

Mayor's Message



At January's Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Breakfast put on by the Piscataway Civil Rights Advisory Commission, we were honored to have four Piscataway residents whom participated in the 1963 March on Washington: (l-r) Ms. Joyce Coles, Ms. Kathryn Riss, Mr. Richard Scott & Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Saunders, Sr., Commission Chair.

That Piscataway is home to the "First 4th," the site of first national Fourth of July celebration, is always a source of pride. Now Piscataway will be able to showcase our role in history throughout the year with the new Forever the 4th Gallery at the Metlar-Bodine House Museum.

Construction has begun on this new \$1.3 million annex that will house the Ross Hall Wall, the last remaining artifact from the July 4, 1778 ball held by General George Washington at the 1742 Ross Hall mansion which once stood on River Road. The Ross Hall Wall was

designated an "American Treasure" by the National Park Service.

We are very grateful that Representative Frank Pallone, Jr., Senator Bob Menendez & Senator Cory Booker included \$500,000 in federal historic preservation funds for the construction of the Forever the 4th Gallery in the Omnibus Appropriations bill signed into law by President Joe Biden in December.

So how did Piscataway become home to the First 4th? With the Declaration of Independence signed in

1776, America's first birthday in 1777 was only acknowledged across our young country with sporadic celebrations.

However, in early July 1778, the British Army was in Sandy Hook after having lost to our Continental Army at the Battle of Monmouth. General Washington was headquartered at Ross Hall in Piscataway with thousands of American troops camped along the Raritan River.

To mark America's second birthday and set an example of how to celebrate the Fourth of July, Washington ordered soldiers to "...adorn their hats with green bows," and provided them with a, "double allowance of rum." On July 4, 1778, American troops paraded in two lines nearly a mile long for Washington and other officers. At 5 p.m. a single

cannon was fired followed by approximately 11,000 soldiers performing the "feu de joie," a celebratory firing of rifles in a succeeding pattern, on the riverbanks.

Washington would host a celebratory ball later that evening at Ross Hall with guests including Nathanael Greene, Alexander Hamilton, the Marquis de Lafayette, Lord Stirling and Baron von Steuben.

While Ross Hall was demolished in 1957, the parlor wall was preserved. To prepare the Ross Hall Wall for display in our Township, it is undergoing conservation work in Tennessee and is expected to return to Piscataway this fall. I look forward to the completion of the Forever the 4th Gallery and in the meantime, as you celebrate

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Primary Election: Tuesday, June 6th Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Please check the Township Clerk's webpages at PiscatawayNJ.org for information about polling sites. Please note that some ward and district boundaries have changed as a result of redistricting based on new Census numbers.

Voter registration deadline: Tuesday, May 16th

Deadline to apply via mail for a mail-in ballot: Tuesday, May 30th

Deadline to apply in-person for a mail-in ballot: Monday, June 5th by 3 p.m. at the Middlesex County Clerk's office at 75 Bayard Street, New Brunswick

For information or questions, call the Township Clerk's office at (732) 562-2310.

Mayor's Message

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An artist's rendering of the Metlar-Bodine House Museum with the Forever the 4th Gallery that will house the Ross Hall Wall



The planned interior of the Forever the 4th Gallery that will display the Ross Hall Wall at the Metlar-Bodine House Museum

Independence Day in Piscataway, make sure to tag your social media posts with #First4th.

As always, please call my office at (732) 562-2301 if I may ever be of assistance to you.



Follow us on:
Facebook:
piscataway.township
Twitter: @PWAYNJ



Township Calendar

April

- 12 – Planning Board regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 13 – Zoning Board at 7:30 p.m.
- 18 – Township Council at 7:30 p.m.
- 24 – EMS Advisory Council at 6 p.m.
- 26 – Planning Board site plan/subdivision meeting at 2:30 p.m.
- 27 – Zoning Board at 7:30 p.m.

May

- 2 – Township Council at 7:30 p.m.
- 10 – Planning Board regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 11 – Zoning Board at 7:30 p.m.
- 24 – Planning Board site plan/subdivision meeting at 2:30 p.m.
- 25 – Zoning Board at 7:30 p.m.

June

- 8 – Township Council at 7:30 p.m.
- 8 – Zoning Board at 7:30 p.m.
- 14 – Planning Board regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 22 – Zoning Board at 7:30 p.m.
- 27 – Township Council at 7:30 p.m.
- 28 – Planning Board site plan/subdivision meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Looking to Display Your Art?

Each month a different artist's work is displayed at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC) as the Piscataway Cultural Arts Commission's Artist of the Month. Artwork may be any medium as long as it adheres to weight, fragility and family friendly guidelines. You will need about twenty pieces and we need to see some of your work in person or via a website. For more information, please call Exhibit Coordinator Barbara Bridgers at (732) 752-2465 or Commission Chair Kitty Juttner at (732) 563-4117.



Your Elected Officials

Brian C. Wahler
Mayor
916 East Lincoln Avenue
(H) 732-699-9225

Gabrielle Cahill
(At Large)
1003 River Road
(H) 732-235-1920

Kapil K. Shah
(At Large)
423 Netherwood Avenue
(H) 732-463-3659

Linwood D. Rouse
(At Large)
149 Fisher Avenue
(H) 732-463-9349

Frank Uhrin
(Ward 1)
32 Desna Street
(H) 732-968-6088

Dennis Espinosa
(Ward 2)
1 High Point Way
(H) 732-354-4290

Sharon Carmichael
(Ward 3)
15 Zirkel Avenue
(C) 848-262-1742

Michele Lombardi
(Ward 4)
76 Carlton Avenue
(H) 732-968-2460

Piscataway Senior Center

(732) 562-1133

The Museum of Early Trades and Crafts Presents **"Garden State: Living off the Land in 19th Century New Jersey"** on Tuesday, April 11th from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Explore the agricultural history of New Jersey through the museum's extensive collection of farming-related tools and learn what it was like to live and work on a New Jersey farm in the 19th Century.

The **James Austin Trio** performs on bass, drum & piano on Tuesday, April 18th at 1:00 p.m.

James Austin, Jr. is an accomplished jazz pianist and bandleader from Chicago who has curated and led the NJPAC Jam Session since its inception. His debut album "Songs in the Key of Wonder" showcases his tasteful instrumental arrangements with a selection of classic compositions from the songbook of the great Stevie Wonder.

Music and Instruments from the Andes Mountains of Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia with Pepe Santana on Tuesday, May 2nd at 1:00 p.m.

Pepe Santana is an Ecuadorian-born musician who continues his lifelong passion of the musical traditions of the Andes Mountains. Pepe plays over two dozen native wind instruments such as flutes, panpipes and whistles as well as a variety of string instruments such as a charangos, mandolins, bandurrias, tiples and guitars.

AARP Smart Drivers Class: You must attend both classes held at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC). Please call the Senior Center at (732) 562-1133 to register in advance. Cost is \$20.00 for AARP members and \$25.00 for non-AARP members.

Monday, April 24th and Wednesday, April 26th
Monday, May 22nd and Wednesday, May 24th
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

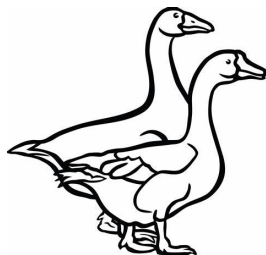
The **Office of Middlesex County Surrogate Claribel Cortes** will meet with individuals at the Piscataway Senior Center on Thursdays, April 13th, April 27th, May 11th, May 25th, June 8th & June 22nd. Please call the County Surrogate's office at (732) 745-3055 to make an appointment.

Piscataway Community Television (PCTV) has a new show called **Senior Spotlight** which celebrates the lives of senior citizens in Piscataway. Please check the PCTV schedule for its airing times.

Please do not feed the geese

During this time of the year, geese have been seeking to pair with their mates and set up nests. Once offspring are born, it makes it more difficult to chase them away and keep the parks clean of droppings.

This is one of several reasons that Township ordinance prohibits feeding geese and other waterfowl. Birds can develop bad dietary issues & diseases and are a major contributor of phosphorus and nitrogen pollution in ponds and small lakes. Violators can be fined.



Free Paper Shredding

The Clean Communities & Recycling Programs of Piscataway Township present the "Shred It & Forget It" free mobile community shredding program for Piscataway residents only. Homeowners bring their Piscataway Service Cards; tenants bring their driver's licenses. Paper only; no trash and no other recyclables. Little League fields parking lot ~ 495 Sidney Road

- Saturday, April 22nd
- Saturday, June 24th
- Saturday, September 16th
- Saturday, October 21st
- Saturday, November 18th

Each shredding event happens rain or shine, starts at 8 a.m. and ends at Noon or until the truck is full.

Recreation

All Township Recreation youth programs are free



Pop Warner football & cheerleading – Mandatory in-person registration starts in April for the fall season (dates to be determined).

Picnics – Reservations for Columbus, Possumtown and Riverside parks pavilions may be made by calling the Recreation Department at (732) 562-2382 for picnics held by Piscataway residents, businesses and organizations. Proof of residency is required. \$250 park fee; \$150 optional alcohol permit. Check or money order only; cash will not be accepted.

Columbus Park tennis courts – Lights will be turned on beginning Monday, April 3rd from dusk until 9:30 p.m.

Youth tennis lessons – Online registration for youth tennis lessons will open on Monday, April 3rd.

Adult pickleball lessons – Online registration for adult pickleball lessons will open on Monday, April 3rd and the cost is \$40 per person. Registration is limited.

Over 35 Softball - Open to teams comprised of Middlesex County residents ages 35 & older. Please email Recreation@PiscatawayNJ.org if you are interested in entering a team.

East Jersey Old Town Village

Opening Weekend — Saturday, April 1st & Sunday, April 2nd, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The British are coming! British and Loyalist troops will be on patrol so explore as well as meet the historical interpreters that bring the Village to life through their trades and crafts. Bring a blanket or chair and watch the Liberty Base Ball Club home opener. Enjoy children's activities and more.



New Brunswick Chamber Orchestra – Hidden Variables: Compositions with Secrets — Saturday, April 16th, 1-3 p.m.

Sometimes composers place hidden messages or codes into their works. In this Salon, members of the New Brunswick Chamber Orchestra will explore works that contain such secrets and will include compositions by Bach, Beethoven, Ives and Shostakovich.

Union Muster — Saturday, April 29th & Sunday, April 30th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the Civil War era and meet people who fought for freedom and to preserve a nation. Interact with soldiers, artillerymen, musicians, medical personnel and civilians. Learn what camp life was like and see Union Army troops conduct firing demonstrations and combat maneuvers as they prepare for deployment. Enjoy music performances, children's games, food trucks and more.

History Day — Saturday, May 13th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

A cornucopia of history. Highlights include Revolutionary War and Civil War camps with musket and cannon demonstrations, vintage baseball games, historical crafts, local historical societies, wagon rides, music, children's crafts, food trucks and more.



Metro Gathering MEGA Event — Saturday, June 17th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Join the world's largest treasure hunt. Geocaching is the original, reality-based treasure hunt using global positioning system (GPS). If you have a smartphone, you can geocache. Come to the event to learn more. There's fun, food and games for the whole family!

Father's Day Vintage Baseball Game — Saturday, June 17th, 11 a.m.

Take dad out to the park for a day the whole family will enjoy. Catch a doubleheader and see baseball the way it was played using reproduction uniforms, equipment and rules from the 1800s. Bring a blanket or a chair and cheer on the Liberty.

Save the Date!



Piscataway BIKE RODEO

**PISCATAWAY COMMUNITY CENTER
520 HOES LN, PISCATAWAY, NJ 08854**

Bring your bikes, scooters, skates & helmets

Saturday,

July 15, 2023
9am-11am

FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

- 10 Bike Games & Challenges
- Pedestrian Safety
- Community Providers
- Multiple Bike Raffles & More

CALL OR EMAIL :

(732) 646-4057

mfscmiddlesex@ccdom.org

**To register,
use this QR code**



Department of Public Works – 505 Sidney Road – (732) 562-2390

Recycling Center & Mini Dump hours through December 31, 2023

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-8 p.m. (Gates close at 7:45 p.m.)

Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Gates close at 4:15 p.m.)

Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays & holidays – Closed

Make sure you have your Piscataway Service Card for all services provided by the Department of Public Works. For information about it, please use the QR code. Only checks and credit/debit cards may be used to add funds to your Service Card for grass credits or additional leaf bags. No cash is accepted.



Credits are required for grass disposal, may be purchased in the Public Works Office starting Wednesday, March 1st and are good for the current year only. Cost: \$1 per credit with a minimum purchase of two credits. The grass credits do not include a bag. The bag up to 30 gallons is to be supplied by the resident. The Recycling Center will accept bagged grass with credits starting Tuesday, April 4th. Credits will be placed on the service card account when purchased.

Credits are also required for lumber, household debris, carpeting, furniture and all other non-recyclable materials that are acceptable as trash for disposal at the recycling yard. Not permitted are kitchen garbage, hazardous or toxic waste, chemicals, paints, contractor debris, dirt, concrete or any other type of rock debris.

Every year credits will be placed into the account for four trash visits and two curbside pickups. A passenger vehicle requires one credit and a pickup truck requires two credits. Residents must provide a Service Card for recyclable materials such as batteries, tires (maximum two per trip), motor oil, branches, leaves, metal, various plastics and glass, cardboard and paper. A list of recyclable materials is available on the Township website. Brush may be brought to the Mini Dump but may not be longer than five (5) feet in length or greater than four (4) inches in diameter. Recycling and brush trips are unlimited but residents must have their Service Card for each visit.

Electronic devices covered by the NJ Electronic Waste Management Act include televisions, desktop & personal computers, monitors, printers and fax machines. They may be brought to the Recycling Center during hours of operation. Electronics will not be picked up curbside.

Hazardous materials

Residents are encouraged to recycle hazardous household materials and paint at Middlesex County's designated locations at announced dates & times. Piscataway Township does not accept any hazardous waste, toxic waste materials, chemicals or paints at its Recycling Center & Mini Dump. Please access the Middlesex County Improvement Authority website for recycling information using this QR code.



Bulk pick-ups

Residents may schedule two (2) bulk trash curbside pickups and one (1) brush curbside pickup per calendar year by calling (732) 562-2390 for an appointment. Residents must have their Service Card before calling. The last appointments can be scheduled in mid-September and the final curbside pickups end in the second week of October. During the summer months there may be a six to eight week wait so please schedule as early as you can. Branches must be bundled and tied. No bagged brush is allowed.

Arriving

All residents entering the Mini Dump must have their vehicles properly insured, inspected and registered. Open-toed shoes and flip flops are not allowed to be worn. Children are not permitted to leave their vehicle and roam the recycling yard. No trucks larger than half-ton pickups and no trucks with sideboards are allowed. Pickup trucks and full size vans are required to provide two (2) credits per visit.

Parking is available in the visitor lot facing Sidney Road. Please enter through the building's main entrance.

Be mindful of what you flush

The Piscataway sewer system is designed to flow from your home through the Township-owned sewer lines to the treatment plant in Sayreville. In some areas, due to the topography, flow has to go uphill and must be assisted by lift stations known as pump stations. At this point, certain elements have to be excluded as the pumps can get jammed by materials such as fabrics, both woven and non-woven. Other types of products include baby wipes, chemically treated wipes, sanitary napkins and most paper towels. Although many manufacturers of these products list them as flushable, in reality, they are not. We ask that you dispose of these non-flushable materials via your regular garbage collection for deposit at a landfill. By complying, you will reduce the possibility of you having a plumbing company rectify a sewer blockage at an estimated cost of \$125 per hour.



Library Notes



www.piscatawaylibrary.org

The Friends of Piscataway Public Library **Book Sale** will be held from Wednesday, April 26th to Sunday, April 30th at the Kennedy Library. Shopping hours are:

- Wednesday, April 26th, 6-8 p.m. – Member's Night. (Members of Friends of the Library only but you can join at the door!)
- Thursday, April 27th, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Friday, April 28th, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Saturday, April 29th, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. – Bag Sale
- Sunday, April 30th, 1-4 p.m. – Bag Sale

All are welcome to attend **Community Arts Day** on Saturday, May 6th at the Kennedy Library. If you're an artist, sign up to share your work at the event! Full details are at PiscatawayLibrary.org/Community-Arts-Day

Stop by Kennedy Library to borrow **Museum Passes**. These passes can get you free admission to the Bucks County Children's Museum, the Montclair Art Museum, the Morris Museum and other area attractions. Full details are at PiscatawayLibrary.org/Museums. **Special thanks to the Friends of Piscataway Public Library** for sponsoring the Museum Pass program.

Have you watched a movie on Kanopy? Access **Kanopy, a video streaming service**, with your library card. Visit PiscatawayLibrary.org/EContent to learn about Kanopy and additional movie, music, ebook and audiobook options.

The Library is proud to offer **Brainfuse** as a resource for students and adult learners. Brainfuse provides free access to live tutors, flashcards, virtual study rooms, test prep, resume review and more. Visit PiscatawayLibrary.org/Brainfuse to get started today.

Questions? Contact Library@PiscatawayLibrary.org or (732) 463-1633, Ext. 4126. Visit our calendar on PiscatawayLibrary.org for a full schedule of events.

Metlar-Bodine House Museum

1281 River Road, Piscataway – 732-463-8363 • metlarbodine@gmail.com

Website: MetlarBodineHouseMuseum.org • Facebook: www.Facebook.com/MetlarBodineHouseMuseum

"THAT was invented in New Jersey?" presentation at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center, 520 Hoes Lane, by Glenn LeBoeuf on Saturday, April 22nd from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Cost is \$12 members & \$15 non-members. Please register & pay by Thursday, April 20th using the QR code or call the museum to pay by check.



Entertaining storyteller, historian & author Glenn LeBoeuf reveals the strange beginnings and wonderful outcomes of inventions that began in New Jersey. The Garden State is known far & wide for its Turnpike, delicious tomatoes, Springsteen & Bon Jovi but the cell phone, submarine, telegraph, light bulb, boardwalk and 'Drive In' movie theater got started here too. Who has not used a Band-Aid, enjoyed a can of Campbell's condensed soup or a rousing game of Monopoly? And there's more! If you missed this fascinating program the first time, here's a second chance!

Tour the Metlar-Bodine House Museum

The Museum & Dutch Door Gift Shop are open on Thursdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. as well as on Saturday, May 13th (History Day) and Saturday, June 10th (Street Fair Day) from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed on federal holidays and the schedule is subject to change so please check our website's box calendar (under Programs/Events) or call.

One-hour guided tours are available with the last tour starting at 3 p.m. Group tours must register in advance and are limited to ten people. Admission is \$5 for adults and children ages five and older.

Due to a landscaping project, please park in the upper parking area. Limited disabled parking is available but a reservation is required so please call us.

YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC)

Meet the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 1st from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free for everyone and no sign-up needed.

Healthy Kids Day on Saturday April 29th. Children can learn water safety skills and participate in fitness demos while adults and children can join in on some dance and sports demos. We will also have some backyard sports-themed games in the gymnasium. Free for everyone and no sign-up needed.

Janice Garbolino Memorial YMCA 5K on Saturday, April 30th. To register and for more details, please scan the QR code:



Blood Drives on Monday, May 1st and Monday, July 3rd from Noon-6 p.m. Scan the QR codes below to sign up. Give blood and save a life!



Monday, May 1st



Monday, July 3rd

Raritan Rapids – Our 2023 season tentatively begins on Memorial Day weekend with its special Saturday, Sunday & Monday hours of Noon-4 p.m. Entry is included in YPCC memberships while non-members and guests of members are welcome with an entry fee. Please check the YPCC website for more details including its open days & times.

The Piscataway Annual Street Fair Celebrating its 30th Anniversary Saturday, June 10th

*On Stockton Street behind The YMCA at the Piscataway
Community Center (YPCC)*



Please use the QR code for information about attending and how to be a vendor.

Memorial Day Parade



American Legion Post 261 is pleased to host the Piscataway Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29th.

Piscataway News

Mayor's Office
455 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

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Piscataway News is published to inform residents of events, activities and available services. Township organizations are invited to submit contributions for future issues to: Piscataway News, Mayor's Office, Municipal Building, 455 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854.