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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

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## VISA BETTER DISCOVER SOME LAWYERS

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## McIVER SERVING OUT PAYNE'S UNEXPIRED TERM

By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - Former Newark Municipal Council President LaMonica McIver - thanks to a majority of participating voters here and in parts of "West Essex," Union and Hudson counties Sept. 18 - will succeed the late Donald Payne, Jr. as the U.S. 10th Congressional District through Jan. 3.

McIver, who was running with Essex County Democratic Committee support, was ushered into fellow Newark native Payne's seat by predominant polarities in those three counties over Republican runner Carmen Bucco, of Nutley, and independents Russell A. Jenkins, of Maplewood, and former Orange Councilman Rayfield Morton.

McIver's amassing of 82 percent of the overall CD-10 vote paved her way to being sworn in by U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) inside the House of Representatives' Capitol chamber before New Jersey's Congressional delegation 6:30 p.m. Sept. 23.

CD-10 voters gave her such a predominant plurality that the New Jersey State Board of Canvassers waived the traditional 14-day election certification hold and told Acting House Clerk Kevin F. McCumber to



proceed with her inauguration.

A majority of district voters, on Nov. 5's General Election, will get to decide whether McIver can hire a moving van to her new Washington, D.C. address. She and at least Nutley Republican Carmen Bucco are on that ballot for a full two-year term.

The former Newark Municipal Council President meanwhile still retains her East Ward Council seat, pending Nov. 5's outcome. The state board would normally have waited until between Oct. 8 and 14 to certify the results.

Essex County Clerk Chris Durkin (D-Roseland), as of 10:08 p.m. that Wednesday, has McIver sporting 15,781 votes from among 18,297 cast in person or by mail. She thereby unofficially received 86.25 percent of the vote in CD-10's Essex towns.

Bucco captured 1,877 votes for 10.26 percent. Russell registered 343 for 1.87. Morton mustered 296 for 1.67.

CD 10 here includes Newark (except the East and West Wards), Irvington, East Orange, Orange, West Orange and Montclair's South Ward plus Caldwell and Essex Fells of "West Essex."

In Hudson County's sole CD-10 town - "Central" Jersey City - McIver mastered 3,278 votes from an overall 3,960 for 82.78 percent as of 1:33 p.m. Sept. 20. Bucco was next with 1,207 or 12.75. Jenkins placed third there with 89 for 2.25.

(Continued on page 11)

## RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

By Lev D. Zilbermints

**NEW BRUNSWICK** - Jonathan Holloway, President of Rutgers University since 2020, has announced he will step down at the end of his five-year contract in June 2025.

At that point, President Holloway says in his resignation letter dated September 17, "I will take a sabbatical the following year during which I will return to long-standing research projects before joining the faculty on a full-time basis. This decision is my own and reflects my ruminations about how best to be of service."

During his time as Rutgers President, Jonathan Holloway, 57, had to deal with

numerous challenges and successes. This article was put together using diligent research from sources both in and outside Rutgers. What follows is the story.

### Origins

According to Wikipedia, Jonathan Scott Holloway was born in Hawaii in 1967. The future Rutgers president graduated Stanford University with a B.A., then earned his Ph.D. from Yale University. In 2004 Dr. Holloway became a full professor at Yale, his alma mater. Between 2014-2017 Dr. Holloway served as Dean of Yale College.

(Continued on page 7)



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*Editorial*  
**Dhiren Shah**  
 Editor-In-Chief

**Hello Readers,**

Today is Sept. 24 when I am writing this editorial. From this day, it is exactly 41 days to the most important election of our lifetime. November 5, 2024 will be a remarkable day in the history books. Two major candidates are set in the eyes and minds of the people. Kamala Harris, a plucky contender who became the Democratic candidate when President Biden pulled out of his reelection bid. She had only debate with Republican candidate Donald Trump, where most people thought she was the winner. However, ABC anchors David Muir and Linsey Davis were clearly favoring Harris. Nonetheless, she got support from all

the democrats, who were divided when Biden was still in the race. She started raising money left and right, and raised more money than Trump in a short period of time. Harris raised about \$285 million in the month of August, whereas Trump raised about \$85 million. All of a sudden, the Democrats at the Democratic Convention, in which they were divided before it started, got united with their new momentum.

She was initially behind Trump in the polls, and now she is ahead, but by a slight margin only. So, the election can still go either way. The polls might not be accurate this election cycle, because people are afraid of giving an opinion in favor of Trump openly. Trump was behind in 2016 against Hillary Clinton by about 9 points and won the election. In 2020, Trump was behind Biden by about 9 points as well and lost by only a few points.

Also, the two assassination

attempts on Trump and the way the Secret Service leadership protected him got him some support. Right now, independent voters are still on the fence. So far, I have seen very few Kamala Harris signs and in the same way, very few for Trump. However, from what I was told, there are a lot of Trump signs in more rural and southern areas of New Jersey. People are worried about their economic future and is undocumented immigrants in this country. Undocumented immigrants are changing the lives of American citizens. Our taxpayer money is going to support the day to day lives of millions of undocumented immigrants. Also, they get the benefit, but the poor working class and smaller businesses are not getting any support or benefit.

The worst thing about business in my opinion is that smaller businesses have to fill out many forms every month, while some

are lucky to operate without any forms and get government money. The smaller businesses should have only one or two forms to fill out during the entire year in my opinion. Some lawmakers should dedicate their time to changing the system for smaller businesses to one form to fill out. The same form can include the city, state and federal taxes, but it must be easy to understand and fill out. Let the federal government divide the taxes collected from businesses under \$250,000 or \$500,000 gross revenues. This would include the payroll taxes of their employees in my opinion. It is tough to figure out, but our representatives have enough of a budget for them to invest in everyone's future. I appeal to our representatives to please make our lives simpler.

*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>
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# FDA APPROVES NASAL SPRAY INFLUENZA VACCINE FOR SELF- OR CAREGIVER-ADMINISTRATION

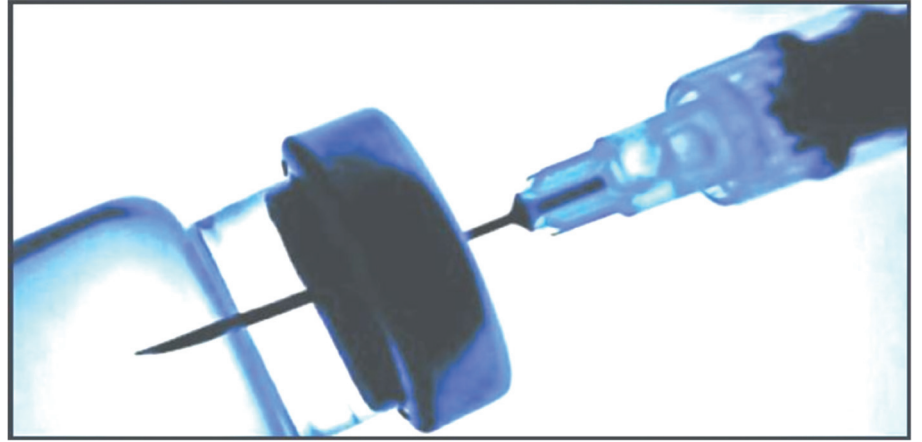
**First Influenza Vaccine That Does Not Need to be Administered by a Health Care Provider**

**FDA** - On Sept. 20, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved FluMist for self- or caregiver-administration. FluMist is approved for the prevention of influenza disease caused by influenza virus subtypes A and B in individuals 2 through 49 years of age. FluMist is sprayed into the nose and has been used safely and effectively for many years. It was initially approved by the FDA in 2003 for use in individuals 5 through 49 years of age, and in 2007, the FDA approved the use of FluMist to include children 2 through 5 years of age. It is the first vaccine to prevent influenza, more commonly known as the flu, that does not need to be administered by a health care provider.

“Today’s approval of the first influenza vaccine for self- or

caregiver-administration provides a new option for receiving a safe and effective seasonal influenza vaccine potentially with greater convenience, flexibility and accessibility for individuals and families,” said Peter Marks, M.D., Ph.D., director of the FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. “Getting vaccinated each year is the best way to prevent influenza, which causes illness in a substantial proportion of the U.S. population every year and may result in serious complications, including hospitalization and death. This approval adds another option for vaccination against influenza disease and demonstrates the FDA’s commitment to advancing public health.”

The flu is a common and contagious respiratory disease that is caused by influenza viruses that typically circulate during the fall and winter in the U.S. It can cause mild to severe illness with a



range of symptoms that usually appear suddenly, such as body aches, fever, coughing, sore throat, tiredness and a stuffy or runny nose. Flu can be life-threatening and cause serious complications that can lead to hospitalization or death, particularly in high-risk groups such as the elderly, young children and people with certain chronic medical conditions.

Each flu season is different and the health impacts can be substantial and vary widely from season to season, with some flu seasons being worse than others. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, flu has resulted in about 9.3 million to 41 million illnesses, 100,000 to 710,000 hospitalizations and 4,900 to 51,000 deaths annually between 2010 and 2023. Numerous FDA-approved vaccines are available each flu season to prevent influenza.

FluMist contains a weakened form of live influenza virus strains and is sprayed in the nose. A prescription is still required to receive FluMist. There are now two approved options for receiving FluMist. The vaccine may be administered by a health care provider in a health care setting (including a pharmacy) or it may be administered by the vaccine recipient or a caregiver who is 18 years of age or older.

The most commonly reported side effects of FluMist are fever over 100°F in children 2 through 6 years of age, runny nose and nasal congestion in individuals 2 through 49 years of age and a sore throat in adults 18 through 49 years of age.

For those interested in self- or caregiver-administration, the vaccine manufacturer plans to make the vaccine available through a third-party online pharmacy. Those who choose this option will complete a screening and eligibility assessment when they order FluMist. The third-party pharmacy determines eligibility based on the completed screening and, if it is determined that the intended vaccine recipient is eligible, the pharmacy writes the prescription and ships the vaccine to the address provided by the individual who placed the order.

The vaccine can then be administered to the prescribed household member(s) at their convenience. A caregiver should administer FluMist to individuals 2 through 17 years of age, as individuals in this age group should not self-administer the vaccine.

A study was conducted with vaccine recipients and caregivers to evaluate whether the instructions for use were appropriately designed so that recipients and caregivers could safely and effectively use the vaccine.

Vaccine recipients and caregivers who administer FluMist will be sent the vaccine, the Prescribing Information, Information for Patients and their Caregivers and Instructions for Use. The Instructions for Use provides detailed instructions for storage, administration and disposal of FluMist.

The FDA granted this approval of FluMist (Influenza Vaccine Live, Intranasal) to MedImmune LLC.

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# SPORTS WRAP



Photos By Felicia Laguerre Owens

By William Hathaway, Jr.

As the MLS season marches on, the New York Red Bulls have continued their solid play on both sides of the pitch (field), especially at home.

At their friendly confines in Harrison, the Red Bulls hosted Atlanta United, with defender John Tolkin assisting Dante Vanzeir on the first goal of the game at 31 minutes in. The team from the ATL answered with a goal by Aleksey Miranchuk right before extra time in the

land Browns 21-15. The Jets had won their game over the New England Patriots at home 24-3 in a previous Thursday night matchup.

In college football, the Rutgers Scarlet Knights are now 3-0 on the year after a road win at Virginia Tech 26-23. They will be home on Friday night when they host the Washington Huskies in an unusual matchup thanks to the expanded 18-team Big 10 Conference.

As for local high school football this past weekend, the



first half ended to tie the game.

The second was all about defense, with no one scoring in extra time. Then, things got interesting. Two minutes into the brief extra time, United took the lead when midfielder Edwin Mosquera scored to make it 2-1. However, right before they could claim victory, Elias Manoel, who was subbed in late, got an assist from Julian Hall to tie it at 2-2, which would be the final score. This coming Saturday, the Red Bulls will host rival New York FC.

After the tie, Red Bulls head coach Sandro Schwarz said, "I was very happy with the way we played the game, and the way we had a strong comeback in the game.

In other sports, the New York Giants won their first game of the season, going on the road and beating the Cleve-

East Orange Jaguars lost a close one at home to the Montclair Mounties 19-12. The Orange High Tornadoes won their first game of 2024, going on the road and blowing away Lincoln High 28-0. Right now, there are a total of 49 teams still undefeated in high school football through Week 3.

A battle of the oranges will take place this weekend, with Orange hosting East Orange this Saturday in a rivalry that goes back to 1960. In that first game, East Orange beat Orange 42-0 then in what was the Big Ten conference. Games were once played at the old Martins Stadium on Clinton Avenue. Players like John Scott, Buster Jones aka Bill Jones, and Artie Brown played in the rivalry. With that, fans definitely have something to look forward to, this time in the Super Football Conference.



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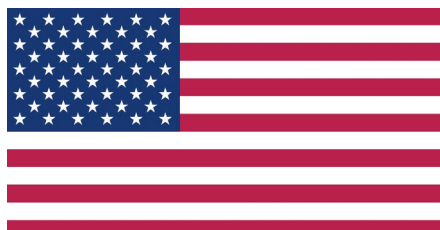
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**UNITED STATES**



**VISA BETTER DISCOVER SOME LAWYERS**

The Justice Department filed a civil antitrust lawsuit Sept. 24 against Visa for monopolization and other unlawful conduct in debit network markets in violation of Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Act.

Filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, the complaint alleges that Visa illegally maintains a monopoly over debit network markets by using its dominance to thwart the growth of its existing competitors and prevent others from developing new and innovative alternatives.

According to the complaint, more than 60% of debit transactions in the United States run on Visa's debit network, allowing it to charge over \$7 billion in fees each year for processing those transactions. The complaint further alleges that Visa illegally maintains its monopoly power by insulating itself from competition. For example, Visa wields its dominance, enormous scale, and centrality to the debit ecosystem to impose a web of exclusionary agreements on merchants and banks.

These agreements penalize Visa's customers who route transactions to a different debit network or alternative payment system. In so doing, the complaint alleges, Visa locks up debit volume, insulates itself from competition, and smothers smaller, lower-priced competitors. Visa also induces would-be competitors to become partners instead of entering the market as

competitors by offering generous monetary incentives and threatening punitive additional fees. As the complaint alleges, Visa coopted the competition because it feared losing share, revenues, or being displaced by another debit network altogether.

"We allege that Visa has unlawfully amassed the power to extract fees that far exceed what it could charge in a competitive market," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "Merchants and banks pass along those costs to consumers, either by raising prices or reducing quality or service. As a result, Visa's unlawful conduct affects not just the price of one thing - but the price of nearly everything."

Debit transactions are an important and popular part of the U.S. financial system. Millions of Americans prefer or must use debit for online and in-person purchases. Visa dominates debit network markets that facilitate these transactions, charging significant fees and stifling competition in the process. Visa's systematic efforts to limit competition for debit transactions have resulted in billions of dollars in additional fees imposed on American consumers and businesses and slowed innovation in the debit payments ecosystem. Through this lawsuit, the Justice Department seeks to restore competition to this vital market on behalf of the American public.

Visa maintains enormous scale on both sides of the debit market - with merchants and their banks and with consumers and their banks - and the complaint alleges that Visa's exclusionary practices extend, deepen, and protect what it refers to as an "enormous moat" around its business. When faced with the possibility that smaller debit networks or new technology entrants would threaten that position, Visa engaged in a deliberate and reinforcing course of conduct to cut off competition and prevent rivals from gaining the scale, share, and data necessary to compete for customers' business:

- Smaller Debit Networks: Visa uses leverage based on the large number of transactions that must run over Visa's payment rails to impose ex-

pansive volume commitments on merchants and their banks, as well as on financial institutions that issue debit cards. These agreements are priced so that, unless all or nearly all debit volume runs over Visa's payment rails, large disloyalty penalties can be imposed on all Visa transactions. Merchants cannot afford to use Visa's smaller competitors for transactions where options do exist, even when those competitors offer lower per-transaction prices.

- Tech Entrants: As Visa's internal documents make clear, Visa feared that some technology companies and fintech startups with "network ambitions" would cut Visa out as the middleman between merchants, consumers, and their banks by offering a better or cheaper payment product. Visa aimed to stop that development by entering into agreements to pay potential competitors to partner instead of innovating. As Visa's then-CFO put it: "Everybody is a friend and partner. Nobody is a competitor."

In 2020, the Justice Department filed a civil antitrust lawsuit to stop Visa from acquiring Plaid, a technology company that powers fintech apps developing disruptive options for online debit payments. The companies abandoned their planned \$5.3 billion merger.

Visa Inc. is a Delaware corporation headquartered in San Francisco. Visa has a global operating income of \$18.8 billion and an operating margin of 64% in 2022. North America is among Visa's most profitable regions with 2022 operating margins of 83%. Visa charges roughly \$8 billion in network fees on U.S. debit volume annually. Globally, Visa processes \$12.3 trillion in total payment volume.

**MASS SHOOTING UPDATE**

*Information recent as of 9-24-2024 at 12 p.m.*

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

- Total Mass Shootings: 467
- Total Dead: 561
- Total Wounded: 1928
- Shootings Per Day: 1.74
- Days Reached in Year 2024 as of September 24: 268

**MIDDLE EAST**



**ISRAEL INCREASING AGGRESSION**

Tensions continued to ratchet up in the Middle East on Sept. 23 with reports of scores of retaliatory Israeli strikes on Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon which have reportedly left nearly 500 dead, and strikes in Gaza including on a refugee camp, UN humanitarian said.

The development comes as the UN's top official in Lebanon Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert began an official visit to Israel to meet senior government officials, after insisting that "there is no military solution that will make either side safer."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in a statement he was "gravely alarmed by the escalating situation along the Blue Line and the large number of civilian casualties, including children and women, being reported by the Lebanese authorities."

In Lebanon, it has been reported that people in the south received phone and social media messages from the Israeli military telling them to keep away from any building or village linked to the militant group Hezbollah.

The armed group reportedly launched some 150 projectiles into northern Israel over the weekend, the latest in a series of Hezbollah attacks that began shortly after war erupted in Gaza, and which have uprooted around 60,000 Israelis to date. In southern Lebanon, some 30,000 people have been displaced from their homes.

The UN mission which patrols the Blue Line separating Lebanon and Israel, UNIFIL, expressed "grave concern for the safety of civilians," amid what has been the deadliest day of violence and bombing by Israel

**HOLLOWAY**

*(Continued from page 1)*

From 2017-2020 Dr. Holloway was Provost of Northwestern University. In 2020, at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, Jonathan Scott Holloway became the 21st President of Rutgers University. He succeeded Dr. Robert Barchi who was Rutgers President from 2012-2020.

Holloway is the first black President of Rutgers University. Not since Philip Milledoler Brett, the 13th President of Rutgers in 1930-1931, has a Rutgers University President served a term less than seven years. Before him, the 12th President, John Martin Thomas, served 1925-1930. Meanwhile, the 15th President, Lewis Webster Jones served from 1951-1958.

**Reasons for President Holloway's resignation**

According to a nbcnewyork.com article, "Rutgers President Explains Why He Plans To Leave Top Job At NJ's Flagship University," President Holloway had to deal with the first faculty strike in university history, the coronavirus pandemic, surviving a no-confidence vote by the faculty senate, and receiving national scrutiny earlier this year from Republican lawmakers for his decision to end a pro-Palestinian encampment through negotiations rather than police force.

Now here is the interesting part. Tom Moran's interview with Rutgers President Jonathan Holloway was embargoed until the announcement of Holloway's resignation was made public on September 17, 2024.

However, according to Star-Ledger's Tom Moran, the reason why Jonathan Holloway is stepping away from his \$888,540 a year, plus about \$200,000 in bonuses job, is because he is drained and exhausted.

In a nj.com opinion piece, "Exclusive: Rutgers President Holloway says toxic politics drove decision to leave," Moran writes, "But he's also been under siege, constantly, as even the best leaders in America are in today's caustic culture. The man can't appear in public without a police escort these days. For a period, he was directed by police to enter buildings by the back door to avoid ambush. He worries about the safety of his wife and kids, ever since protesters besieged his home at 7:30 a.m. one day during last year's strike.

"So, it came as no surprise to those who know Holloway best that he's decided to call it quits when his five-year contract ends at the close of this school year.

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He'll take a paid sabbatical for a year after that, and expects to return as a history teacher, yielding the presidency to someone with the stomach for it.

"I've moved the needle as far as I can move it," he said during an exclusive interview Monday, [September 17] embargoed until the announcement. "I haven't talked about this until now...I don't want to be in an environment where I need, where my family needs, protection. That's the part I didn't bargain for."

"We talk a lot about how our leaders fail us, and that's certainly true. But it's not the end of the story. As a country, we also need to think long and hard about how we treat our leaders. Because if the public space remains so toxic, and if we are so resolute about our differences, we are going to lose more good leaders like Holloway.

"Holloway is bracing for more of it this week. He expects his detractors to say he's

*(Continued on page 14)*



**NJ TRANSIT INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT), in accordance with Section 5 of P.L. 1984 c.578 of SCDRTAP, is conducting a public hearing to gather information and receive comments from interested parties concerning programs developed pursuant to the Senior Citizen & Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program (SCDRTAP) Act. **Additionally, each hearing will be available both in-person and virtually and will cover the southern, central, and northern regions of New Jersey. The in-person hearings will be held in Iselin, Blackwood, and Newark, NJ.**

The Senior Citizen & Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program funds capital, operating, and/or administrative expenses for locally coordinated community transportation services for senior citizens and people with disabilities. The program also funds accessibility enhancements to NJ TRANSIT's fixed route services and programs, the provision of technical assistance to the counties, and the administration of the statewide program. All materials to be reviewed at this hearing are available in accessible formats upon request. Closed captioning is available for hearing-impaired individuals. **For language support, please contact Arielle Lewis at 973-491-7772 at least ten (10) business days before the hearing. If you wish to speak at one of these hearings, reach out to Arielle Lewis via email at [aplewis@njtransit.com](mailto:aplewis@njtransit.com) or leave a voicemail with your contact information at 973-491-7772 by Wednesday, September 25, 2024.**

The public is invited to the **October** hearings below at which time they will have a full opportunity to express their views regarding the Senior Citizen & Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program. In order to ensure that all members of the public are given an opportunity to be heard, comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. **Written comments for the record may be sent to Public Hearing Comments 2024, NJ TRANSIT, Local Programs & Community Transportation, One Penn Plaza East, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246, or via email at [publichearings@njtransit.com](mailto:publichearings@njtransit.com) by Friday, November 1, 2024.**

**SENIOR CITIZENS & DISABLED RESIDENTS TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING**

<b>Central Region</b>	<b>PLACE:</b>	Iselin Branch Library 1081 Green St. Iselin, NJ 08830
	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>Thursday, October 17, 2024</b>
	<b>TIME:</b>	<b>6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>PLACE:</b>	The Camden County Sustainability Building 508 Lakeland Rd. Blackwood, NJ 08012
	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>Wednesday, October 23, 2024</b>
	<b>TIME:</b>	<b>6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>PLACE:</b>	NJ TRANSIT Headquarters Board Room A, 9 <sup>th</sup> Fl One Penn Plaza East Newark, NJ 07105
	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>Thursday, October 24, 2024</b>
	<b>TIME:</b>	<b>6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</b>

Join on your computer or mobile app [Click here to join the hearing](#) or <https://bit.ly/3SOiIMr>  
**+1 862-294-4371 (Toll) United States, Newark**  
**Phone Conference ID: 553 789 023#**

For those who **have** access to E-mail, please contact Arielle Lewis at [aplewis@njtransit.com](mailto:aplewis@njtransit.com) by **Wednesday, September 25, 2024**, and you will be emailed the link to join the hearing via video teleconference. For those who do **not** have access to a PC, Laptop, iPad, Tablet, or Smart Phone with E-mail, please use the telephone number and conference ID access code listed above to call in via telephone.

With this annual notice, we also invite the public to review and comment on the State Management Plans (SMPs) for the following Federal grant programs administered by NJ TRANSIT.

- FTA Section 5310 The Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program
- FTA Section 5311 Non-urbanized Area Formula Program for Rural Areas

These are available for review and comment on the S-Rides website at <https://s-rides.njtransit.com>. (Click on the *Additional Documents* link). Copies of the state management plans are also available upon request by calling 973-491-7772 or writing to NJ TRANSIT, Local Programs & Minibus Support Department, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, NJ 07105-2246. All comments can be submitted via the address above or by sending an email to [SRIDES@njtransit.com](mailto:SRIDES@njtransit.com).

**An Access Link paratransit update will NOT be provided at this hearing. Access Link holds separate Customer Forums. If you have any questions regarding Access Link forums or service, please email [adaservices@njtransit.com](mailto:adaservices@njtransit.com) or call Access Link at 973-491-4224, choose option #5 for Customer Service, or call TT 1- 800-955-6765.**

**To obtain a translated copy of this notice, contact Customer Service at 973-275-5555.**

**Title VI: NJ TRANSIT's Notice to Beneficiaries:** NJ TRANSIT operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, or national origin, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Any person who believes she or he has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, or wishing to obtain additional information regarding NJ TRANSIT's Title VI obligations, may contact NJ TRANSIT Customer Service at 973-275-5555. A complaint or inquiry may also be filed by writing to NJ TRANSIT Customer Service - Title VI, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, NJ 07105. A complaint must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discrimination.





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| <b>West Orange:</b>  | 95 Main Street                 | Tel. 973-672-3829 |
| <b>West Orange:</b>  | 92 Old Northfield Avenue       | Tel. 973-736-5552 |



**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 Municipal Council will, barring any last-hour surprises, has advertised for a special 10 a.m. Sept. 25 meeting to pass its amended Calendar Year 2024 Municipal Budget.

Although the special meeting's legal notice had been published in the city's "official newspapers" March 23, a copy has not been posted on the city's web site as of 9:15 a.m. Sept. 24. The state's Open Public Meetings Act requires public meeting notices be published and/or posted at least 24 hours in advance.

The council will first adopt an amendment that will increase the city's public library funding above its current state mandatory minimum of \$10.91 million. That amended increase of an anticipated \$2.25 million would then be added to the \$914.5 million CY2024 budget.

The Council, after a Sept. 5, public hearing, postponed voting on its final budget then and on Sept. 18 to ask the Newark Public Library, its AFSCME Local No. 2298 officials and a division of the N.J. Department of Community Affairs related questions.

Public speakers - including Local 2298 President Beth Zak-Cohen and NPL Director Christian Zabriskie - had pleaded with Newark's elders to boost the city's share to prevent building deterioration and an employee brain drain.

What may hold up final approval, as Council President C. Lawrence "Larry" Crump said to a reporter Monday, is an okay

from the DCA's Division of Local Government Services.

"We're still waiting for final approval from the state," said Crump.

The DLGS, on one hand, examines municipal and other governmental budgets for state adherence and to include those budgets in the N.J. 2024-25 State Budget. The problem, however, is that all municipalities had an April 30 deadline to make the June 30 state budget.

Newark is not the only town that is facing a DCA "get the budget passed," statement. Orange and East Orange, for example, had recently held budget amendments this summer on their already ratified budgets.

While this publication will have a presstime before the aforementioned date and time for the budget, this is a reference for the reader to see what was presented in the potential final product.

**IRVINGTON** - A township man who was injured in a Sept. 6 police-involved shooting in Rumson will not be leaving the Monmouth County jail anytime soon.

Superior Court Judge Jill Grace O'Malley ruled from her Freehold bench Sept. 17 that N'Namdi Atumudo, 27, remain in county custody. O'Malley called Atumudo "a grave danger to the community" and that the jail has a medical dispensary. Brynn Giannullo, Atumudo's attorney, tried to have his client moved to a local hospital for continued treatment.

"He sits in court with a bullet in his cheekbone," said Giannullo. "He can't really speak (or) eat properly. I'm asking this court to release him so he can get medical attention."

Atumudo was shot by a Fair Haven police officer at Rumson's Two Rivers Drive and Shrewsbury Drive around 5:30 a.m. Sept. 6. The FHPD officer, accompanied by a Rumson colleague, had stopped the car that Atumudo was in because it matched witness descriptions earlier that morning of two local burglaries.

The Fair Haven officer said he fired eight shots towards Atumudo after that the car's driver - identified as Rasheen Yarbrough, 20, of St. Louis - had failed to stop at the intersection.

The car had rammed a Rumson cruiser during a just-completed pursuit.

Both Atumudo and Yarbrough were taken to a local hospital for treatment prior to their arrest; what injuries Yarbrough had suffered is unknown. The shooting is under New Jersey Attorney General's Office investigation.

Both suspects are being held on burglary and theft charges with other counts pending. Yarbrough's detention hearing was held on Sept. 23. Judge O'Malley cited Atumudo's being on probation for an earlier burglary charge Sept. 17 for her keeping him in jail.

**EAST ORANGE** - Oval Park area residents officially got a new basketball court - and, in a way, Naughty by Nature got another sold out event - here Noon Sept. 20.

Vincent "Vin Rock" Brown, Anthony "Treach" Criss and Keir "Kay Gee" Gist returned to their familiar "Down the Hill" location to dedicate the "Naughty by Nature Basketball Court" that Friday afternoon. The hip hop trio lent their name to this part of the Oval Park renovation project, including its dedication plaque and the court's green-and-orange colors.

Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green must have known that the rap trio's following would crowd the court. The city's free dedication ceremony's tickets were all sold out in advance on Eventbrite.

"These were our stomping grounds - from athletics to hip-hop to football - we always threw barbecues and cookouts," said Vin Rock. "People from our hometown have been able to go out and do great things around the world; Whitney Houston, Dionne Warwick - now you can add Naughty by Nature to that list. If kids can see, smell, touch and feel your powers, they can go out and do it themselves."

Vocalists Rock and Treach and DJ Kay Gee used to grow up in the Teen Streets and knew each other from junior high school. They used to hold improvised rap sessions in class while at the old East Orange High School. The Grammy award-winning trio released their first album in 1991.

"Naughty by Nature has left

an indelible mark in the history of music and their achievements over the years have solidified their spot as one of the most influential groups in hip hop history," said Green. "This recognition preserves a piece of their legacy and lets our young people know that their dreams, too, are possible. This court is a symbol of strength, perseverance, determination and vision."

The trio and Green were joined by City Administrator Solomin Steplight, East Orange Pop Warner Rams Football Coach Johnnie Taylor, fellow coach and city employee Stanley Edwards, East Orange Education Association President Keith Hinton and nearby Mildred Barry Garvin School fifth grade teacher Jeannette Arnold, among other dignitaries and neighbors.

Oval Park follows Paterson's Hinchliffe Stadium and Birmingham's Rickwood Field as recently renovated or restored former baseball Negro League teams' home diamond.

**ORANGE** - One South Ward community leader has taken to social media to decry the quality of the city's Sept. 16 "Neighborhood Community Meeting."

Kweli Campbell, of Friends of Metcalf Park posted on Facebook, Instagram and similar outlets to give his perception of the meeting called for and hosted by Mayor Dwayne Warren that Monday night.

Campbell asked about the status of lighting improvements for the city park and questioned the contention that city police officers were walking the property. He said that he was "silenced" and that the "meeting abruptly ended."

The meeting was held in the wake of a Sept. 12 shooting which killed one man and injured a second one. De'Andre Smith, 28, was found with a gunshot wound to his leg on the baseball diamond by responding Orange police officers. Smith died at University Hospital Sept. 16; the second victim has been treated and released.

Other OPD officers found the suspect and pursued him through Orange, South Orange and East Orange streets until he crashed into a parked car at 172 Lincoln Ave, by the new Essex

(Continued on page 12)

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**McIVER** (Continued from page 1)

Morton completed the field at 56 or 1.41. There were 32 write-ins for the remaining .81 percent.

In CD-10's Union County towns - Cranford, Garwood, Hillside, Kenilworth, Roselle, Roselle Park and part of Linden - McIver topped the totals as of 9:52 p.m. that Wednesday with 7,060 of 10,008 overall votes for 70.54 percent.

Bucco was next up with 2,734 or 27.32. Morton placed third with 100 or one percent. Jenkins rounded out the balloted field with 82 for .82 percent. There were 32 write-in candidates for .32 percent.

There are 1,647 Vote By Mail and provisional ballots to be counted as of 3:30 p.m. Sept. 19 and 20 ballots that need to be "cured" among the three counties. The Hudson County Clerk's Office and Board of Elections, as of press time, are searching

for an electronic missing voting machine memory stick from among 99 voting machines deployed in the 16 towns.

McIver had tallied in the July 14 special party primaries at 11,563 votes among CD-10's 16 towns for 55.4 percent. She held a 43 percent majority in Essex County over nine other Democratic party primary challengers.

The eight-year Newark Central Ward Councilwoman, 38, and most recent council president gets to fill out Payne's unexpired term until Jan. 3. The 12-year second-generation Congressman, 65, had died from a heart attack April 24, setting off this chain of special elections.

McIver was so confident of winning Sept. 18's election that she resigned from the Municipal Council as its president the day before. Newark's elders selected Councilman C. Lawrence "Larry" Crump as their council president Sept. 17 on a 5-0-5 split vote.

McIver, Crump, At-Large Councilwoman Louise Scott-Rountree, South Ward Councilman Rev. Patrick Council and West Ward Councilman Dupré Kelly voted for Crump's appointment. Councilmen Carlos Gonzalez and Luis Quintana, East Ward Councilman Michael Silva and North Ward Councilman Anibal Ramos, Jr. abstained from voting.

McIver is staying on as Central Ward Councilwoman - but for how long?

She first has to wait for election results certification between Monday and Oct. 14 and subsequent swearing-in before she packs her bags for Washington, DC.

The East Ward Council seat may go up for a Nov. 4, 2025 special election to complete the unexpired term - which would be up for a full four-year term on May 12.

McIver, who was re-elected May 10, 2022 as part of Mayor

Ras Baraka's "Moving Newark Forward" ticket, is into her 28th month of her second four-year term. State law stipulates holding special elections for terms who have more than 12 months remaining.

Then there is the Nov. 5 regularly scheduled General Election - which is shaping up as at least a McIver-Bucco rematch.

Democratic party committee leaders, led by LeRoy Jones, Jr. (D-East Orange) nominated McIver after the scheduled June 6 party primaries were held. Payne died too late for his name to be replaced on the June 6 primary ballot - whose results became his posthumous victory lap.

Gov. Phil Murphy (D-Rumson), who desired a complete New Jersey Congressional delegation in a narrow-majority House, called for the July 16 and Aug 18 special elections.

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 10)

and Crane apartments and Orange station. Brandon. D. Beasley, 28, is being held on weapons, unlawful taking of a conveyance and arrest resistance charges.

Campbell, in his response, said he wanted to ask where improved lighting in the park's renovation pipeline. He recalled an hour-long on-site lighting assessment made by city officials, NJDOT and Friends of Metcalf Park "last winter."

Friends of Metcalf was formed to adopt the park during the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. They have since done monthly cleanups, which earned them a New Jersey Clean Communities Council "Public Lands Cleanup Award," last May, plus Earth Day, "I Love My Park" and other special events.

**WEST ORANGE** - If Council President Rev. William "Bill" Rutherford, wants to make a West Orange Council re-election run Nov. 5, he will, as of Sept. 18, have to conduct a write-in campaign - at least for now.

State Superior Court Judge Robert H. Gardner, first ruled Sept. 10, that Rutherford had failed to get the minimum 395 signatures on his filed petitions - by three or four signatures, after Municipal Clerk Karen Carnevale's verification.

Gardner, before Rutherford, his new at-

torney Raymond Hamlin and township-hired Matt Moensch, Esq. for Carnevale, denied the councilman's appeal for reconsideration Sept. 16.

Gardner, from his Newark bench that Monday morning, stayed the order should Rutherford and Hamlin file an appeal in state appellate court. All parties are aware, however, that time is running out before the Nov. 6 General Election ballots are printed.

Rutherford, who had been pursuing a second term, is now off the ballot. There are six candidates, two of whom are his council colleagues, are vying for the three available seats.

Rutherford had filed petitions that had an overall 455 petitions between July 15 and 4:04 p.m. Aug. 26 correctional or "curing" deadline. He filed a partial 327 petitions July 15 and met the minimum level on the July 17 filing deadline. Carnevale, however, said that his petitions fell short of that standard after she had tossed some for illegibility and other problems.

The Orange came back to the clerk's office with 97 more signed petitions on Aug. 8 - but Carnevale said he still fell short. Rutherford then began climbing up a downward escalator, filing more petitions twice more - and the clerk's finding problems with them. He said that he did not answer Carnevale's Aug. 23 notice that he was still short, in part due to his pastorship, and filed a last set of

petitions at 4:04 p.m. Aug. 26.

Gardner, on Sept. 10, ruled that a candidate cannot repeatedly file replacement petitions after the filing deadline - which was what Mensch had argued.

"Why didn't he (Rutherford) cure some of the petitions before time ran out," said the judge Sept. 10. "The statute hasn't changed since I've been practicing law in the 1980s."

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - Students and parents of the South Orange - Maplewood School District have seen Superintendent Jason Bing riding along with them on school buses since the start of the 2024-25 school year.

Bing, in a Sept. 11 open letter to the two-town district community, confirmed that he is indeed riding along and will continue to do so while coming up with a transportation improvement plan.

The superintendent has meanwhile redeployed some SOMSD senior administrators to the Transportation Department and has partnered with the Sussex County Regional Cooperative to help with rerouting.

SOMSD's school bus drivers were making pre-school year dry runs when Transportation Coordinator Jerry Ford had suddenly died Sept. 6; he had not recovered from a fall he had had at his Glen Gardener home a few days before.

(Continued on page 15)

**WORLD NEWS**

(Continued from page 6)

since the October terror attacks sparked the regional crisis.

Lt. Gen. Aroldo Lázaro, Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNIFIL, has contacted both Lebanese and Israeli parties, emphasizing the urgent need for de-escalation. "Efforts are ongoing to reduce tensions and halt the shelling", the mission added.

Any further escalation of this dangerous situation could have far-reaching and devastating consequences, not only for those living on both sides of the Blue Line but also for the broader region.

Attacks on civilians are not only violations of international law but could amount to war crimes, UNIFIL noted.

"It is essential to fully recommit to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which is now more critical than ever to address the underlying causes of the conflict and ensure lasting stability."

Amid repeated calls from the international community for regional de-escalation, the Security Council met in emergency session last Friday, following deadly Israeli strikes on the Lebanese capital Beirut and in the south.

The meeting came at the end of a week of increased cross-border fire between Hezbollah and Israeli forces after two days of deadly wireless device explosions targeting the militant group.



New measures to cut historically high levels of net migration have been announced Sept. 24, bolstering the Home Secretary's approach to tackle the root causes behind the UK's long-term reliance on international recruitment.

Sectors most reliant on overseas workers will be targeted to ensure they are addressing their failure to invest in skills here in the UK.

The government will task the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) with monitoring and proactively highlighting key sectors where skills shortages have led to surges in overseas recruitment and provide a yearly assessment to ministers to inform policy decision making.

Rules around visa sponsorship of migrant workers will also be strengthened so that strong action can be taken against employers who flout employment laws, restricting their ability to hire workers from abroad. This is in addition to work already underway to clamp down on existing sponsor license holders and to stop visa abuse, such as the

ramping up of investigation visits by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), and suspending and revoking licenses where employers abuse the immigration system and exploit migrant workers.

This follows plans already set out by the Home Secretary to link migration policy with skills and wider labor market policy, so that international recruitment is no longer the default choice for employers filling skills shortages, as well as the government's confirmation that changes made by the previous administration to the immigration system will remain in place.

The new joined-up approach across government, set out by the Home Secretary in July, establishes a framework in which the newly formed Skills England, the Industrial Strategy Council, together with input from the Department for Work and Pensions, will work closely with the MAC so that migration is not used as an alternative to tackling training or skills shortages in the UK.

MAC's annual assessment will help industries respond swiftly to skills gaps and take necessary steps to reduce their dependency on migrant workers and invest in training, workforce plans, and higher quality jobs for workers here at home.

The expanded role for the MAC will be bolstered by additional capacity and includes work to assess the root causes of why certain sectors are so reliant on overseas workers.

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The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

WHO GIVES A DIDDY

WORD ON THE STREET

*“You're Worried About Diddy When Your Eyes Should Be On Our Cites... Better Yet, On That House, And On This World!”*

Since its inception, the Human Trafficking Hotline has identified 100,891 cases of human trafficking. 197,000 victims were identified in these cases in the states.

Community efforts can help reduce the demand for sex and labor trafficking, including: Not buying sex, Not participating in the commercial sex industry, Buying fair trade and survivor-

made products, and holding brands accountable for fair labor practices.

Today's draft submission is a Page Jacker. No images to be found here today, use your own head. My intentions were to submit something else when this topic once again was thrown at me like a boulder, and I repeat... When it comes to Diddy, I don't give one. If one more person tells me about what Diddy did, I'm going to run into traffic or pull my own hair out.

Those guys got a good laugh of it when we were chopping it up, as they say, yesterday. But I am so serious. I don't know about you, but I do not want to enter the dungeons with fancy imaginary 3D glasses on and peer at children or little boys, girls or whomever else being violated or victimized by men, women or whatever else in my head. I need not hear the juicy details or look upon the many who act out those Hollywood scripts, which become box office hits, nor those top-slot takers who, like your boy Diddy, act out the roles they were taught to play.

I don't know if Diddy did or didn't, but what I do know is that humanity is the craziest and most gullible species on the planet. This whole Diddy thing is just another rattle thrown in your crib. And just like that little one, while you're being distracted by that rattle, you are totally

unaware of what is going on in the house. As Americans, our focus needs to be on the house. If instead of being at play, we take a look at the position that the crib is really in, we'd revert that focus to the folk that run the house.

In no way am I making light of the allegations or the said evidence, if evident. All who have succumbed to such and have been victimized deserve closure, ushered in by justice. But for all those who have found this to be the ultimate come-up, and many have such as the influencers that have gone viral giving you the 411 laden with gossip or hyperbole - those who are unlawfully using the upholding of law, once again strategically, as rules for others but feel at liberty to break themselves. Those who sat snug as a bug, without regret, for all this time, and have now find a sense of moral urgency.

Let's just say all those into numbers that become a shout-out and a tool to construct that social proof, join the ranks or stroke that ego. Or the chess players who play religiously and effortlessly misguide us sheeplings in their lifelong positions as puppeteers. Mark my word. The next move is likely to drop a few names of supposed participants, if not in November when we press the pause button on those shenanigans, hopefully as you're heading to the polls - the day of or a few days shy of it.

Puff Daddy, I think that's still his name, is not a person as most so-called celebrities or socialites, if you will, that will register on my radar as a demigod. Gold rings on pinky fingers, diamond chip-studded discs dangling from necks, zeros behind names, portfolios, brand names, stories or credits for raps or songs, written by them, stolen or not - none of it impresses me. I'm nobody's groupie for sure. The only person I might say I like in that industry is Anita Baker, because I've found her work to be intriguing and the ultimate vocal training exercise, which I utilize to develop my performance technique, but that's as far as it goes.

Like the good book says, the one most say ain't so good (but works when I worked it every single time): "Trust no man." A directive since the beginning of time! I use that one often, like a tight little bow, which concludes my participation in such small talk. But Michael's lyrical face-slap reigns as champion when I come across the unbelievable craziness laden in all that gossip or convo among us humanoids. "Why? Tell them that it's human nature!" ...

*Read this article in its entirety at [www.localtalkweekly.com](http://www.localtalkweekly.com) and type The Observation Booth, in the search bar. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, send them to [localtalkandrea@gmail.com](mailto:localtalkandrea@gmail.com).*

HOLLOWAY

(Cont. from pg. 7)

leaving in quiet disgrace in the sudden resignation of Athletic Director Pat Hobbs last month, which Hobbs attributed to heart problems, but sources say followed an inappropriate romantic relationship with the coach of the women's gymnastics team. The Star-Ledger also exposed a bullying scandal on that team, with athletes complaining that Hobbs responded to their complaints by ignoring them. Holloway has hired an outside team to investigate it.

“But he insists that's not driving him out. He says he told board president Amy Towers of his plans weeks before the Hobbs scandal erupted. And why would that scandal drive him out? As sordid as the tale is, it does not reach the five-alarm stage, as the sexual abuse scandals in other college gymnastics programs did. No one is

accusing Hobbs of assaulting the coach or pressuring her into a relationship. And no one is accusing Holloway himself of wrongdoing.

“‘That has absolutely nothing to do with this decision,’ Holloway says.”

According to the whyy.org article “Rutgers Senate has no confidence in Jonathan Holloway” dated September 22, 2023, the Rutgers University Senate adopted a no-confidence resolution against President Holloway. The reasons for such actions included recent labor disputes, a spike in housing and dining costs, and Holloway's unresponsiveness.

**Statement by Amy Towers, Chairwoman of Board of Governors**

“Jonathan Holloway has led Rutgers with integrity, strong values and a commitment to service and civility, while helping to steer

the university through challenges facing higher education - including a global pandemic, shifting labor demands and a Supreme Court decision on affirmative action in admissions. Dr. Holloway's decision was his and his alone; we respect it and thank Dr. Holloway for his passion and service,” said Rutgers Board of Governors Chair Amy Towers.

“On behalf of the Board of Governors, I want to assure the entire university community that Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, will continue to move forward and build upon its reputation as a preeminent public research institution,” Towers added. “The Board of Governors stands prepared to lead a robust, nationwide search to find the best person to lead Rutgers into the future, and we look forward to working with Dr. Holloway to ensure a smooth transition.”

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 12)

"Mr. Ford came out of retirement to work on the district's new transportation protocol mandated by intentional integration initiative," said Bing. "He had planned to re-retire before his passing."

**BLOOMFIELD** - Law enforcement officials are looking for why a township woman entered a Newark grocery store Sept. 18 - and did not come out alive.

Newark Public Safety Director Fritz Frage said his police division officers had responded to reports of gunfire from the 300 block of South Sevenths St. at 8:45 p.m. that Wednesday.

There they found Nakiyyah Blue, 26, of Bloomfield, lying with multiple gunshot wounds. All but one account had Blue within the store.

Officers and arriving paramedics tried to revive Blue but she was declared dead at the scene at 8:57 p.m. NPD then called for the ECPO Homicide and Major Crimes Task Force.

Blue's funeral arrangements were not available as of Sept. 24.

**MONTCLAIR** - The Montclair High School Mounties baseball team, when they return to Woodman Field in the spring, will be practicing and playing on a diamond renamed after the late Montclair Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jonathan Ponds.

The Montclair Board of Education unanimously passed a walk-on resolution Sept. 16 to rename the field at Essex Street and Chaplain Terrace the Dr. Jonathan C. Ponds Memorial Field. The board, after their vote, stood and applauded.

Ponds, who came aboard in June 2020, had suddenly died July 17. He had just received a contract extension to June 30, 2029. Ponds had brought stability through the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Ponds had brokered an agreement in March that resolved a zoning and legal dispute over Woodman Field between Montclair Public Schools and the township. The pact allowed the field's \$7.94 million renovation.

The school board will have to approve signage later this year for installation. The field opened Oct. 31, 1942 in memory of Clarence L. Woodman, MHS' 20-year football and track and field coach and athletic director.

**GLEN RIDGE / NUTLEY** - Relatives, friends, colleagues and neighbors of Erik Gumney will have an opportunity to celebrate his life at a to be announced time and place along the East Coast. Gumley, 43, who had died July 8 in Albuquerque, N.M., had an Aug. 15 celebration there.

Erik Alan Gumney was born in Glen Ridge's Mountainside Hospital July 27,

1980. Family lore has it that parents Barbara and Alan had to leave a family barbeque in Nutley for his delivery.

Gumney lived in Nutley and had graduated with the Nutley High School Class of 1998 and, in 2002, a degree in English from Montclair State University. He was a Holy Family Church parishioner and member of the local Knights of Columbus.

Gumney, under his Exit 98 Yearbook senior picture, listed "Mystery Science Theater 3000" and Star Wars' Boba Fett as two of his influences. He said he was raised on a diet of Marvel comics, Godzilla movies, video games, WPIX-TV's "Chiller Theater," Bruce Springsteen music and Douglas Adams' sci-fi authorship.

He had another lifelong influence - cystic fibrosis - which he had contracted at four years old. The condition prompted him to move to Albuquerque in 2012 and undergo a double lung transplant in 2014.

Gumney had published science fiction articles before he and future wife Monica Rodriguez moved west. They founded "Jersey Devil Press," which allowed him to publish anthologies and serial novels for himself and other sci-fi writers. The "Exponential Apocalypse" series and "The End of Everything Forever" omnibus are among his better known works.

CF may have cost him his last breath, but Gumney urges people to register as organ donors and/or contribute to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Older brother and sister Bryan and Kristin are also among his survivors.

**BELLEVILLE** - SoHo and Silver Lake residents are watching for when the Oct. 10 Belleville Planning Board posts and publishes its Oct. 10 agenda - and whether a site plan application for 11 Franklin St. will make that list.

The proposed site plan application, which calls for the construction of 175 apartment units, was pulled from the board's Sept. 12 agenda with 24 hours to spare. Interested residents, when or if the plan resurfaces, will attend that meeting.

The 175 units would go up on part of the 11 acre lot on the southwest corner of the avenue and Mill Street. The 16-acre land, which sits across from Branch Brook Park and to Clara Maass Hospital's north, is where a Wawa, a Starbucks and an Extra Space Storage warehouse stands.

The Wawa was first to be approved on the site where the Art Deco Roche Pharmaceuticals/Jergens building stood. There had been a couple of apartment building proposals since proposed on the former copper mine.

Some residents want a study that would project traffic volume on Franklin Avenue between Clara Maass and Mill Street. They are also concerned on how the projected traffic would affect ambulance trips to and from the hospital.

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