



nj municipalities

Official Publication of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities

April 2020

Hope Soars

Show Off Your City's Winning Moments

Styrofoam Recycling

Washington Priorities 2020

Focus:



Creating Arts Centers

How can the Bureau of Municipal Information help your municipality?

Top 5 ways

- 1** Increase efficiency
(by using the tools available in our online resource centers)
- 2** Increase knowledge on a subject
(topic summaries: found on resource center webpages; & in-depth bill histories: found on NJLM's blog)
- 3** Learn from other municipalities
(visit the library of ordinances and shared service agreements enacted throughout the State)
- 4** Stay current: Read what's in-the-news
(subscribe to news flashes to have topic updates emailed to you; or read through the article links featured in individual resource centers)
- 5** Ask questions - discuss with an expert
(League advisory & consultation services are available on several topics)

Resources on over 30 topics





New Jersey Municipalities Magazine

Volume 97 | Issue 4

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Creating Arts Centers

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Mayors Committee on Arts & Culture Formed

State organizations combine forces to create an arts-centric sharing community

Ann Marie Miller, Director of Advocacy & Public Policy, ArtPride New Jersey Foundation, and Michelle Baxter-Schaffer, NJ Council on the Arts

ABOUT THE COVER

Hope Township rises up as the winner of this year's Show Off Your City contest with an image by Committeeman C. John Kruk. Congratulations and thanks for all of the many submissions from around the state. We look forward to highlighting them throughout the year.



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A Compassionate Voice in Communities

As this issue goes to print, we are beginning to understand the progression of COVID-19 in the United States. New Jersey has identified its first cases of the disease and the response has begun in dollars appropriated, facilities mobilized, advisories communicated, and concerns heightened.

The League has already posted reference resources on our website, just search for COVID-19. Perhaps the most important consideration to keep in mind as we respond is to rely on sources of information that have proven trusted and reliable (read: not casual social media). New Jersey in particular is fortunate to have access to the best medical and academic minds in the country, along with the best medical science and technology.

Local officials, specifically, have a unique role where they can be most effective in responding to this disease. They can be leaders in preventing the stigmatization of groups and individuals as we address our communities' needs and concerns. Your local voices calling for fact-based action and compassion for neighbors is strong medicine to counteract rumors that would divide our community or isolate our neighbors. There is practical response work ahead in your communities requiring action by health officials, schools, the medical community, municipal administration, and others.

As a local leader, your call for compassion can assure that when this is past, your community can be more united and closer than ever because you helped them not lose sight of each other as caring neighbors.

While you are focusing on important local concerns, we continue to work on your behalf here in Trenton and in Washington D.C. Your League President Jim Perry has been to the capitol twice already with good effect. He has met with several of New Jersey's congressional

delegation and arranged a helpful meeting with USDOT on a highway issue. He has met with most of the state legislative leadership and many cabinet members and those meetings are generating further connections. His active outreach to State and Federal officials helps keep municipal concerns actively under their consideration and results in those officials calling the League office for input during deliberations.

I have a few updates on efforts to address the culture of sexual harassment in New Jersey government and politics. On the Chamber of Commerce Walk to Washington, I joined League President Perry and First Vice President Kovach along with Assistant Executive Director Mike Cerra. Having made the trip several times before, I found the atmosphere on the ride down professional and the discussions substantive.

For me, the train ride was a positive experience and the networking was easier than usual. The experience was different than the past, and I am happy to recommend it for those who want a productive professional networking experience.

Coming up in the near future, League First Vice President Kovach will be meeting with Senator Weinberg's task force to update them on a variety of actions the League is taking to address the issue at the local government level.

One of those actions is an April 17 training webinar produced in cooperation with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights "Preventing Sexual Harassment in Your Municipal Workplace." For information on the webinar see the League's web calendar of events.

As I have indicated previously, the League's efforts in this regard will not be narrow and will not be brief. We have an obligation to make local government a safe place for all to engage and that means eliminating the problem of sexual harassment in all places and situations. ♡

Michael Darcy

“As a local leader, your call for compassion can assure that when this is past, your community can be more united and closer than ever because you helped them not lose sight of each other as caring neighbors.”



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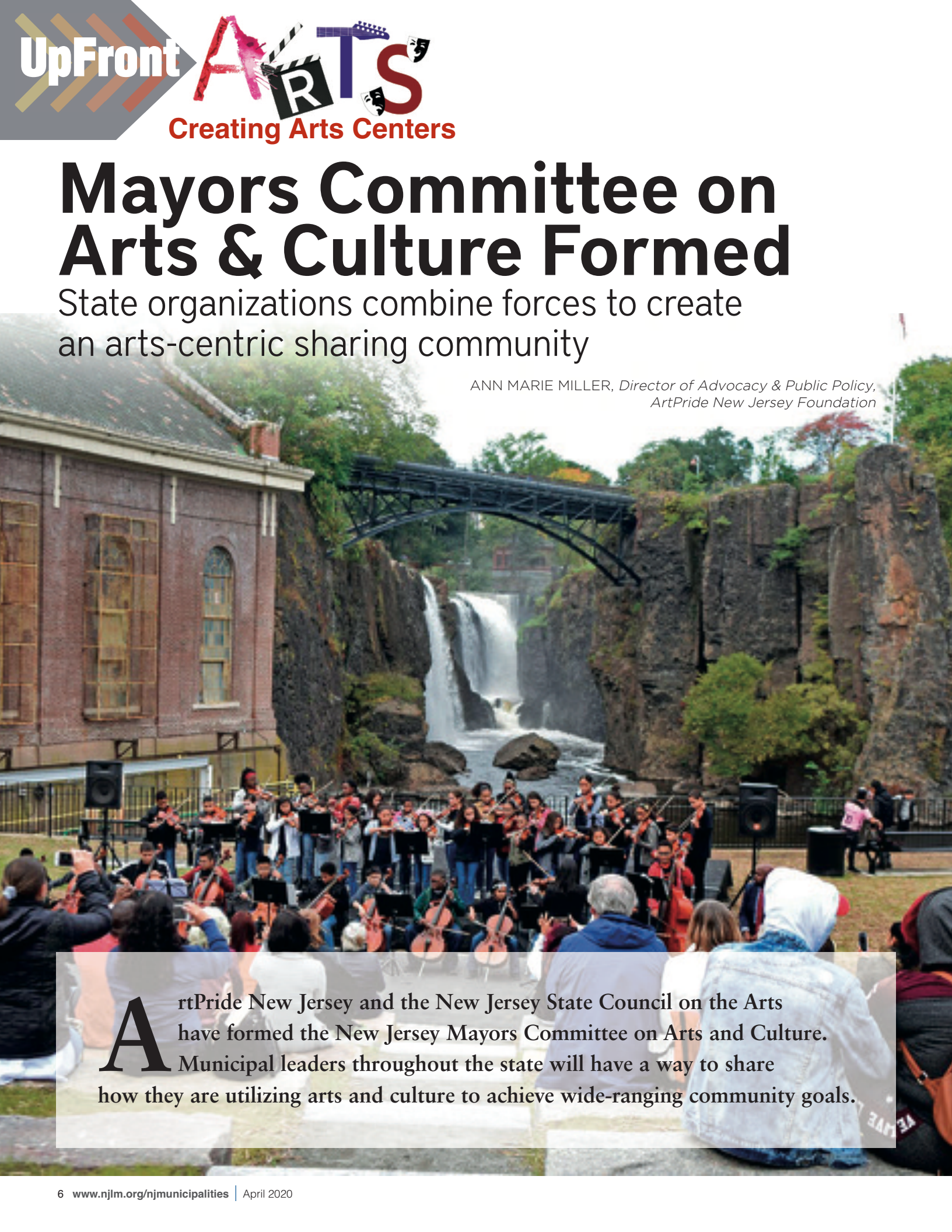
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Mayors Committee on Arts & Culture Formed

State organizations combine forces to create an arts-centric sharing community

ANN MARIE MILLER, *Director of Advocacy & Public Policy,*
ArtPride New Jersey Foundation

A large group of young musicians, mostly children and teenagers, are performing outdoors. They are arranged in several rows, playing violins, violas, cellos, and double basses. They are positioned in front of a large, multi-story brick building with arched windows. In the background, a waterfall cascades over a rocky cliff, and a black metal bridge arches over the water. The scene is set in a park-like area with trees and a clear sky. The musicians are dressed in casual clothing, and some are wearing headphones. The overall atmosphere is one of a community arts event.

ArtPride New Jersey and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts have formed the New Jersey Mayors Committee on Arts and Culture. Municipal leaders throughout the state will have a way to share how they are utilizing arts and culture to achieve wide-ranging community goals.

According to the National League of Cities' State of the Cities 2019 report, the arts are increasingly supported by mayors. When addressing economic development, tourism, and business growth, 31% of mayors cited arts and culture as a way to create jobs and vibrant downtowns.

But beyond design and economic development, arts and culture are increasingly seen as contributors to community development. There is growing appreciation for the invaluable resources of people and creativity. These are things all municipalities possess and, when properly nurtured, build stronger, healthier, more resilient, and dynamic communities.

The public agrees. A 2018 survey by Americans for the Arts reported that 4 in 5 Americans find the arts a positive experience in a troubled world. Further, 90% of respondents said that arts institutions are important to a community's quality of life.

Sharing best practices

Many New Jersey mayors are active in this arena. Several have built arts and culture into their municipal plans. They support local arts councils and commissions and find incentives for public art.

multidisciplinary arts service organization, advances, promotes, and advocates for the arts. Their mission supports the idea that arts are essential to the quality of life of every citizen and the economic vitality of our state.

A 2018 survey by Americans for the Arts reported that 4 in 5 Americans find the arts a positive experience in a troubled world.

The Mayors Committee on Arts and Culture presents a new and focused way to share best practices. Participants can wrestle with challenges, spark creative ventures, and celebrate successes.

ArtPride New Jersey, the state's largest

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, part of the NJ Department of State, supports, encourages, and fosters public interest in the arts through a variety of programs.

ArtPride and the Council on the Arts



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Upfront: Mayors Committee on Arts & Culture

have collaborated for years at the League Conference. Their sessions shared how arts and culture help shape safe, healthy, and creative places. These forums have been led by elected and appointed municipal leaders and are increasingly well attended by their peers.

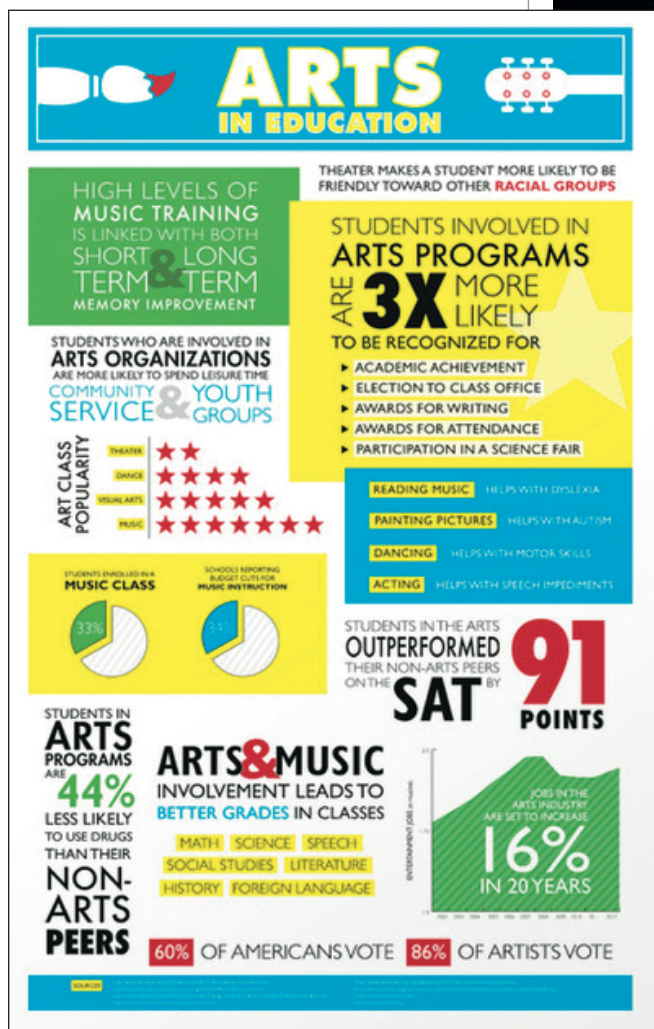
A New Jersey Mayors Committee on Arts and Culture will create an ongoing and multi-platform forum. Mayors will share resources and experiences and discuss topics including the formation of local arts commissions and cultural districts. Other subjects will range from public art and creative placemaking to building partnerships with local businesses, developers, and community service organizations.

Members will receive:

- Tools and strategies to promote cultural activities



Surflight Theatre



Their mission supports the idea that arts are essential to the quality of life of every citizen and the economic vitality of our state.

- Connections to partners and resources
- Invitations to relevant forums and webinars
- Access to an online resource center with links to policies that foster and promote arts and culture reflective of the diverse communities in New Jersey

ArtPride New Jersey and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts invite mayors from municipalities around the state to join a Founder's Advisory Council. Council members will help form and mobilize the New Jersey Mayor's Committee on Arts and Culture. 📌

@ For further information, contact Ann Marie Miller, ArtPride NJ's Director of Advocacy and Public Policy at amiller@artpridenj.org or 609-479-3377, ext. 307; or Mary Eileen Fouratt, NJ State Council on the Arts Program Officer at MaryEileen.Fouratt@sos.nj.gov or 609-984-6815.



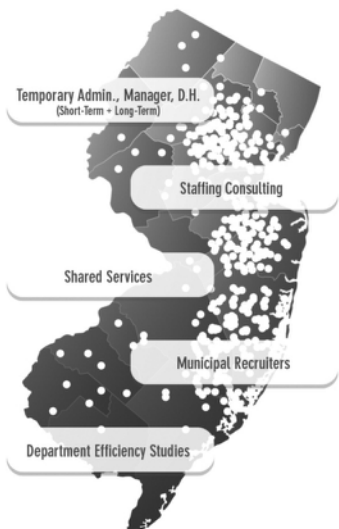
Around the State

Mayors from diverse New Jersey municipalities have already expressed interest in a Mayors Committee on Arts and Culture.

Beach Haven Mayor Nancy Taggart Davis said, "I am delighted to see that ArtPride and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts are joining together to create the Mayors Committee on Arts and Culture. Here on Long Beach Island, the Surflight Theatre is a major cultural asset that provides quality regional theater all year long, boosts local businesses, and provides young people with apprenticeships and opportunities to learn and experience musical theater." She continued, "I am eager to share their successes and learn new ways to incorporate art into beach culture."

Paterson Mayor André Sayegh noted, "I attended the League Conference panels on arts and health, safety, and economic development as a Councilman before I was elected Paterson's Mayor, and can vouch to learning about great work being done in large and small cities throughout New Jersey, and the inspiration that results."

He added, "As Mayor, I am incorporating arts and culture into Paterson's new brand and planning process. I see its value through many different lenses. The Mayors Committee on Arts and Culture will offer a way to share experiences beyond the one annual conference panel discussion and provide a base for knowledge building."



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Mayor John McCormac
Township of Woodbridge

★★★★★
JPM helped us hire two members of our Senior Management Team and handled everything tremendously.



Mayor Thomas Andes
Township of Denville

★★★★★
Dan and his team at JPM were instrumental in recruiting exactly the right person as our first Executive Director of our newly created Business Improvement District.



Mayor Fred Tagliarini
Township of Aberdeen

★★★★★
JPM provided an outstanding Temporary DPW Director, and completed an outstanding Efficiency Study of our DPW.



Mayor Beth Holtzman
City of Ventnor

★★★★★
Best decision we made; Maria Mento and Joe Verruni are very knowledgeable and always accessible.



Stephen Mountain
Manager, Township of Randolph

★★★★★
JPM was very responsive to our needs and utilized a process that was fair and organized. They helped us select the best professional for the position.



Mayor Richard Onderko
Borough of Manville

★★★★★
Best Municipal Government Advisors I've met in 10 years in elected office. Helped us recruit a fantastic Administrator. Thanks Dan and JPM.



George Jackson
Administrator, Borough of Eatontown

★★★★★
JPM's thorough recruitment and selection process led us to just the experienced professional we were looking for.



Mayor Dina Long
Borough of Sea Bright

★★★★★
One of the best decisions we made after Sandy was bringing experienced professionals from JPM onto our team. Joe Verruni and Debbie Smith provided the expertise and guidance we needed to navigate the recovery and rebuilding.

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NOW & THEN



AMY SPIEZIO,
Managing Editor

APRIL

Looking back at local government's take on hot topics throughout the history of NJ Municipalities magazine.

1940

Safety

Experience has indicated that people do grow tired of working for safety. With this cold fact staring us in the face, we must then begin to develop a bigger field force of people who are paid to promote safety as their specific and only job.

–“*Straws in the Wind*” by
Arthur F. Loewe, Education Chairman,
Safety, Committee

Planning & Development

Guiding community development along orderly lines, the planning board's basic function, presupposes a complete knowledge of the physical, economic and social structure of the community and a clear understanding of its development goals.

–“*Community Planning in New Jersey*”
by Harvey Mandel, Principal Planner,
New Jersey State Department
of Conservation and
Economic Development

1959

Before Hollywood there was Fort Lee, NJ—the film capital of the world

Thomas Edison and William K.L. Dickson invented the world's first motion picture camera, the kinetograph, on the grounds of Edison's West Orange laboratory in 1888.

–“*Starring New Jersey*,”
Elizabeth Parchment,
Director of Marketing and
Chief Diversity Officer,
NJ Motion Picture and
Television Commission
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“I am proud that Middletown is leading the charge on recycling Styrofoam in New Jersey,”

said Mayor Tony Perry. “We launched the Styrofoam recycling campaign around the holidays so our community could easily dispose of packaging materials from large gifts received, such as TVs, appliances, and furniture in an environmentally safe way.”

–“*Styrofoam Recycling*” by
Tara Berson,
Public Information
Officer, Township
of Middletown
Page 28

1984

Environmental Protection

In addition to having direct regulatory authority in this area, municipalities can influence the quality of the environment through the exercise of their land use and zoning.

–“*Role of Local Government in Environmental Protection*” by
Lewis Goldshore, Esq.

Green Benefits

Becoming more sustainable will provide spin-off economic and environmental benefits for your government operations and your communities.

–“*This Earth Day, Let's Green the Garden State*,” by Mark N. Mauriello,
Acting Commissioner,
Department of
Environmental Protection

2009

THIS MONTH

This month our focus is on the stars...of the stage and screen varieties. We discuss how the arts centers around the state make life better. But we haven't forgotten Earth Day and send a happy 50th to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Finally, we salute the wonderful municipalities who participated in our Show Off Your City contest, congratulations to Hope for its winning image and to all of the talented participants. 🌱

League Prepares Assistance for COVID-19

The League is committed to providing municipalities with the best information and advice available on the response to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

A coronavirus (COVID-19) resource webpage on our website, www.njlm.org/COVID-19, provides links to the latest information posted by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the New Jersey Department of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other trusted sources. The website includes reliable sources providing specific lower case guidance for local officials.

In addition to your efforts to protect the public, your first responders, and your workforce, you have to think about how your operations could be effected by staff shortages. You might also consider how you can ensure technological security, if employees are required to work from home. Finally, you may need to protect yourself, your employees, and your citizens from any 'disinformation campaigns' that might arise on the internet.

The Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has established a landing page, where information on management planning and response to the current COVID-19 outbreak is being posted.

In addition, CISA is preparing a Pandemic Guide expected to be posted soon. That document will include important planning information, including assembling a response team, identifying essential personnel, clearly delineating areas of responsibility, and planning for staff shortages.

Relying on trusted sources, we will continue to update our www.njlm.org/COVID-19 webpage with information as it becomes available. 🇺🇸



State League Visits Morris County League



1. Left to Right: Madison Mayor Bob Conley; Mendham Township Committeewoman Amalia Duarte; Long Hill Deputy Mayor and NJLM Executive Board Member Guy Piserchia; Chatham Borough Councilwoman Karen Koronkiewicz; Chatham Township Committeewoman Tracy Ness; Rep. Mikie Sherrill's Director of Outreach, Kellie Doucette; and Chatham Township Deputy Mayor Stacey Ewald.

2. NJLM Executive Director Michael J. Darcy, CAE, speaks to the county league, who congratulated him on his impending retirement with a celebratory cake.



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