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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

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ORANGE MAYORAL INTERVIEWS

INTERVIEW WITH ORANGE MAYORAL CANDIDATE QUANTAVIA HILBERT

Dhiren Shah: Welcome to this interview Ms. Hilbert. Why are you running for Mayor of Orange?

Quantavia Hilbert: I made the decision to run for mayor because a lot of the residents came to me for their concerns and their issues. I realize a lot of the stuff is beyond my scope in my authority as a council member, and I wanted to work with the administration, but I felt that the office of the mayor is not being used effectively. I felt like there was a presence of the current mayor and there was a lot of discomfort and distrust in our community for the local government and I wanted to offer new opportunities and a new type of leadership in this community.

DS: What do you feel is the biggest issue in Orange right now?

QH: The biggest issue right now is affordability. A lot of people



are complaining about their increase in tax, their increasing rent. A lot of them don't understand why there is such a large increase.

DS: How will you govern the city with established figures against you?

(Continued on page 7)

INTERVIEW WITH ORANGE MAYORAL CANDIDATE APRIL GAUNT-BUTLER

Dhiren Shah: Welcome to this interview Ms. Gaunt-Butler. Why are you running for Mayor of Orange?

April Gaunt-Butler: I am running for mayor because I love my community. The other reasons are there are challenges in Orange. Whether it's redevelopment, or some of those benefits for those who come to the community. But we need to make sure that people who are already in the community also get benefits from those redevelopments. There are communications challenges with the current administration. So, we need to make sure that we build an effective and accessible communications system. We need a master plan. Make sure that we are not just trying to live in a greener space, green initiatives, but also space that makes sense for community. We are a small community, we



are 2.2 square miles, we have a lot of redevelopments. A lot of units over 3,000 in the last 10 years or so. But do we have an infrastructure to support it; that is the question. You can drive down the main street and that can take you 20 minutes. Do we have emergency services to

(Continued on page 11)



INTERVIEW WITH INCUMBENT ORANGE MAYOR DWAYNE WARREN (Or, so we thought...)

By Dhiren Shah

As a critical election approaches for the residents of Orange, NJ, I contacted all three mayoral candidates on or about April 19, 2024. All agreed with me that I would take their interviews on May 6, 2024, as I was on vacation until Sunday, May 5th.

I prepared the questions as a neutral person for all three candidates. I contacted all

three candidates again on Sunday, May 5th, 2024 and the morning of Monday, May 6th to confirm details such as times and locations.

On May 6th, I got a reply from Mayor Dwayne Warren as follows, word for word:

“Good Afternoon: Thank you for reaching out to me and for your interest in covering the Orange mayoral election.

(Continued on page 6)



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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers. In this day and age, Mother's Day became a day for many to send flowers to mom. However, mothers raise their children, and give everything they have, including motherly love, so they should not be forgotten.

Congressman Donald Payne Jr. passed away on April 24, 2024 at Newark Beth Israel Hospital. I was on vacation, so I could not write about him in an editorial. A nice person, and he was elected with the same name as his father's, except for Jr. at the end. He was the one who cut the ribbon at Local Talk's Newark office eight years ago. He had a soft spoken personality and knew how to be a team

member. Local Talk's staff and I will pray for his soul and offer our condolences to his family and friends.

With his demise, the congressperson's seat is vacated. Governor Murphy then announced that there would be a special election in July to fill his seat. Whether this was on his own or with the consent of the Democrats from Essex County is anyone's guess. However, the strange thing is that, despite announcing the special election on May 3, the deadline to file petitions is May 10, 2024. It is huge politics being played, as LaMonica McIver was picked by all the main players, and any candidates looking to run as a Democrat outside of the inner circle do not have a worthwhile amount of time to contemplate running and to get the petitions signed. Inner circle officials already have the infrastructure to pull it off. In the Democratic area stronghold of the 10th District, LaMonica McIver will not have any prob-

lem winning the election and filling the unexpired term.

The Democrats are in the minority in the House by only a thin margin of 4 congresspersons. Recently, four congresspersons has resigned, and one died. Rep. Donald Payne Jr. (D-NJ) died 4/24/2024, Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) resigned effective 12/31/2023, Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH) resigned effective 1/21/2024, Rep. Ken Buck (R-CO) resigned effective 3/22/2024, Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI) resigned effective 4/25/2024.

The Israel-Hamas war has killed about 34,789 Palestinians up to now. Israel has taken control of Rafah crossing. Hamas has agreed to ceasefire terms and conditions under an Egyptian-Qatari proposal. However, Israel claims that Hamas changed the original proposal of the ceasefire. Do you think both sides are wrong?

Orange's Mayoral election is on May 14, 2024. I think this

time there is momentum, so more people will vote. I appeal to everyone not to waste their vote. I tried to take a neutral interview of all the candidates running for mayor. Nepotism is a big issue in the upcoming election. Also, parking, emergency services and schools are big issues. In my opinion, the tax abatement is a huge issue as well. Giving tax abatements, the city can invite a lot of developers, but at the cost of residents' living and supporting the community for decades. Health care is a huge issue, but none of the candidates have spoken about it.

Orange's school rating is 5 out of 5 for the preschoolers and as they grow up, the rating goes 1 out of 5. Private school is holding with 6 ratings, which brings the overall rating higher. However, the rating is 1 for middle school and high school is the worst. Source: greatschools.org.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Rain, Storms possible	Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Showers	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
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LO 53	LO 48	LO 50	LO 49	LO 52	LO 54	LO 58

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The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

Easing Back Pain With and Without Medications

Back pain is just a sucker. If you are among the over 619 million people who are affected by it, you will understand me perfectly. If you are among the lucky ones not to experience it, trust me, you don't truly appreciate what you have. Seriously, imagine not being able to sit for even a little time without feeling chronic pain in your back. Or having to think

multiple times before bending to pick something off the ground because of the anticipation of a crazy pain deep in your back. It's crazy.

However, there is good news for people affected by back pain - it is the condition for which the greatest number of people benefit from rehabilitation. So, it's manageable. And in this article, I will examine exactly how you can try to get on top of back pain using medications and other non-medication methods. But before I dive into that, you should first understand why your back pain is even happening at all, which is an important bit to consider when attempting to manage the condition.

There are different types of back pains, with people differentiating them based on their location, the type of pain experienced, and the attendant symptoms. However, the primary classification of back pain is on the basis of its duration, and then you have two main groups: acute and chronic. If it lasts less than six weeks, that's acute. More than six weeks, and you're looking at chronic back pain.

Most times, the cause of acute

back pain is known. Like maybe you went too hard on the back exercises in the gym or spent far too long bending to mow the lawn. On the other hand, the cause of chronic back pain may not be known. In fact, many times, it develops so slowly that you don't truly notice it after it has become a serious problem. Lower back pain is the most common type of back pain among adults.

Regardless of the classification of back pain, the most significant cause and risk factor is aging. The older you get, the more likely your chances of having back pain. So, why then do you have back pain at 30? Well, because there are many causes. There's muscle strain, herniated discs, arthritis, and even bad posture. You may even have back pain, of which the cause is absolutely unknown.

Now to the management of back pain. Let's start with medications.

The default option is painkillers, and you can get the over-the-counter ones that do not need a prescription. These can be NSAIDS (like ibuprofen) or Acetaminophen (Tylenol). Then, if the pain gets severe, you may need to get in touch with your doctor to consider stronger painkillers, like opioid medications (morphine). There are also epidural steroid injections, nerve blocks, and trigger point injections.

While medications are important in providing short-term relief from back pain, they are not a viable long-term option. In case you were wondering, it's because all medications have their side effects, and this applies to painkillers, too. For example, long-term use of acetaminophen can damage the kidney. For ibuprofen, after prolonged use, ulcers begin to form in the stomach. I don't even think I need to mention the risks associated with opioid use.

The non-medication approaches to managing back pain are diverse. For starters, if you know the direct cause or contributing factors to the back pain, remove them. So, if you think posture is the cause of your back pain, adjust your posture, ensuring your back is well-supported if you have to sit for long and your back is in an upright position. If you have been putting too

much muscle strain, please take a break. Your back is also pleading.

Then, you can consider physical therapy and different exercise routines that strengthen the back muscles. This is tricky, though. With the wrong exercise, you can easily worsen your condition. So, try to talk to a physical therapist before commencing workout routines on your back.

What's more, you can make necessary lifestyle changes, like improving your diet, reducing stress levels in the body, practicing relaxation techniques, and considering meditation and other mindfulness practices. All of these practices can help you maintain a healthy weight and overall health, which contribute to how your body responds to back pain.

This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor, DO, a Board-Certified Internist; Board certified Pediatrician who works as a Hospitalist and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless.

He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice, Mobile Medicine NJ; House Call Doctors. He is also currently pursuing an Executive MBA and a Master's of Science in Healthcare Leadership at Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management and the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.

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McIVER TAPPED TO FOLLOW PAYNE, JR.

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - Members of the Essex County Democratic Committee, including Mayor Ras Baraka's campaign organization, are seeking petition signatures as of press time to have Newark Council President LaMonica McIver succeed the late Cong. Donald M. Payne, Jr. on the July 17 special primary election ballot.



Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson), on May 3, had directed Secretary of State Tanesha Way and State Democratic Committee Chairman LeRoy Jones, Jr. (D-East Orange) to hold a pair of special elections to fill Payne's unexpired term. Murphy's directive came the day after Payne, 65, (D-Newark) was given his last honors here at the Essex County Old Court House and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Murphy set the respective special primary and "general" election dates for July 17 and Sept. 18. - which meant that the Democrats among the 15 Congressional District 10 towns had to quickly select Payne's apparent successor.

The Governor's July 10 special primary date also meant that Essex Democrats and Baraka campaigners had to swiftly garner enough voter signatures and file "McIver for Congress" petitions with the Essex County Clerk - Elections Division before 4 p.m. May 10.

Murphy could have done what Gov. Chris Christie did when Cong. Donald Payne, Sr. died in office in 2012. Christie (R-Mendham) did not call for a separate set of unexpired term elections in addition to the scheduled CD-10 election that November.

The then-Newark Council President Payne, Jr. found himself simultaneously running for his father's unexpired term and the following full two-year term - in 2012.

Murphy may have looked at

the current U.S. House of Representatives' makeup to have Payne, Jr. 's successor elected as soon as possible. Payne's successor would be among 213 Democrats in a legislative body where Republicans have a 217 seat majority as of press time.

Jones, who is also Essex Democratic Committee Chairman, called a couple of meetings with delegates, candidates and power brokers May 4-5. They agreed to offer the candidacy to McIver - which she formally accepted May 6.

"I'm deeply honored and humbled to have received the Democratic endorsement for the 10th Congressional seat," said McIver Monday. "Together, we have the opportunity to build upon the foundation that Congressmen Payne, Jr. and Sr. built and create a brighter future for our district - one where every voice is heard, every person is valued, and every community thrives."

McIver, 38, is the current council president and is into her second term as Central Ward Councilwoman. She had been elected in 2018 and re-elected in 2022 as part of Baraka's "Moving Newark Forward" ticket.

The power brokers and delegates from CD-10's Essex County towns went with Baraka's endorsement of McIver - but this was not a simple stamp of approval.

First, Baraka, Irvington's Anthony "Tony" Vauss, East Orange's Theodore "Ted" Green and Orange's Dwayne D. War-



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ren - who called themselves "The Four Urban Mayors" during the COVID pandemic - endorsed McIver before Jones and Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo (D-Roseland) over five other possible candidates.

Second, the powers that be that Friday night put aside any feelings they have over Baraka's run for the 2025 nomination for Governor. Some may favor one of the other three 2025 candidates and some others have not said who they favor.

Third, all six prospective candidates were Newark-oriented for a reason.

New Jersey's largest city anchors CD-10's 17 Essex, Union and Hudson county towns whole or in part as drawn by the 2020 Census. Newark holds the single largest Democratic delegate count.

CD-10's "Local Talk" towns also include Irvington, East Orange, Orange, West Orange and Montclair's Fourth Ward. There are delegates from Verona, Caldwell, and Essex Fells - of "West Essex" - plus Union County's Union, Hillside, Roselle, Roselle

Park, Kenilworth, Garwood and part of Linden plus the central part of Hudson County's Jersey City.

It is to the understanding of "Local Talk" that Jones had consulted with the respective Union and Hudson county party chairpersons during Saturday's delegate vote.

There may be supporters of Republican Carmen Bucco who were also seeking signatures and filing petitions before 4 p.m. Friday among CD-10's towns. The clothier and founder of his namesake Rising Stars Foundation for foster children announced, on May 3, that he will also run in the July 17 and Sept. 18 elections.

"They're giving us seven days to come up with over 200 petition signatures," posted Bucco on his Facebook page May 6. "The Governor has decided to call a special election with seven months until the (general) election to fill the seat for three months. My campaign has decided to that we'll take part in the special election because the people deserve that."

TRIBUTES TO THE LATE DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

"Donald Payne didn't seek glory - so it's up to us to tell his story." U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-Brooklyn).

By Walter Elliott

Public officials, politicians, family, friends and constituents paused to pay tribute to Cong. Donald Milton Payne, Jr. here at the old county courthouse and the Sacred Heart Basilica here May 1-2.

Payne - 65, who died here April 24 from a heart attack complicated by diabetes and high blood pressure - was eulogized as a dedicated public servant who was humble except in fashion during his May 2 Funeral Mass at the Basilica. The service ran three hours before a sanctuary filled with mourners.

Some of the baker's dozen of public speakers came from Capitol Hill - Jeffries, retired House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) and Sen. Cory A. Booker (D-Newark.)

Jeffries recalled that Payne did not like to publicly speak for more than a minute. "He told me, 'Hakeem, I'm going to be the Michael Jordan of one-minute speeches on the House Floor.' And that's exactly what he did."

Pelosi remembered how sharply and colorfully dressed the second-generation Congress-

man was, down to his matching tie, handkerchief, and socks.

"He put us all to shame," said Pelosi before adding, "Donald Payne was a blessing to the U.S. Congress. And he was a blessing to all of us who had the blessing to call him a colleague."

Booker recalled the time Payne walked into his office unannounced while both first-term Congressmen were digging into the federal budget. Payne, said Booker, told him to step away from the spreadsheet and desk and to kneel with him in prayer.

"At a time when I was not feeling great about myself, he looked at me and said, 'I'm proud of you.' Then he said, 'Something told me you need to hear this: Man, I love you.'"

Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson) recalled the Payne family's legacy of public service. Payne, Jr., who started campaigning in the South Ward as a teenager, followed his pioneering father's footsteps as an Essex County now-Commissioner and Newark Councilman. Uncle William was a state assemblyman.

"For more than half a century, the Payne family has given more to our Great Garden State than can be adequately captured in words," said Murphy. "It's a family name that signifies a legacy of public service, selflessness and integrity."

Payne, who succeeded his

father after he died in office in 2012, was a ranking member on the House's Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee. He was instrumental in obtaining funding for the \$15 billion Gateway trans-Hudson railroad tunnel project.

Payne sponsored several health-related bills on colon cancer detection, clean drinking water and lead testing. On the House floor, he advocated for price reductions on diabetes treatment medication and securing voting rights.

Some of Payne's causes were personal. He sought for more colon screening in his father's memory. He advocated for cheaper diabetes medication while wearing a boot on left leg - a legacy of his own treatment.

Mayor Ras Baraka asked the mourners for a moment of silence to remember Payne.

"I want you to hold your head out, your chest out and your shoulders back just today for Cong. Payne's sake and try to make some sense of all of this," said Baraka, "us losing Rice and Sheila and Payne, Jr."

Many of the basilica's mourners and those paying respects at the historic courthouse the day before were also there for Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver, who died nine months before. Longtime Assemblyman and Councilman Ronald L. Rice



had also died last year.

"Local Talk" recalls accounts of when Ras and father Amiri Baraka visited the Paynes when Payne's father was lying in state in the courthouse - and when Payne, Jr., paid respects to Ras on Amiri's death.

Both Paynes and Oliver are the only ones to lie in the Historic Court House rotunda to date. Don, Jr.'s viewing there was from Noon-Midnight that Wednesday.

Jack Payne, who wore an orange bow tie similar to his late fathers, recalled that there was no name dropping inside or outside the three-generation household.

Sons Jack and Donald III, daughter Yvonne, wife Beatrice, uncle William, cousins Eric Payne and Craig Stanley.

WARREN INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 1)

However, based on advise of counsel, I politely decline your offer for me to participate in an interview with Local Talk. Yours in Service, Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, ESQ."

With that in mind, I am placing the questions I would have asked the Mayor here for the community to ask him, as they are vitally important in determining the future of Orange and its residents. If he chooses to answer them or not answer them with the residents should they ask, that is his prerogative.

ORANGE MAYOR DWAYNE WARREN INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. Why are you running for Mayor of Orange for a fourth term?
2. What do you feel is the biggest issue in Orange right now?
3. For each of your opponents, what would you consider their biggest success and biggest failure?

4. What do you think is your biggest success and biggest failure?
5. Did you collude with the city clerk to get Line 1A on the ballot?
6. Why do you feel the need to give PILOT (Pay in Lieu of Taxes) programs to many real estate developers under your regime? How many PILOT programs under your regime you allowed and why?
7. One of the biggest criticisms of your administration is that several positions are filled with either relatives or close associates. How would you reassure residents that they were hired on merit rather than nepotism?
8. Are you impartial when it comes to disciplining your selected group of employees in cases of wrongdoing?
9. Several outlets have posted negative items about Quantavia Hilbert, but these publications only came into existence months ago during election season. Do you think this is appropriate?
10. As per the law, no one can campaign in senior citizens buildings. However, while your competing candidates are barred,

per our sources, your staff campaigns for you in those buildings. What is your response?

11. How would you describe the state of the country right now?
12. Residents have expressed concerns about the rising taxes in Orange over the past 12 years. Although some revenue has increased due to new developments being approved, this additional revenue has not yet offset the continuing increase in taxes for homeowners. What is your plan to address current homeowner concerns over these continuing tax increases?
13. With the increase in developments being approved, parking issues continue to be problematic for residents after they return from work. Although Orange ordinances are written to have more than 1 space per unit be made available for the new buildings, there have been instances where developments have been approved and the parking space requirements were bypassed and lessened to under 1 space per unit for developers. How does your

(Continued on page 14)

HILBERT INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 1)

QH: To be honest, I don't feel like, when I become the mayor, I don't think of anything against me. "Against me" is probably a negative repetition the city has, and I am open to working with a lot of people here in the city, in the county and in the community. But the key is establishing relationships and partnerships. That is the only way the city gets more funding and recognition.

DS: What do you think is Mayor Warren biggest success and biggest failure?

QH: I would say his biggest success is that he is able to mobilize a lot of people to support him in his last 12 years. He was able to have a lot of people buy his plan. I believe his biggest failure is turning his back on some of the same people who were expecting to come out with some solutions for this community. They were looking for real progress in this community, transparency and responsibility from the mayor and they did not receive that in return. We've received negative press regarding embezzlement and his lack of judgment he brought in our city.

DS: As councilwoman, what is your biggest success and biggest failure?

QH: As a sophomore councilperson, my biggest success is the relationship I am building with my community, my constituency. I met a lot of people, heard their stories, and I try to keep in contact with everyone and help them to the best of my ability. I would say my biggest failure is waiting. I spend a lot of time waiting for a response from my colleagues. I spent a lot of time emailing and entertaining conversations with the people that I thought were there to work with me and not against me. While I was waiting, I missed our remaining opportunities to pass legislations, to facilitate certain programs in our community. That is something to learn from. I want to be the person moving forward. I am the person who is always about ac-

tion, never waiting to validate someone for my interest or people's concerns. I want to be there to get the job done.

DS: You put forth anti-nepotism legislation. Will you abide by it, meaning that your husband Jean Michael Batiste will not be involved in city of Orange's affairs?

QH: I do stand by anti-nepotism 100%. I believe that we should hire people based on their qualifications, their merit and their good character. The anti-nepotism policy I introduced in the past did not affect the current people who are hired by this administration. It was really an initiative that we are really looking forward to as a community. Because we want to make sure that we have a healthy culture in our workplace here in the city. My husband was a former employee of the city of Orange. He is no longer working for the city of Orange. He was actually running our businesses, help me to raise our family. You will probably see him at the functions, fundraisers, or events volunteering for seniors. Because he has a huge heart for the older adults in our community, because he used to work for them.

DS: If you become a mayor, will you fire all the employees hired by the mayor, his family members or his friends? Will you go against those employees?

QH: I wouldn't say fire; that is extremely negative and toxic. I do have a human resources background, so I know that there would not be an appropriate approach. I would like to an assessment and evaluation of everyone in city hall, and if they are working in other departments, they will not be evaluated with a biased scope. I will build a positive workplace and healthy work culture. We need to talk about everyone being a part of the vision, to bring change about in this community and in our city as a whole. I want all the city employees as a part of that. I don't want to create a chaos or negativity or division. I serve the residents, and also serve them as their leader, not coming up with any negativity or biases or no grudges towards anyone.

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DS: Why do you feel the mayor's campaign team has fired off a high level negative campaign against you?

QH: Because they see me as a threat. I am simply the representative of the people. I am very relatable. I am a young woman in her late 30s. I am a mother in a blended family. I have an African American and a Caribbean background. I have business experience. I am also educated and am still looking for further my education. I work very well with a lot of people. I focus on partnership, I focus on diversity, and I focus on integrity. Being all that, people look at me as a candidate. These are a lot of qualities our current mayor does not have and that is why he feels challenged with the success of my campaign.

DS: When you mention your Caribbean background, from what area?

QH: I have family members who are from Jamaica, Haiti and the Bahamas.

DS: The mayor's supporters sent

three court cases by making a fake newspaper, according to you. In the first case you were a plaintiff, and the other party was defendant. The newspaper has given the wrong perception, I understand. However, you have two cases against your company and in both, your company lost. What in your response, and why you have not paid the judgment amount?

QH: The most recent case is still pending, to settle it was an effort of my company to sell some of our assets. A lot of people know that I am working very diligently to build my company and focus on its development. It was not my first (business), it was not my last company. So, I was not always successful, especially after becoming a council person, there were a lot of things out of my control. During the pandemic, we had a lot of people that were overpricing, overcharging. There were companies over my company who were shuttered by mismanagement and congestion during the pandemic. Unfortunately, we had a lot of clients who did not pay us. And in return, we did

(Continued on page 12)

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

NEWARK - The Newark Public Schools Board of Education prepared for the upcoming 2024-25 by bringing in a mix of familiar and new members onto its leadership positions during its April 16 reorganizational meeting.

Board President Hasani Council, Business Administrator Valerie Wilson and other NPS administrators oversaw the swearing in of newly elected or re-elected board members Helena Vinhas, Vereliz Santana and Sawn Haynes to the board.

A majority of participating registered city voters elected Vinhas, Santana and Haynes to full three-year terms onto the nine-member board April 18. Former board president Haynes was elected for the second time; Santana and Vinhas were first vacancy appointees.

Kanileah Anderson, whose election was unopposed, was sworn to complete the remaining year of an unexpired term. All four elected candidates ran on the Mayor Ras Baraka-endorsed "Moving Newark Schools Forward" ticket.

The newly-minted nine member panel re-selected Council as its board president. Santana and member Alison James-Frison were designated first and second vice president. (NPS and the South Orange-Maplewood School District select two board vice presidents.)

UPDATE: The city's unaccompanied 11 p.m.-5:30 a.m. youth curfew that started on May 3 is in effect on weekends-only through Monday June 17. It goes seven days a week starting with

the last day of school here, Friday June 21 into the start of the 2024-25 School Year.

IRVINGTON - Mayor Anthony "Tony" Vauss has announced that the visitation and funeral service for his mother, Dorothy Jean Vauss, has been set for 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. here at the Transcend Worship Center May 18.

Dorothy Jean Vauss, 70, died from a sudden unspecified illness at an Essex County hospital April 29.

Mrs. Vauss, who was born May 20, 1953, was an annual attendee at son Tony's State of the Township Address here at the Transcend Center.

Sons Tony Vauss and Christopher Bembry and daughter-in-law Dr. April Vauss are among her survivors.

NJTransit bus riders are to anticipate detours at Clinton Avenue between Grove Street and Harrison Place that Saturday.

EAST ORANGE - "Local Talk" is trying to find out whether two former mainline Protestant church buildings, who have been set alongside each other on Main Street/Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard for 150 years, will have a shared fate or a separate fate.

The former Renew and Inspire Souls Everywhere/Calvary-Roseville Methodist Church sanctuary at 400 Main St/MLK Blvd. have been on the real estate listings for almost a year. RISE Methodist had moved to an unannounced address.

Christ Episcopal Church's sanctuary remains at 422 Main/King, to RISE/Calvary-Roseville's west. The building is being enveloped by ivy, its parking lot officially or unofficially used by a taxi or limo company.

CEC's congregation has been folded into the Church of the Epiphany/Christ Church at Orange's 105 Main St. in 2017, The edifice has been earmarked by the East Orange Planning Department's Lower Main Street Streetscape plan as "community space."

The Lower Main Street plan, which had its latest phase completed in March, had been drawn up before the COVID pandemic and before 200 Main/King had been put up for sale.

Consideration on whether 400 King Blvd. will join 422 as a community space should be given carefully in light of how private hands had levelled the 191-

year-old Brick Presbyterian Church up the road on April 4.

ORANGE / MONTCLAIR - Montclair police officers asked more than, "Is this handgun yours?" to an Orange man between April 28 and 30.

Anthony Anderson, 30, has been charged with the unlawful possession of a weapon. Anderson awaits a pre-trial hearing as of press time.

Montclair police said the story began with a passer-by waving down a patrol officer along the 500 block of Bloomfield Avenue at about 5:15 a.m. that Friday.

The citizen pointed to a bench where a 9 mm. Sig Sauer was resting unattended. An inspection found seven rounds of bullets in what the police considered as an abandoned pistol.

MPD detectives tied Anderson to the left behind gun after reviewing local surveillance recordings.

WEST ORANGE - Neighbors and visitors of the Eagle Rock section's Crystal Lake neighborhood got mixed news from the township's Zoning Board of Adjustment here May 2.

The board approved Crystal Eagle LLC's site plan application for 424 Eagle Rock Ave. The site plan application calls for renovating the 1969-built Eagle Rock Lanes bowling alley with some improvements to the parking spaces, directional signage and landscaping.

This new plan means that Public Storage's 2021 bid to build a three-story self-storage warehouse here is all but dead. Crystal Eagle, which listed storage warehouse as one of the re-vamped building's uses, also leaves open the reopening of Eagle Rock Lanes, which had closed in 2020.

The bad news is that those who want to visit Crystal Lake next door will not have a sidewalk to use. The attorney for Crystal Eagle argued that installing a 300-foot-long sidewalk to the lake would eliminate some of the 30 on-site parking spaces.

424 Eagle Rock Ave - or Block 111, Lot 1.08 - is a flag-shaped lot which abuts the lake. The lake is the centerpiece of its namesake private amusement park that was open until the 1950s.

The lake's property became abandoned until the Oskar Schindler Performing Arts Cen-

ter opened there in 2001. The lake is only accessible by a dirt path.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - Members of the South Essex Fire Department, with help from six neighboring departments, put out a house fire in the village's Seton Village section April 29.

SOFD dispatch received calls from the South Orange Police Department and neighbors off Irvington Avenue at about 5 p.m. that Monday. The first fire and police units found heavy smoke coming from the rear door of a 2.5 story wood frame house.

The deputy chief at the scene promptly had firefighters unroll hydrant water lines. He also sounded two alarms, one for all SOFD hoses and the other for mutual aid.

Mutual aid came in the form of units from Irvington, East Orange, West Orange and Union. Other Units from Orange, Montclair and Millburn covered the village and township's fire stations.

Three South Orange Rescue Squad vehicles joined the scene. SOPD units meanwhile detoured local traffic, which included NJTransit 107 route buses.

SEFD and mutual aid subdued the blaze by 5:50 p.m. and began an overhaul for any hot spots. The house was unoccupied; there were no recorded injuries.

BLOOMFIELD - The New Jersey Schools Development Authority helped the Bloomfield Public Schools' renovation work by giving it \$3.9 million in grants April 29.

The SDA's Regular Operating District grant program awarded BPS' application with four grants. The grants are to go for projects in the Berkeley and Brookdale elementary schools. Two grants are to go for window replacement; the other two are to replace ventilators in both schools' gymnasiums.

It is not clear whether the window and gym ventilators being replaced were built with the original school buildings or any of their additions. The Berkeley School opened in 1868; the Brookdale School in 1902.

Bloomfield's four grants, each covering 40 percent of the projects, were among the \$450 million the SDA awarded to pro-

(Continued on page 15)



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GAUNT-BUTLER INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 1)

support those residents who are coming to our community? So, I have a skill set that can address them. I am a prior councilperson-at-large member, so I have some collaborations and negotiation skills and experience as a leader.

DS: You were Orange Council President and lost the election in 2016. In 2016, you said that you will be involved in politics regularly. What have you done after 2016 for the residents in general?

AGB: So, I will say this. I lost the election where there were 13 people running. I do know one thing that to run the election, you need the money, and to compete with other candidates, that's a challenge. I am facing this now as well. I have always been involved in public service whether professionally or in my leisure time. I am involved in a scholar-

ship fund. I certainly participated in all the initiatives in my church. I also say life also happens. So, at that time, family members had challenges with their health, so I became a caregiver for two of my family members. So that took away from some of my public service. My mother was a senior at that time and my brother has challenges.

DS: Are you a dummy candidate running as a spoiler against Quantavia Hilbert and in favor of the mayor?

AGB: Absolutely not.

DS: What do you feel are the biggest issues in Orange right now?

AGB: I kind of said in my opening remarks why I am running. Redevelopment, that's a challenge, there are other things that have challenges as well. I knock on doors; residents tell me about not having access to information about city services, residents tell me about their quality of life is-

sues, parking, residents also shared with me that are coming from other communities. They would like some diverse retail establishments in the community. Besides many challenges, Orange can thrive because it's a close knit community in 2.2 square miles. We built a community that has an inclusive government that is transparent and shares information, so we can run our little town well.

DS: How will you govern the city with established figures against you?

AGB: I will be fine handling it. I have an established relationship with everyone and if I don't have an established relationship with anyone, I know how to establish a relationship. I have a skill set to do that.

DS: What do you think is Mayor Warren biggest success and biggest failure?

AGB: I don't know. You have to ask that to Mayor Warren. I have

no opinion or comment on that.

DS: What is your biggest success as a councilperson and biggest failure?

AGB: I have many successes. One success was restructuring the debt and saving probably to the city more than a quarter million dollars. It could have been more if administrations acted sooner. Another success was a toy gun legislation that keeps our young people safe. Another success was a medication drop box (to discard drugs) in a safe manner. I am not sure of any failure.

DS: When you mention toy gun legislation, can you elaborate on it?

AGB: I don't know if you remember, when I was a councilwoman, there were quite a few incidents around the country where children were playing with toy guns and police officers were mistaking them for real guns. So, I wanted to put that in

(Continued on page 12)

HILBERT INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 7)

not keep some of our bills, and at a point in time, I wanted to stay away from the trucking company completely, because I did not want it to affect my role as a leader in this community. I did not go into the trucking business because I loved it, but because I have a skill set, and it is going to help me provide for my family. I do love being a part of the community, and I never, ever, use my role as a council member to advance myself or my career or my business. Unfortunately, there is a lot of focus on these court cases, and I am still working out the resolutions with my partners and my legal team.

DS: In your opinion, have you ever cheated someone?

QH: No. Never. I am still working on resolving some of the issues. We have good relationships with a lot of these companies. I had to let go part of my business. It was my baby. I had built up this business with no assistance or outside funding, and to this today, I am the same person. I like to build with my hard work ethic. I don't take from other people. I don't take people's hard earned money. I learned a lot as a young entrepreneur, and I will continue to grow from this and apply better business practices and better safeguards for my next business.

DS: Do you have relations with the companies you lost the two cases against?

GAUNT-BUTLER INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 11)

place, so those kinds of things don't happen. You can easily identify a toy gun.

DS: Your campaign does not seem to have the reach that the other campaigns have. How will you galvanize the citizens of Orange to vote for you?

AGB: So, when I talked to people and engaged with people, they like me with my message, they engage with my message, I also tell them to watch the de-

QH: If I call them, they will definitely answer my call and speak with me. It wasn't an unfriendly exit. It was just the time. They understood, we understood, we did not take it personally. We tried to liquidate some assets. Tried to take extra work from other places to make up the balances. Unfortunately, I was not 100% into my business, because I was running for office.

DS: How would you describe the state of the country right now?

QH: In 2024, America is still a young country. We still going through trials and errors. We are still trying to figure out who is on the top and who is on the bottom. We are still building on alliances, and having backroom conversations, and at times all about who you know, not what you know. A lot of that has led us to nepotism. A lot of that led us to losing good people in our country. Because we pushed our favorites in front of hard working, good people. Look at the climate of war happening, issues with health insurance, retirement, the inflation, the possibility of more people being homeless in couple of years. I pray that in the upcoming election, we are not divided like we were before.

DS: Residents have expressed concerns about the rising taxes in Orange over the past 12 years. Although some revenue has increased due to new developments being approved, this additional revenue has not yet offset the continuing increase in taxes for homeowners. During your

bate and make an informed choice. I get positive reviews as well. The community certainly supports me, because of the message I am giving them.

DS: How would you describe the state of the country right now?

AGB: Polarized certainly. but I also say it disturbs me that Orange probably is a microcosm of what we are seeing on a national level.

DS: Residents have expressed concerns about the rising taxes for Orange over the past 12 years. Although some revenue

last two years as Councilperson, you voted both years for budgets that increased the tax burden for residents. What is your plan to address current homeowner concerns over these continuing tax increases?

QH: In regard to previous budgets, I agreed to them on the basis of what we needed to pass the budget in order to serve our community. But I would say on the last budget review in 2023, I was reluctant to pass the budget because I felt like there were some departments that were heavily inflated. I felt that there was no justification for the increases in some areas, and I also recognized that our Library, our institution, was underfunded and they were struggling and needed additional funding. So, I pushed for appropriations to be funneled into the library in order to help the communications workers there and make sure that the community has access to that public space.

In regard to our development, you are right. We have not seen an offset to other taxes or even a stabilization of the taxes from the developments we have already. In a lot of those developments, they are supposed to provide community benefits, and we don't see that impact either. I believe that as a local government, we have not gone to the developers or the private investors. It has tangibles and deliverables we needed from them. We did not have meaningful, impactful things to ask from them. We have not seen the money applied to the community.

We were offered additional parking as a part of the commu-

has increased due to new developments being approved, this additional revenue has not yet offset the continuing increase in taxes for homeowners. During your last tenure, you voted for some budgets that increased the tax burden for residents. What is your plan to address current homeowner concerns over these continuing tax increases?

AGB: My message is to taxpayers, and to the community at large, that we need to reshape our focus. We do need to develop a master plan that not only develops a residential development, but also brings in commer-

nity benefit. To my understanding, the additional parking will come as \$125 per month to the community. That's not a real benefit. We have to overhaul the community benefit policies and we really need to do an assessment, what is going to come to the community from these new developments. I did ask the questions from our budget consultants, and I am still waiting for those answers.

DS: You have said "YES" to the budgets. However, except once you have said no to tax abatement. Why?

QH: I say no to tax abatements where I believe that there should be stronger community benefits policies. I believe that we should increase requirements for affordable units. I believe that it should not be 10%, it should be 15% or 20%, because we don't want to displace Orange's residents. And I do not believe we should not have 30 years or 20 years tax abatements, because our residents should have full revenue in the tax base and pressure should be taken off of homeowners.

DS: What is the reason Mayor Warren is raising the taxes?

QH: I believe he is increasing the taxes because his budget every year is increased based off of salaries and other miscellaneous things. But I don't think he understands what he is doing with his budget.

DS: Thank you very much for your time.

cial development, and this way the taxpayer will share the burden with the commercial businesses, so they create some kind of tax equity. When you bring in all this redevelopment, and they are getting tax abatements, and they are paying PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes), they are not paying fully assessed value and it does not benefit at all.

DS: What are the tax percentage the developers are paying under the PILOT programs?

AGB: They vary for each development.
(Continued on page 14)

DERRICK HENRY ANNOUNCES WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN FOR ORANGE COUNCIL



ABOUT DERRICK HENRY

- Member, Orange Board of Education;
- Member, New Jersey School Boards Association;
- Community activist

Can I have 30 seconds of your time?

I've decided to run for Councilman-At-Large, but in a different way. I am asking You, the voters of Orange, for the city's first successful write-in candidacy.

Why?

Don't you believe that our leadership should be present, receptive and considerate enough to know that it's going to take all of Us, not just a chosen, favored or compensated few?

Because I do.

As we move towards 2028, Orange needs to be about the power of service, not the power of office.

Please take 30 seconds to write my name, Derrick Henry, in the write-in space on your ballot. And, don't forget to color the bubble so Your vote can be counted.

30 seconds for 4 years sounds like a great tradeoff, to create a better Orange for all of Us.

Thank you , Orange

WRITE-IN

DERRICK HENRY

FOR COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE

Derrick Henry has announced his intention to run as a write-in candidate for one of three councilman-at-large seats in the upcoming election on May 14th. "After some consideration and recent events, we can't sit back and wait for change. Unfortunately, it feels like 12 years has been too long a wait for the return on Orange's investment in its current leadership slate."

Currently serving on the Orange Board of Education, Henry has previously chaired the Facilities and Public Relations committees. In 2021, he was nominated to the Legislative & Leadership Committee(s) of the NJ School Boards Association by then-President Ray Pinney, a role he continues to hold, providing significant contributions to school board governance across the state. As a board member, he participates in voting on the strategic direction of the school district.

Formerly, Henry was part of the Committee For Elected Orange School Board (CEOSB), instrumental in transitioning to an appointed school board following extensive litigation, and other community initiatives such as Preserve Our Water and Committee For Term Limits in Orange.

"We need leaders who will be able to think independently of the mayor's office. The City Council is supposed to be about checks and balances to a mayor's power, much like a congress and president," he explained.

Henry recently discussed the anti-nepotism resolution attempted by mayoral candidate Quantavia Hilbert, West Ward

councilwoman.

"I see two things wrong with this. First, with all the diversity of talent Orange has, openings in staff and administration shouldn't be first-come, first-serve to friends and family. We should all have a hand in a better Orange. Secondly, the mere fact that only one councilperson supported such a measure speaks volumes about how complacent or comfortable our City Council has become. Change, progress and growth are all uncomfortable processes. However, if they're not listening, acting or earning our money, they should be replaced."

Passionate about reinstating live or hybrid council meetings, Henry noted, "Citizens have complained about being digitally censored or muted during council meetings. Their voices have been controlled by council members or city attorneys who won't address their concerns regularly."

A proponent of enhanced public engagement, he aims to advocate for greater citizen involvement in the city's budgeting process and the establishment of a permanent Citizen Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC).

"The citizens deserve input on their money on a full-time basis, as the CBAC should be a permanent body, not just advisory," he stated.

A self-described "forever library kid," Henry is committed to improving library management and resources. He also supports the creation of a city Ethics Commission or Committee and advocates for reduced tax abatements.

"I think the administration is more pro-developer or redeveloper vs. the needs of the long-term or lifelong Orange resident. We need representatives that won't sit by and watch the average Orange citizen get forced out of their apartments or homes."

Henry has challenged the current incumbent at-large slate - Clifford Ross, Adrienne Wooten, and Montague Weldon - to a debate.

"There's still enough time to have a worthy conversation about the future of Orange when it comes to controlling the mayor's powers, as well as the will of the people, I'm here for it," he declared. "Moreover, as I don't see much of a difference in their opinions or ideas, I'll take all three of them on at the same time."

If successful, Henry would be the city's first elected write-in candidate.

"I'm thinking of changing my name from #RebelLeader to a city leader. Ironically, what started as a jest by some local residents and/or media has turned into a title and a cause. I'm vulnerable enough to say this is a matter of power of service vs the power of office.

"Honestly, it's going to take all of Us, but I can't do this without you. On May 14th, please take a minute to write Derrick Henry and color the bubble under any one of the incumbents after voting 1A for Quantavia Hilbert for our next Mayor of Orange, and that's it. Orange doesn't need any more litigation, nor investigations. We need a productive next four years."

ADVERTORIAL

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

MAMA USTA SAY

THANK YOU MOTHERS!

The World Population (2024 and historical) is 8,045,311,447.

The current population of the United States of America is 341,536,395 as of Monday, May 6, 2024, based on Worldometer elaboration of the latest United Nations data 1.

“One of my fondest memories of my mother was when I was a little girl, about ten years old. We lived down South in Georgia. My father had a farm; we had a cotton field, and my mother had made herself a cody sack, real long, and she would pull me on it as she picked. It went across our bodies and dan-

gled at our sides, and we'd pick the cotton and place it in the cody sack. A cody sack comes across the shoulders; it was made of a material somewhat like jean. She had also made one for my sisters and brothers. I had five sisters and four brothers.

My father would take that cotton to town and sell it. He also sold moonshine, which is a whole other story. Everyone in town loved and respected my father; he was a good man. During those times, picking that cotton was fun. We really enjoyed it the farm and being with our parents.” - Ms. Mary

MAMA SAID (Part 1)

On Sunday, May 12th, "Dear Mama" by Tupac, "Mama" by Boys II Men, "I'll Always Love My Mama" by The Intruders, and "Mama Used to Say" by Junior are a few awesome melodies to set the tone for your day. So GOOGLE THAT!

It's just like James Brown said in that hit song, "His 'Mama Ain't Take No Mess,'" and neither did mine. Mrs. Doris was always on "The Good Foot," just like Mr. James Brown's other song said. And as a Mocha Woman, I try my best to do what my "Mama Said."

But forgive me, Father, for once again I've sinned. This morning, when dropping off Ms. Mary, my coworker who sup-



through, and luckily the unfamiliar maze had placed us slap dab up the road a few feet from Ms. Mary's ride. That's when Ms. Mary hollers out, "Won't He Do It?" My reply was, heck naw, "God would not be supporting us disobeying traffic laws." ...

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

ports the guys on the bus as I whip or drag my pace during our run as a bus driver, had gladly made it through a pretty challenging morning and could breathe at last as we laughed during those recaps. But, the continuous roadblocks that blocked our paths would mean doubling back quite a ways.

Thus, as I had when that somewhat rebellious teenager I used to be, I opted to disregard the "no thru traffic" sign after scoping out the place. The yellow school bus would be used as a get-out-of-jail card if need be, pretending to be swooping up a kid if the boys in blue knew and caught me red-handed, lol.

Whew, we had made it



Photos By Andrea Dialect

WARREN INTERVIEW

(Cont. from page 6)

administration plan to address residents' concerns over available parking?

14. Although you have claimed recently in ads and public appearances that Orange Student Achievement scores have risen, state data shows that Orange student test scores have actually dropped. Although city hall no longer has any official role in education within the city, what can be done at the municipal level to bolster the efforts

of the school district?
15. While surrounding cities have announced ongoing construction for new and improved libraries, the current plans for the improvement of Orange Public Library are relatively unknown. It is known that in the recent past, Orange missed the application deadline for millions in state funding for library improvements. What is currently being done to secure more funding or revenue to upgrade Orange Public Library?

GAUNT-BUTLER INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 12)

opment. One thing that I would say is when I was on the council, there were committees. I don't know if they still exist. I was also on the finance committee. I can say that as a finance person, to meet the developers and negotiate something, we would either seek a shorter term or ask for some community benefits, repaving the roads, making sure there was some green space.

DS: Usually, it is 10 to 15% for PILOT programs, Am I right?

AGB: Yes. It is not nearly what they need to pay.

DS: Who controls the PILOT program money?

AGB: I think that it can be a negotia-

tion.

DS: Is the mayor most of the time?

AGB: Absolutely. The mayor should be involved in that decision making.

DS: With the increase in developments being approved, parking issues continue to be problematic for residents after they return from work. Although Orange's ordinances are written to have more than 1 space per unit be made available for the new buildings, there have been instances where developments have been approved and the parking space requirements were bypassed and lessened to under 1 space per unit for developers. How will your administration address resident concerns over available parking?

AGB: I do. I also talked about that in
(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

jects throughout the state in September. The state agency awards between 40 percent and full funding to school renovation and/or new school construction projects.

The SDA and its Schools Construction Corp. predecessor have been involved in public school building renovation or construction projects here and in other Local Talk public districts since the 1990s.

BELLEVILLE - Although the identity of the 23-year-old township man who was declared dead along a Monmouth County beachfront May 4, his relatives and friends are likely making his funeral arrangements here as of press time.

Spring Lake police officers said they were summoned to the shoreline off Saint Clair Avenue on a swimmer in distress report just after 2 p.m. Saturday. They arrived to find a man face down in the surf.

SLPD officers pulled out the man and "initiated life-saving measures."

They were soon joined by Spring Lake Heights, Belmar and Sea Girt police and Spring Lake's fire and EMS departments. The SMART Team of off-duty lifeguards coordinated the multi-agency rescue effort.

First responders rushed the man to Neptune's Jersey Shore University Medical Center - where he was later declared dead.

NUTLEY - The township became the first in the nation April 30 to sign up to the Association of the U.S. Navy Municipal Government Partnership/Pilot Program - and some of Nutley's active or retired armed services members may give thanks for it later on.

Nutley Commissioner John V. Kelly III and ASUN Lt. Commander Steve Rogers arranged the partnership that Tuesday. Rogers is perhaps better known as a retired Nutley Commissioner, NPD officer, first aid squad member and host of the 1980s WWDJ 970 AM "The 777th Precinct" show.

ASUN, for its part, will give Nutley residents who are active members or retired reservists access to administrative, financial, health, social and/or spiritual resources, programs and/or programs. The pilot program is for active or retired members of the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.

Nutley, for its part, will give ASUN referral access to township resources to refer back to.

Both parties will also collaborate in promoting the pilot program during certain military and veterans' events throughout the year.

Details are found at Nutley's Department of Veterans Affairs' Daniel Jacoby at (973) 284-4951, ext. 2428.

GAUNT-BUTLER INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 14)

my opening statement as well. So, I have some concerns about parking. And it's a concern for many, many years. Orange is a small community, and we are basically landlocked. So, I think we need to go back to empowering the planning board and our zoning board and those members to make sure that they are not disempowered or disenfranchised and make sure they can hold the line for the community members.

DS: While surrounding cities have announced ongoing construction for new and improved libraries, the current plans for the improvement of Orange Public Library is relatively unknown. It is known that in the recent past, Orange missed the application deadline for millions in state funding for library improvements. Do you have a plan to secure more funding or revenue to upgrade Orange Public Library?

AGB: I agree with that statement that Orange is in dire need of upgrades. There are challenges, but we need to hold now-elected school board members and those elected to make sure they take care of our community accountable, things like the Orange Public Library. Those elected board members are doing what is in the best interest of our community and our residents hold them accountable. Other thing is that as an administration we must do our due diligence, especially if there is any money to support the valuable assets of our community. Make sure we are applying within the time frame. I dedicated my life for the education of young people.

DS: Two times matching funds were approved for the library. One time, during the time of Mayor Mims Hackett and another time, I think it was under Mayor Warren. Why has no one raised the funds to get the 50% (matching fund) to improve the Orange Public Library?

AGB: I think sometimes it is a matter of priority, and we find the importance of such an institution, and holding the people accountable. It could be why it has not occurred under both administrations.

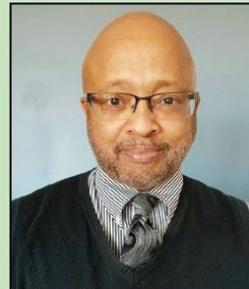
DS: Right now, nine board members of the Orange Board of Education, all except one, are supporting Mayor Warren. The YWCA got about \$7 million for the bond. They paid about \$1.2 or \$1.6 million to the city per what I heard. What can you do to repay that money back to the board of education? And if you have an opinion, why has Mayor Warren not paid that?

AGB: The YWCA is another very valuable community center that was thriving at one point, and we certainly need to get it

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back up and running. I am not sure what the mayor has done about it, but I would say when I got into office one of the things I wanted to do was a forensic audit; what we have and what we don't have and how can we build. So we can offer some community space for learning and thriving for the residents of our community. I can't tell you why he hasn't.

DS: I heard that the second floor would be reserved for people other than the Orange community. Obviously, it might be paid for, but why? It's a community facility, so why can't the community use it?

AGB: I agree, but that's a question you should ask the mayor. I would like to know as well.

DS: Thank you for your time.

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