

# LOCAL TALK

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

VOLUME 24 • ISSUE 42 \* AUGUST 22, 2024 - AUGUST 29, 2024

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

## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION UPGRADES MPOX WARNING

PAGE  
4

## MUNIRAH EI BOMANI ALLOWED TO SUE NEWARK CITY COUNCIL

PAGE  
5



## ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE & MCGRAW HILL TEAM UP

McGraw Hill Learning Specialist John Tello leads a workshop for ECC Business faculty. Photo Courtesy ECC



PAGE  
11

## NEWARK ANNOUNCES NEW SCHOOL HOURS FOR 2024-2025 YEAR

PAGE  
10



File photo

## TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT FOR MENENDEZ SELECTED

George  
Samir  
Helmy



PAGE  
12



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

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

Turn  
To  
PAGE  
16



**Editorial**

**Dhiren Shah**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Hello Readers,**

Kamala Harris is thinking to put a ban on price gouging for food and groceries. However, the cost of groceries and food depend upon transportation, higher wages of the employees (as the minimum wage has increased drastically in many states in past five years) etc.

In New Jersey, the minimum wage in 2014 was \$8.25, 2019 - \$10.00 and 2024 - \$15.13. The majority of the small shops cannot afford the minimum wage, so the owners and/or managers have to work harder to fill in the gaps with fewer employees. Still, the cost of wages and state and federal taxes goes indirectly to the cost of food and groceries. Dollar stores used to be a \$1; now, they are \$1.25, but many items are sold for \$5 in the store. Those prices are at that level for the stores to survive. Dollar Tree announced in March that there would be a maximum price of \$7

for special items while the regular price will be \$1.50.

Not long ago, Dollar Tree acquired Family Dollar at the price of \$8.5 billion according to nj.com. The price for groceries has gone up about 6.8% in the past 12 months. Finally, who pays for these price and wage increases? The consumers. The distribution of more and more food stamps also will raise the prices.

According to SNAP, the food stamp distribution in 2023 was 41.9 million people in 22.2 million households receiving benefits. In 1974, 12.9 million people, or 6.0% of the total U.S. population, received such benefits. In 2023, this works out to \$3,007 in gross monthly income and \$2,313 in net monthly income. At the same time, the SNAP program has different levels of food plans. The highest food plan is the Thrifty Food Plan. That Plan is made up of specific amounts of various food categories - such as dark green vegetables, whole fruit and poultry - that together comprise a practical, cost-effective diet that meets dietary guidance. However, due to inflow of migrants, that may increase the cost of food distribution.

In 2023 total food outlays were \$209.3 billion. There are

many programs that the politicians are creating and spending money on to show they are working for the people. However, they usually already prepare their team of employees made up of their friends and family members to work on that program. It is the way they create a strong team at the expense of taxpayer money in my opinion. The 2024 budget will be astronomical, as more and more migrants may be allowed to join these food programs.

After withdrawing his name from the presidential race, Joe Biden appeared with his Vice President and the Democratic Party's presidential candidate Kamala Harris on August 15, at Maryland, next state to Delaware, Biden's home state. He did not speak much, but it seemed like he was alert. Harris and Biden both spoke about lowering drug costs as their main agenda.

However, what has been done in the past three years about the drug costs, they must answer for their side of the story. His plan consists of negotiations with drug companies to save \$6 billion. It does not seem like a solid plan. Drug companies are masters in changing the cost despite the law. Also, negotiations could have been made in the past three and a

half years.

President Joe Biden's Executive Order on July 9 included various steps toward making good on campaign promises to take on pharmaceutical companies by allowing the importation of prescription drugs and curbing the high cost of medicines. At the end of his term, for the election promise, he negotiated with the drug companies.

I am not totally impressed with the proposal promise. This should have been done a long time ago. Most of the drugs are coming from India to the pharmacies. India has 10% of the cost of drugs here in the U.S. Why don't they allow drugs for the consumer to import directly from any country with their own risk?

Harris said that she will have her first press conference after the Democratic National Convention. Trump has agreed to debate Harris on Sept. 10th, but Harris has not agreed to two debates Trump offered on Sept. 4th and Sept. 25th. The Vice Presidential candidates have agreed to debate on Oct. 1. Presidential candidates should have at least three debates for the sake of the voters.

*Have a wonderful week.  
I'll talk to you next week.*

**STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR LOCAL TALK WEEKLY NEWSPAPER**

**Publisher & Editor-in-chief:** Dhiren Shah  
**Editors:** Kristopher Seals • Anuj Shah  
**Journalists / Writers:** Kristopher Seals • Walter Elliott • 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	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
HI 77	HI 82	HI 85	HI 86	HI 88	HI 87	HI 89
LO 60	LO 62	LO 68	LO 66	LO 68	LO 69	LO 69

# 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.



# MPOX OUTBREAK DECLARED A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN

WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has determined that the upsurge of mpox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and a growing number of countries in Africa constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) under the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR).

Dr. Tedros's declaration came on the advice of an IHR Emergency Committee of independent experts who met earlier in the day to review data presented by experts from WHO and affected countries. The Committee informed the Director-General that it considers the upsurge of mpox to be a PHEIC, with potential to spread further across countries in Africa and possibly outside the continent.

The Director-General will share the report of the Committee's meeting and, based on the

advice of the Committee, issue temporary recommendations to countries.

In declaring the PHEIC, Dr. Tedros said, "The emergence of a new clade of mpox, its rapid spread in eastern DRC, and the reporting of cases in several neighboring countries are very worrying. On top of outbreaks of other mpox clades in DRC and other countries in Africa, it's clear that a coordinated international response is needed to stop these outbreaks and save lives."

WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr. Matshidiso Moeti said, "Significant efforts are already underway in close collaboration with communities and governments, with our country teams working on the frontlines to help reinforce measures to curb mpox. With the growing spread of the virus, we're scaling up further through coordinated international action to support countries bring

the outbreaks to an end."

Committee Chair Professor Dimie Ogoina said, "The current upsurge of mpox in parts of Africa, along with the spread of a new sexually transmissible strain of the monkeypox virus, is an emergency, not only for Africa, but for the entire globe. Mpox, originating in Africa, was neglected there, and later caused a global outbreak in 2022. It is time to act decisively to prevent history from repeating itself."

This PHEIC determination is the second in two years relating to mpox. Caused by an Orthopoxvirus, mpox was first detected in humans in 1970, in the DRC. The disease is considered endemic to countries in central and west Africa.

In July 2022, the multi-country outbreak of mpox was declared a PHEIC as it spread rapidly via sexual contact across a range of countries where the virus had not been seen before. That PHEIC was declared over in May 2023 after there had been a sustained decline in global cases.

Mpox has been reported in the DRC for more than a decade, and the number of cases reported each year has increased steadily over that period. Last year, reported cases increased significantly, and already the number of cases reported so far this year has exceeded last year's total, with more than 15 600 cases and 537 deaths.

The emergence last year and rapid spread of a new virus strain in DRC, clade 1b, which appears to be spreading mainly through sexual networks, and its detection in countries neighboring the DRC is especially concerning, and one of the main reasons for the declaration of the PHEIC.

In the past month, over 100 laboratory-confirmed cases of clade 1b have been reported in four countries neighboring the DRC that have not reported

mpox before: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. Experts believe the true number of cases to be higher as a large proportion of clinically compatible cases have not been tested.

Several outbreaks of different clades of mpox have occurred in different countries, with different modes of transmission and different levels of risk.

The two vaccines currently in use for mpox are recommended by WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization, and are also approved by WHO-listed national regulatory authorities, as well as by individual countries including Nigeria and the DRC.


Last week, the Director-General triggered the process for Emergency Use Listing for mpox vaccines, which will accelerate vaccine access for lower-income countries which have not yet issued their own national regulatory approval. Emergency Use Listing also enables partners including Gavi and UNICEF to procure vaccines for distribution.

WHO is working with countries and vaccine manufacturers on potential vaccine donations, and coordinating with partners through the interim Medical Countermeasures Network to facilitate equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other tools.

WHO anticipates an immediate funding requirement of an initial US\$ 15 million to support surveillance, preparedness and response activities. A needs assessment is being undertaken across the three levels of the Organization.

To allow for an immediate scale up, WHO has released US \$1.45 million from the WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies and may need to release more in the coming days. The Organization appeals to donors to fund the full extent of needs of the mpox response.

## Non-healing Foot Wounds? Diabetic Foot Ulcers?




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



americanendovascular.com



Kevin Herman, MD

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

# MUNIRAH EI BOMANI ALLOWED TO SUE NEWARK CITY COUNCIL

By Lev D. Zilbermints

**NEWARK** - Superior Court Judge Stephen L. Petrillo has ruled in favor of Munirah El Bomani. According to TapInto Newark online August 12 article, Superior Court Judge Petrillo ruled that Munirah El Bomani may continue to prosecute her lawsuit filed Feb. 21 after she was barred from two council meetings from speaking out of turn.

Munirah El Bomani, a Newark activist, is no stranger to being banned from Municipal Council meetings for speaking out. The latest ban occurred on February 7, when Municipal Council President LaMonica McIver banned El Bomani for interrupting Business Administrator Eric Pennington during his speaking time. Pennington was responding to comments El Bomani made earlier.

El Bomani felt that Pennington was calling out her name to discredit her, and interrupted him.

“Local Talk” did its usual diligent research, checking relevant old articles, statements by the courts, Ms. El Bomani, Ms. McIver, and other sources. What follows is the article.

### Munirah El Bomani’s side of the story

In her written account, emailed to “Local Talk,” El Bomani wrote, “I am pleading for a judge, human rights attorneys, organizations and advocates to step in and help us enforce our First Amendment rights that are protected by the constitution.

“On February 7th, 2024, approximately 6:30 p.m., I spoke at the Newark City Council meeting, which is a public meeting. At the end of the meeting, the Business Administrator, Eric Pennington came up to the podium to address my comments. When he started calling my name, and disputing my comments to discredit me. When I responded back, the Council President, LaMonica McIver called the police officer(s) and ejected me from the meeting.

“On 2/16/24, I received an email from the City Clerk, Kecia Daniels that I was excluded from meetings on 2/21/24 and 2/27/24 for being disorderly in the council meeting. I wasn’t disorderly. I just responded back to comments that was made towards me, and asked, where is my equal airtime? It’s like a case of entrapment. They want to address us, but we can’t exercise our freedom of expression. This abuse of power, banning, excluding advocates from public building and meeting must be addressed. I/we deserve justice and our rights to address our grievances.

“So on February 20th, I went to the Superior Court of Essex County to file an injunction against the City of Newark, Council President LaMonica McIver and City Clerk Kecia Daniels for violating my due process of law, no right to appeal process or hearing on this matter, violating my right to petition my grievances or redress to the government, and through peaceful assembly, and a violation of the Open Public Meetings Act 10:4 -12 paragraph (a) and NJSA 10:6 -2 Paragraphs C and F.

As for the council rules, the First Amendment states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people peacefully to assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” According to the First Amendment, these council rules may be unconstitutional. It’s time for the people whose rights are being trampled over to challenge these violations and abuse of power coming from public officials who took an oath to defend the constitution.”

### Ruling of Superior Court Judge Stephen L. Petrillo

According to TapInto Newark’s Aug. 12 online article, “The court believes that there does exist at the present time a  
(Continued on page 13)



**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)**



fibroidexpert.com

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

## BEST LOVE PSYCHIC ASTROLOGER TAROT READER

**PSYCHIC & SPIRITUALIST**

**PANDIT : RAJ SHARMA**

**KNOW YOUR PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE**

100 % REMOVAL OF BLACK MAGIC & GIVES LIFE LONG PROTECTION

Specialist In Girl Friend or Boy Friend Problems

PERMANENT SOLUTIONS FOR ALL PROBLEMS

- \* LOVE ISSUES
- \* MARRIAGE PROBLEMS
- \* CHILDLESS PROBLEM
- \* COUPLES PROBLEM
- \* MONEY PROBLEM
- \* WORK PROBLEM
- \* FAMILY PROBLEMS
- \* HEALTH PROBLEMS
- \* NEGATIVE ENERGY
- ETC.....



**201-234-7765**



**UNITED STATES**



**MAJOR CHICKEN RECALL**

WASHINGTON - Perdue Foods LLC, a Perry, Ga. establishment, is recalling approximately 167,171 pounds of frozen, ready-to-eat chicken breast nugget and tender products that may be contaminated with foreign material, specifically metal, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Aug. 16.

The frozen, ready-to-eat chicken breast nugget and tender items were produced on March 23, 2024. The following products are subject to recall:

- 22-oz. (1.38-lbs.) vacuum-sealed plastic packages containing "PERDUE Simply Smart ORGANICS Breaded CHICKEN BREAST NUGGETS" with Best If Used By date of "03 23 25" represented on the back of the package.
- 29-oz. (1.81-lbs.) vacuum-sealed plastic packages containing "PERDUE CHICKEN BREAST TENDERS with Best If Used By date of "03 23 25" represented on the back of the package.
- 22-oz. (1.38-lbs.) vacuum-sealed packages containing "BUTCHERBOX Organic Chicken Breast Nuggets" with Best If Used By date of "03 23 25" represented on the back of the package.

The products subject to recall bear establishment number "P-33944" on the back of the package. These items were shipped to retail locations nationwide and sold online directly to consumers.

The problem was discovered after the firm received consumer complaints about metal wire embedded in the product and notified FSIS of the issue.

There have been no confirmed reports of adverse reactions due to consumption of these products. Anyone concerned about an injury or illness should contact a healthcare provider.

FSIS is concerned that some product may be in consumers' freezers. Consumers who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

FSIS routinely conducts recall effectiveness checks to verify recalling firms notify their customers of the recall and that steps are taken to make certain that the product is no longer available to consumers. When available, the retail distribution list(s) will be posted on the FSIS website at [www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls).

Consumers with questions about the recall can contact Perdue Consumer Care at 1-866-866-3703. Members of the media with questions about the recall can contact Andrea Staub, Senior Vice President, Perdue Foods, at 443-493-3522 or [andrea.staub@perdue.com](mailto:andrea.staub@perdue.com).

Consumers with food safety questions can call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 888-MPHotline (888-674-6854) or send a question via email to [MPHotline@usda.gov](mailto:MPHotline@usda.gov). For consumers that need to report a problem with a meat, poultry, or egg product, the online Electronic Consumer Complaint Monitoring System can be accessed 24 hours a day at <https://foodcomplaint.fsis.usda.gov/eCCF/>.

**MASS SHOOTING UPDATE**

*Information recent as of 8-20-2024 at 12 p.m.*

2024 Mass Shooting Stats: (Source: Mass Shooting Tracker, <https://www.massshootingtracker.site/data/?year=2024>)

- Total Mass Shootings: 409
- Total Dead: 490
- Total Wounded: 1702
- Shootings Per Day: 1.76
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of August 20: 233

**MIDDLE EAST GAZA NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE**

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres is closely following negotiations in Doha focused on trying to end the war in Gaza, where the situation continues to remain catastrophic after more than 10 months of unrelenting war.

The UN chief's Spokesperson told journalists at the regular press briefing in New York on Aug. 19 that Mr. Guterres had spoken to the Prime Minister of Qatar the previous day.

"He was briefed on the state of the situation, and he will be staying in close touch and informed," UN Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said.

The talks, backed by Egypt, Qatar and the United States, are expected to resume on Wednesday or Thursday in Cairo, following a two-day meeting involving the three nations and Israel in Doha last week.

"The Secretary-General very much hopes that all the parties involved will find the political courage, the political will to come to an agreement for the sake of the people of Gaza, for the sake of the people of Israel, for the sake of the hostages," Mr. Dujarric added.

The already catastrophic situation in Gaza, is worsening amid repeated waves of displacement, combined with overcrowding, insecurity, crumbling infrastructure, active hostilities and limited services, the UN Spokesperson said.

Gaza has been under an intense Israeli military offensive since the brutal October 7th terror attacks by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups on communities in southern Israel that left some 1,200 dead and

more than 200 taken hostage.

As of August 9, 115 hostages remain captive, including some declared dead and whose remains are still in Gaza.

The onslaught has claimed the lives of over 40,000 Palestinians in the enclave, most of them women and children and injured more than 92,000, according to the Gazan health ministry. In addition, close to 90 per cent of the population has been displaced - many forced to move several times.

"OCHA (the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) warns that the ongoing hostilities, constant evacuation orders, and severe shortages of essential supplies are making it increasingly difficult for displaced families to access basic services at their place of arrival," Mr. Dujarric said.

He added that since October last year, 86 percent of the Gaza Strip - about 314 square kilometers - has been placed under evacuation orders.

"As you may know, Gaza's population is increasingly concentrated in a zone designated by Israeli authorities in Al Mawasi, where Palestinians have been told to go," he said, noting that according to OCHA, the density of the area has surged to between 30,000 and 34,000 people per square kilometer, compared to an estimated 1,200 people prior to the war.

Severe shortages of fuel and medical supplies continue to disrupt the functionality of remaining hospitals and primary healthcare centers, particularly in northern Gaza, OCHA reported in a humanitarian bulletin.

It cited an announcement by the Director of the Al Awda Hospital in northern Gaza that all surgeries had been postponed and an appeal made for urgent fuel supplies to avert further deaths at the facility.

Conditions are equally critical at the Kamal Adwan Hospital, where fuel and medical supply shortages are reportedly threatening critical functions, OCHA noted, adding that the UN World Health Organization and its partners were working on getting fuel to these facilities.

# LOCAL TALK

PRINTING SINCE 1985

## ELECTION SEASON SALE

# COLOR COPIES

# 20 Cents

# Over 250 copies

Under 50 copies...50 cents a copy, and bet. 100 and 250 copies 25 cents a copy

Offer Ends Aug. 31, 2024

## YARD SIGNS

# \$99

 10 Yard Signs

### 24" x 18"

NO CHARGE FOR BASIC SETUP

INCLUDING email PHOTO

FREE YARD STAKES

Expires August 31, 2024

### 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)

**NEW JERSEY TRANSIT CORPORATION  
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024 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 2024 federal financial assistance, Federal Fiscal Year 2023, Federal Fiscal Year 2022 and Federal Fiscal Year 2021 carryover funds from the following programs: \$893.587 million under 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 for operating and capital assistance; \$115.800 million under Section 5337 State of Good Repair; \$19.596 million under Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities; \$16.747 million under 49 U.S.C. Sections 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities and Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program; \$25.024 million as part of a Section 5309 Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA); \$329.817 million of Federal Highway Administration Flexible Funds; \$29.860 million of discretionary or competitive funding for a total of \$1.430 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 2024 Federal program is described below.

**FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS  
Proposed Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program  
(Millions of Dollars)**

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>FEDERAL</b>
ALP 46A - Electric Locomotive Overhauls	\$7.251
Capital Lease Payments	115.804
Cumberland County Bus Program	2.040
Elizabeth Intermodal Reconstruction	19.200
Heavy Duty Rail Service Trucks	5.000
Hudson Bergen Light Rail Transit Weehawken Tunnel Repairs	7.059
Hudson-Bergen/Newark Light Rail SCADA Upgrade	5.000
Lackawanna Cutoff MOS Project	7.498
Mechanical Equipment Inspection Improvements	5.290
Newark Light Rail Branchbrook Park Switch Replacement	10.836
Newark Light Rail Broad/Fulton Street Switch Replacement	5.000
New Brunswick Inbound Platform Extension	2.551
Perth Amboy Intermodal ADA Improvements	33.422
Preventive Maintenance – Bus	218.005
Preventive Maintenance – Rail	353.695
Secaucus Escalators	21.752
Track, Bridge, Mobility and Capacity Improvements	15.340
Traction Power, Catenary and Control System Improvements	17.134
Vital Harmon Logic Control Replacement	19.000
WC Interlocking Configuration	20.000
ZEB Emissions Bus System Design & Investment Planning Study	3.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$893.587</b>

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

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>FEDERAL</b>
ALP46A Electric Locomotive Overhaul	\$13.000
ARC Flash	2.000
Hunter Flyover Design	5.000
Newark Light Rail Station Modernization Program	2.800
Preventive Maintenance – Rail	92.000
Route 440 HBLR Extension	1.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$115.800</b>

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

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>FEDERAL</b>
Bus Lifts	\$ 2.177
Media Blast Cabinets	0.520
Service Vehicles	1.899
Wayne Bus Garage	15.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19.596</b>

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

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>FEDERAL</b>
Local- Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities	\$11.119
Local- Rural Transit Program Contracts	5.628
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16.747</b>

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

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>FEDERAL</b>
Portal North Bridge	\$ 25.024
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25.024</b>



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

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>FEDERAL</b>
Atlantic County Bus Purchase	\$0.616
Brookdale Operating	0.750
Cape May County Bus Purchase	0.480
Cregar Road Bridge	8.100
Cumberland County Bus Purchase	0.462
Delco Lead	33.820
Fort Lee Vehicle Purchase	0.280
Hilton Bus Garage	68.100
Hoboken Station and Yard Resiliency	5.000
Meadowlands Garage BEB Depot Phase I	37.800
Multi-Level III Purchase	105.704
Passaic Terminal	15.000
Portal North Bridge Multi-Level III Purchase	42.798
Roselle Park Station	9.000
Shuttles Purchase	0.667
Sussex County Vehicle Purchase	0.930
Township of Orange Vehicle Purchase	0.310
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$329.817</b>

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

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>FEDERAL</b>
All Stations Accessibility Program -Track Curvature Planning Study	\$1.400
Areas of Persistent Poverty Program - Paterson-Passaic Bus Project	0.600
Edison Light Transit	1.600
Elderly Veteran and Employment, Transportation Services	.500
FY2022 Passenger Ferry Grant Program – Belford Ferry Terminal	4.000
FY2022-2023 Passenger Ferry Grant Program - New York Waterway	14.242
FY2023 Passenger Ferry Grant Program – South Amboy Ferry Terminal	6.018
Zero Emission Downtown & Community Mobility - Township of Woodbridge	1.500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29.860</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, Director, OPRA & Open Public Records Officer, NJ TRANSIT, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246 by **August 30, 2024**.

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  
New Jersey Transit Corporation



**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** - If the 2024-25 Newark Public Schools days seem to be longer starting on Sept. 3, that perception would be correct.

The NPS Central Office, on Aug. 9, announced that the new school year will be six hours and 50 minutes long. The Kindergarten-Eighth Grade day will be 20 minutes longer and 25 minutes longer for high schoolers. The new hours will run 8:15 a.m.-3:05 p.m.

What instructors and staff will get for the extra 20 to 25 minutes in the short term will be 45 min lunch breaks. Keep in mind that teachers have to report no later than five minutes before the 8:15 bell.

What teachers and students will get in the long term are 30 more hours of instructional time over the school year.

"The new universal schedule allows an extra 30 hours of tutoring for elementary school students," said NPS Communications Director Paul Brubaker, "and a lunch period equal to a class period."

**IRVINGTON** - The Garden State Parkway's depressed sections here, in Newark-Vailsburg and East Orange may have such an effect on motorists and neighbors thanks to an Aug. 18 rainstorm.

An intense thunderstorm front marched through Northern New Jersey 7-10 p.m. that Sunday. The storm, as predicted by the National Weather Service,

packed up to 70 mph wind gusts and a rainfall of three to five inches in an hour. The additional rain brought the Passaic River and its tributaries at least a foot above their flood stage.

Flooding here started inundating parts of Union Avenue, causing authorities to close the GSP North Exit 143 off ramp. The flooding came from runoff coming off roofs into local streets.

Other "Local Talk" flooding reports came from other expected and unexpected places. One unusual place was runoff coming from Nishuane Brook, flooding the Thomas Boulevard and Dodd Street intersection on the Orange-East Orange border. (It is unknown whether NJTransit bus access to its Orange Bus Garage was affected.)

Floodwaters ran off Valley Road and into Montclair's Studio Playhouse for the fourth time since 2018. The 3.5-foot flash flood has prompted the Upper Montclair stage to ask for replacement donations.

**EAST ORANGE** - An Elmwood section apartment building was among six property owners and/or management companies who were recently served "Probable Cause of Discrimination" notices by the New Jersey Attorney General's Office.

Attorney General Matthew Platkin, of Montclair, said that a probable cause of disability discrimination was served July 17 against the owners of Hamilton Gardens. All six cases who were served notices by the AG's Office of Civil Rights, involved tenants or residents asking property managers to have an emotional support animal on premises.

A Hamilton Gardens resident had requested its management permission to have a cat as an emotional support animal. The resident had supplied a letter of support from her doctor.

"But the property failed to respond to the complainant's emails," said Platkin. "OCR's investigation found that the property had failed to engage in the "interactive process" required (by the Law Against Discrimination) to a request for an emotional support animal as a reasonable accommodation for a

disability."

Hamilton Gardens, at 223 Prospect St., is a 75-unit two story building constructed in 1947. The Calello Agency has not commented on the probable cause notice as of press time.

**ORANGE** - This city's student athletes, officer candidates and the community in general paid tribute to James A. Summers at St. Paul's Baptist Church and Rosedale Cemetery in Montclair Aug. 13.

Summers, 92, who served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict, was given military honors. He had died in the company of his family Aug. 5.

Summers contributed his dedication and wisdom to the Orange Recreation and Orange High School athletics plus the city's Reserve Officers Training Corps. The 45-year city resident raised daughters Jill E. Summers-Phillips and South Ward Councilwoman Jamie B. Summers-Johnson with wife Elizabeth.

Summers, who was born June 1, 1932 in Glen Ridge's Mountainside Hospital, came by way of Montclair. He was a member of the Montclair High School Class of 1952. His contributions included Job Corps, the Essex County Youth House and the Grant Avenue Community Center.

The Orange City Council's April 2 proclamation noted that Summers was "a supporter of the Black YMCA." Summers had certainly helped Montclair's Washington Street YMCA; it is not clear whether he also assisted Orange's Oakwood Avenue Y before it made way for Interstate 280 in 1970.

Brothers Ernst L. Summers and Mark Robertson, sister Hazel Lucas, three grandsons and a granddaughter are also among his survivors. Although Summers had a whole life insurance policy, his daughters have set up a GoFundMe.com page for his funeral expenses.

**WEST ORANGE** - The Town Council put their scissors to the Calendar Year 2024 Municipal Budget at their Aug. 6 meeting - and left saving taxpayers nearly \$200,000.

Council President Rev. William "Bill" Rutherford said that Mayor Susan McCartney's pro-

posed budget from earlier this year carried a 2.47 percent increase from last year - which translates to a \$2.83 percent increase on the residential and commercial property tax levy. The Aug. 6 session aimed at reducing the increase to the two percent increase cap.

Rutherford, acting on Councilwoman Tracy Williams' consultation with DPW Director Louis Reynolds and recommendation, proposed eliminating \$92,190.60 from that department's budget. The savings would be coming from eliminating three of the nine open positions for truck drivers and from postponing Reynold's hiring of a superintendent. All five council members passed the amendment.

Another \$97,346.56 was cut from the litigation labor allocation. Although Rutherford wanted to drop the original \$540,000 line item down to 2023's \$150,000 level, Councilwoman Michelle Casalino pointed out that "\$240,000 has already been spent." That cut was carried 3-2: Casalino, Willimas and Sue Scarpa voted "Yes;" Rutherford and Councilwoman Asmeret Ghebremichael voted "No."

Council members also looked at finding ways to cut consultants' fees without violating their professional service contracts. The meeting was the first attended by Interim CFO Vincent Buono.

**SOUTH ORANGE** - A JESPY House-hired traffic engineer, in the latest hearing of the center's expansion plan Aug. 18, presented his findings before the South Orange Planning Board.

Matthew Seckler of Stonefield Engineering Design, testified what he and his colleagues found in a 24-hour parking ingress-egress study conducted April 24 on the four existing driveway aprons along 102-119 Prospect St. JESPY is looking to replace the four Victorian/Edwardian era houses zoned for office and professional use with a four-story building to hold 21-dwelling unit for its 66 residents plus administrative space.

Stonefield, said Steckler, found that four cars went in and out of the driveways 8-9 a.m. four cars came in and out 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and nine came and went 5

(Continued on page 12)



ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE STUDENTS FIRST

FINISH YOUR *degree* AT ECC

# FALL SEMESTER CLASSES BEGIN SEP. 3<sup>RD</sup>

NEWARK MAIN CAMPUS

303 University Avenue | Newark, NJ 07102

WEST ESSEX CAMPUS

730 Bloomfield Avenue | West Caldwell, NJ 07006

**REGISTER NOW!** [essex.edu/REGISTRATION](https://essex.edu/REGISTRATION) 

Watch the Essex County College *Community Education Forum* TV Series, hosted by Alfred Bundy on  and 

## ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE & MCGRAW HILL TEAM UP TO INCREASE STUDENT SUCCESS

Dr. Augustine A. Boakye (right) with McGraw Hill CEO Simon Allen. Photos Courtesy ECC



McGraw Hill CEO Simon Allen delivers his address to ECC Business Division faculty



Essex County College's Business Division faculty got ready for the Fall 2024 Semester with a special training program at the West Essex campus in West Caldwell, led by experts in the academic publishing field. McGraw Hill Chief Executive Officer Simon Allen was the guest keynote speaker on Tuesday August 13, joined by members from his Learning Technol-

ogy and Customer Success teams.

"We are here today for one reason. That's to be prepared and ready for our students. If we are successful, then our students will be successful. I want you to be mentors, not just instructors," ECC's President, Dr. Augustine A. Boakye told faculty members.

With a focus on the College's *Access to Success* theme, Dr. Boakye said, "Our world is moving very fast. We have to be updated, we have to know our students, and we have to meet them where they are today."

Mr. Allen concurred with Dr. Boakye's assessment. He then gave an overview of McGraw Hill and how the company and ECC work together to provide

the tools necessary for students as they prepare to enter the workplace. McGraw Hill has partnered with ECC for a number of years, supplying a wide range of both hard copy and digital academic materials.

McGraw Hill is a leading global education company that partners with millions of educators, learners and professionals

*(Continued on page 13)*

# GOVERNOR MURPHY ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF GEORGE HELMY TO U.S. SENATE

**NEWARK** - Governor Phil Murphy has announced that George Samir Helmy will fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Robert Menendez in the United States Senate. Helmy will serve as one of New Jersey's two United States Senators until the winner of the November General Election is certified on November 27, at which point Senator Helmy will resign and the Governor will appoint the winner of November's election to the U.S. Senate.

"It is an honor to appoint George Helmy, a proven public servant who deeply understands the complexities of Congress, to the United States Senate," said Governor Murphy. "George is the model of integrity we need to help restore public trust in our state's leadership. There is no one better prepared - or more committed - to delivering for the people of our state, especially when it comes to providing the

highest caliber of constituent services. For four and a half years, I witnessed firsthand George's unique skillset, wealth of knowledge, and willingness to pour his heart and soul into serving the people of our state. I have absolute confidence that he will serve New Jerseyans well over the next few months."

"Once the voters of New Jersey elect their next representative in the United States Senate, and their votes are certified, I will appoint the winner of November's election to the United States Senate before the new year begins," continued Governor Murphy. "This approach will allow the democratically-chosen winner of November's election to embark on the smoothest possible transition into office so they can provide the best possible representation for New Jersey."

"I thank the Governor and accept this appointment with

great humility and even greater determination to represent New Jerseyans in the United States Senate," said incoming U.S. Senator George Helmy. "While I am honored to serve and provide New Jersey with a Senate office that they can depend on, I commit to stepping down early to give the duly elected Senator the chance to begin their work. As I serve my state as Senator for the next few months, I promise to work for the people of New Jersey and hope to restore their faith in public service."

"George Helmy is one of the most committed public servants I have ever had the pleasure of working with," said Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way. "I am confident that he will provide New Jerseyans with the principled and effective leadership that they deserve. George is brilliant, caring, and extremely dedicated to serving our state. This appointment by Governor Murphy

ensures that our state is in good hands until the people of New Jersey elect their next Senator."

"Governor Murphy has made a wise and historic choice in appointing George Helmy to the Senate," said Senator Cory Booker. "New Jersey deserves the most prepared and capable person to serve in this interim period. There is perhaps no one else more qualified to hit the ground running and make an impact for New Jersey in this role over the next several months. From his dedicated years of service for Senator Lautenberg and his strong leadership as my state director, George knows how a Senator can be most effective for the people of New Jersey. Even more so, his experience as Governor Murphy's chief of staff makes him deeply knowledgeable about the diverse needs of our state. George is a leader who will undoubtedly make a differ-

*(Continued on page 13)*

## TOWN WATCH *(Cont. from page 10)*

-6 p.m. The study was conducted along Prospect between Irvington Avenue and Kilburn Place and Milligan Place between Prospect and Academy streets. They found ample curbside parking through that 24-hour period.

A JESPY spokesman said that about one percent of its special developmental residents would own a car. The new site would halve the four parking driveway to two, serving 100 parking spaces.

Those parking spaces would be used by staff members, vendors and/or visitors. JESPY has eight staff members on the Mid-night - 8 a.m. and 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. shifts with 16 present 4 p.m. - Midnight.

Village planners began airing JESPY's application on Dec. 4. JESPY has been a village institution for 46 years.

**MAPLEWOOD** - A township resident who was released from the Essex County Correctional Center after his Aug. 12 aggravated assault arrest will likely not be revisiting a Hilton section address here.

Maplewood police officers had responded to an assault report coming from a Florida Street residence here that Monday. They met the homeowner and a man identified as Steven M. Jennings, 34.

The owner said that Jennings had done the assailing. Jennings, who apparently was not happy having law enforcers present, re-

portedly assaulted one of the officers.

Officers' on-scene investigation found grounds to charge Hemmings with aggravated assault and aggravated assault of a police officer. Hemmings was also charged with possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose.

Hemmings was remanded to the county jail in Newark until he had presumably posted bail; his presence was not listed on the ECCF website as of Aug. 19. The condition of the assaulted civilian and officer have not been recorded.

**BLOOMFIELD / GLEN RIDGE** - The Charles Seller Foundation's Talent Time Players held their student production run of "Godspell" at the Bloomfield High School Auditorium here - for the first time without its namesake - Aug 1-2 and 9-11.

A group of volunteer stage play producers and actors hold an annual August musical fundraiser for a Bloomfield minor or BHS student who would not otherwise get help for his or her illness or disability since 1950 - when Seller was its first beneficiary and guide. Seller, 91 who has not resided in Bloomfield since 1951, has kept his ties and occasional presence with Talent Time until his Jan. 5 death at State College, Pa.

It all began when M. Charles Seller, who was born Sept. 22, 1932, was running from his Essex Avenue home to catch an Erie Greenwood Lake Division train to his summertime mailroom job at North Newark's

Mutual Benefit Life Insurance July 17, 1950. The BHS Class of 1950 president, Bengals cross country team manager, glee club member and "Student Prints" editor had graduated the month before and was planning to pursue journalism at Montclair State Teachers College. All he had to do was to take the 7:48 a.m. eastbound train at Glen Ridge's now-Benson Street Station.

Seller, however, slipped on the station's platform and fell under one of the train's wheels. Two bystanders found him lying between the two tracks with his right leg severed below the knee; they applied first aid and Seller was admitted to Mountainside Hospital.

Word of Seller's mishap spread by phone network and soda fountain counter to where some 60 BHS students gathered at the now-Bloomfield Public Library Children's Annex to decide what to do. They hit upon staging a fundraising musical with the greater community's help.

The 60 students grew to 300 during their round-the-clock pre-production which debuted in mid-August Their staging of an original around the world musical review were primed in part by Christ Episcopal Church providing tryout and rehearsal space and a donation from Mutual Benefit Life. They raised \$4,600 (now \$59,967.01 in today's dollars) towards an artificial leg and rehabilitation for Seller. When Seller had \$500 (now \$6,575.73) left over, he donated that back to

*(Continued on page 15)*

**CITY COUNCIL**

*(Continued from page 5)*

validly pled claim under the Civil Rights Act regarding the constitutionality of the city’s policy of banning persons from future meetings,” Petrillo said, according to a recording of the hearing.

Petrillo, however, agreed with the city’s position that El Bomani had no claim under the Open Public Meetings Act, and said that El Bomani would have to file an amended complaint under the Civil Rights Act that more specifically details her claim that the city’s policy is unconstitutional. That filing is due by Sept. 9, he said.”

**What City Council Rules Say**

In its Oct. 7, 2022 article “Local Talk” covered the subject of what the Municipal Council Rules say. Below is the entire article.

While Newark residents and activists unanimously say the Municipal Council members abuse their authority, Council members say activists are ignorant of Municipal Council Rules which govern Council meetings.

Council President LaMonica McIver asked Acting City Clerk Kecia Daniels to email “Local Talk” a copy of Municipal Council Rules. These rules, a thirteen-page document that was adopted in 2012 and revised in 2019, show that legally, the Municipal Council is within its rights to regulate Council meetings.

According to Rule I, “Except as may be provided in the charter, all questions or or-

der, the methods of organization and the conduct of business of the Municipal Council shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised in all cases to which they are applicable as determined by the City Clerk as parliamentarian for the Municipal Council and in which they are not inconsistent with the following rules of the Council.”

Thus, Rule I plainly states the Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, govern Council meetings. Moreover, the City Clerk is the Parliamentarian of the City Council.

According to Rule VII, “The President of the Council shall preserve strict order and decorum at all regular and special meetings and conference meetings of the City Council.”

Obviously, if people keep shouting at each other, no business can take place. Thus, Rule VII charges the President of the City Council with preserving strict order and decorum at every meeting of the City Council. Activists say that the Council President is overstepping the law; the Council President says she is not.

According to Rule VIII, “The City Clerk or his designee in his absence shall act as parliamentarian and shall advise and assist the Presiding Officer in matters of parliamentary law.”

Research done by “Local Talk” showed that in numerous other cities across the country, the City Clerk was the Parliamentarian of the Municipal Council.

Ms. Parker told “Local Talk” that with the retirement of former City Clerk Ken Louis, “his office followed directives from the mayor and compromised separation of Executive and Legislative branches.”

According to Rule XVII, “Notwithstanding the separation of powers between the Executive and Legislative branches of the Newark Municipal government under state law, the Municipal Council may request through the Mayor or Business Administrator that representatives of the City Administration be present during all Hearings of Citizens sessions.”

According to Rule XVIII, “The speaker shall face forward and all remarks shall be addressed to the Presiding Officer and Municipal Council as a body and not to an individual Council member or the audience. A Municipal Council member shall not interrupt a speaker during his speaking time, except the presiding officer for parliamentary purposes only.

“...A speaker must at all times conduct himself in a manner which avoids disorderly conduct or behavior, not make comments that are excessively loud or disruptive, obscene or otherwise in violation of applicable law, or make statements directed at Council members or City Officials that are defamatory or malicious. The presiding officer may interrupt or terminate any individual’s speaking privilege if these rules are violated or further may prohibit requests from such individuals to register and speak at future Municipal Council meetings, in accordance with Rule XVI.”

According to Rule XIX, Section D, “The Chief of the Police Department or her designee(s) shall be the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Municipal Council meetings. She shall carry out all orders and instructions given by the Presiding Officer for the purpose of

*(Continued on page 14)*

**HELMY** *(Continued from page 12)*

ence in the lives of New Jerseyans as our Senator, even in this short period of time. I will be proud to serve alongside him. And I know he will make New Jerseyans proud through his service too.”

Serving as Chief of Staff to Governor Phil Murphy from February 2019 to October 2023, George Helmy played a critical

role in leading New Jersey’s pandemic response, negotiated six on-time state budgets, and ensured the completion of many of the Governor’s legislative goals. Prior to serving as Chief of Staff, Helmy served as State Director to U.S. Senator Cory Booker, serving on the Senator’s senior staff and overseeing the day-to-day operations of his New Jersey offices. Prior to that, he worked as Senator Booker’s

Deputy Chief of Staff for two years. Helmy has also worked in the private sector with two Fortune 100 companies and served as an aide and caseworker to the late U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, handling issues such as gun safety and financial affairs.

Helmy currently serves as Executive Vice President and Chief External Affairs and Policy Officer at RWJBarnabas Health. A native of Jersey City,

Helmy lives in Morris County with his wife and two children. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Rutgers University and Master’s degree from Harvard University.

Upon his appointment to the U.S. Senate, Helmy will become the only Arab-American Senator in the 118th Congress. Helmy is tentatively scheduled to be sworn in on Sept. 9th, when the U.S. Senate reconvenes.

**STUDENT SUCCESS**

*(Continued from page 11)*

around the world. The company fosters a culture of belonging that respects and reflects the diversity of the communities, learners and educators it serves.

The importance of the partnership between ECC and Mc Graw Hill in providing students with the tools needed to succeed was the theme that Mr. Allen emphasized.

“Always remember that your success as faculty is measured by the success of your

students. The same goes with Mc Graw Hill. If we can’t provide you with the materials you need, then we’ve failed,” Mr. Allen stated. “The most important attribute you can have is to learn to listen and think about the information you have received.”

The CEO explained that McGraw Hill’s digital textbooks and materials are easy to update in order to provide the most relevant information to students.

“I want to thank Mr. Allen and the McGraw Hill team for coming to our College. The focus is faculty development, and it’s a great opportunity for us to be involved

professionally for the benefit of our students” said Germaine Albuquerque, Chair of the Business Division.

Following the presentation, McGraw Hill representatives and ECC faculty conducted workshops on *Course Readiness and Connect Training* and *Moodle Learning Management System Training*. McGraw Hill’s John Tello, Liam Kealy and Liza Rudneva conducted the training on the Connect learning platform, while ECC faculty Dr. John Olotewo and Dr. Evelyn Garcia led the Moodle training.

# The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

## FORWARD THINKING

*Futurists (also known as futurologists, prospectivists, foresight practitioners and horizon scanners) are people whose specialty or interest is futurology or the attempt to systematically explore predictions and possibilities about the future and how they can emerge from the present, whether that of human society or all else.*

## GROUP THINK

Last Thursday, my trip to Harlem was much like a defibrillator. But even more so, I believe it was the process of getting to my destination (people, trains, and tunnels) that once again jump-started my curiosity

## CITY COUNCIL (Cont. from pg. 13)

maintaining order and decorum at the Municipal Council meetings.”

Lisa Parker told “Local Talk” that, “this administration has now militarized the council chambers with police officers in riot gear as a way to intimidate residents that speak out.” Yet from reading the Municipal Council Rules it is clear that the police are there to enforce order.

As reported by TapInto Newark in its Aug.12 online article, El Bomani said, “There is no kind of due process. They can just ban you. The same person could be the judge, the jury and the executioner deciding over who should be banned when it should be some kind of due process.”

and realigned my focus.

I was like a child in a candy store, adoring the amazingly beautiful aesthetics of The Renaissance New York Harlem Hotel. It is truly Art Deco at its finest.

My performance that evening for the Apollo Act Up show also proved to be an eye-opener. But ironically, it was the evening at my daughter’s house days before when my forever-fascinating species, “the fly” (they’re such geniuses), proved to be a bit of a nuisance until she yanked out a very interesting gadget called a battery-operated fly swatter had forced my gaze. I was in awe at the first electrified buzz.

Then, it was the gentleman working on his truck yesterday that exemplified self-sustainability. These are a few of the things that so eloquently reminded me of the beauty of my ever-present life experience - the beauty of being human and all



the resources at our disposal. Each reminded me of how much is available out there, but it also reminded me of how much of it I take for granted or simply squander.

I’ve included some of the things that fostered my fascination with being alive. They made me realize how much of a gift the contributions of those who maintain focus when thinking ahead. When gifting society their time, energy, blood, sweat and tears, creating something quite useful and, in many ways, essential for every facet of our lives. Just so that perhaps, just perhaps, we get it.

Even when, even though, oftentimes, they are not even considered or are easily forgotten. Our appreciation wanes, if that. Everything we touch, everything that we utilize for our life’s progression - or not - has

been done or given by someone else, one of those beautiful forward thinkers.

Sadly, today, in our present landscape, I am constantly met with such hopelessness, false entitlement, and shallow thinking. It’s as if we just don’t get it - how much of an opportunity this life experience is. I say, ride it until the wheels fall off if you must, but certainly get on and ride. ...

*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).*



Photos Courtesy Andrea Dialect

As reported by TapInto Newark, City Corporation Counsel Kenyatta Stewart in a statement on Monday, Aug. 12, defended the city’s position.

“Newark’s City Council has always done, and will continue to do, the best it can with maintaining decorum in the City Council Chambers during meetings,” Stewart said. Unfortunately, there are people who come to the meeting to be disruptive and disrespectful to staff members, Council members and other participants.

TapInto Newark reported that documents obtained through a New Jersey Open Public Records Act request show that from Jan. 1, 2023 to Feb. 27 of this year, seven people were issued prospective bans, or “notices of exclusion” from City Council

meetings for their alleged behavior in violation of council rules. City Council rules are regularly raucous.

The violations, according to the notices, range from people calling out from the audience, to addressing the council in a “threatening and violent manner,” and include in one case, “because the person held up her fist in the air,” as per TapInto Newark.

## Unanswered Questions

Would Newark Municipal Council meetings stop being so raucous if the public was given an extra two minutes to respond to the city council or administration’s comments? This is standard parliamentary procedure in governing bodies across the

United States and many other countries. The speaker makes his or her comments. The administration responds. Speaker responds again, and takes his or her seat.

## What Judge Petrillo’s Ruling Means

As reported by TapInto Newark in its Aug. 12 online article, “According to Petrillo’s recent ruling, however, because El Bomani has been permitted to return to meetings does not negate the question of the temporary bans being constitutional.

“You’ll never get to the issue of whether the bans are lawful or not if the city removes the question every time by lifting the ban,” Petrillo said. “So, this is a policy challenge.”

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 12)

Talent Time - which led to the same name foundation's creation.

Seller, on one hand, continued living outside of New Jersey. The Dickinson College and Penn State University graduate returned to Dickinson in 1975 to become the college board's secretary and its president's executive assistant for 30 years. He married Jane Myers Seller in Carlisle, where they raised son Timothy Myers Seller and daughter Jennifer Seller-Miska.

Seller kept tabs, gave input and occasionally visited Talen Time's productions despite a diminishing physical presence. His parents, Martha and M.C. Seller, and sister, Jane Seller Mitchell, had died. Sister Judith Seller Russell moved away.

Grandson Diego Deller-Miska is also among the 25-year Cantate Carlisle singer's survivors His funeral was held at Carlisle's St. John's Episcopal Church, where he was in the chorus for 32 years, followed by internet at Laporte's Mountain Ash Cemetery Jan. 20.

Memorial donations may go to St. John's Episcopal Church or the Charles Seller Foundation, PO Box 2318, Bloomfield 07003.

**MONTCLAIR** - The fact that a formal obituary for resident Michael Aron had not been published as of Aug. 20 has not stopped tributes for the "Dean of the State House Press Corps" from appearing. Aaron, 78, who was New Jersey Public Television Network's chief political correspondent for four decades, died from a lingering illness here Aug. 13.

Aron was a daily presence in the now-NJ PBS Newark and Trenton studios and in the State House until taking a semi-retirement in 2020. The "Reporters Roundtable" host covered the legislative scene from Gov. Brendan Byrne to Phil Murphy.

Aron, as a part-timer, would appear in election result coverage and other NJ PBS specials and wrote for "Harpers" and "New Jersey Monthly." He was one of the monthly's editors since the late 1970s; he may be best remembered for authoring, "My Search for Einstein's Brain" in 2013.

Aron also wrote a book on the 1993 gubernatorial race between James Florio and Christie Todd Whitman.

"Tammy and I are deeply saddened by the passing of our friend," said Murphy (D-Rumson). "We'll miss Michael dearly and are sending our heartfelt prayers and condolences to his family and former colleagues in the press corps."

"It's the end of an era," added former Gov. Chris Christie (R-Mendham).

"Michael was smart, scrupulously prepared and always on the hunt for the truth. He covered my team for 15 years as US Attorney and Governor without fear or favor and his eyes never blinked."

"Few journalists ever garner the widespread level of respect that Michael Aron had achieved," reflected WNET Group President Neal Shapiro. "He earned it with an unbiased, methodical and unwavering investigative style examining the issues, policies and stakeholders affecting state residents. He was one of a kind and will be missed; however, his standards and practices live on in the NJ Spotlight News newsroom and continue to inspire our staff today."

**BELLEVILLE** - The Township Council, after an over two-hour overall "special emergency meeting" here Aug. 19, sent off Anthony Iacono and welcomed Brian Banda as Town Manager.

The council, after starting the noon Monday meeting by holding a public comment segment, entered into an executive session. They emerged an hour later to start the public proceeding in the council chamber.

They first passed a separation agreement between Iacono and then appointing Banda on a pair of 4-3 votes. Second Ward Councilman Frank Velez, Third Ward Councilman Vincent Cozzarelli. Fourth Ward Councilwoman Diane Guardabasco and At-Large Councilman Thomas Graziano voted "Yes." Mayor Michael Melham and First Ward Councilwoman Tracy Williams-Muldraw voted "Now" and Councilwoman/Deputy Mayor Naomi Depena abstained.

Iacono leaves after two years' service and with an agreement that is pending Melham and the council's signatures to become official and public. One detail that Graziano and Velez pointed out is that the former Guttenberg manager will be paid from a "compensation fund" created by CFO Frank DiMaria.

Banda will be serving simultaneously as manager and as a planning department aide. The Belleville resident is also a Class IV member of the Belleville Planning Board. Both Melham and Depena said that Banda was a valuable employee and a loyal A Better Belleville party member.

Police Chief Mark Minichini was never in contention to succeed Iacono; he had recently resigned from being Deputy Town manager.

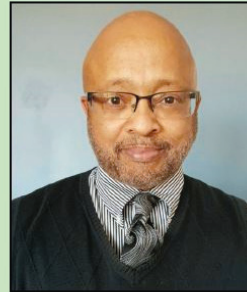
**NUTLEY** - Those who use the township's water and sewer infrastructure may have seen the latter's place on their quarterly tax bills moved - and their rates changed - since July 1.

The Nutley Board of Commissioners

**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

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

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

have decided to bring the sewer service under the Nutley Water Utility's roof and tax bill line item. The entity is now renamed the Nutley Water and Sewer Utility.

That change moves the sewer charge from the municipal property tax line to the water bill tax line. The change may also affect what one pays for water and sewer use.

Nutley's elders have decided to stop billing sewer use as part of the property tax bill. Water and sewer charges, as of July 1, are now based on a customer's consumption instead of being a percentage of the property's assessed value.

The recalculation, said the commissioners, will bring Nutley more in line with other Essex County municipalities in billing based on consumption. The Nutley utility will then pay the recalculated portions to the respective Passaic Valley Water Commission and Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission.



# Heart Center of the Oranges

## Welcome to Our New Center for Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases



## Treating Both Adults and Children of All Ages



**Cardiology**  
 Gitendra Rajiyah, MD  
 Catalino De LaCruz, MD  
 Abbas Shehadeh, MD  
 Addi Suleiman, MD  
 Ahsan Khan, MD  
 Isaac Tawfik, MD  
 Atteya, Gourg, MD  
 Marlyn Escalona, APN  
 Lou Alexandre, PA

**Internal Medicine/  
 Primary Care**  
 Eddy Simon, MD  
 Aleksander Lekan, MD  
 Mamatha Mohan, MD  
 Myriam Sterlin, MD  
 Narinder Kaur, MD  
 Hemlata Bhatia, MD  
 Normita Narvaez, MD  
 Ramesh Kania, MD  
 Cahiwat, Ramona, MD  
 Hinds, Audrey, MD  
 Roody Dalberis, DPN  
 Beena Mathew, DPN  
 Cynthia Mathieu, APN  
 Manalang, Marjorie, APN  
 Amsal, Tigest, APN  
 Nivia Phillips, APN  
 Germain, Primerose, APN  
 Howell, Janiece, APN  
 Shah, Sanjay, APN

**Endocrinology**  
 Tara Rajiyah, MD  
 (Adult and Pediatric)  
 Rama Reddy, MD  
 (Adult Endocrinology)

**Pulmonology/Sleep  
 Disorders**  
 Jeffrey Miller, DO  
 Mehta, Satish, MD

**Neurology**  
 Ruth Clark-Brown, MD  
 Burget Cort, APN

**Podiatry**  
 Jodene Shwer, DPM  
 Anbinder, Valeriya, DPM

**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](http://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 |