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NJCM 47th Annual Conference & Exposition

"Adapting to Fiscal Change"

April 27-April 30, 2010

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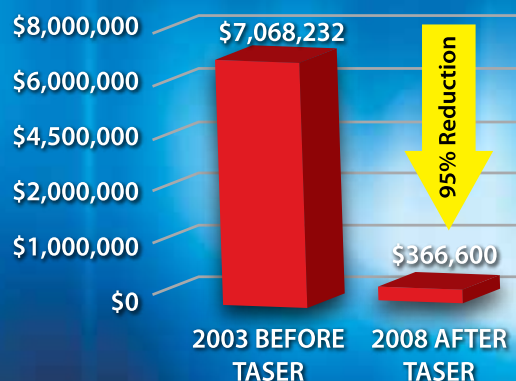


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President's Message

By: Mayor Brian Wahler, NJCM President

I recently attended the 78th Winter Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) in Washington, D.C., and along with 230 Mayors from across the country, eleven from New Jersey were invited to the White House where President Barack Obama addressed us on Jobs and the Economy. Some members of the President's Cabinet were also present and as you might imagine, when the session opened for questions, regardless of what part of the country a Mayor was from, the comments were basically the same. Almost every Mayor mentioned hearing from the residents of their community who have lost their jobs, are concerned about losing their job, worried about losing their homes and are desperate for some kind of advice and assistance. While some of the answers provided a glimmer of hope, it was clear there is no one answer to the myriad of problems we all face and certainly nothing suggesting a quick fix.

It was noted at the meeting, that the nation's 363 metro economies proved to be the driving force of the nation's economic performance, accounting for 90.1% of the gross domestic product (GDP), 90.3% of wage and salary income, and 86.2% of all jobs in 2009. Despite expected employment growth in many metro areas' labor markets during the first half of 2010, the unemployment rate will remain painfully high in those same areas over the next four years. It was generally agreed that as a result of the information presented at this meeting, closer attention must be paid to the relationship between the economic health of our nation's metro areas and the health of the nation as a whole. While both may be on the mend, albeit slowly, the Administration believes that the national economy can recover more quickly by more directly delegating federal funds to cities and their metro economies. We agree.

Prior to the White House meeting the USCM had reached much the same conclusion. We know that the recession is taking a terrible toll on American citizens, businesses, and communities. Elizabeth Kautz, USCM President and Mayor of Burnsville, Minn., said, "Quite simply, we

must change existing investment mechanisms and ensure that precious and limited federal resources are targeted directly to America's cities and the metro areas that will determine if our country can and will compete in the world economy." President Obama in his State of the Union address to the Congress and the nation on January 27th said that more of the resources must be provided directly to cities and local areas in order to have the most immediate impact on job savings and creation. On January 28th he announced plans for a \$33 billion tax credit to encourage small businesses to hire workers and boost wages. It is hoped that these initiatives will help to spur the economy. Time will tell.

While the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) contained funding for the Energy Block Grant (EECBG), the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program, the Byrne/Justice

Brian Wahler, NJCM President is also the Mayor of Piscataway Township

Assistance Grant Program, transit grants, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) funding for transportation projects, and Summer Youth, not even one percent of ARRA funds were provided directly to cities. I've listed below what additional funding might do for our cities and towns if directed to specific programs.

By providing additional funding for the EECBG, additional green jobs will be available in community-based carbon reduction projects. One in 10 new jobs generated through 2038 will be in the "green" sector. The steady erosion of CDBG funding has short-changed low and moderate income communities in their efforts to revitalize neighborhoods. Mayors could put people back to work immediately with additional funding. The

COPS Office received 7,200 applications requesting \$8.36 billion to hire, rehire, or avoid layoffs for 39,000 officers. Only one in eight of the requests were funded. More funding could immediately allow the hiring of additional officers or avoid laying-off current officers. These projects, as well as funding for summer youth jobs, more local transportation funding, school construction and small business access to credit are all necessary steps in order to achieve a full economic recovery. Not only will a full recovery help our cities and towns but it will make us a stronger nation with an economy that will lead the world for decades to come.

As Mayors we need to continue to advocate for targeted fiscal relief for our cities and towns. It's clear that we have our work cut out for us but as leaders of our communities it is not only our duty but our obligation to do whatever we can in order



to help put our people back to work and to bring business back to our cities and towns.

Shifting gears...plans for the NJCM Conference, scheduled to begin on April 27th at the Borgata in Atlantic City, are well under way. The conference sessions will discuss, among other items, shared services and property taxes. We look forward to a productive conference where sharing ideas and possible solutions to the issues at hand can only improve the well-being of our citizens.

Brian C. Wahler

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Governor's Message to NJCM

By: Governor Christopher Christie

Since taking office on January 19th, my Administration has taken swift, necessary action to address some of the most pressing issues facing New Jersey in order to rebuild our economy and get our people working again. Since my first day in office, I've issued 14 Executive Orders that will have a direct impact on the operations of state government, and your work at the municipal level. These orders begin the process of fundamental reform that is so desperately needed if we have any hope of closing the existing budget gap and lowering the tax burden

My transition team, my Administration, and I have listened to the public, elected officials, and business owners from across our State describe the challenges they face and their need for action and effectiveness from Trenton. As a result, my Administration has outlined an aggressive agenda to rebuild our economy, and we've already begun the difficult work needed to achieve long-term reform. Through executive order, I've enacted a set of Common Sense principles for rule-making and permitting, created a Red Tape Review Group to evaluate current and proposed regulations, started the process of unwinding COAH and changing planning policy in New Jersey, and directed state agencies not to create any unfunded mandates. Each of these steps, and further action as a result of these policies, will change the way business is done across every level of government.

Simply put—New Jersey can no longer afford to spend uncontrollably. The days of spending without paying any attention to the cost, efficiency and effectiveness of the programs we are funding are over. Some of the early steps we've taken to change the existing regulatory structure and eliminate the job killing policies that stifle growth and hamper our competitiveness include:

The Red Tape Review Group

Created in Executive Order 3, this bipartisan group is chaired by Lt. Governor Guadagno and is reviewing the 172

proposed regulations that are currently frozen. In addition, the Red Tape Review is examining regulations already on the books to determine their economic impact, effectiveness, and efficiency. This review is being done with the care it deserves – regulations were frozen as long as they did not compromise public health or safety, jeopardize federal funding or impede the necessary operations of any agency.

Common Sense Principles

Executive Order 2 lays out a set of "Common Sense Principles" that will make the regulatory process in New Jersey transparent and accessible. Our Common Sense Principles Executive Order makes important changes to the State's regulatory process. The order specifically directs state agencies to detail and justify when a proposed rule exceeds the requirements of a federal law of regulation; solicit advice and views from academia and the private sector to provide insights on proposed

Governor Christopher Christie,
Governor of the State of New Jersey.

rules before they are proposed; and cultivate an approach to regulations that values performance-based outcomes and compliance over penalties for technical violations that do not result in negative impacts to public health, safety or the environment.

COAH

As I promised when running for Governor, I have taken swift, decisive action to reform the Commission on Affordable Housing. In Executive Order 12, I have created the Housing Opportunity Task Force, initiating an immediate review of the COAH and its continued existence. I've asked this Task Force to examine the regulations and methodologies of COAH, the Fair Housing Act (FHA) and the State Planning Act. For too

long, COAH has made planning in our towns a confusing, onerous nightmare. It is my directive to this group to provide a new path forward for planning that allows us to meet the constitutional obligations of the Mt. Laurel court decisions in a manner that is consistent with sound planning and economic growth for the State.

Budget Solutions

On February 11, 2010, I declared that New Jersey is facing a fiscal emergency. It should come as no surprise to anyone that we are facing a daunting budget gap and an economy that is struggling to survive. My Administration moved to immediately address the \$2.2 billion budget shortfall we inherited for FY 2010 with a comprehensive set of solutions. Yes, these solutions represent the beginning of the



many tough choices that lie ahead for the Garden State. However, these difficult choices provide the opportunity to build a foundation for stability and reform for the future. My Administration will not avoid tough choices any longer and allow these problems to fester for a future generation. Through Executive Order 12 and other proposals, our FY 2010 budget solutions focused on programs that were facing surplus balances, ripe with waste and inefficiencies, opportunities for long-term reform and simply good programs where we had little choice. There is no other way to rebuild our economy and close our budget gap, but my Administration has stepped up and made the hard,

continued on Page 13

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COAH: Sweeping Changes on the Horizon

By: Mayor Colleen Mahr, Fanwood

2010 has certainly started off with a renewed focus and discussion on a topic that affects every single Mayor, all 566 of us – COAH reform. After being stymied, frustrated and outright angry over what is commonly referred to as A500 or COAH's Third Round Rules, NJCM Mayors are now energized and engaged in creating a new successful plan for providing affordable housing in New Jersey.

The recent introduction of S-1 by Senator Raymond J Lesniak, (D-Union) and Co-sponsored by Senator Christopher Batman (R-Somerset) abolishes COAH and offers sweeping reform to the Fair Housing Act. That was followed by an Executive Order by Governor Chris Christie which freezes for 90 days, any new Regulations on new certifications and on all pending mediations. Governor Christie also Created the Housing Opportunities Task Force, a 5 member Fair Housing Review Committee headed by former Senator Marcia Karrow (R - Hunterdon).

Both actions have all stakeholders sitting up and paying attention which is a good thing for New Jersey Mayors. We applaud our statewide leaders for taking on this issue that effect us regardless of location, population, whether suburban or urban. Our collective voices of disapproval have finally been heard.

As I have traveled the state speaking with my colleagues it is clear we all have been working for decades on this issue and do not seek to shy away from our constitutional responsibility of providing various housing options in our municipalities. We all understand that having a diverse community benefits everyone. Many are

in the midst of various redevelopment projects in an effort to keep our communities vibrant, increase our ratable base, create jobs and make sure that we have real choice of housing opportunities so that our towns remain attractive yet affordable.

What Mayors will oppose is any continuation of COAH in its present form. For the last round has exposed COAH for what it is, a series of complex

Colleen Mahr is the Mayor of Fanwood and Immediate Past President of NJCM

convoluted rules that make no sense, and a bureaucracy that has stymied local governments for years with administrative rules. As a result, Mayors across New Jersey have had to deal with unexpected and unnecessary revenue expenditures to question and defend our actions to COAH. We believe the time is now to do the right thing and bring about manageable smart growth with an eye towards providing a variety of housing options.

The NJCM supports the abolishment of COAH. We agree that the state should be prevented from calculating prospective need for affordable housing which has been passed on to the local governments. We support the elimination of municipal obligations for any 2nd round unmet needs in addition to eliminating the highly suspect 3rd round numbers. The NJCM supports the grandfathering of regional contribution agreements (RCAs). S-1 proposes that instead of being driven by a state calculation of need, communities may administer their own obligation and this obligation may be addressed by the rehabilitation of existing sub standard units.

On February 1st, a group of Mayors made public comments before the Senate Economic Growth Committee on Senator Lesniak's S-1. We all came with supportive suggestions and thanked the Senator for taking on this issue, not in a piece meal fashion that was marked by the last legislation session, but in a comprehensive thoughtful manner that listened to the Mayors and our numerous concerns.

The NJCM thanks Senator Lesniak for having our organization at the table as

he formulated S-1. We will be sitting down and working closely with Chairwoman & former Senator Marcia Karrow, Mayors Wilda Diaz, of Perth Amboy & Frank Drutzler, of Morris Plains and the remain-



ing members of the Governor's Fair Housing Review Committee so that they too, can hear comprehensive suggestions and concerns as they seek to advise the Governor.

One thing is for sure that any changes will have a direct impact on a community's obligations to provide affordable housing and a developer's ability to produce such housing. In my testimony on S-1, I told the committee that the "devil is in the details", and we want to ensure this new foundation for how affordable housing obligations are understood, determined and met can be fully supported by the New Jersey Conference of Mayors in its final version. We would want any new legislation to include the clear formulation of criteria for determining whether a community has complied with its obligation under the fair housing act.

The NJCM will be advocating on behalf of those communities who already incurred enormous expense and effort by addressing their affordable housing requirements. With the possible option of obtaining credit for previously filed housing elements and fair share plans. Yet, we also know that the wild card in this reform is the anticipated decision from the Appellate Division of the Superior Court based on appeals that have attacked COAH's third round rules. Sweeping changes are coming one way or the other on how New Jersey provides affordable housing and the Mayors of New Jersey will be standing front and center as this critical discussion and debate unfolds.



Mayor Colleen Mahr-Fanwood, Mayor Tom Arnone-Neptune City and Mayor Wilda Diaz-Perth Amboy address Senator Lesniak and the Senate Economic Growth Committee on February 1st, 2010



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The Price of Consolidation of Services

By: Mayor Victor J. Sordillo, Warren Township

When considering the impact of consolidation of services opportunities with the County, you must evaluate the financial impact to your town. On the surface the overall cost of consolidating services appears to demonstrate a clear savings. This may be true in the aggregate, but is the savings equally shared by all towns in the County?

Many have argued that service quality will deteriorate through consolidation and over time the bureaucracy of bigger government will lead to greater waste and an eventual eroding of savings. It is clear that the smaller towns operate more efficiently. All one has to do is to calculate the cost of operating a major New Jersey city on a per-resident basis and compare it to a smaller town to see the higher spending in the larger towns. Small towns like Warren Township benefit from volunteers such as fire fighters and lower compensated elected officials.

As an example, let's take a look at the centralization of police dispatch which is an objective of Somerset County. I will use whole numbers and some estimates to simplify the example.

Consider the cost and savings to Warren Township as opposed to North Plainfield. Although they have a smaller geographic area, dispatch activity is primarily governed by population.

Population:

Warren Township – 16,000
North Plainfield – 22,000
Somerset County – 298,000

Geographic Area:

Warren Township – 20 square miles
North Plainfield – 3 square miles
Somerset County – 305 square miles

I would estimate the cost of dispatch to be around \$350,000 for each town. For this example, the numbers do not have to be accurate as the purpose is to demonstrate relative costs.

If we assume that the total cost of dispatch for the County prior to any consolidation was \$70,000,000 and the consolidated cost was reduced by 20%. The cost to be spread over the County would now be \$56,000,000. The savings is \$14 million dollars. This sounds great, but how is it distributed?

Warren Township contributes \$13.2 million to the County or \$825 per person. North Plainfield contributes \$5.1 million to the County or \$232 per person.

Warren pays the County over three and one-half times the per person cost. So we would expect that Warren Township would have fewer saving (if any) than North Plainfield.

If we look at the cost per person of our existing system and the cost per person of the consolidated system, we would pay more than our current \$350,000 even though the total aggregated cost is less. The County distributes cost based on asset values of a community. It is a form of wealth redistribution. It takes place at every higher level of government.

If we each saved 20% or \$70,000, the system would be fair and it would make sense for us to participate. Unfortunately, we pay almost 8% of the County budget so our cost would be almost \$450,000 or about \$100,000 more than we pay while separate.

On the other hand, North Plainfield would pay \$168,000 for dispatch. Their savings is huge. They only contribute 3% to the County budget.

Victor J. Sordillo is the Mayor of Warren Township. He is presently a Vice President and the Home Office Loss Control Manager at the Chubb Corporation

Some services are best handled locally. We all have experienced the consolidation of call centers for computer support by major corporations. Now when we call up a manufacturer for information on their product, we are routed to India and have to deal with delays and language issues.

What would we think if Exxon decided to have only one central gas station in the County? It would certainly cost less to operate than 50 in the county. We could save 5 or 10 cents per gallon. They certainly would not make that move because they understand that services should be close to the consumer. If they did consolidate, most of their customers would start using a competitor's fuel and Exxon would never see the benefits.

We should consider shrinking county and state governments instead of the more efficient municipalities. It has happened in states like Connecticut and Massachusetts with beneficial results. A movement is also underway in New York State to reduce the size of county and state government.



At the present time, the County is distributing the cost to all towns regardless of whether they join County dispatch. This is unfair and is using financial pressure to coerce towns into joining. The system should be designed like the library system. Towns should be charged an apportioned cost if they participate in any consolidation program. Although the library system has flaws as the host town pays the full maintenance and building costs, it is better than the dispatch model.

There have been discussions relative to a continued build up of the County government. These include combining police departments and school systems. Will these penalize one town to benefit the other?

The counties could start by turning over the county road system and open space to the towns and give the cost saving back to the municipalities. A simple example of savings is demonstrated by recent snow removal. Towns raise the blades on their snow plows when behind the county trucks to get to the side roads. Since our trucks have to cover the same roads, we could put the blades down and not need the county for snow removal.

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his promotion to Chief Operations
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Hot Topics, Cool Mayors

By: Amy Osborn

Name: Ron Sworen
Town: Frenchtown, Hunterdon County
Profession: IT Consultant
Years in office: 15
Political Party: Republican
Political Role Model
on National Level: John McCain



Most admired Mayor on the other side of the aisle and why: Dave Del Vecchio is constantly improving Lambertville and has fun doing it. Has shown me ways to get grants and help Frenchtown. He's always willing to advise, recommend, and introduce if he thinks it could help. He has been a good friend. Tim McDonough, the Independent Mayor of Hope, is a "Mayor's Mayor" and a great asset. He's always gone out of his way to guide me and get me involved in issues and causes that are important such as supporting our National Guard. He does this with all of the Mayors he meets. He is our "go to" guy regardless of Party affiliation. I believe every Mayor in the state knows and likes Tim.

Name: Paul Medany
Town: Deptford, Gloucester County
Profession: Project Manager/
UA Local Union 322
Years in office: 4
Political Party: Democrat
Political Role Model
on National Level: Andrew Jackson



Most Admired Mayor on the other side of the aisle and why: Mike Batten, the Mayor of Pitman, continues to improve Pitman's Main Street. He had made Pitman into a role model for what other towns can do to attract business. Lou Manzo of Harrison Township is a great example of a Mayor working with both political parties to benefit his town. He was instrumental in getting the first county-wide property tax re-evaluation legislation passed, which should benefit his residents tremendously.

Osborn: Did your township experience any snow removal issues this winter and if so, how did you handle them?

Sworen: We were prepared for the storms. Our only issue is that they keep coming! It reminds me of 1996, but thankfully not as bad. I was the Mayor for two weeks and we had the worst storm in 40 years (36 inches of snow) with a new S & R Supervisor.

Medany: The major issue is the impact on our budget. We have dealt with three major storms so far and our crews have done an excellent job. We certainly need help from FEMA and Mother Nature.

Osborn: What has been the impact of the poor economy on businesses in your town?

Sworen: Slowdown for all business with some heading for shutdown and had some empty store fronts. Worked to get the National Hotel reopened with new owners and find new home for Two Buttons whose warehouse store had been closed by the state. This resulted in full store fronts and more tourists and an ok holiday season.

Medany: Deptford is a retail store based economy. We have a major indoor mall which so far has weathered the economic downturn. We also have many of the areas major home improvement centers, clothing stores, sporting goods stores and a great variety of restaurants. We have a terrific

business advisory group. They are active in networking and have committees to explore attracting more business and such concerns as crime prevention and community activities. Contributions to local organizations have fallen off though as business revenue decreases. Also an area of concern is commercial tax appeals which are certainly hurting our main revenue source. But overall business is good in Deptford.

Osborn: There has been much debate over the fees imposed for dog licensing in municipalities. Do you believe it's fair to charge your taxpayers an additional fee to register their pets? Do you think licensing would be just as effective if they were made to register but not pay?

Sworen: The reason for licensing is to make sure dogs and cats get their rabies shots. We have had rabies in our area. Extra cost is needed for the time spent making sure all are protected and the cost of advertising and paying for the clinics. The owners would otherwise have to take their animals to the vet for a higher cost. We are also required to make sure that all are licensed. We have kept our fees and fines lower than most towns.

Medany: I think a nominal fee should be charged. There are certainly costs we need to cover and this is a way to recoup them without unfairly burdening our residents. We have no controversy here per se.

Osborn: Political views aside, what you would personally like to have seen President Obama do differently during his first year in office?

Sworen: 1. Keep some of his campaign promises rather than focusing on the healthcare smokescreen. 2. Focus on jobs and the economy to help the citizens who are losing their homes and families. 3. I would like Obama to stop being the "royalty to the world", so to speak, and to focus on being the President of the United States. He needs to address and work with the American people to help solve our problems first. Bowing down to foreign leaders is not what he was elected to do.

Medany: The president inherited a 1.3 trillion dollar debt, a nation at war and the worst economy since possibly the depression era. Both sides of the aisle must focus on job creation and getting America back as the world leader in manufacturing and

continued on Page 23



Amy Osborn is a Business Development Consultant and owner of Capitol Concepts. Ms. Osborn serves on the Selective Service Board and has worked with the U.S. Department of State, Defense and Labor, nationally and internationally. You can visit her website at www.capitolconcepts.com

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Spotlight: NJCM 1st Vice President

By: Mayor Thomas A. Arnone, NJCM 1st Vice President

As a lifelong resident of the Borough of Neptune City I have enjoyed watching my town grow and improve over the years. It is a very fulfilling experience to be a part of the growth my town has experienced. My interest in local government began in the early 1990s when I was appointed a member of the Land Use Board. I became a Councilman in 1997 and I have served as chairperson and member of most every Council Committee, most notably the Public Works and Administration of Justice and Finance Committees. In 2004, I was fortunate to be elected as the Mayor of the Borough of Neptune City and I have prided myself in taking a proactive approach for our town and our residents.

The ability to look forward diminishes the need to be reactive in situations. Of course, the funds to be proactive are not always readily available, therefore I have made it priority to apply for grants to fund these projects. Recently some of the grants that the Borough has been in receipt of have been to assist with redevelopment, to demolish a vacant building, to re-roof our Community Center and to make major improvements to our parks.

Another area of town that requires a bit of foresight is the Steiner Avenue Redevelopment Area. Currently a redevelopment plan exists and I am looking forward to the time when the area is fully redeveloped and once again a rising part of our community. The redevelopment process is

a very interesting process and the ability to improve an area that is in need is integral for the well being of our community.

Here at the NJCM, we are experiencing a renaissance. Over the past year, our Organization has increased its membership, established new programming for Mayors' benefit, opened a new office to better meet our growing needs, and become highly engaged in legislative efforts in Trenton

Thomas A. Arnone is the Mayor of the Borough of Neptune City and NJCM 1st Vice President.



and Washington. The energy is contagious and I highly encourage all Mayors to get involved with the NJCM and benefit from participation! Whether serving on a committee, attending programs, helping lobby bills we support or oppose, coming to the Spring Conference & Fall Summit to educate yourself on all the current issues of the day that effect our communities, you will find your NJCM is your source, your partner for better government.

Our Spring Conference is set for April 27 - 30th, at the Borgata Conference Center. "Adapting to Fiscal Change" is our theme. New Jersey has a new Governor with a very different direction than in years past. We have a new Speaker of the

Assembly and new Senate President. All Cabinet positions are new, not to mention we all know revenues are tight at best. This is why attending our Spring Conference is so vital to your community. Come listen to the Governor's plans moving

forward, meet Cabinet Officials, learn first hand from our Assembly & Senate leaders on their plans for the new session. What happens in Trenton truly effects us all. Get in front of the issues facing us by attending the Spring Conference.

Again, it is a pleasure to serve you and the NJCM. I look forward to doing my part to help us get through these difficult times. Join me in this effort. In 2010 it is my vision to continue to move us ahead in a positive direction. As President of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors, I look forward to achieving this endeavor.

Governor Christie *continued from Page 5*


necessary choices that will fundamentally change the budget process in Trenton.

Pension Reform

One of the areas most in need of reform is our pension system. Our obligations remain high, our contributions insufficient, and the system broken. My Administration is working in a bipartisan fashion to address this pressing issue, not to deny benefits to anyone, but to save the system from insolvency. This problem

is too big to ignore and I am pleased that numerous legislators, including Senate President Sweeney, have embraced the challenge ahead of us. The legislation currently making its way through the Legislature represents a good starting point. I look forward to working with the Legislature to ensure reform is comprehensive, costs are fairly shared, and that our many dedicated public servants can look to at a system that is solvent on which to depend.

With the highest property taxes in the nation, double-digit unemployment and an unprecedented budget deficit, New Jersey's challenges are formidable. We know that the solutions will be difficult and require shared sacrifice. As we continue to bring the change New Jerseyans are demanding, I look forward to partnering with you, our local leaders, to continue improving government at all levels, and working to rebuild our economy.



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By: Frank J. Fuzo, Senior Vice President Government Banking

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Today's economic environment for local government has created challenges for not only elected officials but for the banking community as well. The government banking unit at PNC is familiar with the challenges faced by our clients, not only from the perspective of a government banker, but through the eyes of an experienced professional who has faced those challenges as a Councilman, Mayor and County Freeholder. Having faced those challenges

gives our government bankers the opportunity to be more innovative in our approach to dealing with our clients problems.

PNC government banking group distinguishes itself among New Jersey Banks through a deeply rooted relationship focus. At PNC account relationships are supported locally by your branch personnel, assisted by a team of dedicated government bankers. This assures you are always working with bankers who know you and understand your needs. There is always someone available to give you immediate service. In addition we operate a toll free dedicated "hot line" that provides a direct connection to our government banking area in New Jersey. PNC's experience, expertise and results oriented track record position us as one of the largest providers of banking services currently serving municipal and school board clients in New Jersey. Our products and services include:

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Frank J. Fuzo, an experienced government banking executive, is a former Hunterdon County Freeholder and former member of the Lambertville City Council, he also served as its elected Mayor

the industry, and spans corporate credit and debit cards, as well as purchasing solutions.

Deposit On-Site provides an efficient way to streamline deposit preparation and eliminate daily trips to the bank. You can easily capture images of checks received at your office and then transmit those images to PNC for processing, reducing administrative time and expense.

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On-line banking solutions. Clients can access general account information, transaction history, current day activity detail, transaction history, or check imaging through on line banking. Sophisticated treasury management needs can be supported through Pinnacle Web, a solution that provides customized reporting modules such as information reporting (current day, previous day, special reports and bank statements), transaction initiation (account transfer, ACH, funds transfer, check management and positive pay), receivables information (paper and electronic activity, remittances and images), online client service includes notifications, image on demand, issue reporting and tracking and online training sessions.

Workplace banking offers various banking services to employees at free or reduced rates. Representatives from the Workplace Banking area will handle any paperwork for employees. They are also available to conduct seminars or on-site training for a range of topics such as identity theft.



PNC's government banking goal is to create and maintain long-term, meaningful relationships with its clients and the communities they serve. For additional information about the government products and services available through PNC please call our Government Hotline at 877-861-6649 to speak with any member of our team.



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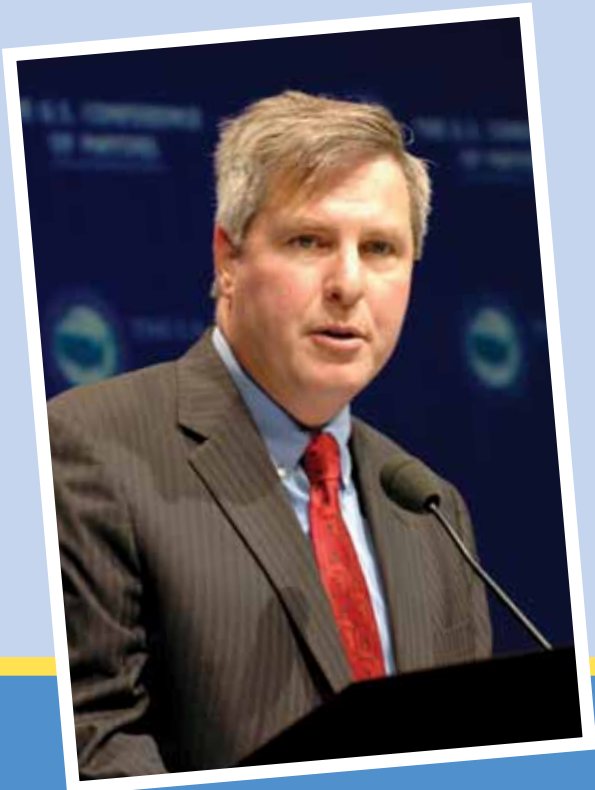
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Outgoing President Brian Wahler

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The NJCM wishes to thank NJCM President Brian Wahler, Piscataway for his efforts to elevate NJCM to a higher level on a national stage.

His tireless efforts in conjunction with the US Conference of Mayors has created opportunities for federal funding, corporate support and a unified voice for the Garden State. President Wahler is joined with other NJCM Mayors in this effort and we thank him for his leadership on the national stage.



Mayor Brian Wahler with new attendees at the orientation for our 2010 Winter Meeting.



Mayor Brian Wahler speaking to new attendees at our 2010 Winter Meeting, CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran in the background.



Mayor Brian C. Wahler with The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General, U.S. Dept. of Justice



Mayor Brian Wahler asking a question to Senator Mark Begich at the USCM 2010 Winter Meeting.




Mayor Brian Wahler at our 2009 Annual Meeting in Providence, RI



Mayor Brian C. Wahler, The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture and Mayor Wilda Diaz, Perth Amboy

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Saying Goodnight to Politics as Usual

By: Mayor Nancy Malool, Scotch Plains

It has been said that, in politics, you can either eat well or sleep well. I have always chosen the latter, but there are those who continue to act in their own self-interest rather than the public's interest. The status quo has been in place long enough; it is time for a change.

Status quo is defined as "the existing state of affairs." Many believe that elected officials should simply maintain the status quo. People often justify the way government operates by declaring, "that is the way things have always been done" or "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." New Jersey is broke, both literally and figuratively; preserving the status quo is longer acceptable.

Serving as the mayor of a mid-sized suburban town for the past year has certainly been an enlightening experience. I have compared this year in Scotch Plains to this year's New Jersey Jets. The Jets have a new coach and a rookie quarterback. They started the season strong with a lot of potential - but then the quarterback started making some rookie mistakes. The season went on, with a mix of highs and lows, but ultimately the team worked together and they made it to the playoffs.

In Scotch Plains, we have a new Township Manager and this was my rookie year as Mayor. Last year, I was filled with ambitious plans, and along the way I made a few rookie mistakes. I asked my colleagues on the council and our employees to work together as a team so we could make it through a difficult year. Our decisions could not be based on potential "votes" but rather on how our residents would be impacted.

Faced with a true budget crisis, we encountered a decision that would set our priorities for the next several years: tax 'relief' from the state in the form of a pension deferral. This gimmick from

Trenton would have allowed us at the local level to delay the pain of increased taxes in the short term. It might even have allowed us to fool our constituents long enough to survive the elections in our respective communities. In Scotch Plains, we decided that it was wrong to burden future taxpayers just to avoid making the difficult decisions this year. People have been mortgaging our future for too long.

After rejecting the pension deferral, we endured cap issues, layoffs, an increase from the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority resulting in the creation of a sewer utility, reductions in state aid, decreases in interest income and property tax payments, increases in unemployment, insurance and pension payments – and re-

Mayor Nancy Malool has been Mayor of Scotch Plains since January, 2009. Prior to being elected Mayor, she served on the Township Council for seven years.



duction in overall services to our residents. No doubt 2009 was one of the worst years in recent memory, but our team came together and met the challenges head on.

Before I took this office, I promised myself I would remain true to my ideals by making decisions based on what was in the best interest of the town. I quickly learned, however, that there are many who are content with the status quo and defiant towards change. Nevertheless, we as public servants must remain vigilant. The public interest must trump special interests or personal or political gain.

Some have told me that this line of thinking is "naïve." Maybe so, but with Governor Christie in office, the days

of politics as usual have come to an end. I applaud and fully support the Governor and his efforts to change the way things are done in Trenton and across our state.

New Jersey government, at both the local and state levels, is fraught with bad policy perpetuated by political favoritism. Taxpayers continue to bear the burden of those 'back room deals.' Not every elected official fits this bill, and they are the people who Governor Christie is going to have to rely on to help him reshape our reputation and policymaking process. Breaking the status quo isn't easy, but it is worth the

effort. It allows us to control costs, improve services and create an environment where citizens are proud of their community. I am trying to do my part by asking the right questions, listening to people from all segments of the population, setting the bar higher for our professionals, and working as a team to confront and overcome the challenges facing our township.

Change is inevitable. The President promised it at the national level, our Governor is delivering it at the state level, and I am starting to see it at the local level although there is so much left for us to do. Maybe one day in the near future we will all sleep well! 🍀



New Jersey Conference of Mayors

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March 2010

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We thank you for working closely with the NJCM as we continue our mission of advocacy and education.

Respectfully,

Hon. Brian C. Wahler
President, NJCM

Hon. Albert "Al" LiCata
Executive Director, NJCM

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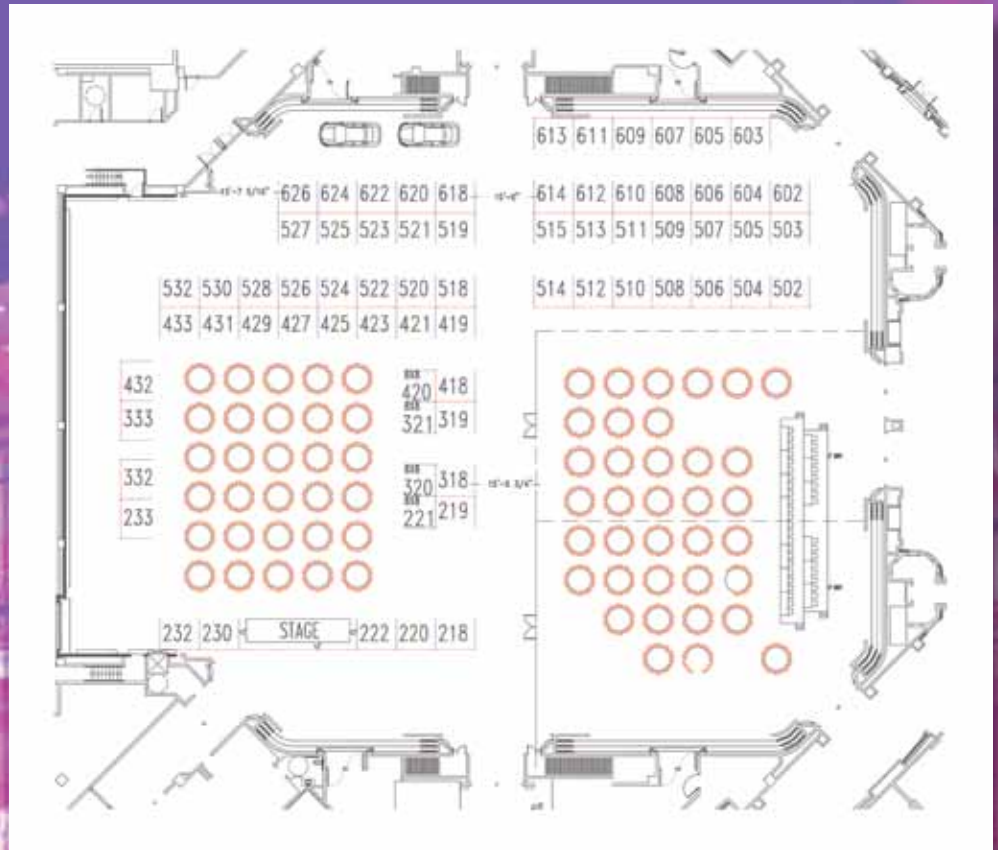
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Amy Osborn *continued from Page 11*

technology creation. We need to push research and development of energy sources to wean us off of our dependence on foreign oil. But given the economic crisis that began under the previous administration the President has performed very well.

Osborn: It's Friday night and I'm trying to decide how to spend my Saturday afternoon. Why should I consider coming to your town?

Sworen: Relax, slowdown, and enjoy. Park in our riverside lot, if you ride, park in one of our 3 prime motorcycle lots. Walking and shopping is easy in Frenchtown with a 5 block downtown. Enjoy lunch/home-made dessert at one of 12 different restaurants then shop at many unique shops, local clothing designers and artist owned galleries including handmade candy and a world famous stained glass artist. Then take a walk or bike ride (bikes can be rented) on the bike path overlooking the river and bridge (photo op) and visit Two Buttons (Liz Gilbert and Felipe's shop) for jewelry and treasures from Fiji/Bali and other exotic locations and next door to Bluefish. When you are done, enjoy dinner at the Frenchtown Inn or National Hotel,

or bring your favorite adult beverage to one of our other great restaurants including gourmet Italian for the price of pizza or Mexican. If you are too tired to drive home, stay at one of our B&B's. (great price point) Then you can do it over again on Sunday.

Medany: Deptford is a wonderful place to be any day of the week. We have a great geographical location centered between major highways with easy access. Depending on the season we offer many choices. Summer could find you canoeing on Big Timber Creek and enjoying the natural habitat or walking in one of our green acre parks. Our shopping opportunities are endless. we offer our Deptford Mall, Home improvement centers for any project and almost anything one would need from clothing to appliances. After shopping you can go to dine at any one of our excellent restaurant choices. From fine dining to hamburgers to fast food we have it all and are well known as a dining destination. From enjoying a hometown little game to running in the Mayors 5k run there are a multitude of activities and opportunities to experience.

Osborn: What has been the value of your membership with the NJ Conference of Mayors?

Sworen: Our membership has been invaluable. Relationships that have been cultivated and knowledge gained from Mayors around the state has helped me to improve Frenchtown and has allowed me to implement positive ideas and programs to improve our resident's lives. It has made me a better Mayor.

Medany: Membership in the NJCM has provided us with countless opportunities and ideas. The organization gives us the opportunity to have a collective voice in Trenton. The quarterly magazine is full of valuable information. The Mayors manual is a great reference point for myself and our council members. Networking with other Mayors and Municipalities is a terrific source of information to improve our Township.

For more information on these two fine communities, please visit their websites at www.frenchtown.com or www.frenchtownnj.org and www.deptford-nj.org. Your suggestions are always welcome! Please email me at Amy@capitolconcepts.com



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Energy Joint Meeting Yields Success

By: Mayor M. James Maley, Jr., Collingswood Borough and
Richard M. Brook, Township Administrator, Florence Township

One of the largest and most unpredictable operating costs facing New Jersey municipalities and other public entities today is that of natural gas, electricity and other forms of energy which have steadily increased over the past several years. Coupled with these rising costs is the reduction of state aid and the societal and regulatory pressures to reduce dependence on foreign oil. In 2008, several New Jersey municipalities decided to find a better, more efficient and economical method to address their energy needs. This included Bellmawr, Brick, Brielle, Collingswood, Dover, Florence, Manchester, Piscataway, Saddle River, Stafford, Summit, and Woodbridge.

The goals established by these municipalities were as follows:

- Reduce the extreme volatility in actual energy costs municipalities were experiencing versus budget
- Procure energy more economically by taking advantage of economies of scale and the favorable "portfolio effects" of an aggregated load profile
- Reduce the demand for, and the cost of energy procured from non-renewable sources through the use of energy conservation and efficiency technologies
- Increase the use of renewable energy sources, thereby reducing overall energy costs
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Provide a more ecologically friendly and a healthier environment for employees and the surrounding community

In 2009 after multiple meetings with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA), a Joint Meeting, currently known as the New Jersey Sustainable Energy Joint Meeting (NJSEM), was established.

New Jersey law authorizes the governing bodies of two or more municipalities to enter into a joint contract, for a period not to exceed forty years to provide for joint operation of any public services, including

the aggregation of municipal energy needs. The NJSEM has established a State Management Committee, comprised of individual member public entities, which is organized for governance into County Management Sub-Committees. Each of these subcommittees appoints a representative to serve on the State Executive Committee, which has adopted rules and regulations to provide for the conduct of its meetings and the duties and powers of the chairman and any other officers or employees appointed by the Executive Committee.

The NJSEM's first initiative was to secure competitive natural gas pricing for its 112 members (100 municipalities and 12 municipal utility authorities). In early February 2010, after several months of gathering natural gas account information for all members and preparing a public Request for Bid, the group secured twelve months for the unregulated portion of their gas service at a fixed price of \$8.84 per dekatherm using a reverse auction internet procurement process. Over the past two

Mayor M. James Maley, Jr. currently serves as the Mayor of Collingswood Borough and is also the legal counsel for the New Jersey Sustainable Energy Joint Meeting.



years, prices for the unregulated portion of a municipality's gas service have ranged from a low of \$6.50 per dekatherm to a high of \$16.75 per dekatherm on a monthly basis. There were several bidders competing to supply gas service in response to the Request for Bid. Woodruff Energy of Bridgeton, NJ was the winning bidder for this contract which begins on the first day of April 2010. An earlier bid attempt to secure natural gas pricing was rejected by the Executive Committee, as it did not produce a bid result below the NJSEM's price to compare.

The next initiative of the NJSEM will be the procurement of electricity for its current membership with a contract that will initiate on June 1, 2010.

On February 11, 2010, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) approved the results of the state's ninth annual electricity auction for Basic Generation Service (BGS), which determines the cost of Fixed Price (FP) and hourly priced electricity for most of New Jersey's ratepayers. While the BPU auction resulted in average prices for all utility territories that are slightly below last year's rates, there is a clear indication that the NJSEM can secure prices from third party suppliers below the BPU's price to compare and save its members additional cost. This is primarily due to the fact that the BPU's FP rate is blended with the results of this year's auction along with higher rates from the past two auction years.

The NJSEM was created to serve its members as a knowledge-based

Richard M. Brook currently serves as the Township Administrator of Florence Township and is also the Chairman of the New Jersey Sustainable Energy Joint Meeting Executive Committee

energy-purchasing group designed to help New Jersey municipalities and other public entities reduce their energy costs and ultimately meet their social and regulatory obligations. Membership continues to be open to all public entities with a one-time initial cost of \$600.00. If you are interested in being part of the next energy procurement opportunity, you must join the NJSEM by no later than March 31, 2010.

If you would like to learn more about the NJSEM, please visit their website at www.njsem.org.



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NJCM Attends Washington Mayors Summit

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Left to Right: Mayor Wilda Diaz, Perth Amboy, Mayor Antonia Ricigiliano, Edison, Mayor Brian C. Wahler, Piscataway, The Honorable Mark Begich, Senator Alaska, Mayor Wayne Smith, Irvington, Mayor Timothy McDonough, Hope



Left to Right: Mayor Robert L. Bowser, East Orange, Mayor Antonia Ricigiliano, Edison, Mayor Wayne Smith, Irvington, The Honorable Rosie Rios, Treasurer of the U.S., Mayor Brian C. Wahler, Piscataway, Mayor David DelVecchio, Lambertville, Mayor John F. Bencivengo, Hamilton, Mayor Wilda Diaz, Perth Amboy



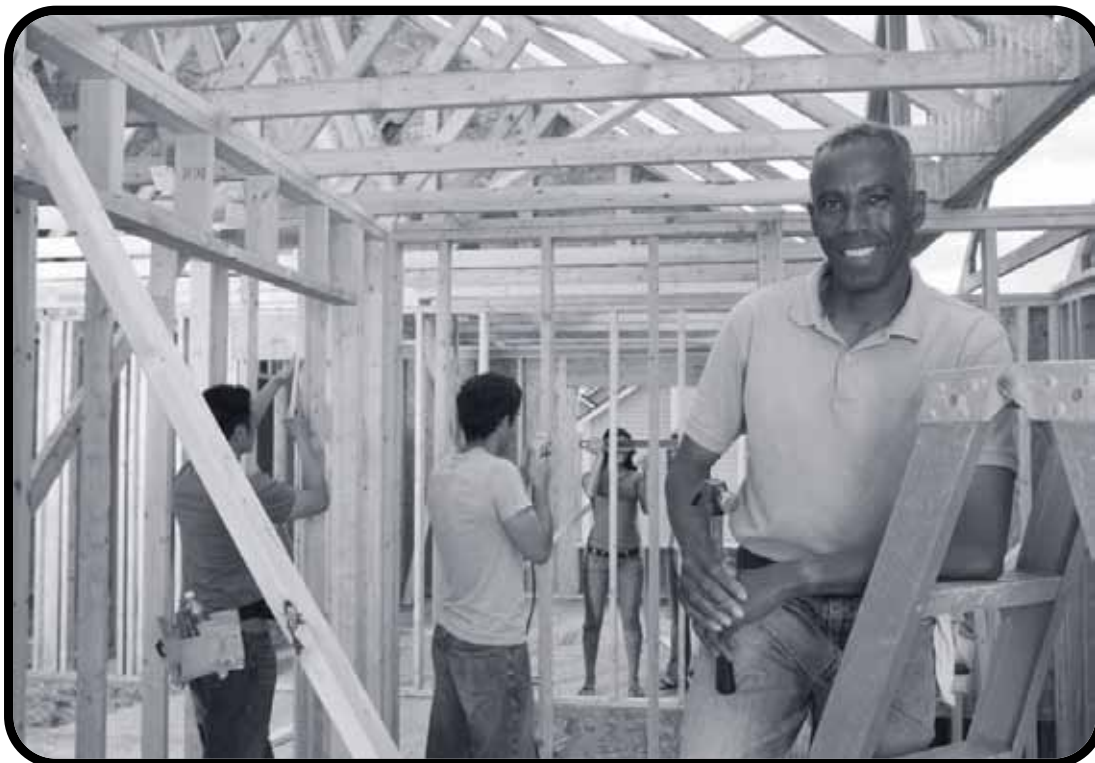
Left to Right: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Hope, Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator, EPA, Mayor Antonia Ricigiliano, Edison, Mayor Brian C. Wahler, Piscataway, Mayor Wilda Diaz, Perth Amboy



Left to Right: Mayor Wilda Diaz, Perth Amboy, Mayor Brian C. Wahler, Piscataway, The Honorable Shaun Donovan, Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Mayor Antonia Ricigiliano, Edison



Left to Right: Mayor David DelVecchio, Larry Summers, Director White House National Economic Council, Mayor Brian C. Wahler, Piscataway



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Generating Revenue Through Demand Response Programs for Municipalities

By: Barry Lefkowitz, President of MGR, Inc.

With economic growth and commercial and residential development the lowest in recent memory, what municipality and Mayor would not like to benefit financially? Mayors and their municipalities now have a fantastic opportunity to develop a new source of revenue and at the same time reduce energy consumption!

There is a program called "Demand Response" that pays the municipality (and its school district) based on their ability to lower their electrical load by the reducing or shifting electrical usage. Incentive payments are made to encourage facilities to reduce electric consumption when the grid is in jeopardy.

You may recall the massive brown/black outs that affected the country and parts of New Jersey in August of 2003. This was due in large part to the grid operators inability to quickly reduce load in times of peak electrical consumption. If municipalities are willing to reduce their consumption of electricity during certain times, they will be paid the market value of the electricity.

There are several programs that municipalities can participate in based on their ability to reduce electric demand. More importantly all of the programs are strictly voluntary and are specifically designed not to disrupt or jeopardize operations. In addition, there are no out of pocket costs to participate, nor are there penalties for non-compliance. The programs are designed to maximize potential revenue for clients and payments to the municipalities are guaranteed whether an event is called or not. In other words a municipality can receive recurring revenue simply for being on call to reduce its electrical demand in case of an emergency.

The programs are based on several factors all serving as a resource for the grid operator to help reduce peak transmission congestion, offset the loss of a major generating unit or to simply reduce peak demand. The programs include:

A short notice immediate response program when the grids reliability may be in question. Calls require a

ten-minute response and are short in duration (thirty minutes maximum) and can be called once each month.

The self-scheduling program allows municipalities to receive real time payments for energy curtailment; this can be based on an alert to a high price for electricity or contracts for agreed to intervals of reduction.

The capacity program is a day ahead alert based on capacity constraints within the grid based on peak demand usage. This program is for peak summer demand periods from June through September. The program requires a two-hour notice and the ability to curtail electrical usage for two to six hours. Schools are especially able to comply during the peak demand season.

There are a number of ways to comply with reducing electric demand. The

Barry Lefkowitz is President of MGR, Inc for 39 years as a Lobbyist and Economic Development Consultant at the State and Federal levels and had been NJCM's Legislative Agent for 15 years and its Economic Development Advisor the past 5 years



most common and easiest would be to through on-site generation. Most municipalities have generators at various sites that are in place in case of a power failure. These generators can be run at times of peak electrical usage and used as assets to generate a new source of revenue by returning electricity back into the power grid. Other load reduction strategies include reducing the use of HVAC units, air handlers, chillers and lighting for short periods of time. This can easily be accomplished through the synchronization of existing building automation systems. Participation in the above and a variety of other strategies could transform your facilities into highly efficient power plants.

From a state perspective this is extremely important. Electricity providers in New Jersey are having serious infrastructure problems, raising questions of grid reliability as rates continue to rise rapidly for municipal

facilities as well as our residents. Demand Response can also empower municipalities to negotiate more attractive retail rates with competitive electricity suppliers as well as help control peak demand for electricity.

Municipalities are well positioned to take advantage of Demand Response to generate a significant recurring revenue stream. Their assets include back-up generation, municipal buildings, schools, wastewater treatment plants and recycling facilities. The municipality can expect to receive as much as \$50,000 per megawatt of load reduction annually. More importantly, you are receiving revenue whether or not an emergency event is called. You are paid by the grid operator for being a standby source to reduce electrical demand.

Participation in Demand Response Programs is quickly becoming an essential component of a municipality or an organization's overall strategy to reduce energy costs, improve profitability and promote environmental responsibility. By participating you receive recurring revenue, enjoy lower electric rates due to peak load reductions and the environmental benefits of using less electricity. It is a winning solution for all involved.

If we have peaked your interest for producing a source of income for your municipality and contributing to energy reduction please feel free to call Gary Bell at 908-770-6812 or via email emulsiontech@comcast.net to help guide you through the process.

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Cultivated Dunes: Simple But Not Easy

By: Mayor Julie Schreck, Bradley Beach

Bradley Beach has dunes, thanks to a project initiated a few years ago by our Department of Public Works (DPW) to cultivate dunes using discarded Christmas trees. Following a major, federally-subsidized beach replenishment, our DPW set out the trees along the beach in a line about 30 feet from the boardwalk, for the entire length of our beach. Openings for walkways were laid out with an overlap pattern, opening to the southeast, away from the brunt of the onshore winds (and water) out of the northeast. The trees caught the blowing sand, it settled over them, and the dunes were established.

The dunes do several things for us: (1) they serve as a backstop for wind-blown sand, keeping most of it on the beach, rather than on the boardwalk or in the roadway; (2) they form a last line of defense against a storm surge, protecting our oceanfront structures and the homes across the street; and (3) they create a physical and psychological separation from ordinary life for the beachgoer. When you walk out onto our beach, you don't hear or see the roadway, and you can feel as if you are in a far more remote or undeveloped place than coastal Monmouth County.

Last fall, in many towns in our immediate area, storms blew thousands of tons of sand onto Ocean Avenue, the county roadway that traces the shore. Our dunes kept the sand on our beach, saving us the effort and expense of moving the sand back where it belongs (including potentially needing to clean sand that would have been contaminated by litter or other waste during its stay on the roadway).

Our dunes have turned out to have a big upside. Nevertheless, maintaining the dunes requires balancing complex issues.

For example, as the dunes have grown, they've blocked the view of the ocean from most of the benches along our boardwalk – a problem for people with mobility

issues, who can't easily walk down onto the beach to see the water. This is a very real loss to a considerable number of people who worked their whole lives before retiring here, and dreamed of sitting on those benches, watching the waves for years to come. It's also a loss to people who less than 10 years ago purchased homes with a water view, and no longer have that view (or at least not from the first floor).

Just as significantly, once we had dunes, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) began requiring us to follow its standards for natural dunes, even though ours are essentially artificial. Our DPW moves sand that accumulates in the entryways and behind the dunes, and pushes it back out onto the beach.

Mayor Julie Schreck is the first woman Mayor of Bradley Beach. She was directly elected Mayor in May 2008, after serving as a Borough Councilwoman for one year. She also currently serves on the Monmouth County Greenhouse Gas Reduction Advisory Committee.

and wider, and eventually migrate onto the boardwalk and across Ocean Avenue.

I believe that climate change is real, and I believe that sea level rise is real, and that if not in my lifetime, certainly in my child's, our beach will move west. But for as long as possible, we want to provide a boardwalk and protect the adjacent roadway. We want to keep the dunes at about their current size and location, a goal which can be at odds with DEP's preference to give nature greater leeway. Also, we're starting to see invasive plants -- including the astonishingly adaptable "Tree of Heaven" -- take root in our dunes. DEP rules restrict the methods one can use to remove vegetation from dunes. Only hand-weeding from around



This process maintains the accessibility to the beach for pedestrians, in keeping with the public trust doctrine. DEP agrees that this practice is appropriate.

Less clear have been the issues of minimizing the natural movement of sand onto the dunes and over them, and the issue of managing invasive species that have taken root in the dunes. Our DPW finds that placing a snow fence strategically on the beach impedes the natural movement of sand away from the water and onto the dunes. Trapping the sand before it settles on or migrates over the dunes allows us to return the sand to the beach, rather than donate it to the dune. This protects the investment that all of us made in beach replenishment several years ago. Left to nature, the dunes would probably grow taller

the borders of the dunes is permissible, and that's not going to get the job done for us.

I wholeheartedly support environmental protection, and I respect the efforts and dedication of the DEP staff who've worked with us to come to agreement on managing the sand, as well as to help us with other environmental matters in town. The issue of the reduced views of the water, and the question of what rights we have to manage and maintain artificial dunes are matters of balancing conflicting needs and goals, each one of which has legitimate merit. Bradley Beach continues to work at achieving the right balance.



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Fredon Township, Past and Present

By: Mayor James W. McCracken, Fredon Township

Fredon Township is located in the northwestern part of New Jersey, approximately fifty (50) miles west of New York City. It is situated in the south central section of Sussex County, just west of the Highlands Preservation and Planning Areas. While the township is not technically located within the Highlands areas, it contains several of the environmental and aesthetic characteristics that the lands located in the Highlands district possess.

Hampton and Stillwater Townships border Fredon to the west. It is along this border, through the Paulinskill Valley, that the New York Susquehanna & Western Railroad operated from 1872 until 1962, taking agricultural products and Pennsylvania coal to the cities of eastern New Jersey and New York City. Today, the right-of-way has been developed into the Paulinskill Valley Trail, a non-motorized multi-use trail that is part of the Kittatinny Valley State Park.

History Of Fredon Township

Fredon Township, an 18.3 square mile community, was incorporated in 1904, when it became the youngest township in Sussex County. It was formed from parts of Andover, Green, Hampton and Stillwater Townships. The main roadway in Fredon, Route 94, was once a dusty, rutted, narrow dirt road which traveled through a busy little village in the 1800's known as Coursen's Corners, located at the intersection of Phil Hardin Road and Stillwater Road.

Fredon was described in 1939 as "a highway junction with a small white schoolhouse". In addition to the school, the area had a blacksmith shop, tannery, tailor shop, chapel, two stores and a post office. In close proximity, the Fountain House was a favorite stopping place for travelers between Newton and Blairstown. It is still in operation today, but not for overnight customers. While Fredon does

not have a "village center" or a "main street", it is this portion of Route 94—with the school and its additions, the municipal building, and the firehouse—that is still today the core of the township.

In the mid 18th Century, two descendants of New Amsterdam Dutch families, Johannes (John) Coursen, and his wife, Gertrude Van Tuyle, arrived in the Fredon area. The Colonel John Coursen Homestead, located across from the township school, was purchased by Fredon Township in 1994 as part of developing Lodestar Park, immediately adjacent to the house. It is being refurbished by the Keepers of Coursen's Corners, a not-for-profit group, to be used by small community groups.

Mayor James W. McCracken has served on the Fredon Township Committee since 2003 and became Mayor in 2010. A strong believer in civic involvement, Mayor McCracken is a Past President of the Sussex County League of Municipalities, a member of the Hackettstown Rotary Club and a Leadership New Jersey Fellow. He earned a Master of Health Care Administration from the University of New Hampshire and presently serves as the CEO of The House of the Good Shepherd Continuing Care Retirement Community in Hackettstown, New Jersey

Isaac's death, the position was taken over by his son, William P. Coursen, until 1881.

A log cabin was most likely the first building on the present site of the Coursen House at this highway junction. The Coursen mansion was built circa 1805. It contained four rooms on the first floor with a chimney across the corner of two rooms. There were three bedrooms on the second floor. The kitchen, located on the southern end of the house had a large bake oven to the right of the chimney. Isaac Coursen added a first floor parlor and two more bedrooms upstairs as the family grew.



As mentioned above, this junction, along with its history and important community buildings, serves as the "core" of Fredon Township today. Fredon Township is governed by a Township Committee. Committeepersons are elected for three (3) year terms and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are chosen annually at the reorganization meeting for a one (1) year term by the Committee.

The farmstead reflects the history of agriculture and Fredon's role in community development. In 1763, Johannes purchased over 800 acres, which included land extending from Paulinskill Road past the four-corners area by Stillwater Road. When he died, his property was inherited by two of his sons — the Paulinskill Mill Farm by Jacob Coursen, and the four-corners land by Colonel John. Starting in 1811, Colonel John's sons built and operated a blacksmith's shop, a tannery, a store, and later a tailor shop. Also, his son Isaac established a post office and was the first postmaster. After



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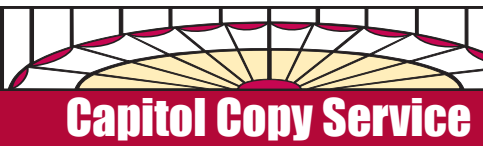
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Spotlight: NJCM 3rd Vice President

By: Mayor Gary Giberson, City of Port Republic

I just watched an old time movie on TV. A famous Hollywood actor was telling a story after the picture show about how movies were made and how actors and actresses learned through experiences in life's situations. The conversations led me to come to write about my life and how or what could I have done to walk a different path or choose another road to follow.

As I grow older, I look back at careers that could have made me a whole different person and imagine the life that would have brought with it had I chosen a different path. I sometimes wonder now and say "What if?"

The first thing that comes to mind is that I could have been a famous actor. As a child, I had a vivid imagination and loved to play out fictitious characters by myself in the middle of the woods. I imagined that I was a knight in King Arthur's Court. Facing me were not cornstalks, but a whole army, ready to march on my king's castle and run off with the princess. I yielded my wooden sword, beat the heck out of all the cornstalk soldiers and saved the princess. Every school play I was in, I always ended up with the lead role. Yes, I could have been an actor, but actors live in New York City or Hollywood - both too far away from Port Republic.

My grandfather taught me how to build and set traps to capture creatures that lived on the meadow and woods we owned. Pelts were worth big monies in the forties and we always had fresh meat on the table. Grandfather Alonzo's family had cedar saw mills and I learned to chop down huge cedars, trim them for proper lengths for lumber to sell to boat builders from Toms River to Cape May. Alonzo with his brothers owned the fishing rights for Swan Bay,

the largest part of this great river and hauled tons of fish from the nearby Mullica River. I could have been a fur trapper, sawyer, commercial fisherman, or a boat builder, as I had learned to do all their tasks well.

I loved sports, especially Baseball. I won batting titles in the American Legion league, high school and later played in semi-pro leagues. I even hit over three hundred in fast pitch soft ball. I was offered a contract to play in a Southern double "A" team

Mayor Gary Giberson is the Mayor of the City of Port Republic and 3rd Vice President of NJCM

for twenty one hundred dollars a year. Yes, I could have played professional baseball.

I think it was my love of climbing trees that lead me to be a lineman. I had studied electricity with my father who was a radio engineer, and I was fascinated with heights and loved the dangerous challenges of line work. One day, while setting transformers on a pole to operate a brand new golf driving range we were all given a bucket of balls to swat out over the brand new field. I hit one to the right, switched my grip and sent it off to the left. I gripped that club in the middle and hit the rest of the bucket all out over the three-hundred yard mark. Everyone stopped to watch including the folks working at the range and shook their heads... I had never stepped onto a golf course before. It's possible that I could have been very good at playing professional golf.

I retired from line work to become a professional artist, married a great

woman who was as good or better at all I could do, had wonderful children who followed great morals, and they all married great husbands who follow their leads.

I was asked to get into politics and run for a city council seat. I went to a council meeting to get an idea what I was getting in to. I asked the Mayor if he was going to run



again for reelection and he replied, "Not if you will run against me." So in 1985, I became Port Republic's Mayor. This year I start my seventh, four year term and start my twenty-fifth year as Port Republic's Mayor.

I am proud to be a member of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors. The camaraderie with other mayors can not be praised enough.

Have you ever wondered what you could have been if ??? We follow our passions where ever they lead, and I am so lucky to have walked the paths that I have, followed the roads and the compass needles that led me to be who I am today...A seventy five year old man with great memories, and the Mayor of the greatest town in New Jersey.



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NJCM Business Council

Business Council to Sponsor First Annual Mayors Golf Outing

By: Gary Passanante, Director, NJCM Business Council

As we prepare for our upcoming spring conference, I am excited to announce our first annual Mayors Spring Atlantic Golf Classic. This NJCM event is being sponsored by the Business Council and will be held on Tuesday, April 27th at the Atlantic City Country Club just minutes from our conference at the Borgata. This "scrambles" golf event will benefit the NJCM and provide a great venue including breakfast, a top notch golf course, cocktail hour with hot Hors d' Oeuvres and an open bar. Best yet, you'll have a wonderful opportunity to share some one-on-one time with Mayors, business leaders, legislators and others in a fun-filled event. And even if you don't golf, we invite you to join us at a reduced rate to share in the networking and camaraderie. We are taking reservations now and you can get more event information on the Business Council website at www.NJCMBC.org or by calling or emailing me directly using the information listed below. And by the way, we have special discounted rates for Mayors and Mayor Emeritus members. So don't miss out on this great opportunity!

For those readers not familiar with the Business Council, we are a subsidiary of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors. Our mission is to bring Mayors and businesses from across New Jersey together in a unique public/private partnership. We are now in a second full year of existence and boast nearly 35 businesses and almost 500 Mayors as members. Things are changing throughout our great country and the

Gary J. Passanante is the Director of NJCM Business Council

organization where the best and brightest minds in our respective arenas can gather and work in unison to restore economic stability in our communities. Now is the time to invest in our future by creating new



jobs and expanding our tax base through the streamlining of regulations and laws.

If you have not yet joined the Business Council, I urge you to contact me by email Director@NJCMBC.org or by phone at (856) 207-9142. I would be happy to discuss our membership and the full set of benefits available

public and private worlds are more closely entangled and aligned than ever before. New Jersey state government is facing a budget crisis unparalleled in its history. The Legislative and Administrative actions being taken are rippling through to each and every municipality, challenging every Mayor and business leader to think outside the box in navigating their way through this mine field of economic disasters. As we work together to solve our economic challenges, the NJCM Business Council is ready and able to act as the "go to"

Franklin Township

By: Mayor Mark Blaszk, Franklin Township, Warren County

Franklin Twp in Warren County is a combination of three villages that work together in everyday life. One can hear the Church bells ring on Broadway, get a cup of coffee at Rossini's, an ice cream at Home Plate in New Village, or stop by the Asbury Deli for a bite for lunch. Our rural community of 23 sq. miles is home to many different activities. One of the highlights of the spring is the "Run for the River" sponsored by the Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) which this year is being held on May 2nd. This event, a 4-mile run attracts runners throughout the state. The MWA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect and enhance the Musconetcong River and related resources. Their headquarters was donated by Asbury Graphite Mills, Inc. and renovated through grants with the Warren County Freeholders. Please visit their website at: www.musconetcong.org.

We also have an organic farm where one can purchase shares, several dairy

farms, and fresh vegetable stands. One will marvel in the morning and evening hours as hot air balloons sail and land in our town or horses are rode through Historic Asbury.

We have one of the most active Community Centers in the area. It is busy with activities 7 days a week includ-

Mayor Mark Blaszk is Product Manager for Asbury Graphite Mills. Mark graduated from Edison High School, later earning an MBA from Seton Hall University. In 13 years of public service, Mayor Blaszk has served on the Township and Land Use Boards as well as a Board Member on the Franklin Township and Warren Hills

offices as well as the community center. There is no debt associated with this facility. A recent Eagle Project with volunteers



ing basketball, soccer, field hockey, pine wood derby, baseball, and softball. This 10,000 sq foot facility is used by our local organizations and is self funded through rental for events to outside groups. This building was purchased on a foreclosure and renovated to house the municipal

from several of the groups helped clean and paint the community center, mount a new bulletin board and hang new banners to make it have that home town feel. We are a town that understands the word community and live it everyday.

A New Leader Working Hard To Serve Mayors Across The State

Al LiCata, the NJCM Executive Director has proven to be the person that our organization needs in these tough fiscal times.

When most of the responsibility is placed on local governments, we as Mayors must join together to fight for our constituents. This is why I am asking all Mayors to join this organization and to attend the 2010 Spring Conference. Attending the conference in April will help you better understand your responsibilities and help you build on the knowledge you will need in your position as Mayor. At this conference you will meet with other Mayors who share your concerns. You will also be meeting and speaking with legislators, Members of the Governor's Cabinet, and State business leaders. The contacts you make at this conference will prove to be invaluable to you and your municipality. Many of you already know that the NJCM will always work closely with other organizations that place the concerns of the taxpayers first.

The one message that Mayors who serve on the front line of government must always remember..... We are always held accountable! Looking forward to seeing you at the conference, please, stop by the registration booth and say hello.

Sincerely,
Anthony DeCicco
Mayor Emeritus
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A Look Back at 2009

In 2009 The NJCM experienced a turning point in our long history.

A successful Spring Conference was held at the Borgata to welcomed praise from Mayors and the Business Community alike. We welcomed a larger involvement in the USCM in 2009, with USCM Executive Director, Tom Cochran speaking at our Conference.

We opened a new office to better meet the needs of our growing Organization. New programs were established that will help train our membership and provide education on important issues of the day.

Our presence in Trenton increased, as did our membership and unified voice. Our quarterly magazine was upgraded, and a new NJCM website was launched.

The new NJCM Staff put the past to rest and continues to this day in moving the NJCM forward in a positive direction. With all these improvements we still reach higher in improving communication from our office to you, and more opportunities for training and education. We ask now more than ever before, be an active part of the NJCM Experience! Working together we can address major issues confronting us, benchmark off best practices and help our communities and State through these difficult times.



NJCM New Mayor Training Welcomes Mayors From Across The State

By: Hon. Albert LiCata



Partnering with the NJ Municipal Clerks Association, the NJCM provided a one day, comprehensive, training program for Mayors this past January. This program took place in the newly opened NJCM Conference Room and over 30 Mayors were welcomed.

Sessions included: "The Role of Mayor - Responsibilities, Liabilities, Vision & Direction" NJCM 1st VP Thomas Arnone and NJCM Legislative Counsel Richard Mroz provided a well organized outline for Mayors, along with the Legislative efforts the NJCM provides for its members. Vincent Buttiglieri, President of the NJ Municipal Clerks Assoc., NJCM VP, Mayor Christine Schaumburg, Dr. Izzy Posner, PhD, Richard Stockton College and Hon. Alex Marino, MA, Richard Stockton College discussed and demonstrated how Mayors can run meetings and set agendas. As part of this session, Dr. Posner & Hon. Marino conducted meeting scenario situations and ways Mayors can handle the many different things that occur during meetings.

"The NJ Municipal Clerks Association is pleased and looks forward to working with the NJCM on programs like this one. We know education is key to good government. Our partnership with the NJCM is the right step to fostering positive communication between the legislative and administrative parts of municipal government," notes Joel Popkin, Executive Director, NJ Municipal Clerks Association.

Former NJ State Treasurer, Mayor John McCormac hosted a session on preparing local budgets. The Mayor had the benefit of providing those in attendance with detailed information to consider on the local level and an overview of the state's current climate. Mayors also heard from Jennifer Beahm, VP of Birdsall Engineering and Peter Messina, P.E., P.P., CME, LEED AP, Township Engineer, Bernards Township on Planning & Zoning.

Everything from storm water management, smart growth, master plans and so on were addressed with solid detail.

The afternoon session included, Litigation, run by John Belardo, Partner McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP and NJCM General Counsel Steve Glickman of Ruderman & Glickman. Belardo also participated in the session titled, "Handling the Media & OPRA, along with Mayor Wilda Diaz, Perth Amboy and Mayor Carey Pilato, Bound Brook. Additional comments on handling the media also came from Mayor Robert Bowser, East Orange. The Q & A also provided Mayors with opportunities to ask specific questions as they related to their communities. Many took note of John Belardo's points on OPRA.

"We understand Mayors are busy dealing with their communities, work and families. That's why we ran the program as a one day event. As a former Mayor, I know, no one was there giving you a handbook on how to be Mayor as you took the oath of office. This program was offered to new Mayors and those that have been serving, to provide the most up to date benchmarks, new laws and information to make the role of being Mayor much easier," comments Al LiCata, E.D., NJCM.

The program continues to receive positive comments from those that attended and presented. The NJCM will make this an annual program for Mayors to take advantage of, especially in these uncertain times. The NJCM wishes to thank Verizon, The NJ Municipal Clerks Association and Capable Communications for their sponsorship of this program.

Look for additional educational opportunities coming from the NJCM in the near future!



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