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25¢

"LET'S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES"

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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THE NEXT EDITION OF LOCAL TALK WEEKLY NEWSPAPER WILL COME OUT ON JANUARY 2, 2025. HAPPY HOLIDAYS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FAREWELL MAMA CRUMP, FAREWELL MAMA AFRICA

By Thomas Ellis II

What a wonderful going home service for a great woman, Mildred C. Crump. Her funeral was held December 14th at Metropolitan Baptist Church on Springfield Avenue in Newark.

I noticed several former and present female Newark municipal councilmembers in attendance; Bessie Walker, Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, Dana Rone, Mamie Bridgeforth, Louise Scott-Rountree, and now -Congresswoman LaMonica McIver.

Also attending the funeral was Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka, Governor Phil Murphy, East Orange Mayor Ted Green,

and former Irvington Mayor Wayne Smith, as well as other dignitaries and clergy members, not to mention the hundreds that came out from the Newark community to say "Farewell, Mama Crump."

Pastor Jefferson of Metropolitan opened up the service saying, "We're not having a funeral, but a celebration of the life of Mildred Crump so let's celebrate."

Governor Phil Murphy was one of the speakers. He spoke very highly of the former Newark Council President, as a politician, community leader, and trailblazer for women throughout New Jersey, and not just

(Continued on page 6)



Photo By Thomas Ellis II

"DRONES OVER NEW JERSEY" SIGHTED HERE

A Northrop Grumman Bat UAV in flight in June 2014
Photo Courtesy U.S. Navy



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - There are millions of New Jerseyans, including those in the "Local Talk" area, who feel as if they are in a "Drones Over Jersey" mystery movie since Nov. 19.

People are looking up into the night sky to see a single light or vehicle - or several - blinking back. Some will travel in a direction and/or hover and then just as mysteriously fly away.

What started as a few sightings in Morris and Somerset counties on Nov. 19 has grown to some 5,000 sightings reported among eight New Jersey counties plus as many states from New Hampshire and Maryland to Colorado and California as of press time. The U.S. De-

partment of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, the New Jersey State Police, state HHS and local law enforcement have received some 3,500 in the Garden State.

Many sighting witnesses said that the vehicles were the size of car sedans or car-based SUVs - meaning that the drones may not be the type one buys for \$1,000 at a hobby store. There have been arrests of drone operators in Massachusetts for flying within a restricted zone. Most sightings are at dusk or at night - which the FAA had recently relaxed drone restrictions.

Drones are banned from flying near civilian airports, military facil-

(Continued on page 9)



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PAGE
16



Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year to all. We all think about having a better year than the previous one, especially for our family members. The world is going in the wrong direction. On December 16th in Madison, Wisconsin. It came at Abundant Life Christian School. The shooter was a 15 year old girl who shoot two kids, two teachers and a few others. It is really a bad precedent.

According to gunviolencearchive.org, there were about 83 school shootings, while according to massshootingtracker.site, there were 555 mass shootings that have happened in 2024 alone as of December 17, 2024.

Politics seem to be more important nowadays than taking care of people in my opinion. Another bad thing about the news media and police departments is that they are concentrating more on high profile cases.

We all try to teach our children to keep up with fast growing technology. However, we keep on forgetting the basic cultural values. Also, due to advanced technologies, all our children are busy working with laptops and phones. They do not go out like we used to and play when we were growing up. The interaction with other children their age is less and less. Respect to the elderly in the family as well as in society is diminishing. When I was growing up, the teachers were our gurus, and they scolded us once in a while. Now, the children threaten the adults; if someone hits them or punishes them, they will call the police. The laws are such to prevent a few incidents, changing the lifestyle of society.

In 2023, CashApp founder

Bob Lee was murdered, and in 2024 United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson was murdered. On December 17, a San Francisco jury convicted IT consultant Nia Momeni for the murder of Bob Lee. Every year, a big name victim of violent crime comes to the surface, and everyone is behind that case.

Crime is going up. We must concentrate on the crime committed, not the big name the crime was committed against. The police department and the justice system are being paid by everyone's money. Also, we must have a system where if a migrant changes their name illegally and are caught, they must be deported immediately regardless of having family or relatives in this country.

The Daniel Penny case had many people divided. He was found not guilty by the jury of manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide. While opinions vary on whether or not he should have been convicted in the death of Jordan Neely, a lot

of legal experts are wondering why the judged made it so one charge was completely separated from another charge for the jury to deliberate.

The most advanced technology on earth is Artificial Intelligence (Known as AI). It is used all over nowadays. Our modern cellular phones, which include the iPhone, Samsung and other manufacturers' phones, are using AI-generated technology. The most amazing AI-generated technology is used by NASA and all other space agencies in the world. Our auto industries are using more advanced technologies as well. All the modern appliances are the same way, using modern technology and using AI-generated technology. We don't know where this will take us in the next 10 to 15 years. We all have to wait and watch.

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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The Doctor Is In



OP-ED BY DR. ADIL MANZOOR

Advances in Migraine Management: Treatment Options and Lifestyle Modifications

There are more than eight billion people in the world, and one of the rare shared experiences we have as far as medical conditions go is... headaches. Of course!

More than 96% of people on the planet will experience a headache at least once in their lifetime. For most people, these

headaches only come occasionally. However, there are people who have headache disorders, which are characterized by recurrent headaches. The WHO estimated in 2021 that up to 40% (translating to 3.1 billion people) have headache disorders. Not all headache disorders are made the same, and one of the worst to have is a migraine headache.

You have most likely heard of migraine before. Scratch that, you may even have migraine attacks, considering that one in ten people have them. A migraine is a severe headache that can cause throbbing and pulsating pain on one side of the head. Migraine headaches are special in that they are often accompanied by other symptoms like nausea, vomiting, light sensitivity, and other sensory symptoms. They may last anywhere between 4 and 72 hours (yes, three days).

Despite the best efforts of scientists and medical experts over the years, there is no cure for migraine headaches. So, if you have them, you will most likely have to deal with them your entire life. However, there are - fortunately - treatment options that can help



reduce the severity and frequency of migraine attacks. As you may already expect, medications are the center of many migraine treatments.

Aside from your regular pain medications (like ibuprofen and diclofenac), many individuals rely on other medications like triptans, dihydroergotamine sprays, opioids, anti-nausea medications, antidepressants, anti-seizure medications, and even blood pressure medications. While some of the options may seem strange, just trust me when I tell you these options are the result of years of research. However, medications are not always the best options for managing health conditions, and this partly applies to migraines.

Generally, if a condition is chronic (that is, it lasts more than a year), medical practitioners are not so eager to rely solely on medications. This is largely due to the fact that all medications have side effects, and with time, these side effects may cause other problems in the body. This is also not to mention the fact that many patients may become less willing to use medications for a very long time, especially if they have the slightest inkling that these medications may be responsible for some of their other symptoms. For this reason, there is always a high premium on treatment options that do not revolve around medications, and a recent study has highlighted some of the best non-pharmacological options for managing migraines. I will very briefly go through them below.

For starters, physical activity or exercise. It's really interesting

how the non-pharmacological management of almost any condition includes physical activity. And, it's really not a surprise, considering the several health benefits that physical activity has. Obviously, physical activity can improve overall health, but even more specifically for migraine headaches, physical activity can promote weight loss, which has been found to be an important step in reducing both the severity and frequency of migraine attacks.

To reap the benefits of physical activity, consider 150-300 minutes of moderate-intensity activity every week. That is basically 30 minutes to an hour of moderate-intensity exercise (like brisk walking, cycling, swimming, and dancing) five days a week.

Second on the list is diet. Again, you must have seen this coming a mile away. Your diet is as important as anything to your health. There is no specific diet for migraine sufferers - so don't go down the online rabbit hole of diet fads - instead, consider foods that can help you lose weight in a healthy manner. For instance, avoid foods high in fat and refined carbs, and increase your protein and unrefined carb intake. Honestly, the story of diet is pretty long, and everyone also has different needs, so ensure you talk to your healthcare provider before making drastic decisions about your diet.

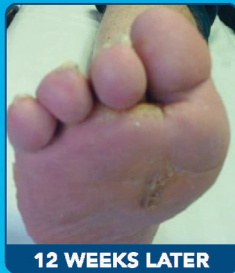
Besides these two critical strategies, other important lifestyle modifications that can help manage migraines include avoiding alcohol and smoking, hydra-

(Continued on page 7)

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THE GARDEN PARTY

Story & Photo By Felicia Laguerre Owens

For the last six years, there have been no tennis balls deftly bouncing between opponents as they expertly stroke the ball at The World's Most Famous Arena.

Well, on December 4th, The World's Most Famous Arena, better known as Madison Square Garden, welcomed back eager fans who set an attendance record of 19,698.

The occasion, The Garden Cup, featuring two professional tennis matches by top ten opponents. American Jessica Pegula, (US Open Finalist) vs. American Emma Navarro (Spain's Carlos Alcaraz, four time Grand Slam Champion) vs. American Ben Shelton (2023 US Open Semifinalist), was the men's matchup.

At the coin toss, Pegula, #3 in the WTA Rankings, and Navarro, #8, were joined by Harlem Jr. Tennis players Kennedy Robinson and Erika Gray-Gaddy, who were there to assist with the toss.

"As a New York Tennis player, you dream of playing in the US Open final and playing at Madison Square Garden. To be able to do both in one year just shows dreams can come true." Really looking forward to coming back to New York and playing Emma in front of the best fans in the world," said Pegula.

Navarro echoed a similar sentiment. "I'm really excited," said Navarro. "We're in one of the most iconic arenas in the world and to be able to share the stage with fellow American, Jess, and put on a show in the US, in New York City, is special. I'm really looking forward to it."

Pegula got off to a quick start, racking up



Emma Navarro on the court

3 break points against the Navarro serve, Love-40. Navarro saved all 3 break points to bring the score to deuce, deciding point, receiver's choice, since there was no-ad scoring in both men's and women's matches. Pegula hits a blazing backhand return and eventually wins the first game, breaking Navarro.

In the second game of the match, Emma races to a Love-30 lead against Pegula's serve. Pegula immediately gets two points back to even the score, 30-30. On the next point, after a rally, Pegula tries a drop shot, but Navarro tracks it down at the net, giving her break point. Navarro is psyched as she pumps her fist in the air. Pegula wins the next point, bringing the score to deuce, deciding point, receiver's choice. Pegula eventually approaches the net, but she forgot to ask for permission, as Navarro hits a tough passing shot. Pegula misses the volley into the net, and is broken. One game all, 1-1.

The third game would also go to a deciding point. Navarro is serving, and hits a down the line backhand winner to take a 2-1 lead, on serve. The first hold of serve by either player. Navarro would go on to break Pegula's serve in the fourth game of the match, to take a 3-1 lead.

The fifth game of the match was another

deciding point, but this time Pegula would break Navarro's serve to get back on-serve, 3-2. She would pull even next game, 3-3. The 7th game would be a deciding point won by Navarro, to go up 4-3 for the lead.

Something you don't see on changeovers, the opposing players talking to each other, while sharing a bench. Pegula and Navarro did, and shared a few laughs.

In the 8th game, Pegula sprints to a 40-Love lead, Navarro crowds the baseline, but she hits the ball out. We are all tied up, 4-4. Navarro wins the 9th game, taking a 5-4 lead, ready to take the set if Pegula is broken in the 10th game. Pegula would hold easily in the 10th game. Eventually, the women would make it to the first set tie break.

Navarro would have a lightning quick start in the tie break, going up 4-1. She takes a 5-2 lead after Pegula's drop shot attempt fails to clear the net. But all is not lost, just yet. Pegula would get back two points, to put the set back on-serve, 5-4 Navarro leading. Navarro could not be deterred from her path to victory and goes on to win the tie break of first set, 7 games to 6, 7-6.

It was a highly contested second set, just like the first set, with many of the games going to the deciding point. They would play even to 5 games all, 5-5. But in the 11th game, Emma broke Pegula and would go on to serve out the match, 7-6, 7-5.

It was a highly entertaining, competitive match with the games going to a deciding point nearly 45% of the time. The match could have gone either way. The fans' expectations were set very high by the quality of this appetizer. The main course, the men's match did not disappoint.

Now, the Main Event, Carlos "Carlito" Alcaraz vs Ben Shelton. The tennis balls were traveling so swiftly, you would have

(Continued on page 12)

FAREWELL

(Continued from page 1)

Newark.

The Governor also stated that he will have flags in the State of New Jersey fly at half-staff for several days in honor of Mildred C. Crump. He received a loud applause for the gesture.

The musical selection included "Hold to his Hands, God's Unchanging Hands" which was upbeat and perfect for the moment.

All of the speakers spoke about how she will be missed, what a wonderful person she was with such a loving spirit, and those fancy hats that she wore, and how she loved her hats.

But the best of all the speakers were her two grandchildren, Marguerite and Cecil. They both talked about their love for love Grammy, as they called her, and how they are going to miss her dearly.

Her son, Larry Crump, was mentioned several times during the service for the

wonderful job he did taking care of his mother during the past year, up to her last days on earth, and that Mildred would be very pleased with the man he had become.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka talked about how he's going to miss her coming into his office unannounced many times, bringing others with her to discuss matters of the City.

Newly elected Congresswoman LaMonica McIver said she loved Mildred, and thanked her for all the advice, leadership, and the love Mama Crump showed her. She mentioned that she would not be a Congresswoman if it were not for Mildred C. Crump, and how Mildred paved the way for other African American councilwomen in the City of Newark.

Mildred Crump, you touched the lives of many people. The number is too many to count. You shaped lives, changed lives, and left an awesome legacy in the City of Newark for all to follow.

In the Council President Emeritus Mildred C. Crump's famous words: "The Blood Still Works."



Photo By Thomas Ellis II

SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The 2024 Garden State Hardwood Classic was held this past Saturday before a sellout crowd in Piscataway. It is a showcase of the state's big time collegiate teams: the Seton Hall Pirates and the Rutgers Scarlet Knights. This rivalry dates back to 1916, with RU beating SHU 40-20 that year, and has been played consistently since 1996 with the exception of the pandemic year 2020. Overall, SHU leads the series 42-33.

This year's game was an actual classic in the word. In the first half, Seton Hall got out to a 11 point lead, but Rutgers got the last laugh, thanks to a Dylan Harper at the buzzer to win it for the Scarlet Knights 66-63.

Rutgers shot 53 percent from the floor but went just 13-28 from the free throw line. Seton Hall wasn't much better, shooting just 6-13 from there.

RU was led by their NBA bound stars Ace Bailey and Harper, with Ace scoring 21 and Dylan netting 24. Leading SHU

was Isaiah Coleman with 15 points, while Emmanuel Okorafor had a career high 10 rebounds.

In other sports, the New York Giants continued their losing ways, losing at home to the Baltimore Ravens 35-14. If NY doesn't beat Indianapolis two weeks from now at home, they will go winless at MetLife for the whole season.

Meanwhile, the Jets had a better time, winning on the road over the Jacksonville Jaguars 32-25. Of course, it might not be the best thing, as it hurts their position in the 2025 NFL Draft.

In college football, Colorado two-way star Travis Hunter won the 2024 Heisman Trophy, with Boise State running back Ashton Jeantty serving as the runner up. Also, Navy defeated Army 31-13 to take the Commander-in-Chief trophy.

Finally, the high school basketball season is starting up, with the annual Brick City Classic being held at Weequahic High School in Newark this weekend.

THE DOCTOR IS IN

(Continued from page 4)

tion with non-caffeinated drinks, stress reduction practices (preferably those based on the principles of mindfulness), good sleep hygiene, and a daily headache diary.

I must state that these strategies are not cures for migraine headaches, and you should not expect them to be miracle treatments that will magically reduce your migraine attacks to one per decade. However, they can still help reduce the severity and frequency of migraine headaches, however small. Also, these lifestyle modifications can help improve overall health, and that is always a plus in the management of any health condition. Stay safe.

This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor, DO, a Board-Certified Internist; Board certified Pediatrician who works as a Hospitalist and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the

current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless.

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

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Please submit the proposal at East Orange Housing Authority, 160 Halsted Street, 1st Floor, East Orange, NJ 07018 **no later than 4:00p.m., Tuesday, January 7, 2025**. All proposals must be sealed in an envelope and marked:

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All proposals must be prepared in accordance with the proposal format included in the RFP. A copy of the RFP with the evaluation criteria which will be used to select the successful respondent and complete instructions for submitting the proposal can be obtained by email dsimpkins@eoha.org.

Questions regarding the RFP can be directed to Duangrat Simpkins, Office Manager, at 973-766-8896 Extension 10.

Wilbert O. Gill,
Executive Director



PUBLIC NOTICE

NJ TRANSIT administers the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) **Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities** Grant Program in the State of New Jersey. This program intends to improve mobility for seniors and people with disabilities by providing financial support, through programs planned, designed and carried out to meet the transportation needs of these populations.

This year NJ TRANSIT will be soliciting applications for FFY2024. Organizations may apply for operating, mobility management, and capital transportation projects.

Below is the exact date the application will be available on S-RIDES.

NJ TRANSIT WILL BE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FROM ORGANIZATIONS WHO WISH TO APPLY AS FOLLOWS:

- **FFY2024** S5310 application will be available on January 3, 2025 (closing date of February 14, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.)

Be advised that there is a monetary match requirement for all FTA projects. Subrecipients applying for operating projects must provide a 50% match, mobility management projects require a 20% match, and depending upon funding availability capital projects may require a 20% match.

In order to be selected, your organization must be an active participant in the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning process. Information on this process is contained in the application.

This is a competitive grant process. If an application is selected for inclusion in the statewide grant and the FTA approves the grant, then NJ TRANSIT enters into an agreement with the approved applicants for the purposes detailed in your application.

NJ TRANSIT encourages minority-based organizations to apply under the Section 5310 Program.

To complete a grant application all organizations must go to the following website: <http://s-rides.njtransit.com>.

There you will find the application cover letter, application guidelines, and the program’s State Management Plan, which describes the purpose of the grant program, and NJ TRANSIT’S management of the program. NJ TRANSIT is also inviting the public to review the current State Management Plan revised for this year’s program and welcomes your comments.

If you have any questions or comments, call (973) 491-8891 or email us at GRANT5310@NJTRANSIT.COM.

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Registration Underway for Spring 2025 Semester at Essex County College

Registration for the Spring I 2025 Semester at Essex County College is underway. The College’s Spring I 2025 Semester starts Monday, January 13, 2025. Spring I classes run through April 30, 2025. Weekend College classes begin on Friday, January 17, 2025.

Classes are held on both the Newark and West Essex (West Caldwell) campuses. There will also be virtual and hybrid classes offered.

Essex County College offers more than 50 Associate degree programs and Academic Certificates in a wide range of disciplines. Essex graduates transfer as juniors to many New Jersey colleges and universities, as well as top schools around the country.

“Whether you’re looking to start your education, try a new path, update your skills, Essex County College has a program designed to fit you and the academic and student support services to help you succeed and reach your life-long goals,” stated Dr. Hamin Shabazz, Vice President of Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer.



For more information, please click on this link: <https://www.essex.edu/registration/>. Additional registration information is available through the College’s Welcome Center at 973-877-4477. Call 973-877-1920 for West Essex campus information.

“Essex County College has been serving residents since 1968. Throughout this time,

we have always provided high quality and affordable educational opportunities. Our many support services help students stay on track to graduate and realize their dream. We hold true to our mission of Students First!” said ECC’s President, Dr. Augustine A. Boakye.

DRONES (Continued from page 1)

ities and President-Elect Donald Trump's Bedminster golf course. Some were in response to those flying near Morris County's Picatinny armaments grounds and "a dozen closely following" a U.S. Coast Guard portable boat off the Earle Naval Munitions station.

Stewart Airport in Upstate New York was closed for several hours Dec. 16 until sighted drones left the area.

One can almost hear the late movie trailer voiceover artist Don LaFontaine say, "Drones Over New Jersey - Coming to Your Neighborhood!"

The "Local Talk" area is neither a hotbed of sightings nor immune from them. Some residents said that they saw some "around South Orange" or "hovering over the Maplewood Country Club" or spotted above Bloomfield's part of the Garden State Parkway.

An eight county map of sightings posted Dec. 16 have one reported from Nutley - but it may be the same drones seen in neighboring Clifton. Other sightings so far have been on the periphery: Caldwell, Livingston, Millburn and Fairfield.

Perhaps whoever is, or are, behind the drones may be keeping away from the restricted areas like Newark Liberty International, Caldwell, Morristown, Teterboro, Linden and other nearby airports. Others are either not careful or are indifferent to legal restrictions.

Bloomfielder and licensed private pilot Dan Bitecola, in his Dec. 14 Facebook post, said that "the FAA and local authorities have permission to take action" if drones are violating flying restrictions. Drones are limited to a 400 foot altitude ceiling while private pilots have to ask for a waiver to fly above 401 ft or more.

Bitecola's seven points on FAA private pilot restrictions include waivers to fly within 30 minutes of twilight or dawn, must remain in sightline with the aircraft, must not fly above people and that drones must broadcast their ID number.

The relatively few sightings in "Local Talk Land" have not kept elected and law enforcement officials from speaking out.

Belleville Mayor Michael Melham said he was with some 50 other New Jersey mayors who attended a drone conference with officials at the State Police's West Trenton headquarters Dec. 11. He returned unimpressed with the federal government's "nothing to worry about" position - and sees a link with radioactive material gone missing from a Newfield facility.

"Over 500 mayors were invited on short notice, some of whom driven three hours from North Jersey and what was said could have been done on a Zoom call," said Melham on his Facebook page. "I'm

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convening an OEM this afternoon (Dec. 11) with our respective agencies. I'll be calling my fellow mayors to have the Governor issue an executive order implementing an IMMEDIATE temporary ban on all personal and commercial drones."

The mayor, in one television interview, said that those who approach crashed drones "should wear a full hazmat suit." He sees a link between the plethora of drone sightings with the Dec. 2 loss of a small amount of radioactive material from a damaged drum re-

ceived from a Newfield facility. The Dec. 2 incident was reported by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Cong. Jeff van Drew (R-Northfield) claimed that the drones were being launched from an Iranian warship off the Atlantic Coast.

Cong. Mikie Sherrill (D-Montclair), a former Navy helicopter commander, said that the NORAD tracking facility in Colorado trace drones. Her Dec. 12 action plan includes us-

(Continued on page 15)



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

NEWARK - A floral cross was tied to a perimeter fence on the outside of the J&L Parking lot on the southeast corner of Broad and Lafayette streets by 9 a.m. Dec. 12 - about where the late Newark Police Traffic Control Officer Jario Rodriguez would be stationed.

Rodriguez, 53, according to Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore "Ted" Stephens II, was struck and felled by a motorist - described only as an off-duty Newark Police Division sergeant - at that intersection at about 11:42 p.m. Dec. 11.

Rodriguez, who left Prudential Center employment to join NPD in 2022, was rushed to University Hospital - where he was declared dead at 1:37 a.m. that Thursday. The motorist was taken to St. Michael's Hospital, where he was listed on Dec. 13 as being in stable conditions for unspecified injuries.

Newark Public Safety Director Emanuel Miranda said that Rodriguez was directing traffic, monitoring bus lanes and checking parking meters like he normally would. He was directing traffic after the Aventura concert at the Prudential Center had let out that Wednesday night.

Authorities, as of press time had not disclosed details of the fatal accident, including the NPD sergeant's identity. That the motorist was an off-duty sergeant came from secondary sources. Whether he was in uniform and/or driving a city vehicle remains an open question - as

is whether he faces summonses or charges.

Jario Juan Rodriguez's Funeral Mass was set for St. Lucy's Roman Catholic Church here, followed by burial at North Arlington's Holy Cross Cemetery, Dec. 19. Born April 28, 1971, his survivors include wife Gretchen Maria Hernandez de Acevedo, mother Sylvia Elysa Alex "Chita" Rodriguez, six children and seven grandchildren.

The accident investigation continues.

IRVINGTON - An Atlantic County grand jury, on Dec. 11, had found that county prosecutors had enough evidence to indict two men in the June 30 murder of Irvingtonian Issac Bishop, 33, in their jurisdiction.

Dyshaw J. Bostick, 28, of Tinton Falls and Franchesha M. Burgos-Gonzalez, 37, of Phoenix, now face counts of first-degree murder, conspiracy and two second-degree weapons offenses in relation to Bishop's murder. Bostick is in Atlantic County custody; Burgos-Gonzalez, who was extradited from Arizona, faces a detention hearing.

June 30 was when a local hunter had found Issac's body in Weymouth Township's woods by 13th Avenue at about 2:30 p.m. Bishop was reported as missing in Irvington on June 9; his family said his car was found at Newark's Pine Grove Terrace with his wallet and identification cards inside.

ACPO detectives, according to their boss, William Reynolds, had found 11 shell casings of the bullets that entered or went through Bishop's body.

Reynolds said his detectives' investigation tied Bostick and Burgos-Gonzalez to Bishop's murder in that they had contacts with Bishop "weeks prior to his body being found." All three, said the chief prosecutor, "simultaneously headed to Weymouth Twp. from North Jersey" based on cell phone data.

Issac Lee Bishop, who was born Jan. 28, 1991, had attended Chancellor Avenue School and had graduated from Irvington - Frank H. Morrell High School in 2009. His parents and daughter are among his survivors. The Cotton Funeral Service had arranged for "83rd's" Aug. 2 funer-

al at Mt. Hermon Baptist Church here and burial at Rosedale Cemetery-Linden.

EAST ORANGE - Mourners of the Dec. 1 passing of Jennie Oliver, 97, are taking solace that she has now rejoined her husband Charles C. and her trail-blazing daughter Sheila Y. at the next plane of existence.

J. Oliver was born Jennie Nelson in Jersey City Nov. 13, 1927 and was working for RCA there when she met Charles Clay Oliver. They married and first moved to Newark Weequahic section, where their daughter Sheila had graduated from in 1970. The Olivers moved to East Orange in 1975.

East Orange was where Sheila Oliver, 71, rose to become the first African American woman State General Assembly Speaker and, as of her Aug. 1, 2023 death, first African American woman Lt. Governor. S. Oliver was an East Orange School District Board of Education president, Essex County now-Commissioner and Assemblywoman of the 34th State Legislative District along the way.

One of J. Oliver's last public appearances was at the Aug. 12 funeral for her daughter at Newark's Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. "Was all this for her?" she asked son Clay of the massive turnout of mourners and dignitaries.

Son Clay Oliver, Jr., three grandchildren and five grandchildren are among "Jennie Bell" or "JB's" survivors. Her visitation and funeral were held at Whigham's Funeral Home, followed by burial at Union's Hollywood.

Dec. 19 Last Rites for Yvonne C. Blake

A public farewell for former councilwoman and Acting East Orange Health and Human Services Director Yvonne C. Blake, who died on Dec. 7, had been set for 5-9 p.m. Dec. 19 here at the Calvary Baptist Church. Her private funeral has been set for 10 a.m. Dec. 20.

The city's former Division of Substance Abuse Manager had been a city councilwoman 1990-94. The Shaw University and Seton Hall University graduate was a 42-year Newark Public Schools teacher and, beforehand,

an East Orange High School teacher.

ORANGE - The Orange Planning Board was set to hear at their Dec. 18 meeting a proposal that would change the character of a South Ward intersection.

The board has on that Wednesday night's agenda a preliminary and final site plan approval regarding 538-544 Nassau St. by Vida Capital LLC, Although the address is for a parking lot at Nassau and South Jefferson streets' southeast corner, the application includes 554-556 Nassau St., where Libretti's Ristorante has been serving fine dining since 1970, on the southwestern corner.

Vida Capital wants to replace the southeast lot and the two story eatery on the southwestern corner with a pair of six-story apartment buildings totaling 174 units and 182 parking spaces.

The southeast building, or "Site A," is to hold 122 units and 129 parking spaces - 39 of those spaces, however, are reserved for "mechanical" purposes.

Site B, on the southwestern corner is to hold 52 units and 53 parking spaces. Eighteen of these spaces are for "mechanical" uses; the other 35 spaces are to be found on a ground floor parking deck.

Vida, on the city's property records, have not bought the two southeastern lots nor the seven across South Jefferson. The nine properties would be affected by the proposal.

The proposed six-story buildings would be standing from across the former F. Berg Hat building and the PSE&G power station transformer lot. The six-story 1907/1864 hat factory was converted to the HANDS Hat City Lofts and community center in 2018. Public Service has recently removed the older transformers from its lot in the wake of completing its "Orange Heights" Substation.

WEST ORANGE - Advocates of the "Black Inventors Hall of Fame and Housing Plan," who presented their application details to the Township Council here Dec. 10, want to follow through on subdividing the 5.5-acre Mayfair Farms property for affordable housing.

(Continued on page 12)



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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY SUMMER PROGRAM OFFERED TO ECC STUDENTS

Essex County College students will have the opportunity to spend 7 weeks on the Princeton University campus next Summer, earning 8 college credits from the Ivy League institution under the University's Transfer Scholars Initiative (TSI).

Dr. Queenie Reda, Outreach Program Associate for TSI, recently visited ECC to explain the program. The free program accepts 70 or more high achieving community college students from their 11 partner schools, of which ECC is now one. Students must complete at least one term at ECC during the 2024-25 academic year to be eligible.

Over two dozen ECC students attended the session in the College's Smith Hall.

"It is an intense program, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Plus, you will have the option to live on the Princeton campus," Dr. Reda told the students.

All the program participants will take Research and Argument in the Humanities & Social Sciences. For the second course, Dr. Reda said students will be assigned to one of a variety of classes. "The goal is to expand your transcript. You will have the support to help you succeed," Dr. Reda explained.

In addition to taking the two classes, the students will attend sessions on researching and applying to four-year colleges and universities, curating recommendation letters, drafting personal statements and essays, and learning about securing financial aid. Activities outside the campus are also offered, such as ice cream socials and kayaking. "We want you to feel welcome with a sense of belonging," Dr. Reda said.

Additional information on the program is available by emailing to: TSIReply@princeton.edu

"A program like the Princeton University Transfer Scholars

Dr. Queenie Reda explains the Princeton University Summer program to Essex County College students. Photo Courtesy ECC.



Initiative provides a pathway for our highly talented students to have a transformative opportunity to unlock their potential and thrive in an environment of academic rigor," stated ECC Executive Director of Enrollment Management & Services Renee Ojo-Ohikuare.

2025 will mark the third year of the TSI. Dr. Reda said the first class had 40 students, all of whom commuted. This past Summer there were 70 enrollees, 40 of whom took advantage of a

new opportunity to live at Princeton.

All participants receive a stipend. Commuters will receive about \$4,000 while residential students receive about \$400 for the Summer, as they have their room and board covered by the program.

Following the session, Dr. Reda said she was impressed by the questions the students asked. "I'm grateful to have spent the afternoon with them," she said.

NEW DETAILS ON FATAL CAR CRASH IN NEWARK THAT CLAIMED SIX LIVES

Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens, II announced Dec. 17 that the medical examiner has confirmed the identities of five of the six individuals killed in a car crash in Newark earlier this month.

On Friday, December 6th at approximately 11:28 p.m., the Newark Police Department was notified of an accident in the vicinity of the Route 1 & 9 on-ramp southbound off Raymond Blvd.

While traveling on the ramp, a 2022 Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat went off the roadway, be-

came airborne, and struck a support column for the Pulaski Skyway before coming to a final rest underneath the 1 & 9 on-ramp. The vehicle then became engulfed in flames. The cause of the crash has not been determined, and the investigation remains ongoing.

31-year-old Lamar McKnight has been identified as the driver. 29-year-old Darryl McKnight, 22-year-old Darnell Carr, 41-year-old Bradley Cunningham and 31-year-old Veronica Bailey have also been confirmed as victims. All the victims lived in Jersey City. The Essex County Prosecutor's Office has not released the name of the sixth victim, pending results of DNA testing.

\$15,000 CRIME STOPPERS REWARD FOR INFORMATION IN 2018 FATAL WEEQUAHIC PARK SHOOTING

Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens, II and Essex County Sherriff Armando B. Fontoura have announced a \$15,000 Crime Stoppers Program reward for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons responsible for a fatal shooting in Weequahic Park in Newark in 2018.

On the evening of August 6, 2018, 25-year-old Godfrey Jones Jr. was with a female companion in Weequahic Park when he was shot and killed.

The female companion stated that two suspects approached them and asked the victim his name. The suspect shot Jones Jr. before he could answer.

Witnesses described the suspects as two Black males. One thin wearing a baseball cap with white lettering. The other heavier set with a full head of hair under a stocking cap. The suspect's vehicle is reported to be a 2015-2018 four-door Nissan Altima.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Essex County Prosecutor's Office tips line at 1-877-TIPS-4EC or 1-877-847-7432. All calls will be kept confidential.

TOWN WATCH (Cont. from pg. 10)

Members of the Horn family, who owned and operated Mayfair Farms for 80 years until its 2022 closing, BIHOF founder James Howard and AMS Acquisitions sketched out dividing the property at 481 Eagle Rock Ave. into eastern and western lots. The hall of fame bought Mayfair Farms with a 90-day due diligence period on Sept. 1.

The Mayfair Farms banquet and catering hall, now used by the Wonder group food preparation and delivery company, will remain but converted into the Black Inventors Hall of Fame. The BIHOF, as first presented on Aug. 14, will also include a museum and STEAM learning center. Its renovated space will now also include a gift shop, a theater and restaurant plus meeting rooms, event spaces and classrooms for those living on the western lot.

That western lot, closed to the public for nearly four years, is where a four-story "200-

plus top of the class, multifamily residential" units would be built. Its amenities include a pool, a sauna, steam room and hot tub. Twenty percent of the units will go to West Orange's inclusionary affordable housing requirement and receive "substantially more" than the \$320,000 in annual property taxes Mayfair Forms used to generate.

The proposal's backers said that they want the township to rezone the eastern lot for B2 museum use and building height, set a "parking requirement that the township doesn't have" and not touch West Orange's local Reville and Housing Law. The historic barn will also remain.

The western lot was originally proposed for a three-story senior citizens housing and community center. It is not known when and to where Wonder Group will go for its preparation kitchen; it had asked the zoning board to allow building 10 meet smokers on the property last summer.

SOUTH ORANGE - The South Orange Library is not letting its main building be closed from using its newly-awarded digital literacy grant.

SOPL Adult Services Librarian Erika Dragonetti told a reporter Dec. 12 that the award from the Public Libraries association will allow her to restart "much needed computer classes" in its temporary quarters here at the Baird Community Center.

SOPL is currently divided between the Baird Center and the former animal shelter at Walton Place while construction between the original library and its 1968 building gets underway. Both locations have limited public computer access.

Dragonetti foresees twice weekly digital literacy classes at Baird into the spring. Students will be using new laptop computers; existing desktop computers will be replaced.

SOPL was one local library from 100 nationwide who were awarded PLA Digi- (Continued on page 14)

GARDEN PARTY

(Cont. from pg. 6)

thought of firecrackers popping indiscriminately, as the men stroked the ball. Shelton stuck first, with two breaks of serve in the first set. Carlito was crafty enough to get one to the breaks back in the first set. However, Shelton would go on to take the first set 6-4.

Carlito doesn't like to lose and in his response becomes very motivated to defeat Shelton. Carlito went up two breaks in the second set for a 5-2 lead. He would go on to take the set 2-6. The match is now tied, 6-4, 2-6.

A standard tiebreak, where the first one to reach seven, by a margin of two, takes the breaker. Shelton was anxious to get things started, as he charged the net to win the first point, 1-0 Shelton. Carlito, in turn, hits a forehand winner down the line for his first point in the tiebreak, 1-1. Then serves out wide to Shelton's forehand, 1-2 Carlito. Shelton reciprocates with a can opener of his own, 2-2. Next, Shelton attacks the net again, but is burned by a Carlito passing shot, 2-3 Carlito. The unforced errors start to creep into Shelton's game, as he makes a drop shot error. 2-4 Carlito.

In an all-out extravaganza point that has both men racing from side to side and both to the net, which sent this Garden crowd into

a frenzy, Shelton missed a sitter volley, 2-5 Carlito. While both men try to catch their breath, they call two fans from the audience to take a crack at the game. Shelton's fan gets a point, signified by the umpire calling the score, 3-5 Carlito.

Rest over, Shelton and Carlito return to action. Shelton gets another point while Carlito is serving, 4-5. Ben misses the return which puts Carlito at Match Point. During the rally, Carlito's ball grazes the sideline, but the ball is called out. The umpire overrules. They play a Let. Carlito wins the point. 4-6 Carlito. Finally, Shelton's return is long, 4-7 Carlito. Game, set, and Match, Carlito, 4-6, 6-2, 1-0 (7-4).

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The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

READING IS FOR GROWN FOLK

Check out the draft below and visit localtalkweekly.com to read the full story in the Entertainment section. Don't forget to follow my [msdialect](#) Instagram and [Andrea Dialect Lab](#) pages. Like, follow, and share!

Age and a strong physique were his only sins. He'd been taken out of school a couple of weeks shy of his twelfth birthday, and although he yearned to go, he knew that the show of emotion brought about grave consequences. So, when that little, old, rickety bus was seen coming up that back road to collect his younger siblings (the females, having been the right gender, and the others, males of

the proper age), he hid himself. Past occurrences always reminded him that he'd made that mistake before . . .

ONE IN THE BUSH

When numbers of surplus spilled off the lips of others as a means of support, I'd shun the whispers of sarcasm that were playing in my head, while gripping my stomach to buffer the tickles of a painful humor. Certainly, the time would come when the little eyes that gazed up at me in total dependency would grow up. Now, with a couple of those apron strings having been cut, I thought it was somewhat safe to say that my time had come; I'd already booked myself a trip to rendezvous with self-indulgence.

I was determined that nothing would spoil this trip, but I have yet to carry out my plans, and they've already been sabotaged. Like many others, I found it easy to overlook the crisis we are in regarding our youth. After raising my own, I felt I had done what was required of me, which made it all justifiable. See no evil, hear no evil, speak none was my method of approach.



Photos Courtesy Andrea Dialect

Had I known that one man's story would connect me to such an ordeal, in that case, I would have used the formula!

Yet now, in my being somewhat curious, I wonder if currently, from his position, this man still finds the silence of that little girl peering through those bushes all those dreadfully cold winter mornings to be an act of kindness - her assuring eyes a promise of comfort, or an accomplice who'd waltz with him into a disappointing life. Clearly, his present state forces me to believe that a tattletale can be of good use; furthermore, accountability can be pretty convincing, especially when silence has become a noose around your neck.

Even if I were to squander all my hard-earned money (taking into consideration the size of my humble nest egg) and, in spite of it, still having to bor-

row and beg the rest, I might have enough to buy myself an aesthetically appealing plot of aloofness. I know for certain that the compelling force of reality is beyond restraint. Oh, how I long for green grass and birds chirping at my window at my early rising. Any ole escape will do, be it mountainscape, landscape, or seascape; besides, who wants to be yanked out of sleep mid-slumber, rudely awakened in a scene where ruckus is obligatory and ugliness oftentimes commonplace?

Shielded only by their wounded egos, ours run for cover, forced to live in the underbrush of an existence. No matter the theatrics, they remain hopeful when searchingly gazing out at us, using every tactic imaginable to make us aware of their plight. But we overlook the signals of distress, never lending a hand, and hope soon fades.

Get a grip! Neither our silence nor our useless babble is considered an act of kindness. Lack of focus makes "the nuances of facial expressions and body language" obvious; thus, once again, our brief sentiments of affection add insult to injury, and our assuring eyes are certainly not of comfort. ...

Read this article in its entirety at www.localtalkweekly.com and type The Observation Booth, Andrea Dialect and/ or Entertainment Section in the search bar. If you have any questions, send them to localtalkandrea@gmail.com.

TOWN WATCH (Cont. from pg. 12)

taLearn grants. The grants, funded by a \$2.7 million donation by AT&T, aims to help digital learning through DigitaLearn courses and training materials.

MAPLEWOOD - There are more than a few Sherman Place residents since Dec. 10 who are rephrasing a Rick Blaine line, as uttered by Humphrey Bogart, from "Casablanca:" "Of all the streets in all the towns in all the world, he had to pick ours."

That was the reaction when authorities revealed one of the fake drivers licenses that Luigi Maglione had in his possession when Altoona, Pa. police found and arrested him at a local McDonald's. The alleged NJ MVC license, issued to a "Mark Rosario June 18, 2024," lists "128 Sherman Pl." as his address.

Authorities said that Maglione used that or one of three other drivers licenses to check into a Manhattan hostel Nov. 25 - 10

days before he fatally ambushed United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson in front of the Midtown Hilton hotel. It is not clear whether he used the NJ license to book a Greyhound bus from Atlanta to New York's George Washington Bridge Bus Terminal or for taxi or electric scooter rides or to pay for snacks.

That 128 Sherman Pl. does not exist does not calm residents of the 12 houses on the one-block residential street by the South Orange border. They said that they have been getting calls from relatives and friends from far and wide.

"We joked that the address is the tree house in the backyard," said one resident on grounds of anonymity. "I get that health care's a problem but it's still a tragedy - and a ridiculous cover up."

There is no known connection between the street and Maglione, who was North Baltimore's Gilman School Class of 2016 valedictorian. (Gilman is a private all-boys high school.)

BLOOMFIELD - Township elders will be entering 2025 with full strength, since Rosalee Gonzalez and Widney Polynice were sworn into two vacant council seats here Dec. 16.

Councilwoman Gonzalez was sworn into the First Ward seat Monday night that was vacated by now-Mayor Jenny Mundell. Gonzalez is an Essex County employee.

Councilman Polynice was inaugurated into Richard Rockwell's At-Large Council seat. Rockwell had resigned Nov. 21. Polynice, a William Paterson University graduate, is director of Social Vibes Marketing & Sales.

Polynice and Gonzalez were announced by Mayor Mundell Dec. 4 and their names were added to the township staff directory by Dec. 13. Both are appointees, recommended by township Democratic Committee Chairman Assy. Michael Venezia, and are subject to special elections in the coming year.

(Continued on page 15)

TOWN WATCH (Continued from page 14)

Adult Library Closed Through Jan. 1

The Bloomfield Public Library Board of Trustees announced that the 1967 Adult Library building here at 90 Broad St. will be closed Jan. 16 through New Year's Day to "manage building-related issues." Adult circulation material pickup, reference department and photocopying services will be in the 1927 Children's Library next door for the interim. BPL card holders will have BCCLS.org card privileges in neighboring libraries as do card holders who have affixed ReBL system stickers on their cards.

The Adult Library, which was built to relieve the now-Children's Library, has had roof leakage and heating issues in recent months. Both attached buildings were part of a 2019-21 strategic plan. Michael Venezia, when he was mayor, had talked about replacing the buildings with a new five-story structure.

MONTCLAIR - Those who had missed the Dec. 4 Montclair Public Schools superintendent search public input session here at the Montclair High School George Innes Annex will get a to-be-announced second session soon.

That second date will be announced by the Montclair Board of Education and the New Jersey State School Boards Association - who organized that first Wednesday night session. MBOE and the state association are conducting a joint search this time.

Whoever will be selected to take the MPS helm will be succeeding Interim Superintendent Damen Cooper and ultimately the late Dr. Jonathan Ponds. Cooper is the district's director of secondary education curriculum. He is wearing two hats simultaneously but is anticipated to return to his previous job full-time.

Ponds, who joined MPS in June 2020, suddenly died July 12. MBOE members had just granted him a five-year contract extension into 2029.

Animal Shelter Staying Open

Town Manager Michael Lapolla led several Montclair elders in declaring Dec. 13 that the Montclair Animal Shelter is staying - and that there are no talks about replacing the shelter building with another redevelopment project.

A Dec. 12 petition to "Protect the Montclair Animal Shelter" from rumored closure had received 737 signatures overnight. MAS Director Liz Morgan, however, said that the township does not allow her to talk to the media.

GLEN RIDGE - Those who wanted to witness the Glen Ridge Country Club's site plan application before the borough's

zoning board of adjustment Dec. 12 discovered that the application had been transferred to the Glen Ridge Planning Board's Jan. 15 meeting.

Glen Ridge Planning Director and Deputy Business Administrator Erik DeLine said that the GRCC had its attorney, John Veteri, withdraw the plan from the zoning board's agenda. The application was then resubmitted for planning board consideration.

The country club wants to cut down 56 trees on its property in order to build a children's swimming pool and a parking area. GRCC then, as now, is asking for a variance to build the members' pool within 13 feet of its property line. Borough regulations require a 100-foot setback.

The club has proposed replacing the 56 to-be-fell trees paralleling the Ridge-wood Avenue part of its property by planting 45 new ones. Veteri said that his client has the cutting permit from the borough.

Glen Ridge and Bloomfield neighbors who reside along the GRCC property are concerned about the loss of landscape screening and noise from the proposal. Members of Sustainable Montclair, some from the borough, held a picket line by the GRCC entrance one Nov. Saturday.

BELLEVILLE - The former Kmart's prospective new tenant took a step towards moving into the 77,800-square-foot structure when the Belleville Zoning Board of Adjustment, on Dec. 5, approved having the entire building at 371-411 Main St. open to a single occupant.

Transformco Realty, of Hoffman Estates, Ill., had been pursuing the certificate of occupancy clarification for its client since Oct. 3. The holder of former Kmart and Sears properties nationwide had reportedly signed Aldi supermarkets as its new tenant.

How much work Transformco and Aldi have to do to make the 1977-built one-story department store into a supermarket remains unclear. Kmart, in its later years, installed a grocery section as it had done at its West Orange, Kearny and Clifton stores.

Kmart moved out in April 2021, prompting the Township Committee to adopt a 371-411 Main Street Redevelopment Zone - which keeps the building and parking lot within the BB-1 commercial retail use zone. Belleville elders had meanwhile considered demolishing the building and quartering the lot for residential redevelopment.

How much of a say Lidl Supermarkets, at 414 Main St., will have remains unclear. The outlet, which opened Aug. 18, 2021, remains that shopping plaza's anchor tenant. 414 Main used to be an A&P/SuperFresh supermarket - but has one-quarter of the Kmart building's space across the street.

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LOCAL TALK

Fall 2024 Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Thursday, Saturday, Sunday - CLOSED

Call 973-622-1111 for appointments

DRONES (Continued from page 9)

ing MQ-9 Reaper drones from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to track the Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

State and federal officials ask that witnesses document and contact sightings with law enforcement. Using laser pointers, let alone firearms, are prohibited by law for safety.

Those who want to learn the proper use of drones and how to fly them may want to contact the East Orange Mayor's Office of Employment and Training. EO MOET and the Morristown-based Alpha Drones USA started a free six-week training course past January.

Trainees in the first session helped city DPW workers in cleaning City Hall and the Municipal Court and receive an FAA-approved commercial drone license. Details are found with MOET's ladonna.jones@eastorange-nj.gov or (973) 677-8914.



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