PISCATAWAY News

WINTER 2026

Ward Updates



Middlesex County Sheriff Mildred S. Scott, County Commissioner Chanelle Scott McCullum & Councilmember Sharon Carmichael (Ward 3) at the Piscataway Multicultural Festival

Councilmember Frank Uhrin (Ward 1)



Families deserve safe neighborhoods and opportunities to enjoy the community. That is why I have been pleased to work with our Police Department (PTPD) to hear concerns directly from you to address them. For example, in the Arbor we have had "front porch roll calls" so residents can meet our wonderful police officers. We also have two-officer patrol units in potential hot spots and connected those experiencing homelessness with organizations that can help.

We have great success with youth recreation programs throughout the year! Many thanks to our outstanding volunteer coaches and supportive families. As the President of Piscataway Little League and Piscataway Pop Warner, I am thrilled that we continue to enrich the lives of many children. Registration for T-ball, softball & junior baseball will begin in February, and remember, all Township-led recreation programs for youth are free! For adults, look forward to co-ed pickleball & tennis lessons.

Lastly, I enjoyed seeing many of you at my second annual Family Fun Night with the Somerset Patriots in August and will be happy to bring this back again in 2026.

Councilmember Dennis Espinosa (Ward 2)



As we continue to improve streets in our neighborhoods, I am glad that the largest road project in our Township's history is moving forward. The $9 million, full reconstruction of Centennial Avenue between River Road and Knightsbridge Road is being partially paid by a $4 million grant from the state. This past year, construction teams worked on one of the two westbound lanes with curb and sidewalk improvements. Eventually this long stretch of roadway will have a multi-use path on its south side and sidewalks on its north side as well as storm sewer upgrades, new curbing and new asphalt.

As many of you know, bicycling is a passion of mine. That is why I was very grateful to see an enormous turnout at my second annual Piscataway Bike Tour, a free event in September with an approximate eight-mile route through our Township. I also appreciated many families bringing their kids to the Piscataway Bike Rodeo in May to learn about safety. I look forward to both of these events returning next year.

This past year I have been honored to serve as Council President and am excited for the many great programs all of you will continue to enjoy in 2026.

Councilmember Sharon Carmichael (Ward 3)



Safe driving and good-quality roads are important to all families. That is why I work with our Police Department on its Safe Streets campaign and with our Public Works Department to resurface roadways. With targeted enforcement where speeding is more common, installing rumble strips and putting up 25 mph signs, we strive to better protect drivers and walkers. In addition, putting new asphalt on our streets not only makes our roads safer but also increases the value of your homes.

Seeing many young children at my "Storytime with Sharon" events has been delightful and I hope even more families come to my monthly events at the Kennedy Library.

I am pleased to be part of the Piscataway Civil Rights Advisory Commission and to have worked to put on our first Multicultural Festival at Riverside Park, a wonderful day of showcasing many heritages and bringing families together so we as one community can learn more about each other. This is the beginning of more to come.

In addition, I look forward to continuing to highlight the importance of civil rights at the

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Ward Updates

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upcoming Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. commemorative breakfast.

I enjoy serving as your Ward 3 councilmember and am excited for the year ahead.

Councilmember Michele Lombardi (Ward 4)



Piscataway Ecological Park will be another jewel of our Township and we're proceeding with a careful eye to finances. We have all waited a long time and while much of the land has been cleared, I am pleased to let you know that the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection is providing us with over $3 million for Phase I, our clean-up which has already started and is slated to continue through the first half of 2026. In addition, the NJ Dept. of Community Affairs is giving us $500,000 for Phase II to help offset the construction costs.

I enjoyed talking with many of you at my "Lemonade with Lombardi" events and I will be holding more of these so I can learn about what is important to you. My 2nd annual Townwide Yard Sale was a fantastic event and I am excited about bringing it back again in the fall. Lastly, I hope you have been enjoying the many homes participating in my Holiday House Decorating Contest.

It has been an honor to serve as Council Vice President this past year and I look forward to continue dancing with many of you at our Summer Concert Series!

Public Safety in Piscataway

Keith Stith, Public Safety Director
Piscataway Township Police Department



Your police department is committed to improving and ensuring safe neighborhoods throughout Piscataway.

We have had great success with our Safe Streets campaign to reduce speeding and continue working hard to reduce motor vehicle collisions on residential 25 mph roadways.

We continue looking for good candidates to join our ranks. We presently have six cadets in the police academy – three from Piscataway – and we encourage those interested to take the written exam. If you want to become a Piscataway police officer, please contact me at (732) 562-2345 or KStith@PiscatawayNJ.org

A great way for us to hear your thoughts about safety in our community is through our Front Porch Roll Calls. We bring our officers into our diverse neighborhoods and right onto your porch! By having our roll calls at various homes and businesses, we give you a direct opportunity to interact with our police officers, learn about law enforcement and share your concerns.

If you are interested in hosting a Front Porch Roll Call in the spring, please contact Detective Tishun Myers at (732) 562-2358 or TMyers@PiscatawayNJ.org.

A new, free program starting in the spring will be Operation Blue Angel for residents who because of advanced age, mobility or medical concerns may be unable to answer their door in an emergency.

A Police Department-owned lockbox similar to a relator's lockbox is mounted to a front door and will contain a key supplied by the resident. In an emergency, police can open the box using a code from our police communications center so they can enter quickly and without causing damage. If you are interested in Operation Blue Angel, please contact Lt. Michael Coffey starting in January at (732) 562-2351 or MCoffey@PiscatawayNJ.org.

We hope you can join us at a Coffee with a Cop and look forward to another great National Night Out in the summer.



Piscataway Senior Center
(732) 562-1133

Health & Well-Being

Senior Medicare Patrol on Wednesday, January 7th at 10:00 a.m. – Learn about Medicare open enrollment, new plans that are becoming available and the changes to existing plans.

Heart Failure Awareness presentation by RWJ Barnabas Health on Monday, February 2nd from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Free blood pressure & glucose screenings by St. Peter's University Hospital on Thursday, February 5th from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Colorectal Cancer presentation by RWJ Barnabas Health on Monday, March 2nd from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

For Problem Gambling Awareness Month, the Council on Compulsive Gambling, 1-(800) GAMBLER, will give a presentation on Tuesday, March 3rd at 12:30 p.m.

Black History Month events on Fridays in February

February 6th – PAASC Chorus & Friends and New Jersey Orators 27
February 13th – Game Day with trivia on practices & customs of African Americans with prizes awarded
February 20th – "Beyond Motown" name that tune. Several genres of music including gospel, jazz, R&B, soul and more with prizes awarded
February 27th – "Celebrate and Honor" grand finale luncheon celebration with keynote moderator Councilmember Sharon Carmichael (Ward 3) and the Singing Pastors of Piscataway



Entertainment

Flavian the Mind Reader – Monday, January 5th at 12:30 p.m.

Jay Daniels presentations
Piano Men: A Tribute to Billy Joel and Elton John – Friday, January 9th at 12:30 p.m.
Time for Love – Thursday, February 26th at 12:30 p.m.
A Place for Us: West Side Story – Thursday, March 26th at 12:30 p.m.

Senior Jeopardy by the Wells Spring Center for Prevention on Thursday, January 15th at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday, February 19th at 10:00 a.m.

YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC)

Swim lessons – Spring I registration dates
Wednesday, February 18th for YPCC members
Wednesday, February 25th for non-YPCC members

Blood drives – Scan the QR codes to sign up. Give blood and save a life!

Monday, January 5th, Noon-6 p.m.

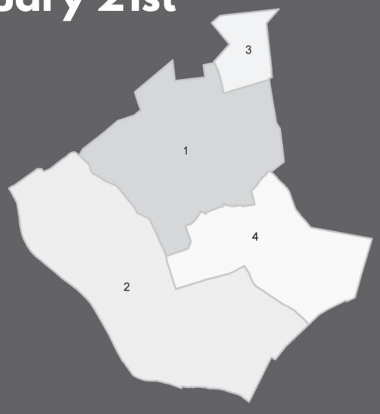
Monday, March 2nd, Noon-6 p.m.

Fire District Elections

Saturday, February 21st
2-9 p.m.

Ballots include candidates for fire commissioners and your fire district's annual budget





District 1 – New Market Fire Company, 801 S. Washington Avenue
District 2 – Commissioners Building, 101 Netherwood Avenue
District 3 – Arbor Hose Company, 1780 West 7th Street
District 4 – North Stelton Fire Company, 70 Haines Avenue

Department of Public Works

505 Sidney Road, (732) 562-2390
DPWrequests@PiscatawayNJ.org

Pothole reporting:
For potholes on Township roads, please call the Township DPW at (732) 562-2390
For potholes on county roads, please call Middlesex County at (732) 940-3800
For potholes on state roads, please visit www.nj.gov/transportation/commuter/potholeform.shtm

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. This program resumes on Tuesday, January 6th. The last appointments may be made in mid-September and the program ends during the second week of October.

Christmas trees
Christmas trees will not be picked up. Residents may bring them to their local Piscataway firehouse only during the month of January or they can be brought to the Recycling Center during the hours as shown below. Trees must be devoid of all decorations. Trees will be recycled.

Recycling Center / Mini Dump
Recycling Center hours through December 31, 2026
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

You must present your Piscataway Service Card at the DPW gate to enter the recycling yard. It will be your proof of residency. For a loaded passenger vehicle, SUV or minivan, the recycling yard attendant will scan your card once. The largest vehicle allowed in the Recycling Center is a half-ton pickup or trailer no larger than four feet by eight feet for which two scans of the card will be made. Four visits per year to the Recycling Center are provided per household. No trucks with built-up sideboards are permitted.

For more information about the Piscataway Service Card, please visit the Township website or call DPW at (732) 562-2390.

Depending on the type of vehicle, one or two scans will be made for lumber, household debris, carpeting, furniture and all other non-recyclable materials. Cards will not be scanned for recyclable materials such as batteries, tires, motor oil, branches, leaves, metal, various plastics and glass, cardboard and paper. Each year, cards will be automatically replenished with the free services provided by the Township.

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.

Not permitted at the Recycling Center are kitchen garbage, hazardous or toxic waste, chemicals, paints, contractor debris, dirt, concrete, asphalt or any other type of rock debris.



Recreation

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

Picnic reservations – Township residents as well as Piscataway-based civic organizations and businesses can reserve the pavilions at Possumtown and Riverside parks for summertime events. Reservations can be made in person at The YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center (YPCC) on Saturday, February 28th from 10 a.m.-Noon. Proof of residency is required. Cost is $250 for the park and $150 for an optional alcohol permit. No cash will be accepted; check or money order only.

Please note that this will be the final season for in-person reservations. Beginning in 2027, all Piscataway residents wanting to make a reservation will be required to register for an account and submit their reservation request and payment online.

T-Ball, Baseball & Softball – Online registrations open on Monday, February 2nd for three-month seasons beginning in April:
- T-Ball for boys & girls ages five, six & seven
- Junior Baseball league for boys ages 13-15
- Girls instructional softball for 2nd & 3rd graders
- Girls modified pitch softball for 4th & 5th graders
- Girls fast pitch softball for 6th, 7th & 8th graders

Remember, all Township Recreation youth programs are free and open to Piscataway residents only.

Adults programs – For Piscataway residents only, registrations are planned to open in early April:
- Co-ed pickleball lessons
- Co-ed tennis lessons
- Men's "Over 35" slo-pitch industrial softball. Interested in starting a team? Please e-mail Recreation@PiscatawayNJ.org.

Gym hockey for 6th-12th grades youth as well as adults on Saturdays from January to March; no registration is required.

Rabies Clinics

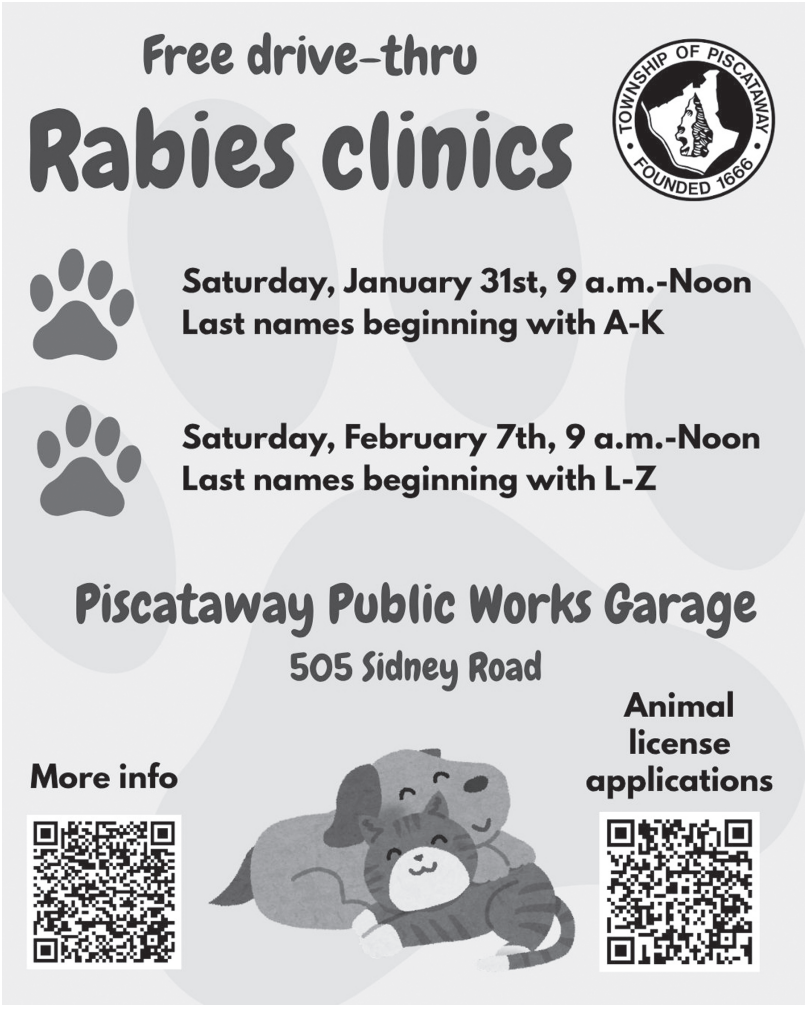
To determine vaccine eligibility please bring your pet's vaccination records.

We will continue with the drive thru model with residents remaining in their cars at all times. Staff will guide residents and will take away the pet – either a dog by a leash or a cat or small dog in an appropriate carrier as provided by the resident – to get its rabies shot.

The Township Clerk's office will not be open on the rabies clinics dates to accept license applications for dogs and cats. Instead, please find the license applications on the Township Clerk's webpages. You can also pick up the form at the clinics.

Please download the appropriate form and mail with payment, proof of rabies vaccine, self-addressed stamped envelope and proof of spaying/neutering if applicable to the Township Clerk's office, 455 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854 or place all materials in an envelope in the tax & sewer dropbox outside Town Hall at the same address.

A heavy active snowstorm or other restriction from the state may result in clinic cancellation. Please look at the Township's Rabies Clinic webpage and Township social media for up-to-date information.



Metlar-Bodine House Museum

1281 River Road, Piscataway – 732-463-8363 • metlarbodine@gmail.com
Website: MetlarBodineHouseMuseum.org • Facebook: www.Facebook.com/MetlarBodineHouseMuseum

A Dream Realized: The 1860s Front Parlor Exhibit



"A dream is a wish your heart makes," begins the beloved song from Disney's "Cinderella." That sentiment reflects a decades-long dream that became a vision and now a reality at Piscataway Township's Metlar-Bodine House Museum: the creation of an exhibit that brings to life an 1860s front parlor.

Thanks to the generosity of time, research and full funding from a Piscataway couple and the work of the Museum's all-volunteer team, this dream has taken shape. The exhibit features carefully chosen draperies, wallpaper and carpet, each selected for historical accuracy and authenticity. The draperies and under curtains, which hang from period brass rods and fittings, are custom-made fabrics woven on an antique loom.

The wallpaper was printed using 19th-century techniques such as the use of paint-saturated wood blocks and layered colors. It was installed by a New Jersey master wallpaper hanger whose experience includes the Oval Office. The carpet will be woven on an antique jacquard loom in strips that will be sewn together by hand. It will be installed in early 2026.

The exhibit also showcases 19th-century lighting artifacts: a chandelier, a solar lamp patented in 1843, brass candlesticks and a kerosene lamp alongside period furniture such as a Victorian settee, slipper chairs, secretary desk with bookcase and marble top table. Among other artifacts of interest are a Victorian hair memorial and a Van Doren coverlet.

True to the Museum's mission, many artifacts originate from Piscataway's historic past. Others were added to ensure an authentic mid-19th century parlor experience.

This exhibit is more than a room; it's a window into the past, a reminder of the artistry and craftsmanship that shaped everyday life in Piscataway nearly two centuries ago. Visitors are invited to step inside, reflect and connect with the Township's rich heritage.

Do you have a sump pump putting water into the sanitary sewers? It's not just a flooding danger; it's also illegal. That is why the Township will have smoke tests in 2026 to identify homes with this banned practice.

If rainwater is flowing into the sanitary sewers, it can overwhelm the system, cause backups and prevent you and others from using plumbing. It's called inflow and infiltration (I&I) and it has to stop.

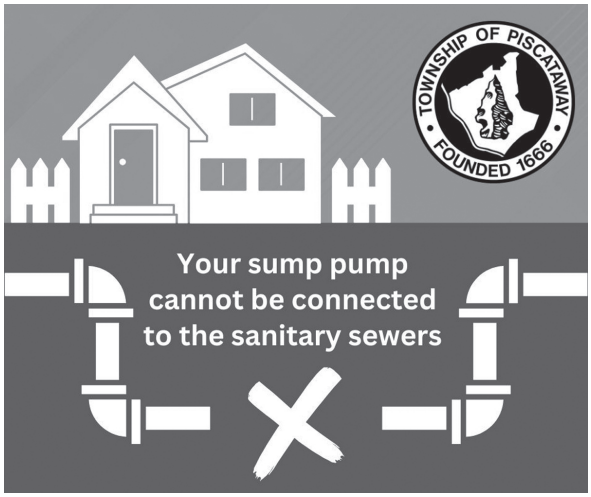
It also is expensive for the Township to fix and we don't need to spend taxpayers' hard earned money on preventable problems.

If you have water from your house flowing into the sanitary sewers from a sump pump, roof drain or gutter downspout, now is the time to correct it – especially before the smoke tests start.

A non-toxic, odorless smoke is blown into the sewer lines to help identify where stormwater may be improperly entering the sanitary system. If there is an illicit connection from your property, smoke may be visible coming from gutters, roof drains or even inside your house.

We ask all homeowners, landlords and business owners to inspect their properties to ensure that no stormwater sources are connected to the sanitary sewer.

Thank you for helping to keep Piscataway's sewer system safe and efficient!



New Year, New Legislative Session

by Senator Bob Smith



Our state legislative delegation with Councilmember Sharon Carmichael (Ward 3) at the Piscataway Multicultural Festival

As we conclude the 221st session of the New Jersey Legislature and embark on the 222nd, I am honored to again be joined by the Honorable Members of the General Assembly, Kevin Egan and Joseph Danielsen, in representing the 17th legislative district which with Piscataway also includes Franklin, New Brunswick, North Brunswick and South Bound Brook. We will work closely with our new Governor Mikie Sherrill to make the Garden State an even better place to live and raise a family.

A respected labor leader, Kevin Egan has championed legislation aimed at improving school safety, advancing renewable energy and providing economic relief for working families. A U.S. Army veteran and a volunteer firefighter, Joe Danielsen is a voice in Trenton for education funding, public safety, women's healthcare, affordable housing and lowering the cost of living.

In this new session we will continue our work together to provide property tax relief through Anchor and StayNJ, lower the cost of living for all, battle climate change and ensure our environment is safeguarded by protecting our valuable resources. Stay tuned for legislative updates.

Come see us in action! Our capitol building is less than an hour away and is the second oldest working statehouse in the nation, originally built in 1792. To schedule a tour, please use the QR code.

As always, if we can be of assistance to you or should you have any questions about state issues or legislation, please reach out to us at senbsmith@njleg.org, asmegan@njleg.org and asmdanielsen@njleg.org.



Library Notes

Kennedy Library | 500 Hoes Lane
Westergard Library | 20 Murray Avenue

www.piscatawaylibrary.org

Our 3rd annual **Muslim Heritage Month celebration** is on Saturday, January 10th at 1 p.m. at Kennedy Library. Children in kindergarten to 6th grade and their families are invited to explore trade and travel through the lens of Muslim history.

Children in preschool to 6th grade and their families can kick off the Year of the Horse by attending our **Lunar New Year celebration** on Saturday, February 7th at 1:30 p.m. at Kennedy Library.

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Black History Month at our 7th annual **African American Read-In** at Kennedy Library on Saturday, February 21st at 11 a.m.

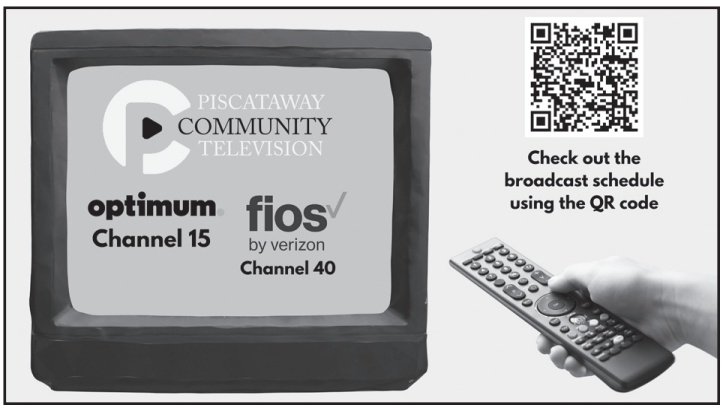
The Friends of Piscataway Public Library will hold its next **Donation Day** on Saturday, March 14th from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Drop off your books, DVDs, puzzles and games in good condition at the Kennedy Library meeting room.

Join us for **New Jersey Makers Day** on Saturday, March 28th at Kennedy Library or Westergard Library for all-ages events that celebrate making and tinkering.

Students in 6th-8th grades who live in Piscataway can volunteer with our **Adopt-a-Shelf** program. Check PiscatawayLibrary.org/Teens for the next round of applications.

Self-service library checkout is now available. Visit either location to try it out.

Full event details are available on the Library's website at PiscatawayLibrary.org or by calling (732) 463-1633, Ext. 4126. Registration is required for most events. Email Library@PiscatawayLibrary.org with any questions.



Attention renters!



Did you know that for many apartment complexes that Piscataway Township has an annual limit on an allowable rent increase? For 2026, it is three percent.

More information

Anyone who works on your house should be licensed & insured

Ask the Township Building Division if a permit is required

This protects you and your home

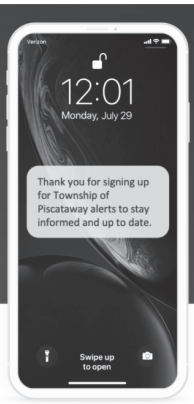


Always Be Notified

Sign up for Township of Piscataway alerts and receive important notifications via text message.

SEVERE WEATHER ALERTS | TRAFFIC UPDATES | EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS | EVENT REMINDERS

This service is provided by the Town of Piscataway at no cost to the public; however, message and data rates may apply depending on your provider and phone services. Please refer to your mobile phone's service plan for more information. Visit smart911.com to create your free safety profile.



STORYTIME WITH SHARON!





Bring your kids ages 18 months-5 years for storytime, songs & free play with Councilmember Sharon Carmichael

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

February 3rd
March 3rd
April 7th
May 5th



Kennedy Library, 500 Hoes Lane

The Piscataway Historical & Heritage Society

Dr. Richard Moody returns to Piscataway to present

U.S. Navy and the Navy Fighter Weapons School Top Gun

Sunday, January 25th at 2 p.m.
Kennedy Library, 500 Hoes Lane

RSVP to PHHS1666@gmail.com
or call/text (848) 216-9547

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455 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

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