YEAR END 50th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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CONFERENCE MAGAZINE

Issue II-2013

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Wayne Smith, NJCM President

Rebuild Stronger
Richard Constable III

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From the President...

By: Mayor Wayne Smith, Irvington, NJCM President

Wayne Smith, NJCM President
is the Mayor of Irvington Township

During my presidency, I have had the pleasure of presiding over the NJ Conference of Mayor's 50th Anniversary year.

My tenure has included the organizing of an Emergency Management Committee to continue to work on rebuilding post Superstorm Sandy. It was great to see our shore towns reopen this summer for business and I hope we continue helping our home owners and businesses reestablish. Unfortunately, after all of the work to reopen this summer, Seaside Heights and Seaside Park sustained a devastating fire on September 12, 2013. Despite it all we will continue to work to grow our local economy.

Furthermore, we are working to ensure a successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act in NJ. It is my hope that the Affordable Care Act will help fortify our Hospitals and provide the much needed coverage for our uninsured residents.

It is great to see NJ's local economy still growing despite our national economy. In Irvington we are getting ready to break ground on a mixed use development at the site of our old Irvington General Hospital. In addition, we have a new Walgreen's coming soon.

The City of Newark just announced the development two new supermarkets. Both chains, which are new to the city are Whole Foods and Shoprite. This groundbreaking not only provides for local jobs, but will go a long way in bringing nutritional foods including fresh fruits and vegetables to residents of both Newark and surrounding urban city's. This is just a sampling of the many projects going on in our towns.

Our Country is going through some of the most turbulent political times as witnessed by the recent shut down of our Federal Government. Despite it all, NJ remains strong.

I look forward to continuing to serve both my residents of Irvington and the member cities of the New Jersey Conference of Mayor's to continue our progress in New Jersey.

Sincerely,

Wayne Smith

Mayor Wayne Smith
President - NJCM

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In 2012, a dune stabilization project was undertaken to protect Bayshore Waterfront Park in Port Monmouth, New Jersey. The park is home to the historic Seabrook Wilson House, one of the oldest structures in New Jersey, dating back to the 1700's. Fortunately, the project was completed before Hurricane Sandy slammed into the East Coast.

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BEFORE DUNE STABILIZATION

AFTER DUNE STABILIZATION

AFTER HURRICANE SANDY

Rebuild Stronger, Smarter and Safer to Withstand Future Weather Events

By: Richard E. Constable, III, Commissioner of the NJ Department of Community Affairs

As we steadily make progress in the critical effort to reconstruct our homes, restore our communities, and reinvigorate our economy in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, we in the Christie Administration are also assisting the people of New Jersey in rebuilding smarter, safer and stronger.

This is especially important in states like New Jersey, which has major segments of the population and economy centered along our coastal shore, on our river banks and in the many flood plains throughout our state. Superstorm Sandy, which caused $36.9 billion worth of damage, made it clear that we must better position ourselves to mitigate the effects of the next significant weather event.

The federal government has also made it clear that mitigation must be a priority. The $1.83 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery funds that the State received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in May 2013 came with considerable requirements.

One requirement in the Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation and Mitigation (RREM) Program, our largest housing recovery effort, states that if CDBG Disaster Recovery funds are used to rebuild or repair a home that was more than 50 percent damaged by Sandy or is located in an area where elevation is required, then the home must be elevated at least one foot above the latest FEMA-issued base flood elevation within four years of the date of Sandy.

The Christie Administration is also addressing mitigation at the community-level. My Department, which administers the CDBG Disaster Recovery funds for the State, has allocated $5 million for Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grants, an innovative program we created to support long-range planning for community redevelopment in the municipalities and counties that sustained damage from Sandy.

Commissioner Richard E. Constable III, Esq. joined the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in January 2012. Prior to joining the Department of Community Affairs, Commissioner Constable managed the day-to-day operations at the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development as Deputy Commissioner. From 2002 to 2010, he worked as a federal prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark.

The Program offers grants to local governments to address conditions created or exacerbated by the storm, identify approaches to rebuilding that will be more resistant to damage from future storm events, and encourage sustainable economic growth.

Funding is available to municipalities in the nine most-impacted counties of Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Union, and the counties themselves, that sustained a ratable loss attributable to Sandy of at least 1% or $1 million.

Local governments can use up to $30,000 in grant funds to prepare a Strategic Recovery Planning Report (SRPR) that evaluates the impacts of the storm on the community and serves as a blueprint for the planning, which leads to actions most urgently needed for public safety, economic recovery and resiliency to future storms.

Upon completing a Strategic Recovery Planning Report, local governments can apply for up to seven additional grant activities, all of which are designed to address and effectuate community resiliency and economic recovery. The award amounts for these grants range from $5,000 to $50,000. The grants are not competitive and there is no submission deadline. Grant applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis as funding is still available.

As of mid-November, 42 communities have requested grants totaling $1 million for the preparation of their SRPR. Another 14 communities have requested $3.4 million in grants to cover the additional long-term planning activities necessary to address the needs identified in their SRPR.

HUD announced in late October that it will be allocating a second round of CDBG Disaster Recovery funds to New Jersey. The $1.46 billion in federal aid comes with more stringent mitigation mandates than were outlined for the first round of CDBG Disaster recovery funds. Indeed, the Federal Register governing the second CDBG Disaster Recovery round states: "Reducing risk [of flood damage] is essential to the economic well-being of communities and business and is therefore an essential part of any disaster recovery."

The federal government has stated that a significant portion of the second round of CDBG funding is dedicated for infrastructure projects. The new guidelines require that planning for the projects incorporate activities to mitigate the effects of potential flooding.

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A Call to Renew Our Commitment to Recycling

By: Jane Kozinski, DEP Assistant Commission of Environmental Management

More than 25 years ago, New Jersey adopted the nation's first statewide mandatory recycling law. Today, state residents recycle an average of 40 percent of their municipal solid waste, one of the best rates in the nation and significantly better than the 34.7 percent national average.

The Christie Administration proudly supports recycling programs in our towns and counties. While it is fitting that we recognize New Jersey's recycling successes, it's also time renew our commitment to recycling and look ahead to creating new and innovative recycling opportunities.

The state's recycling rate is on the rise again, thanks to efforts at the Department of Environmental Protection in cooperation with municipal and county governments to educate the public about the need to recycle. The Association of New Jersey Recyclers has been a longstanding and vital partner.

But we can do even better. While many communities are nearing or hit our 50 percent recycling goal, many have not. I commend those communities that have reached this goal and urge them to continue working to boost rates.

I am asking cities and towns that have not reached this target to reinvigorate their programs, to attain that 50 percent goal.

In addition to obvious benefits of helping our environment and conserving resources, recycling saves local governments money and generates revenues. It also creates thousands of jobs.

The average disposal cost for a ton of municipal solid waste in New Jersey is $75. The average value of a ton of recyclables placed at the curb is worth at least $50 per ton.

For towns and cities that provide curbside collection, this means they lose $125 for every ton of recyclables that goes to landfills or incinerators instead of being recycled.

If that weren't enough, consider this:

- Recycling significantly extends the lives of landfills, minimizing the need to build new disposal facilities.

- By recycling 1.5 million tons of paper in New Jersey, we are reducing air emissions equivalent to taking 580,000 motor vehicles off the road compared with making paper products from virgin materials.

- According to the U.S. EPA, on average, 1.67 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents are avoided for every ton of municipal solid waste recycled.

So how can we improve?

Many businesses are still not recycling, or are not recycling as much as possible. We'd like to encourage our business community to take responsibility for their recyclables.

There are simple, cost-effective ways for small businesses, shopping malls, convenience stores, hotels, retail shops, and offices to comply with the law. We invite them to partner with DEP in developing strategies to improve their recycling.

I encourage businesses that are recycling superstars to mentor others in the business community on incorporating waste minimization and recycling into their business plans. Use existing business associations to help coordinate this mentoring effort.

For local governments, I urge recycling coordinators, public works officials, councils and Mayors, and environmental commissions to take a hard look at your public spaces. Are there recycling containers on main streets? In your parks?

Jane Kozinski is the DEP's Assistant Commissioner of Environmental Management. At DEP, she is responsible for programs that cover air quality, radiation protection, release prevention, pollution prevention, quality assurance and solid and hazardous waste. Prior to joining the DEP in 2011, she was a Clean Energy and Climate Policy Advisor for the British Government, working to support development of policies that address climate change and promote development of clean energy.

Making it easy for people to recycle by placing receptacles in parks, shopping areas, office complexes and other common areas is the most critical step you can take to make recycling successful. Every outdoor event, such as festivals and street markets, should include recycling containers. It seems simple, but you'd be surprised how often this is overlooked.

At the DEP, we are making food waste a recycling priority. Many restaurants, grocery stores, and colleges already are collecting food waste for composting, conversion to energy through anaerobic digestion, or to feed livestock.

Unfortunately, they have to send food waste out of state because New Jersey does not have commercial-scale food waste recycling capacity. Until we do, source separation of food wastes will not be widely available to our residents, businesses and institutions.

The DEP welcomes proposals for development of responsible food waste recycling

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*Melvin Feiler, DDS • Aaron Feiler, DDS

Bridging the Digital Divide in New Jersey

By: Bill Kettleson, Regional Vice President, Government & Regulatory Affairs, Comcast

One of the most important learning tools for students is broadband Internet at home. With it, students can tackle almost any assignment. Beyond benefits to education, the Internet offers a world of opportunity to the entire family, bringing quick and easy access to an endless variety of resources that make health care, job searches, saving money and staying in touch with friends or family as simple as the click of a mouse.

Unfortunately, not everyone has broadband Internet service at home. Many low-income families struggle to afford it, while others simply don't understand the benefits the Internet can provide.

In fact, in many low-income neighborhoods, broadband adoption rates are only around 15 to 20 percent, while in upper income communities, broadband penetration rates are as high as 90 percent. With 30 percent of the U.S. still without broadband Internet service at home, far too many continue to miss out on all the terrific resources the Internet can deliver.

To help bridge this digital divide in America, programs such as Comcast's Internet Essentials have been developed for families with at least one child eligible for the National School Lunch Program. As the largest and most comprehensive broadband adoption program in the country, Internet Essentials offers qualifying families in-home Internet for less than $10 a month, computers for less than $150 and free digital literacy training available online, in print or in person.

In just over two years, Internet Essentials has connected one million low-income Americans -- or more than 250,000 families -- to the power of the Internet.

In the state of New Jersey, Comcast is working with a number of community-based organizations to spread the word about Internet Essentials. These organizations include: Boys & Girls Clubs of Camden, Mercer and Union counties, Suits for Success in Jersey City, Urban Leagues of Hudson County and Union County, United Way of Greater Union County and Gateway Community Action Partnership, among others.

We have partnered with many others since the advent of the program to conduct free digital literacy training on topics such as an introduction to the Internet and computers, finding and applying for jobs online, search engine basics and email training.

"Our Club Members are so eager to learn and it's critical to support their learning when they are at home," said Bernadette Shanahan, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Camden County. "Internet Essentials gives our Club Members, many who truly need extra support, the same 24/7 access as most of their peers to conduct research, complete homework assignments and satisfy their curiosity about the world."

Comcast has made it easy for anyone interested in helping spread the word about Internet Essentials to order free materials for their school or organization by visiting www.Partner.InternetEssentials.com. General information and an online registration form can be found at www.InternetEssentials.com or in Spanish at www.InternetBasico.com.

William J. (Bill) Kettleson is Regional Vice President of Government & Regulatory Affairs for Comcast's Freedom Region. Bill received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Rutgers University and has an extensive background in communications, marketing, public relations, and community affairs, Bill is extremely active in community and professional service and has earned numerous honors from local and state government, and national recognition with the cable industry.

Many of the Mayors of New Jersey have already joined us in our efforts and we thank you for that. We invite you all to join us in helping to close the digital divide and connect more families to the life-changing power of the Internet at home.

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Monmouth County Update

By: Thomas A. Arnone, Monmouth County Freeholder Director, Liaison to the Office of Shared Service

On behalf of The Board of Chosen Freeholders, I serve as the liaison to the North Jersey Transportation Authority, and one of my duties is to try and receive money. I am very pleased to be able to report that I was successful in doing just that.

Monmouth County has received $422,000 from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority's Local Safety Program to improve Memorial Drive, which carries Monmouth County Road 40-A from Avon-By-the-Sea through Neptune Township and into Asbury Park. An upcoming Monmouth County project will reduce Memorial Drive in Asbury Park from four lanes to two.

The project, known as a road diet, will also install wider shoulders, bicycle lanes and a center turning lane off Memorial Drive. The Transportation Authority recognized that Memorial Drive, with few signalized intersections south of Asbury Park and poorly-marked crosswalks, was dangerous for pedestrians and other non-motor vehicle traffic.

In addition to obtaining funding for this project, I am also pleased to report that on behalf of the Freeholders I successfully lobbied the authority to fund $150,000 in safety improvements at a Howell intersection between West Farms Road and the Squankum-Yellowbrick Road that will include a blinking traffic light and improved pavement markings.

Other news in Monmouth County – The Department of Public Works and Engineering has received a grant from the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for de-snagging and debris removal at various stream corridors. The Division of Bridges is in the process of completing this project which will result not only in the county receiving $75,000.00 to offset the cost, but will also reduce flooding and damage to our infrastructure.

Additionally, the Divisions of Engineering and Highways are assisting the Borough of Bradley Beach through our Shared Services program in developing the county's first maritime forest near Fletcher Lake. This project is another example of the efficiency and cost savings for our municipalities.

Some important news pertaining to the county's economic development - This year's MADE IN MONMOUTH ANNUAL EVENT now in its second year, surpassed last year's expectations and proved to be a win-win for both Monmouth County vendors and shoppers alike. The second annual "Made in Monmouth" was held on Saturday, September 28, 2013 at Monmouth University in West Long Branch. This event was a proactive approach originated as a way to give Monmouth County Vendors an opportunity to display and sell their products. All products were made in Monmouth County and showcased an array of amazingly well crafted products. Many of the vendors were true artists and the creativity brought forth had no end.

There were approximately 140 vendors in all with more than 2000 shoppers in attendance for the day. As liaison to the Department of Economic Development, I had the pleasure of being able to meet and speak with the many vendors who participated in this fantastic event.

The Grow Monmouth Façade Improvement Program is off to a great start. We have received our first applications and have begun the review process. We are still accepting new applications.

Lastly, we have now completed 103 Grow Monmouth presentations with our last three visits being in Sea Bright, Fair Haven and Hazlet. As a result, the Sea Bright business owners group has asked for a meeting to learn more about the tools available through the Grow Monmouth program, and our Economic Development staff will be scheduling that meeting shortly.

As liaison to the departments mentioned in this writing, and on behalf of The Board of Chosen Freeholders it is great to see all the progress being made in and around Monmouth County for the betterment of our residents.

Freeholder Director Thomas A. Arnone was sworn in to a three-year term on the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders and is currently in his third year in office. During his tenure as Freeholder, Mr. Arnone has received recognition for pioneering two extremely successful initiatives; Shared Services and Grow Monmouth. Each have been vital in helping to grow the economy while saving tax payers dollars. Additionally, Freeholder Arnone has been active in statewide professional organizations such as the New Jersey Conference of Mayors and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

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Joe Pannullo
Mayor

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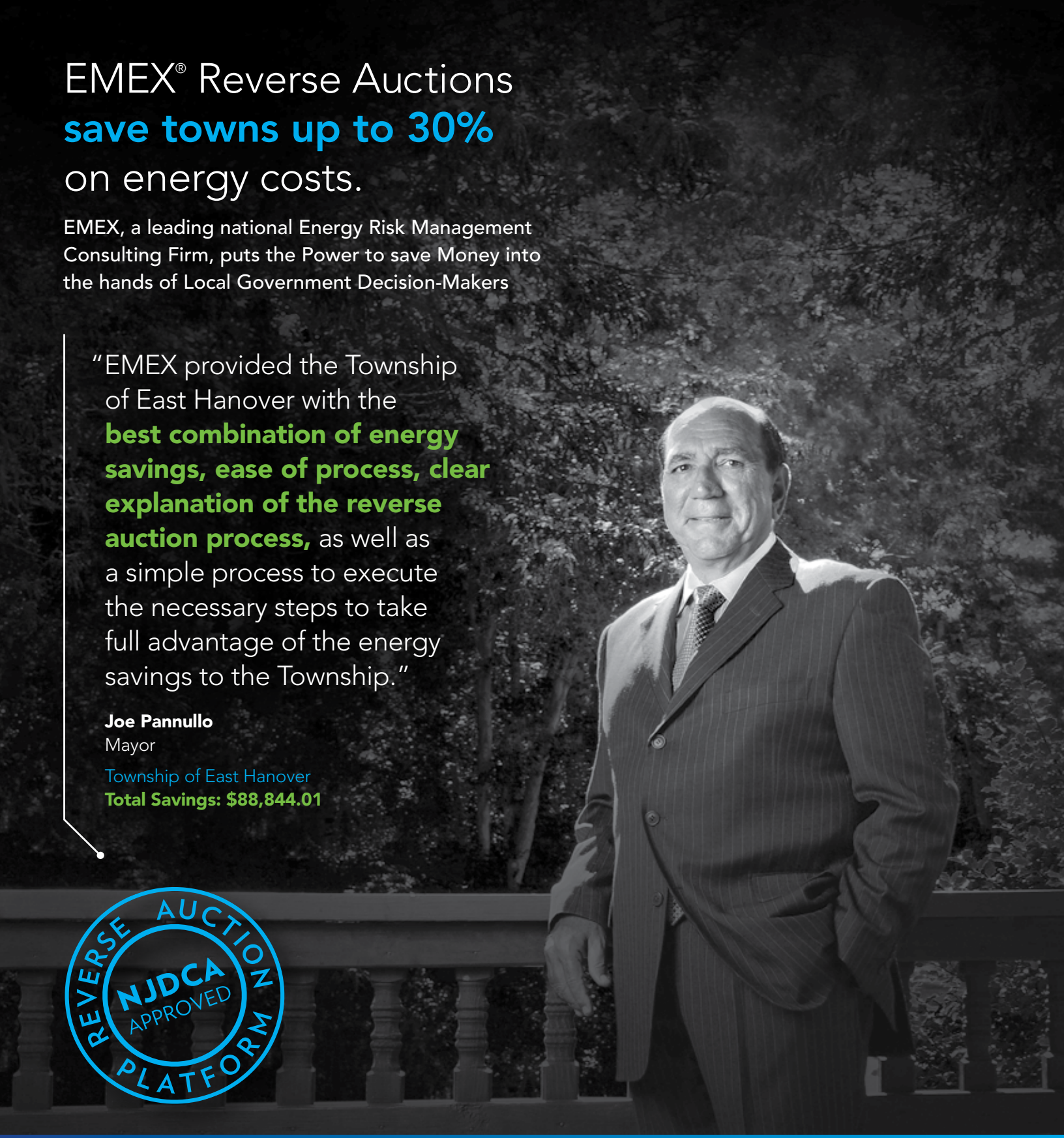

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Hot Topics, Cool Mayors

By: Amy Osborn

Name: DEBORAH BUZBY-COPE

Town: Bass River Township

Years in office: 13.5 as Mayor

Profession: Chiropractor

Political Party: Independent

Political Role Model:
New Jersey State Senator Diane Allen (R – Legislative District 7)

Most Admired Mayor on the other side of the aisle/different Party and why:
Lorraine Hatcher (D – Riverside Twp). She really cares about her town and making a difference in a positive way.

Name: RAY HECK

Town: Millstone Borough

Years in office: 7 as Mayor

Profession: Law Enforcement

Political Party: Democrat

Political Role Model:
JFK; a man whose work ethic is still honored to this day.

Most Admired Mayor on the other side of the aisle/different Party and why: Edward Zimmerman (I) Rocky Hill. Ed is a man with substance and integrity. Mayor Zimmerman strides to exceed the most stringent expectations of his Rocky Hill residents and truly has the pulse of the community. More importantly, Ed will always lend a hand to fellow Mayors and will assist with the goals of neighboring communities.

Osborn: Corey Booker, the former Mayor of Newark, just became a United States Senator. What key qualities does a Mayor possess that would give him or her an edge over Members of Congress who have not had the good fortune of serving as a Mayor?

Buzby Cope: By being a Mayor, you get to see the workings of the budget, public safety, and maintain buildings and roads in town. You also have dealings with the business community to keep them prosperous so they stay in town.

Heck: Being a Mayor allows a person to experience a vast amount of local issues that makes a society function. If one wishes to represent the public on a national level, then one should understand how we operate on a local level. In short, local communities are the basic building blocks of our great nation.

Osborn: Please share with our readers your greatest achievement as Mayor, and how that accomplishment has impacted the residents of your town.

Buzby Cope: (Speaking about Superstorm Sandy) It took me 6 days going from house to house, meeting with FEMA, gathering information for the formula and taking Congressman Runyan on a tour of the town in order for us to get declared. This was done so that our residents would be able to apply for funding through FEMA and receive funds.

Heck: I think having Millstone Borough ranked the 7th best place to live in New Jersey, (New Jersey Monthly Magazine). This was accomplished by having a safe community, affordable housing and beautiful parks and open space. We have always made it a point that every tax dollar spent was an investment in our community and that volunteerism is the backbone of small towns.

Osborn: You've shared with us your favorite Mayors on the other side of the aisle, as well as your political role models. How about giving a shout out to a New Jersey elected official, other than a fellow Mayor, who has impressed you with their leadership skills.

Buzby Cope: Congressman Frank LoBiondo.

Heck: I think it would have to be our Lieutenant Governor, Kim Guadagno. Never have I seen a person elected into a position that had no clear definitive roles. Kim hit the ground running on day one and clearly made a presence. While adding the role of Secretary of State to her responsibilities, she has also made a huge impact on both bringing and retaining businesses in New Jersey. Regardless of her success, she never uses the word "I". Every conversation and speech she makes, uses the word "we". That to me, is a team player and a class act.

Osborn: In this tough economy, where many residents are moving to neighboring states with lower property taxes, and small business owners are struggling to stay afloat, how do you manage to build and maintain the confidence of the residents and business owners of your community?

Buzby Cope: By having open communication with our residents and business owners to keep them informed of the town activities and local, state or federal programs that would aid them.

Heck: I continuously stress to both our residents and businesses that the Governing Body is behind them 100%. Markets may

continued on Page 39

Amy Osborn is a Former Miss New Jersey, and a business development professional, who has worked in State Government in New Jersey, as well as having worked with the United States Departments of State, Defense and Commerce. You can visit her website at www.capitolconcepts.com

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Alternate Dispute Resolution:
Bolstering Innovative Problem Solving at DEP

By: Raymond S. Papperman, Director of the DEP Office of Dispute Resolution

If State Government had a process to afford people the opportunity to avoid expensive and contentious litigation, yet bring closure to complicated disputes that often involve multiple parties and reduce costs to taxpayers -- and could accomplish this goal while ensuring protection of public health and the environment -- most New Jersey residents would enthusiastically support such "new" idea. If people were told that this "new" innovation has been successfully employed by other States and federal agencies for decades and enjoys growing acceptance from the public and the legal community, most New Jerseyans would ask "what took you so long?"

After being discarded a decade ago, Commissioner Bob Martin reestablished the use of "Aternate Dispute Resolution" or "ADR" at the Department of Environmental Protection. ADR provides an opportunity to resolve regulatory conflicts using the services of an impartial neutral party, either before or after a disputed matter is referred to an administrative law judge or the Superior Court. This voluntary program can serve the best interests of both the regulated community and the DEP as a mechanism to resolve cases through mediation, which in turn saves court costs, time and resources without sacrificing DEP's mission of protecting the environment, public health and safety.

The Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) exists under my direction, to implement Commissioner Martin's vision. The ODR refers requests for ADR to the appropriate DEP program to solicit participation in the process and assess the possibility of enabling resolution through strategies of "facilitation" and "mediation." Mediation is a process whereby the participants attempt to resolve disputes or potential areas of dispute and voluntarily agree on a future course of action. The ODR helps parties to explore creative options for resolving problems that may not have been previously considered. Facilitation involves an informal meeting between the regulated community and the DEP to establish whether the parties can mutually resolve the differences between them. Following an initial organizational conference call, the ODR will schedule and structure a meeting in order to focus on the ultimate goal, whether it may be to remediate a site, modify a permit to achieve compliance, set a permit compliance schedule or resolve a technical issue.

New procedures are in the process of being established to make ADR more accessible and useful to both the DEP staff and the regulated community, including electronic filing of requests. To participate in ADR, interested parties must independently submit a request to the ODR. The request should include the name and contact information of the petitioner and that of any attorney or agent representing them. The site-specific location involving the dispute should be listed along with the site DEP program interest number or other identifiers for the site. Specific applicable regulatory citations or provisions should be included along with a summary of the dispute clearly articulating the major issue(s). Copies of DEP actions or determinations pertaining to the dispute should be submitted as well. If a member of the regulated community or their agent has a proposed resolution to a dispute, including but not limited to monetary offers, suggested permit or plan changes or an explanation for a violation, the ODR would welcome that information or proposal. The current status of the matter should also be provided, along with the names of the DEP and Office of the Attorney General staff involved in the matter.

The ODR looks forward to working with all parties to explore the possibility of ensuring fair and amicable resolution of regulatory disputes. The ADR process offers the regulated community a chance to voice their concerns and ensure that they will be heard by a neutral party. With these goals in mind, the facilitator/mediator will communicate with the parties to a dispute and help to clarify the issues and encourage collaborative problem solving. Permit issues, compliance issues, penalty assessments or any significant issues with potential to develop into disputes are best resolved through ADR. The program will not entertain disputes between private parties, or broad-based challenges to DEP rules, regulations or policies.

Ray Papperman has more than thirty years of experience as a lawyer, most recently as Deputy Advisor at the DEP. In addition to advising the Commissioner, Ray is the Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution, DEP's Ethics Liaison Officer and acts as DEP's liaison with the Division of Law on various matters. Previously, Ray's practice focused on Environmental Law and litigation, Alternate Dispute Resolution, Commercial Real Estate and Land Use.

ADR is not a panacea for all regulatory disputes. There simply will be times when a "win-win" situation is not attainable, and ADR will never satisfy those who want to engage in a wholesale rollback of DEP rules. Those policy disputes may rightly be resolved in other forums such as the courts and the Legislature. However, for certain disputes, ADR represents an invaluable tool for solving problems in a quick and cost-effective manner, and represents another of facet of the DEP's efforts to reduce bureaucratic "red tape."

More information on the ADR process can be accessed on the DEP web page at: www.nj.gov/dep/odr/#types.

Interested parties can also contact Caroline Kirkland at 609-633-7024 or Linda Taylor at 609-633-1432.

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Proposed Eminent Domain Action Against Mortgage Holders to Avert Continued Blight

By: Mayor Wayne Smith, Irvington, NJCM President

The residents of the Township of Irvington have suffered disproportionately from the implosion of real estate bubble which has had a horrendous impact on families across the United States and especially communities with large minority populations. Many of our home owners are underwater on the mortgages due to fair market value of their homes and the replacement values of their homes being significantly lower than current mortgages on their homes. Many of our home owners are also first time homebuyers who are hardworking individuals desperately pursuing all options to keep their homes in these very tough economic times, while navigating high rates of unemployment and depressed wages. Many of our homeowners were forced to enter into mortgages that included interest rate resets which resulted in higher interest rates being assessed on their mortgages during the height of the real estate property bubble and the post bubble that exist now. Many of these homeowners were also offered mortgages with interest rates that are higher than those extended to people in other communities with similar credit profiles. The homeowners were unfortunately forced to purchase homes above nominal market prices due to artificial inflating of the housing market caused by a small number of market players exercising undue powerful influence over the real estate market.

First generation homeowners were typically the last entrants into the real estate market and as a result, purchased their homes close to the high point of the market. In addition, many seniors invested in their homes as a retirement savings vehicle as this is often the only investment option available to them. These seniors now find themselves in a situation whereby they cannot refinance their homes at lower interest rates because their homes are underwater and they have lost significant value.

As a municipality we strive very ardently through these difficult economic times to provide quality services to our residents. Over 85% of our revenues used to fund critical services such as fire and police and senior support services are funded by tax revenues received in the form of property taxes. Our primary source of revenue is under threat as a result of this real estate crisis. The current crisis has resulted in a severe loss of confidence in the real estate market and the economy as a whole leading to a devastating increase in abandoned properties and a drastic decrease in property valuations. Overall these actions have resulted in the Township losing significant tax revenues and thus severely hampering our ability to provide critical services to our residents. Conditions of blight and urban flight are increasing causing further erosion in our local economy. The spillover effect is the loss in retail revenues causing undue hardships on businesses and the loss of employment for residents of our Township who were and are employed by small businesses.

As Mayor, I am choosing not to stand idle while the residents of my Township endure such financial hardships that are caused by Wall Street firms who engaged in highly reprehensible practices that are the leading causes of this crisis and subsequently received government bailouts. I cannot stand by idly while our Township continues to lose revenue which in turn affects our ability to provide proper services to our residents.

This crisis requires a call to action and we are acting as a responsible municipality to eliminate this adverse economic condition that plagues our community. We have decided to pursue the process of eminent domain action which we believe will create a thoughtful economic and moral solution to reverse the economically detrimental situation created by the real estate crisis.

Our Basis

The United States Constitution confers the power to use eminent domain to the States in order to ensure the perseverance and furtherance of the public good. This power is further confer to local municipalities and other governmental bodies. The Township of Irvington has a grave responsibility to pursue eminent domain action when it is undeniably in the best interest of the public. We have decided to pursue eminent domain in order to restore economic stability in our Township and by so doing, assist our residents in reversing the current economic hardship emanating from the real estate crisis. We believe our eminent domain plan will be cost neutral to residents and will be welcomed by the financial community which currently does not have a good solution to address this issue. We are empowered to pursue an action of eminent domain under New Jersey law through the interest in land component of the law. Our plan will proceed as follow:

Wayne Smith, NJCM President
is the Mayor of Irvington Township

- We have an inventory of properties that are currently abandoned or are likely to be abandoned in the near future due to the real estate mortgage crisis

- We will meet with homeowners to fully disclose our intent to pursue eminent domain actions against financial institutions who have extended mortgage loans in our community

- We will, in tandem with partnering financial institutions order property appraisals from independent property appraisal and market study firms so that we can obtain a fair market valuation on each property selected

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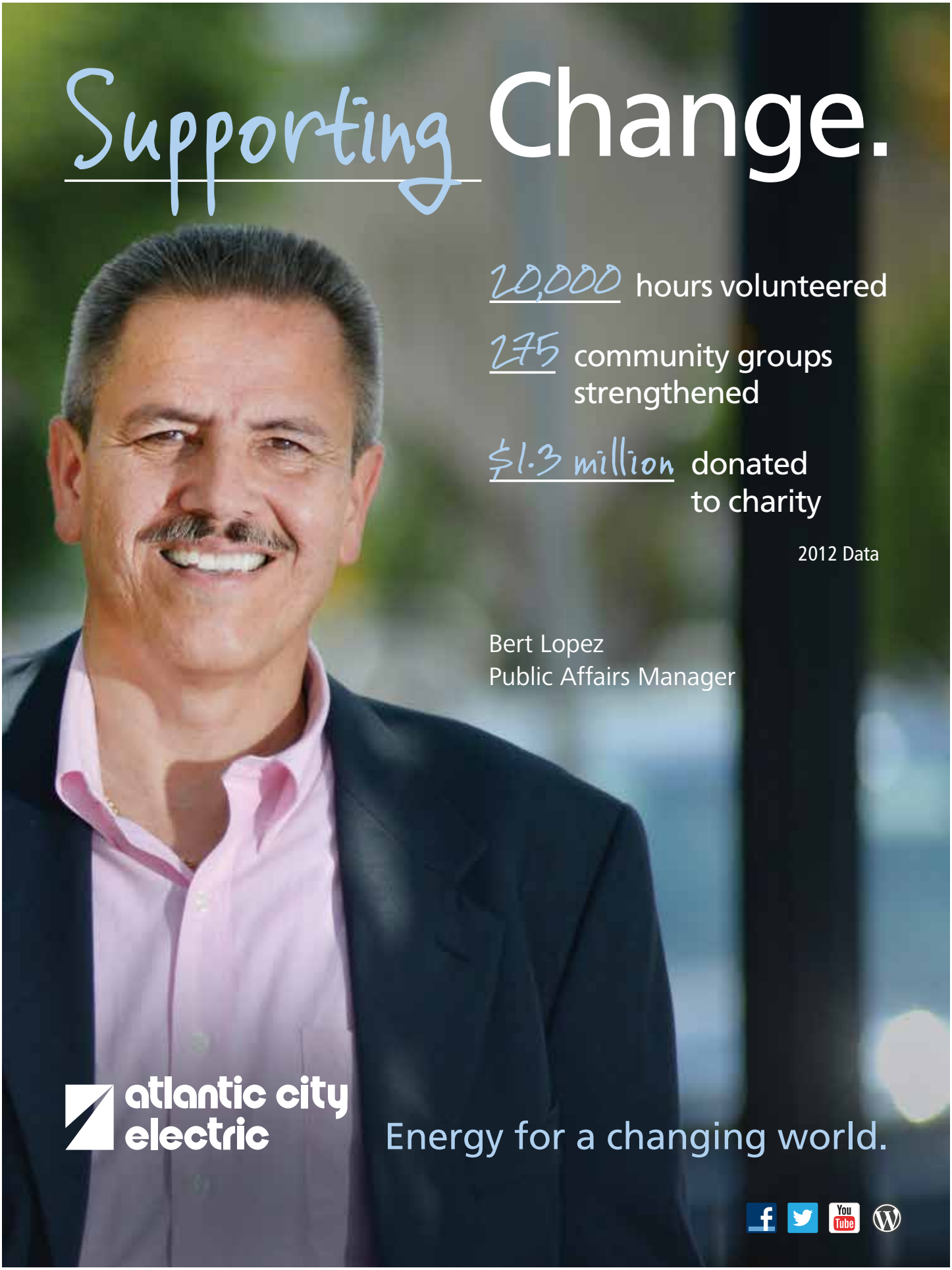
Supporting Change.
20,000 hours volunteered
275 community groups strengthened
$1.3 million donated to charity
2012 Data
Bert Lopez
Public Affairs Manager
atlantic city electric
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From the Executive Director

By: John F. Morrissey, NJCM Executive Director, Former Mayor, Merchantville

The 50th NJCM Anniversary Social Reception, originally scheduled to be held at the Golden Nugget Hotel Atlantic City on December 7th was cancelled due to many of our Mayors having holiday related scheduling conflicts. The event will be added to our 51st Annual Spring Conference scheduled events in April/May at the Borgata Hotel, Casino & Spa. Preliminary plans call for the Annual Conference to be he held on Wednesday April 30 through Friday, May 2 with a full day of events for Friday May 2 including a luncheon, more sessions and a dinner and show replacing the 50th anniversary event cancelled in December. Normally the Annual Conference terminates at noon time on Friday. We are fortunate to have our December sponsors agree to continue their event sponsorships to May 2 at the Borgata. In addition to Wednesday and Thursday night, rooms have also been reserved at the Borgata for a very favorable Friday night rate. Everyone should mark on their 2014 calendars Wednesday, April 30 through Friday, May 2, 2014 for attendance at the New Jersey Conference of Mayors 51st Annual Spring Conference.

The New Jersey Conference of Mayors manned a booth at the recent New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City in November of 2013. The booth, in addition to NJCM staff was manned by members of the Mayors Emeritus Advisory Council (MEAC) during the three days of the conference. The Mayors Emeritus collected year 2014 NJCM membership vouchers and provided and collected NJCM surveys from the Mayors visiting our booth. Also, the Mayors Emeritus provided NJCM sweat shirts to Mayors who either paid or committed to pay their membership dues no later than January 31, 2014. Mayors/municipalities who have not done so, have until January 31, 2014 to either pay or submit an approved membership dues voucher (no increase in member dues again this year) to be eligible for an NJCM "Mayors" sweatshirt. (dark gray, with NJCM and the word "Mayor" embroidered on the sweatshirt). The Mayors Emeritus also took pictures of the visitor Mayors and some of these appear in the photo gallery of pictures in this magazine. Mayor and Mayor Emeritus license plate applications also were provided to visitors at the booth as was a host of other NJCM affiliated information. A special thank you to the Mayors Emeritus and spouses, who again helped support the NJCM at the booth, especially Tony and Theresa Beatrice, Bea Cerkez, Ted and Betty Dorn, Charlie Pritchard, Mike Kay, and Augie Longo. The Mayors Emeritus worked extremely well with the NJCM staff Mary Zajack and Peter Oesterwinter who did an outstanding job in preparing for and arranging the booth and providing the materials to be used at the booth.

Well over a hundred Mayors visited the NJCM booth and most of them took the time to complete the NJCM questionnaire. In addition to soliciting comments regarding concerns with or needs for legislation, the survey solicited subject matter that the Mayors would desire to have included in the panel sessions at the 51st NJCM Annual Spring Conference. This information in fact helps form the basis for panel session topics. We appreciate the Mayors taking the time to complete the survey.

Mayors Emeritus provide help at the NJCM Booth
L-R: Hon. Ted Dorn, Hon. Mike Kay, Hon. August Longo, Hon Mike Mevoli

John F. Morrissey, NJCM
Executive Director and Former Mayor,
18 years, Merchantville.

Currently, the NJCM staff and Mayors Emeritus are preparing the NJCM 50th Anniversary Commemorative History Book covering NJCM events, photographs, articles, etc., pertaining to the fifty year history of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors. This book is scheduled to be distributed to NJCM members in April at the 51st Annual NJCM Spring Conference. Advertising is available for Municipalities, former Mayors and business sponsors etc. and for more information, please contact the NJCM office at (609)-989-9216. Additional information regarding advertising in the history book may be found on page 32 of this magazine.

As we move into year 2014, a very sincere note of appreciation is extended to the members of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors Executive Committee, Legislative Committee, Board of Directors, Mayors Emeritus Advisory Council, NJCM staff, Business Council members, advertisers and other supporters who contribute in so many ways to the success of the conference in the support of its membership. Most importantly, our appreciation goes to our NJCM Member Mayors, for their continued support.

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League of Municipalities Conference

November 19-21, 2013

The New Jersey Conference of Mayors was once again present and very active at the NJ League of Municipalities 98th Conference, which was held at the Atlantic City Convention Center, Tuesday, November 19 through Thursday, November 21, 2013.

Booths 612 and 614 were full of NJCM Staff and volunteer Mayor Emeritus who were on hand to greet Member Mayors which came to visit. Mayors who renewed signed their Membership dues vouchers for 2014 took home their 2014 NJCM Mayors sweatshirt.

There are still many Mayors that have not renewed their 2014 membership, and Mayors have until January 31, 2014 to renew membership, and be eligible for the 2014 NJCM Mayors sweatshirt. There are so many other benefits to being a member of the NJCM. Please contact our offices at 609-989-9216 for more information.

We thank you for supporting the NJCM and truly value your membership.

Mayor Mary Ann Wardlow,
Lawnside Borough

Mayor Carey Pilato,
Bound Brook

Mayor Dudley Lewis,
Washington Township
Burlington County

Mayor John Armano
Berlin Borough

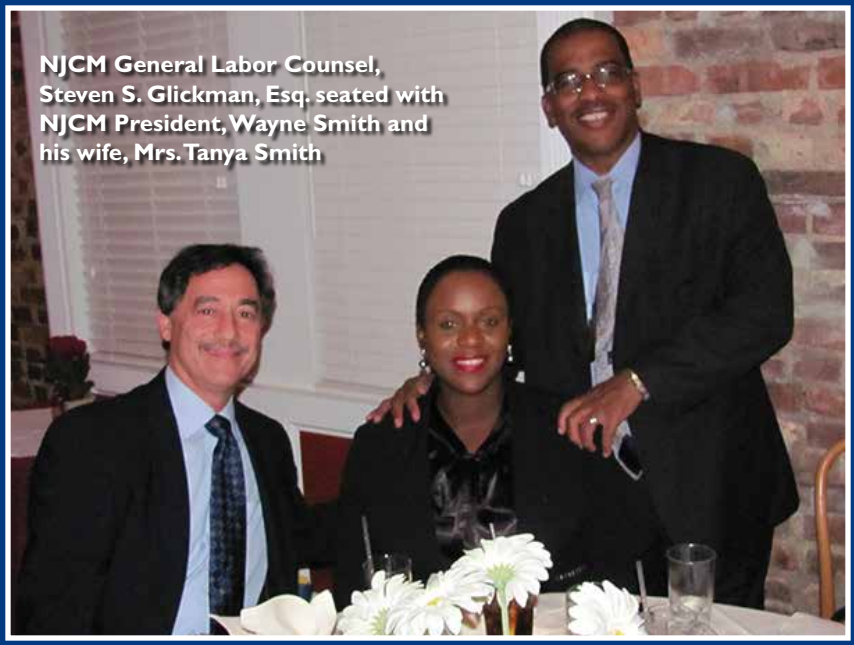
Mayor Tim McDonough
Hope Township

Mayor Ronald Roma,
Beachwood Borough

Left to Right: Arthur Guida, Director, External Affairs, PSE&G
John F. Morrissey, NJCM Exec. Director, Former Mayor, Merchantville
Hon. Jack Tarditi, Managing Director, Conner Strong & Buckelew,
Former Mayor, Haddonfield

Mayor Guy T. Piserchia
Long Hill Township

Mayor Bill Pikolycky
Woodbine Borough


NJCM General Labor Counsel, Steven S. Glickman, Esq. seated with NJCM President, Wayne Smith and his wife, Mrs. Tanya Smith

Mayor Janice Kovach
Clinton Town

Mayor James Gasparini
Fairfield Township

Mayor Robert Giordano
Independence Township

Mayors Victor DeLuca, Maplewood and David DelVecchio, Lambertville

Mayor Michael Ryan
Lake Como Borough

Mayor Joseph Wolk
Mount Ephraim Borough

Mayor Kathi Fiamingo
Kenilworth Borough

NJCM Vice President Raymond Heck,
Millstone Boro

Mayor Edward Zimmerman
Rocky Hill Borough

Mayor Janice Mironov
East Windsor Township

Mayor Frank Minor
Logan Township

Mayor Angelo Corradino
Manville Borough

NJCM Vice President, Mayor Deborah Buzby-Cope
Mayor Joseph Venezia, Estell Manor City

Mayor Chris Botta
Ramsey Borough

NJCM Business Council Continues to Expand Educational Webinar Program

By: Gary Passanante, Director, NJCM Business Council

The expansion of our educational workshops in 2013 through the addition of our Webinar Series has been a great success, increasing participation and adding a new level of convenience and access to our expert presenters. If you have a computer or tablet with access to the internet, then you have all that you need to participate in this great new workshop media option.

At each webinar, our guest panelists will provide their subject expertise and you will have the option to receive electronic copies of the presentation materials for your review and reference. Most importantly, you will only need an hour or so to participate in the actual webinar session and you won't waste one minute travelling anywhere!

The Business Council is actively planning future webinar workshop topics for the 2014 calendar year that will continue to be an invaluable source of education and preparation for meeting the economic challenges that lie ahead. In that light, please feel free to submit any suggestions you may have that we can consider in our planning process. Some topics currently being considered are:

• **Energy Saving Options – Is solar regaining popularity?** Reverse energy auctions, how do they work and what can you save? How to implement town wide energy aggregation to save your residents money. What grants are still available that can save you tens of thousands of dollars in equipment and installation cost.

• **Health Insurance** – The impact of "ObamaCare" and the changing landscape of the health insurance industry. How to manage the rising costs while offering your employees flexibility and choice.

• **Sharing/Consolidating Services** – Exploring the pros & cons to sharing and/or consolidating services.

• **Public Outreach, Technology & Communication** – How to utilize today's new media technology to reach your constituents in a safe and effective manner.

Gary J. Passanante is the Director of NJCM Business Council and the Mayor of Somerdale

• **Bargaining Units and Your Employees** – Creating and maintaining good working relationships with your employees.

• **Partnering with Your Schools to Fight Bullying** - Exploring the tools and professional services available in developing an "Anti-Bullying" campaign for your community and schools.

As always, we welcome your input for additional topics that would be of interest and benefit to our Mayors. If you have any suggestions, please email them to me at Gary@njcm.org and I will add them to our future topics for evaluation and consideration. Be sure to stay on the lookout for our webinar workshops throughout the year.

If your company services municipalities and has not yet joined the Business Council, I urge you to contact me by email Gary@njcm.org or by phone (856) 207-9142. I would be happy to discuss our membership and the full set of benefits available.

Let me extend my sincere thanks to all of you, our business members, Mayors and especially our Executive Board for your continued support and confidence in the Business Council. Together, we continue to work as a team to better serve our constituents and clients alike.

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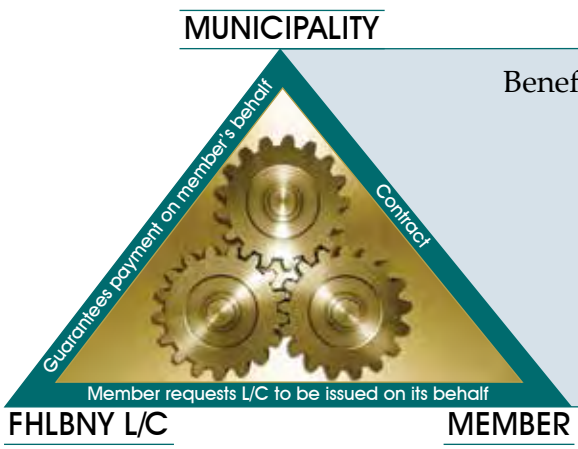

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Wayne Smith - continued from Page 17

• We will file with the State, eminent domain actions against the mortgage holders of these properties along with the required escrow deposits which will be provided by the participating financial firms

• We will engage with mortgage holders throughout the process and will negotiate with them as we go through the entire eminent domain process with the intent of resolving these matters where possible without having to exercise eminent domain

• We will work with homeowners to arrange new financing for their homes at below or close to the fair market values determined by the independent appraisers and with the necessary approval of the commission formed as mandated under New Jersey Eminent Domain Law to determine the proper valuation to be assigned as a result of the proposed eminent domain action

The eminent domain action will result in a negotiated "short" payment to the institutions that are invested in the mortgages without any additional liability for the unpaid portion being obligated to the homeowner

Benefits of this Approach

Our eminent domain strategy will enable the Township to realize the following core benefits for the community:

• It will enable our hardworking homeowners to remain in their homes with mortgages that equate closely to the fair market value of their properties and will thus remove the economic stress and hardship they now face though the possibility of losing their homes

• It will enable our homeowners to eliminate their negative net worth created by their current underwater condition without having to engage in a credit worthiness damaging short sale process

• It will dramatically reduce the threat of blight and the accompanying crime and other detrimental social issues that results from blight. This process will preserve over ten thousand dollars in value per property for every ten or thirteen homes that would have lost value as a result of a property abandonment or demolition close to the subject property(ies)

• It will improve the local economy of the township by creating more disposable income for expenditure in our local economy through residents increased spending with local small businesses

• It will lead to potentially higher employment within the Township as businesses begin to hire more employees through the resulting increase in sales caused by restoring confidence in the real estate market

• It will create a mechanism for the orderly unwinding of the current imbalance between true market value and mortgage values that we believe mortgage holders would like to see eliminated

• We believe these efforts will create a benefit for mortgage holders by allowing them to remove toxic assets from their balance sheets which currently have these mortgages listed as steep discounts which in turn potentially creates a discount value to the individual company's publicly traded market value

• It will improve tax revenue collection and bring more properties back onto the tax rolls thus placing the Township in an enhanced position to provided crucial services to our hardworking residents

In addition to the above listed benefits, this approach will also enable the Township to regain greater investor confidence, with potential investors who are desirous of pursuing economic development opportunities within the Township but are currently dissuaded from doing so due to the overhang caused by the current underwater real estate situation and its accompanying economic disincentives.

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James Meehan
Executive Director
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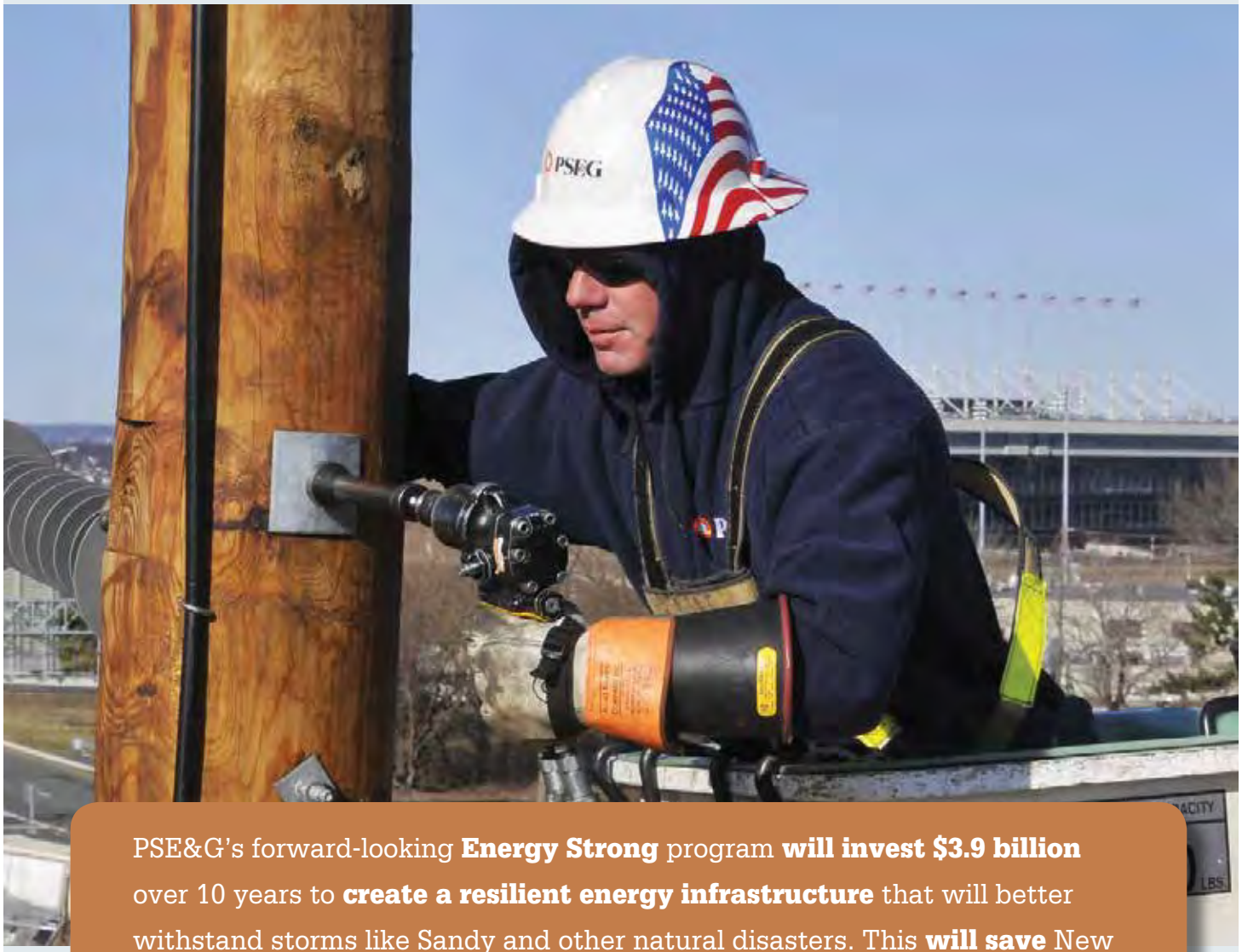

PSE&G's forward-looking **Energy Strong** program **will invest $3.9 billion** over 10 years to **create a resilient energy infrastructure** that will better withstand storms like Sandy and other natural disasters. This **will save** New Jersey businesses hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenue **and protect** our families **from the devastating impact of extended power outages.**

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How Do We Articulate the Value of an Invaluable Resource – Water?

By: David Stanton, President, Regulated Segment, United Water

Most tap water in this country – including the safe and reliable water provided to United Water's millions of customers – costs less than a penny a gallon. But water is the essence of life; no person, animal, planet, business or society can survive without it. Surely, water's value – and the convenience of having readily available safe water – is far higher than its cost. Herein lies the conundrum: many of us don't value things that are cheap and available. Many of us – Americans in particular – tend to take water for granted.

Those of us in the water industry have long been concerned about a dangerous gap between the challenges our nations' water supply currently faces and the willingness of our nation's cities, towns and customers to address these challenges to secure this inexpensive and reliable resource.

Specifically many communities across the U.S. are relying on an aging water infrastructure which is in need of repair or replacement. It is estimated that there is one water main break every two minutes in the United States, and that cities and towns across the nation must invest $1.3 trillion in repairs and upgrades over the next 25 years.

United Water is preparing to tackle the infrastructure challenge by making nearly $1 billion in capital investments over the next five years in its own systems and in city systems that leverage private capital through the SOLUTIONSM model.

Through SOLUTIONSM United Water can attract long-term private investment for cities that choose to improve their municipal water and environmental systems.

Because much of our nation's water system lies unseen underground, in addition to investments, we must also raise awareness about the importance of water if we expect cities, towns and customers – across the nation – to prioritize its investment.

To bridge the awareness gap, United Water will support a new Value of Water Campaign that will provide information about water in our daily lives and the infrastructure needed to deliver it. United Water will support the campaign by sharing information with customers and stakeholders through its own social media channels.

The Campaign will benefit from the experience and collective reach of nearly 100,000 city water utilities, non-profit water associations and water services and technology companies across the country.

David Stanton oversees operations and management of United Water's regulated water and wastewater businesses across the nation. Stanton has over 25 years of experience in the water industry, in the United States and abroad. Prior to joining United Water, Stanton served as chief executive officer and member of the board of APTwater, a company focused on water re-use.

You'll be hearing from your local water utility soon at www.thevalueofwater.org, or on Twitter at @thevalueofwater.

A public-private partnership allows a small borough in New Jersey to regionalize its water services

Public-private partnerships can be a great tool for cities, towns and boroughs of all sizes to manage tight budgets while providing expertly managed municipal services to residents. On, August 1, 2013, United Water signed a contract with the Borough of Allendale to operate and maintain its water system and provide clean and safe water to 2,300 households.

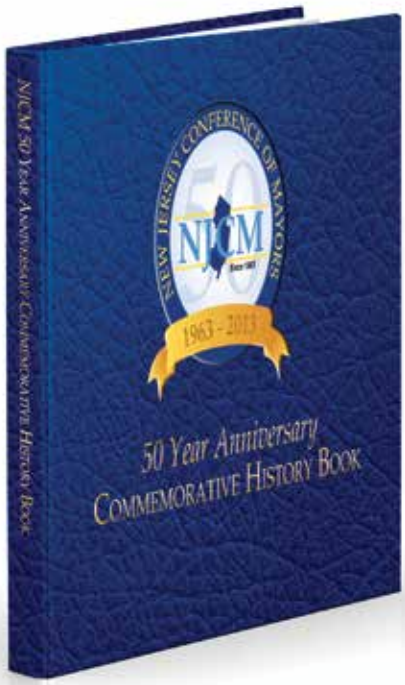
Allendale will continue to own the water system and set rates for its residents but the Borough will benefit from United Water New Jersey's regional expertise and resources in water services, customer service, billing and meter reading.

"We are excited to begin this public-private partnership," said Mayor Vince Barra. "It is a win-win solution for our residents and the Borough. Allendale gains the expertise and resources of United Water and at the same time we save a considerable amount in our water budget."

The five-year, $590,000-per-year deal will save the Borough about $193,000 annually, which will go towards infrastructure improvements and stabilizing water rates.

This contract comes at a time when the deteriorating condition of the nation's water infrastructure has generated a lot of attention. Competing needs for other municipal services, such as roads, fire departments, police and schools have stretched the finances in many American towns beyond their limits. This, coupled with dwindling federal support of water infrastructure funding, has led to a decades-long decline in the nation's water infrastructure. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says it will take more than $600 billion during the next two decades to bring pipes and treatment facilities nationwide back to standard.

"Maintaining clean, sustainable water supplies is the single most important contributor to public health and is essential to creating vibrant local economies," said David Stanton, president of United Water's regulated segment. "With ever increasing pressure on scarce water resources and dwindling public funds, the private sector has a more important role than ever to provide a lasting solution to America's water challenge. We will partner with communities across the nation seeking a viable solution to the increasing challenge of maintaining water and wastewater infrastructure."



Be a Part of History

The New Jersey Conference of Mayors will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2013 and is compiling 50 years of its history (photos, articles, interviews) into an NJCM 50th Anniversary Commemorative History Book.

You are cordially invited to participate in the history book by providing an advertisement commemorating the NJCM on its history of service over the past 50 years.

The Commemorative History Book will be distributed to all elected officials in all branches of state, county and local government, former officials who were part of NJCM history, NJCM Business Council members and various other business organizations throughout the state.

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Hardwick Township – Thoughtful Policies Help Preserve a Rural Gem

By: Mayor James Perry, Hardwick Township

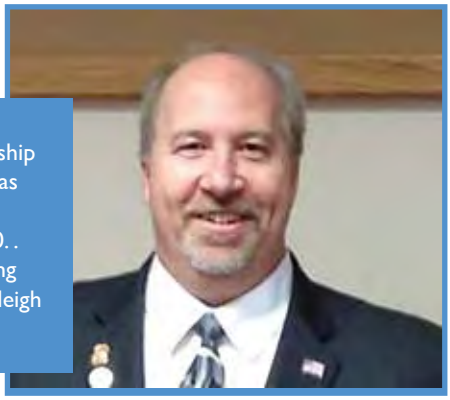
Policies adopted by rural Hardwick Township, located in northern Warren County, may be useful for other NJ towns seeking to balance growth with respect for and preservation of their community's essential character. Before exploring these policies in more detail a little background on Hardwick Township is in order.

Created by royal charter sometime around 1713 and formally incorporated as a township in 1798, Hardwick Township, like many NJ communities, has a rich history dating back to pre-revolutionary times. Present day Hardwick is roughly 38 square miles in area with approximately 1700 residents ranking it least densely populated in Warren County and tenth least in NJ.

About 50% of the township is the former community of Pahaquarry (annexed in 1997) which for the most part consists of federal and state parkland. The remainder of the township is zoned LD residential. The entire township is considered environmentally sensitive and is generally characterized by rocky, poorly drained soils and steep slopes. Despite its long history, Hardwick has no town center. Instead, the residents rely on nearby Blairstown, which is only a few minutes away. There is no business zone in Hardwick although four active camps operate in the township providing a modest number of jobs for residents. Hardwick possesses little prime farmland, but there are a small number of farms, many of these continuing a family tradition dating back for generations.

An overwhelming majority of Hardwick residents have long been very vocal about their desire to retain the town's rural character. With this mandate in mind, the town's governing body has consistently sought to formulate policies directed to this end. Some of these which have been particularly effective, and which may be useful for other towns are described as follows.

Given its environmentally sensitive and very rural character, low density land usage has always made sense for Hardwick.



Mayor James Perry has been on Township Committee since 2000, and is entering 4th year as Mayor. He is a local business owner of Comtech Solutions, a computer repair business since 2000. . Born and raised in East Rutherford before moving to Hardwick in 1993, Mayor Perry attended Fairleigh Dickinson University in Rutherford.

Mindful of these constraints, but also sensitive to respecting property rights, the township some time ago adopted a flexible approach towards subdivisions. A lot size averaging requirement mandates very low density while a minimum lot size allowance set at less than one third the average requirement provides the property owner with considerable latitude in designing a subdivision. It becomes possible to tailor a proposed subdivision to account for slopes, wetlands, and other natural constraints, but also to provide building lots of varying sizes and costs which serves to promote a desirable diversity in housing. Smaller pre-existing, but undeveloped lots have been grandfathered to further promote this end.

Hardwick has been very proactive with open space acquisition. Acquisitions occur on a purely voluntary basis, however, whereby the township seeks out willing sellers either for the sale of development rights or outright purchase. Here again, the township seeks to respect the rights of property owners to determine for themselves the best approach to managing their land, now and for posterity. This approach has worked extremely well for the township with many owners of the larger parcels taking advantage of the opportunity to obtain significant financial benefits while preserving their properties for future generations. As an example, three of the four camps in town have acted to preserve significant portions of their extensive land holdings.

The township has been similarly flexible in seeking funding for open space acquisitions. A municipal open space tax yields fairly modest funding, but these monies have been leveraged to obtain access to Warren County funding, Green Acres funding, and funding from several NGO's. Of particular note is Hardwick's ongoing relationship with Blairstown's Ridge and Valley Conservancy whose president, Bob Canace, has served Hardwick for many years as an able and invaluable consultant for conservation projects.

Two of the key elements of a successful municipal open space program are consistency and good leadership. Hardwick has been fortunate to have open space committee members who have served long terms, providing institutional memory and an amicable, productive work environment. The township has also had the good fortune of having a steady, knowledgeable head at the helm of the program in Jim Mckim for an extended period. Jim has remained dedicated to carrying out the core principles of the township's open space plan, has worked to greatly leverage the township's modest open space trust fund with other sources has fostered an open exchange of opinions on projects as opportunities presented themselves, and has gotten the committee

continued on Page 41

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CFG Health Systems and Hudson County Jail Employees Praised By Freeholders for NCCHC Accreditation

By: James Javon Neal, MD, FACP, CCHP, Medical Director

CFG Health Systems, LLC and the staff of the Hudson County Department of Corrections were recently honored by the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders for achieving accreditation of their adult correctional facility.

At a meeting held July 11, 2013, the Freeholders approved a resolution congratulating CFG, which provides medical services to inmates and the jail's professional staff for being awarded accreditation by the National Commission of Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). The jail was found to be in 100 percent compliance with all NCCHC standards.

The resolution also noted that CFG was instrumental in helping Hudson County nursing and correctional (custody) staff members attain the NCCHC's Certified Correctional Health Professional (CCHP) certification. The Hudson County Department of Corrections is the first in New Jersey to have its staff members achieve the CCHP designation.

NCCHC officials commented that they had not expected such a high score on the results because it was the first time that the Hudson County staff had sought CCHP certification.

CFG CEO Les Paschall said the county's custody staff members were instrumental in making sure the survey was a success.

"We are extremely gratified to be recognized by the Freeholders and County Executive Thomas A. DeGise," Mr. Paschall said. "The accreditation is the result of the partnership that has developed between CFG and Hudson County officials and employees since we began providing services at the jail. It has been a real team effort, with everybody doing their part to make sure that quality, effective services are delivered to the inmate population."

The National Commission of Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) is recognized throughout the country for setting standards relative to sustaining and improving the quality of health care in correctional and detention facilities. It developed a nationally recognized and accepted standard for health services in such facilities, established by leaders in the fields of health, law, and corrections. These standards cover areas of care, treatment, health records, administration, personnel, medical legal issues, and are essential resources for correctional and detention facilities in their efforts to improve the health of inmates.

James Javon Neal, MD, FACP, CCHP, serves as Medical Executive with public health and has over 28 years of corporate medical experience. He is a manager with broad-based, culturally sensitive operations skills developed through years of work in urban New York City, Australia, the South Pacific, and the Far East.

The Freeholder Board's praise for the workers at the jail went beyond the accreditation received by the NCCHC. The resolution specifically mentioned actions taken during Hurricane Sandy, noting that "during the height of the storm's catastrophic flooding CFG staff and County personnel remained on site providing much needed healthcare to inmates and detainees at their own peril, and in one instance to a person experiencing severe chest pain."

Superstorm Sandy came ashore October 29, 2012 and directly struck the Hudson County jail. The ensuing tidal surge inundated the parking lot before flowing into and throughout the facility.

CFG employees, along with county-employed nurses and corrections officers, were forced to wade through knee-deep waters to respond to the panic of the inmates. Without phone service and unable to determine whether their own families were safe and secure, the workers, operating under the power of an emergency generator, made sure that every patient received medication that night and throughout the storm.

"The actions taken during the storm exemplify the extent of the cooperation and determination that exists at the Hudson County jail," Mr. Paschall said. "Everybody involved with its operation is very deserving of the honor and recognition that the Freeholders have bestowed. Along with County Executive DeGise, I also want to thank Freeholder Director Anthony L. Romano and Oscar Aviles, the Hudson County Director of Corrections, for the spirit of teamwork they have displayed since CFG has been providing services at the jail."

CFG Health Systems serves a multitude of correctional facilities and hospitals in

continued on Page 41

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Richard E. Constable - continued from Page 39

The new word favored by the federal government is to prepare our communities to be more "resilient" to withstand future weather events.

HUD's notice announcing the $1.46 billion in CDBG Disaster Recovery funds states "it is essential to build back stronger and more resilient. This allocation provides additional funds to Sandy-impacted grantees to support investments in mitigation and resilience and directs grantees to undertake comprehensive planning to promote general resilience as part of the recovery effort."

The rational for the new mandates is the federal government does not want to keep paying to repair the same structures storm after storm. Repair it stronger once and, hopefully, you won't have to repair it again.

With this direction in mind, the Christie Administration has set about developing the Action Plan for how the State will allocate the second round of CDBG Disaster Recovery funds. Undoubtedly, the recovery efforts included in the next Action Plan will demonstrate our continued commitment to rebuilding stronger, smarter, and safer until the job is done.

Jane Kozinski - continued from Page 7

facilities so we can accelerate the diversion of those materials from the waste stream.

Recycling is working in New Jersey. Many local governments, businesses and institutions are shining examples of the strong recycling work ethic that spreads throughout their communities.

Last month, we celebrated America Recycles Day. Let's make it the starting point for everyone – every local and county government, every business, every school and every institution, to renew their commitment to recycling.

Look at what's working, and look at what you can do to improve. Get your family, friends, co-workers, teachers and schoolmates, neighbors and employers involved.

Recycling is good for New Jersey's environment, good for your pocketbook and good for our economy.

For information on recycling, including tips, statistics, trends, a downloadable audio public service announcement, and more, visit: www.RecycleNJ.org

Amy Osborn - continued from Page 13

fluctuate but loyalty does not. We have and will always find ways to ensure our tax payers get a full investment for the taxes they spend. While I'm not a fan of cutting services that are afforded to the community, we always look at cost saving measures that will maximize the services for the money spent.

Osborn: What are your thoughts on the Green Acres Program and how has your town benefited, if at all?

Buzby Cope: The State had just doubled the funding because we had just reached 40 percent of State-owned land, when the Governor slashed the funding by a third when balancing the budget. Thankfully, it stopped there and they didn't take it all away.

Heck: Green Acres is an excellent program for all communities. We have about 1/3 of the town under some sort of preservation plan. Programs, like Green Acres, promote a natural habitat for wildlife and create outdoor recreation opportunities for the public. Generations to come will enjoy the land we preserved today.

Osborn: If you were to write a new slogan for your municipality today, what would it be?

Buzby Cope: Bass River – A Great Place to Work, Play and Live!

Heck: Millstone Borough, Welcome Home…

Osborn: What has been the value of your NJCM Membership?

Buzby Cope: Being able to work with other Mayors throughout the State to gain knowledge and listen to their strengths and accomplishments in their communities, and then apply it to Bass River.

Heck: The networking opportunities. I have had the privilege to interact with some of the most brilliant Democrats, Republicans, and Independent Mayors this state has ever produced. The knowledge experience my fellow Mayors bring to the table is second to none. No attitudes and no hidden agenda, just a group of hard working people working together to achieve the same goals for their communities.

For information on these two fine communities, please visit their official websites at: www.bassriver-nj.org and www.millstoneboro.org

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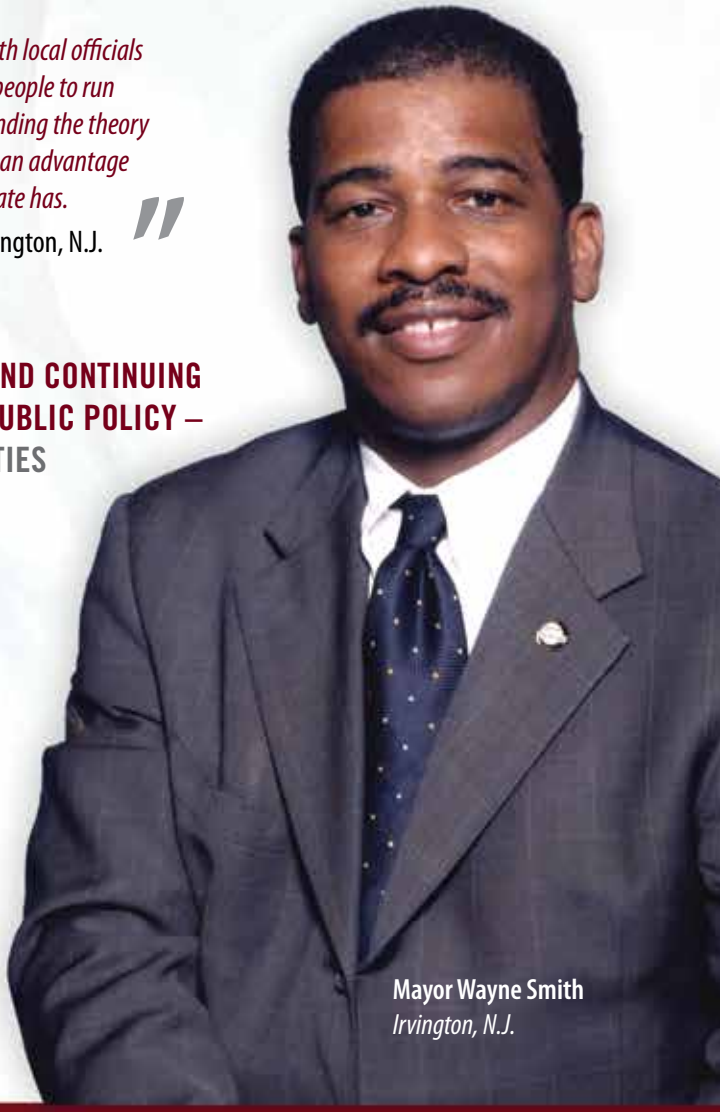
Mayor Wayne Smith, Irvington, N.J.



Mayor Wayne Smith
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James Perry - continued from Page 35

to act when good opportunities presented themselves. Jim is also a valuable asset to our planning board as Vice Chair.

While farming is not as central to the situation in Hardwick as it is in some other rural NJ communities, it is none-the-less an activity and vocation Hardwick seeks to encourage. To this end, Hardwick permits both hobby and commercial farming activities throughout township. Here again, the township tries to promote a careful balance between the sometimes differing interests of farmers and residents. An example of this is Hardwick's recently passed setback ordinance for accessory structures for commercial farming. By adopting a variable setback requirement which allows small structures to be located close to property boundaries while requiring greater setbacks for larger structures, the township aims to provide farmers with additional flexibility in locating their outbuildings while also affording their neighbors protection from intrusive, view-blocking construction.

As noted above, Hardwick has taken a pro-active approach to accommodating rural-friendly residential development which is accessible to families with a broad range of incomes. As another example of pro-activeness, the township recently worked with the Nature Conservancy and Warren County Habitat for Humanity to support acquisition of a property crossing township and county lines between Hardwick and Stillwater Townships while saving a cottage on the property from probable demolition. Instead, this modest home will be refurbished and dedicated to meeting part of the Township's COAH obligation.

In summary, the few examples cited above should serve to show how flexible, creative, and pro-active approaches can enhance a rural community's ability to preserve its character and open space while remaining respectful of property rights, necessary environmental constraints, and obligations to foster an inclusive community.

James Javon Neal - continued from Page 37

several states throughout the country. In addition to Hudson County Correctional Facility and the Hudson County Juvenile Detention Center, CFG provides services to six additional correctional facilities in New Jersey alone.

Incorporated in 1999 as part of CFG's Health Network System, CFG Health Systems is a physician-owned and operated organization that specializes in providing comprehensive medical and behavioral health services to correctional facilities and hospitals.

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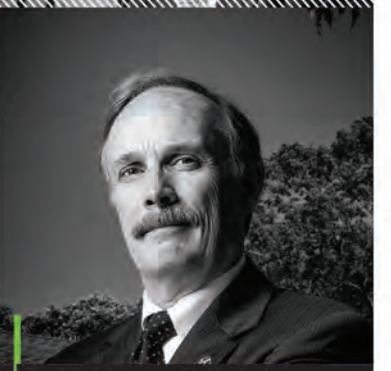

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