

# LOCAL TALK

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### OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## ICON... TRAILBLAZER... LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SHEILA OLIVER (1952-2023)

By Walter Elliott

**EAST ORANGE** - Staff here at the Sheila Y. Oliver Academy did not need Acting Gov. Nicholas Scutari's executive order to lower their flags to half-staff here Tuesday afternoon.

The East Orange School District's elementary school, which opened in Oliver's name in 2019, lowered their flags in one of the first expressions of mourning for the former school board president, Essex County Freeholder, State Assemblywoman, General Assembly Speaker and Lieutenant Governor.

Oliver, 71, was Acting Governor for the vacationing Gov. Phil Murphy when she was admitted to RWJBarnabasHealth Cooperman-Barnabas Hospital in Livingston July 31. News of Oliver's death began circulating on Noon Tuesday.

"It's with a heavy heart that we inform you of the untimely passing of our namesake, Lt. Gov. Sheila Y. Oliver," said academy principal Yvy Joseph. "We'll continue to keep Ms. Oliver and her loved ones in our hearts and prayers. We ask you

to do the same."

"We're deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our Lt. Gov. Sheila Y. Oliver," added EOSD Superintendent Dr. AbdulSaleem Hasan. "Let her dedication to public service serve as an inspiration to all of us, especially our students, to make a positive difference in the world."

Oliver was executive director of The Leaguers and an Essex County College and Caldwell College teacher when she was appointed to the EOSD Board of Education in 1994. Her peers named her Board Vice President in 1998 and President in 1999.

Oliver was meanwhile first elected as Essex County Third District Freeholder (now Commissioner) 1996-99. She lost her county re-election in 1999, narrowly lost her East Orange mayor election to incumbent Robert T. Bowser in 1997.

"I met Sheila over 50 years ago when we were both in high school (and) served together on the Board of Freeholders," said Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo (D-Nutley). "Sheila was always someone I could turn to for help and her



knowledge of government was extraordinary, having served every level of government. She only cared about helping people and making the lives of those in need better."

DiVincenzo was referring to when he was attending Barringer High School and she was in Weequahic High School - both in Newark.

Sheila Yvette Oliver was born July 14, 1952 in Newark and was raised in the South Ward. As recently as 2021, she and "Local Talk" ran into each other while buying cookies at the

Level One Bakery on Bergen Street.

"Newark's in mourning - we've lost a favorite daughter, cherished and revered," said Newark Mayor Ras Baraka. "Long before she was Lt. Gov., Sheila Oliver mentored so many in our city - with wisdom, compassion, intelligence and a fierce dedication to diversity, equality, equity and justice."

Oliver narrowly lost her East Orange mayoral bid against incumbent Robert T. Bowser in 1997. She, at Bowser's funeral,

(Continued on page 12)



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Kristopher Seals Content Editor

**Hello Readers,**

Not who you expected, right? Okay, let's get to it.

Currently, Mr. Shah is on vacation, so I am writing this instead. I had all these things I wanted to convey in my first formal editorial in ages. Unfortunately, I would be remiss if I were to ignore the most pressing issue, which is the passing of Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver. Besides her historic election to the post with running mate Phil Murphy, she was the first African American female speaker of the New Jersey Assembly.

As Governor Phil Murphy was out of the country on a vacation with his family, Lt. Gov. Oliver was serving as Acting Governor per the duties of the position when the sitting governor is unavailable to act in that

capacity. Then, on July 31, Oliver was hospitalized due to an undisclosed condition, thus making NJ Senate President Nicholas Scutari the Acting Governor.

Upon ascending to the post of Lieutenant Governor, Oliver gave her support to Britnee Timberlake, who earned her vacated assembly seat in an election afterwards. Oliver was 71, and as of press time, no cause of death has been given.

Speaking of people gone too soon, Paul Reubens passed away recently. He was better known by his lively character Pee-Wee Herman. Without giving away how old I am, I did see episodes of Pee-Wee's Playhouse on Saturday mornings many years ago. A lot of well known celebrities visited the show, including the likes of Laurence Fishburne, S. Epatha Merkerson, and even a pint-sized Natasha Lyonne. There were even a couple of films in the 1980s featuring the character, with contributions from Tim Burton and Danny Elfman.

In addition to Pee-Wee Herman, Reubens appeared in films

that included "Buffy The Vampire Slayer" and "Blow." Reubens even revived Pee-Wee in the 2010s with a Broadway show and a TV movie. He died from complications from cancer at age 70.

Okay, so what is the transition from stuff like this? Well, I simply do not have one. Death is inexorably linked to the conclusion of life. I can only speak from the perspective of someone still alive after people have passed. Both of my parents are gone, which leaves me as the sole survivor of my immediate family. I have a brother, but he was born years before I was and already established himself as an adult hundreds of miles away. In fact, he is so far ahead of me in age that his daughter was born before I was, meaning that I am the uncle of someone older than me.

It is truly a strange feeling. Nonetheless, I manage. Whether it is the family of friends of Sheila Oliver, Paul Reubens, actor Angus Cloud, daredevil Remi Lucidi, cyclist Magnus White, wrestler Adrian Street, or anyone

who died in the streets, life will go on. You just hope that the memories are warm and full of joy and wisdom.

Rest in peace to those who have been lost. May they find peace in the next stage.

Finally, in a bit of some breaking news, former President Donald Trump was indicted in the Jan. 6 investigation. To put the charges in simple terms, he was indicted for trying to subvert the election results. Right now, Trump is already facing charges in the New York hush money case, and charges in the Mar-a-Lago documents case. In addition to these, he is likely to be charged in the Georgia voting count case. I don't know what's crazier: the fact that a former president has multiple indictments in multiple states, or that despite all of that, he still has a puncher's chance of getting reelected in 2024!

*All thing considered, have a good week.*

*Mr. Shah will likely be doing this next time.*

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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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**Emerging Tick Bite-Associated Meat Allergy Potentially Affects Thousands**

The CDC reports that between 2010 and 2022, there were more than 110,000 suspected cases of alpha-gal syndrome identified. However, because the diagnosis of alpha-gal syndrome requires a positive diagnostic test and a clinical exam, and some individuals with alpha-gal syndrome may not get tested, it is estimated that as many as 450,000 people might have been affected by AGS in the United States, according to two reports issued today by the CDC in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly

Report.

Studies show that many healthcare providers in the United States are not familiar with an emerging and potentially life-threatening allergic condition called alpha-gal syndrome (AGS), also known as the red-meat allergy or the tick bite meat allergy. Of those aware of AGS, knowledge about diagnosis and management is low.

In one study, 1,500 family/general practitioners, internists, pediatricians, nurse practitioners (NPs), and physician assistants (PAs) across the country were surveyed, and results showed that nearly half of respondents had not heard of AGS, approximately one-third reported that they were 'not too confident' in their ability to diagnose or manage patients with AGS, and five percent felt 'very confident' in their ability. In another study, CDC researchers examined laboratory test results from 2017 to 2022 from a laboratory that, until August 2021, was the primary commercial lab offering testing in the

United States. More than 300,000 specimens were submitted by healthcare providers on behalf of patients with presumed clinical suspicion of AGS, and more than 30 percent were positive.

"Alpha-gal syndrome is an important emerging public health problem, with potentially severe health impacts that can last a lifetime for some patients," said Dr. Ann Carpenter, epidemiologist and lead author of one of the papers released today. "It's critical for clinicians to be aware of AGS so they can properly evaluate, diagnose, and manage their patients and also educate them on tick-bite prevention to protect patients from developing this allergic condition."

Alpha-gal is a sugar found in meat from mammals (pork, beef, rabbit, lamb, venison, etc.) and products made from mammals (e.g., gelatin, cow's milk, milk products, some pharmaceuticals). AGS is a serious allergic condition some people experience after they consume food or products containing alpha-gal. Growing evidence suggests that AGS is primarily associated with the bite of a lone star tick in the United States, but other kinds of ticks have not been ruled out. Localities in the southern, mid-western, and mid-Atlantic regions of the United States identified more people who tested positive.

"The burden of alpha-gal syndrome in the United States could be substantial given the large percentage of cases suspected to be going undiagnosed due to non-specific and inconsistent symptoms, challenges seeking healthcare, and lack of clinician awareness," said Dr. Johanna Salzer, senior author on both papers released today. "It's important that people who think they may suffer from AGS see their healthcare provider or an allergist, provide a detailed history of symptoms, get a physical examination, and a blood test that looks for specific antibodies (proteins made by your immune system) to alpha-gal."

People who suffer from AGS may experience wide ranging symptoms, including hives or itchy rash; nausea or vomiting; heartburn or indigestion; diarrhea; cough; shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; drop in blood pressure; swelling of the lips, throat, tongue, or eye lids; dizziness or faintness; or severe stomach pain. Symptoms commonly appear 2-6 hours after eating food or other exposure to products containing alpha-gal (for example, gelatin-coated medications). AGS is diagnosed by an allergist or other healthcare provider and requires a thorough history with compatible symptoms, and diagnostic testing for antibodies specific to alpha-gal. Your healthcare provider may also recommend allergy skin testing.

**COVID Practices Over The Long Haul**

On July 31, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement applauding the formation of the Office of Long COVID Research and Practice to lead the Long COVID response and coordination across the federal government and, in addition, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) launch of the Long COVID clinical trials through the RECOVER Initiative.

"As our nation continues to make strides in combating COVID-19, it is crucial that we address the impact of Long COVID and provide resources to those in need," said HHS Secretary Becerra. "Last year President Biden called on HHS to coordinate the response to Long COVID. The Official establishment of the Long COVID Coordinating office and the launch of the RECOVER clinical trials solidifies this issue as an ongoing priority."

"The Office of Long COVID Research and Practice will enhance efforts being undertaken across the U.S. government to improve the lives of those who  
(Continued on page 9)

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# SPORTS WRAP



Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens



By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New York Red Bulls have advanced to the Round of 32 in the League Cup this past weekend at home. Just like in the last round against the New York Revolution, it was a defensive game against Atletico De San Luis. Both teams failed to score early on, but Red Bulls forward Dante Vanzeir was assisted on a goal by John Tolkin in the 56th minute in the 2nd half. Vanzeir and Tolkin hooked up the same way later in added time after the 90th minute, and Carlos Coronel did well in net to save the 2-1 win for NY, as the Red Bulls will now take on New York FC this coming Thursday.

In other sports news, the Orange High School Tornadoes football program with head

coach Khalfani Alleyne along with the Orange Bengals were presented a check for \$10,000 from the New York Giants Football Foundation. Among those taking part in this event were former OHS Tornado and NY Giant Jason Alford, who came to support his former high school program and its players. The Orange football players got a chance to watch the New York Giants training camp in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Finally, the New York Mets decided to wave the white flag, trading their two ace pitchers. First, Max Scherzer was traded to the Texas Rangers after waiving his no-trade clause. Then, Justin Verlander was reunited with the team he won a World Series with last year, as he was traded to the Houston Astros.



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**UNITED STATES**

**HOW TO COMPLY WITH SANCTIONS**

The Justice Department, Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), and Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) have issued a joint compliance note focusing on the voluntary self-disclosure policies that apply to U.S. sanctions, export controls and other national security laws, including recent updates to certain of those policies.

The note marks the second collective effort by the three agencies to inform the private sector about enforcement trends and provide guidance to the business community on compliance with U.S. sanctions and export laws.

“American businesses play a vital role in defending our national security because they are gatekeepers for sensitive technologies and key participants in the financial system,” said Assistant Attorney General Matthew G. Olsen of the Justice Department’s National Security Division. “Responsible companies that come forward as soon as they learn of potential sanctions and export control violations will benefit from the protections of these self-disclosure policies.”

“When it comes to protecting our cutting-edge technology from falling into the wrong hands, industry is our first line of defense,” said Assistant Secretary Matthew S. Axelrod of the Department of Commerce’s Office of Export Enforcement. “As this joint compliance note makes clear, we need companies to tell us when they have potentially violated our rules and offer them concrete benefits for doing so.”

The compliance note describes the voluntary self-disclosure policies of BIS, the

Justice Department’s National Security Division, and OFAC, and highlights recent updates related to these policies. Additionally, the compliance note highlights the Financial Crime Enforcement Network (FinCEN)’s Anti-Money Laundering and Sanctions Whistleblower Program, which incentivizes individuals in the United States and abroad to provide information to the government about violations of U.S. trade and economic sanctions, in addition to violations of the Bank Secrecy Act.

“As adversaries leverage increasingly sophisticated efforts to evade international sanctions and export controls, it’s more important than ever to maintain open communication between the public and private sectors,” said Director Andrea Gacki of the Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control. “By taking advantage of our voluntary self-disclosure policy, companies can both help themselves and help us protect our financial system.”

The note underscores the importance of an effective and robust compliance program. If a company discovers a potential violation, whether it is an administrative or criminal violation, that company must promptly disclose and remediate. Not only does such reporting make the disclosing company potentially eligible for significant mitigation, but it also alerts national security agencies to activities that may pose a threat to the national security and foreign policy objectives of the U.S. government.

**MASS SHOOTING UPDATE**

*Information recent as of 8-1-2023 at 12 p.m.*

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 484
- Total Dead: 601
- Total Wounded: 1943
- Shootings Per Day: 2.27

- Days Reached in Year 2023 as of August 1: 213

***Latest High Profile Incident***

- Location: Large Party - Muncie, IN
- Time: Around 1:15 a.m. local time, July 30.
- Deceased: One.
- Injured: 19.
- Shooter(s): Unknown.
- Weapon(s): Unknown.
- Motive: Unknown.
- Status: At-large.

Notes: Delaware County Prosecutor Eric Hoffman provided the following statement on social media:

“It is too early in the investigation for me to say much. I can say that I have been in contact with the Muncie Chief of Police and I continue to get updates on the investigation. There are far too many guns on the street and I certainly question the wisdom of someone having a huge outdoor party with several hundred people, including juveniles, carrying on into the early morning hours. Let’s take a dose of reality. This is not the Vegas strip or Times Square. This is a residential neighborhood.”

**WORLD**

**NO SMOKING PLEASE**

A new World Health Organization (WHO) report highlights that 5.6 billion people - 71% of the world’s population - are now protected with at least one best practice policy to help save lives from deadly tobacco - five times more than in 2007.

In the last 15 years since WHO’s MPOWER tobacco control measures were introduced globally, smoking rates have fallen. Without this decline there would be an estimated 300 million more smokers in the world today.

This WHO Report on the global tobacco epidemic, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, is focused on protecting the public from second-hand smoke, highlighting that almost 40% of countries now have completely smoke-free indoor public places.

The report rates country progress in tobacco control and shows that two more countries, Mauritius and the Netherlands, have achieved best-practice level in all MPOWER measures, a feat that only Brazil and Türkiye had accomplished until now.

“These data show that slowly but surely, more and more people are being protected from the harms of tobacco by WHO’s evidence-based best-practice policies,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. “I congratulate Mauritius on becoming the first country in Africa, and the Netherlands on becoming the first in the European Union to implement the full package of WHO tobacco control policies at the highest level. WHO stands ready to support all countries to follow their example and protect their people from this deadly scourge.”

“With a strong political commitment, we have made great progress in tobacco control policies in Mauritius. Our country has adopted the MPOWER strategy and is moving resolutely towards a smoke-free country.” stated the Hon Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister, Republic of Mauritius.

Maarten van Ooijen, State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sports for the Netherlands said, "Civil society organizations, health experts and medical professionals are strong driving forces behind everything that we are achieving with regard to tobacco control in the Netherlands. They deserve the primary credits for the praise that our country receives from the World Health Organization. Although we are making progress in reducing smoking prevalence and improving our tobacco control policy we also still have a long way to go. Together we will keep fighting for a smoke free generation by 2040!"

Smoke-free public spaces is just one policy in the set of effective tobacco control measures, MPOWER, to help countries implement the WHO Framework Convention on To-

*(Continued on page 11)*

# 34TH DISTRICT ASSEMBLYWOMAN BRITNEE TIMBERLAKE PAYS TRIBUTE TO FRIEND & MENTOR SHEILA OLIVER



Photo Courtesy Britnee Timberlake

In profound sadness and deep reverence, we gather to remember and celebrate the life of our beloved Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver, a mentor, a friend, and an extraordinary trailblazer. Her legacy is not confined to history books but lives on in the hearts of those she touched as she transcends time. LG Oliver's impact on my life and countless others is immeasurable, and her legacy will forever be etched in our hearts.

LG Sheila Y. Oliver's groundbreaking achievements as the first African American and first woman Speaker of the State General Assembly, and the first female Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey inspire us all. As a Black woman, she shattered glass ceilings, opening doors for women to enter politics and serve our communities. As our queen, she paved the way for us to make meaningful contributions to our communities and the world at large. Because of her trailblazing journey, I am inspired to be a part of this noble endeavor, knowing that barriers can be broken and representation matters.

LG Oliver was more than a mentor; she was a modern-day embodiment of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and

yes, the indomitable Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm - whose legacy she revered and drew inspiration from. Her commitment to uplifting others and fighting for justice was a true reflection of her character.

LG Oliver was strength, especially in the face of adversity and the male-dominated realm of politics. Her teachings ingrained in me the importance of leading with unwavering morals and principles, dressing every decision with honesty, truth, dignity, and self-assurance. Her example inspires me to lead with integrity and strive for excellence in all aspects of life.

LG Oliver's belief in my potential was a turning point in my life. She handpicked me and generously invested her time in guiding me, dropping pearls of wisdom, lessons, and captivating stories along the way. Her mentorship was a beacon of light that illuminated my path, empowering me to believe in myself and pursue a future in public service. Under her guidance, I learned the true meaning of strength and fearlessness. Through her unwavering support, she not only opened doors but also paved the way for a new generation of leaders to emerge.

(Continued on page 15)

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**HEALTH CORNER**

*(Continued from page 4)*

continue to experience the long-term impacts of the worst public health crisis in a century,” said Adm Rachel Levine, M.D. “Bringing together the resources and expertise of federal, state, and local partners, patients, providers, researchers, and the business sector to answer the American peoples most urgent calls to action.”

*Background on the Office of Long COVID Research and Practice*

The Office of Long COVID Research will be located within HHS’s Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health under the leadership of the HHS Assistant Secretary for Health, Admiral Rachel Levine. The Office is charged with on-going coordination of the whole-of-government response to the longer-term effects of COVID-19, including Long COVID and associated conditions and the implementation of the National Research Action Plan on Long COVID - PDF and the Services and Supports for Longer-Term Impacts of COVID-19 - PDF. Currently 14 federal departments engage on Long COVID, including over a dozen HHS Operating and

Staff Divisions with a goal to reduce the impacts of Long COVID by improving quality of life for people living with Long COVID and reducing disparities related to Long COVID.

*Background on the RECOVER Initiative*

The NIH RECOVER Initiative is a \$1.15 billion nationwide research program designed to understand, treat, and prevent long COVID, which describes long-term symptoms following infection by SARS-Cov-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. More than 200 symptoms are associated with long COVID, and the condition can cause problems throughout the body, affecting nearly all body systems including the nervous, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, pulmonary, autonomic, and immune systems.

Launched in 2021, RECOVER established one of the largest, most diverse study group of patients with Long COVID in the world. The initial stage of the initiative involved launching large observational multi-site studies examining and following people through their experience with COVID-19 to learn why some people develop long-term symptoms while others recover completely. These studies are ongoing and have recruited

more than 24,000 participants to date.

Researchers also are analyzing 60 million electronic health records and conducting more than 40 pathobiology studies on how COVID-19 affects different body tissues and organs. This study cohort participated in RECOVER observational studies that allowed researchers to characterize the condition in great detail, which is critical for informing the development of clinical trials to test interventions.

The clinical trials are designed so multiple treatments and therapies can be studied across five focus areas. Platform protocols for two of these areas were posted, July 31, with enrollment for these trials beginning the end of July and throughout the summer. To learn more about the RECOVER clinical trials visit: <https://trials.RECOVERCovid.org>

Through collaboration with federal partners, researchers, clinicians, patient advocacy organizations, and the business sector, the Biden-Harris Administration remains committed to addressing the longer-term impacts of the worst public health crisis in a century. We will continue to listen and learn from patients, caregivers, frontline workers, and those with lived experience, so we can accelerate understanding and breakthroughs together.

# 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** - A Federal District Court Judge here, on July 22, has made Daymond John's injunction against a Newark family's criticisms of the FUBU founder and "Shark Tank" investor permanent.

The judge has ordered Al "Bubba" Baker, his wife Sabrina and daughter Brittani to take down all online negative comments on John that was a preliminary injunction placed by Judge Robert Kugler in March. July 2's action may be the epilogue to a 10-year business deal born on "Shark Tank" that had soured.

The Bakers and John, on "Shark Tank" Season 5's Dec. 16, 2013 airing, had agreed that John would invest \$300,000 in exchange for three percent ownership of the Bakers' Newark-based Bubba's Q Boneless Baby Back Ribs business. John brought Rastelli Foods Group, of Swedesboro, to help with the marketing and distribution of the meat products and barbeque sauce.

Baker, a Weequahic High School graduate, had started Bubba Q's World Famous Bar-B-Que restaurant with Sabrina in the 1990s. Baker was a 12-year award-winning NFL defensive lineman primarily for the Detroit Lions and Cleveland Browns 1978-90.

The Bakers began posting negative comments on John on their own website and social media in 2019 after they had settled with him. They were claiming that they received \$639,657 from the \$16 million valued business and that John had cut Al Baker out of the decision-making process.

John had countered that he, as "brand ambassador" and not a

manager, had netted a four percent loss in the "razor-thin profit margin" food business. He added that Sabrina had used the business' credit card for personal uses; she countered that the \$60,480 in charges made were recompensed.

John sought the Baker's online bad mouthing injunction after he said he had lost an appearance engagement and a prospective business deal because of the family's comments.

**IRVINGTON** - The end of business here at the Municipal Building July 31 also marked the end of an era when Municipal Clerk Harold E. Wiener turned his office keys over to Shawna Supel.

Wiener, 66, a native Irvingtonian, ended his 37-year run as municipal clerk. The Union Elementary School and Irvington High School Class of 1975 graduate is one of 37 municipal clerks to have attained the International Institute of Municipal Clerks' Master Municipal Clerk destination in 2005.

The Municipal Clerks Association of NJ's 2010 Municipal Clerk of the Year had attended roughly 1,500 Township Council meetings since being named clerk in 1984. A bout of pneumonia ended his consecutive streak in 2007 and health issues had then-Assistant Clerk Supel fill in for him recently.

Wiener's growing education and experience garnered him the "Wizard" nickname. Municipal clerks from other towns have come to him for advice. It is hard to believe that the 1979 Montclair State College graduate in psychology and sociology came to the Municipal Building in 1980 not for a career but a job that would help him afford his pursuit of a masters degree in social sciences.

The then-township consumer affairs officer passed a typing test and was appointed assistant clerk in 1982 and municipal clerk in 1986. He said that he would have continued as clerk if it were not for recent health issues.

The Township Council commemorated the now-Union resident's service at their July 10 meeting. Shointa Watson has been meanwhile promoted to assistant clerk.

**EAST ORANGE** - The two teenagers who took city police officers on a car and foot chase here at Springdale and Midland avenues early July 25 will likely be facing arraignment in two other municipalities.

An EOPD statement, issued past 6 p.m. that Tuesday, said that officers had arrested Travis Andrews, 18, of East Orange, and Jaquil Q. Buie, 18, of Newark, were arrested in the area of that First Ward intersection. They ran out of the 2021 grey late model four door BMW after they and a marked EOPD SUV had collided in the intersection.

The said BMW had matched the description of one stolen earlier from Wykoff. Livingston police said that the same car was seen at or near a home in their township that was burglarized.

LPD cruisers soon spotted the suspected vehicle, beginning a pursuit that went onto Interstate 280 and Newark and East Orange streets. The BMW-EOPD collision resulted in the car's passenger side curtain airbags deployed, a smoking BMW engine bay and damage to the squad car's left front corner.

An EOPD fire truck arrived to put the BMW engine fire out. A Pulse ambulance took the cruiser's driver to Newark's University Hospital for "treatment of minor injuries."

**ORANGE** - Last rites were held for lifelong city resident and retired teacher Hope Edgar Webster here at St. Matthew AME Church July 28, followed by Interment at Rosedale Cemetery.

Webster, 76, a 36-year Orange Public Schools teacher, died here July 15.

Born Hope Doreen Edgar, she was one of five siblings born to Edward and Bess Edgar on the North Ward's Elizabeth Street. Ed and Bess Edgar were PTA school members and advocates for building the new or current Orange High School.

Hope Edgar left Orange to attain a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She returned home to join OPS as a teacher in 1969. Hope Webster received many teaching accolades before retiring in 2005.

Sister Faith and brothers Edward, Jr., Frank, Kim and Mark are among her survivors.

**WEST ORANGE** - The five-month-old tug-of-war between Mayor Susan McCartney and a majority of the Township Council, as of July 24, has moved into a State Superior Court-Newark courtroom.

McCartney announced that Monday that she has filed an injunction request in Superior Court to overturn the Township Council's 3-2 June 13 vote of "no confidence" in and "no support" of Township Attorney Richard Trenk.

The council's resolution called on Township CFO John Gross to stop paying Trenk his salary and his legal firm for its services. The measure is seen an attempt to show the 30-year township attorney the door.

"Never before have three council members ever told a mayor that she could not use the services of the Township Attorney - which the same council (had) unanimously confirmed," said McCartney. "For (Trenk) is to fulfill his duties and responsibilities to represent the approximately 48,000 people of the township, it's always been understood that he delegates to attorneys in his firm to execute his duties. The council's attempt to compel the CFO not to make payments for those services is not consistent with applicable law."

The Township Council, in a July 26 emergency meeting executive session, discussed their response. They have not published a response as of July 31.

McCartney's attorneys, from Florham Park's Jardim, Meisner & Susser, P.C., is to make their case before a Superior Court judge Sept. 7.

**SOUTH ORANGE** - Village elders, after hearing from the public July 19 and 24, have decided on tabling legislation that would ask the State Legislature permission to make changes to its charter.

Village President Sheena Collum and the Village Trustees are going through a review on what changes would be basic and what are the optional additions.

The process is akin to a car buyer determining what optional features can be afforded. The buyer, in this case, would be the

(Continued on page 14)



**Do you have some college credits, but no degree?  
Want to finish college but not sure how or where to go for help?**

**Essex County College can help you use your credits  
to earn your Associate Degree!**

For assistance please contact our **Welcome Center** at  
**(973) 877-4477** or **welcomecenter@essex.edu**

**Monday to Friday • 8:30 am - 7:00 pm  
Saturdays • 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**

(Paid for through the New Jersey Office of the Secretary Higher Education-Some College, No Degree Grant)

**WORLD NEWS FLASH**

*(Continued from page 6)*

bacco Control and curb the tobacco epidemic.

Smoke-free environments help people breathe clean air, shield the public from deadly second-hand smoke, motivate people to quit, denormalize smoking and help prevent young people from ever starting to smoke or use e-cigarettes.

Eight countries are just one MPOWER policy away from joining the leaders in tobacco control: Ethiopia, Iran, Ireland, Jordan, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, and Spain.

There is still much work to be done, 44 countries remain unprotected by any of WHO's MPOWER measures and 53 countries still do not have complete smoking bans in healthcare facilities. Meanwhile, only about half of countries have smoke-free private workplaces and restaurants.

"WHO urges all countries to put in place all of the MPOWER measures at best-practice level to fight the tobacco epidemic, which kills 8.7 million people globally, and push back against the tobacco and nicotine industries, who lobby against these public health measures," said Dr Ruediger Krech, WHO, Director for Health Promotion.

Around 1.3 million people die from second-hand smoke every year. All of these deaths are entirely preventable. People exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke are at risk of dying from heart disease, stroke, respiratory diseases, type 2 diabetes and cancers.

This report demonstrates that all countries irrespective of income levels can drive down the demand for deadly tobacco, achieve major wins for public health and save economies billions of dollars in health care and productivity costs.

**MIDDLE EAST**

**REFUGEE CAMP REELING FROM VIOLENCE**

More than two days of armed violence at the Ein El Hilweh Palestine Refugee camp in southern Lebanon continues to impact civilians, including children, a senior UN official in the country said on July 31.

Eleven people were killed and another 40 were injured, including a staff member with the UN agency that assists Palestine refugees, UNRWA, said Dorothee Klaus, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Lebanon, citing reports.

Two schools operated by the agency sus-

tained damage, and more than 2,000 people were forced to flee in search of safety.

"In response to the urgent needs for shelter, UNRWA with volunteers opened its schools to accommodate displaced families and is providing basic humanitarian assistance," said Ms. Klaus, adding that all UNRWA services in the camp have been temporarily suspended due to the violence.

UNRWA called on all parties to immediately return to calm and take all measures necessary to protect civilians, including children. Armed actors are urged to respect all the agency's premises and facilities in accordance with international law.

Ein El Hilweh, the largest Palestine Refugee camp in Lebanon, is located south of the city of Saida. Its inhabitants originally came in 1948, mostly from coastal Palestinian towns. The site also hosts a large number of Palestine Refugees displaced from other parts of Lebanon, particularly from Tripoli, who found shelter there during the Lebanese civil war and in the aftermath of the Nahr el-Bared conflict in 2007.

Security and governance in the camp are the responsibility of Popular Committees and Palestinian Factions. The camp is surrounded by a wall and access for people and building materials is controlled by the Lebanese Armed Forces through checkpoints.



*From  
The  
Pastor's  
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Speak The Truth In Love**

Hate speech is on the rise. It is like a cancer being spread under the garb of "freedom of speech."

As observed, contemporary communications technologies amplify the scale and impact of hate speech. The form of speech - including online - has become one of the most common ways of spreading divisive rhetoric globally, threatening peace worldwide. Even AI (artificial intelligence) is being employed to perpetuate hate speech.

Much of the hate speech in the public square is directed by xenophobia, racism, sexism, anti-semitism, and political extremism. It is of interest that some politicians are being called strong because of the vitriol they are spreading. Those who support them do not care about the integrity of their character; they care that they can present the worst of hate speech.

Some individuals make hate speech and call it entertainment. Some laugh with those giving the hateful entertainment, but experience has shown that when hate speech is thus used, it becomes a motivation that only leads to violence.

Some people's hearts are full of hatred, and they spill it out in what they say in angry words and hateful pronouncements. They breathe bitterness and resentment and everything and everyone, for as the Bible says, "Out of the abundance of their hearts, their mouths speak." (Luke 6:45)

Some say they use hate speech "to tell the truth." But one needs to ask, "What truth?" Indeed, it is not the truth of the gospel about love. Quite likely, you have heard, "Love speaks the truth."

The apostle Paul instructed the congregation he raised in Ephesus, "Speak to one another in love" (Ephesians 4:15, 25). Whether they were offering doctrinal correction or helping one another to do the correct thinking, the point was that they needed to speak in love.

In his excellent essay on the supremacy of love, the apostle Paul wrote:

<sup>4</sup>Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NKJV)

Let me follow with one of the great quotes that I have kept close to my heart over the years:

The grace of Christ received into the heart subdues enmity; it allays strife and fills the soul with love. He who is at peace with God and his fellow men cannot be made miserable. Envy will not be in his heart; evil surmising will find no room there; hatred cannot exist. The heart that is in harmony with God is a partaker of the peace of heaven and will diffuse its blessed influence all around. The spirit of peace will rest like dew upon hearts weary and troubled with worldly strife. Christ's followers are sent to the

world with the message of peace. Whoever, by the quiet, unconscious influence of a holy life, shall reveal the love of Christ; whoever, by word or deed, shall lead another to renounce sin and yield his heart to God is a peacemaker. (Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, pp. 27, 28)

I reiterate that hate speech is a tragedy whether done in the public square, the family, the church, or among friends. More than ever, hate speech causes "hurt people hurt people." More violence is done with hate speech than guns, spears, or swords. At times the violence created by hate speech has become so dangerous that public media and governmental agencies have been forced to place a limit (censor) to address such speech. But censorship is not genuine if it does not come from a heart of love.

Let us ensure that when we speak the truth, we speak and act in love. And remember that whenever one speaks, they might be perceived as weak, but note that what is called weakness often becomes our strength.

**SHEILA OLIVER (1952-2023)**

(Continued from page 1)

said that her defeat was the best thing that could happen to her.

"I'm shocked and profoundly heartbroken to learn of (the) passing of one of the greatest trail blazers our state has ever known," said East Orange Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green. "She always reminded me that, if I don't get a seat at the table, then I need to bring my own seat. She brought her seat to the table and made the table bigger so everyone can have a seat."

East Orange and Essex County Democratic Committee Chairman LeRoy Jones picked Oliver and Peter Eagler to run for the two General Assembly District 34 seats in 2003. Both were elected - and Oliver was re-elected for six more two-year terms.

Oliver was selected as Assembly Speaker 2009-2013 - becoming the second African-American woman nationwide and the first in

New Jersey to lead a state legislative body.

"Today, we bid farewell to a remarkable woman who was a trailblazer in this state, a friend to so many and, to me, family," said State Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz (D-Newark). "Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver embodied the spirit of a warrior, a fierce advocate for our communities and led with resilience and compassion. She was a pioneer who shattered glass ceilings and opened doors for so many women and especially women of color."

Then-U.S. Ambassador to Germany Murphy selected Oliver to be his Lieutenant Governor in his 2017 gubernatorial run. Both Murphy (D-Rumson) and Oliver were re-elected to their second and last term together in 2021.

"Tammy and I and our children are incredibly saddened and distraught to learn of the passing of our dear friend, colleague and partner in government Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver," said Murphy while on his annual Italian

vacation. "In the five-and-a-half years we served in office together, she (also) led the Department of Community Affairs. As someone who was born and raised in Newark and who also called East Orange home for over 40 years, she didn't view issues in the abstract because she lived with them every day of her life."

Oliver, for the record, graduated from Lincoln University cum laude with a degree in sociology in 1974. She was awarded a masters in planning and administration from Columbia University in 1974.

Oliver's family has not disclosed her cause of death as of 5 p.m. Tuesday. Murphy has indicated that he will return home earlier than Aug. 13. He has 45 days to name Oliver's successor. Scutari (D-Union) remains Acting Governor.

Funeral arrangements were being made as of "Local Talk" press time.

# CONDOLENCES FOR LT. GOV. SHEILA OLIVER

**Statement from U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)**

“I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of the Honorable Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver, a trailblazer and dedicated public servant.

“Lt. Governor Oliver’s legacy of service and devotion to the people of New Jersey will never be forgotten. She spent 27 years in public office, where she fought tirelessly for social justice, affordable housing, and economic opportunity for New Jerseyans, and especially for communities too often left out and left without a voice. I was fortunate enough to have benefited from Sheila’s leadership and advocacy throughout my career as Mayor of Newark, where she was born and raised, and again as U.S. Senator. I will miss her and her inspiring leadership and yet her legacy will live on for countless generations to come.

“Lt. Governor Oliver made history as the first Black woman to serve as Assembly speaker and the first to win a statewide election in New Jersey. Because of her, young women all across our state know it is possible to reach new heights while also serving others.

“My heart is heavy, and my condolences and prayers are with Lt. Governor Oliver’s family, friends, and the people of New Jersey as we grieve this immeasurable loss.”

**Statement from Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin on the Passing of Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver**

“Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver is a hero. She was brilliant. She was fearless. And she was unfailingly kind. Her life was marked by service - to her community, her county, her state, and her country. Millions of New Jerseyans live in a more just and equitable state thanks to her efforts.

“The first woman of color to serve as Speaker of New Jersey’s General Assembly and to hold statewide office, she was a trailblazer and an inspiration to us all. She showed young women, in particular, that truly anything is possible. But more than anything, she never forgot what this work was all about: the people. And she always believed things could get better - better for an individual, better for a community, better for a state.

“She could spend hours talking about the impact of a new housing development on a particular neighborhood or how a hospital



program would provide meaningful care to people who previously lacked access. She always cut through the nonsense and the politics and right to the core of an issue, right to what mattered.

“Despite her stature, it was never about her - it was always about the people. She remembered everyone, and treated each person with the same dignity and respect. No one I have ever met understood the levers of government and how they could be used to help people better than Sheila Oliver.

“I am immensely grateful to have been able to learn some small amount from her example and I know that her impact will be felt for generations to come. My heart goes out to her to family and loved ones, her community in East Orange, and the millions of people across our state and our country who were inspired by her example. The world needs more Sheila Olivers. May she rest in peace.”

**Statement by New Jersey Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli on the Passing of Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver**

“On behalf of the New Jersey Department of Health, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to the Oliver family on the passing of Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver. She was a trailblazer for women, especially young women of color, in the state. She also led by example for all in her dedication to a lifetime of public service and unwavering commitment to equity, affordable housing, and improving the lives of New Jersey residents.

“As Commissioner of Health, I was especially proud to stand alongside her in the first days of COVID-19, when she led our initial response to the unprecedented pandemic. She leaves behind a legacy as a strong leader for all to follow.”

**Statement on the Passing of Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver from NAACP Oranges & Maplewood Branch President Darryl L. Jeffries**

“The NAACP Oranges & Maplewood Branch is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our highly esteemed Life Member, the Honorable Sheila Y. Oliver.

“Her trailblazing legacy of stewardship as a political leader and as a Freedom Fighter is unsurpassed.

“Her extraordinary legacy of achievement shall serve to inspire current and future generations to strive to continue to break barriers to address injustice and create opportunities to level the playing field in every facet of our society.

“Her warm, graceful presence and enduring fortitude shall be missed.

“We shall honor her memory by continuing our quest for justice and equality for communities of color and for all people. May she rest in power.”

**Statement from Senator Linda Greenstein, Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo and Assemblyman Dan Benson issued the following statement on the passing of Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver:**

“It is with profound sadness that we recognize the passing of Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver.

“The first Black woman to serve as Speaker of the General Assembly, and then as Lieutenant Governor, Sheila Oliver was a trailblazer and dedicated public servant through and through. Leading the Department of Community Affairs, she made it her mission to address housing issues, house the homeless, improve social services, and more - making New Jersey a safer, more affordable, and better place to call home.

“Sheila’s legacy remains in the communities she fought for, in the policies she championed, and in those she met and inspired along the way.

“We offer our deepest condolences to Sheila’s family during this difficult time.”

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

BOTTOMS UP

Living on the low means being a master at the art of struggle, mediocrity, self-pity and/or blame. Logically, that ain't the kind of gettin' down our God Daddy James Brown usta sang about. ... Gettin' on the good foot is where it's at. Where it's at is about that soul, and soul is what that real funk is all about!

Limbo was a piece that I wrote long ago. Now, still it remains relevant and from our world's view, sadly it always will ... Enjoy!

LIMBO

"Evidently, getting down will always be a cinch. There wasn't any rock bottom for me;

my bottom was a bottomless pit. Ultimately, the challenge had never been to sustain low, but to rise!"

You gotta be nimble to do the limbo, and if a poster child were needed to represent survival tactic, I'd be the one adorning the page.

Boy, could I pull a wagon. That's including the added weight of others, and all that extra stuff I'd pick up off the side of the road. In between all that multitasking from the sidelines, if observers cheered me on, with a few tricks, I could even entertain. I could be found any time of day, strutting around like a peacock, wearing my Sunday best.



Photos By Andrea Dialect

Nobody was more prepared, if the need arose, to maintain lower than low. Of course, there were those who'd stop and offer a ride along the way. Acceptance was seen as taking the easy way out, but the next one in passing kind enough to ask, I'm gonna take the ride.

With all the bending and dragging, there are occasional sights of blood, intermingled with the tears and sweat which tend to reek rancid.

Making use over and over again of the same ole basin to tidy up or cool off in can be hard to stomach. It's the lingering scent of sweetness that I'm after.

A fresh bath, with a few rose

petals sprinkled in, and plenty of fragrance poured clear through to the bottom, is what I'm in need of.

These dayz, best things are best kept nice and clean, regardless of having bought the good soap powder underneath that sink. I suppose you eventually get tired of making the best of any ol' situation. Because sometimes any ole situation just ain't best! ...

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

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 10)

State House in Trenton.

The basic model would be some long sought-for name changes. "Township" in South Orange Village's title would be dropped. "Village President," "Village Trustee" and "Village Treasurer" would be replaced by "Mayor," "Council Member" and "CFO."

Some Village Trustees have also asked moving its May non-partisan municipal elections onto the November General Election ballot. The thinking is that South Orange will save \$77,000 in not holding a May election and hopefully attract more village voters. The non-partisan status will remain unchanged.

Several public speakers expressed opposition to the option to pay unspecified stipends to the VP and trustees. One speaker asked the elders to consider implementing ranked choice voting - similar to what New

York City has practiced for its mayor, council and comptroller since 2019.

**MAPLEWOOD** - South Essex Fire Department's Maplewood Station No. 2 at 249 Boyden Ave had put out mourning bunting two weeks ahead of the July 5 deaths of Newark Firefighters Augusto Acabou and Wayne Brooks.

Station 2's mourning, explained SOFD Chief of Department Joseph Alvarez July 20, was for retired Montclair Firefighters Fredrick Fatzler and Charles Valestin.

Frederick William Fatzler, 93, was MFD's oldest living retired fighter when he died at his Toms River home June 19.. "Fred" joined the force after returning from a tour with the Army as an MP in Germany. He started out as the force's Master Mechanic and retired as a Lieutenant.

Fatzler, until his retirement to Toms River, was a lifelong Maplewood native. Born May 8, 1930 here, the Columbia High

School Class of 1948 graduate entered the Army.

The Antique Automobile Club of America NJ Region member and judge had his June 23 wake at Watching's Higgins Home for Funerals and burial at Somerset Hills Memorial Park. Sons Fredrick and William, daughter Patricia DiBiase, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren are among his survivors; wife Eileen died in 2016. Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of New Jersey., 400 Broadacres Dr., 1st Flr., Bloomfield 07003.

Charles J. Valestin, who also retired to Toms River, died at home June 9. Wife Barbara predeceased him in 2016.

Sons Peter and Paul, daughter Peggy Valestin-Klemm, grandson Jedediah and granddaughter Wednesday are among the former Maplewoodian's survivors.

**BLOOMFIELD** - The water going through  
*(Continued on page 15)*

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 14)

Bloomfield Water Department customer taps, as of Aug. 1, has become more expensive.

Mayor Michael Venezia and the Township Council, after a July 17 public hearing, approved increasing BWD water rates and charges. The ordinance to amend Township Code Chapter 556 was introduced on June 26.

The monthly water allotment charges, for example, are based on the cubic feet of water running through the diameter of a water meter conduit.

The new minimal monthly allotment rate - based on 200 cubic feet of water running through a 5/8 inch diameter meter conduit - is \$10.76. The maximum monthly rate - 35,000 cu. ft. through a 10-in. meter conduit - is \$1,899.14.

Some BWD customers are paying bi-monthly with cubic feet of water through the same diameter meter conduit.

The minimum bimonthly rate going through the same 5/8-in. meter conduit is \$21.52 for 400 cu. ft. of water. Those who have 70,600 cu. ft. flowing through a 10-in. channel are to be charged \$3,798.28.

Mayor Venezia said that the rate increase is the first since 2012.

**MONTCLAIR** - Do not be surprised that, should you require daytime ambulance service in Cedar Grove as of Aug. 1, that a Montclair Ambulance Unit responds. Montclair residents, should a medical emergency arise overnight on or after Aug. 1, will be handled by the Cedar Grove Ambulance & Rescue Squad.

Cedar Grove Township Manager Joe Zichelli announced, on July 12, that a shared services agreement had been reached between its CGARS and the MAU.

MAU will cover Cedar Grove 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. seven days a week. CGARS will cover Montclair 6 p.m. - 6 a.m.

What makes this shared service unique is that, while CGARS is a non-profit volunteer institution, MAU is a private organization. The arrangement allows Cedar Grove being served by its own overnight while it tries to attract daytime volunteers.

CGARS was formed in 1938 and is headquartered at 651 Pompton Ave. The 70-year-old MAU, at 95 Walnut St., accepts EMT interns but is otherwise a professional 40-member company.

**GLEN RIDGE** - The Borough Council here has set Aug. 14 for a public hearing on parking revisions affecting a 10-block area south of its Bloomfield and Ridgewood avenues' crossroads. The changes would affect parking at or near Glen Ridge High School, the Glen Ridge Wom-

en's Club, the Ridgewood Avenue Train Station and U.S. Post Office.

Glen Ridge's elders, on July 10, passed the introductions of proposed revisions to Ordinances 1789 and 1790 to its Borough Code parking regulations. Monday-Friday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. parking along the westernmost block of Snowden Place.

The amendments to Ord. 1789 elders consider shorting parking meter time, hiking parking violations. Two-hour 7 a.m. - 5p.m. Monday-Friday timed parking along Snowden Place's westernmost block, for example, will be halved to one hour. Residents along that block with valid parking permits will be exempt so long as they park in front of their residences.

Ord. 1790 will confine GRHS student parking to Ridgewood Avenue; from Lincoln Street south to Washington Street in Ridgewood's west side and from Appleton Place to Washington on the avenue's east side. The borough will issue no more than 95 student permits.

The ordinances will keep overnight parking violations to \$35. All other parking violations, however, will be raised to \$45.

**BELLEVILLE** - There may be activity later this year at 202 and 213-215 Belleville Ave., pending a Belleville Planning Board study, that its neighbors may not loathe or dread.

The planning board, as early as its Aug. 10 meeting, may take up the Township Council's request to study the single story building at 213-15 Belleville and its parking lot at 202 Belleville as a possible "Area in Need of Redevelopment."

The council forwarded its request to the planning board to explore a future use for the two overall .302 acre properties after openly accepting an escrow account from owner Meekassa LLC July 12. Meekassa, of Maplewood, bought the respective deeds Feb. 6 and Oct. 9 for an overall \$1.055 million.

Meekassa, on one hand, has not said what it has in mind for the building and parking lot. The building on Belleville Avenue and Smith Street's southwest corner, however, had been known as the Wet Gentlemen's Club and, earlier, as the Red Shingle Inn go-go bar.

Some readers may remember that three Elizabeth men were prosecuted in 2016 for the Oct. 8, 2015 fatal shooting of Michael Lewis, 28, of Newark. ECPO attorneys said that Lewis was shot in the parking lot after an argument broke out in the bar between him and the other three men. One man has pleaded guilty and is serving a 20-year prison sentence.

Wet had remained open as late as Jan. 22, 2022.

**TIMBERLAKE TRIBUTE** (Continued from page 7)

Beyond her political brilliance, LG Oliver's down-to-earth and humorous nature endeared her to everyone she encountered. I cherish the memories of sitting next to her, laughing and enjoying Beyoncé's 2018 'On the Run' concert - a shared passion that showcased her admiration for hard-working women excelling in their respective fields.

On a personal note, she supported and encouraged me to grow my family and do what I love outside of work regardless of the demands of my career. She loved children, was a true believer in women's rights, and supported career women in all aspects including birthing while in politics while simultaneously holding on to our positions and yielding results. I am so grateful for her to have met my family and have held each of my babies.

In 2022, in addition to in private, I made sure to publicly express my gratitude and admiration for LG Oliver while she was still with us. Honoring her with the Lebbby C. Jones Award at an event I hosted allowed me to verbally extend my heartfelt appreciation for everything she had done, not only for me but also for the betterment of our entire community. I am glad to have given her flowers while she was alive and could smell them.

As we bid farewell to our queen, let us celebrate her life by embracing the principles she stood for and the values she championed. May we continue her legacy by striving for excellence, supporting one another, and working tirelessly to create a better and more inclusive world. Let us carry forward her spirit of resilience, determination, and unwavering dedication to making the world a better place.

We are all better because of her presence in our lives as her influence will continue to shape the lives of future generations.

Rest in power, dear LG. Thank you for your boundless love, support, and dedication to a brighter and more inclusive future. Your memory will forever be a guiding light, urging us to press onward and continue the work you championed.

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