

# LOCAL TALK

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

VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 44 \* SEPTEMBER 7 - SEPTEMBER 13, 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

## GROUP CALLS FOR RECALL OF NEWARK CITY OFFICIALS

PAGE 7

## ONE YEAR LATER - SETON HALL STILL ACCUSED OF NOT PROTECTING SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

**SOUTH ORANGE** - A petition on change.org alleges that Seton Hall University (SHU) has done nothing to protect current and former students from sexual violence on campus. The petition was put online by Protecting Pirates in April 2022. Since then, the first petition has received at least 765 signatures.

"Local Talk" reported about this in its May 19, 2022 edition. This story is the continuation of the one from last year.

According to the April 21, 2022 online issue of the Setonian, the student newsletter, Protecting Pirates was formed in March 2022. According to an interview done in May 2022 with former SHU student and sexual violence survivor Emily Archibald, Protecting Pirates is a coalition outside of the univer-

sity. Administrators have not met with Protecting Pirates.

### *New Petition Asks for Assistance*

According to the new petition on change.org, Seton Hall University is not only doing nothing to address sexual violence, but actively blocking proposed changes.

The new petition, dated September 2, 2023 reads:

"We need your help once again.

"It has become clear to us that Seton Hall University will only change its ways if it feels continued pressure from the university community. Since our last protest in April 2022, our members have been in communication with students who served in the Student Government Association and attempted



to implement changes outlined in our petition, shy of demanding an apology from administration for consistently failing survivors of sexual violence. For no logical reason, there was pushback against these proposed changes.

"We persist in our fight for an alternative to the Bilateral No Contact Order.

"These orders have been exploited by perpetrators seeking revenge against those who have

*(Continued on page 13)*

## ORANGE NOT ALONE IN MULLING TERM LIMITS

By Walter Elliott

**ORANGE** - The Committee for Term Limits in Orange's recent attempt to place their public question on the Nov. 7 General Election ballot for voter consideration was not the first in a New Jersey municipality.

Citizens of Morristown and Piscataway attempted similar petition drives in 2020-21

but neither made it onto their election ballot. All three municipalities have found that attaining the minimum number of registered voters in the prescribed time a challenge.

The Morristown Voter Initiative for Term Limits, for example, began circulating petitions to sign in that central Morris County town shortly after their June 9, 2021 major party primary elections. They had submitted petitions with 330 signatures on them to the Town Clerk Margot Kaye's office Aug. 1 with supposedly more forthcoming.

Esperanza Porrás-Field, who had challenged three-term incumbent Tim Dougherty in the party on June 9, was an MVITL co-founder. A majority of participating Democratic party voters selected incumbent Tim Dougherty for mayor over

Porrás-Field. They also selected a pair of incumbent council members and a prospective council member on Dougherty's slate for that year's General Election ballot.

Porrás-Field, however, had advocated municipal term limits during that Spring's primary season. Members of Morristown Police PBA Local 43, that same season, rented a billboard truck in part to call for term limits. A resident-based Morristown Watch had also called for term limits.

MVITL called for limiting the incumbent and future mayors and council members to a pair of consecutive terms.

A crosstown check of the 2020 General Election results with the Morris County Clerk's Office, however, found no Morris-

*(Continued on page 7)*



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  
11



**Editorial**

*Dhiren Shah*  
Editor-In-Chief

**Hello Readers,**

Why aren't the city clerks of townships, cities, counties, and the election commissions truly helping the community? They all are getting paid with taxpayer money. They are all (supposed to be) independent from the administration and responsible to answer to the council as he/she is performing the duties to assist the mayor and the council.

The clerk must perform his/her duties towards the citizens as well. When a citizen has a complaint against the administration of council, he/she must help and guide the citizen to make the citizen's work easy. However, many have complained that the clerks are not helpful when there is a movement or citizen's group asking to make a change in the

law through a memorandum, or they feel that the administration and council are not performing their duties towards the citizens.

According to governmentjobs.com on the General Purpose of the Clerk: "The principal function of the City Clerk/Mayor's Assistant is to perform a number of administrative and technical tasks that directly support the effective management of the City's government. The individual in this position exercises independent judgment and initiative, provides administrative support to the Mayor and City Council and is responsible for addressing public records requests, ensuring publication of City Council meetings, attending City Council meetings, Planning & Zoning meetings, and any other public meetings as needed, maintenance of Municipal Code and official records of the City, and conducting elections. The work is performed under the general direction of the Mayor & City Administrator. The principal

duties of this class are performed in a general office environment."

In my opinion, when the citizens ask the clerk something, they must answer their questions within a certain period of time and in writing. If the form or instructions they provide do not match the law for any reason, the council must accept as a valid form of resolution with the corrections of a law.

Also, I wish that the cities and townships appoint one lawyer, who can guide the citizens in case of citizen's complaints against the administration. Why do I suggest this? Because, when the city contests against any form of changes, with lawyers paid by the taxpayers, and the citizens try to wade through all the legal confusion, the city usually wins, as they have a war chest of taxpayer money while the taxpayers do not have such funds for lawyers.

The known case of Alex Murdaugh for the murder of his wife and son on June 7, 2021 became a household story. His case started in January 2022, and he

was eventually convicted and sent to prison.

However, there was recently news that the court clerk tempered with jurors so she could secure a book deal. Clerk Rebecca Hill penned the memoir "Behind the Doors of Justice." According to Fox News, Hill pressured jurors to "reach a quick verdict," so her book can be a best seller. Did her book's publication have anything to do with the jury's verdict? Murdaugh's lawyers filed to have a retrial, as this may be a key factor in having the verdict undone.

After the freezing episodes of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, the Senate will be in session again. The doctors gave him a checkup and determined that he did not have a stroke or seizure. However, it happened more than once. He should resign immediately in my opinion.

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next time.*

**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 • Dhiren Shah • Anuj Shah • Akshat Shah • Asha Shah • Kinjal Shah • Thomas Ellis II • William Hathaway, Jr. • Lev D. Zilbermints • Dr. Robert Kennedy • Dr. Adil Manzoor • Fred Simpson • Andrea Dialect • Ahmed Screven, Esq.  
 Photographers: Dhiren Shah • Kristopher Seals • Thomas Ellis II • Felicia Laguerre Owens • Douglas Adams, Jr.  
 Designer: Local Talk  
 Web Design: www.localtalkweekly.com

**Inquire about our advertising rates. Get exposure to thousands of readers every week**  
**Email us at 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    | PM Thunderstorms | Scattered T'storms | Scattered T'storms | Scattered T'storms | Partly Cloudy  | Scattered T'storms |
| HI 96           | HI 89            | HI 83              | HI 82              | HI 82              | HI 79          | HI 74              |
| LO 74           | LO 72            | LO 71              | LO 69              | LO 64              | LO 63          | LO 62              |

# 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

## RSV Vaccine in Pregnant Women to Protect Infants Gains FDA Approval: What It Means

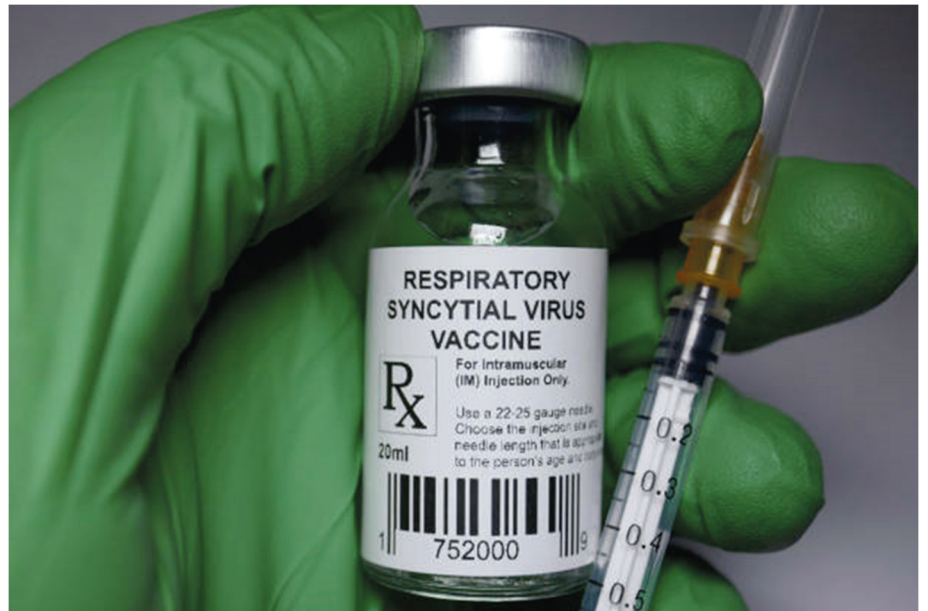
A maternal RSV vaccine has gained approval from the FDA, and that is excellent news. Excellent. Why? Let's find out.

An acronym for respiratory syncytial virus, RSV is one of the biggest terrors pediatricians in the United States face. And the fact that almost all children will have

been infected with the virus by the time they reach age 2 only justifies the fear health practitioners have of the virus. The CDC even estimates that up to 80,000 children below 5 are hospitalized due to RSV. Worse still, among children below 12 months, the risk of severe infection is high, especially in the first six months of life. Considering the threat the virus poses, you would think a vaccine would have been manufactured and approved, but not quite.

Before I make a foray into how to prevent and manage RSV, let me briefly overview what RSV is. As the name strongly suggests, RSV is a respiratory virus, and it typically causes mild, cold-like symptoms. RSV symptoms will generally appear around four days to a week of exposure to the virus. These symptoms include congested or runny nose, appetite loss, fever, sneezing, sore throat, headache, coughing, and wheezing.

For the majority of individuals who have it, full recovery can be expected in seven to ten days. However, among infants and adults above 60, the risk for severe illness is much higher.



Among children below 12 months, RSV is the single most common cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia, with both of these conditions bringing to the table high risks of respiratory and health complications.

With all of that said, I think this is a safe point to get into the management and prevention of the infection. If a condition poses a high risk to the health of individuals, especially infants, one of the first things health authorities do is to explore the feasibility of an effective vaccine. After the drama of the last three years, I can understand how many Americans are disinterested in the idea of vaccines, but vaccines have existed long before COVID and will exist after COVID.

The RSV vaccine has been in the development pipeline for years, but there was little significant breakthrough until a few weeks ago when the FDA approved a maternal RSV vaccine. I know what you're thinking - if a vaccine is just being approved, how has RSV been prevented over the years? Well, there are monoclonal antibodies that confer protection to children from serious illness with RSV. However, monoclonal antibodies are not vaccines.

I could write a whole article detailing the differences that exist between monoclonal antibodies and vaccines, but the summary is this: monoclonal antibodies are a type of passive immunity, while vaccines are a type of active immunity. And before you ask, active immunity is preferred because it lasts longer, much longer. With monoclonal antibodies for RSV, the immunity weakens over time, and they are pretty much useless as treatments for children who already

have the infection.

So, you can see why it comes as excellent news that a vaccine has finally gained approval from the FDA. Moreover, the vaccine is maternal, meaning the child does not have to be inoculated, and protection can be developed right from the womb. This is the same strategy employed with the Tdap vaccine for tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis, which has recorded success over the years.

The vaccine's name is Abrysvo, a Pfizer product, and its exact effectiveness score in preventing severe infection in infants is 82%, which is high enough for the FDA to give their seal of approval. Although Pfizer states that side effects like fatigue, headache, nausea, and pain at the injection site were commonly reported among women who took the vaccine, there is no serious or lasting concern with these side effects.

While the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a body of the CDC, still needs to pass a resolution before the vaccine can be readily available on pharmacy shelves, everything is expected to be in order before fall when RSV infections are high.

*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 pursu-*

*(Continued on page 14)*

## 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](http://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.

The first annual Brick City Classic was held this past weekend - in Harrison, New Jersey - and featured teams representing HBCU football. It was a competitive contest that saw Hampton University prevail over Grambling 35-31.

Hampton quarterback Christopher Zellous had a great game, scoring four touchdowns, including scores from 22 yards and 11 yards out. He finished 14-25 in the air for 155 yards. Running back Darren Butts had over 100 yards rushing on 15 carries, including a 40 yard TD

on the road in a dominant 50-0 win. Orange senior quarterback Maurice Williams broke the school record with a total of 7 touchdowns in the game. This was the second impressive win for the 2-0 Tornadoes, as they previously beat Wayne Hills on the road 42-6. Williams led Orange with 5 TD passes in that one.

In other Essex County action, Montclair High beat West Orange 24-21 in the Zone Six Classic at Hinchliffe Stadium. Montclair forced three turnovers and snapped a five game losing streak to its Essex County rival.

Finally, in sports entertain-



run late in the 4th quarter.

On the other side, QB Myles Crawley led Grambling on 23-38 passing for 311 yards and 2 TDs. Lyndon Rash caught eight passes for 90 yards.

In New Jersey high school football, the Orange High School Tornadoes blew away John F. Kennedy High School

ment news, All Elite Wrestling has announced that Phil Brooks, better known as CM Punk, was fired after a backstage scuffle at the "All In" event at Wembley Stadium. This incident came almost exactly one year after a larger scuffle at the "All Out" event in Chicago that also involved Brooks.



## 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](http://fibroidexpert.com)

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

Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens



# LOCAL TALK

## END OF SUMMER SPECIAL



# \$399

Plus Applicable Tax

# 5000 MINI MENUS

Size: 4x10 - 100 lb. Gloss Text Paper  
FULL COLOR BOTH SIDES

Your Choice of FOLDING: Half Fold, Tri-Fold, Double Parallel or No Fold  
Semi Gloss Coating  
Basic typesetting included

Expires: September 30, 2023

# \$99

Regular \$150

## BUSINESS CARDS

### 3 sets of 500

Includes BASIC SETUP

FULL COLOR

5-7 Bus. Days Delivery

\$99 plus applicable Sales tax

Expires 09-30-23

Must present at time of ordering \* Cannot be combined with other discounts

### PRINTING

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

### PRINTING

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

### 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](mailto:localtalk@aol.com) ♦ [localtalkweekly.com](http://localtalkweekly.com)

Tels. (973) 622-1111 ♦ (973) 280-7547 ♦ E-mail: [localtalkprinting@gmail.com](mailto:localtalkprinting@gmail.com)

# GROUP CALLS FOR RECALL OF NEWARK MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The FIST group (Debra Salters, Emily Aikens, Margarite Royster, Tallaucha Hunter) have initiated a TOTAL RECALL of The Baraka Administration:

- Mayor Ras J. Baraka
- Michael J. Silva, East Ward Council Member
- Dupre L. Kelly, West Ward Council Member
- Louise Scott-Roundtree, Council Member at Large
- Luis A. Quintana, Council Member at Large
- C. Lawrence Crump, Council Member at Large
- LaMonica McIver, Central Ward Council Member
- Patrick O. Council, South Ward Council Member
- Anibal Ramos Jr., North Ward Council Member
- Carlos M. Gonzalez, Council Member at Large

“Our reasons for recalling the Mayor and the entire Newark Municipal City Council are as follows:

- Ras J. Baraka - His political agenda has exterminated the quality of life for the average Newarker. He is the mayor for the outsiders. (Where is the money?)
- McIver - The council president is unprofessional, shows the residents no respect, and is always in a rush to do the City’s business. What about We, The People? And like the mayor, she weaponizes the police for her personal gain. When someone says something that she doesn’t like, she yells “Officers, officers.....”!
- Crump - Does NOT contribute value to the people in the City of Newark. He stole a

seat that was supposed to be decided with a special election that We, The People were denied. He also said that he was only going to fulfill the time left in his mother, Mildred Crump’s term, and that he would not run for the seat in ‘22. So he came in lying, and has continued lying.

- Quintana - Has made a career as a councilman, twenty-seven years to be exact. Too long to have no results that benefit the residents of the City of Newark.
- Gonzalez - Has also made a career as a councilman and has stood by while everything has been designed for the newcomers and developers to benefit. Twenty-five years is too long to have no results, nor legislation passed to benefit We, The People.
- Ramos - Seventeen years, no presence in the Black community, unless to gain support of the seniors.
- Council, Rountree, and with great disappointment, Silva, all bow, and bend to the will of Ras J Baraka.

“Multiple lawsuits for sexual harassment, wrongful termination, and a hosts of other things; Why? Because it is not their money that they are spending. We, The People are paying for the top notch lawyers for their criminal activity.

“There is no substantial difference for the people. How has life gotten better since they have been in office? Our quality of life has deteriorated. This is why term limits are needed. They have made this a business for themselves, their friends, and their families.”



**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!

**SEPTEMBER 5:** Nurtured Heart Approach meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 1st Tuesdays for English and Spanish-speaking parents to connect and address their concerns, questions, and feelings about raising a child with special needs.

**SEPTEMBER 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.

**SEPTEMBER 28:** 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>

**ATTENTION! FSOEC is hiring an Administrative Coordinator and Family Partners.** Learn More: <https://bit.ly/fsoechiring>

## TERM LIMITS

(Continued from page 1)

town municipal questions on the ballot. It is not known, as of press time, whether the term limit question's petitions had failed to get the minimum signatures of registered voters.

Dougherty was re-elected to his fourth term. His incumbent council team was also re-elected.

Piscataway's 2020 term limit campaign ran concurrently with that year's COVID-combined spring municipal, school board and party primary elections.

The Dems On Your Side team, led by mayoral candidate Bill Irwin, also fielded three prospective Township Council members in the primary. They were going up against then-three-term incumbent Brian C. Wahler and three sitting council members.

DOYS advocated "Term limits for elected officials - no more career politicians!" That line was the seventh of 28 platform points for a more open,

equitable and greener municipal government.

Irwin and his challengers were citing Wahler's then-12 years as Piscataway mayor. His team appears to also be pursuing the establishment of a term limit ordinance once they are elected.

Piscataway's term limits public question referendum, like with Morristown, never made that year’s General Election ballot.

"Residents may circulate petitions by state law," recalled Piscataway PIO Gene Wilk to "Local Talk" Sept. 5. "I don't recall signed petitions reaching the clerk's desk."

A majority of participating Piscataway voters re-elected Wahler and a slate of four incumbent council members. Wahler and three of the four incumbents are seeking re-election again Nov. 7. One councilman, who was appointed in 2021 when the fourth council member was promoted to Middlesex County Commissioner, is looking for his first elected term.

**NEW JERSEY TRANSIT CORPORATION  
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023 REQUEST FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT), under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, (IIJA), Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, and under provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), gives notice of its intent to apply for Federal Fiscal Year 2023 federal financial assistance, Federal Fiscal Year 2022, Federal Fiscal Year 2021 and Federal Fiscal Year 2020 carryover funds from the following programs: \$318.232 million under 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 for operating and capital assistance; \$346.929 million under Section 5337 State of Good Repair; \$16.023 million under Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities; \$12.338 million under 49 U.S.C. Sections 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities and Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program; \$364.544 million as part of a Section 5309 Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA); \$82.369 million of Federal Highway Administration Flexible Funds; \$106.806 million of discretionary or competitive funding; and \$47.941 million of Covid Relief Funding for a total of \$1.295 billion.

Federal operating assistance for Local Programs will be matched as required with funds provided by the State of New Jersey and local recipients in conformance with Federal and State guidelines. NJ TRANSIT intends to provide the non-Federal share of capital projects with transportation development credits, or funding available from the Transportation Trust Fund and other eligible sources. The Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Federal program is described below.

**FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS  
Proposed Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program  
(Millions of Dollars)**

| <b>PROJECT</b>  | <b>FEDERAL</b>   |
|---|------------------|
| ALP46A Electric Locomotive Overhaul                       | \$7.251          |
| Capital Lease Payments                                    | 55.373           |
| Cumberland County Bus Program                             | 1.020            |
| Elizabeth Intermodal Station Reconstruction               | 15.000           |
| Lackawanna Cutoff MOS Project                             | 7.498            |
| Mechanical Equipment Inspection Improvements              | 18.290           |
| New Brunswick Inbound Platform Extension                  | 2.551            |
| Perth Amboy Intermodal ADA Improvements                   | 11.877           |
| Preventive Maintenance – Bus                              | 102.195          |
| Preventive Maintenance – Rail                             | 76.393           |
| Track, Bridge, Mobility, and Capacity Improvements        | 12.050           |
| Traction Power, Catenary, and Control System Improvements | 8.734            |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$318.232</b> |

**Proposed Section 5337 State of Good Repair  
(Millions of Dollars)**

| <b>PROJECT</b>                      | <b>FEDERAL</b>   |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| ALP46A Electric Locomotive Overhaul | \$113.211        |
| ARC Flash                           | 2.000            |
| Bayhead Substation                  | 14.960           |
| Hunter Flyover Design               | 5.000            |
| Preventive Maintenance – Bus        | 11.865           |
| Preventive Maintenance – Rail       | 186.250          |
| RiverLine Engine Repower            | 12.643           |
| Route 440 HBLR Extension            | 1.000            |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>\$346.929</b> |

**Proposed Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities  
(Millions of Dollars)**

| <b>PROJECT</b>       | <b>FEDERAL</b>  |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Articulated Buses    | \$14.517        |
| Bus Lifts            | 0.986           |
| Media Blast Cabinets | 0.520           |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>\$16.023</b> |

**Proposed Sections 5310 and 5311  
(Millions of Dollars)**

| <b>PROJECT</b>  | <b>FEDERAL</b>  |
|---|-----------------|
| Local- Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities | \$7.759         |
| Local- Rural Transit Program Contracts                                | 4.579           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$12.338</b> |

**Proposed Section 5309 Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA)  
(Millions of Dollars)**

| <b>PROJECT</b>      | <b>FEDERAL</b>   |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Portal North Bridge | \$364.544        |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>\$364.544</b> |

**Proposed Federal Highway Authority Flex (FHWA)  
(Millions of Dollars)**

| <b>PROJECT</b>                    | <b>FEDERAL</b> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| CMAQ/5307 Local Initiatives NJTPA | \$2.937        |
| CMAQ/5307 Local Initiatives SJTPO | 0.334          |



|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| CMAQ/5307 Carbon Reduction Program SJTPO | 0.128           |
| CMAQ/5310 Local Initiatives SJTPO        | 1.096           |
| CMAQ/5310 Carbon Reduction Program SJTPO | 0.290           |
| Multi-Level III Rail Car Purchase (113)  | 75.000          |
| New Brunswick Station (Demo Funds)       | 2.584           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>\$82.369</b> |

**Proposed Discretionary/Competitive Funding  
(Millions of Dollars)**

| <b>PROJECT</b>   | <b>FEDERAL</b>   |
|--|------------------|
| All Stations Accessibility Program -Bradley Beach                            | \$15.261         |
| All Stations Accessibility Program -Curvature Planning                       | 1.400            |
| All Stations Accessibility Program -Pascack Valley                           | 18.178           |
| Areas of Persistent Poverty Program -Newark Light Rail Station Modernization | 0.520            |
| Ferry Program New York Waterway  | 7.298            |
| FFY2021 ARP Route Planning Restoration Program -Bus Network Redesign         | 5.150            |
| FFY2021 Low or No Emissions Grant Program -Hilton Battery Electric Buses     | 0.514            |
| FFY2022 Low or No Emissions/Bus and Bus Facilities -Union City Bus Garage    | 44.678           |
| FFY2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program -Long Branch Station          | 13.215           |
| Hudson Bergen Light Rail Extension Transit Oriented Development Study        | 0.592            |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$106.806</b> |

**Proposed Covid Relief Funding (ARPA/CRRSAA)  
(Millions of Dollars)**

| <b>PROJECT</b>              | <b>FEDERAL</b>  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| FFY2021 Section 5310 ARPA   | \$1.342         |
| FFY2021 Section 5310 CRRSAA | 1.341           |
| FFY2021 Section 5311 ARPA   | 1.613           |
| FFY2021 NY-NWK CRRSAA       | 43.645          |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>\$47.941</b> |

**A. Property Acquisition/Environmental, Economic, and Social Aspects**

Any property acquisition or relocation that may be required will be conducted in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the law and regulatory requirements. As required by statute, the social, economic, environmental, and relocation aspects of the projects will be investigated. If required under applicable laws and regulations, interim findings may be presented at a future public hearing and further public comment will be solicited. Prior to the implementation of any of the projects and to the extent required, NJ TRANSIT may prepare an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to Federal regulations. The availability of this document will be made known by publication in the same manner as this notice. NJ TRANSIT will adhere to all Federal statutes and regulations affecting structures or properties eligible for or on the National Register of Historic Places.

**B. Comprehensive Planning**

NJ TRANSIT projects are developed in coordination with the following planning organizations: The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), which is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Northeast New Jersey urbanized area; the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), which is the designated MPO for Camden, Mercer, Burlington, and Gloucester counties; and the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO), which is the designated MPO for Cumberland, Salem, Atlantic, and Cape May counties. The MPOs are the forums for local decision-making concerning the proposed projects. The projects are developed in consultation with local elected officials, interested citizens, and providers of private bus services.

**C. Private Enterprise Participation**

Through the comprehensive planning process administered by the MPOs and ongoing communication with NJ TRANSIT's Office of Private Carrier Affairs, NJ TRANSIT continues to discuss with private carriers their participation in the capital program. In addition, NJ TRANSIT encourages, to the maximum extent possible, the participation of the private sector in the development and implementation of public transportation in the State of New Jersey.

**D. Senior Citizens and Individuals with Disabilities**

Services to be provided will be consistent with NJ TRANSIT's program of reduced interstate and intrastate rail and bus fares for senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. Every reasonable effort will be made to plan and design program elements involving facilities generally available to the public with careful consideration of the special needs of senior citizens and individuals with disabilities.

**E. Public Input**

NJ TRANSIT invites public comments on the above projects and its performance. Request for additional information on NJ TRANSIT's program of projects, written comments and/or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Rocio Munoz, Manager, OPRA & Open Public Records Officer, NJ TRANSIT, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246 by **September 19, 2023**.

Based on comments received in response to this notice and information made available, NJ TRANSIT may modify the above program before final submission to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and will make a determination, pursuant to FTA regulations, as to whether a public hearing is in order. The final program of projects funded by the approved Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Section 5307 and 5339(a) grants will be published on the NJ TRANSIT website.

Kevin S. Corbett  
President & CEO  
NJ TRANSIT

# 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** - Essex County Sheriff Armando B. Fontoura, as of Sept. 1, has given 5,000 more reasons in asking the public's help in identifying a man's body found in Weequahic Lake Aug. 29 - and to find his killer.

Fontoura, that Friday, had posted a \$5,000 reward on his CrimeStoppers page for information leading to the deceased's identity and information leading to the identity and successful prosecution of the killer or killers.

Sheriff's officers were first told of a body in Weequahic Lake just before 11 a.m. Aug. 29. They patrol the lake as part of the 80-acre Essex County park.

They found the male's body at 11:06 a.m. and, aided by rescue units from the Newark Fire Department and University Hospital, brought him ashore. They pronounced him dead and called for ECPO's Homicide Task Force.

Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II, on Aug. 30, confirmed that the male had died from the multiple stab wounds found on his body. His death is being treated as a homicide.

A Regional Medical Examiner's autopsy results here will help determine how long the body was in the lake and whether he was stabbed there or outside of the park.

Public Safety Director Fritz Fragé reports the arrest of Jmarkus A. Baker, 50, of Newark for burglaries at two charter schools, a church, a pain management institute, and a city traffic facility between July and August 2023.

Baker was identified as a suspect in burglaries at Newton Street School, located in the 100 block of Newton Street, on July 10, 2023, and July 20, 2023. He stole power tools, folding chairs, and several tents when he entered the building at 1:30 a.m. and 4:30 a.m.

At Newark Collegiate Academy, located in the 100 block of Littleton Avenue, Baker broke into the building around 2:41 a.m. on July 22, 2023, and stole football helmets, a power drill, eight Chromebook computers, snacks, and cleaning products. On July 16, 2023, Baker left Marion P. Thomas Charter School, located in the 100 block of Sussex Avenue, with several items in a box. He was charged with theft.

A day earlier, on July 15, he was captured on surveillance video stealing tools from a work truck at the Newark Division of Traffic & Signals, located in the 200 block of Central Avenue. He also took generators, a water pump, electrical tools, a vacuum, and two blowers.

On August 5, 2023, Baker was again captured on surveillance video at the North American Pain and Spine Institute, a medical facility located in the 100 block of Bergen Street. Baker walked into the building through a rear door around 11:02 p.m. with another individual and stole three televisions and cleaning supplies.

Three weeks later, on August 26, 2023, approximately 30 chairs and five tents were missing from a shed at Ebenezer Baptist Church, located in the 100 block of Camden Street. Baker was identified as the suspect.

These charges are merely allegations. The suspect is presumed innocent until proven

guilty in a court of law.

**IRVINGTON** - A township man has been held in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility since his arrest within a Maplewood house Aug. 21.

Maplewood police officers said that they had responded to a call of an individual being inside a house along Tuscan Road that Monday. That house was vacant and had been unoccupied.

Responding officers found the back kitchen door open. They entered - and found a man standing with a knife in one of his hands.

Officers ordered the man to drop the knife, which he did. They ran a records check on Romario Francois, 49, while calling for backup.

Francois was arrested and taken to police headquarters. He is being held on a count each of burglary and weapons possession.

**EAST ORANGE** - Family and congregants, as of Sept. 5, are praying for Pastor Timothy Huff while ECPO Major Crimes Task Force detectives have been looking for his shooter since Aug. 24.

A community prayer vigil was held for Huff, 57, outside of his Green Pasture Missionary Baptist Church 6 p.m. Aug. 31, with Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green in attendance. A GoFundMe.co page has been established to help with his medical expenses.

Huff, his family and the Green Pasture had been holding special prayers while he recovers from critical chest gunshot wounds at Newark's University Hospital ICU. They are praying for the shooter, who is one of two women who had confronted Huff and one of his sons at his Lower Roseville, Newark house 2-2:30 a.m. Aug. 24.

Huff was struck by bullets that ripped through a front window and a living room wall while he sat on a couch at 2:30 a.m. that Thursday. Wife Delois Hudson-Huff said that her husband heard the first shots and

shielded her.

Video surveillance recordings given to ECPO and Newark Police show one of two women firing a gun from the Fourth Street sidewalk at that time they were the same duo who had confronted Huff and his son 30 minutes earlier.

The Huffs said that the pastor and the son found at least one of the women tearing an outside rear view mirror of a car parked in their gated driveway. They said that the women left after they had called NPD. Delois Hudson-Huff told a reporter Aug. 25 that "my husband wouldn't be in the hospital if the police had responded to our first call."

Huff had been Green Pasture MBC's senior pastor since 2013. The father of eight and grandfather of 18 had reopened the Peck's Ridge neighborhood church here for in-person worship in May.

**ORANGE** - A North Carolina man, barring his filing an appeal, awaits his Oct. 9 sentencing for fatally shooting his former Orange landlord here June 24.

A New Jersey Superior Court -Newark jury, after a two-week trial Aug. 9, found James Height guilty of first-degree aggravated manslaughter and two second-degree weapons offenses -- including one for being a convicted felon possessing a handgun.

Height, 55, of Burlington, N.C., was convicted of shooting dead Renown Abdur Rahim Wilson, 55, in front of his Orange address at about 10:50 p.m., June 24, 2021. Height had been living in Wilson's building before moving south.

Height, going by surveillance camera recordings, had returned to Wilson's place that night and waited on the front porch until the latter's arrival. He put a .32 caliber revolver to Wilson's head twice; once on his arrival and again when he tried to enter his premises.

A struggle in the front yard ensued. Height was shot in the

(Continued on page 12)



# 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:

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



*From  
The  
Pastor's  
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Consider Others Better  
Than Yourselfes**

In a world where self-esteem is overemphasized, one might find it contradictory to accept an instruction like the above, "Consider others better than yourselves."

But we do well to heed it because selfish ambition and constant competition are causing great harm to our relationships within our churches, families, friendships, neighborhoods, classrooms, leadership, teams, politics, and society.

The devil, let's blame him momentarily, is finding every reason to make us strive against one another. One of the prominent fictions of American public life today is race. But it makes one group think they are better than the other.

Yes, the color of one's skin is thought to be better than that of the other. Antisemitism is another problem, built on the same root as race. It is focused on the selfish desire of one group to obliterate the other. It's the desire to be better than the other. It is built on narcissism.

It is said that what promotes narcissism is the focus on self-importance. Among the symptoms of narcissistic personality disorder (NPD) are:

1. The sense of self-importance.
2. Preoccupation with power, beauty, or success.
3. The feeling of entitlement.
4. A deep need to be around people who consider themselves unique.
5. Interpersonally exploitative for their gain.
6. Strife for exposure.
7. Lack of empathy.
8. The attitude that one must be admired.
9. Being envious of others or believing that others are envious of them.
10. Taking credit that belongs to others.
11. Comparing the self with others.
12. Want to win at all costs, even if it requires cheating.

A surprising thing is that the desire for self-importance is not unique. It is a tendency that is embedded in all of us. It feeds upon our insecurities. It is profoundly conceited. It starts in subtle, secretive, and seductive ways. One might only sense its presence in its full bloom; sometimes, it takes someone else to point it out. It is a legacy that has been around from the moment the serpent went to the holy couple in the Garden of Eden and told them that they could become like God, and they fell for the lie. (cf. Genesis 3).

Paul understood it well when he gave the kind of instruction that he did to the members of the church in his letter to the Philippians, "Consider others better than yourselves." (cf. 2:3). Look at the near context of the passage in which he gives the instruction, "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem

others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his interests but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" Philippians 2:3-5, NKJV). You can see that Paul is attacking the falsehood of self-esteem - selfishness, false ambition, conceit, and pride. He knew the potential of these evils and that they would allow his church and the families in it to be destroyed.

In effect, Paul knew that any possibility for more effective relationship, that that produced by the falsehood of self-esteem, depended, among other things, on the following.

1. Rooting out the desire to put oneself first in everything.
2. Humility - Being willing to take a lower seat.
3. Genuine biblical love - The sacrificial love that follows that of Jesus Christ.
4. Respecting others as oneself or, as Jesus said, above oneself.
5. Serving others with the kind of meekness and empathy that Christ served.
6. Self-denial - Being willing to pass by an opportunity that will hurt another.
7. Putting aside your insecurities.
8. Only sometimes, have the desire to win.
9. Laying aside the sense of entitlement.
10. Being willing to share the credit with the other.

Yes, considering others better than ourselves might not be easy, but by the grace of God, it is possible.

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 10)

stomach and then in the neck. Wilson died of his wounds July 2. His Janazah prayer service was held in East Orange's Islamic Center of America July 8.

Height was arrested in Burlington, N.C. July 9. He, as a prior felon, is facing a life in prison sentence.

**WEST ORANGE** - Members of Our Green West Orange are hoping to speak their peace on the intended renovations of "West Orange Plaza" on 235 Prospect Ave. as early as the West Orange Planning Board's scheduled Sept. 6 meeting.

The Wednesday night Zoom session is a continuation of the July 19 and Aug. 17 presentations by MKW & Associates, of Rutherford. The landscape architect and site

planner intends to modify two existing satellite buildings on the former Kmart Plaza shopping plaza property and build a new, third building.

MKW is proposing to subdivide the former Hudson City Savings Bank/now Verizon building into three commercial/retail suites. The new building alongside Prospect Avenue, is to have three restaurants on a concrete pad with a drive-through service lane plus an outdoor food court and customer parking.

The Mavis Tire Center row along the property's north side would be broken in two and separated by an outdoor public space or food court. The remaining structures are to respectively hold five and four stores with restaurant and drive-through lane capability. The work, if approved, will be done while and after Target moves into the former Kmart / Caldor / E.J. Korvettes anchor store

space.

Our Green West Orange, going by its website, objects to adding two "fast food" restaurants on West Orange Plaza in context with the proposed Sonic / Popeye's to replace the nearby China Gourmet on Eagle Rock Avenue. The environmental advocacy group opines that the proposed four restaurants will aggravate the Prospect and Eagle Rock intersection traffic and urge a township ban on drive-through service.

OGWO also objects in placing dumpsters behind the current Mavis row. They said that MKW's landscaping plan does not have enough trees to counter the asphalt parking lot 'heat islands' - and what trees are planted will take 20 years to mature.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - The South Orange-Maplewood School Dis-  
(Continued on page 15)

**SETON HALL**

(Continued from page 1)

requested them based on stalking, harassment, and sexual violence. There have been instances where assailants, who were subject to No Contact Orders, reported their victims when they entered buildings while Resident Assistants (RAs) were on duty. Perpetrators have even reported survivors who implemented No Contact Orders after coincidentally sharing class halls or bumping into survivors by happenstance on Seton Hall's small, gated campus. Perpetrators are often irrational and vindictive, and they can - and will - abuse Bilateral No Contact Orders to further torment their victims. Other universities provide the option of one-way No Contact Orders; Seton Hall should do the same.

"Faculty members have not taken accountability.

"(Dean) Karen Van Norman has not stepped down, nor been removed, for explicitly discouraging rape survivors from pursuing investigations against their perpetrators. There has been no acknowledgement of administration's failures to support survivors with the accommodations they should be provided under the law, nor any expressed desire to do better by the student community.

"Here's what you can do - every step takes no more than five minutes!

"1. Share this petition. We can get to 1,000 signatures if everyone who receives this update shares it!

"2. Email this petition to Title IX staff members at Seton Hall University. Tell them that you are a concerned community member, and

**MAIN CAMPUS**

303 University Ave. Newark, NJ 07102  
(973) 877-4477

**WEST ESSEX CAMPUS**

730 Bloomfield Ave. West Caldwell, NJ 07006  
(973) 877-6594

urge them to acknowledge and implement our demands as soon as possible.

"3. Follow us on Instagram @protectingpirates to keep up with our social media updates.

"4. Email us directly at protectpiratesnow@gmail.com if you have a connection with a media outlet that can help us spread the word about Seton Hall's failures and our efforts to hold the university accountable. You may also email us directly if you are interested in helping us organize.

"5. Make sure you're free on October 22nd. Hint hint.

"Your small actions

to help our initiative will have an enormous, positive ripple effect. We need you!

"Stay safe. Email us at protectpiratesnow@gmail.com or direct message us on Instagram if faculty violated Title IX during your report and/or investigation. Depending on your circumstances, we may be able to help you take action."

**SHU Strategy Criticized**

When it comes to dealing with pressing matters, many have accused Seton Hall University's leadership of talking platitudes and delaying matters as much as possible without taking

any action. Both critics and history say that the university has not done enough to move faster when crises arise. Only when the SHU students, alumni, outside groups, and the media create an outcry does the university seemingly start to respond.

**Delay caused the Seton Hall Fire of Jan. 19, 2000**

The infamous Seton Hall Fire of 2000, in which three students died and 58 were injured, six critically, came about as a result of SHU administration doing nothing. Since 1996, there were calls to install sprinklers in the

dorms, yet this was not done. At the time, there was a tradition of creating fake alarms.

On Jan. 19, 2000, two freshmen set fire to a couch in Boland Hall. Despite the alarm, few took it seriously. It got to the point where a student, Dana Christmas, went around, knocking on doors, telling people to evacuate. She was badly burned and spent months in a hospital. Later on, Ms. Christmas was lauded as a hero for saving lives.

The fire and smoke grew to the point where people jumped out of windows to avoid being burned. All this could

(Continued on page 14)

# The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

## PSEUDO LOVE

*Ponder this one: With one hand he put a penny in the urn, and with the other took a shilling out, (Robert Pollock).*

*Love is love all the time, there ain't no such thang as pickin' & choosin. If you ain't "bout it, bout it" like those street cats say ... Shhhhhhhh don't say nothin about it. LOVE ME OR LOVE ME NOT! (Andrea Dialect)*

## FOR REAL THOUGH

I'd gone to a venue not too long ago. Supposedly, this was one of those "Helping People" venues. Let's call it a Help Meet - yeah, that will do! I walked

around, conversing with several of the participants, most being the organizers.

Everyone spoke very candidly about their cause, their life purpose, and how very much they loved serving humanity. Ironically, some felt as if they had been beckoned by God himself. Yet when I stood at that bus stop not even fifteen minutes later, I'd then observed many of those very same people wave their final goodbyes at the speed of twenty or above; and others who'd shoot the breeze with me at the stop light, one being so close to me in their car, that if I chose, I could reach inside and shift the gears. But not one of those many asked me if I needed a ride.

It's disheartening to see service become a trend, a mere plat-



Photos Courtesy Andrea Dialect



form to toot your own horn, in that same ole, tired tune! It's all around us, this being blatantly selfish, that is. When duty calls, we must do the job. Responsibility can be a bit overwhelming because there may be times that we must overextend ourselves, GO OUT OF OUR WAY or even be prepared to forsake all others, be it husbands, wives, boyfriends, girlfriends, kids, or whomever, whenever or whatever else.

This is purpose! It ain't never been about you and it will never be all about you or yours when ya get down to it, so we best learn that real "Help" is an action word The people who HAD the most influence in my life walked by example. Ironically, at the time doing came naturally that being who they were and who they are. Thus, when it's time to cash in, know that it is all up to you. You, and only you, decide whether you get the

benefit package of a lifetime or that instant one-dolla rebate.

Whether we do a drive-by, big uppinn' ourselves as we wavin' and grinnin' at our reflections in passing when taking that glance back in our rearview mirror, or were bold enough to look 'em in the eyes and do this thing, takin' up close and personal to a whole other level, We shall reap just what we sow. Don't get it twisted!

It is more of a benefit for all of us if we were "Women & Men of Distinction" those who knowingly can identify ego as the imposter that it is, regardless of its various, interchangeable faces. We can all be excellent examples to those in need if we take our talking a step further and really look at ourselves, and be certain that our lives illustrate the very thing we're thinkin' it does.

Let's play it safe. When it comes to others, if we want to change this thing, we best learn that real help, HELPS! Are you about that life? . . .

*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).*

## SETON HALL

(Continued from page 13)

have likely been prevented had the university installed sprinklers in Boland Hall.

To make a very long story short, the university ended up paying millions of dollars in damages to the victims of the fire. The two freshmen who started the fire were sentenced to five years in prison. The state of New Jersey passed the strictest law in the nation, mandating that sprinklers be in all dormitories.

## Instagram posts by Protecting Pirates

Protecting Pirates has been active on social media. According to an Instagram post by Protecting Pirates, "There are no reasons outside of laziness and apathy to refuse providing a one-way NCO (No Contact Order) option.

"Since our inception, we have worked

with multiple contacts within SGA to attempt to implement a new NCO from the inside instead of applying external pressure. These efforts have not been successful."

According to another Instagram post, "Seton Hall administration has repeatedly pushed back against suggestions to implement a one way No Contact Order option for survivors of sexual violence.

"Bilateral No Contact Orders place pressure on survivors and perpetrators alike to avoid one another. Perpetrators can use accidental run-ins with their victims as a basis to report a violation of the NCO, and seek disciplinary action.

"Due to perpetrators having the ability to retaliate, a one way option must be made available."

"Local Talk" will keep its readers informed about how the SHU administration responds to Protecting Pirates.

## THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 4)

*ing 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.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-vaccine-pregnant-individuals-prevent-rsv-infants#:~:text=Today%2C%20the%20U.S.%20Food%20and,through%206%20months%20of%20age.>
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/08/21/maternal-rsv-vaccine-pregnancy-abrysvol/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/index.html>
- <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/fda-approves-1st-maternal-rsv-vaccine-protect-infants/story?id=102431686>
- <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/respiratory-syncytial-virus/symptoms-causes/syc-20353098>

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 12)

district, going by one of the Board of Education's Aug. 22 votes, is finding out that some individuals are hard to replace.

The school vote, in a 5-4 split vote, approved a one-year contract district administrators had negotiated with Assistant Business Administrator Andrea DelGuercio. The contract is similar to the one that had expired July 1 - except with a 10-percent increase on her \$148,500 annual salary.

DelGuercio had been planning to retire after 27 years' service, including the last eight here and 15 years in a similar position at Montclair Public Schools. SOMSD, however, had not found her successor before her intended leave.

"The combination of DelGuercio's years of experience, certifications, institutional knowledge and interpersonal connections," said Schools Superintendent Dr. Ronald Taylor Aug. 24, "make her by far the best option for us at this time of many critical high-priority projects for the Business Office and the District."

Dr. Taylor, by "projects," was referring to the various bonded school construction projects, the institution of a new courtesy bus program and managing \$13 million worth of received federal, state and local grants."

DelGuercio, in the Aug. 24 district release, said that the state certified public schools accountant "is one of the few to hold both a Certified Public Accountant license and a Qualified Pension Administrator certificate."

Why four board members opposed the contract extension was not immediately known.

**BLOOMFIELD** - A Queens woman, as early as an appearance this month in Bloomfield Municipal Court, may learn whether her alleged Aug. 25 proposition will end with a sentence.

An undercover Bloomfield Police Detective said that a masseuse at Top Health Spa, 28 Washington St., offered him sexual activity for pay that Friday.

Suijin Huh, 41, was later arrested for "engaging in prostitution." Huh was also found by BPD and ECPO detectives not to have a masseuse's license.

Huh, of Flushing, N.Y., was issued a summons to reappear in municipal court and was released. Bloomfield Chief of Police George Ricci said that the arrest was part of a township and county investi-

gation in response to a resident's quality of life complaint.

There were no further charges against Top Health's other masseuses or manager.

The Town Centre establishment was among four massage parlors here that resulted in arrests and summonses Jan. 31, 2017.

**MONTCLAIR** - Unionized Starbucks employees here at 40 So. Park St. were not alone in holding a one-day unfair labor practice strike Sept. 1.

Fellow Starbucks Workers Union-SEIU employees in Summit, Ledgewood and Danbury, Conn. also walked out and picketed that Friday in support of Montclair Shift Supervisor Celeste Cruz.

Cruz, who had been in the South Park and Church streets store for five years, was recently fired by management. SWU leadership contends that Cruz was axed for union organizing efforts that are legally protected.

SWU-Montclair workers filed an open letter to store and district managers that they consider Cruz's firing is in retaliation for organizing - and to have here reinstated.

Cruz's firing and the four-store strike comes while the National Labor Relations Board is pursuing Starbucks for failing to bargain in good faith with SWU nationwide. The NLRB is fielding 161 federal labor law violations and 72 complaints, including employee discharges.

SWU-SEIU represents 7,500 workers in 320 Starbucks stores.

**BELLEVILLE** - The curious case of 355 Union Ave. became even more curious with Mayor Michael Melham, as a private citizen, taking Township Clerk Albert Cabrera and the Township to State Superior Court-Newark over the latter's response to the former's OPRA request earlier this summer.

Melham, going by July 27 - Aug. 10 court filings made on his behalf by James R. Lisa, Esq. of Jersey City, is dissatisfied on received documents he had requested from Cabrera's office regarding 355 Union Ave. 355 Union is a 2.5-story house with a first floor office and a basement owned by Melham.

Melham, as landlord, had leased out the first floor and basement Jan. 25, 2021 to the Belleville Board of Education. The Belleville Public Schools Administration then moved in, only to vacate in June 2023 with the lease still running.

Landlord-private citizen Melham is

looking for material from Town Hall that would support his contention that a contractor for the school board and/or the district had done some unpermitted basement electrical work Melham contends that neither BBOE, BPS or the contractor had filed construction permits with the Township.


It is not immediately clear whether Melham had been denied access to his OPRA requested documents or information. It is therefore unknown whether Melham and/or Lisa had filed a denial of access appeal to the New Jersey Government Records Council.


The plaintiffs and respondents are in a 150-day period of discovery. Lawyers from both sides are to report their findings to Superior Court Judge Mayra V. Tarantino on or by Dec. 26. The filings are found under Docket No. ESX L004809-23.

# 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  
142 Lafayette Street  
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.

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](http://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



## Your new medical team has arrived and we're **open 7 days a week.**

At American Family Care, we're standing by and ready to treat you and your family right now. Great health care is just around the corner from where you are, early or late, seven days a week.

### Our Services

- Urgent Care
- Family Care
- On-site X-ray
- Labs & Testing
- Vaccinations
- Occupational Medicine
- School/Sports Physicals
- and more

### AFC Bloomfield

220 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, NJ 07003  
862-283-0000 | [afcurgentcare.com/bloomfield](http://afcurgentcare.com/bloomfield)

### No appointment needed.

M-F: 8am to 8pm, S-S: 8am to 5pm



**american family care®**  
**URGENT CARE**



URGENT CARE



X-RAY SERVICES ON-SITE



LAB SERVICES ON-SITE



VACCINATIONS & PHYSICALS



OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE



MOST INSURANCE PLANS ACCEPTED