Words In Action: To provide a unified approach and open line of communication to our State and Federal Legislatures and Administrations that reflects the will of the people of the great State of New Jersey and works to improve the health and well being of all its residents.
2015 Award Recipients

Mayor of the Year
Deborah Buzby-Cope, Bass River Township

Former Mayor of the Year
Honorable Gerald Tarantolo, Eatontown

Lee Veale Award
Honorable John J. Tarditi

Former Deputy Mayor of the Year
Honorable Ted Dorn, Haddonfield

US Representatives of the Year
Congressman Albio Sires
Congressman Christopher H. Smith (not shown)

Legislator of the Year
Senator Dawn Marie Addiego

Cabinet Member of the Year
Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno

Legislator of the Year
Senator James Beach

Business Leadership Award
Jersey Central Power & Light

Legislator of the Year
Senator Steven Oroho

Freeholder of the Year
Freeholder Giuseppe (Joe) Chila, Gloucester County

Legislator of the Year
Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto

Business Leadership Award
PNC Bank

Special Lifetime Achievement Award
William Dressel, Executive Director, NJLOM

Business Member of the Year
Atlantic City Electric

NOT SHOWN:
Legislators of the Year
Senator Paul A. Sarlo
Assemblywoman Donna M. Simon

Special Achievement Award
BPU President Richard S. Mroz
President
Mayor Raymond Heck, Millstone Borough

Vice Presidents
Mayor Arthur R. Ondish, Mt. Arlington Borough, First Vice President
Mayor Phyllis Jeffries-Magazzu, Berlin Township, Second Vice President
Mayor James J. Perry, Hardwick Township, Third Vice President
Mayor Chuck Chiarello, Buena Vista Township, Fourth Vice President

Immediate Past President
Mayor Deborah Buzby-Cope, Bass River Township

Executive Officers
Mayor Betty Ann Cowling-Carson, Magnolia Borough, President’s Appointee
Hon. John F. Morrissey, Chairman, Mayors Emeritus Advisory Council

Executive Director
John F. Morrissey, Merchantville

NJCM Legislative Committee
Mayor Timothy McDonough, Hope Township, Chair
Mayor Susan Howard, Monmouth Beach, Co-Chair

NJCM Business Council Director
Mayor Gary Passanante, Somerdale

Attorneys
Steven S. Gluckman, Esq., General / Labor Counsel
William J. Caruso, Esq., Legislative Counsel

Legislative Consultant
Paul Bent

NJCM Staff
Mary Zajack, Operations Manager

Atlantic County
Donald Purdy, Galloway Twp.
Chuck Chiarello, Buena Vista Twp.
James J. McCullough, Egg Harbor Twp.
Gary B. Giberson, Port Republic City

Bergen County
Paul A. Hoescher, Harrington Park Boro
Peter S. Rustin, Tenafly Boro
Walter Wargacki, Wallington Boro

Burlington County
Deborah Buzby-Cope, Bass River Twp.
Dr. James A. Fazio, Burlington City
Thomas E. Harper, Wrightstown Boro
Kimberly A. Brown, Tabernacle Twp.

Camden County
Betsy Ann Cowling-Carson, Magnolia Boro
John Armano, Berlin Boro
Phyllis Jeffries-Magazzu, Berlin Twp.
Gary J. Passanante, Somerdale Boro

Cape May County
Pamela Kehler, West Cape May Boro
William Pikielny, Woodbine Boro
Suzanne M. Walters, Stone Harbor Boro
Martin Pagliughi, Avalon Boro

Cumberland County
Robert Campbell, Downton Twp.
Ruben Bermudez, City of Vineland
Albert Kelly, Bridgeton City

Essex County
Victor Deluca, Maplewood

Gloucester County
Frank W. Minor, Logan Twp.
Louis Manzo, Harrison Twp.
George W. Shivery, Jr., Greenwich Twp.
Leo McCabe, Glassboro

Hudson County
Richard F. Turner, Weehawken Twp.
Gerald R. Drasheff, Guttenberg Town

Hunterdon County
David M. DeVecchio, Lambertville City
Janice Kovach, Clinton Town
James G. Gallos, Milford Boro
Paul J. Muir, Bethlehem Twp.

Mercer County
David Fried, Robbinsville Twp.
Janice S. Mironov, East Windsor Twp.
Anthony Persichilli, Pennington Boro
Shing-Fu Hsueh, West Windsor Twp.

Middlesex County
John McCORMAC, Woodbridge Twp.
Eric A. Stecher, Milltown Boro
Brian C. Walther, Piscataway Twp.

Monmouth County
Robert Brown, Neptune City
Susan Howard, Monmouth Beach Boro
Frank Nolan, Highlands Boro
Fred Tagliarini, Aberdeen Twp.

Morris County
William Chegwidden, Wharton Boro
Robert Collins, Kinnelon Boro
James P. Dodd, Dover Town
Arthur R. Ondish, Mt. Arlington Boro

Ocean County
Vincent Barrella, Point Pleasant Beach
Paul J. Kennedy, Ocean Gate Boro
Ronald F. Roma, Beachwood
Carmen F. Amato Jr., Berkeley Twp.

Passaic County
Richard Goldberg, Hawthorne Boro
Daniel G. Mahler, Wanaque

Salem County
Sean Elwell, Elsinboro Twp.
Joseph Stemberger, Elmer Boro

Somerset County
Angelo Corradino, Manville Boro
Raymond S. Heck, Millstone Boro
Daniel J. Hayes, Jr., Bridgewater Twp.
Paul Vallone, Far Hills Boro

Sussex County
Paul Marino, Hamburg Boro
James Osvovitch, Byram Twp.
Carl Lazzaro, Fredon Twp.
Victor J. Marotta, Vernon Twp.

Union County
Colleen Mahr, Fanwood Boro
Ellen Dickson, Summit City

Warren County
Robert M. Giordano, Independence Twp.
Timothy C. McDonough, Hope Twp.
James J. Perry, Hardwick Twp.
James R. Kern, III, Pohatcong Twp.

2015 New Jersey Conference of Mayors
Conference Magazine
Published bi-annually by the
New Jersey Conference of Mayors.
Issue I - 2015

NJCM Offices
410 Riverview Plaza
Trenton, New Jersey 08611
P: 609.989.9216 | F: 609.989.9595
email: njcm@njcm.org
www.njcm.org

CONTENTS

From the President.......................................................... 3
From the Executive Director: ....................................... 3
2015 NJCM Annual Conference................................. 5
New Jersey Mayors Can Lead the Charge
in the Fight to Renew the Transportation Trust Fund ....... 7
JCP & L Meeting its Goal of Delivering Quality Customer Service9
Comcast Launches Customer Service Initiative ............. 11
Cooperation a Key to Strong Storm Response ............... 13
Energy Savings Opportunity ...................................... 15
Efforts Move Forward in Quest to Promote Gun Safety
in State Schools..................................................... 17
2015 NJCM SPRING CONFERENCE......................... 19-24
NJCM Exhibitors Directory....................................... 25
Mayors Emeritus Provide Significant Support
to the Annual NJCM Conference ............................. 27
2016 State Budget Highlights ................................. 29
NJCM Business Council:
Mayors and Business Council Members Share
Common Goals and Concerns ................................. 31
Sustainability a Priority in Township of Hamilton......... 33
800 New Jobs Come to Gloucester Township ............. 35
Verizon Prepared to Respond to any Weather Emergency 37

Please note our equal space policy of printing differing viewpoints on major New Jersey issues. Articles presented are not necessarily the opinion of NJCM. The NJCM Conference Magazine, (ISSN #10656310)
Vol. 54 No. 1 is a published bi-annually in June and October for its members by The New Jersey Conference of Mayors, 410 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey 08611. Periodical Postage paid at (Trenton, NJ) and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to New Jersey Conference of Mayors, 410 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey 08611.
©Copyright, New Jersey Conference of Mayors, 2015
EMEX™ Reverse Auctions:
A Leader in Saving Money on Energy Costs for New Jersey’s Municipalities, Schools and Utility Authorities

For New Jersey Government Agencies, EMEX has:

- Helped Save Tens of Millions of Dollars
- Facilitated Over 350 Electricity & Natural Gas Contracts
- Served More Than 1.5 Billion kWh

Start a free consultation today and see how much EMEX can reduce your local government’s electricity and natural gas bills.

1 877 459 4728
EnergyMarketExchange.com/njgov
It is truly an honor and privilege to serve as the President of this fine organization. More importantly, it was very exciting to see that this year’s annual conference had a record attendance. While we had some spectacular sessions, it was the networking with our fellow Mayors that really made the annual conference a success. We all know that regardless of our size or form of government, many of our issues are substantially similar in nature. I personally want to thank our Executive Director Jack Morrissey, Operations Manager Mary Zajack, Administrative Aide Betty Dorn, Business Council Director Mayor Gary Passanante and our wonderful members of the Mayors Emeritus Advisory Council. These people spend countless hours preparing to ensure that we all have a successful conference.

Moving forward, we have some challenges that still await us. OPRA reform is still a priority as is the aftermath of COAH. But we as Mayors have historically been proactive in finding real solutions to some challenging issues. Take Newark’s Mayor Ras Baraka for example. His “Occupy the Block” campaign is just what Newark’s residents need to see. He is a physical presence on the streets and is reaching out to the at risk youths to talk about alternatives to violence. Another fine example is Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop’s prisoner re-entry program, which provides skills and job placement for former inmates to reintegrate into society. Crime has no boundaries and it affects every town. These are just two examples of leaders willing to seek out solutions. State aid, Transportation Trust Fund and the 2% cap are other topics of discussion that we will continue to monitor.

Our legislative committee co-chaired by Mayor Tim McDonough and Mayor Sue Howard has continued to stay focused on upcoming legislation. Regular meetings are scheduled to monitor upcoming bills and to form opinions and positions that will benefit our communities. Mayor Brian Wahler acts as our liaison to the United States Conference of Mayors and continues to make huge strides for our New Jersey Mayors. While the USCM’s membership is open to municipalities with populations over 30,000, any municipality is welcome to attend both the winter summit and annual conference. I urge everyone to attend at least once as you will receive a million dollar education in a few short days.

This year will prove to be a memorable one for us. I am fortunate to follow a great leader, Mayor Deborah Buzby-Cope, and serve with an outstanding executive board. Together with the Board of Directors, we will continue to be the eyes and ears for our fellow Mayors in the great state of New Jersey. While some think that all we do is show up to picnics and parades, all 565 of us know what it takes to provide a good quality of life for our communities.

In Solidarity,
Mayor Raymond S. Heck
President - NJCM
The John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies offers flexible, online programs designed for working adults who are interested in professional and personal growth.

**Graduate Degrees**

- Master of Science in Homeland Security
- Master of Science in Management
- Master of Public Service Leadership

Undergraduate and Continuing Studies programs also available.

**BUILDING CAPACITY IN NEW JERSEY CITIES**

**Jesse Tweedle**  
Mayor, Pleasantville, N.J.  
*New Jersey Urban Mayors’ Association*

**Linda Peyton**  
City Administrator, Pleasantville, N.J.  
Student, Master of Public Service Leadership

**LEARN MORE:**

**VISIT** [www.tesc.edu/watsonschool](http://www.tesc.edu/watsonschool)  
**CALL** (866) 637-4082

*The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy provides support for the New Jersey Urban Mayors’ Association on issues and opportunities facing New Jersey’s cities and urban municipalities.*
During April 22-24, 2015 The New Jersey Conference of Mayors conducted its 52nd Annual Conference at the Borgata Hotel, Casino and Spa in Atlantic City. The Annual Conference was again a very successful event bringing together many Mayors and other elected officials to be brought up to date regarding State Budget, Legislative and Judicial issues impacting Municipalities.

Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno was the keynote speaker at the grand luncheon addressing Economic Development in New Jersey by citing recent instances where the state has provided financial incentives to maintain and attract businesses to New Jersey.

At the Grand Luncheon NJCM President Deborah Buzby-Cope of Bass River Township presented Lt. Governor Guadagno, who also serves in the Governor’s Cabinet as Secretary of State for New Jersey, with The NJCM Cabinet Member of the Year Award. The award is well deserved and was supported by the response of the attendees at the event.

The Governor’s Cabinet members also attended the luncheon and afterward stayed to participate in face-to-face roundtable discussions with the Mayors, answering questions pertaining to their respective departments and providing the opportunities for further meetings to discuss concerns of the Mayors.

Also at the luncheon, Mayor Buzby-Cope cited some of the achievements of the NJCM during her year as President especially the forming of an NJCM Gun Safety Committee to help educate individuals, particularly our youth, in gun safety. Mayor Buzby-Cope was honored as the NJCM Mayor of the Year at the Awards Reception the following evening.

An extra special feature at this year’s Luncheon was the outstanding singing of “God Bless America” by Donnah Lisa Campbell a member of the Bass River Township Elementary School sixth grade class. The audience, led by Lt. Governor Guadagno and Mayor Buzby-Cope, responded with a lengthy standing ovation. The entire sixth grade class then provided the Flag Salute.

In addition to the Governor’s Cabinet roundtable sessions, panel sessions provided at the Conference included:

- NJCM Legislative Committee meeting addressing current legislative issues impacting municipalities with an emphasis on current COAH issues
- Cyber Security, New Water and Sewer Legislation, Energy Reverse Auction Options and Abandoned Properties
- Municipal Bonding Issues, Municipalities and Local Media, New Flood Insurance Issues and BPU Energy Grants
- Shared Services, Successes and Proposals, Transportation Trust Fund
- State Budget, Property Tax Reform and Pension Reform
- Federal Legislation Issues provided by Representatives from the U.S. Conference of Mayors

Many thanks to the panelists and moderators of the panel sessions. The panels consisted of leaders in the State Legislature, business leaders, NJCM Business Council Members and Mayors, all of whom were very knowledgeable of the session subject.

At the Legislative Committee meeting Mayor Timothy McDonough of Hope Township was unanimously re-elected as the Legislative Committee Chairman and Mayor Susan Howard, Monmouth Beach Borough, as co-chairperson.

There were no changes to the NJCM Constitution and By-Laws proposed by the By-Laws Committee to the Board of Directors at the Conference.

At the Wednesday evening Board of Directors dinner meeting NJCM Platinum and Gold level sponsors were recognized with a plaque for their support of the Conference and EMEX for their sponsorship of the dinner meeting. During the Program Mayor Emeritus Jack Tarditi was awarded The Lee Vele Award for his continued support of the NJCM. He is the past two time President of the NJCM.

At the NJCM Legislative Awards Reception Mayor Ray Heck, Millstone Borough, was sworn in as NJCM President for 2015-2016 by Senator Steven Oroho. Following his swearing in the members of the NJCM Executive Board and the Board of Directors were also sworn in. Members of the NJCM Legislative Committee, NJCM Gun Safety Committee and members of the NJCM Mayors Emeritus Advisory Council were recognized for their support of the NJCM and presented with certificates of appreciation by NJCM President Mayor Deborah Buzby-Cope.

continued on Page 31
Are you familiar with the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York's (FHLBNY's) Letter of Credit (L/C) program? An FHLBNY L/C is a triple-A-rated credit instrument that offers local community banks an attractive alternate way to secure your public deposits. Under New York law, commercial banks and qualified savings and loans or savings banks may utilize an FHLBNY L/C as eligible collateral.

Benefits of accepting FHLBNY L/Cs:
» No cost to you
» Approved by the state
» Secured collateralization option
» Efficient operational process
» Immediate pay on draw certificate

Visit www.fhlbn.com/lc to learn all about L/Cs — view a sample L/C, the laws governing L/Cs, the issuance process, and related articles. Here you can also submit a request for a list of participating FHLBNY members in your area.
New Jersey Mayors Can Lead the Charge in the Fight to Renew the Transportation Trust Fund

By: Jamie Fox, Commissioner, NJ Department of Transportation

New Jersey Mayors can be a potent weapon in the fight to renew the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund (TTF).

Mayors know how to build public support for an issue. They know how to run a campaign, and they know how to win. Make no mistake, we are in the middle of a campaign that has significant consequences for every resident and business owner in New Jersey.

The TTF is funded for now, but come July, 2016, we will start a new fiscal year with zero state dollars for new transportation projects. That’s zero for Local Aid grants for municipal or county road and bridge projects, and zero for new state highway, bridge or NJ TRANSIT projects.

Think about it: a bankrupt TTF affects everyone. That’s the message that needs to be delivered, and the message which I believe will generate wide support for a sustainable solution.

Nobody likes a tax increase, or a toll increase or a fare increase. But if the TTF falters, no one escapes unscathed.

Local elected officials are keenly aware how TTF grants awarded through the New Jersey Department of Transportation help them control property taxes. Without a robust TTF renewal, that grant money – some $200 million annually – disappears.

The ramifications of a broke TTF do not end there. NJ TRANSIT customers are seeing higher fares because there is not enough money in the TTF to help offset the agency’s costs. The TTF already relies upon supplemental funding from tolls paid by NJ Turnpike Authority motorists. Would a broke or under-funded TTF increase pressure for more support? And as pavement conditions deteriorate, motorists face increasingly expensive out-of-pocket costs for vehicle repair bills.

Over the next few months, we need to agree on two key issues: how much money should we direct to the TTF each year, and how should we generate that money?

This is not a Republican versus Democrat issue, or an urban versus rural issue. This is a New Jersey issue, and solving it benefits everyone. It will benefit the economy and the environment. It will reduce pressure on property taxes, on transit fares and on tolls. It deserves a solution based on shared sacrifice.

There are those who question whether NJDOT makes good use of its public resources. I welcome opportunities to explore new cost-savings strategies beyond what the NJDOT already does in this regard. The backlog of road and bridge and transit projects is extensive, so I would suggest that any savings that is identified be reinvested into our transportation infrastructure, which is the backbone of the New Jersey economy.

Nearly 600 bridges in New Jersey are structurally deficient, and the measure of DOT-maintained highways in acceptable condition has slipped below 60 percent. These statistics do not mean that we have been wasting our resources. Instead, they show that our resources have been limited, and that we have been under-investing in our transportation infrastructure.

A robust TTF will allow NJ TRANSIT to collaborate with other transportation agencies and funding partners on new and improved highway tunnel and extensions of light rail lines. These projects will improve mobility, encourage business development, reduce highway congestion and provide environmental benefits.

With adequate funding, NJDOT will attack the list of structurally deficient bridges, rebuild or repave many more miles of highway, invest in technology to improve traffic flow, and support local transportation projects that municipalities and counties could not otherwise afford.

All of this is well within our reach. Please join me and take a stand for a renewed and robust TTF. Please submit any suggestions to Correspondence.UnitDOT@dot.nj.gov.
WE HAVE TO COME CLEAN

By the time it comes out of your tap, your water has run through a series of state-of-the-art treatment processes and is subject to 24-hour monitoring by licensed operators.

The result is clean and delicious water that has met or surpassed all government safety standards.

www.unitedwater.com

Mobilizing your community

Connected communities are strong communities. By advancing our technologies and services, we’re helping to create the opportunities that make a better New Jersey. When everything works together, your community moves forward.
In 2012, Jersey Central Power & Light experienced the most devastating storm to ever hit New Jersey. Hurricane Sandy knocked out power to nearly all of our 1.1 million customers and resulted in the largest service restoration effort in the state’s history.

We’re proud of our response to Hurricane Sandy. But more importantly, our employees listened to the concerns of customers following the storm. Those customers wanted more from their electric company, more information, more options and more technologies that help ensure the level of service they expect and deserve. And we responded by making the right investments to improve service reliability and provide more ways for customers to stay connected when outages occur.

It’s all part of our efforts to become a stronger, more customer-focused electric company.

For example, we’re adding new circuits and lines, reinforcing other lines and equipment, and making hundreds of millions of dollars in upgrades to meet growing customer demand for electricity. This year alone, JCP&L committed $267 million to distribution, transmission and other projects designed to enhance service reliability and strengthen our electric system. This investment builds on the significant progress we made during the previous year, when 160 projects totaling $250 million resulted in 17 percent fewer outages for customers.

Recognizing that demand for electricity remains high, we’ve made transmission investment an important part of our efforts to meet the future energy needs of customers. Through our “Energizing the Future” program, we’re investing more than $100 million in 2015 on new transmission lines, substation expansions and other related improvements that will benefit customers for years to come.

In addition, we reinforced our tree-trimming program, which led to a 22 percent decrease in tree-related outages in 2014. And, to better prepare for major weather-related outages, we launched the Incident Command System – an emergency response process used by federal, state and local emergency management organizations.

We’ve introduced several new channels to communicate more effectively with our customers. These encompass all facets of web-based communications, including Twitter, Facebook, JCP&L’s mobile website and a free smart phone app. Our website also features a 24/7 Power Center with an interactive map that provides updates on outages, crew status and restoration time.

JCP&L was the first utility in New Jersey to create separate MyTown web pages providing outage-related and other information to every community in its service area. In addition, we’ve added new Area Managers who actively engage with elected officials and community leaders, listening to their concerns and keeping them informed.

These are just a few of the many positive changes that are driving continuous improvement throughout our company. But more importantly, they help ensure customers benefit from a better quality of service, 24/7.

JCP&L employees also take pride in their strong support of local communities. In March, employees participating in the Harvest for Hunger campaign raised more than $21,000 and donated thousands of pounds of food – the equivalent of 100 meals per employee – to local food banks. In the past decade alone, employees have donated $518,000 to United Way and raised $118,000 for Harvest for Hunger.

JCP&L also sustains local communities by serving as a major employer. Our Power Systems Institute (PSI) workforce development program combines classroom learning at Raritan Valley Community College and Brookdale Community College with hands-on training at company-operated facilities to prepare JCP&L’s next generation of line and substation workers.

We’re receiving strong recognition for these and other achievements. JCP&L was recently named “Business Leadership of the Year Honoree” by the New Jersey Conference of Mayors (NJCM) for our continuing efforts to establish strong working relationships with mayors across our service area. And, for our work in the community, we received the Commerce and Industry Association’s “Champions of Good Work” trophy.

By investing in our infrastructure, improving reliability and supporting local communities, JCP&L is bringing good energy to New Jersey. These and other efforts help our 1,500 employees do what they do best – provide quality service to customers, around the clock.
THE DSO ADVANTAGE

- Tailor-made plans to accommodate your individual needs.
- No co-pays for exams, x-rays, cleanings and fillings.
- No annual maximums or deductibles.
- 25 years of providing benefits to private enterprises, school districts, municipalities.

DSO has partnered with Eastern Dental®* offering benefits to members & their families at locations throughout New Jersey.

HAVE YOU

Smiled?

DSO

Dental Services Organization, Inc.

Call 732-634-4810 or visit www.dentalservicesorganization.com

*Melvin Feiler, DDS • Aaron Feiler, DDS

State-of-the-Art Dental Care Within Your Reach!
As a company serving about one million New Jersey customers, in an exciting time when our industry is launching so many exciting products and services, Comcast knows that an excellent service experience is just as important to our customers as the cutting-edge technology we provide.

That is why I’m so proud that we recently announced a multi-year plan to reinvent the customer experience and create a culture focused on exceeding customers’ expectations, at all levels of the company.

The plan centers on looking at every decision through a customer lens and making measurable changes and improvements across the company.

The core elements of the plan include: creating more than 5,500 customer service jobs over the next few years and setting a goal to always be on time for customer appointments by the end of 2015. We will also make major investments in technology and training to give employees the tools they need to deliver excellent service. We will simplify billing and create better policies to provide greater consistency and transparency to customers. Additionally, the plan includes the renovation of hundreds of stores across the country and the development of new technologies that will enable customers to interact with us how and when they want.

Since we made this commitment in May, 2015 we’ve already announced more than 2,250 new jobs that will serve customers across the country in new centers in Albuquerque, NM; Spokane, WA; and Tucson, AZ. The new center in Albuquerque will be staffed with bilingual employees who will support Spanish-speaking customers. Comcast is also tripling the size of its social care team to serve customers more quickly on Twitter, Facebook and other social platforms, and we are hiring 250 team members to serve in Xfinity Stores across the country.

To meet the goal of never being late and respecting customers’ time, Comcast is hiring hundreds of additional technicians across the country and here in New Jersey, and we are strengthening Comcast dispatch teams and operations. If a technician doesn’t arrive on time for an appointment, customers will automatically receive a credit of $20.

Comcast is also making significant investments in its workforce tools and developing cutting-edge technology that will help our technicians and call center employees deliver excellent service. We are currently rolling out a new, cloud-based platform that gives employees a better, holistic view of account histories so they have everything they need to help customers faster. Starting this year, all employees, from senior management to frontline representatives, will be required to participate in additional, annual customer experience training. In addition, new smart network tools have been developed to proactively diagnose issues in the network and enable Comcast engineers to solve them before they reach customers.

This reinvention of the customer experience will involve major changes to the in-store experience. Comcast is redesigning all of its stores, adding staff and introducing new capabilities, including intelligent queuing that allows customers to reserve a place ‘in line’ from their mobile phone, to cut wait times. We have opened or built 125 new stores to date and plan to reach all 500 of our locations over the next few years. Here in New Jersey, we have already opened two new Xfinity retail stores, in Mount Laurel and West Orange, with plans for more to come in the near future. These stores are designed entirely around the needs and feedback of Comcast customers, and provide visitors with an opportunity to explore, learn about and interact with the latest Xfinity products and services. They are also in convenient retail locations and feature extended hours and large, well-trained staff.

continued on Page 36
Serving NJ Municipalities for over 30 Years!

ENGINEERS • PLANNERS • SURVEYORS • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS • ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS

- Municipal Engineering
- Recreation
- Water / Wastewater
- Traffic / Transportation
- Planning
- Surveying
- Environmental
- Landscaping & Forestry
- GIS
- Structural Engineering
- Solid Waste Consulting
- Hydraulic and Storm Drainage
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Alternative Energy
- Health Care / Special Needs Facilities

Consulting & Municipal ENGINEERS

www.cmeusa1.com • P: 732.727.8000 •
Cooperation a Key to Strong Storm Response

By: Vincent Maione, President Atlantic City Electric Region, of Pepco Holdings, Inc.

It’s never easy when a storm hits, especially when the storm damage is more severe than anticipated and the lights are out for our customers. There are so many questions when there are outages and I am certain that customers and our public officials expect us to have immediate answers. While Atlantic City Electric is prepared to handle storm damage, it is impossible to know the type and extent of damage until after the storm is over and we have conducted our initial damage assessments. The June 23, 2015 storm damage was unlike any we have seen in past storms, including the 2012 Derecho and Hurricane Sandy. Our initial assessment revealed unimaginable devastation. The national weather service said areas of Gloucester, Burlington and Camden Counties saw micro bursts of straight line winds impacting their areas. These winds damaged 17 of our electric transmission lines which subsequently blacked out five of our substations.

Once the damage was assessed, we were able to plan how many crews were needed, the types of crews, schedule tree removal and give our customers more details about the restoration time. This storm gave us an opportunity to partner with the state, county and municipalities affected to safely clear roadways, identify critical facilities that were out and help remove the unprecedented amount of trees/wires that caused road closures.

There is no doubt the June 23 storm caused more serious damages to our electric system than either Hurricane Sandy or the Derecho. Although some communities saw a lot of devastation, it is fortunate that most communities did not see the widespread damages to homeowner or personal property as with the other storms, but our substations, equipment, poles and wires did. To complicate things further, communication issues were exacerbated by the widespread 12 hour wireless communications outage, which impacted our process to start the first phase of restoration.

We are very grateful for the mutual assistance crews from our sister companies, Pepco, Delmarva Power and other companies such as JCP&L, National Grid, Choptank Electric, Delaware Electric Cooperative, Alliance Power and Ohio Edison who left their homes and families to help restore electricity to our communities.

Our employees and the mutual assistance crews worked 16 hour shifts around the clock to restore service as quickly and as safely as possible. The only time our employees did not go up in bucket trucks to make repairs were if wind gusts were over 35 miles an hour. In fact that following Saturday, they worked during the torrential downpours to continue restoration. When there are outages, our employees take great pride in making service restoration their first priority for our valued customers.

I was heartened to see that even in the hardest hit areas, our customers understood the monumental task we had before us and paid our crews nice compliments. They noted that the crews were working in hot weather with heavy rubber gloves and other safety equipment that must be worn in handling electricity.

As with every storm, after power has been restored to everyone affected, we do an assessment to find ways in which we can improve efficiency and communications with our public officials and customers. We welcome comments and look forward to having an open dialogue with you. Most important, on behalf of our team at Atlantic City Electric, I want to thank you and our local communities and customers for your patience and understanding during this past event.
Keeping focused on what matters

Great things happen when we put the focus on our clients' needs. At Bowman & Company, we work to bring the vision of your company to life. Providing business advice, accounting and tax services, we can help you focus on running your business while we deal with the numbers.

For over 75 years Bowman has been providing accounting, tax and consulting services to for-profit businesses, governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations.

for knowing community means everything.

Working for the community. Inspiring the community. PNC supports those who are striving to do amazing things every day. That's why we're so proud to be a part of New Jersey Conference of Mayors.

Government Bankers: Frank Fuzo* Mary Lou Unangst* Jose Cobles* Nathan McCann *Hotline 877-861-6649

©2014 The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. All rights reserved. PNC Bank, National Association. Member FDIC
The act of deciding on a Retail Energy Provider and securing the most reasonable energy rate is one of the most financially impactful decisions a municipality, school, or utility authority must decide on each year. This decision is complicated by the multitude of energy suppliers to choose from, and the constant barrage of brokers that are emailing and calling NJ local government agencies on a daily basis, as well as the pressure of being recruited to join government energy aggregations.

Choosing the best option and saving the most possible taxpayer money on your energy rate is not a “one size fits all” exercise; depending on the size and usage behavior of its meters, a government agency may save the most by individually procuring their own 3rd-party supplier contract, joining an aggregation, or staying on the incumbent utility’s rate. The hardest part of the equation is finding an expert in energy that has all necessary tools in order to uncover the best possible result for a local unit. These tools include:

• The necessary supplier relationships to create a marketplace that induces competition to win a government agency’s business

• The industry expertise to understand energy contracts and ensure a favorable agreement is in place

• A firm understanding of New Jersey procurement law and the necessary Department of Community Affairs (DCA) approval in order to properly and legally serve a government entity

• The analytical capabilities to evaluate all product options available to a customer and create apples-to-apples savings comparisons

• A high level of transparency during the procurement process

• The integrity to recommend the best option without bias, even if it means recommending a competitor’s product

EMEX, a leading DCA-approved consultancy in New Jersey Government energy procurement, has all of these tools, and the reputation & references to back it up, to create the key component that all government purchasers most want when making a decision: Confidence. Additionally, EMEX has revolutionary reverse auction technology that has set the standard for creating hyper-competitive bidding environments that always uncover the lowest possible energy rates in the marketplace for both electricity and natural gas. EMEX Reverse Auctions create transparency amongst the competing Retail Energy Suppliers, and its signature Overtime Mode ensures that suppliers have the chance to continually counter-bid in order to win your business.

EMEX will always compare the prices it is able to generate through its Reverse Auctions against the utility’s rate, as well as any relevant aggregation prices, giving its clients a true look into the market. This comparison provides genuine insight into what will help a town, school, or other government agency save the most money: even if the best price is with another company, such as when EMEX advised clients such as Lumberton Township and Medford Lakes Borough to go back to the utility when their most recent energy renewal contracts were up.

With a core focus on building trust through unbiased energy advice, and a major streak of success in helping local government agencies reduce their collective costs on energy prices by millions of dollars each year, EMEX sets the standard in modern electricity and natural gas procurement practices. EMEX is a completely performance-driven firm and is paid only by the energy suppliers it represents: local government agencies are never billed by EMEX. EMEX is proud to have one of its three national offices located in Trenton, New Jersey and has consultancy visits across the state on a daily basis. To start your obligation-free consultation and get an unbiased look at the energy market and what option gives your municipality, school, or utility authority the most value, call EMEX at 1-877-459-4728 or email info@energymarketexchange.com. EMEX is here to serve the state of New Jersey.
More XFINITY® WiFi in More Places

STAY CONNECTED WITH THOUSANDS OF HOTSPOTS ALL OVER TOWN AT NO EXTRA CHARGE

• Access to XFINITY® WiFi hotspots included with XFINITY Internet.
• Enjoy your favorite XFINITY content on-the-go.
• XFINITY WiFi helps you conserve on your wireless data plan.
• Sign in once and XFINITY WiFi will automatically remember your device.

Not an XFINITY Internet customer? Try it out at no charge. Visit xfinity.com/wifi to learn more.
Efforts Move Forward in Quest to Promote Gun Safety in State Schools

By: Mayor Deborah Buzby-Cope, Bass River Township, Immediate Past President NJCM,

In the aftermath of yet another gun-related violent act, this time in Charleston, South Carolina, our country again begins the ongoing debate about gun safety. Who can and should have access to guns? What are our rights under the U.S. Constitution? Would arming individuals make us safer or lead to more gun violence? Our elected leaders at the federal level may or may not do anything to address this. Sadly, I suspect this debate will continue in earnest throughout our country for many more years before any meaningful reform is accomplished at the federal level.

However in New Jersey, we have decided to take a slightly different approach. Specifically, the New Jersey Conference of Mayors, made up of the men and women that run local governments in our state, has decided to champion an initiative to help reduce the threat posed to the children of this state by accidental shootings. This effort would focus our attention on utilizing the school system as a vehicle to provide education to elementary school children about the dangers of playing with firearms and what to do if they find a gun.

Unfortunately, anytime you take on an initiative related to firearms, you cannot avoid the strong feelings from both sides of the ongoing gun debate. And, we understand that this is only one aspect of the debate since accidental shootings make up only one segment of the overall problem related to gun violence. However, we think it is an important enough issue given that its focus is the health safety and well-being of our children.

The irony of this particular issue is that both sides can agree on. Those that lean toward the side of supporting the rights afforded under the second amendment generally are supportive of efforts to promote responsible gun safety education, including the premise that guns should be stored safely. And, those that lean toward the view that there should be less guns in our country also generally support the concept of more education.

To date, we have been working with the State Senate and Assembly to develop legislation that would allow for and promote this type of preventative education in our schools. Similar to our DARE and fire prevention programs, the program would encourage school districts to partner with local law enforcement to develop a curriculum to educate elementary school students about the dangers of playing with firearms and what to do if they find a gun.

As you know, we have been working on this effort over the past year. Our focus has been to develop a legislative initiative that would be bipartisan in nature and appeal to a broad universe of advocacy groups including those on both sides of the gun debate. We have sought counsel from educators, lawmakers, parents, gun safety experts, gun violence prevention advocates, doctors and lawyers. We have taken time to educate those that have had concerns with this initiative. And, we have thoroughly researched ideas, concepts and legislative initiatives in other jurisdictions.

As such, we have narrowed our focus to a recently enacted Virginia statute as a basis for our concept here in New Jersey. Although, the Virginia law is not perfect we think it is a sound starting point to begin negotiations toward the goal of developing a final legislative work product. The law we seek to create will be permissive and not mandatory and will allow school boards to develop this curriculum with some basic principles: safety, accident prevention and to promote the protection of children.

Despite our progress, we are still working with some of the anti-gun violence lobby to address their concerns over this initiative as this will be necessary to achieve the requisite support from the legislature. We continue to meet with groups like Every Town for Gun Safety, Moms Demand

continued on Page 36
DON’T GET STUCK IN THE ROUGH

Swing for the green with New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program.

Businesses across New Jersey have gained competitive advantage and reduced energy costs with funding from New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program. You can receive up to 70% of project costs and paybacks in less than 2 years.

Sharpen your game and add up the returns for your business! Visit NJCleanEnergy.com/NJCM or call 866.NJSMART.
NJCM thanks and acknowledges the following Business Council Members for their support...

**PLATINUM**
Comcast
EMEX
Good Energy, LP
New Jersey American Water
PSE&G

**GOLD**
Atlantic City Electric
Archer & Greiner, P.C.
AT&T
Bowman & Company, LLP
JCP&L
PNC
United Water
Verizon Communications

**SILVER**
New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program
NJ Natural Gas
Safeguard Properties

**ASSOCIATE**
NJ Utility Association

---

**NJCM Exhibitors Directory**

Some of the greatest supporters of the NJCM are the exhibitors who attend our Conference. We thank them for their continued support.

ACCSES NJ / CNA Services
Amerihealth
Aqua New Jersey, Inc.
Archer & Greiner, P.C.
AT&T
Badger Meter
Bethlehem Precast
Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors
Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund Commission
Center State Engineering
CME Associates
Comcast Business
DCO Energy
Dejana Truck of Greater Philadelphia
Eastern Dental - Dental Services Organization
EMEX, LLC
Excel Environmental Resources, Inc.
F.R.E. Flood Risk Evaluator
FieldTurf
File Bank Inc.
Foley, Incorporated
Gallagher Asphalt Corporation
Global Partners LP
Good Energy, LP
Hatch Mott MacDonald
HD Supply Waterworks
Jersey Central Power & Light
Johnston Communications
Kraft & Capizzi, LLC
Maser Consulting, P.A.
Mazza & Sons, Inc.
Musco Sports Lighting
New Jersey American Water
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
New Jersey Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency
New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program
New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program, Commercial/Industrial
NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities
NJ Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve
NJ Environmental / Infrastructure Trust
NJ Municipal Management Association
NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police
NJ Subsustainable Energy Joint Meeting (NJ SEM)
NJCM Mayor Emeritus Advisory Committee
Northeast Sweepers
Paper Clips
Partner Engineering and Science, Inc.
Pennoni Associates, Inc.
Philips Lighting
PNC Bank, N.A.
Project Childsafe/National Shooting Sports Foundation
PSE&G
Republic Services of NJ
Rileighs Outdoor Décor
Safeguard Properties
Spatial Data Logic, Inc.
United Water
Utility Service Co., Inc.
Vehicle Tracking Solutions
Verizon
Is your municipality in need of affordable housing for your Fair Share Plan?

Let Community Quest, Inc. assist you!

We develop & manage affordable, accessible housing by accessing government funding thereby reducing the financial burden on municipalities needing to comply with the recent Supreme Court’s ruling on the Mount Laurel Doctrine.

Community Quest, Inc.

Give Kerrie Kelly a call at 609-646-0388
The Mayors Emeritus Advisory Council (MEAC) again provided extraordinary time and effort in support of the NJCM’s 52nd Annual Conference during April at the Borgata in Atlantic City.

Starting in January the MEACS and spouses began meeting weekly which lasted into April to prepare for the Annual Conference. In addition MEACS came to the NJCM Trenton office a couple of times each week to support staff to assist with Annual Conference matters as well as other administrative issues.

In addition to planning for the Annual Conference itself the MEACS prepare, address, stuff, label and send out all the pre-Conference flyers and invitations to Mayors, sponsors and exhibitors. This year, due to a staff member on medical leave, an added pre-Conference challenge for the MEACS was securing additional exhibitors for the Annual Conference and they did an outstanding job working with staff to do so.

At the Annual Conference the Mayors Emeritus and their spouses assist at the registration booth, assist in moderating panel sessions, monitor all events, support the Golf Classic, provide visitor information, distribute handouts, distribute door prizes, man the Mayors Emeritus booth and so forth.

It should be pointed out that the Mayors Emeritus and their spouses also man the NJCM booth at the League of Municipalities Convention in November and provide exceptional support to the NJCM Winter Summit in Trenton in January prior to the Annual Conference in April.

At the NJCM Wednesday evening Annual Conference Board of Directors dinner meeting the Mayors Emeritus presented the Annual Lee Veale Award to Mayor Emeritus Jack Tarditi, a former NJCM President for his many years of continued support to the NJCM, his community and many other organizations. Mayor Emeritus Tarditi is a long-time core member of the Mayors Emeritus Advisory Council. The award is named after Lee Veale the revered late, long time former NJCM Operations Manager.

It is noted that at the Thursday Evening Awards Reception the NJCM presented Ted Dorn a special NJCM Former Deputy Mayor of the Year Award for his many, many years of service as a Deputy Mayor in Haddonfield N.J. and his extraordinary continued support of the NJCM.

The Mayors Emeritus held their Annual Conference meeting at the conclusion of the Annual Conference events to conduct a debriefing amongst themselves regarding the Annual Conference and to discuss suggestions for improvements for next year. Also other MEAC business was discussed with an outlook to upcoming NJCM events. Both immediate Past NJCM President Mayor Deborah Buzby-Cope and New NJCM President Ray Heck stopped by the meeting to express their sincere appreciation of the efforts of the MEAC and their contributions in making the Annual Conference a huge success.

The involvement and support of the Mayors Emeritus and their spouses is invaluable to the success of not only the NJCM Annual Conference but to all of the events of the NJCM. We could not succeed without them; their interest, experience and knowledge are a huge asset to the NJCM.

Many, many thanks are extended to the following Mayors Emeritus and their spouses for their many outstanding efforts and support before and during the many activities of the Annual Conference: Tony and Theresa Beatrice, Ted and Betty Dorn, Elwood and Elena Hampton, TC and Mike Kay, Mike and Mary Mevoli, Augie Longo, Charlie Pritchard, Ed Zimmerman, Joe and Kathy Wolk, Jeanne Passanante, Ted Wardell, Jack Tarditi and Janet Morrissey.

I extend my sincere appreciation and that of the NJCM Executive Board to the MEAC volunteers and their spouses who contribute so much to the success at the NJCM events. Again, THANK YOU!
Confidence. Commitment. Community.

Archer & Greiner is a full-service regional law firm with 175 lawyers in eight offices. For decades, Archer & Greiner has represented and advised numerous public agencies on a broad variety of issues. These matters include:

- Litigation
- Public records requests
- Public meeting issues
- Ethics matters
- Employment contracts
- Lease interpretations
- License agreements
- Eminent domain matters
- Tax issues
- Contractual disputes
- Drafting of bid documents
- Bid challenges
- Construction disputes
- Labor negotiations
- Health benefits issues
- Family and Medical Leave Act
- Economic development matters
- Real estate acquisitions & sales

To learn more about how our firm can assist you, contact William J. Caruso Esquire, at 856.795.2121 or visit www.archerlaw.com.

FROM OUR VIEW, YOU’RE LOOKING BETTER THAN EVER.

Over the years, it’s been our privilege to deliver the energy that has helped make New Jersey a great place for business ... and for living, too. We’re proud to serve you.
2016 State Budget Highlights

Probably the single most important policy document of the year was signed into law by Governor Christie on June 26, 2015. This major policy document is, of course, the State Budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

Like past budgets, this budget sets the administration’s priorities for FY 2016. Unlike past budgets, however, there was very little fanfare or last minute wrangling as the budget passed the legislature and was signed into law with a comfortable margin before the constitutional deadline of midnight on June 30th.

Here is a brief review of some of the major policy initiatives presented by the Governor along with some of the changes that occurred during legislative review and the final adoption process:

While the Governor originally presented the legislature with a budget of $33,843,771,000, the actual appropriations amount would decrease by $58,563,000 to a final total of $33,785,208,000. This decrease is despite the fact that additional revenues were generated in the amount of $117 million. The source of these extra funds was varied and included increased revenues from the Corporate Business Tax and the Gross Income Tax. It does not include additional monies from an increase in the “millionaire’s tax” which was vetoed by the Governor.

The Department of Community Affairs started with a proposed budget of $793 million. This figure maintains municipal aide and property tax relief at existing levels. The Department did see a “bump” in funding by an amount of $8.75 million. This additional funding was adopted by the legislature and is comprised of the following additional grants-in-aid programs:

• Camden County Housing First Pilot Program - $250,000
• New Jersey Re-entry Corporation – One-Stop Offender Re-entry Services - $3.5 million
• Volunteers of America – Re-entry Services - $1.5 million
• City of Newark – Anti-Violence Out-of-School Youth Summer Program- $1 million
• City of Orange – Community Center of Youth and Seniors - $2.5 million

By and large, the remaining department budgets remained close to what the Governor proposed in February with little to no variation. There are two exceptions however.

The Department of Environmental Protection saw a decrease of $66 million in appropriations from what was originally proposed. Part of this decrease ($46.2M) is a result of shifting certain Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation costs to reserve for subsequent appropriation. The remainder ($19.9M) is from shifting the funding source of constitutionally dedicated Parks Management costs to the Clean Energy Fund.

The second exception is the Department of Human Services. This department saw a decrease of $55 million from the Governor’s original proposal as a result of revised projections in the Managed Care Initiative and the Managed Long Term Services and Supports.

Again, this is only a brief overview of changes made to a budget that is 282 pages long. For additional information regarding the final budget and any changes made please go to www.njleg.state.nj.us.

By: Paul Bent, NJCM Legislative Consultant

Paul Bent is the Founding Partner and President of Pathways Government Relations. Paul has extensive experience successfully representing a wide variety of both public and private organizations before the legislative and executive branches of New Jersey government.
Verizon is in your community. Connect with us.

Get to know your Verizon New Jersey External Affairs Team

**North**
Bergen, Hudson, Essex, Passaic, Morris, Union, Sussex Counties
Mark Bocchieri
mark.a.bocchieri@verizon.com
Office: (201) 996-6610
Cell: (908) 601-5509

**Central**
Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Mercer, Somerset, Hunterdon, Warren Counties
John Szeliga
john.p.szeliga@verizon.com
Office: (732) 280-9124
Cell: (732) 597-3009

**South**
Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Cape May, Atlantic Counties
Jennifer Young
jennifer.p.young@verizon.com
Office: (856) 853-9955
Cell: (856) 430-2430

Verizon New Jersey
Contact Numbers & Websites
Because we know the communities we serve

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Sales/Service/Repair/Billing/Billing/</td>
<td>(800) VERIZON/(800) 837-4966 or <a href="http://www.verizon.com/business">www.verizon.com/business</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Circuits Maintenance Control Center:</td>
<td>(800) 294-7831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downed Poles/Cables:</td>
<td>(800) 787-6701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verizon Non FiOS High Speed Internet/DSL:</td>
<td>(800) 567-6789 or <a href="http://www.verizon.net">www.verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verizon Wireless Customer Service:</td>
<td>(800) 922-0204 or <a href="http://www.verizonwireless.com">www.verizonwireless.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Customers with Disabilities Voice &amp; TTY:</td>
<td>(800) 974-6006 or <a href="http://www.verizon.com/disabilities">www.verizon.com/disabilities</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Franchise &amp; PEG Channel Inquiries:</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:william.freshwater@verizon.com">william.freshwater@verizon.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verizon Wireless Crisis Response Team (V-CRT)</td>
<td>(800) 981-9558</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit Verizon New Jersey on the web at www.verizon.com/NJ
NJCM Business Council
Mayors and Business Council Members
Share Common Goals and Concerns

By: Gary Passanante, Director, NJCM Business Council

This year’s conference and golf outing were once again a great success with record attendance and yes, good weather! I would like to personally thank our sponsors, the NJCM staff and our Mayor Emeritus volunteers for all of their help and hard work in making this event such a great success. The Business Council sponsored panel session this year covered multiple topics from the new Water Infrastructure Act to Cyber Security, new Energy and Services Auction options and dealing with Abandoned and Vacant properties. The session was well attended and we received some great follow up questions and interest from our mayors. As always, we welcome any ideas and suggestions for future panel session topics as we prepare for next year’s conference. A very special thanks goes out to the NJCM staff and all our Mayor Emeritus volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the organization. Congratulations to our incoming President, Mayor Ray Heck and to all of the newly elected and appointed board and executive board members.

We would like to hold several online webinars and ask for any suggestions that you Mayors may have on topics you would like to see us address. If you are a Business Council member that has a recommended topic and would like to host a webinar, I encourage you to contact me at Gary@NJCM.org.

For those readers not familiar with the Business Council, we are a part 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 provide educational programs to mayors, governing body members, and other elected, appointed and municipally employed individuals. We are now in our seventh year and continue to grow as both mayors and businesses from across the state acknowledge our value. As the 2% cap, severe weather and a slowly recovering economy continues to exert pressure on our municipal budgets, mayors and business leaders must think outside the box in order to survive. As we work together to solve our budgetary challenges, the NJCM Business Council continues to act as the “go to” 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.

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

As a member Mayor, you are automatically invited to participate in our Business Council and related activities. If you do business in the state of New Jersey and have 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.

John F. Morrissey- continued from Page 5

Also, that evening, the award recipients were honored by the NJCM for their significant contributions at the federal, state and local levels of government. A complete listing of award recipients can be found on the inside of the front cover of this edition of the NJCM Conference Magazine.

Many thanks to our Business Council members who provide us with their support during the year and as event sponsors at the Annual Conference. Special appreciation is also extended to our many exhibitors at the Conference who provide an array of goods and services that are available to municipalities.

Special plaudits are extended to the NJCM staff, Mary Zajack, Betty Dorn and Gary Passanante and the NJCM Mayors Emeritus and their spouses for all their many, many significant efforts in making the Annual NJCM Conference a success. It should be noted that the NJCM office was being relocated during the period immediately before the scheduled event and a staff member was on medical leave during that same time period. Everyone stood up to the extra challenge! Thank you, thank you!

As always, the Mayors attending the NJCM Annual Conference should be especially recognized for their continued support of the NJCM and its Annual Conference and striving to keep up to date with the many changes and challenges facing their communities, for the benefit of their constituents.

Thank you Mayors!
WE SALUTE YOUR ENERGY.

We’re proud to support the 2015 Conference of Mayors and our shared commitment to the communities we serve.
Sustainability a Priority in Township of Hamilton

By: Charlie Pritchard, Former Mayor of Hamilton, Editor NJCM Magazine

In this day and age of ever increasing costs in operating a municipality including hikes in salaries, health benefits and pension costs it would seem almost impossible to get by with only increasing budgets by the mandated 2 per cent cap. However, the Township of Hamilton (Atlantic County) has not only been able to do that but has also managed to pass four successive budgets with no increase in municipal revenue.

Even more amazing is that during the past decade the municipality’s township committee has managed to cut its bonded indebtedness by more than $10 million from $22 million to $12 million and has instituted a “pay as you go” policy for many of its capital purchases. This has led to the township retaining a strong bond rating that provides lower interest rates on purchases that are made.

Mayor Roger Silva, now in his eighth year on the governing body, has been one of the architects of a fiscal policy that has allowed it to hold the line on taxes despite even more challenges than those listed above. His goal is to eliminate township debt so that it becomes necessary strategic borrowing can be a handy option.

He compares this to paying off your home mortgage in that it builds up the township’s equity.

“Each Monday there are usually 15 to 20 pages of sheriff’s sales listed in The Press of Atlantic City,” Silva said. “The state of the economy in Atlantic County is currently very troubling. We realize that many of our residents are hurting so we are doing all that we can to rein in our finances even while other entities continue to burden residents with ever increasing tax hikes.”

Hamilton is served by two separate school districts, a local K-8 Board of Education and the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District both of which have passed on substantial tax increases the past few years.

While the township’s fiscal policy is commendable, reaching the goal it has achieved got off to a very rocky and painful start when the process began in 2011. That year the governing body began a quality of life study that set up a series of subcommittees comprised of governing body and township board members as well as local residents. Months of painstaking research and countless meetings led to a series of recommendations for streamlining local government.

Following those recommendations, the following January the governing body took a hard look at how it could eliminate a $2.4 million structural deficit. It did so primarily by paring down the workforce, a move that brought standing room only crowds to township committee meetings to protest the cuts.

The police department was particularly affected as it saw its ranks lowered from 71 to 49 members.

In addition to the reduction in the workforce, the committee opted to close the senior citizens’ center that provided meals and transportation to doctors and shopping venues for a limited number of seniors. The annual leaf pick-up provided for township residents was cancelled as were numerous annual special events.

“At that time we had a governing body comprised of three republicans and two democrats,” Silva said. “We put politics aside and worked cooperatively in order to come up with a plan that would not only solve that year’s budget deficit but would also create a sustainable fiscal plan for years to come.”

That plan has worked, as evidenced by the lack of increased municipal taxes. In addition, some services and special events have been restored, staffing in the police department has been increased by utilizing Class 2 officers and many purchases have been made without going deeper into debt.

“While many municipalities face pressing problems, one has to hope that despite the obstacles of personal agendas and partisanship, they will not continue to let all their problems fester and remain unresolved. Everyone running for political office talks about making a difference.”

“I trust we have and will continue to sustain our municipality by maintaining a policy of strict financial discipline. It works!”
We have the energy to make things better.
[ ... for you, for our customers and for New Jersey. ]

www.pseg.com

WE CHOOSE NEW JERSEY EVERY DAY

PSE&G is a subsidiary of Public Service Enterprise Group.
The grand opening of Gloucester Township’s Premium Outlet Center took place on August 13—and with it, up to 800 full-time and part-time jobs came to our community. Over the past year, developers, construction workers, and township officials have been diligently working to bring this symbol of resurgence to fruition. There will be more than 450,000 square feet of brand new retail space accompanied by millions of dollars in tax revenue. This will make it Southern New Jersey’s largest complex, a vital seed planted on fertile ground that is sure to anchor strong roots in our local economy.

Residents will benefit from this investment in our township by having more choices in where to shop, dine and work. Existing local businesses will see a boost in foot traffic from new shoppers exploring the region and a greater interest in the area. With this vibrant new shopping destination, Gloucester Township is poised to become a hub that unites local communities and the broader region, including Philadelphia. We are proud to continue our commitment to business and residential communities.

“Gloucester Township is a great place to have a business. My wife and I work together, and we’ve been in business since 1994. I think it would be great for other businesses to move in and join us,” notes Edward Holding, owner of E&R Holding Sign & Design. Debbie Chew, Manager of Chews Florist adds, “Chews Florist has been in Gloucester Township for 80 years and I’m really excited about the new outlets that are coming to town. I believe the increased traffic is good because that’s more people that drive by my flower shop every day and more potential business.”

The Premium Outlet Center is located off the College Drive interchange on Route 42 (exit 7B) in the Blackwood section of Gloucester Township. Easily accessible to New Jersey and many Pennsylvania residents, this sprawling suburban complex will be surrounded by beautiful green spaces. It will be accented by fountains, and outdoor fireplaces. So whether it’s a warm summer day or brisk winter evening, the center will be an exciting haven for shoppers and a catalyst for continued economic growth.

Some of the retailers that have opened their doors are Gap Factory Store and Gymboree Outlet, Nike Factory Store and Nautica, Zales Outlet, Lindt Chocolate, Adidas, Aldo, A|X Armani Exchange, Bebe, Cole Haan, Lane Bryant Outlet and dozens more. The welcoming of these globally-known brands is just another step in Gloucester Township’s effort to bring more businesses to our blossoming community. Our goal is to bring more medical specialties, hotels, and business professionals and services right here to Gloucester Township. We believe we have an exceptional location and opportunity to strategically grow our community while preserving its identity as a great place to work, live and play.

Even with all of this development, Gloucester Township still has hundreds of acres of untouched land. Residents and shoppers are still just minutes away from the treasured parts of the region, including more than 50 recreational spaces. The new Premium Outlets will be a destination—a great place to spend the day and explore its surroundings. We are very excited about this significant development and look forward to working with neighboring townships and cities to ensure a smooth connection to all of our residents is achieved.
Tom Watts
Account Manager
800-876-3837 Ext. 16516
twatts@badgermeter.com
www.badgermeter.com

Clearly Better.

Comcast is also building new technology so that we can be available for customers where and when they want. The My Account app, which launched last year and has been downloaded more than one million times, puts customers in the driver’s seat, giving them the tools to troubleshoot problems and fix problems. Customers with questions or issues can also use the app to schedule a convenient time for a Comcast representative to call them, with no waiting on hold.

Another new feature, called Tech Tracker, is being trialed in Boston and will launch by the end of the year for New Jersey customers. The tool allows customers to track the location and arrival of their technician in real time on their smartphone and then rate the experience after the appointment. And, a recent partnership with The UPS Store makes returning equipment easy and convenient for customers.

As a 25-year employee of Comcast, I am truly excited by the changes we have already begun to make, and will continue to make, to improve the experience customers have with us, and to continually surprise and delight them.

For more information about these changes, please visit comcastcorporation.com/customerexperience or feel free to reach me at Bill_Kettleson@cable.comcast.com

Deborah Buzby-Cope - continued from Page 17

Action, Coalition for Peace and Ceasefire NJ as well as the National Sports Shooting Foundation. Additionally, we are working with legislative staff as well as legislators on both sides of the aisle to build support for this initiative.

Although this effort has been extremely time consuming and at times frustrating given the disparate views held by our partners in this effort, we believe that this is a necessary effort to build a strong coalition and develop a worthwhile legislative initiative that will succeed in ultimately helping to keep our children safe. Our hope is that by working out these issues on the front end we will ensure that there is little controversy from either side of the gun debate or from the school lobby over additional unfunded mandates.

I want to thank each of you for your time and commitment to this issue. I will keep you updated over the course of the next few months as we continue to press forward. I may be calling on you to assist in specific conversations with either the interest groups and/or our state representatives as we hopefully close out this issue in advance of the end of the legislative session this fall.

There is a cure for Catastrophic Medical Bills

Sometimes your child’s medical expenses cost more than you can afford — even if you have health insurance. That’s why there’s the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund. Through the Fund, all New Jersey families may be eligible to receive financial support to help pay for uncovered medical bills, prescriptions, and other health expenses.

For more information and an application, call or visit our website.
1-800-335-FUND
www.njcatastrophicfund.org

Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund
When medical problems become financial problems.

Badger Meter
Tom Watts
Account Manager
800-876-3837 Ext. 16516
twatts@badgermeter.com
www.badgermeter.com

BEACON®
Advanced Metering Analytics
Verizon Prepared to Respond to any Weather Emergency

By: Lee Gierczynski, Public Relations Manager, Verizon

If you ever have to face an emergency in your personal life, having a plan to communicate is something you should prepare and have ready to implement at a moment’s notice.

Even though Hurricane Sandy struck New Jersey nearly three years ago, the memories of that storm and its impact on New Jersey residents and businesses continue to linger. But from that storm emerged valuable lessons about coming together to help one another and the importance of being prepared.

With 15,000 employees across the state, Verizon is one of New Jersey’s largest providers of communications services, and when there is an emergency situation or natural disaster, people rely on Verizon to keep in touch with friends, family, the workplace and others because they know that Verizon runs to a crisis, not away from it. We invest a lot of time and resources into planning, preparing and training for our employees throughout the year so that responding in emergency situations becomes second nature for them.

At Verizon, we plan and prepare for almost any kind of event and can respond quickly to the needs of our customers anywhere we are needed.

Since our network facilities rely on commercial power, we make sure that back-up batteries and generators at our key network facilities are tested and fueled to keep power flowing to deliver services to customers in case of prolonged power outages. We also will use portable generators for rapid deployment to facilities when needed.

We take an inventory of utility poles, cables and other equipment and supplies and prepare our trucks and specialized gear. After Hurricane Sandy, Verizon replaced more than 3,000 utility poles and thousands of feet of damaged telephone cables across the state, so advanced inventory planning was critical to getting customers back in service as quickly as we could.

And during potential emergency situations, our employees are on standby to respond to any crisis that affects our network or our customers.

Verizon also can deploy its Crisis Response Fleet, which can provide critical communications services for business and government customers. Using specially equipped vehicles and trailers, they can be converted into advanced mobile communications facilities offering voice and Internet capabilities.

Our Crisis Response Fleet includes a 51-foot mobile command center, which can be deployed to either coast within 24 hours and features highly sophisticated communications equipment, with ample space for emergency responders, government officials and Verizon employees. It includes 24 stations where people can make calls, access the Internet or charge devices.

Because of the resources Verizon can quickly deploy, it has responded to tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, wildfires and other events all across the country to help repair damaged network facilities and provide critical communications for first responders and other government agencies.

Verizon also can deploy charging stations to areas impacted by storms and a Cell on Wheels (COW) to expand coverage and capacity to existing cell sites so that emergency response teams and other Verizon Wireless customers can make more calls and send more data transmissions.

The bottom line here is that we should all take the time to create an emergency preparedness plan and review it with family members. If you own a small business, review it with your employees regularly.

And know how you will communicate with your family, friends and colleagues about your safety in the event of a disaster.

Ahead of time, if possible, charge up all battery-powered devices, like cell phones, tablets and laptops. In many situations, Verizon’s network facilities may still be functioning in the aftermath of a storm or emergency, so you may be able to communicate using a cell phone, text messaging or email. Consider investing in a mobile battery pack so that you can have extra power for your devices. Lastly, keep a list of emergency numbers and email addresses handy and program them into your mobile device – but most importantly, have a hard copy accessible as well.

continued on next page
Lee Gierczynski continued from previous page

We know that every year we are going to face rainy weather, winter storms or emergency events that require us to be ready, and, fortunately, innovations in communications technology are making it easier than ever before to prepare for potential disasters and to stay in touch with loved ones when it matters the most.

At Verizon we do our best to ensure that our customers stay connected during bad weather, whether is it setting up mobile phone banks in areas experiencing phone outages or having repair crews work around the clock to restore service for customers impacted by severe weather.

Verizon’s networks are a complex array of assets, from buildings to transmission facilities to towers to people. We’ve learned throughout the years what we need to do to minimize the impact of Mother Nature on our networks, so that when problems happen, we can respond quickly and effectively.

Lee Gierczynski
Director of Community Initiatives

Have vacant properties?
We have a free solution.

“Compliance Connections will help you:
- Identify interested parties
- Share violations
- Expedite resolution

Your staff can save valuable resources, prevent blight and preserve property values.

Brought to you by:

Michael Halpern x1392
Director of Community Initiatives

Heather Lazar x1500
Community Relations Liaison

Compliance Connections

If you aren’t using Compliance Connections, then you are spinning your wheels!”

Sherri Johnston
City of Mesquite, TX

Your staff can save valuable resources, prevent blight and preserve property values.

Have vacant properties?
We have a free solution.

“Compliance Connections will help you:
- Identify interested parties
- Share violations
- Expedite resolution

Your staff can save valuable resources, prevent blight and preserve property values.

Brought to you by:

Michael Halpern x1392
Director of Community Initiatives

Heather Lazar x1500
Community Relations Liaison

Compliance Connections

If you aren’t using Compliance Connections, then you are spinning your wheels!”

Sherri Johnston
City of Mesquite, TX

Your staff can save valuable resources, prevent blight and preserve property values.

Have vacant properties?
We have a free solution.

“Compliance Connections will help you:
- Identify interested parties
- Share violations
- Expedite resolution

Your staff can save valuable resources, prevent blight and preserve property values.

Brought to you by:

Michael Halpern x1392
Director of Community Initiatives

Heather Lazar x1500
Community Relations Liaison

Compliance Connections

If you aren’t using Compliance Connections, then you are spinning your wheels!”

Sherri Johnston
City of Mesquite, TX

Your staff can save valuable resources, prevent blight and preserve property values.

Have vacant properties?
We have a free solution.

“Compliance Connections will help you:
- Identify interested parties
- Share violations
- Expedite resolution

Your staff can save valuable resources, prevent blight and preserve property values.

Brought to you by:

Michael Halpern x1392
Director of Community Initiatives

Heather Lazar x1500
Community Relations Liaison

Compliance Connections

If you aren’t using Compliance Connections, then you are spinning your wheels!”

Sherri Johnston
City of Mesquite, TX

Your staff can save valuable resources, prevent blight and preserve property values.

Have vacant properties?
We have a free solution.

“Compliance Connections will help you:
- Identify interested parties
- Share violations
- Expedite resolution

Your staff can save valuable resources, prevent blight and preserve property values.

Brought to you by:

Michael Halpern x1392
Director of Community Initiatives

Heather Lazar x1500
Community Relations Liaison

Compliance Connections

If you aren’t using Compliance Connections, then you are spinning your wheels!”

Sherri Johnston
City of Mesquite, TX

Your staff can save valuable resources, prevent blight and preserve property values.
Millions invested and still less than a penny a gallon.

At New Jersey American Water, we have a proven record of investing in our systems. Last year, we invested approximately $100 million in our facilities statewide. This level of investment supports or creates hundreds of jobs in the construction and other fields.

At the same time, a gallon of our tap water costs less than a penny. That’s an exceptional value. To learn more, visit us online at www.newjerseyamwater.com. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/njamwater.

WE CARE ABOUT WATER. IT’S WHAT WE DO.
Government Energy Aggregation

Buying

Energy Together
to Save Money
for Your Community’s Residents

Good Energy is the *market leader* in Government Energy Aggregation representing **over 150 communities** with 600,000 households *saving* more than 1.5 million people *money* on their electricity.

It is new. It is proven. It will save your residents money.

Contact us to find out how you can save your community money on their electricity bills

**GoodEnergy**
A Smarter Way to Buy Energy

www.goodenergy.com

njgea@goodenergy.com

(855) 777-7414

**New Jersey Government Energy Aggregation**

www.njgea.com
Did you know that patients with dental insurance visit dentists twice as often?

Participating in Delta Dental networks can help your practice in many ways.

As a Delta Dental of New Jersey participating dentist, here’s what we can offer you:

- A dedicated participating dentist toll free number to our customer service center.
- Freedom to participate in the network or networks of your choosing.
- Our “In Net” affiliations program which gives access only to Participating Dentists to discounts on supplies and services for your practice.
- Direct payment for all claims (both insured and self-funded clients), improving accounts receivables and reducing bad debt.
- Participating Dentists are listed in our “Find a Dentist” web and mobile applications, as well as through our customer service center.
- No cost Continuing Education Seminars such as Delta Dental Days.
- A chance for your office manager to attend a roundtable meeting with Delta Dental staff along with other office managers.
- An organization dedicated to the oral health and wellness of your patients, providing you with resources only available to Participating Dentists.

Delta Dental of New Jersey. Making it easier for you to run your practice.
To join Delta Dental or to add a network, call 1-888-396-6641 or visit www.deltadentalnj.com.
FUELING THE CHARGE

EMEX, a partner and trusted consultant putting the POWER to save money in the hands of the local decision-makers.

“We knew we were in good hands with EMEX. During our first reverse auction, they constantly monitored the market and worked to get us the lowest Electricity rate possible, so when it came time to secure our next Natural Gas contract, there was no question which service we should use. The EMEX Reverse Auction continued to prove its effectiveness and uncovered the best prices in the market for our Natural Gas procurement decision.”

JAMES MEEHAN,
Authority’s Executive Director,
Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority, NJ

“EMEX’s reverse auction platform over-performed for us. The competition from suppliers was intense with savings beyond expectations.”

ALBERT AKERMAN,
Mayor, Lakewood Township, NJ

“EMEX provided the Township of East Hanover with the best combination of energy savings, ease of process, clear explanation of the reverse auction process, as well as a simple process to execute the necessary steps to take full advantage of the energy savings to the Township.”

JOE PANNULLO
Mayor, Township of East Hanover, NJ

“The savings were remarkable, and the entire process was easy.”

GARY PASSANANTE,
Mayor, Somerdale, NJ

“We knew we were in good hands with EMEX. During our first reverse auction, they constantly monitored the market and worked to get us the lowest Electricity rate possible, so when it came time to secure our next Natural Gas contract, there was no question which service we should use. The EMEX Reverse Auction continued to prove its effectiveness and uncovered the best prices in the market for our Natural Gas procurement decision.”

JAMES MEEHAN,
Authority’s Executive Director,
Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority, NJ

1 877 459 4728