

Mayor's Message



U.S. Representative Frank Pallone Jr., Piscataway's own Senator Bob Smith, Mayor Brian C. Wahler and several Piscataway Township councilmembers at the Muslim Center of Middlesex County's Annual Interfaith Iftar Dinner

Creating Piscataway Ecological Park moves forward! With a preliminary design and permits soon to be in front of state officials to review, we are making great progress. Eventually we will be able to enjoy an enormous outdoor oasis in a thoroughly natural setting.

Want to take a close up look at the concept map? Use the QR code and zoom in!



Our open-space park of several dozen acres will be on the corner of S. Washington Avenue and Metlars Lane. Plans call for land berms along those borders up to eight feet tall with plantings on top to provide a more serene experience for park goers.

Among the many park features are a mall plaza & bridge and 600-seat outdoor amphitheater. While we have a fantastic Concert in the Park series scheduled for this summer at the Columbus Park extension gazebo, we look forward to even more spectacular performances at this larger location for more families to enjoy.

Ecological Park plans also include a shared use path with fitness stations, playground structures for toddlers, dog park, memorial garden and wild flower area.

Environmental remediation work now taking place is a careful and long process. While we do not want to excavate soil if it is not needed, we have to make sure before building the park that the previous

farming use of the land does not pose a pesticide contamination problem. We also want to keep much of the land formation as it is but some areas will have to be regraded so storm water properly flows to the retention ponds.

So far, many truckloads of concrete have been removed

from the site. Many non-native plants and weeds have to be removed. However, we are striving to keep as many large trees as possible which can attract bird life.

If we are fortunate to have the permit process with the state move swiftly and if the weather is cooperative, we can possibly start the construction phase later this year.

In the meantime, I hope you take advantage this year of Piscataway's many parks as well as The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC).

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



An artist's rendering of the conceptual bridge for Piscataway Ecological Park

Weekly e-mail newsletter

Want to keep up to date on what is happening in Piscataway? Sign up for our weekly e-mail newsletter using this QR code.



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



Township Calendar

July

- 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.
- 26 – Planning Board site plan/subdivision meeting at 2:30 p.m.
- 31 – EMS Advisory Council at 6 p.m.

August

- 9 – Planning Board regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 10 – Zoning Board at 7:30 p.m.
- 15 – Township Council at 7:30 p.m.
- 23 – Planning Board site plan/subdivision meeting at 2:30 p.m.

September

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

Please check the Township website to see if meetings have been placed online or cancelled.



July 4th Fireworks



Enjoy Piscataway's Independence Day Fireworks Show on Tuesday, July 4th! The fun starts at 5 p.m. at the high school football field with food trucks, a DJ, rides and other activities and the fireworks start at 9 p.m. [Rain date: Wednesday, July 5th. Call the Recreation Department's cancellation hotline at (732) 562-2389 for info.]

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

Museum of Early Trades and Crafts

“Through a Glass Brightly” on Wednesday, July 19th at 1 p.m. – Get the insider view of the 56 stained glass windows at the Museum, many adorned from quotes from the arts, sciences and humanities. Participants will observe and discuss the beautiful details of the window designs and learn about the quotes and writers depicted in the windows.

“Baseball in 9 Innings” on Wednesday, August 16th at 1 p.m. – Learn fun facts about the interesting and varied background and history of America’s game from its inception to strange superstitions to the “seventh inning stretch.” Participants are encouraged to recall and talk about their baseball memories.

“Shipwrecked” on Wednesday, September 20th at 1 p.m. – Prior to the development of the train, car and air travel, water travel was a crucial means of transporting goods and people and continues to have an important role in leisure, travel and defense. The program traces the development of maritime technology, usage and safety measures through examination of some shipwrecks that are part of life for a coastal state like New Jersey.

Be an AARP Smart Driver!

Call the Senior Center at (732) 562-1133 to register in advance for two-day defensive driving classes on Tuesday, September 12th and Thursday, September 14th from 9 a.m.-Noon being held at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC). Cost is \$20 AARP members/\$25 non-AARP members. You must attend both classes.

Passports Days

sponsored by the
United States Postal Service
Wednesdays, July 19th, August 9th and
September 20th from
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All ages are welcome. Make your appointment as soon as possible by calling the Senior Center at (732) 562-1133 because time slots fill up quickly. Applications and fee schedule are available at the Senior Center front desk.

County Surrogate

The Office of Middlesex County Surrogate Clairbel Cortes will meet with individuals at the Piscataway Senior Center on Thursdays, July 20th, August 3rd, 17th & 31st and September 14th & 28th. Please call the County Surrogate’s office at (732) 745-3055 to make an appointment.



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 the
QR code or the link
listed below:**



Recreation

(732) 562-2382 • Recreation@PiscatawayNJ.org

Pop Warner - While in person registration ended May 24th, paperwork may be handed into the Recreation Department in order to be placed on the waiting list. No emailed registrations will be accepted.

Picnic Reservations - Possumtown and Riverside parks pavilions are available through Sunday, September 30th for rental by Piscataway residents as well as Township-based businesses and non-profit community organizations. Proof of residency is required; complete the application and provide payment of \$250 for the pavilion rental and an optional \$150 alcohol permit. No cash payment is accepted; check or money order only and should be made payable to Piscataway Township. Reservations will be taken based on availability until August 4th.

Field Permits - Please contact the Recreation Department to request an application for field or park permits.

Metlar-Bodine House Museum

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

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

If you drive past the Metlar-Bodine House you might notice the landscape project in progress. Funded by the NJ Historic Trust, it is the first phase of “Four Centuries of Gardens,” an outdoor exhibit that enhances the museum’s theme and mission. Native flowers, shrubs and trees indicative of the four centuries the site has been occupied will comprise the gardens. When completed, they will provide an environmental facet that will enhance the visitor’s experience.

Disabled accessible paths surrounding the house will highlight a garden of colonial herbs and flowers, selected Victorian shrubs and trees and a future large WWII Victory Garden. Signage will offer “Metlar-Bodine House: An Architectural Study,” a visual tour explaining the building’s vernacular style. American indigenous flora will embellish the front yard hill and a stairway with lighting will provide access to the museum from River Road.

Look for news about groundbreaking for the new wing scheduled for the end of August!

Buy A Brick

The Fellowship for Metlar House invites you to “Buy A Brick” to promote pride in Piscataway and endorse the preservation of the Ross Hall Wall, the only surviving tangible link of the launch of the Fourth of July as a national celebration.

Your personalized brick(s) can be installed in either the Patriots Path that leads to the new Forever the 4th Gallery or the Independence Courtyard, an event area serving the gallery and the Metlar-Bodine House:

- \$100 – One 4"x8" brick up to three lines and up to 18 characters per line
- \$175 – One 8"x8" brick up to six lines and up to 18 characters per line
- \$350 – Four 4"x8" bricks each up to three lines and up to 18 characters per line
- \$600 – One 16"x16" brick with up to eight lines and up to 18 characters per line



With your purchase, you will receive a “Thank You” certificate suitable for framing. Your selection will be a permanent reminder of your participation in the continued preservation of the historic site, the museum’s remarkable collection of area artifacts and the Ross Hall Wall, our federally designated American Treasure. To request an order form with instructions for required spacing please contact the museum or use the QR code. There is no order deadline.



The Piscataway Cultural Arts Commission is pleased to present

Concert in the Park 2023 Season

Thursday nights at 7 p.m.
July 13th-August 17th
Columbus Park extension gazebo

Kolor Blynd Band (July 13th)

Piscataway's own! Kolor Blynd Bland, an eclectic band playing R&B, Pop, Soul, Jazz, Broadway and more will play your favorite tunes from the '70's through the 2000's. Dance tunes from Earth, Wind & Fire, Maroon 5 and even The Jackson 5 will have you dancing too. Listen to tunes from Bruno Mars, Prince, Tina Turner, Cheryl Lynn and more. Join us for a rocking good time!

Verdict Reggae Soca Band (July 20th)

"The Verdict Is In" and back in Piscataway bringing you music with a Caribbean flavor. They have played in venues as varied as the Stone Pony to the Super Bowl Manager's meeting in Miami and even at Carnival in Trinidad so be sure to join us for music with the spirit of Carnival!

Jim Barone (July 27th)

Elvis Presley tribute artist Jim Barone brings Elvis' voice and music back to life. Don't miss this rocking performance if you are an Elvis fan.

Tequila Rose (August 3rd)

For the very best of new and classic country tunes, Tequila Rose is Piscataway's favorite country band. They will have you dancing and singing along so be sure to bring those country dancing boots!

The vooDUDES (August 10th)

The vooDUDES are back after a few years hiatus from Piscataway. They bring back their Gulf Coast music with a Mardi Gras type celebration of Zydeco, classic R&B and music from New Orleans. Be sure to join the fun.

David Cedeño & His Latin Salsa Orchestra (August 17th)

Bring your dancing shoes for a fun night of dancing Salsa to David's eight piece orchestra.

Can you sing The Star Spangled Banner?

We are looking for a few good voices to sing our national anthem at the Concert in the Park series. If you can sing it acapella, we invite you to audition for us. Date and time will be determined.

Looking to Display Your Art?

Each month a different artist's work is displayed at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC). 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 in advance. For more information, please call Exhibit

Coordinator Barbara Bridgers at (732) 752-2465 or Commission Chair Kitty Juttner at (732) 563-4117.



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

Recycling/Mini-Dump Center's summertime days & hours

Tuesdays – 2 p.m.-8 p.m. (Gates close at 7:45 p.m.)

Thursdays – 2 p.m.-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.)

The Center is closed on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays as well as certain holidays.

When you arrive, your Piscataway Service Card acts as your ID and must be presented at the gate as proof of residency.

Residents entering the Center must have their vehicles properly insured, inspected and registered. The largest vehicle allowed is a half-ton pick-up truck. No contractors, commercial vehicles, trucks with side boards, boxed U-Hauls or moving trucks are permitted.

Need to dispose of leaves? Grass? Other bagged brush or vegetation? Use your service card to electronically enter the number of bags that you wish to purchase. Grass may be disposed at the recycling yard for a charge of \$1 per 30 gallon bag with bags provided by the resident. A minimum of two \$1 purchases must be made each transaction. Only checks or credit/debit cards are accepted for any purchases made through the DPW office. Checks should be made out to "Township of Piscataway." Please note that grass coupon credits are valid only in the year that they are purchased.

Public Works will not pick up leaf bags until the Fall. Residents who leave leaf bags at the curb after receiving a notice to abate may be subject to a fine. However, residents may bring them to the Center during its summertime hours. Unbagged vegetation such as branches brought to the Center will not be debited from your service card but will be scanned for record purposes.

Need to get rid of lumber, household debris, carpeting, furniture or other such non-recyclable materials? A car-load of these materials needs one scan of your service card; a pick-up truck needs two scans of the service card to debit each permitted deposit of trash.

What to do with materials such as batteries, tires, motor oil, certain metal items (washers, dryers, dishwashers, hot water heaters, refrigerators, air conditioners), certain electronics (televisions, desktop or personal computers, computer monitors, portable computers, desktop printers, desktop fax machines) as well as any recyclables usually picked up curbside? You can bring these to the Center. As these items are recyclable, none of the services provided will be debited but your service card will be scanned for record purposes.

Some items may not be brought to the Center. No paint, used clothes, hazardous waste, kitchen garbage, contractor debris, dirt, rocks or stones are handled by the Township. The Center will also not accept other electronics such as cell phones, copiers, digital cameras, DVD players, e-book readers, keyboards, MP3 players, modems, mice, personal digital assistants (PDAs), scanners, stereo and radio equipment, telephones, VCRs or any products that contain rechargeable batteries not included in this list. Please contact the Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management at (732) 745-4170 for information on how to dispose of such items.

Need a special curbside pickup? Until mid-October, residents may schedule two curbside trash pickups and one curbside branch pick up. Your service card will be debited accordingly. To schedule, please call the Public Works Department at (732) 562-2390 no later than Friday, September 8th as scheduling curbside pickups is done at least a month in advance.

Please keep in mind that for branches picked up curbside, the bundles must be tied with string and be no wider than one foot in diameter. Crews will not take any branches longer than five feet in length and no wider than four inches in diameter. Any bundles containing construction-type wood, metal or other foreign objects will not be taken. Please stack the bundles neatly at the curb, making the pile no longer than ten feet in length, five feet deep and four feet high.

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

Don't miss **summer reading fun** at Piscataway Public Library! Programs and prizes are available for all ages through August. Stop by the Kennedy or Westergard branch for full details.

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 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 this **video streaming service** with your library card! Visit PiscatawayLibrary.org/EContent to learn about Kanopy and additional movie, music, ebook and audiobook options.

The **Make it Yourself (MiY) Makerspace** at Piscataway Public Library is open! Check our calendar for opportunities to use our 3D printers, Glowforge laser cutter, Cricut smart cutters, and more!

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

YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC)

Raritan Rapids – Ahoy mateys! Come splash and play in our pirate themed spray park. Grab your sunscreen and water bottles and come play in our sprinklers and slides. A great way for young kids to cool off this summer! Open daily starting Monday, June 26th with special hours for Independence Day and Labor Day. Please check our open times using the QR code.



Swim 1922 Olympian Event – On Saturday, June 24th from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., fun and safe informative workshops on water safety for kids, teens and adults. Learn more or register using the QR code.



Swim lessons – Registration for swim lessons opens on Wednesday, August 16th for YPCC members and Wednesday, August 23rd for non-members. Learn more using the QR code.



Blood Drives on Monday, July 3rd and Tuesday, September 5th from Noon-6 p.m. Scan the QR codes to sign up.

Give blood and save a life!



Monday, July 3rd

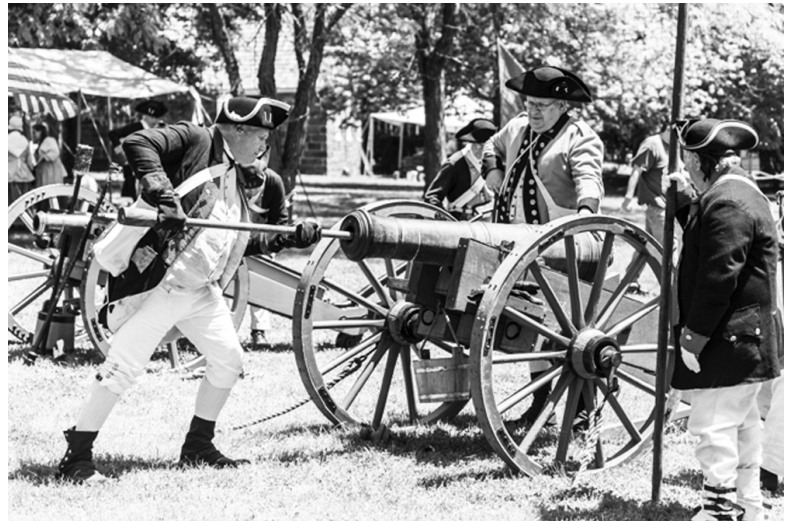


Tuesday, September 5th

East Jersey Old Town Village

A Revolutionary Celebration – Tuesday, July 4th from 11 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

Revolutionize the way you celebrate the Fourth of July by joining the revelries at East Jersey Old Town Village! Join George Washington and the Continental Army on the banks of the Raritan River for a live reenactment with cannon fire and a musket salute just like the one that took place nearby on July 4th, 1778 in celebration of the second anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



Mix and mingle with our historical interpreters during our annual celebration! The day is full of lively demonstrations including a 19th century printing press, stone carving and more. Guests will enjoy food trucks, authentic musical performances, children's crafts and an appearance by George Washington. Explore the grounds and historical buildings.

Simcoe's Raid; Revolutionary War Encampment – Saturday, August 26th & Sunday, August 27th from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the Revolutionary War era. Meet the people who fought for King and Country and those who fought to create a new nation. Interact with soldiers, artillerymen, musicians and civilians. Learn what camp life was like and see a reenactment of Simcoe's 1779 raid. Enjoy music, children's crafts, food trucks and more.

Roaring 20's Jazz Festival – Saturday, September 23rd from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Celebrate the centennial of the "Charleston," the song and dance that define the Roaring Twenties, featuring Michael Arenella and His Dreamland Orchestra and the sounds of Queen Esther. Learn to cut a rug with dance lessons from The Canarsie Wobblers. Enjoy 1920s cars, food trucks and more.

Liberty Base Ball home games – 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:

- Saturday, July 8th at Noon – Monmouth Furnace
- Saturday, September 23rd at 11 a.m. – Elizabeth Resolutes



Cornelius Low House

Exhibition of traveling portrait artist Micah Williams

Micah Williams (1782-1837) was a prolific artist who has 272 known existing paintings. With over 35 paintings on view, visitors can come face to face with past residents of Middlesex and Monmouth counties. The exhibition traces the transformation of the artist from his first career as a New Brunswick silver plater to traveling portrait artist, placing his work into the larger context of social change and American economic development. The exhibition offers viewers the opportunity to explore family relationships among the sitters as well as a glimpse into a prospering agrarian society of Central New Jersey.

Visitors will be able to try their hand working with pastels and learn more about the making of materials used. Children will be encouraged to add their artwork to our Student Gallery and have it become part of the exhibit.

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.