

LOCAL TALK

NEWARK • IRVINGTON • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE • WEST ORANGE • SOUTH ORANGE • MAPLEWOOD • BLOOMFIELD • MONTCLAIR & MORE

VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 34 * JUNE 29 - JULY 5, 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

INDEX

Editorial & Weather: 02
Sports Wrap: 05
Summer Special: 07
From the Pastor’s Heart: 12

The Doctor Is In: 04
World News Flash: 06
Town Watch: 10
The Observation Booth: 14

PROPOSED BILLS WOULD MAKE OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT TOOTHLESS

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

The Open Public Records Act, or OPRA for short, may be in danger of being rendered toothless by several bills introduced in the New Jersey Legislature on June 15. Depending on who you talk to, the bills would either update the OPRA, or make it worthless.

“Local Talk” checked nj.com, Politico, and the website of the New Jersey Legislature for information. What follows is the result of diligent research by “Local Talk.”

According to the Government Records Council website, the Open Public Records Act was passed on January 8, 2002. It replaced the old “Right To Know Law” which until then was used to obtain information. However, OPRA was passed at

a time when the word “records” meant reams of paper, not electronic records. Email was still new, flash drives did not exist, and social media, such as it was, varied greatly from what is in existence today. There was no Facebook, Instagram, TikTok or cell phones as they are known today.

State Assemblyman Joe Daniels (D-Somerset) has introduced four bills to amend the Open Public Records Act. According to the New Jersey Monitor, Daniels said that the bills were the product of a years-long effort to better protect privacy and rein in records requests from commercial businesses who crush local governments with large data requests and then sell that information for profit.

What the proposed bills would do to OPRA

According to New Jersey Monitor, nj.com and the New Jersey Legislature website, the four bills Daniels introduced on June 15 are A5613, A5614, A5615, A5615. These bills, according to above-cited sources, would:

- Extend the deadline for response from 7 days to 20.
- Provide penalties for individuals who fail to disclose if they plan to use records for commercial purposes.
- Limit the number of requests an individual can make at once and prohibit anonymous records requests.

(Continued on page 7)



17th Dist. Assemblyman Joe Daniels (D-Somerset) is the architect of the potential OPRA gutting legislation


IS HE THE FUTURE OF THE NBA? A PREVENTABLE TRAGEDY

PAGE 5

Victor Wembanyama takes questions after being drafted #1 by the Spurs.
Photo By James Dombrowski

PAGE 6

U.S. Rear Admiral John Mauger delivering a press briefing in Boston about the lost OceanGate Titan submersible.



Primary Care Multi Specialty Group
THE HEART CENTER OF THE ORANGES
60 Evergreen Place, Suite 400, East Orange, NJ

Offering Same Day Appointments for **All Specialties** and **DOT Exams**

Turn To **PAGE 16**



Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Politics are everywhere, but when it comes to elections, they play big games with their control of election commissions. In Louisiana, more than one third of the population is Black and in Alabama, more than 25% of the population is Black. However, in both states, Black voters are a majority in just one congressional district. The lower courts had ruled that the maps raised concerns that Black voting power had been diluted, in violation of the landmark federal Voting Rights Act.

The Republicans went to the Supreme Court. On June 27, SCOTUS made a 6-3 decision that the district maps should be redrawn. With the redrawn maps, the Democrats could gain a few congressional seats. In 2024, if the Democrats win additional 5 seats in Congress, they will have control of the House. Right now, the Republicans have a majority in the House by a thin margin.

On June 26, Newark Police received a call for domestic violence. When they arrived, Ha-keem Murchison, 30, of Newark was shot by the officers. He was taken to the hospital. Two police officers were also taken to the hospital for evaluation. Murchison has been charged with aggravated assault and two weapon offenses in connection to the police-involved shooting.

Lately, there were many protests to protect the rights of

LGBTQ. I understand their feelings. They claim that they do not have enough representation in women's sports and contests. Women has issues that they cannot compete with transgender LGBTQ women. Both have the right arguments. So, what is the solution? In my opinion, let them have their own sports competition. So, it will be equal for all, and justice might be served.

Trump's new recording is now open to the public. You can hear clearly that Trump has knowledge of some Iranian classified documents. He had been asked to declassify them, but he said they cannot be declassified. Also, he said that it is a highly sensitive document. Being a former President, he should be articulate about using his words. This is huge evidence, but why it was declared now? Is it politics? And how did Anderson cooper get

something that was supposed to be in the hands of the prosecution only? Was it leaked to promote prejudice against the defense? This should be kept only for the jury to hear. So, who to believe and who not to, it is harder to make a judgment.

Even after three weeks of Canadian wildfires, Chicago and Milwaukee are under smoky air. In the beginning of June, we felt it for a couple of days locally, as the air quality index went from under 50 (good) to over 300 in some places. Then, it went back to normal in a couple of days. Even after 3 and 1/2 weeks, Chicago (230) has the worst air quality in the world.

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

Ask for our advertising rates and increase your business and get exposure to tens of thousands of readers every week. email your request to localtalknews@gmail.com or call 973-622-1111.

Subscribe to **LOCAL TALK** weekly newspaper
\$60 for one (1) year

**Send your name, address and check or money order to:
 Local Talk Weekly Newspaper • 1576 Springfield Avenue
 Maplewood, NJ 07040 • Tel: 973-622-1111**

To serve you in the best manner, we request that you send your comments, community calendar events, news and other information and queries related to advertisements to the editor on e-mail : localtalknews@gmail.com

LOCAL TALK POLICIES

• We reserve the right to accept or reject any news item, article or advertising, which is not in accordance with Local Talk's Statement of Purpose. We further reserve the right to edit, correct and modify all copy submitted. Letters, articles, and news events are welcomed; but Local Talk will not assume any responsibility for them. • We regret that the volume of mail and pressure of deadlines precludes sending acknowledgements of receipt; nor can advance notice be given if articles are accepted or rejected for publication. • Unused materials may be used at a later date (if not date sensitive) and therefore, they cannot be returned. • The printing of articles or advertising in Local Talk does not necessarily imply either endorsement or agreement by the editorial staff of Local Talk. • This publication will not be responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error. • We will not be responsible for errors within material disseminated by offices that release matter for public record.

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>
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Scattered T-storms	Scattered T-storms	PM T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
HI 85	HI 88	HI 80	HI 81	HI 84	HI 87	HI 86
LO 66	LO 68	LO 70	LO 71	LO 69	LO 72	LO 72

TRANSFER YOUR PRESCRIPTION HERE!



358 Main Street
East Orange, NJ 07018
973-266-9900
mikespharmacyllc@gmail.com



353 Main Street
Orange, NJ 07050
973-266-1002
orangerxpharmacy@gmail.com



13 William Street
Newark, NJ 07102
973-500-3660
newarkrxpharmacy@gmail.com



F/DESIGN SOLUTIONS · 862-448-9307

24H Covid-19 Testing
OTC Cards accepted
Blister Pack available

Free Delivery
NJ Lottery

Money Transfer

Western Union & RIA Money Transfer

Bill Payments

UPS Access Point

Fax, Print & Copy

SCAN & SAVE OUR
INFORMATION



WE ACCEPT WALK-INS! APPOINTMENT NOT REQUIRED!

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR HEALTH INSURANCE.



The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

Statins: Indication and Use

Statins are by far the most common prescription cholesterol drug class in the United States, and that is not at all surprising, especially among older people. The benefits of statins are undeniable - as you will find out soon - but there have been questions about the right time to start using them or who to use them at all. I will dig deep into all of these to-

day.

Statins are prescription medications that help in lowering cholesterol levels in the body. This is certainly interesting, considering cholesterol isn't even bad in itself. The body needs a small amount of cholesterol in the blood to build the structure of cell membranes and also produce a lot of important hormones and vitamin D in the body. Cholesterol travels through the blood on proteins known as lipoproteins.

However, when cholesterol levels start to rise in the body, problems follow. If there is too much cholesterol in the blood, the cholesterol and other substances harden and may form deposits called plaques, which block arteries. This affects normal blood flow. When the plaques rupture, blood clots can also form.

Not all cholesterol is built the same, though. There are two main types - low-density lipoproteins and high-density lipoproteins, denoted by LDL and HDL, respectively. LDL is regarded as bad cholesterol because it is the

main source of cholesterol buildup in blood arteries. On the other hand, HDL is regarded as good cholesterol because it helps remove cholesterol from the blood. Both LDL and HDL constitute the total cholesterol levels in the body.

Ideally, the total cholesterol levels in the body should not exceed 200mg/dl, while LDL should not exceed 100mg/dl. For people with heart conditions or at risk of one, the recommended LDL level is even lower, at 70mg/dl. Doctors usually consider cholesterol levels and make a decision on if statins are needed.

For most people with a low risk of heart disease, doctors will not give statins unless LDL levels are approaching 200mg/dl. However, people with high risk for heart disease are commonly prescribed statins even if they don't currently have high cholesterol levels. Statins have proven to be excellent in reducing LDL cholesterol levels, with a decrease of up to 55 percent noted. Consequently, statins can decrease the risk of heart conditions.

While the benefits of statins are not in dispute, there are still unanswered questions about their use. One such question is the best age for older adults to start using them. Most of the studies that have been conducted on statin use for older adults consider adults below the age of 75. These studies conclude that statin use is essential for reducing the risk of heart conditions like stroke and heart attack, regardless of if they currently have heart diseases. For people older than 75 that have been diagnosed with heart disease, statins are also recommended.

The area of contention is statin use in people over the age of 75 that currently do not have heart disease. Right now, there are no studies that offer definitive proof that statin use in this population is clinically significant. This isn't to say these drugs should not be used among people in this age class, but there's just not enough proof to justify their

use among these older adults. Regardless of the status, it is essential to communicate with your doctor before taking statins.

There are also questions on if the dose of statins should be increased if the drugs don't seem to be working optimally. This is certainly a conversation to be had with your doctor, but increasing the dose may be a reasonable therapeutic intervention. However, as you would expect, increasing the dose increases the side effects of the drug. Some side effects include headaches, nausea, muscle and joint ache, dizziness, and gastrointestinal disturbances. These side effects may be even more pronounced for older adults and may significantly affect their quality of life.

This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board-Certified Internist & Board-Certified 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 & House call Doctors. He is also currently pursuing an Executive MBA and a Master's of Science in Healthcare Leadership at Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management and the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.

References

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/2023/05/22/fatal-falls-older-americans/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/falls/facts.html>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/falls/>

Non-healing Foot Wounds? Diabetic Foot Ulcers?




BEFORE
12 WEEKS LATER

We Save the Limbs that Others Can't.

DON'T WAIT.

These symptoms may mean serious problems:

Leg or Foot Pain • Gangrene • Non-Healing Wounds
Leg Cramping • Skin Discoloration

Prompt treatment is essential to preserving
your long-term health and quality of life.

CALL TODAY: 833.PAD.EXPERT (723.3973)



John Rundback, MD



Endovascular &
Amputation Prevention

Affiliated with American Endovascular

americanendovascular.com



Kevin Herman, MD

Now practicing at our newly located outpatient center:
347 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 100, West Orange, NJ 07052

SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

This past week, the National Basketball Association held its annual draft, with this edition taking place at the Barclays Center. As expected, the San Antonio Spurs took French phenom Victor Wembanyama with the first overall pick. The hype around the 7'5" Wembanyama has not been seen since LeBron James was drafted way back in 2003. This is the third time the Spurs have had the #1 selection, with the previous picks also being big men in David Robinson and Tim Duncan - both of whom rank among the greatest players in NBA history.

The Charlotte Hornets made the 2nd pick, and took SEC Player of the Year Brandon Miller. Rounding out the top five were Scoot Henderson of G League Ignite to the Portland Trail Blazers at #3, and a pair of twins from the Overtime Elite developmental team going fourth and fifth - Amen Thompson to the Houston Rockets and Ausar Thompson to the Detroit Pistons.

Other highlights saw Michigan star Jett Howard, the son of former NBA all-star Juwan Howard, going to the Orlando Magic at #11, and Villanova freshman Cam Whitmore landing with the 20th pick to the Rockets. Newark native and Duke forward Dariq Whitehead was picked by the Nets, one pick after their #21 selection Noah Clowney from Alabama. The Nets also took Jalen Wilson at #51 from Kansas.

Meanwhile, UConn's Jordan Hawkins, cousin of outspoken LSU star Angel Reese, was picked #14 by the New Orleans Pelicans. Former NIT MVP Colby Jones from Xavier was the 34th pick and will likely end up with the Sacramento Kings. Finally, Chris Livingston from Kentucky was the 58th and final pick of the draft, taken by the Milwaukee Bucks.

While the draft usually has 60 picks, the Chicago Bulls and Philadelphia 76ers forfeited selections due to tampering violations. Also, the New York Knicks did not have a pick this year.



STOP SUFFERING from debilitating fibroid symptoms

WE CAN HELP!

There is a medically safe non-surgical alternative to hysterectomy:

UTERINE FIBROID EMBOLIZATION (UFE)

Reduces the Size and Symptoms of Fibroids
Minimally Invasive Procedure
Fully Equipped Outpatient Center—NO Hospital Stay
Fewer Complications and Quicker Recovery

CALL OUR EXPERTS TODAY!

833.UFE.EXPERT (833.833.3973)



John Rundback, MD

American Fibroid Centers Kevin Herman, MD
Affiliated with American Endovascular

fibroidexpert.com

Now practicing at our newly located outpatient center:
347 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 100, West Orange, NJ 07052

Several NBA draftees getting their first experiences with the media. Photos By James Dombrowski





UNITED STATES

A PREVENTABLE TRAGEDY

A hastily made trip to see the ruins of one lost sea vessel led to the loss of another - and its five adventurers.

On June 18, the Titan submersible, operated by OceanGate, Inc. made a dive to see the downed RMS Titanic ship off the coast of Newfoundland. The five men on the vessel consisted of Stockton Rush, the co-founder of OceanGate, British businessman Hamish Harding, Pakistani-British businessman Shahzada Dawood and his son Suleman Dawood, and Paul-Henri Nargeolet, an underwater research expert who made over 30 expeditions to the Titanic site.

After communications were lost with the submersible, the U.S. Coast Guard announced that a debris field was found near the Titanic, which included the nose cone of the Titan. This led officials to believe that the submersible suffered a catastrophic implosion. Experts assessed that due to the nature of an implosion, the five men aboard did not suffer during their deaths due to the speed and impact of the event.

The U.S. Coast Guard has convened a Marine Board of Investigation (MBI) into the loss of the Titan submersible and the five people on board. An MBI is the highest level of investigation in the Coast Guard. Upon completion of the investigation, the Board will issue a report to the Commandant with the evidence collected, the facts established, its conclusions, and recommendations.

During the course of the MBI, the Board will work to determine:

- The cause of the casualty, including the cause of any

death.

- Whether an act of misconduct, incompetence, negligence, unskillfulness, or willful violation of law committed by any individual licensed, certificated, or documented has contributed to the cause of the casualty, or to a death involved in the casualty, so that appropriate remedial action may be taken.
- Whether an act of misconduct, incompetence, negligence, unskillfulness, or willful violation of law committed by any person, including an officer, employee, or member of the Coast Guard, contributed to the cause of the casualty, or to a death involved in the casualty.
- Whether there is evidence that an act subjecting the offender to a civil penalty under that laws of the United States has been committed, so that appropriate action may be undertaken to collect a penalty.
- Whether there is evidence that a criminal act under the laws of the United States has been committed, so that the matter may be referred to appropriate authorities for prosecution.
- Whether there is need for new laws or regulations, or amendment or repeal of existing laws or regulations, to prevent the recurrence of the casualty.

The Coast Guard MBI is working in close coordination with other national and international authorities including the United States National Transportation Safety Board, Canadian Transportation Safety Board, French Marine Casualties Investigation Board, and United Kingdom Marine Accident Investigation Branch.

Anyone wishing to provide information that may assist the Coast Guard MBI can submit to accidentinfo@uscg.mil.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as

of 6-27-2023 at 12 p.m.

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 388
- Total Dead: 511
- Total Wounded: 1506
- Shootings Per Day: 2.18
- Days Reached in Year 2023 as of June 27: 178

Latest High Profile Incident

- Location: Fourth and Johnson Sts. - Saginaw, MI
- Time: Around 12:00 a.m. local time, June 24.
- Deceased: 2.
- Injured: 15, including two critical.
- Shooter(s): Number of shooters unknown as of press time.
- Weapon(s): At least five different calibers of weapon.
- Motive: A fight among partygoers at a street party.
- Status: At-large.
- Notes: Some of the injuries in this shooting came from instances of people who fled the gunfire being struck by cars, driven by people also fleeing the gunfire. .

MIDDLE EAST

MORE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN BEEF

A particularly deadly week of violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory's West Bank risks spiraling out of control, UN human rights chief Volker Türk said on June 23, after a "major intensification" involving Israeli airstrikes and drone attacks.

"These latest killings and the violence, along with the inflammatory rhetoric, serve only to drive Israelis and Palestinians deeper into an abyss," said the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as his Office warned of the "terrible impact on both Palestinians and Israelis" of the escalation, before calling for an immediate end to the bloodshed.

Mr. Türk's comments followed remarks by the UN Secre-

tary-General António Guterres, who "condemned all acts of violence against civilians" in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and deplored the loss of life.

Echoing Mr. Guterres's deep concern about an Israeli military raid on Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank on June 19 that killed at least seven Palestinians, including a boy and a girl, the UN rights chief said that the use of airstrikes was "more generally associated with the conduct of armed hostilities rather than a law enforcement operation."

According to reports, Israeli gunships were used for the first time in the area since the early 2000s to extract injured soldiers, while a long gun battle raged.

Mr. Türk added that on the evening of June 21, other reports emerged of an Israeli military drone strike near Jenin that killed three alleged Palestinian militants.

"Israel must urgently reset its policies and actions in the West Bank in line with international human rights standards, including protecting and respecting the right to life," insisted the High Commissioner.

Following the Jenin raid, Mr. Türk's Office said that he had been "appalled" that some Palestinians had celebrated the killing of four Israeli settlers - reportedly including a 17-year-old boy - by two armed Palestinian men near the community of Eli in the occupied West Bank.

Highlighting the tinderbox situation, OHCHR spokesperson Jeremy Laurence said that several Palestinian communities had reportedly been assaulted by Israeli settlers, amid "confrontations between Israeli settlers, accompanied by Israeli Security Forces, and Palestinians."

According to UN rights office OHCHR, so far this year, Israeli Security Forces have killed at least 126 Palestinians in the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Among them were 21 boys and one girl.

This compares with last year, when 155 Palestinians were

(Continued on page 12)

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

(Continued from page 1)

- Exempt metadata and other information currently covered by OPRA from public disclosure.
- Require records requesters who are denied go through the Government Records Council before suing in court. Currently, the GRC takes an average of two years to rule in records disputes, though the measure would also provide the council more funding.
- Do away with a provision that mandates requesters who successfully sue over a wrongful denial can recoup attorney's fees.
- Allow custodians in jurisdictions that accept electronic records - virtually all do - to direct requestors to a public computer with records access in their municipality (it's not clear if that provision supplants the need to provide responsive records).
- Require custodians to post some documents - including meeting minutes, budgets, collective bargaining agreements and employee contracts, among others - to a public municipal website.
- Allow governments to seek court orders to bar residents from making records requests up to a year if their requests had "substantially disrupted the operations of an agency" or records custodian. The bill does not define substantial disruption.
- Require all records requests to be made using forms drafted by records custodians. That legislation limits commercial requesters to two records requests to a given custodian per month and requires they disclose the commercial nature of their requests. Requesters who hide their commercial nature would be subject to fines.

What OPRA means

According to Marc Pfeiffer, as reported by nj.com, OPRA was intended to give members of the public - particularly the news media - timely access to government records, from local budgets to police reports and

state government contracts. Mr. Pfeiffer, a senior fellow at the Bloustein Local Government Research Center at Rutgers University, helped to draft the law.

More than two decades later, the Open Public Records Act is used to obtain information that would otherwise be hidden behind the proverbial seven seals. These include police overtime, municipal contracts, COVID-19 deaths in nursing homes, boardwalk scams, police dash cameras, salaries of professors and staff at universities, documents from municipalities, and more.

Interview with a Lawyer

CJ Griffin, a lawyer who heads Stein Public Interest Center, was interviewed by NJ Spotlight News on June 19. Ms. Griffin told NJ Spotlight that many changes would make OPRA ineffective. The video is available on YouTube.

Superior Court can no longer hear case

According to Griffin, "OPRA's fee shift and your right to go to court are the two enforcement mechanisms of OPRA that really mean that agencies have to comply with it. ... So right now, if an agency denies your request and you think that request was unlawful, you can consult an attorney. Because there is a mandatory fee shift in OPRA, meaning if you win in court, the agency has to pay your bills.

"Lawyers like me (Griffin) are willing to take a case. We evaluate it. If we win, we will represent you and we will pay the filing fee and we will not charge you any legal fees. And when we win, the agency will pay our fees. ... And then there is a risk of non-payment and what we can do is we can go to two forums. Right now, we can go to Superior Court and have a judge decide our case. Or you can go to the Government Records Council, or GRC.

"I always go to Superior Court because it's just a much better and faster forum. The GRC takes two years almost to hear a complaint. A5614 takes away the right to go to Superior Court. A judge can no longer

(Continued on page 13)

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY

- ▶ Stop Bank Levies!
- ▶ Stop Wage Garnishments!
- ▶ Stop Creditor Harassment
- ▶ Stop Foreclosure!!
- ▶ Stop Eviction! Protect Cosigners
- ▶ Restore Driving Privileges
- ▶ Prevent Auto Repossessions
- ▶ ELIMINATE Credit Card & Medical Debt.



FOR FREE CONSULTATION:
Call
DAVID WITHERSPOON
Attorney-at-Law
10 Hill St. (Suite 20Y) • Newark, NJ 07102
973-342-6653
973-489-9005

LOW RATES: ONE PHONE CALL MAY REDUCE YOUR STRESS!

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



fsoec.org
(973) 395-1441

Family Support Organization of Essex County (FSOEC) offers support groups and workshops for parents and caregivers of children with special needs. You're not on this journey alone, join us!

- **JULY 11: Let's Talk — Parent Support Group** meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 2nd Tuesdays to help parents and caregivers learn new strategies that effect positive change.
- **JULY 15: Community Conversation** is a chance for the community of Essex County to openly discuss the growth opportunities and needs of families and youths. We're gathering parents and caregivers, city and county officials, educators and school leaders, plus community partners at 12:30p.m.
- **JULY 20: All About The Spectrum** meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 3rd Thursdays *in-person*. It is for parents of children on the autism spectrum between the ages of 2 and 8 years old.
- **JULY 27: Better Together Dads** meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 4th Thursdays to give fathers a safe place for connection with other passionate dads.

Our activities and group meetings occur on Zoom and in person, visit our website for the details: <https://bit.ly/fsoeevents>

LOCAL TALK

SUMMER SPECIAL

\$49
500
BUSINESS CARDS
 FULL COLOR
 ONE SIDE or BOTH SIDES
 5/7 Bus. Days Delivery
 after approval
FREE BASIC SETUP

Plus applicable Sales tax
Expires 07-26-23
 Email: localtalkprinting@gmail.com
 Must present ad or mention sale at time of ordering
 Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts

\$99
 Regular \$149
4x6
POST CARDS
 FULL COLOR
 ONE SIDE or
 BOTH SIDES
 3 / 7 Bus. Days Delivery
 after approval
FREE BASIC SETUP

Plus applicable Sales tax **Expires 07-26-23**
 Email: localtalkprinting@gmail.com
 Must present or Mention Sale at the time of ordering
 Cannot be Combined with other offers or discounts

BUY ONE GET ONE
FREE
NEW CUSTOMERS ONLY
GROW YOUR BUSINESS
ADVERTISE WITH
LOCAL TALK WEEKLY

Advertise with Local Talk
 Any size advertisement for new customers...when you advertise
 one time, the second time free...up to 4 advertisements.
 Email: localtalk@aol.com
Expires 07-31-23

PRINTING

Business Cards	Letterheads
Bookmarks	Envelopes
Brochures	Calendars
Flyers	Door Hangers
Greeting Cards	Labels
Postcards	Posters
Table Tents	Complete Printing

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

LARGE FORMAT

Acrylic Signs
Vinyl Banners
Display with Banner
X-Frame + Banner
Aluminum Boards
Dye Sublimation
YARD SIGN
Window Cling

FREE PARKING ♦ HUGE SAVINGS ♦ BETTER SERVICE ♦ Printing SINCE 1985 ♦ Newspaper SINCE 2000
1576 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE, MAPLEWOOD, NJ ♦ localtalk@aol.com ♦ localtalkweekly.com
Tels. (973) 622-1111 ♦ (973) 280-7547 ♦ E-mail: localtalkprinting@gmail.com



Heart Center of the Oranges

Welcome to Our New Center for Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases

OUR PROVIDERS

CARDIOLOGY

Gitendra Rajiyah, MD
Catalino Delacruz, MD
Bhavna Mohandas, MD
Abbas Shehadeh, MD
Isaac Tawfik, MD
Marlyn Escalona, APN
Lou Alexandre, PA

PULMONARY/SLEEP DISORDERS

Jeffrey Miller, DO

PODIATRY

Jodene Shwer, DPM
Amro El-Nakib, DPM

NEUROLOGY

Ruth Clark-Brown, MD
Borget Cort, APN

GYNECOLOGY

Clifford Toliver, MD

PEDIATRIC & ADULT ENDOCRINOLOGY

Tara Rajiyah, MD

NUTRITION

David Sonenberg, MS, RD, CDE

PRIMARY CARE/ INTERNAL MEDICINE

Eddy Simon, MD
Nancy Cahiwat, MD
Mamatha Mohan, MD
Myriam Sterlin, MD
Aleksander Lekan, MD
Hemlata Bhatia, MD
Narinda Kaur, MD
Normita Narvaez, MD
Ramesh Kania, MD
Nivia Rowe, APN
Roody Dalberis, APN
Sanjaykumar Shah, APN
Mary Elias, APN
Janiece Howell, APN
Jamila Jones, DNP



Treating Both Adults and Children of All Ages



We now treat a variety of endocrine disorders including Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes, Thyroid Diseases, Osteoporosis And Metabolic Bone Disorders

Dr. Tara Rajiyah treats both adults and children
Call 973-395-1550 for an appointment * 77 Main Street, West Orange

Contact us: 973-395-1550 • Orangeheartcenter.net

VISIT ONE OF OUR OTHER CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| South Orange: | 60 Vose Avenue | Tel. 973-763-5200 |
| Maplewood: | 2091 Millburn Avenue | Tel. 973-378-2266 |
| Bloomfield: | 135 Bloomfield Avenue, Suite B | Tel. 973-743-2248 |
| Newark: | 202 Stuyvesant Avenue | Tel. 973-374-8807 |
| West Orange: | 77 Main Street | Tel. 973-324-2090 |
| West Orange: | 95 Main Street | Tel. 973-672-3829 |
| West Orange: | 92 Old Northfield Avenue | Tel. 973-736-5552 |

TOWN WATCH

DISCLAIMER: The following items are primarily drawn from first responders. Responders' accounts may not be their full activity range. Grand juries hand down indictments when evidence presented them warrant a trial. Named suspects/defendants are innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

NEWARK - The Newark Public Schools Board of Education intends to have an attorney of its own seated at their dais - once they sort out the hiring process among the nine-member board.

Schools Superintendent Roger Leon and the current General Council, Brenda Liss looked on while Board President Asia Norton and Board Member Crystal Williams disagreed over when their own attorney would be hired.

Williams wants to have the new hire on their dais before the 2023-24 school year officially starts on Sept. 1. Norton cautions that the lawyer candidates have to be vetted.

There are 12 individuals or legal firms that had responded to the BOE's May request for proposals in June. Some of the board members, as of June 20, said that they have not seen all of the bids.

Souder, Shabazz & Woolridge, LLC, is among the bidders. That Newark firm, however, is representing four board members in a complaint before the New Jersey School Ethics Commission - a situation that may present a conflict of interest.

The board passed a resolution Jan. 21 to start looking for their own attorney - which most other public school boards have. The measure was in response to when Newark's educators had not learned of Superintendent Leon's "automatic" renewal clause in his contract until after the fact.

NPS, as an exception, has long had an attorney who repre-

sents both the board and the Central Office administration. That general counsel will remain on the board's dais but to represent the administration.

IRVINGTON - 1077 Springfield Ave., a former movie theater-turned township senior citizens center, got the closest thing to a premier event ceremony in its 110 years here June 22.

Mayor Anthony "Tony" Vauss, Township Council members, State assemblyman Tom Giblin (D-Montclair) and other municipal, county and state officials reopened the Irvington Senior Citizens Community Center as the Leiby C. Jones Senior Citizens Theatre around 11 a.m. that Thursday.

Irvington police officers closed Springfield Avenue between D. Bilal Beasley Civic Square and the Five Points intersection 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. so that officials could unveil the late councilwoman and county freeholder's facade portrait before a welcoming crowd.

Irvington's elders then cut a blue ribbon to officially let the public view some \$1.8 million worth of renovations. The work, done in 2022-23, included returning the main room's stage for performances or screenings.

The Leiby Jones Theatre, after a fashion, reclaims the Art or Liberty theater's original purpose. The Liberty held 702 seats when it opened in 1913. Its small size, compared to the up-to-1,700 seats in the Castle or Sanford theatres, made it a second-run movie house.

The cinema house was renamed the Art Theater in the late 1950s to run "international" films from the likes of Ingmar Bergman and Francois Truffault. It fell into the "adult" film house orbit before it closed in 1977 and was bought by the township. The ISCCC was also renovated with federal funds in 2002-03.

Now, the senior citizens theater and recreation center was renamed after the late Irvington Public Schools Board President, South Ward Councilwoman and Essex County freeholder. Jones, 75, a 33-year Newark Public Schools teacher and guidance

counselor, died while in county office Jan. 9, 2019.

EAST ORANGE - City and Newark police detectives have been searching for the person who shot a male along a border street here since June 21.

The joint investigation began when the East Orange Police Headquarters desk sergeant received a call from a CareWell Medical Center staff member at about 1 a.m. that Wednesday.

That CareWell staffer told the sergeant that a male had entered the former East Orange General Hospital emergency room with a gunshot wound. He told doctors there that he had been shot along "Chelsea Avenue in Newark."

The EOPD HQ dispatcher, after informing the Newark Police precinct nearest to the shooting, sent several officers and detectives to the three block long mostly residential street. Chelsea runs from East Orange's Rhode Island Avenue in its Third Ward to South Orange Avenue in Newark's West Ward-Vailsburg section.

Officers said they had found "a crime scene" by 36 Chelsea in East Orange. What evidence they have found has not been described.

The shooting victim was admitted to CareWell in stable condition and is expected to physically recover.

ORANGE - A city police task force found a resident with a gun containing armor-piercing bullets within feet of the East Orange border June 7.

Orange Police Director Todd Warren and Police Chief Vincent Vitiello said that detectives of the Street Crimes, Gangs and Narcotics Task Force were conducting a special operation on Central Avenue between Oakwood Avenue and East Orange's South Harrison Street that Wednesday.

It was during that operation that the said detectives encountered Khalil N. Stewart, 45, by 645 Central Ave. - an address better known as the local Burger King. Warren and Vitiello did not say how Stewart attracted

their attention.

Detectives said that Stewart was found with an SCCY Arms Model CPX-2 8 mm. semiautomatic pistol. Within the pistol's magazine were 11 armor-piercing bullets.

Stewart is being held in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility on a count each of possessing a weapon without a permit, being a person not to be possessing a weapon, possessing prohibited ammunition, obstructing the administration of law and resisting or eluding arrest with risk of causing injury.

Mr. Stewart, 45, is not to be confused with another Khalil Stewart, 18, who was arrested on a different weapons possession charge at his address here Feb. 20, 2020. The younger Stewart, after a search warrant, was found with a handgun that was used in a December 2019 armed robbery at a Hanover Township hotel.

WEST ORANGE - Mayor Susan McCartney has signed an executive order June 21 that would effectively set an 11 p.m. curfew on Township Council meetings.

McCartney, that Tuesday, issued an order where all municipal public buildings - with three exceptions - will close at 11 p.m. West Orange Police Headquarters, fire stations and any public buildings being used in emergencies are exempted.

West Orange's planning and zoning boards have been adjourning their meetings at 11 p.m. No new business will be taken up after 10:30 p.m. and are rescheduled to be heard at a later meeting.

The mayor was responding to a pair of recent council meetings that had not adjourned until 3 a.m.

"The Council President had attempted to adjourn the meetings at 11 p.m.," said McCartney. "As Mayor, I have no authority over meeting rules and practices that are set by ordinance. Nonetheless, I recommend the Council President to thank the public for their participation and explain the order to close.

(Continued on page 15)



GRAND OPENING

SUMMER 2023



THE WEST ESSEX CAMPUS
730 Bloomfield Avenue, West Caldwell, NJ 07006

MAIN CAMPUS - NEWARK
303 University Avenue, Newark, NJ 07102

ENROLL NOW
[info.essex.edu/\(973\) 877-4477](http://info.essex.edu/(973)877-4477)

Funding provided by the NJ Community College Opportunity Grant program

FDA ISSUES FIRST DRAFT GUIDANCE ON CLINICAL TRIALS WITH PSYCHEDELIC DRUGS

WASHINGTON - On June 23, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration published a new draft guidance to highlight fundamental considerations to researchers investigating the use of psychedelic drugs for potential treatment of medical conditions, including psychiatric or substance use disorders. This is the first FDA draft guidance that presents considerations to industry for designing clinical trials for psychedelic drugs.

There has been growing interest in the therapeutic potential of psychedelic drugs in recent years. They are being evaluated for use in the potential treatment of conditions such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use disorders and other conditions. However, designing clinical studies to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of these compounds presents a number of unique challenges that require careful consideration.

“Psychedelic drugs show initial promise as potential treat-

ments for mood, anxiety and substance use disorders. However, these are still investigational products. Sponsors evaluating the therapeutic potential of these drugs should consider their unique characteristics when designing clinical studies,” said Tiffany Farchione, M.D., director of the Division of Psychiatry in the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

“By publishing this draft guidance, the FDA hopes to outline the challenges inherent in designing psychedelic drug development programs and provide information on how to address these challenges. The goal is to help researchers design studies that will yield interpretable results that will be capable of supporting future drug applications.”

The purpose of the draft guidance is to advise researchers on study design and other considerations as they develop medications that contain psychedelics. Within the draft guidance, the term psychedelics refers to

“classic psychedelics,” typically understood to be drugs such as psilocybin and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) that act on the brain’s serotonin system, as well as “entactogens” or “empathogens” such as methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

The document describes basic considerations throughout the drug development process including trial conduct, data collection, subject safety and new drug application requirements. For example, psychedelic drugs may produce psychoactive effects such as mood and cognitive changes, as well as hallucinations.

As a result, there is the potential for abuse of these drugs, which is a drug safety issue that requires careful consideration and putting sufficient safety measures in place for preventing misuse throughout clinical development. For psychedelics that are currently Schedule I controlled substances, the draft guidance notes that activities

associated with investigations under an Investigational New Drug Application must comply with applicable Drug Enforcement Administration regulatory requirements.

The evidentiary standard for establishing effectiveness of psychedelic drugs is the same as for all other drugs. However, there are unique factors investigators may need to consider when designing their clinical trials if those trials are to be considered adequate and well-controlled. The draft guidance also addresses the role of psychotherapy in psychedelic drug development, considerations for safety monitoring and the importance of characterizing dose-response and the durability of any treatment effect.

The FDA is encouraging the public to provide comments on the draft guidance. Comments should be submitted within 60 days to ensure the agency considers them.



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Serve One Another

You might have heard the phrase, “Me, Myself, and I.” To some people, it reflects a stage of human development when toddlers try to discover themselves and think that the world belongs to them. They try to grasp and hold on to everything with the tremendous force of strength they believe they possess.

It is pathetic that in the developmental process, some people get stuck in the toddler stage - “Me, Myself, and I” - and never reach a point where they can let go of the toys and little things that would make them effective servants of others. In effect, they find all kinds of reasons not to serve. Here are twelve of the most common excuses (I have heard) why people are unwilling to serve.

1. I am too busy
2. I am preoccupied with other things right now
3. I have felt under-appreciated

4. I am watching first
5. I cannot serve when everything is out of control
6. I serve in other ways
7. I am waiting for someone to ask me
8. I feel burnt out right now
9. I am too shy
10. I don't have enough information about what I need to do
11. I don't know where to start
12. I don't have the gift or the skill

Some members of the church in Galatia were likely making some of the above excuses why the apostle Paul told them directly to “Serve one another in love” (Galatians 5:13). The encouragement is most significant, especially in our contemporary times when the attitude of the world is so much about self-serving. While we are (all) called to live in a community, some only want to serve themselves and those closest to them. But such should be reminded that society gives us the best opportunity to serve. One who lives in isolation cannot serve. The world is a place for us to form community so we can serve.

Service builds community. This is why we are called to serve not only the people we

know - our family, friends, and other acquaintances - but also strangers and foreigners who are less known to us. We are called to serve the oppressed, orphans, widows, and all with whom we come in contact. As is said, servicing is central to getting our relationships right.

To be most effective in service, we must understand what service demands. I offer up twelve of the most incredible demands in the following list.

1. Love is the fundamental ingredient for authentic service.
2. The humility that must be connected to love.
3. Respect that is needed to affirm our appreciation of others we serve.
4. The graciousness that demonstrates that serving is a delight.
5. There is a need for selfless service.
6. The freedom that lifts service above enslavement.
7. The demand for sacrifice. If you are not willing to sacrifice, you will never serve well.
8. Service takes time.
9. Service calls for patience.
10. Service that calls for mindfulness - Putting the thoughts into what is being done.
11. Then there is the demand for

the willing heart - (Big George Foreman used to put in his advertising of muffler services the phrase, “Put your heart into it.”

12. Service requires courage and commitment - Service is a dare, a risk, you never know that what you do will always be appreciated but do it anyway.

We can all learn from Jesus Christ, who risked His life to serve. He said, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45). His life was all about servicing. As is said, He lived and died as the supreme example of humble, self-sacrificing service (John 13:1-17). He served by emptying Himself of His exalted position and “taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:6-8)

In effect, service is not about position or power but about privilege. It is the opportunity God has given us as we live in the world. And as we do so, we serve one another and are blessed with the joy of service.

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

killed by Israeli Security Forces in the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, representing the highest number in the past 17 years.

Data from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights indicates that 24 Israelis were killed inside Israel and the occupied West Bank last year - “the highest number of Israelis were killed last year since 2016.”

“For this violence to end, the occupation must end,” said Mr. Türk. “On all sides, the people with the political power know this and must instigate immediate steps to realize this.”

AFRICA

BAD CONDITIONS HAMPER HORN OF AFRICA

Climate, armed conflict, high food prices and post-COVID-19 economic fall-out have caused record food insecurity in the Horn of Africa, with an estimated 60 million urgently in need of help, UN humanitarian agencies warned on June 26.

“About five million children under the age of five are estimated to be facing acute malnutrition in 2023 in the Horn region, in the Greater Horn. That is about 10.4 million, that is just a staggering figure,” said Liesbeth Aelbrecht, the World Health Organization’s (WHO) incident manager for the greater Horn of Africa emergency.

“What our colleagues are seeing in clinics and in hospitals, since the beginning of this year, are the highest level of severely malnourished children who are now coming to these facilities with medical complications since the crisis began three years ago.”

Echoing that alert, World Food Program (WFP) Senior Emergency Officer Dominique Ferretti said that almost three years of drought had given way to rains and

devastating flash floods: “While we just concluded a rainy season which performed better than predicted, one rainy season is not enough to bring an end to the crisis.”

Although long-awaited rains arrived in March across the eight-member Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region - encompassing Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda - and with it the hope of relief, flash-flooding inundated homes and farmland, washed away livestock and closed schools and health facilities.

The result was the highest number of reported disease outbreaks in the greater Horn of Africa so far this century. Their frequency can be linked directly to extreme climate events, according to the UN health agency.

Ms. Aelbrecht noted ongoing outbreaks of cholera and measles, together with “very high numbers” last year and this year, including malaria cases.

“So, with the impact of flooding, we see
(Continued on page 14)

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR OLD BLOOMFIELD TECH BUILDING

By Walter Elliott

BLOOMFIELD - When the Essex County's Newark Vocational-Technical High School community returned to its renovated building at 91 West Market St. Feb. 3, it said "Thank you for your service" to the former Bloomfield Vo-Tech High School Building here at 209 Franklin St.

"Bloomfield Tech" was Newark Tech's home during the 18 months that its regular building underwent a \$31 million renovation project.

The Newark Tech Terriers, from May 20, 2021 to Feb. 3, conducted classes, took exams and held its home games in Bloomfield Tech's 1930 building and mid-20th Century addition. Its classes of 2021 and 2022 had graduated from here.

The Essex County Schools of Technology Board of Education, at its March 13 meeting, has decided that school is finally out for the Bloomfield Tech HS Building. All four board members present that Monday approved conveying the three-story building and its five-acre lot to Essex County proper

for \$100.

Resolution 23-458, as moved by Board Member Dr. Chris T. Pernell and second by Board Vice President Adrienne Davis, acted upon ECST Superintendent of Schools Dr. James M. Pedersen's recommendation that the property "is no longer desirable or necessary for school purposes for reasons including but not limited to the completion of the District's renovations to its Newark Tech campus."

An earlier ECST board decision had made the Bloomfield Tech Spartans Class of 2018 its last - as well as that year's North 13th Street (Newark) Cougars graduating class. Both school bodies were merged to become the Donald M. Payne, Sr. School of Technology Lions since Sept. 1, 2018.

Payne Tech, built on the site of the former Presbyterian Hospital at 498-544 W. Market St., was the first \$165 million of an over \$200 million, nine-year renovation and expansion project plan also affecting Newark and West Caldwell Tech high schools.

The Newark Public Schools had held the Central High School's 1911 building after

the new Central High was built in 2008 as a swing school building. NPS, however, sold the old CHS to across street neighbor NJIT, which reopened it as a renovated Central King Building in 2012.

300 North 13th St., Newark, which started out as the Essex County Girls Vo-Tech HS around 1930, is now home to the KIPP's Upper Roseville and Purpose academies in 2019. Team Academy Charter Schools had bought the "North 13th Tech" building from the county for \$6 million in 2018.

It is not known as of press time what Essex County has in mind for the Bloomfield Tech building.

Work meanwhile continues on the former South Junior High School building, to Bloomfield Tech's immediate east. Bloomfield South Jr. High UR LLC, of Los Angeles, has been converting the Art Deco era school, building into apartments since buying it from Bloomfield Township in 2017.

"South Junior" was closed after its student body was moved into the former "North" JHS - now Bloomfield Middle School, in 1986

OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

(Continued from page 7)

hear your case now. You have to go to that very slow GRC forum. They are giving the GRC \$250,000 which is never going to fix the problem.

Change how Government Records Council Members are selected

Griffin: "Even worse, they (legislators) are changing the way in which GRC members are selected. So right now, the Governor appoints them with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Now (if OPRA is amended) just the Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate

President decide who is on this, on the GRC without any (other) voices in the mix. So it's already, you know, that causes me concern about who might be deciding the cases, let alone that it is the GRC that is the one that denied the request.

Mandatory fee shift taken away

Griffin: "Then, to make matters worse, they are taking away the mandatory fee shift so it's an optional feature. And then on the top of that, they are saying, "well it's an optional fee shift and if they do award you fees it will be at a very low rate. That means the poll attorneys are paid. And on top of that, whenever you apply for fees from GRC or (Superior) Court they also review your bills and they mark downtime that they think was excessive.

"... An attorney like me, it would be next

to impossible to take a case because if I take a case now, my risk of non-payment is that if I lose. But in this (new) setting, the risk of non-payment is that if I lose, I do not get paid. If I win, I might not get paid. If I do happen to get paid, my time is going to be cut and they are going to give me this very low rate and so it just makes it really impossible. And without that fee shift no one can afford thousands of dollars to pursue public records, not even the media that is laying off reporters," Ms. Griffin told NJ Spotlight News.

Sponsor of OPRA amendments alleges no one came to him with concerns about revising the Open Public Records Act

Griffin said that Assemblyman Danielsen did not speak to the right people about revising the Open Public Records Act. According to the New Jersey Monitor, Assemblyman Danielsen said that the issue of revising OPRA is not important to the public.

As reported by the New Jersey Monitor in its June 19, 2023 issue, Danielsen said, "I've knocked on tens of thousands of doors over the last 25 years. Never once did anyone have a concern with public records access. That is not in the top 100 of their concerns, but what is in their concerns is the tens of millions of dollars that are being wasted on abuse of the system."

Griffin, the lawyer, said in the interview with NJ Spotlight News that Assemblyman Danielsen was speaking to the wrong people.

"Because if I think he spoke to reporters, if he spoke to people that were really tuned in, they do care. And I also hear outrage from people about the amount of money that

municipalities waste complying with OPRA but it's not because of OPRA. It is because municipalities are often very secretive. They sometimes deny access to records. No, they have to know that there is no lawful basis to do so and they defend it in court. They sometimes file appeals and then, ah, magically, as soon as an election is over, then they are willing to release the records. And so people are all irate, are very irate about how municipalities engage in these ridiculous lawsuits and then end up paying fees because they make frivolous arguments."

Other side of the argument

According to New Jersey Monitor, John Donnadio, executive director of the New Jersey Association of Counties, said his group supports the provision to curb commercial requests because record custodians have been "inundated," as well as the push to change fee-shifting because local governments face sizable attorney fees.

According to the New Jersey Legislature's website, all four bills have been referred to the Assembly Oversight, Reform, and Federal Relations Committee. Per New Jersey Monitor, Assemblyman Danielsen is chair of this committee. As yet, there has been no timeline for the final passage of the four bills.

John Paff, the New Jersey Libertarian Party's Open Government Advocacy Project representative, told New Jersey Monitor, "The bills on balance are essentially an eclipse on sunshine."

In New Jersey, the Open Public Records Act is known as part of the Sunshine Laws.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

YUMMY (PART 1)

Yummy - This expression can be used to describe something that is pleasing to the senses. Yummy can also be used to describe anything that you find extremely attractive or appealing.

Synonyms of yummy - delicious, edible, tasteful, tasty, scrumptious, flavorful, delectable, appetizing.

When I scan the worldscapes today, I can honestly say, "IT AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE!" This saddens me greatly. Admittedly, it ain't all bad, but truthfully, it ain't all good, either. Undoubtedly, we have gained, but we have also lost so very much. I decided to search for the bright side by seeking out insider info from our community about those major companies,

med-sized, micro-businesses, or simply those people that continue to be the keeper of standards, love, morals, and ethics and are still sprinkling love and delicious into our food in such times.

During a time when many have become so selfish that it is criminal, those who think only betwixt me, mine, and my bottom line, which has taken precedence in our world. For example, the issues that were having with the renting and purchasing of homes, it's as if folk is scratching their heads while that brain skips off to the left, snatchin' and throwing out number as high as they can as aiding a market pushed to astronomical heights seemingly also adding rules to the game as joining the ranks of Al Capone. Yet they continue like it's their birthright to reap the benefits of the generosity, consideration, love, and concern of those who came before or those selfless unicorns that grace us with their presence today. SHAME ON YOU!

But no worries, thanks to our ally Karma who tallies it all with precise measure, we will be certain that ya reapin what you sowin when that abundant harvest of choice shows up at that doorstep leveling all out. Karma, we love you!

Enough preaching for today. Let's get back to things that are "Yummy." Most of the foods I enjoyed throughout my life also "Ain't what it used to be!" But a few reign supreme, and those are

Photo By Andrea Dialect



the true keepers of standards out there. May God bless that house.

Question: what is a food that you enjoyed throughout your life, be it as early as childhood, if you liked, that's packaged the same because it looks the same and tastes the same way it did way back when and now. Talking about difficult for me, it was like pulling teeth. I soon came to realize over the years how many companies began weaning us off of the original taste of prime ingredients in many foods, snacks, or whatever. So many of the foods or such that I enjoyed and devoured as a kid I wouldn't dare touch today. I've always been a

person that smells my food, and if it doesn't smell right, it ain't right.

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.

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 12)

these diseases worsening. Malaria, I would like to remind you, is one of the biggest killers in the region."

EUROPE

BAN LIFTED ON KEY MEDICINE

Leading scientists at the independent Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) have confirmed that albumin, a critically important medicine for the NHS, can now be safely derived from UK plasma donors.

Human albumin (HA) treatments are made of plasma proteins from human blood. They are given to thousands of critically ill patients every year to replace blood loss from trauma such as severe burns or injuries,

and those suffering from conditions such as liver disease or sepsis.

However, until recently, the use of UK-donated plasma to manufacture plasma-derived medicinal products has been banned as a safety precaution against the spread of Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (vCJD). The NHS instead relied exclusively on imported plasma-derived products, primarily from the USA.

In 2020, the ban on using UK-sourced plasma to manufacture immunoglobulins, another type of plasma-derived medicinal product, was lifted.

The MHRA can now confirm that, following further review of the evidence, the CHM has also recommended lifting the ban on treating patients with UK albumin.

All organizations authorized to collect blood and blood components, and manufacturers of plasma-derived medicines, must

continue to abide by the same robust safety standards and risk mitigation measures adopted for immunoglobulin manufacture such as the use of leucodepletion (filtering the white blood cells from donated blood to reduce the risk of adverse reactions), high-risk donor deferral and the ability to trace donations between donor and patient.

Medicines in the UK are reviewed and evaluated by expert teams at the MHRA and CHM before they can be approved for UK use. Any medical products made from UK-derived plasma will be evaluated to the same criteria as those made from non-UK plasma.

NHS Blood and Transplant collects plasma in two ways: through its three dedicated plasma donor centers in Birmingham, Reading and Twickenham, and by recovering plasma from regular whole blood donations. The plasma from both sources can now be used to make albumin for the NHS.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

"Should you choose to continue your meetings after 11 p.m., you'll have to do so at a different venue."

The Council was scheduled to hold a June 27 hybrid meeting.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD

Although South Orange-Maplewood School District Superintendent Dr. Ronald Taylor's contract does not expire until June 30, 2024, members of the public have begun taking sides June 22 on whether he should be retained or become a lame duck.

Although the SOMSD Board of Education 'scheduled June 22 and special June 19 meetings did not have Taylor's prospective contract on their agendas, several parents and members of the public presented for or against renewal stands during the public comment segments.

Maplewood Mayor Dean Dafis, for example, was among those who want to see Taylor stay on June 22.

"I encourage the board to be sensible and work with Dr. Taylor; there are some easy wins here," said Dafis that Thursday night. "Starting a new search for a new superintendent would distract us and halt our progress."

Mayor Dafis may have been referring to a construction bond issue to update the two towns' school buildings and help with bridging a stubborn achievement gap between Caucasian and African students. Dr. Taylor, who was first hired here in 2018, had also shepherded the district through the COVID pandemic and with a sometimes-divided school board.

The SOMA Black Parents Workshop, on June 23, issued a letter of no confidence on Taylor.

BPW members contend that the district, under Taylor, had made little to no progress on the achievement gap in the last three school years. They cite a June 23 Rutgers Disproportionality and Equity Lab report, where 80 to 90 percent of the district's Black and Latinx students lack access to honors and advanced placement courses.

The school board, on Sept. 20, 2021, awarded Taylor a three-year contract through June 30, 2024. He is being paid \$226,051 annually. He has also received two percent annual increases, amounting to \$30,000 a year.

MONTCLAIR / BLOOMFIELD

The Cameron Animal Hospital here at 417 Bloomfield Ave. Montclair have been graced since June 1 by mourning bunting

above its sign and a drawing in its front window.

The drawing, made in 2010, is of a ginger cat wearing a lab coat and, around its neck, a stethoscope. The labcoat's name tag reads, "Dr. Cameron."

Dr. George L. Cameron DVM, 87, who had retired from a 45-year veterinary career here Nov. 1, 2019, had died in Paterson's St. Joseph Medical Center that Thursday. The Bloomfield resident passed away with his family present.

It can be said that Cameron was born into the family business. George L. was born in Parsippany Jan. 9, 1936 - the same year his father, Dr. George, Sr. opened the first purpose-built veterinary office in New Jersey here. Cameron, Jr., at his Nov. 3, 2019 retirement party, remembered the family farm populated by some of the animals his father helped care for.

The son, after stints with the U.S. Army and veterinary school, joined his father's practice and assumed its helm upon George, Sr.'s death in 1970. The younger Cameron started Cameron Animal Rescue and helped found the Montclair Animal Shelter, the Bloomfield Animal Shelter, the Friends of BAS and the Pound Animal Welfare Society.

Dr. Cameron, who mentored 150 college students into veterinary school, sold the hospital in 2018 to longtime associates Dr. Elizabeth Houston and George Martinez. He spent his last days in the company of stepdaughter Deborah Bielicka, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and his cat Star.

A Memorial Mass was held June 14 at Cedar Grove's St. Catherine of Siena RC Church, followed by a private cremation. Memorial donations may be made "to the rescue group of your choice."

BELLEVILLE

The Quick Chek Corporation's confidence in building a new gas station and convenience store here at Rutgers and Stephens streets by or on January 2024 is such that it had just closed its long-standing store on 501 Washington St.

"Local Talk" noticed the former store on the northwest corner of Washington and Little Street bereft of its signage and evidence of displaced shelving within on June 24. A paper sign on its front door reads: "We're closed. See you in 6-7 months down at our new store at Rutgers and Stephens streets."

The new Quick Chek will take up the bulk of the block at Rutgers and Stephens - just west of Main Street and the Rutgers Street/Route 7 Bridge. The site was where Belleville School 1 stood until it was closed in the 1990s, demolished and its land sold to the township for \$1.

A proposed Quick Chek there had been in discussion since 2019 and had recently been given a Belleville Planning Board public hearing. A sliver of the block, for a projected apartment building, a purported surveying oversight, had to be formally incorporated into the site plan earlier this year.

The Township Council put the final puzzle piece in place by approving Quick Chek Corp. as the block's redeveloper, Resolution 149-2023, at their June 13 meeting. A representative from Quick Chek's Whitehouse Station headquarters said that its lease at 501 Washington was to expire on June 30.

The owner of 501-519 Washington now has the Quick Chek and the former Supercuts at 505 Washington vacant. The three-building strip mall still has Advance Auto Parts and CVS Pharmacy.

NUTLEY

One Township Commissioner more than wants to have the Nutley Health Department to part ways with Montclair on or by Dec. 31.

Nutley Public Affairs Commissioner John V. Kelly IV, at the commissioners' June 8 meeting, announced that he gave the Montclair Health and Human Services Department six months advance notice of letting their interlocal shared services agreement expire.

Kelly explained that he envisions a more robust Nutley Health Department that would offer more services than before its contract with Montclair. "NHD 2.0" is to start by advertising for its own health director.

Nutley's prospective "Top Doc" would more directly search and apply for public and private grants to fund the extra services. The revamped department would also work more closely with Nutley Public Schools and the Nutley Family Service Bureau.

Montclair HHS will meanwhile continue to serve Cedar Grove and Verona. Both Verona and Cedar Grove renewed their contracts with Montclair last year.

www.bellaitaliarestaurantnj.com



Bella Italia Ristorante
Banquet Facilities & Fine Dining

Phone: 973-676-4300 / 973-678-5538 535 Central Avenue
Fax: 973-678-2673 Orange, NJ 07050
Near Rte. 280 and The West Orange Line

LOCAL TALK PRINTING

- Business Cards
- Color Copies
- Flyers
- T-Shirts
- Color Printing
- Posters
- Newspapers
- Letterheads
- AD Journals
- Envelopes
- Banners
- Tickets
- Signs
- Promotional

DHIREN SHAH
Ambassador for Peace
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief
In Printing Business Since 1985
www.localtalkweekly.com

1576 Springfield Ave.
Maplewood, NJ 07040
Email: localtalk@aol.com

Tel. (973) 622-1111
Cell: (973) 280-7547
Fax: (973) 622-1120

Se Habla Español



NOVA DENTAL

KIDS & ADULTS

Family Dentistry • Emergencies • Orthodontics



MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED

Including NJ Family Care & Medicare



CHECK OUT OUR FIVE STAR REVIEWS!

SERVING ESSEX COUNTY IN 3 LOCATIONS

NOVA DENTAL
240 Mulberry Street
Newark, NJ 07102
📞 973 - 755 - 3500

NOVA DENTAL
539 Bloomfield Avenue
Newark, NJ 07107
📞 973 - 604 - 1600

NOVA DENTAL
90 Washington Street
East Orange, NJ 07017
📞 973 - 604 - 1900



NovaDentalNJ.com

Call or Book Online 24/7

Root Canal • Extractions • Crown & Bridges
Dentures • Braces • Invisalign • Implants
Kids Dentistry

\$49

**EXAM, CLEANING,
& X-RAYS**

For new patients without insurance

\$299

TEETH WHITENING

\$999

IMPLANT

Discount offered to other procedures