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25¢

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

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

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POLITICIANS & FBI SHOW DISREGARD TO MASS SHOOTING EPIDEMIC - PAGE 6

NEWARK & IRVINGTON SCHOOL BOARDS AND BUDGETS UP FOR VOTE

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Registered voters here and in Irvington have the opportunity now through 8 p.m. April 25 to choose seven of 12 candidates to fill their respective boards of education.

The same voters have the rare right and honor to approve or disprove over \$1.4 billion in 2023-24 school budget spending. Voters in nine other "Local Talk" towns have to wait until Nov. 7 to choose their board members - and do not have a say on their budgets.

The annual question, however, is how many Newark and Irvington voters will exercise their right in 2023's first election.

Between 6,000 and 8,000 Newarkers and Irvingtonians sent Vote By Mail Ballots or stopped at polling stations this time in 2022, 21 and 19. (Turnout data from the May 12, 2020 combined school board and municipal election, prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, are excluded).

The voters those three years came from a combined city and township pool of 210,000 to 180,000 registrants. The turnout comes out to a 2.9 to 4.3 percent participation range.

BOARDS OF EDUCATION RACES

In NEWARK, a line of politically-backed candidates are pitted against a challenging slate and two independent candidates to fill three Newark Public Schools Board of Education seats.

(Continued on page 7)

THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN NEWARK: BETH ISRAEL HOSPITAL



Members of the RWJ Team and dignitaries prepare to cut the ribbon. Photo By Dhiren Shah

By Dhiren Shah

A memorable event took place on April 18, 2023, to mark the opening of the New State of the Art Glass Lobby at Beth Israel Hospital in Newark, NJ.

Francis J. Giantomasi, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Children’s Hospital of New Jersey, said that Beth Israel Hospital is the best kept secret in Newark. It is a vibrant hospital with a facility compared to major hospitals in the country, which was echoed by a few of the speakers at the opening of the new lobby with their \$150 million dollar project.

The lobby is 17,500 square ft. wide, and it is a glass-enclosed space right at one of the main junctions of Newark in the South Ward.

When their patients, doctors and staff come in the building, it will feel different, and I think that will improve their experiences the hospital. This part of the hospital will be Newark Beth Israel Children’s Hospital, which is necessary for the largest city (population wise) in the state of New Jersey.

Two years ago, “Local Talk” covered the groundbreaking of this project. And now, what a difference. When you enter the facility, you feel like you are coming into one of the most advanced health facilities. However, I have not taken the tour they have offered for the whole facility.

Darrell K. Terry, Sr. gave all the credit to the entire team working for this project, including the RWJ Saint Barnabas group. He said that the project was “NEWARK

(Continued on page 13)



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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

What should I talk about this week? The huge settlement paid out by Fox News or Mass Shootings all over. Let me start talking about the settlement first.

\$787.5 million dollars was paid out by Fox News for defaming Dominion Voting Systems. The defamation lawsuit was set for over \$1.6 billion, but was settled for \$787.5 million. The reason behind the lawsuit settlement is that it is hard to prove that Dominion Voting Systems was doing something wrong, and also, all of the broadcasters and reporters would have to testify. If that happened, Fox News might have gone out of business, as no one

would watch Fox News. So, rather than worrying about the money, they don't want to lose the channel itself. Dominion also stated that they will also sue former President Trump, former Mayor of New York Rudy Giuliani and some others. Where Fox News was telling lies, there is truth now. The value of Fox news is down, but financially, they have over \$4 billion in cash on hand.

The top 4 settlement lawsuits were: 1. \$206 Billion Dollars for The Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. 2. \$150 Billion For the Family of Robert Middleton. 3. *\$20 billion for the BP Oil Spill. 4. \$4.9 Billion For the Anderson Family from General Motors. The Dominion lawsuit settlement is the fifth largest settlement in US history as recorded. If we talk about the largest lawsuit awards, it was the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill that wreaked havoc on the Gulf Coast. BP faced a massive class action lawsuit.

* A New Orleans judge gave final approval on a payout nearing \$20 billion, which would be paid in both private and public settlements.

I will be going to JFK airport in the future. I looked into tolls as to which way is better. It is unbelievably high tolls for going to New York. Going towards the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, we have to pay the New Jersey Turnpike toll, Goethals Bridge toll and Verrazano Narrows Bridge toll. New Jersey residents are paying too much in tolls, and no one is talking about it. Since January, at the Verrazano Narrows Bridge there is a two way toll system. Why is no one talking about it? I think New York doesn't care about New Jerseyans.

Also, they have approved congestion pricing below 60th street in Manhattan. It is ridiculous. Our governor is not too strong to protect New Jerseyans, especially when Democratic President Biden has not blocked

the congestion charge as it is part of interstate travel.

On April 15, at 7:39 p.m., Newark police responded to a report of a shooting on the 400 block of Leslie Street in Newark, near Chancellor Avenue. Police found four victims suffering from gunshot wounds. All four were taken to University Hospital, where Corey Beasley, 43, of Newark, was pronounced dead at 8:09 p.m. The three others survived and are in stable condition.

Antuane Gregory, 42, of Irvington, has been arrested and charged with murder in connection to a recent shooting in Newark that left one man dead, and three others injured. I give credit to the law enforcement offices for apprehending him quickly. However, Antuane Gregory is innocent till proven guilty in the court of law.

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
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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>
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CITY OF NEWARK SUED \$10 MILLION BY DEVELOPER - PART III-a

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

As was reported in the April 13 and March 23, 2023 issues of "Local Talk": the City of Newark, its Municipal Council and certain other parties were sued by the developer, Fairmount Senior Genesis, Housing Urban Renewal Partnership, LLC, Genesis Fairmount Partners, LLC and Genesis Central Ave Partners. The cause of the lawsuit was that the City and its Municipal Council allegedly failed to live up to their side of the agreement and were engaged in unfair play and political shenanigans.

In this, Part III-a of the article, "Local Talk" sheds more light on what happened.

Reneging on Funding

According to court papers, the City of Newark started using all kinds of tricks to wiggle out of their agreed-upon responsibilities with the developer.

"In or about January 2015, Plaintiffs met with Julio Colon, Newark's Director of Housing

Assistance. At this meeting, it was made clear that the City no longer intended to honor its Agreements. Mr. Colon stated that the City would consider providing the necessary funding for affordable housing at the Fairmount Properties and would support the Fairmount development, but that the City wanted Plaintiffs to forfeit their rights to develop Central Properties," state court papers.

The court papers, for their dry language, convey disbelief, shock and betrayal felt by the Plaintiffs, the developer, towards the City of Newark.

"In disbelief, Plaintiffs explained that they had worked in good faith and spent significant time and money in an effort to develop the Properties and would not forfeit any of those rights", state court papers.

The question arises, why should the developer forfeit their rights? In this episode, court papers make it look as if the developer acted honorably. The City, on the other hand, seems other-

wise.

"Colon then ended the meeting saying he had to discuss that response with his superiors and would get back to Plaintiff."

Translated into English from legalese, this means that the City is no longer interested in the Central Properties. Evidently Newark officials thought that the developer would quickly fold and leave, with Newark winning easily. Not so fast, said the developer.

True intent of the City

According to court papers, "This bold demand uncovered the true intention of the City which was that it no longer wanted Genesis to develop the Central Properties. Upon information and belief, while under contract with Plaintiff, Defendant had promised/conveyed these properties to third parties and have taken all these actions to undermine Plaintiffs' attempt to develop these Properties in the face of Plaintiffs' best efforts to secure the development.

Further, the financing that the City had agreed to be provided for the Fairmount Properties was now being used as a bargaining chip to force Plaintiff to acquiesce to the demand of the City.

City has Developer in a vise grip. Refuses to work cooperatively

"The City had put Plaintiffs in a vice grip. Plaintiffs had already invested so much time and money in Fairmount Properties that they would never opt to forfeit that development and so Defendants conspired to leverage Plaintiffs' vulnerable position to force them to surrender the more lucrative deal back to the City."

"When Plaintiffs responded that they would not agree to give up the Central Properties, Colon responded that he would get back to the Defendants after he discussed with his superiors.

After that meeting the City never again worked cooperatively with Plaintiff to develop the Properties," court papers state.

Meetings with City do not make progress. City violates Agreements.

Between March and June 2015, the developer met numerous times with City representatives, trying to make progress in developing Central Properties. However, the City kept stalling. Indeed, City representatives went so far as to breach the agreement with the developer and retain a different, city-connected, developer.

According to court papers, "Plaintiffs met with City representatives (either the Deputy Mayor or the Director of Housing Assistance) in March, April, May and June of 2015, to secure various items required to move the Fairmount Properties project forward, and to inquire about the items required from the City to begin the development of the Central Properties.

"In or about April 2015, Plaintiffs met with Carmelo Garcia, from Newark CEDC, and it was indicated to Plaintiffs that the City was advertising the Central Properties site to developers."

"In a separate meeting with Newark CEDC, Attorney Elnardo Webster, Esq., representing Plaintiff Genesis on another project, was told that the City intended to breach the RDA with Plaintiffs concerning the Central Properties, and retain another developer.

On May 19, 2015, Plaintiffs requested a letter from Defendant City in conjunction with their New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency ("NJHMFA") financing application.

On May 19, 2015, Defendant City responded that it needed to meet to discuss the project.

On or about May 21, 2015, the City verbally advised Plaintiff Fairmount that it might not be able to provide the \$1,875,000 in funding contemplated for the Fairmount Properties redevelopment under the HOME Agreement."

Per court papers cited at length above, it can be seen that the City of Newark is violating

(Continued on page 5)

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SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The NBA Playoffs are underway, and both the Knicks and Nets are in. So far, the #5 Knicks have tied the Cavaliers 1-1 in their series, while the #6 Nets trail the 76ers 2-0. As for the rest of the Eastern Conference, #1 Milwaukee trails #8 Miami 1-0, and #2 Boston leads #7 Atlanta 2-0.

In the Western Conference, things have gotten interesting between the #3 Sacramento Kings, and the defending champion Golden State Warriors. Not only is GS down 2-0, but the #6 Warriors will be without Draymond Green for Game 3, as he was suspended after stomping Kings center Domantas Sabonis.

Sacramento is no joke, as they boast newly crowned Clutch Player of the Year De'Aaron Fox and likely Coach of the Year Mike Brown, who was on the Warriors' staff last season. If Golden State doesn't figure out something soon, Sacramento will be ready to light the beam and head into the next round.

Meanwhile, the highly anticipated series between the Suns

and Clippers is tied at 1-1, while #1 Denver leads #8 Minnesota 1-0, and #2 Memphis is in deep trouble after losing their first game to the #7 Lakers - and star guard Ja Morant.

In the Women's National Basketball Association, better known as the WNBA, the annual draft was held at Spring Studio in New York City. In no surprise, the Indiana Fever took South Carolina forward Aliyah Boston with the 1st overall pick of the draft.

With the 2nd pick, the Minnesota Lynx took guard Diamond Miller from Maryland, while the Dallas Wings took forward Mattie Siegrist from Villanova with the 3rd pick. Center Stephanie Soares from Iowa State was selected 4th by the Washington Mystics, but was tentatively traded to Dallas, and swingwoman Lou Lopez Senechal from the University of Connecticut was picked 5th by Dallas.

Meanwhile, the New York Liberty drafted guard Haley Jones from Stanford with the 6th pick. The Draft consisted of three rounds and 36 picks.

NEWARK SUED PT. 3a

(Continued from page 4)

the agreements that were signed with the developer. Questions arise about how the City can go around "advertising Central Properties to developers" when it already has a developer handling these properties?

Another question is how can the City of Newark say that it "might not be able to provide the \$1,875,000 in funding" when all the relevant issues had already been agreed upon? From what is cited in the court papers, it sounds like the City of Newark is trying to walk away from agreements.

Financing. City knew about the proposal and did not cooperate with developer.

According to court papers, the City of Newark knew about the proposal made by the developer. Instead of cooperating

with the developer, the City put them in an impossible fiscal situation. The developer lost millions of dollars, time, effort and energy while trying to get the City of Newark to live up to their end of the bargain.

According to court papers, "Plaintiff Fairmount was, by July of 2015, ready to submit their application to the NJHNFCA for Low Income Tax Credits ("LIHTC") in the next NJHMFA available funding round, which required tax credit applications to be submitted on or before Friday, July 24, 2015.

"LIHTC applications take months to prepare, are hundreds of pages in length, and may only be submitted once per year on an ultra-competitive basis.

"For the LIHTC application for the Fairmount Properties, Plaintiffs were required to provide all these aforementioned documents as well as secure monetary and other resolutions

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UNITED STATES

A BAD WEEK IN AMERICA

A black teen in Kansas City and a Caucasian woman from New York met with unfortunate twists of fate due to overly defensive homeowners, with one losing their life.

Ralph Yarl, a 16-year-old African American, went to pick up his siblings from a house on the evening of April 13. He was looking for the 1100 block of NE 115th Terrace, but mistakenly went to NE 115th Street, the wrong house. Upon ringing the doorbell, he was shot by Andrew Daniel Lester, the 84-year-old Caucasian owner of the home, who then proceeded to shoot him again.

Initially, Lester was taken into custody briefly, and then released. However, after an on-slaught of public outrage, he was finally charged with armed criminal action and first-degree assault, which in Missouri is equivalent to attempted murder.

Lester has said that he felt threatened by Yarl due to his size and that he grabbed the door. However, Yarl, who somehow survived and was discharged from the hospital on April 16, denied those claims.

Several prominent figures have come out in support of Yael, including Christina Ricci, Lil Rel Howery, Justin Timberlake, Kerry Washington, Jennifer Hudson, Halle Berry, and Kansas City Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes.

The same day of Yarl's discharge, something similar happened in upstate New York with more dire consequences. Kaylin Gillis and her friends were looking for a friend's house, but accidentally pulled into a driveway at the wrong house.

Then, 65-year-old homeowner Kevin Monahan came outside and fired two shots at the car, hitting Gillis. Sadly, the 20-year-old Gillis succumbed to her injuries. Monahan has been charged

with second-degree murder.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 4-19-2023 at 12 p.m.

2023 Mass Shooting Stats: (Source: Mass Shooting Tracker, <https://www.massshootingtracker.site/data/?year=2023>)

- Total Shootings (unofficial): 199
- Total Dead: 296
- Total Wounded: 744
- Shootings Per Day: 1.83
- Days Reached in Year 2023 as of April 19: 109

These cases provided the most media coverage. Unfortunately, there were some more high profile mass shootings. One of them was local.

First, Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens, II and Newark Public Safety Director Fritz Fragé announced that the Essex County Prosecutor's Office Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force is investigating a shooting on April 15 in Newark that left one man dead and three others injured.

At 7:39 p.m., Newark police responded to a report of a shooting on the 400 block of Leslie Street in Newark, near Chancellor Avenue. Police found four victims suffering from gunshot wounds. All four were taken to University Hospital, where Corey Beasley, 43, of Newark, was pronounced dead at 8:09 p.m. The three others survived and are being treated for their injuries.

The investigation is active and ongoing. No arrests have been made. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Essex County Prosecutor's Office tips line at 1-877-TIPS-4EC or 1-877-847-7432. Calls will be kept confidential.

Additionally, there was yet another mass shooting in Louisville, about a week after the one from our last edition.

Latest High Profile Incident

Location: Mahogany Masterpiece Dance Studio - Dadeville, AL.

Time: Around 10:30 p.m. local time.

Deceased: At least 4. (Corbin Dahmontrey Holston, 23; Marsiah Emmanuel Collins, 19; Philstavious Dowdell, 18; Shaunkivia Nicole Smith.)

Injured: At least 32.

Shooter(s): Ty Reik McCullough, 17, Travis McCullough, 16.

Weapon(s): Handguns.

Motive: Beef at the party after the mother of birthday celebrant Alexis Dowdell asked those with guns to leave.

Status: Apprehended April 19. Charged with murder, with more charges expected soon. Both will be tried as adults, not juveniles.

Notes: Dowdell was not only the brother of the celebrant, but was a recruit for Jacksonville State head coach Rich Rodriguez, who offered his thoughts and prayers.

AFRICA

BRUTAL CLASHES OVERWHELMING SUDAN

Clashes intensified across Sudan on April 17, as top UN officials urged rival military factions to protect civilians and respect the country's international obligations.

"I strongly condemn the outbreak of fighting that is taking place in Sudan and appeal to the leaders of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) to immediately cease hostilities, restore calm, and begin a dialogue to resolve the crisis," UN Secretary-General António Guterres said.

Following the deaths of three employees of the UN World Food Program (WFP) in the restive Darfur region amid widespread fighting, he called for those responsible to be brought to justice without delay.

"The situation has already led to horrendous loss of life, including many civilians," the UN chief said, ahead of delivering opening remarks at a UN Forum on Financing for Development.

He urged all those with influence over the deteriorating situation to press for peace, and support efforts to end the violence, restore order, and return to the path of transition.

More than 180 people have

been killed and 1,800 injured, some UN facilities have been looted and destroyed, and some non-essential staff will have to be evacuated, said the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sudan, Volker Perthes, speaking to reporters early Monday afternoon at UN Headquarters via video from Khartoum.

"Fighting is going on almost uninterrupted," he said. "I have made efforts to convince the leaders of both sides to hold fire for a humanitarian pause for a few hours to make it possible for the Sudanese to go to safer places or get supplies for Ramadan or go to the hospital."

In constant contact with leaders of both sides, he said he is currently trying to cement a daily three-hour humanitarian ceasefire. While the parties had agreed on Sunday and again on Monday for such a pause, fighting had resumed before the end of the ceasefire, he said.

The two sides "are not giving us the impression that they want mediation right away," he said. "Rather, they are calling on the other side to surrender or disband."

The trilateral mechanism, comprising the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority (IGAD) and the UN, urged parties to adhere to a humanitarian pause that would guarantee safety for civilians, the UN spokesman said.

Meanwhile, 10 UN agencies and more than 80 non-governmental organizations have been running more than 250 programs in Sudan, he said, adding that UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths declared that he was "horrified" by the deaths and looting of aid, adding that "it is crucial for the fighting to stop so we can resume our efforts to help those who need it the most."

Csaba Kőrösi, President of the General Assembly, echoed that call.

"Any further escalations will have devastating effects on the country and the region," he said.

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said de-escalation of the situation is urgently needed.

"We are deeply concerned about the safety and security of civilians in the areas affected by

(Continued on page 12)

SCHOOL VOTE

(Continued from page 1)

By "politically backed" in an ostensibly non-partisan election, the candidates are more than endorsed by one or more elected officials at the municipal, county, state and/or federal levels.

The said candidates may well have access to a political party's get-out-the-vote personnel and resources. This is allowed by state law - so long as the candidates do not identify themselves as the "Democratic," "Republican," or whatever political party candidates.

Those opposing the said well-resourced slate have to gather their own finances and build their own GOTV personnel. The last time city voters "split tickets" - elected voters from two different slates - was in 2016.

Former board president Josephine Garcia, board member Hasani Council and new teammate Allison James-Frison are running on the "Moving Newark Schools Forward" ticket.

Voters first elected Garcia in 2017. The legislative aide for Newark Councilman Carlos Gonzalez was re-elected with then-first-timers Council and Flohisha Johnson in 2020.

Council, the son of South Ward Councilman Rev. Patrick Council, was legislative aide for former councilman John Sharpe James.

James-Frison, who ran as a challenger last year, was brought up after Johnson declined re-election. She is the founder of Girls: Live, Laugh, Love.

Moving Newark School Forward started out as a fusion ticket from the former annual rivals "Children First" and "For Our Kids" slates. MNSF first fielded candidates in 2017 Mayor Ras Baraka saw to creating the fusion ticket as part of preparing Newark Public Schools and its BOE for full autonomy from direct N.J. Department of Education control. (State control of NPS, after 25 years, officially ended in 2020.)

"Newark Kids Forward" had emerged this season with three candidates: Thomas Luna, Tawana Johnson-Emory and James Wright, Jr.

Luna may be the most famil-

iar of the Newark Kids Forward trio. The eighth grade charter school math teacher finished fourth from a field of seven last year.

Johnson-Emory is making her first run. The New York City transit worker and TWU Local 100 member has been an eight-year president of North Star Academy's Parent Council.

Wright is also waging his first campaign. The Newark native is an AP Environmental Science teacher and curriculum writer at North Star's Washington Park High School.

LaToya Jackson and Ade'Kamil Kelly are running as solo independents.

Jackson, who has run her namesake hairdressing salon since 2018 has been a children's advocate since starting a school uniform and improved lunch program at the Miller Street (elementary) School in 1992.

Kelly is running under his own "We Deserve Better" banner. The licensed real estate agent is a legislative aide for State Assemblywoman Shanique Speight.

In IRVINGTON, voters are being asked to return three incumbent board members and help fill a fourth.

Jordan Geffrard is seeking his first elected office victory by running to complete Gene Etchison's unexpired term. The Irvington Board of Education appointed Geffrard last year after Etchison's resignation.

Geffrard is running on the same platform with Board President Audrey M. Lyon and members Syesha Benbow and John F. Brown.

Lyon, a City of Hoboken employee, is seeking her fourth straight term. A majority of participating voters first elected her in 2014 and re-elected her in 2017 and 20.

Benbow is seeking her second term. The Irvington Township keyboard clerk ran with Lyon and Etchison in 2020.

John F. Brown is seeking his first full elected three year term. Irvington's Deputy Public Safety Director was first elected to complete longtime member Richard Williams' unexpired

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BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

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David Witherspoon, Attorney-at-Law, is a Debt Relief Agency. A firm dedicated to helping individuals find relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

ESSEX COUNTY WEEKLY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Municipality	4-12-2023	Deaths	4-19-2023	Deaths
Belleville	14,184	164	14,197	164
Bloomfield	15,952	179	15,961	179
Caldwell	2,154	22	2,158	22
Cedar Grove	5,078	145	5,083	145
City of Orange	9,947	180	9,947	180
East Orange	21,785	409	21,795	409
Essex Fells	640	2	641	2
Fairfield	2,627	44	2,636	44
Glen Ridge	1,680	20	1,680	20
Irvington	14,879	288	14,894	288
Livingston	8,784	116	8,790	116
Maplewood	6,868	53	6,876	53
Millburn	4,797	18	4,805	18
Montclair	9,357	93	9,365	93
Newark	98,649	1,306	98,696	1,306
North Caldwell	1,894	10	1,901	10
Nutley	8,582	92	8,589	92
Roseland	1,835	27	1,837	27
South Orange	4,592	25	4,595	25
Verona	4,362	26	4,369	26
West Caldwell	3,339	70	3,339	70
West Orange	17,252	286	17,263	286
Total	260,043	3,575	260,241	3,575

Note: In the coming weeks, we will only publish COVID-19 stats online as the National Emergency officially winds down.

NJ COVID-19 TALLIES (As of April 19, 2023)

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- Complete Printing

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- NCR forms (2parts/3 parts)
- 2/3 Part Booklets
- TICKETS (with stub) (Numbered)

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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 - Rutgers University teachers and students here, in New Brunswick and Camden have been back to their classes, after an April 9-15 strike, since 8 a.m. April 16.

Gov. Phil Murphy, in a 1 a.m. April 15 announcement from Trenton, said that university administrators and two of the three striking unions have reached a "framework" agreement. The framework includes 18 tentative agreements on specific points of former contention.

All three unions - American Association of University Professors-AFT, Rutgers Adjunct Faculty Union and AAUP-Biomedical and Health Sciences of NJ - have, in exchange, immediately stopped all job action and returned to work.

While union members have put aside their picket signs, they have not stored them or put them in the recycling bin.

The negotiating parties still have to come to terms with remaining items before bringing a complete tentative agreement before union members and the Rutgers Board of Governors. The University of Rutgers Administrators-AFT is still weighing as of press time, whether to strike over pay, telework options and job security.

IRVINGTON - The family of a Newark motorcyclist who died in an April 6 collision here may have held his last rites when you read this.

Irvington police officers and local EMS medics said that they had responded to a motor vehicle accident "with injuries" at Chancellor Avenue and Essex Street at 8:45 p.m. that Tuesday.

That called for the ECPO

Crash Scene Unit when they found a motorcyclist who had been thrown from his bike after colliding with a car in the intersection.

The rider - identified as James Bell, 34 - was declared dead at the scene. The car's driver was not physically injured.

Bell's death is the second one in the family from a motorcycle collision. James "Spud" Harris, 54, of Newark was declared dead just off I-280 West's right shoulder in Parsippany after 10:15 a.m. Sept. 24, 2017.

State Police-Totowa Barracks investigators had determined that Harris had collided with another westbound motorcycle, went off road and struck a tree.

EAST ORANGE - City and county fire investigators are searching for the cause of an April 14 fire that destroyed or seriously damaged a block of Hyde Park section stores and a house.

EOFD units first responded to an alarm from 225 Central Ave. at 12:30 Friday. Although everyone had evacuated from the block between Watson and Whittlesey avenues, the blaze was quickly spreading, gutting several Central venue businesses from B-S Sally Hair Braid to storefronts at 229 and 233 Central Ave. and an attached house.

City firefighters pulled up to four alarms, calling for all EOFD hands plus mutual aid and/or station coverage from Orange, South Essex, West Orange, Bloomfield, Belleville, Nutley, Millburn and Cedar Grove colleagues.

Traffic, including CoachUSA 24 and 44 buses, were detoured around South Munn Avenue and Oraton Parkway. One EOFD firefighter was taken to Belleville's RWJBarnabas Health Clara Maass Medical Center for treatment of a minor injury.

225-33 Central Ave. were a later addition to what is the northern border remnant of Hyde Park. Real estate developer Watson Whittlesey (1862-1914) had built the namesake neighborhood - bordered by South Munn, Wilcox Street and Holy Sepulchre Cemetery - in 1897. Most of that section was razed for the Garden State Parkway 1952-54.

Friday's fire came 40 years

and a day after EOFD lost Capt. Robert Wasner in an apartment blaze at .14 So. Munn Ave. Wasner, a 1964 Clifford J. Scott High School graduate and 13-year member, was caught by a fire flashover while searching for a reportedly trapped fourth floor occupant.

ORANGE - City public safety officials and educators are sorting out what happened that brought first responders to Orange High School and Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation April 11.

Neighbors along Central and Lincoln avenues noticed units from the Orange Police Department and Essex County Sheriff's Office late that Tuesday afternoon. Both school buildings had already been locked down when the law enforcers arrived in bulletproof vests and carrying assault rifles.

A 20 second student's cell phone video clip, received and aired that night by News12 New Jersey, showed other students in a hallway with their hands in the air while officers, including OPD Chief Vincent Vitiello, asked them to move aside.

It was not long before several parents appeared at the police tape bordering Central and Lincoln avenues asking for their children and about what happened. An "all clear" was given by 6:30 p.m.

The rumors and speculation that went with the clip was that law enforcers had responded to a report of either "suspicious activity" or "an active shooter" within the respective 1973 and 1923 buildings - or that they were victims of a "swatting" false report.

Both Orange Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II and West Ward Councilwoman Quantavia Hilbert, in separate April 12 dispatches, said that no active shooter was found nor was there gunfire in the buildings. Fitzhugh added that a message was communicated to his office about a threat, prompting him to put the two schools on immediate lockdown and the district on high alert.

OHS Principal Jason Belton, that same Wednesday had reportedly said that a teacher's medical emergency had caused the false alarm. There is no further information as of press time

of whether that teacher was taken to a hospital or medical condition.

WEST ORANGE - The "From Darkness to Light: Mosaics Inspired by Tragedy" art exhibition and March 19's screening of "A Tree of Life: The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting" here at JCC MetroWest may have struck closer to home here at "Local Talk" Land.

"From Darkness to Light," unlike the New Jersey Film Festival's sole "A Tree of Life" screening, is on its seventh stop of a traveling tour. Both the still and moving arts focus on the tragedy of the Oct. 27, 2018 shooting that killed 11 people and perseverance and hope since then.

A lone gunman entered a building in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill section that Saturday that housed The Tree of Life, Dor Hadash and the New Light Congregation.

One of the killed Shabbat service worshipers was Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz, 66, from Newark's Weequahic section. Jerry had likely attended the Maple Avenue School 1956-65 before his family moved to Springfield and its Jonathan Dayton Regional High School. The Dor Hadash member had attended Maple Avenue School's 50th anniversary reunion.

Tree of Life's rabbi - Cantor Jeffrey Myers - was born and originally raised in Newark. Myers had obtained a B.A. in education from Rutgers-Newark before getting an M.A. from the Jewish Theological Institute and his rabbinical ordainment. Myers was able to get all but eight TOL members to escape.

"From Darkness to Light" has an indefinite run at JCC MetroWest.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The legacy of William "Billy" Patrick Holland, 90, who had died at his Naples, Fla. retirement home March 22, may well be counted in the hundreds of youth he had influenced in South Orange-Maplewood for 60 years.

Holland was a longtime auto shop teacher at Columbia High School. Some of his students, who had talent and/or needed a break, he had hired to work at

(Continued on page 14)

SCHOOL VOTE

(Continued from page 7)

term last year.

The foursome on April 25's ballot would normally fly the "Irvington Schools Strong" flag. ISS is a branch of former BOE President-turned-Mayor Anthony "Tony" Vauss' nonpartisan municipal Team Irvington Strong.

This year's Irvington Schools Strong campaign, except for a March 22 candidates forum by the NAACP-Irvington Branch, has been relatively quiet.

SCHOOL BUDGETS

Newark voters are being asked to approve the \$114 million property tax contribution of NPS' proposed 2023-24 school year budget. That \$114 million portion is nearly 10 percent of the overall \$1.2 billion outlay.

About 86 percent of the spending plan, as approved by the BOE at its April 4 public hearing, comes from the State of New Jersey. Newark and 31 other public school districts have been receiving state aid since the 1990s to comply with the Supreme Court of New Jersey's "Abbott vs. Burke" "thorough and efficient education" rulings.

The state has increased its proposed share by \$114 million from the current or outgoing 2022-23 budget.

Part of that boost comes from the State Legislature changing its funding formula. That tweaking either keeps the state funding level the same as this year for the East Orange School District and increases for Newark, Irvington and the nine other "Local Talk" public school districts.

Part of the funding increase came from the state receiving more tax and fee revenue in 2022-23.

The plan, as proposed by Schools Superintendent Roger Leon and approved by the board, would channel the increase for:

- New Prekindergartens in several elementary schools.
- New Chromebooks for students.
- More transportation options.
- More funding for English Language Learners and Special Needs Students.

Leon and the Central Office are basing their budget in part on a projected 47,737 Kindergarten-12 Grade student enrollment among its 62 schools. That figure remains unchanged from its Oct. 15, 2022 actual count.

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It is also to the understanding of "Local Talk" that the proportion of NPS's paying per student tuition to the charter schools remains unchanged at about 25 percent of the public district's expenditures.

Former or prospective NPS students who enroll at a receiving charter school, by state law, are to pay those charter schools 90 percent of a per student tuition. Should a student return to an NPS school after Oct. 15, the formerly receiving charter school gets to keep that 90 percent tuition.

What voters are being asked is to say "Yea" or "Nay" on a proposed municipal school property tax levy of \$138,314,942. That \$138 million outlay has been the same for the third straight year.

IRVINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' proposed \$233,168,277 2023-24 Budget. as ap-

proved by its BOE after a March 29 public hearing, includes a \$17,459,529 property tax levy.

The \$233,168,277, on one hand, is actually a decrease from this school year's revised \$258,911,168 budget. The 2021-22 outlay was \$179,493,268.

The property tax levy, for the third straight school year, remains at \$17,459,529.

The state, through its recalculated aid formula and increased revenue, has increased its funding from \$20,601,476 for 2022-23 to the proposed \$23,982,671.

IPS' proposed funds transfer to receiving charter schools has gone up for the third straight year. The proposed budget allocates \$24,942,919 to the charters against the \$18,780,397 sent in 2022-23.

(Continued on page 13)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Be Devoted To One Another

It's incredible how many millions are supposedly devoted to the former president of the United States. The more despicable and egregious his actions, the more he gets people's commitment. If the funds he is raising are a testament, and the number of persons who are going to jail for him or have lost their Bar license, and the \$787.5 million that Fox TV paid to settle the lawsuit with Dominion before the case went to trial in Delaware Superior Court before Judge Eric Davis tell of the devotion, I rest on my word that it is "incredible."

Here is a passage rooted in Scripture that calls for devotion. It says, "Be devoted to one another." (Romans 12:10). But such devotion is based on conditions I shall soon explain.

Allow me to be alliterative by stating that the call for devotion is not speaking of blind de-

votion, blind loyalty, blind adherence, blind allegiance, blind obedience, blind faith, or blind attachments to persons or things that will take us away from right actions. The devotion of which the Bible speaks is not the mindlessness that is driving so many who are doing things that are getting them into the kind of troubles that I sighted above as connected to the former president of the United States. I do not intend to blame the former president for all the mindless commitment that we are seeing about us. But, as I have sighted, each person and corporation must take responsibility for their actions.

We cannot even be blindly devoted to people calling themselves Christians today, for it is more than tragic that people are so caught up with popularity, power, possessions, and positions that they endorse anything and follow any personality that attaches themselves to so-called Christian churches. Yes, it is disconcerting that so many call themselves Christians in the falsity of devotion. And, of course, the word Christian in this context does not mean a commitment to Christ in all cases, but it stands more as cultural identification in the contemporary world. The term Christian is be-

ing tossed about most recklessly, and people need help distinguishing who is authentic. But I need to say that not all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Hear the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV: ²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"

The point I am making is that while we need to practice devotion to those within our families and communities, and at times in our nation, we need to be clear about whom or what persons and causes we are giving our devotion. And when we call ourselves Christian, we must be sure that Christ comes first and that it is his love that we are speaking of and not some erotic idolatrous sentimentalism, which is being foisted as love today.

We must remember what loving devotion is and what it demands, namely, giving our total selves to a purpose. It

means the total loyalty we give to a person or a cause. It requires our most profound sacrifice. It asks for our steadfastness. This is why devotion is so prized in marital and familial relationships. If you read of partners who have survived the vicissitudes of family relationships for many years, you will note that their devotion sustained them. Likewise, if you read the stories of great soldiers in nations' armies, you will notice that they are about the most devoted soldiers to their countries.

Yes, devotion is essential; I commend it as the Bible admonishes. And as such, we need more people who are genuinely devoted to their families, churches, and communities. The world is broken enough because of the lack of trust and love that are the ingredients of devotion. And while, as I said, we should not practice blind emotion, we must be wise to find persons of integrity and causes worthy of our devotion. Therefore, it is only in deep devotion that we will be effective in our service.

Do not give your devotion because of loyalty to any political ideology or ideas and individuals who lack honor and integrity. Instead, I encourage you to ensure your devotion is within the bounds that God commends.

WORLD NEWS

(Continued from page 6)

the fighting, including refugees and internally displaced people," the agency said, calling for all parties to protect civilians, including refugees and displaced people, and to respect the safety of humanitarian staff so that critical aid can be delivered.

WORLD

**14,000 ARRESTS,
8,000 GUNS,
200 TONS OF DRUGS**

In the biggest firearms operation ever coordinated by INTERPOL, authorities in Central and South America have made 14,260 arrests and seized some 8,263 illicit firearms, as well as 305,000 rounds of ammunition.

With illicit firearms used by criminals to commit armed robberies and murder, they are also

closely associated with the proliferation of a wide range of other crimes using the same trafficking routes.

The links between illicit firearms and drug manufacturing and trafficking were thrown into sharp relief, with the seizure of 203 tons of cocaine and other drugs together worth some USD 5.7 billion, and 372 tons of drug precursors during Operation Trigger IX (March 12 - April 2).

Law enforcement across INTERPOL's 195 member countries have reported record drug seizures in the past year and, in many cases, a spike in drug-related violence, fueled by the traffic of illegal firearms.

The operation, which saw an unprecedented level of cooperation across 15 countries, also identified a range of other crimes such as corruption, fraud, human trafficking, environmental crime and terrorist activities.

INTERPOL gathered firearms experts from participating

countries at an operational hub in Foz do Iguacu in the tri-border area of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, to support front-line actions and ensure the swift exchange and cross-checking of intelligence.

On the ground, coordinated actions led to the disruption of 20 organized criminal groups, including the arrest of members of Primeiro Comando da Capital, Mara Salvatrucha and the Balkans Cartel, all involved in firearms trafficking.

In Uruguay, 100,000 pieces of ammunition trafficked internationally by two European nationals were seized by authorities, marking the country's largest-ever such seizure.

Authorities in Brazil and Paraguay shut down several firearms dealerships following the identification of irregular transfers and unlicensed sales.

Other operational results include:

- 11 victims were rescued in Paraguay, when authorities dismantled a human trafficking ring.
- In cooperation with Venezuela, police in Colombia arrested a Venezuelan national subject to an INTERPOL Red Notice for terrorism and arms trafficking.
- A 32 year old woman was arrested at the land border between Paraguay and Brazil with eight pistols and 16 chargers taped to her body.

Looking ahead, some 30 investigations were opened as a result of actions on the ground, and authorities identified 15 new modus operandi for the illicit manufacturing, trafficking and concealment of firearms, with INTERPOL's Purple Notice leveraged to help alert member countries.



**Darrell K. Terry, Sr.,
President and CEO,
Newark Beth Israel
Medical Center**
Photos By Dhiren Shah

BETH ISRAEL (Continued from page 1)

STRONG.” Also, he talked about generation of his family coming to Newark Beth Israel and their roots of Newark. Terry said, “My son’s son was born here on March 26th - Darryl K. Terry the 3rd.”

Atiya Jaha Rashidi, Chief Equity Officer, VP of Community Relations, said that this new building is a hope for a hospital to serve all the communities. She said, “My grandmother worked here at Beth. She worked for 50 years with RWJ Barnabas. So, I always call RWJ Barnabas my home.”

Newark Mayor Baraka also talked about the dedication of the Newark Beth Israel and it being a real anchor institution in the South Ward.

One problem maybe parking and traffic in the area. I suggest that they should have a remote parking lot and shuttle service, which might reduce the traffic, as people can drop off the patients of the hospital and park at a distance and come by FREE shuttle service provided by Beth Israel Hospital.



**Mark Manigan,
President and CEO of
RWJBarnabas Health**

The message of “Newark Strong” spreads all over and brings the attention of patients and visitors.

Mark Manigan, President and CEO of RWJBarnabas Health, Lester Owens, Chair Board of Trustees for RWJBarnabas Health and many supporters and guests were present to be part of this great starting of new beginning. There were performances by the NJPAC Arts Education Class.



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SCHOOL VOTE

(Continued from page 11)

The calculations were based on \$20,335 per student tuition. It is a drop from 2022-23's \$24,617 rate.

Should Irvington and/or Newark voters reject their respective proposed budgets, its mayors and councils are to create a Board of School Estimate.

The BSE, after consultation with municipal educators, would have a month to create a reduced budget to be passed by their respective councils. The BSE-made budget then goes to the

Essex County Superintendent of Schools and ultimately the State House in Trenton for state budget inclusion.

State Legislators have until June 30 to pass a balanced state budget for Gov. Phil Murphy's signature.

Voters are to either use a Vote By Mail Ballot for box dropping or postal mailing, or visit a polling station, now through 8 p.m. Check essex-clerk.com or your municipal and/or school district clerk for polling booth location and other details.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

ENVY

"A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones." (Proverbs 14:30)

MAMA ALWAYS SAID, "GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE!"

(CASE IN POINT) - While riding on the bus the other day. I said to the three-year-old little one, "Oh, wow, look at the size of that lollipop that little boy has!"

The bigger one (10 years old) angrily interjects, "They sell those by my school. They're only one dollar."

I asked the bigger one, "Are you downplaying that kid's lollipop, or are you merely informing us about how accessible they are?"

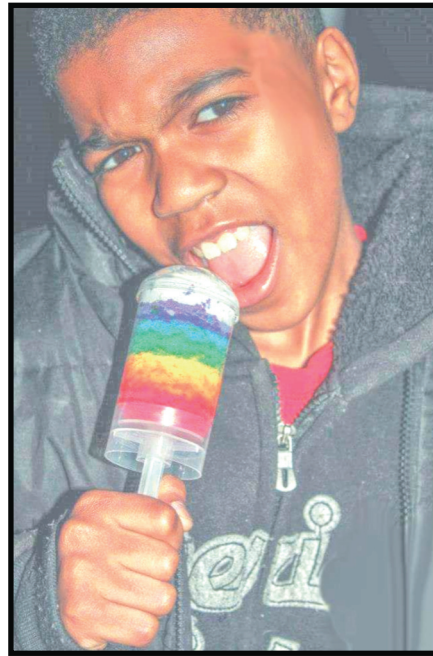
He says, "I'm just letting you know how accessible they are."

"I hope so," I reprimanded. "Don't you ever try to downplay what someone else has or who they are because you don't have or are not. Always celebrate the other guy."

Mere observation and playing Robin Hood. Yeah, right; who does this kid think he's fool-in'? The chronicles of a lollipop continues...

ZOOM ZOOM BABY

Jealousy * Enviousness * covetousness * desire * resentment * resentfulness * bitterness * discontent * spite * begrudged * the green-eyed monster; But which one?



(CASE IN POINT) - The Netflix film "I Care A Lot" holds lessons on the dangers of the growing problem of elder financial abuse. With those 50 years of age and older controlling some 70% of the nation's wealth, the likelihood of this type of scheme will only increase. Thank God there's a God, or life would be hopeless. Check out this movie, and now for the other criminal...

I had been admiring the vibrancy of colors of a certain oversized tree bursting at its seams with Cherry Blossoms. It was planted slap dab in front of this particular Cathedral in the area I often admire.

When at a glance, the yellow sports car vied for my attention, and now my camera was pointed towards the compact convertible, and my pace aligned with the engine's roar. At that moment, I was at the red light, which had

now become a green light. But no one was in my rearview, so I had time to take those shots and then return to capture my initial focus. I could always play catch up and then double back, but I'd abandon that thought as I noticed a trail of cars, also transfixed by the red likely eating dust.

Still, I opted to stay the course; that hot ride was farthest from my mind. It was, parked right in front of the neighborhood bodega. So I parked, jump out with camera in hand; I caught that baby on all sides and was finishing up when the owner walked out.

We stumble into a bit of chit-chat; after questioning, I was informed that one hundred thousand plus could cop me one easy. He and his baby had been riding this thing out for seven years. ...

Read this article in its entirety at 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.



THE FACE OF ENVY

Photos By Andrea Dialect

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

his Valley Texaco service station at 300 Valley St., South Orange.

"Billy," who was born Dec. 1, 1932, most likely came here in the 1950s after having been honorable discharge as an Army Military Police officer in West Germany He and wife Susan raised sons Deven and Darren Holland and Dante Roberts and daughters Dorothy Katcher and Kelly Roberts in Maplewood's College Hill section.

Holland must have been happy to teach from a new auto shop when Columbia High School's 1968 wing was opened. His after school time was spent owning and operating the 24-hour filling station, repair and towing service on the southeast corner of Valley and Fifth streets.

Holland also participated in the Boy Scouts of America's South Orange-

Maplewood Explorers Club.

Billy and Sue Holland retired to Florida long before Chevron-Texaco sold 400 Valley St and 449 other Mid-Atlantic stations in 2010. That corner station was a Pizza Hut franchise and a dog grooming parlor before becoming its present Valley Automotive Sales.

Seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren are also among Holland's survivors.

BLOOMFIELD - The township's 14th and latest chief of police is on his beat as of press time.

Capt. George Ricci, who has been the Detective Bureau's commander since 2019, was formally promoted and sworn in by Mayor Michael Venezia at the Oak View School earlier this month. BPD's top uniformed officer answers to both Venezia and Public Safety Director Samuel De Maio.

Although Ricci is a 24-year member of

"Bloomfield's Finest," he has 26 years' law enforcement experience. The then- N.J. Training School for Boys corrections officer joined BPD in 1999.

Then-BPD Chief John "Jack" McNiff paid attention to newcomer Ricci's strong sense of community and desire to help youth. McNiff had Ricci take DARE school and assigned him as the Fairview's DARE officer. The Middle School Resource Officer was soon promoted to detective and reassigned to the Youth Aid Bureau.

Det. Ricci became Sgt Ricci, YAB and Patrol Supervisor in 2011. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2015 and Captain and Special Operations Bureau Commander in 2019. Special Operations include the YAB, Community Policing Division, Fugitive Apprehension Team and the Traffic Bureau. He became Detective Bureau Commander later that year.

"I'm in the firm belief that Chief Ricci is (Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

ready to take the reins of the department," said De Maio, "and lead our men and women into a bright future for the department and the community we serve."

MONTCLAIR - The Township Council and particular municipal employees, since April 12 can be legally indemnified.

The council, headed by Deputy Mayor/Councilman William "Bill" Hurlock, passed an ordinance that Wednesday night where the township attorney can determine whether council members or employees may be represented by the Montclair Legal Department or hire an outside attorney to represent them in work-related legal matters.

Put another way, Montclair's taxpayers will be paying for legal representation should a council member or an employee be named as a respondent or defendant in a job-related matter.

Any pending, threatened or completed civil administrative or arbitral judgments, settlements or actions lodged against a responding employee or council member in civil court are covered. Criminal charges may be covered "provided that the preceding have been dismissed or results in a final resolution found in favor of the employee."

"We should absolutely be indemnified when we're acting in our official capacity," said Councilman Peter Yacobellis, who added that he is on a state plan. "The idea that anyone who wants to serve if your house or retirement be at risk is absurd."

Second Ward Councilwoman Robin Schlager recounted when she was among the respondents named in a suit over an earlier Lackawanna Plaza plan while she was on the Montclair Planning Board. The township attorney at the time told Schlager that she had to hire her own attorney. That suit was dismissed last December.

Councilman Robert "Bob" Russo and several public speakers questioned the reso-

lution's timing in light of settling suspended Town Manager Timothy Stafors' status. Some other speakers asked why the measure was introduced on March 27 as a late-starting item.

BELLEVILLE - Authorities have identified the Florida man who they have found on a feeder road to Route 21 South early April 12 - but are still investigating how the late Frensy G. Bouquet got there.

Belleville and Newark police, responding to reports of a man shot "along the 2100 block of McCarter Highway, found Bouquet, 27, of Lauderdale Lakes, Fla., at 1:45 a.m. that Wednesday.

They found Bouquet "unconscious and unresponsive with several bullet wounds." The ECPO Major Crimes Unit was promptly called. Bouquet was declared dead at the scene at 4:04 a.m. April 13; his funeral arrangements have not yet been announced.

Main Street/McCarter Highway was closed between Belleville's Mill Street and Newark's Verona Avenue into Thursday morning rush hour. (Main Street becomes the McCarter Highway south of the Second River bridge.)

Rt. 21 Exit Closed a Week

NJDOT and the State Police have closed Route 21 North's Exit 6 to Route 7 East from 6:30 p.m. April 17 until April 24 so that the Passaic Valley Water Commission may repair a broken 16-inch diameter transmission line.

Motorists are being asked to take posted detours or alternate routes. PVWC's North Arlington customers may experience a drop in water pressure during the work.

NUTLEY - Those who stop at the Seaman Pervis Robison, Jr. memorial outside of the municipal building here and/or have seen his picture in a class case inside may have paused with some more poignancy around

April 10.

It was on April 10, 1963 when the USS Thresher (SSN-593) was lost with all 129 hands aboard, including Robison, 19. It was the first sinking of a U.S. Navy's new atomic submarine fleet ship, which led to several testing and safety improvements.

There are those in and around Nutley who remember where they were that day when the five-year-old Thresher was reported lost 220 miles southeast of Boston. The ship had done a trim test for buoyancy April 9, stayed underwater overnight and resumed radio contact with the USS Skylark surface ship at 6:30 a.m. April 10. It then kept periodic contact with the Skylark as it deep dived in 100 foot increments.

The Thresher neared its test depth at 11 a.m. when a garbled underwater telephone message of "minor difficulties, have positive up-angle, attempting to blow (its ballast tanks)" and "900." The Skylark's crew, presuming that the Thresher had sunk, called for a 15 ship search party. That party found a debris field at a depth of 3,800 feet on April 12. An investigation narrowed the wreck's cause to a broken pipe or fitting that flooded its engine room.

There are those who remember Robison, who was born here Dec. 15, 1941. The Lincoln Elementary School and Nutley High School (1962) graduate was an NHS track star, member of a local Baptist church and treasurer of the Reinheimer Club.

"Duck" enlisted into the Navy, went through its recruit training and radio training school before being assigned to the USS Cavalla (SS-294). He was assigned to the Thresher Jan. 11, 1963.

President John F. Kennedy ordered all flags lowered to half-staff and half-mast April 12-15. Robison's mother led the first memorial service in the NHS Auditorium. Subsequent memorial services have been held at the outdoor monument on the sinking's anniversary and/or Memorial Day.

NEWARK SUED PT. 3a

(Continued from page 5)

of financial support and need from the City. The need to provide financial support for LIHTC projects was well-known to the City. ...

"As evidence of their qualifications, Plaintiffs secured full equity and debt commitments from PNC Bank to fund the project with the understanding that the City would fulfill its commitment to provide financial support."

From reading court papers, it appears that the developer is acting very honorably and decently in carrying out its obligations. Securing funding, filing very complex paperwork, obtaining resolutions from the Municipal Council, getting term sheet and commitments from PNC Bank all indicate how serious the developer is.

On the other hand, the City appears to wiggle like an eel, in and out of various obligations and agreements. The question is, why? The answer, as usual, is found elsewhere in court papers.

According to court papers, "Genesis submitted LIHTC applications for the Fairmount Properties to the State of New Jersey in 2011, 2012, twice in 2013 and attempted to submit again in 2015 (there was no financing round in 2014). In fact, until 2015, Genesis and the City were working well and City was committed to the development of the project. ...

"In 2013, the City reaffirmed its 2011 resolution of need, which was the last time an application could be submitted before 2015." ...

Next week: Part III-b

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