how to cope with the coronavirus as we have the flu. In light of this, the initiative is expected to channel its efforts toward finding how low- and middle-income countries can fight the coronavirus independently. In fact, Gavi's board has approved a plan to help develop vaccine manufacturing

(Continued on page 11)

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# SPORTS WRAP



Photos By William Hathaway, Jr.



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The Martin Luther King Basketball Showcase took place this past Monday at Orange High School. This annual event features local area Essex County teams.

In the first game of the day, American History High scored a win over the West Side boys basketball team 67-62. AHHS was led by a dominating Marcell Clark with 23 points and 21 rebounds and David Medina with 13 points and 4 rebounds. The Roughriders got 27 points from Brandon Rodriguez and 10 boards from Shadee Brooks in the loss.

In the second game of the day, the Orange High girls basketball team beat the West Side girls 50-30, dominating the game from the start. In the last game of the day, the East Orange Jaguars beat the Orange boys 55-42. OHS was hurt by many turnovers in the game, but this rivalry game had a capacity crowd at the Jesse Miles Gymnasium in Orange.

Leading EOCHS was Kaiyri Barkley with 14 points and 3 rebounds, Carlyle Adams with

11 points and 13 rebounds and Gavin Jones with 11 points and 2 rebounds. Leading Orange was Gregory Burton with 26 points and 3 rebounds and Natche Auguste with 9 rebounds.

For the first time in 10 years, the New York football Giants have won a playoff game. Big Blue went into Minnesota and got revenge for their buzzer beater loss to the Vikings, winning the Wild Card rematch 31-24. Quarterback Daniel Jones was sensational, passing 24-35 for 301 yards, and 78 more on the ground. NY will head to Philadelphia to play the Eagles in the next round.

Other winners on Wild Card Weekend included the 49ers' 41-23 win over the Seahawks, the Bengals surviving a late push by the Ravens to win 24-17, the Jaguars overcoming a 27-0 deficit to stun the Chargers 31-30, the Bills beating a tougher than expected Dolphins squad 34-31, and the Cowboys beating the Buccaneers 31-14, despite their kicker missing four extra point attempts.



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## FIRST TRUMP, NOW BIDEN...

### UNITED STATES

After Americans were stunned to hear that one president allegedly mishandled classified documents, now news comes about the current POTUS doing the same.

Over the past two weeks, officials in the Biden Administration have revealed that classified documents were found in areas such as the Penn Biden Center, and even Biden's Corvette in a garage at his home. The documents were returned to the correct authorities for proper keeping, but several issues have arisen.

First, the documents were not from Biden's current tenure in the White House, but during his time as Vice President under President Obama. Although former President Trump had a back and forth with authorities over whether or not he declassified all the sensitive material found at Mar-a-Lago, as POTUS he did have such an authority, properly executed or not. Conversely, Biden as VP did not have such authority, and the documents should have never been in such casual possession unless Obama declassified them.

For the sake of transparency, U.S. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland announced Jan. 12 the appointment of a former career Justice Department prosecutor and former U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland Robert K. Hur to serve as special counsel to conduct the investigation of matters that were the subject of the initial investigation by U.S. Attorney John R. Lausch, Jr. related to the possible unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents or other records discovered at the Penn

Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement and the Wilmington, Delaware, private residence of President Joseph R. Biden Jr.

"Based on Mr. Lausch's initial investigation, I concluded that, under the Special Counsel regulations, it was in the public interest to appoint a Special Counsel. In the days since, while Mr. Lausch continued the investigation, the Department identified Mr. Hur for appointment as Special Counsel.

"This appointment underscores for the public the Department's commitment to both independence and accountability in particularly sensitive matters, and to making decisions indisputably guided only by the facts and the law.

"I am confident that Mr. Hur will carry out his responsibility in an even-handed and urgent manner, and in accordance with the highest traditions of this Department."

### TEACHING A NEW GENERATION ABOUT MLK

#### WORLD

Children from a dozen countries met with the President of the General Assembly and toured the United Nations on a federal holiday in the United States honoring the late civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Martin Luther King, Jr.

Swarming the office of President Csaba Kőrösi, the children - who ranged in age from toddler to high-school teen - pulled on the UN and Hungarian flags that flank a UN seal in the office and ran around to look at the skyline outside of the balcony. Meanwhile, parents tried to keep them from touching anything and nervously eyed a glass table that usually holds talking points for meetings with Heads of State and Government.

"Will there still be a world by the time we have kids," one of the children asked the President.

"That's what the work of the General Assembly tries to guarantee," replied Mr. Kőrösi, who sometimes mentions his now adult daughter in speeches, recalling the motivation she has given him to keep pushing for a sustainable transformation in the world.

The next stop for the group was a tour of the United Nations, led by UN Tour Guide Jonathan Mishal who helps to lead the UN's children's tours twice a week.

Sitting the multilingual group in front of world flags pinned into a wooden tree, Mr. Mishal discussed the importance of the UN for global cooperation: "This is the one place in the world where countries that are at war sit right next to each other, go downstairs for coffee, and discuss why they disagree."

The group then visited the General Assembly, where they sat in the Member States' seats and posed for photos at the podium where world leaders and invited guests speak.

Mr. Mishal noted also the importance of young people's involvement in the UN, referring to Malala and Greta Thunberg - both of whom addressed the chamber.

The setting was known to the older children, whose parents work for the UN, and have grown up in international settings speaking Arabic, French, English, Hebrew, Hungarian, Indonesian, Mandarin, Romanian, and Spanish.

Comfortable in their surroundings, the children made suggestions for improving world affairs on the local stage - "my parents don't always listen to me" - to improving the actual General Assembly - bigger translation earpieces to accommodate big earrings.

Mr. Mishal continued the tour, with a nod to MLK Day, by discussing discrimination.

Martin Luther King Jr. visited the UN in 1967, meeting to discuss the situation of civil rights in the United States with senior UN official and also No-

bel Peace Prize Laureate Ralph Bunche.

In a tweet for the Day, President Kőrösi said Dr. King's vision aligns with UN ideals of human rights, economic and social justice, and peace around the world: "As we look to crisis management and transformation, the work of the General Assembly is inspired by his courage and conviction."

### JOURNALISTS UNDER FIRE

The number of journalists killed worldwide significantly increased in 2022, following a decline over the previous three years, according to the United Nations' culture agency (UNESCO).

In the recently released 2021-2022 freedom of expression report, UNESCO noted the deaths of 86 journalists last year, amounting to one every four days, up from 55 killings in 2021.

The findings highlight the grave risks and vulnerabilities that journalists continue to face in the course of their work, the agency said.

"Authorities must step up their efforts to stop these crimes and ensure their perpetrators are punished because indifference is a major factor in this climate of violence," said UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, describing the findings as "alarming."

UNESCO noted that nearly half of the journalists killed were targeted while off duty; some were attacked while travelling, or in parking lots or other public places where they were not on assignment, while others were in their homes at the time of their killing.

The report warned that this implies that "there are no safe spaces for journalists, even in their spare time."

Despite progress in the past five years, the rate of impunity for journalist killings remains "shockingly high" at 86 percent.

*(Continued on page 11)*

# "LANDLORD" NPS BECOMES "TENANT" FOR 5 SCHOOLS

By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - The Newark Public Schools is spending \$1.48 million this school year while as a current tenant in at least four of the five buildings the district is using as classroom space.

The \$1.48 million is what "Local Talk" had calculated for average annual rent on: the East Ward Annex, 184 Pacific St.; the Newark School of Data Science & Information Technology, 746-72 Sanford St.; the Newark School of Fashion & Design, 239 Woodside Ave.; and the South Street Annex, 119 Clifford St.

NPS is hoping that it will move those four schools into new or permanent quarters when their three-to-five-year leases are up and have spent an overall \$6.9 million in taxpayer money. (It is believed that similar terms and goals have been set for the Ironbound Academy Elementary School at 366 E. Kinney St.)

\$1.48 million, on one hand, may sound small compared to NPS' around \$1 billion budget - the majority of which comes in as state aid.

The district has spent \$6.5 million in the 2021-22 school year to cut into its list of 275 renovation projects among its 60 school buildings.

The renovations have allowed NPS to land its Newark High School of Global Studies in a reopened 24 Crane St., recast the Fourteenth Avenue and Newton Street schools as the Michelle Obama and Sir Isaac Newton elementary schools and upgrade the Newark Vocational High School.

Becoming a lessee or tenant in six buildings and revamping four others are two components of a five-year Long Range Facilities Plan that Superintendent of Schools Roger Leon introduced and the Newark Board of Education had approved in 2019.

New Jersey Department of Education officials and the State Development Authority constructors had approved the LRF-P's new building component in March 2022. Replacement for the Abington Avenue, Ann

Street and "East Ward Elementary School" are in the drawing stages.

The state blessing means that the schools, whose individual cost ranges from \$15 to \$75 million, will be funded from state taxpayers. Their ribbon-cuttings are several years away.

There is also the building buy-back component, which has so far returned the Morton Street School/Wests Side High School Success Academy to NPS. Twelve other school buildings, sold off during State District Superintendent Christopher Cerf's administration in 2016, have been demolished or in other hands.

Leon's five-year plan was created to meet an anticipated 1,250 students, boosting overall enrollment to 37,621, by 2023-24. NPS, at the same time, has been dealing with decades-long maintenance underfunding with buildings that are an average 90 years old.

There is also a two-pronged matter regarding new school buildings. One is that the state had slowed the pace of funding and plan approvals in the 2010s. The other is finding sites in the city.

The superintendent's plan is to attract those students to new specialty magnet high schools and revamped elementary schools in new or renovated buildings.

NPS, as the renter of the said five buildings, is on the tenant or lessee end of leasing. It has been a lessor or landlord to currently five charter schools since 2012.

The then-Newark Public Schools Advisory Board, in a split roll call, voted against a plan to lease out five of its school buildings to the charters. The controversial State District Superintendent Cami Anderson overruled their vote and put the contract through.

The leasing was controversial in part because the school district was receiving submarket rent. It also included a KIPP SEEK Academy school co-locate in the top floor of the George Washington Carver-  
(Continued on page 13)

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## ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

| Municipality   | 1-11-2023      | Deaths       | 1-18-2023      | Deaths       |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Belleville     | 13,806         | 162          | 13,878         | 162          |
| Bloomfield     | 15,498         | 174          | 15,569         | 175          |
| Caldwell       | 2,091          | 18           | 2,100          | 18           |
| Cedar Grove    | 4,970          | 144          | 4,982          | 144          |
| City of Orange | 9,947          | 176          | 9,947          | 176          |
| East Orange    | 21,189         | 401          | 21,291         | 401          |
| Essex Fells    | 617            | 2            | 619            | 2            |
| Fairfield      | 2,492          | 42           | 2,497          | 42           |
| Glen Ridge     | 1,636          | 20           | 1,644          | 20           |
| Irvington      | 14,388         | 288          | 14,451         | 288          |
| Livingston     | 8,602          | 113          | 8,632          | 113          |
| Maplewood      | 6,666          | 51           | 6,694          | 51           |
| Millburn       | 4,708          | 18           | 4,722          | 18           |
| Montclair      | 9,086          | 92           | 9,118          | 92           |
| Newark         | 96,248         | 1,292        | 96,680         | 1,293        |
| North Caldwell | 1,841          | 10           | 1,844          | 10           |
| Nutley         | 8,289          | 90           | 8,333          | 90           |
| Roseland       | 1,790          | 27           | 1,799          | 27           |
| South Orange   | 4,477          | 25           | 4,493          | 25           |
| Verona         | 4,249          | 25           | 4,261          | 25           |
| West Caldwell  | 3,339          | 68           | 3,339          | 68           |
| West Orange    | 16,811         | 279          | 16,894         | 281          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>253,160</b> | <b>3,517</b> | <b>254,276</b> | <b>3,521</b> |

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of January 18, 2023)**  
**NJ: 2,498,902 cases / 32,583 deaths (Plus 3,116 probable)**  
**United States (approx.): 101.770 Million / 1.101 Million deaths**  
**Worldwide (approx.): 667.79 Million / 6.728 Million deaths**

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# 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** - Supreme Court of New Jersey Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, in his Jan. 10 ruling on Al-Damany Kamau's appeal for compassionate release, stated that judges can consider "extraordinary aggravating factors" in deciding whether or not grant such a release.

Rabner's ruling means that compassionate release, on the books since February 2021, is discretionary and not automatic. Kamau furthermore, continues to serve his life sentence for the June 3, 1993 homicide of Newark Police Det. John Sczyrek, Jr.

Kamau and his public defender had appealed to Rabner and the N.J. Supreme Court to overturn State Superior Court-Newark Judge Ronald Wigler's Feb. 12, 2022 ruling. Wigler ruled that Kamau had "committed perhaps the most heinous, brutal, bold, cold-blooded premeditated murders ever committed in Essex County."

Kamau, when he was Eddie Lee Oliver, had shot Det. Sczyrek in an Essex County Courthouse 11th floor hallway with a smuggled-in handgun. Oliver Sczyrek, dressed in plain clothes, was waiting to testify as a key witness against cousins Charles Oliver and Darryl Hill in a weapons possession and narcotics trafficking trial.

E.L. Oliver had also shot and wounded Essex County Sheriff's Officer Ralph Rizzolo and Newark policeman Tom King before fleeing the court complex; he was apprehended a few blocks away. Tenesha James, a court employee and an Oliver girlfriend, was also arrested for smuggling in the gun; she served a 20-year sentence.

Kamau, 53, and his public defender have said that he qualifies for compassionate release. He has become bed-ridden his body from end state multiple sclerosis and would pose no danger to anyone.

Sczyrek, 30, was a Nutley High School Class of 1980 graduate. Over 4,000 law enforcement officers escorted his body from Nutley's Holy Family Church to his burial at Glendale Cemetery.

**IRVINGTON** - Members of the Irvington Fire Department are hoping that 2023 will be kinder to its alumni than 2022. Last year closed out with the passing of John "Jay" Luba III, who died on Dec. 1, and Robert E. Morley, who died on Nov. 29.

Luba, 62, came from his native Sparta to serve as an IFD firefighter and dispatcher 1982-2005. The Trenton State College criminal justice graduate went on to work as a Sparta fire official, a Sussex County Sheriff's assistant fire marshal and for Atlantic Health until his bout against lung cancer intervened.

Wife Laura, brother Mark, sisters Laura Luba and Amy Lowery, three stepchildren and a granddaughter are among his survivors. His Funeral Mass at St. Kateri Church and burial at Sparta Cemetery were held Dec. 6. Memorial donations may be made to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, t2t.org, and/or the St. Barnabas Burn Center, RWJBH.org.

Morley, 87, was an IFD firefighter 1961-90 who was president of IAFF Local 2004 and had retired as captain. The Jersey City native was a township resident 1952-78 and a 35-year member of ILA Local 1235.

The Korean Conflict veteran on the USS Midway coached youth baseball and football in Irvington and, later, Clark. Wife Maryann, sons IFD FF Michael and IFD Capt. Nicholas, daughters Kathleen Morley and Diane Nevins, six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and sisters Joan Clarkin and Patricia Epple are among his survivors.

Morley's Funeral Mass at Clark's St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church and entombment at Woodbridge's St. Gertrude Cemetery were held on Dec. 5.

Three other retired IFD

members had also passed away Jan. 8-Aug. 11, 2022.

**EAST ORANGE** - East Orange Fire Department Capt. Joseph Kinney, depending on where his remains were buried in Rosedale Cemetery Dec. 28, is still watching over the city he has served the last 22 years.

Kinney, 51, who was raised and had lived in East Orange 1971-2005, died in Paterson's St. Joseph Medical Center Dec. 20. His cause of death was not disclosed.

Joseph Thomas Kinney, who was born in Belleville March 9, 1971, attended the Holy Name of Jesus School, where Doddtown meets the Franklin section and Rattlesnake Hill, and the Essex Catholic Boys High School at 157 Glenwood Ave. through his 1989 graduation. He went on to graduate from Montclair State University with a BA in communication studies in 1993.

Kinney, after a couple of broker assistance jobs, joined the EOFFD in November 2000. He rose through the ranks to become captain and served Tour 4 and Tour 2, Engine 5. Kinney moved to West Milford, taking wife Roseann Cruz Kinney and daughter Elizabeth with him, in 2005.

Kinney's remains may be within Rosedale's West Orange section - a township he was also no stranger to. He loved attending the West Orange St. Patrick's Day Parade and joined brother Kevin as members of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh Club. The brothers organized the annual St. Baldrick's Foundation "Shave for the Brave" childhood cancer research fundraiser.

Members of East and West Orange's fire departments joined his Dec. 28 Funeral Mass at Bloomfield's Sacred Heart Church. His organs and tissue were donated to The Sharing Network of New Jersey.

Mother Margaret Burns Kinney, brothers Charles T. III, James J. and Michael P.; and sister Susan Klipp are also among his survivors.

**ORANGE** - Those who have had to choose between attending the City Council or the Board of Education meeting on the second Tuesday of the month will not have to do so for the rest of the

calendar year.

The newly reorganized Orange Board of Education will now hold their monthly public meetings on the second Wednesday of the month for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year and the 2023-24 year's first half. The panel has not stated the reason for the day later shift through Dec. 31.

OBOE members stress that the rest of their meeting calendar remains unchanged - including their usual scheduled 7 p.m. start and their ongoing five school "road tour."

City Council meetings remain normally held on the second Tuesday of the month - with its latest virtual session atypically set for Jan. 17. The sessions are to start at 7 p.m. with a conference meeting, followed by the regular meeting.

**WEST ORANGE** - The West Orange Municipal Building, in the wake of Damar Hamlin's Jan. 2 near-fatal cardiac arrest on live television, may be among the first towns to have their AED units reevaluated.

Mayor Susan McCartney, on Jan. 13, directed West Orange Fire Chief Anthony Vecchio to check all 31 of the township's Automated External Defibrillators among its public buildings. AEDs are easy-to-use devices, installed in prominent public locations to help restart stopped hearts.

McCartney asked for the reevaluation after watching Hamlin's heart stoppage and collapse early in that Monday night's NFL Buffalo Bills-Cincinnati Bengals game. A Bills coach's immediate CPR and a medic's use of an AED on Cincinnati's Paycor Field are credited in saving the safety's life.

Vecchio actually has a two-year start on the mayor's directive. He and his fire inspectors have been inspecting and replacing the AEDs since 2021 - when they had received an \$80,233.64 Assistance to Firefighters grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

McCartney, as a council member approved the township's "matching" 10 percent contribution to the grant in 2021.

Hamlin has sufficient  
(Continued on page 12)

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

Combating impunity remains a pressing commitment on which international cooperation must be further mobilized, the organization said.

In addition to killing, journalists in 2022 also were victims of other forms of violence. This included enforced disappearance, kidnapping, arbitrary detention, legal harassment and digital violence, with women particularly being targeted.

The UNESCO study highlighted challenges for journalists, pointing out that the weaponization of defamation laws, cyber laws, and anti “fake news” legislation, are being used as a means of limiting freedom of speech and creating a toxic environment for journalists to operate in.

UNESCO found that Latin America and the Caribbean were the deadliest for journalists in 2022 with 44 killings, over half of all of those killed worldwide.

Worldwide, the deadliest individual countries were Mexico, with 19 killings, Ukraine with 10 and Haiti with nine. Asia and the Pacific registered 16 killings, while 11 were killed in Eastern Europe.

While the number of journalists killed in countries in conflict rose to 23 in 2022, compared with 20 the previous year, the global increase was primarily driven by killings in non-conflict countries. This number almost doubled from 35 cases in 2021 to 61 in 2022, representing three-quarters of all killings last year.

**UGANDAN EBOLA OUTBREAK ENDS**

**EUROPE**

In Uganda, a deadly outbreak of Ebola virus has been stopped in its tracks and declared officially over, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) said.

Infections had occurred in the major cities of Kampala and Jinja, fueling concerns that the disease could extend well into 2023. In 2019, Uganda experienced an outbreak of the Zaire strain of Ebola.

Head of the UN health agency, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, congratulated the authorities for their

(Continued on page 14)

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**THE DOCTOR IS IN**

(Continued from page 4)

companies in different regions of the world.

It’s not all grim, though, regarding the ending of the Covax initiative, as Gavi will be flexible in the event of significant developments over the year. In other words, while the move is agreed, in principle, it can still very much change if something radical happens.

Stay safe.

This article was written by

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

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*From  
The  
Pastor's  
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Breaking The Curse  
By Blessing Others**

I have been with my church's prayer group for many years now. We have been praying three times weekly at 5:00 a.m. The call to pray for the nation(s) is on our prayer agenda. When I am asked to pray for the nation(s), I have to confess that, at times, I have struggled with how to pray.

Do I pray for the "good" leaders, or do I also pray for the "bad" leaders? Do I ask for a blessing on all, or do I pray that some will be blessed and others cursed? What kind of prayer do I pray for Mr. Putin, President of Russia? What kind of prayer do I pray for Mr. Zelensky, President of Ukraine?

What kind of prayer do I pray for President Biden and Vice-President Harris? What sort of prayer should I pray for Mr. Schumer (the majority leader in the Senate) and Mr. McConnell (the minority leader in the Senate)? What sort of prayer must I pray for Mr. McCarthy (the now Speaker of the House) and Mr. Hakeem Jeffries (the now leader of the minority in the House)? I have asked myself how selflessly I pray for them.

When I think of all Mr. Putin is doing to the people in

Ukraine, I have sometimes felt like David asking the Lord to take the enemy's life. I have read Psalm 109, and at least 30 times in it, David calls down curses on his enemies. I have often asked myself, Is this a great example? Or do I look for other examples in David's life where his prayer differed? I have found, for example, how David treated King Saul, who hated him and sought to kill him. David could have killed Saul, but he spared his life more than once.

Yes, at times, I have struggled with praying for the enemies. I have struggled with how to pray for leaders who do despicable things. I have struggled with how to pray for those who are pushing hate speech on social media, in political speeches and otherwise, but often enough, I have resolved that the command of Jesus to "love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you," (Matthew 5:44) has to come from a heart that is freed of hatred and full of love. It is a heart that is touched by the power of God. That is why before I can pray for the enemies, I have to ask the Lord to free me from all selfish thoughts and to give me a spirit of forgiveness.

As is said, "to bless one's enemies is not just to **do them good, but actually to ask God for their well-being.** ... It is one thing to bless or pray for someone and another thing to wish them good."

There is a story in 2 Kings 6:18-23 that is still amazing to me. It tells that when the Syrians

attacked Israel, and they tried to capture Elisha because they learned that he was informing the king of Israel of their battle plans and thus causing their defeat, how Elisha prayed, "O LORD, strike these men blind!" The LORD answered his prayer and struck them blind. Then Elisha went to them and said, "You are on the wrong road; this is not the town you are looking for. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are after." And he led them to Samaria.

As soon as they had entered the city, Elisha prayed, "Open their eyes, LORD, and let them see." The LORD answered his prayer; he restored their sight, and they saw they were inside Samaria. When the king of Israel saw the Syrians, he asked Elisha, "Shall I kill them, sir? Shall I kill them?" "No," Elisha answered. "Not even soldiers you had captured in combat would you put to death. **Give them something to eat and drink, and let them return to their king.**"

So, the king of Israel provided a great feast for them, and after they had eaten and drunk, he sent them back to the king of Syria. From then on, the Syrians stopped raiding the land of Israel.

Have you ever heard the phrase "Kill them with kindness?" That is what Elisha instructed the king of Israel to do, and it changed the attitude of the Syrians toward Israel.

The apostle Paul instructed the members of his church in Rome thus:

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse

them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. <sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup> To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:14-21).

I must be sounding pretty naïve to many of you reading this reflection on the encouragement to "bless those who curse you." But the case is that what is causing so much destruction in our world is that we are focused so much on revenge and self-defense that we do not allow ourselves the freedom to pray for and bless those who do not like us or those whom we do not like.

The point is that if we are to survive as members of our families, as people in the community, or as strangers in the public square, we will need hearts to love and the right spirit to pray. As the Psalmist says, we need to ask, "Create in me a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10)

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 10)

ly recovered to be transferred to a Buffalo area hospital Jan. 9. Although his recovery continues, Hamlin briefly visited his teammates' training facility in Orchard Park Jan. 14. He cheered on the Bill's Jan. 15 playoff wild card game victory against the Miami Dolphins.

**SOUTH ORANGE** - The Village Board of Trustees, as early as their Feb. 12 meeting, may well amend their five-year surveillance camera contract with Verkada to not provide facial recognition software.

Village President Shenna Collum, on Jan. 3, said that she will add the "No FR Software" clause to the 2021 contract with

Verkada. Questions from the public to the trustees and the village's Community Police Collaborative in December had prompted its elders and law enforcers to clarify the matter.

"There were a lot of concerns by our residents," said Collum. "The last thing we want is to be using something that disproportionately impacts people of a certain race."

FR technology allows people's faces to be recorded and compared to other faces stored in a database in real time. A joint MIT and Stanford University study, however, found that accuracy declines with darker skinned people - up to 34 percent of African or African American women were misidentified.

The State Attorney General's Office has not set a policy on street cameras using FR -

with or without artificial intelligence - leaving the question up to the municipalities. There are no such restrictions on private property - but there are calls for change.

Lawmakers and privacy advocates picketed Madison Square Garden Jan. 15 to have MSG Entertainment turn off its FR software. Since October, the owner of MSG and Radio City Music Hall have used FR to bar up to 60 attorneys who are working for firms that have lawsuits against MSG.

The village-Verkada contract calls for the replacement of 13 existing cameras and adding up to 80 more throughout South Orange.

**MAPLEWOOD** - A minor may well be in (Continued on page 15)

# REMEMBERING THE GREAT REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

**NEWARK** - Around 500 people were on hand in Downtown Newark to pay tribute to one of the world's greatest trailblazers.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "We Won't Go Back" March and Rally was held this past Sunday on January 15, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. The march started at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Statue in front of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Building, located at 495 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard in Newark, NJ.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Statue is located near the corner of Springfield Avenue and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. January 15th is the actual birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who was born in 1929 in Atlanta, GA.

The event was sponsored by People's Organization for Progress (POP). Among those showing support to the cause was Local 108 RWDSU.



Photos By Foluke Onajide



Photo By Afreda Coachman Daniels

## LOCAL OFFICIALS ASSEMBLE TO DISCUSS THE DANGERS OF FREEWAY DRIVE

**EAST ORANGE** - In collaboration with East Orange Mayor Ted Green, Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten from the City of Orange, and Essex County, Assemblywoman Britnee N. Timberlake held a press conference to highlight the dangerous conditions on Freeway Drive East and West that extend through East Orange and Orange. These representatives are asking the state to join in the efforts to provide real-time solutions to the public safety crisis on this major roadway.

Representing the City of Orange alongside Councilwoman Wooten were Captain Brian Mooney and Lieutenant Greg Johnson of the Orange Police department and Private Michael Dawson from the Orange Fire department. Mayor Green was joined by East Orange Public Safety Director Maurice Boyd and Police Chief Phyllis Bindi, who spoke directly about what has been done in recent years to address this issue at the local level.

Assemblywoman Britnee N. Timberlake opened the press conference by offering her

plea for something to be done so that no more families lose a loved one due to a traffic accident.

"There has been an unacceptable number of fatalities and other injuries that have occurred here on Freeway Drive. We need common sense solutions such as delayed traffic lights, interactive ADA crosswalk signage, identifying blind spots for pedestrians and drivers, banning skateboards and bikes, and fixing crumbling sidewalks for our residents," said Assemblywoman Timberlake.

Mayor Ted Green of the City of East Orange also shared remarks on the call for action "I want to thank our great Assemblywoman for bringing this issue to the attention of so many. In collaboration with our neighbors in the City of Orange, we have been working very hard here in the great City of East Orange to make sure our residents can safely travel across Freeway Drive and make it back home to their families," said Mayor

Green. "Our outreach today is to broadcast the sense of urgency and ensure that action is taken from a public safety perspective here on Freeway Drive East and West."

Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten of the City of Orange attended the press conference on behalf of Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq., and offered remarks regarding the severity of the issue. "Today I stand in solidarity with Assemblywoman Timberlake as she seeks relief for our resident's safety as they travel Freeway Drive," said Councilwoman Wooten. "I want to thank the Assemblywoman for tackling this very important transportation issue."

East Orange Public Safety Director Maurice Boyd provided staggering statistics regarding the number of incidents on Freeway Drive in recent years. "As the Assemblywoman mentioned earlier, there have been 994 accidents on Freeway Drive in the past four years alone," said Director Boyd. "Our

(Continued on page 15)

### "LANDLORD" NPS BECOMES TENANT

(Continued from page 7)

Bruce Stret Elementary School.

KIPP moved its academy to 33-47 Maple Ave. - the old Maple Avenue School - in 2021. Still under lease are the former Cam-

den Middle School top floor to People's Prep Charter School, the Alexander Street and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. schools to North Star, the Bragaw Avenue School to KIPP and the Madison Avenue School to Great Oakes Legacy Charter School.

The four specific leases are:

- East Ward Annex, \$1.2 million for five years.
- The School of Data Science and Information Technology, \$2.6 million for five years.
- The School of Fashion & Design, \$2.1 million for three years.
- South Street Annex, \$1 million for five.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

TV GUIDE



MR. MOVEEE - TV Head  
Tiktok & Instagram: Mrmoveee  
Photos By Andrea Dialect

Well, hello, there, Observation Booth Heads. I couldn't help myself, lol. Here is a heads-up. Today, the OB Editor's intro space is on the loaner.

I felt that Mr. Moveee's wife, Kirby, would be a much better fit for such an interesting feature introduction as making such an

acquaintance. The questions asked were as follows: What is it like to be married to an artist, and how does it feel to walk down the street holding hands with a TV? OBH, I give you Kirby... Now, shhh, I'm watching television!

Kirby: It's always like a surprise with every encounter we encounter. I enjoy the stares and curiosity that's given to both of us. Most of all, I love that we are comfortable and so confident that we can put on anything and never worry about what others think; I love that he expresses himself with art and that others can see that.

I truly enjoy walking down the street with a (TV) artist. To me, it's normal, and to many others, it's different. Many people always ask if I'm embarrassed or if it is weird. I have never felt that way. I love him and it. That's what makes us eccentric and a powerful couple. I love it!!!!

TV HEAD

TV begins with a video camera. The camera records the pictures and sound of a TV program. It changes the pictures and sound into electric signals. A TV set receives the signals and turns them back into pictures and sound.

Cosplay is a performance art in which the participants dress in costumes and make-up, representing characters from anime, video games, television, and film.



WAVELENGTH

Mr. Moveee: I didn't watch television much when I was a child. I enjoyed buying comic books, cutting the characters out of them, making them into paper figures and stuff, and making storylines. I would buy tons of books and cut out Spiderman, Superman, and Batman to make my own stories up. As a TV Head, I have become the character.

There are hundreds of us. There are many TV Cosplayers, but most wear their heads at events, and then there's me. I created the TV Head culture...Everybody has their own meaning for being a TV Head. Some just like the feeling of it. The whole mystique thing, some just like how it looks.

For me, it's a little bit different because I gave it an actual purpose. I wear my TV Head because I want more people of color to be more open to cosplay and expressing their inner child personalities. I always tell people that as long as you handle your priorities, paying your taxes, paying your bills, and every-

thing you have to do, nobody can judge you.

Plenty of adults are into cosplay, or they dress a certain way. But there are so many who don't do it because they think they'll be seen as immature. So, I show people differently, especially in Newark, because they need to see that.

Often when you think of people that express themselves in character, you think of New York. Usually, when people see me, they believe that I'm from New York because they don't feel that a person like me would be coming from a city like Newark because of how the media portrays us. They don't think that this cool guy would be walking around with a TV on his head here...

Read this article in its entirety at [www.localtalkweekly.com](http://www.localtalkweekly.com) and type The Observation Booth, Andrea Dialect and/or Entertainment Section in the search bar. If you are interested in participating in a challenge, project sharing a topic, news or if you have any questions, comments or concerns, send them to [localtalkandrea@gmail.com](mailto:localtalkandrea@gmail.com).



WORLD NEWS (Cont. from page 11)

“robust” response to the outbreak, less than four months after the first case of Sudan Ebola virus was confirmed, in central Mubende district.

“Uganda has shown that Ebola can be defeated when the whole system works together, from having an alert system in place, to finding and caring for people affected and their contacts, to gaining the full participation of affected communities in the response,” Tedros said.

In all, 55 people died and 87 recovered in the latest outbreak, according to WHO, whose Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti, noted that no vaccines yet exist to treat the Sudan strain.

“This was one of the most challenging

Ebola outbreaks in the past five years,” Dr. Moeti said. “But Uganda stayed the course and continuously fine-tuned its response.

“Two months ago, it looked as if Ebola would cast a dark shadow over the country well into 2023...this win starts off the year on a note of great hope for Africa.”

The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and can spread through direct contact with infected people's blood or other bodily fluids. Symptoms of Ebola - formerly known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever - include fever and vomiting, accompanied by internal and external bleeding.

To stop further transmission of the virus - which was the country's first encounter with Sudan Ebola virus in a decade - WHO worked with national health teams to explain the threat to at-risk populations and the need

for restricted movement in the infection hotspots of Mubende and Kasanda.

“While we expanded our efforts to put a strong response in place across the nine affected districts, the magic bullet has been our communities who understood the importance of doing what was needed to end the outbreak, and took action,” said Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng Acero, Uganda's Minister of Health.

WHO also helped to track more than 4,000 people who came into contact with people infected with the Ebola virus. Once identified, these contacts were monitored for 21 days, before being given the all-clear.

The last patient was released from care on Nov. 30 when the 42-day countdown to the end of the outbreak began, according to WHO, which noted that the case fatality rate for this outbreak, was 47 percent.

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 12)

hot water with at least his or her or their guardian, after injuring a 7-Eleven employee across from Columbia High School Jan. 13, by press time.

CHS administrators have identified the youth from the employee's description and forwarded the information to both the guardian and the Maplewood Police Department.

MPD patrol cars were called to 490 Valley St. 2:40 p.m. Friday afternoon. The store manager, who called 911, said he was closing the convenience store's doors when the teen pushed his way through. The manager suffered "minor scrapes and denied medical attention."

The youth had left the scene before the first police car had arrived. The manager was locking the doors due to interior overcrowding.

The 7-Eleven/Shell station at the southeast corner of Valley and Prospect streets was the first of four of the convenience stores in the township.

**BLOOMFIELD** - A township man, who had pleaded guilty July 29 to two counts each of possessing firearms while being a convicted felon and possessing narcotics, has been handed an overall nine-year sentence by a U.S. Federal Judge in Newark Jan. 6.

Judge Brian R. Martinotti, that Friday, sentenced Cedric Lewis, 32, to six years in a federal prison. Martinotti also added three years' supervised release after Lewis had served his time.

The case began when the Essex County Sheriff's Office were told that Lewis, a quantity of heroin and cocaine and the driver of a 2012 Jeep Cherokee were around the Newark-Elizabeth border Sept. 20, 2020. Elizabeth police officers spotted the Jeep, with Lewis holding a long gun on the passenger side, and followed them into Frelinghuysen Avenue until they lost sight of them.

EPD officers put out an all points bulletin after the Jeep was found abandoned in Newark but with an AM-15 rifle aboard. A search warrant was executed on Lewis' apartment here at 21 Lackawanna Sept. 28.

Members of the Bloomfield Police, the sheriff's office, US Marshals and US Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms found two handguns with extended magazines, quantities of heroin and cocaine, drug paraphernalia and \$800 cash. Authorities added an "armed and dangerous" label on to Lewis' APB.

Lewis was arrested that December in Atlanta. No details have been disclosed on how Lewis became a convicted felon

in the first place - except that he had been released from prison in July 2020.

The status and whereabouts of Lewis' Jeep driver remains undisclosed.

**MONTCLAIR** - The Township Council may be receiving an update from its hired outside legal firm on its investigation of harassment allegations against suspended Town Manager Timothy Stafford as early as its Jan. 17 conference meeting.

That briefing from a Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper attorney will be held behind closed doors at the Municipal Building that Tuesday night. The Council had hired the Westfield firm Nov. 14, three weeks after putting Stafford on administrative leave.

The appraisal comes 11 days after a news source found the sworn statements of two other women township employees about instances of Stafford's alleged harassment became public.

The statements, recorded by other lawyers, came from former Senior Services Director Dr. Katie York and Montclair Animal Shelter Celia Trembulak. York and Trembulak recalled incidents where Stafford had verbally abused them in public and/or before other municipal employees. The accounts go back to 2014, when Stafford was hired as acting manager. (The Council dropped "acting" from Stafford's title in 2020.)

It is not clear as of presstime whether York and Trembulak's sworn statements were made as part of harassment and whistleblower suits filed by Padmaja Rao and Juliet Lee or for Affirmative Action Officer Bruce Morgan's late autumn investigation.

Former CFO Rao and former Deputy Clerk Lee filed separate suits against Stafford and the township three days apart last October. Rao's filing prompted the council to suspend Stafford with pay and call Morgan to conduct an internal investigation.

Morgan's month-long probe, in a document copy leaked to a reporter, found that Stafford had created "a hostile work environment" within the Municipal Building.

**GLEN RIDGE** - The family of a 16-year-old boy here have been making his funeral arrangements, and the ECPO Crime Scene Investigation Bureau have been conducting a probe into his fatal Jan. 15 crash in adjacent Bloomfield, since Jan. 16.

The CSIB and local paramedics were summoned to Brookdale Park by the county sheriff's office and Bloomfield police at 11:30 p.m. Sunday. They had converged on the site of a single-car crash on the park's West Circuit Drive.

While authorities were conducting a

crash investigation in the county park, all four of the car's occupants were rushed to local hospitals. The quartet were minors from Glen Ridge.

The 16-year-old boy was rushed to Paterson's St. Joseph Regional Medical Center - where he was declared dead at 12:04 a.m. Monday. He was the vehicle's rear passenger.

Anyone with information is to call the confidential ECPO tips line.

**FREEWAY DRIVE** (Continued from page 13)

public safety division has increased vehicle enforcement as well as signage to encourage vehicular traffic to slow down."

Representing Essex County was Director & County Engineer Director Sanjeev Varghese, who highlighted work the county has done to understand the needs of Freeway Drive better. "The county has created recommendations to mitigate accidents on Freeway Drive," said Director Varghese. "We are asking the state to fund these efforts and put this issue at the top of their priority list for short- and long-term solutions."

Chief Phyllis L. Bindi also attended the press conference to discuss the role of the police department in reducing the number of accidents on Freeway Drive. "Although we saw a decrease in the number of accidents last year, this type of collaboration will get us to a place where we feel comfortable about the public safety of our citizens," stated Chief Bindi.

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