

CARTERET *On The Move*

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NJ State report shows Carteret among lowest property taxes in the state

The Borough of Carteret has seen some of the lowest increases in property taxes among Central New Jersey towns since 2000, according to a recent report released by the NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA). While neighboring towns have seen property taxes increase as high as 65%, Carteret has seen the lowest aggregate increase during the same 15 year period; an average of 1.2% a year. Many received a decrease in property taxes in the last five years.

The Borough has undergone a reassessment program in 2012 whereas the overall tax burden was shifted from the residential homeowner onto our commercial base. The Borough is once again reviewing tax rolls and has implemented that same reassessment program for the 2017 tax year, according to the Borough Office of Finance.

“Our aggressive efforts to attract new developments have been an important part in stabilizing the tax rate,” said Mayor Reiman. *“We have also worked hard to streamline the Borough workforce and hold the line on municipal spending. Fifteen years ago our taxes ranked among the highest in Middlesex County; today, we are the third lowest in the county and one of the lowest in Central New Jersey.”*

The average property tax bill in Middlesex County, in 2015, was \$7,725 – a 2.4% rise from \$7,541 the previous year; with an increase of about 40% since 2000. Meanwhile, the Borough of Carteret has had the lowest increases in property taxes the same period (2000-2015), according to the NJ DCA report and a recent article by NJ.com. <http://bit.ly/1VZ5LvW>

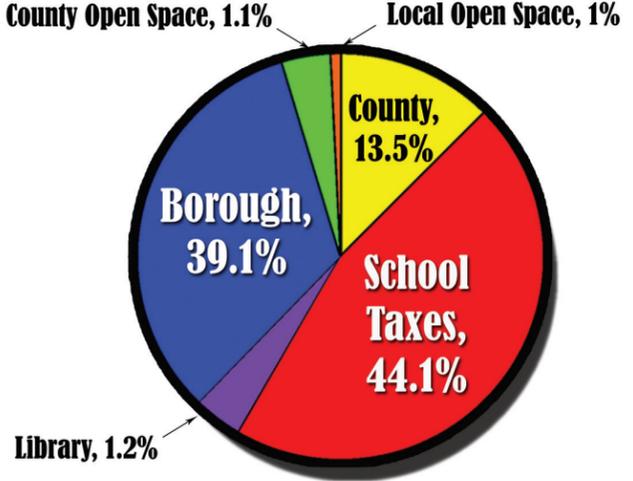
As Mayor Reiman noted, a 30% reduction in the municipal workforce has saved the Borough approximately \$4 million

annually. Decreases in bond debt and constraints on municipal spending have also been key factors in stabilizing property taxes. Reiman also noted that the Borough has incorporated public-private partnerships in order to streamline operations and costs.

The Borough of Carteret has seen a robust increase of commercial, industrial and residential growth over the past years resulting in nearly \$1 billion in construction and ratable expansion. Officials expect that these trends will continue as there are currently eighteen redevelopment programs underway to help revitalize the Borough and stimulate the economy.

Despite the fact that Governor Chris Christie’s Administration has eliminated the Urban Enterprise Program, which cost Carteret tax payers over \$1 million annually, and has ignored the School Funding Law by under-funding the Carteret Board of Education \$16 million a year, the Borough has managed to do more with less.

“We have streamlined government and have significantly grown our commercial, industrial and residential tax base,” added Mayor Reiman. *“We will continue to hold the line on property tax increases and ask that the Board of Education and county do the same – hold the line and cut costs.”*



Daniel J. Reiman
Mayor

Vinnie Bellino
Council President

Susan Naples
Randy Krum
Jorge Diaz
Dennis DiMascio
A.J. Johal
Council Members

The Carteret Business Partnership

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In Memoriam Councilman Joseph "Skippy" Sitarz



1937

2016



A life of service



Councilman Joseph "Skippy" Sitarz, a military veteran and longtime civic leader, passed away at the age of 79 on Monday April 11th, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway.

A lifelong borough resident, Skippy served his neighbors and his community for more than 50 years, including 22 years on the council. He was most recently re-elected to the council in November 2015.

for a term in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and consecutively since being appointed to fill a vacancy on the council created by the election of then-Councilman Daniel Reiman to the office of mayor in 2003.

During his 22 years on the council, Sitarz held the position of council president on four separate occasions as well as the position of deputy mayor.

Sitarz was involved with almost every borough public service during his time on council. In recent years, he served as police commissioner and worked to increase funding for police equipment, training and technology aimed at improving officer safety and expanding the department's ability to combat crime.

He served as a member of the Carteret Port Authority, a past member of the Carteret zoning and planning boards as well as numerous other municipal boards. He served as a director of the Carteret Business Partnership and on the Board of Directors of the Charity Trust Fund. He was an active coordinator and volunteer for every Charity Trust Fund fund-raiser since its inception in 2003, including the charity carnival, golf outings and holiday festival. He also served as a coach for Carteret Little League.

In 2010, Sitarz retired after working more than 50 years as a dock man at the former GATX facility now operated as Kinder Morgan.

Sitarz was predeceased by his wife, Katherine Kolibas, who died in 2008. He is survived by his son, Joseph, a journalist in South Carolina, two grandsons who are attending college as well as two sisters, a brother, and numerous nieces and nephews.

"Skippy had been a valuable part of my administration since I was first elected mayor, a trusted confidant and most importantly, a friend. His passing is a loss to all of Carteret," Mayor Dan Reiman said.

A graduate of Holy Family School and Carteret High School, Sitarz was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1959 and served for 28 months before receiving an honorable discharge.

When he returned to Carteret, he became a volunteer fireman, serving with Company No. 1, later becoming volunteer chief. He was awarded life membership status.

Sitarz was first elected to public office in 1979, the first of eight terms as a Borough Council member. He served in elective office



Mayor Daniel J. Reiman delivers 2016 State of the Borough Address

Excerpts from Mayor Daniel J. Reiman's
2016 State of the Borough Address:

"One of my favorite experiences as Mayor, and one of the most humbling is when I hear from former residents. Maybe they are in town to visit a relative for a holiday, perhaps they are coming to one of the many events or festivals that we hold throughout the year or they were just in the area and decided to take a look around the old neighborhood..."

...these are people who came back to remember old times; and without fail find themselves talking about Carteret and its ongoing revitalization, and the exciting opportunities that are ahead of us..."

"We didn't just wake up one day and have the best parks in Central Jersey, we didn't suddenly cut a ribbon and have thousands of new job opportunities and new residential developments; you don't flip a light switch and have revitalized neighborhoods overnight..."

"It happens over the course of years, and it takes hard work, careful planning and a daily commitment to be the best community we can be. Those changes have happened in Carteret and they continue to happen each and every day..."

"Just recently the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs released a report showing homeowners in Carteret pay one of the lowest property taxes in Central New Jersey. That same report showed that Carteret has experienced the lowest rate of increase in property taxes during the past 15 years, reflecting only a 1.8 percent average annual increase..."

"We have utilized every available tool to hold the line on municipal spending and we have consistently been able to introduce budgets with increases well below the State mandated cap. It is on this economic foundation that we have been able to usher in the largest economic expansion in Borough history; an expansion that has included over \$1 billion in private development and the creation of thousands of new private sector jobs..."

"This past year was one of the most successful in our history in creating new ratables and attracting new employers. In

May, we announced that Amazon, after a national search, had chosen Carteret as the site for a new 1 million sq. ft. fulfillment center.

...This facility, located just off of exit 12 already employs 500 full time workers with many more to come. Their decision to locate here and make such a significant long term investment is evidence of our aggressive and ongoing business recruitment and development-friendly environment.

...And today, I can announce that Amazon will be opening a second facility in Carteret with an additional 900,000 sq. ft. at the former White Rose facility in Port Carteret. When operational, this new facility will create an additional 1,500 new full time jobs."

"We have been saying for years that Carteret's strategic location, with our close proximity to the Port and easy access to the New Jersey Turnpike makes us an ideal location for clean distribution and manufacturing based commercial developments.

...What makes us unique is that we have been able to point to our steady tax rate and controlled spending and say to business owners and investors that "if you build in Carteret you will have the stability necessary to enter into long term relationships with tenants, without fear of significantly changing operational costs.

This has resulted in an unprecedented expansion in this type of development and has proven a game changer in our efforts to attract new industry."

"Years ago, phase one of the industrial road breathed new life into Carteret's industrial corridor and its completion under our watch has spurred a new era of development..."

...The expansion of New Jersey Turnpike Interchange 12 marked another important milestone in establishing Carteret as a premier location for clean commercial businesses..."

...Now, with the redesign and expansion of the Intersection at the base of the West Carteret Bridge, Carteret has once



EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Emergencies
911**

**Police
(732) 541-4181**

**Fire / EMS
(732) 541-8000**

**Office of
Emergency Management
(OEM)
(732) 541-4007**

Other Borough services:

**Office of the Mayor
(732) 541-3801**

**Library
(732) 541-3830**

**Health Department
(732) 541-3890**

**Finance / Tax Office
(732) 541-3820**

**Office on Aging
(732) 802-3014**

**Construction
(732) 541-3810**

**Engineering
(732) 541-3847**

Public Works:

**Recycling
Streets & Roads
(732) 541-3881**

**Sewage
(732) 541-3878**

Continued on page 13

Mayor and Council announce \$9 million Noe Street area drainage improvements project

The Borough has obtained the final state and federal permits for the Noe Street Drainage Area Storm-water Improvements. In the summer of 2015, the Borough was awarded \$1 million in state grants for the water retention basin/park project. The planning and designing phases of the project have concluded with the Borough obtaining the final NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) approval of construction plans and technical specifications.

- Freshwater Wetland General Permit No. 11
- In-Water Waterfront Development Individual Permit
- Upland Waterfront Development Individual Permit

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Nationwide Permit No. 7 – outfalls and intake structures

Freehold Soil Conservation District

- Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Permit

NJDEP Bureau of Surface Water & Water Allocation

- Dewatering & Surface Water Discharge Permit
- Groundwater Diversion Permit

The Noe Street drainage “study area” is comprised of 685 acres of residential homes in the center of town. The area of concern is located in the lowest portion and within a tidal flood hazard area. Noe Street elevations are as low as EL 4’ and high tide is EL 2.7’. Noe Street and neighboring areas have experienced nuisance flooding causing overwhelmed storm drains, deterioration of road infrastructures, and frequent road closures during major coastal storms.

“We began developing a plan to alleviate storm water flooding and backups in the center of town encompassing close to a 700 acre area around the Noe’s Creek region” said Mayor Reiman. *“The plan calls for nearly \$9 million in upgrades and improvements by increasing the size of our underground storm water collection system, installing additional on street catch basins, and flood control gates at Noe’s creek which takes all storm water to the Arthur Kill, as well as building a nearly 2 acre storm water retention pond and pump station.”*

The Borough of Carteret will develop a new park with a wet pond that will serve as a detention basin in the Noe Street drainage area, off of Pershing Avenue. The proposed acquisition area totals nearly 2 acres from which 8 lots have been acquired by the Borough with 2 scheduled to be acquired in the area severely damaged by Superstorm Sandy. The Borough improvements on the site will provide both a recreational amenity and improve area storm water management. The Borough has obtained the following agency permits and approvals for the project:

The Noe Street Park will serve as a multipurpose recreational amenity for any season. The improvements include an open pond with fountains and significant natural vegetation. The Borough will develop a perimeter walkway along with decorative period lighting, benches, and interpretative signage for the plantings and wildlife. A public access ramp into the pond will be built for seasonal ice skating. In addition, an observation platform at a point on the perimeter will be designated for remote control model boats and other similar activities.

The Noe Street Area property acquisition costs are \$1.04 million covered by the NJDEP Green Acres grant and low interest loan. The construction will cost up to \$7.5 million. The NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust (NJEIT) has approved \$8.16 million for construction and other soft costs, of which 19% is in the form of a grant. The balance of the NJEIT fund is in the form of low interest loan.

A contract was awarded on May 6th to Lucas Construction Group of Morganville, NJ for \$7,747,747. The Borough is currently awaiting NJDEP concurrence of the award which is expected in June.

NJDEP Land Use Regulation

- Flood Hazard Permit

Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2018, with completion estimated for December.





Watch out for phone scams



Don't fall for



phone scams

Mayor Reiman and the Carteret Police Department have issued a warning to residents about an ongoing phone scam that solicits donations to the fire department or an emergency service department. A number of residents received solicitation calls during which the caller identified himself as a member of the Mayor's Office.

The CPD recommends treating every solicitation call as a scam until proven otherwise.

"Residents are reminded to be very cautious when dealing with people soliciting for donations through e-mail or phone calls," said John Pieczyski, Chief of the Carteret Police Department. *"They should always research the company before sending any money or donations."*

The CPD offers the following tips to help identify phone scams:

- A caller who requests for immediate action.
- A caller who requests for a credit or debit card or any bank account information.
- A caller who is unresponsive to questions or too quick to answer.
- The caller will not provide written information or references.

Call the Carteret Police Department immediately to file a report if you receive a donation solicitation:

**Carteret Police Department
(732) 541-4181**

"No such calls have been authorized," said Mayor Reiman. *"The Borough of Carteret has never and will not ever, either directly or through a third party, authorize or solicit a donation for the Fire Department, Police Department or any other emergency service department."*

A report of these calls has been made to the Carteret Police Department (CPD) and a Phone Scam investigation is under way. Mayor Reiman urged residents receiving such a call to immediately hang up the phone and call the police to make a report.

The Borough of Carteret does not engage in cold call telemarketing activities and as a policy will never contact anyone for personal or financial information over the phone.

CPD receives Public Safety grant for body cameras

Mayor Reiman joined Councilwoman Susan Naples to announce that the Carteret Police Department (CPD) has implemented a body camera pilot program. A \$13,000 Public Safety Grant has been issued from the Carteret Business Partnership, Inc. (CBP) towards the program.

Carteret is one of the first municipalities in Middlesex County to implement the use of body cameras. The pilot program, assigned to a limited number of officers, is expected to expand throughout the police force by next year. The CPD is anticipating an additional grant through New Jersey's Body Camera Assistance Program.

"The use of these cameras will significantly benefit both the community and our officers," said Mayor Reiman. *"Body cameras will build upon efforts to mend the fabric of trust and respect between the members of the community and the police officers."*

Digital Ally First VU HD cameras are able to capture, monitor, and store high-quality video evidence in a cost-effective and flexible manner. The camera is built with 720p resolution and a 130 degree angle field, capable of recording real-time incidents between officers and civilians. A built-in microphone is to ensure enhanced audio is captured as evidence; the body camera can store up to 16 hours of HD video.

"The men and women of the Carteret Police Department work tirelessly to keep Carteret a safe place to call home, and for

that, we are tremendously grateful," added Naples. *"It is our privilege to be able to equip them with the most effective tools to 'serve and protect' the community."*

Body cameras will be located in the center of an officers' shirt or vest. All CPD patrol vehicles are equipped with Mobile Video Recorders (MVR) or dashboard cameras. The in-car dashboard and body cameras promote public safety and many other positive attributes such as:

- Officer Safety
- Professionalism and performance
- Training
- Homeland Security
- Enhanced evidence collection
- Reduction of citizen complaints





Summer fire prevention & safety tips from the Carteret Fire Department & U.S. Fire Administration



Lightning safety tips:

Summer is the peak time of the year for lightning strikes and lightning fires. However, lightning does occur year round. It's important to be prepared for this dangerous weather phenomenon.

Outdoor safety:

If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Look for shelter inside a home, large building, or a hard-topped vehicle right away. Do not go under tall trees for shelter. There is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before leaving your shelter.

Stay away from windows and doors.

If you are in or on open water, go to land and seek shelter immediately.

If you feel your hair stand on end, that means lightning is about to strike - squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground. Do not lie flat on the ground. This is a last resort when a building or hard-topped vehicle is not available.

If a person is struck by lightning, call 9-1-1 and get medical care immediately. Lightning strike victims carry no electrical charge; attend to them immediately. Check their breathing, heartbeat, and pulse. CPR may be needed.

Indoor safety:

Unplug appliances and other electrical items, like computers, and turn off air conditioners. If you are unable to unplug them, turn them off.

Stay off corded phones, computers, and other electronic equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing.

Avoid washing your hands, bathing, doing laundry, or washing dishes.

Contact your local fire department for advice if you have a question on home fire safety.

Grilling safety tips:

Be sure to use safe grilling practices as the peak months for grilling fires approach - June and July. Gas grills constitute a higher risk, having been involved in an annual average of 6,900 home fires between 2005 and 2009, while charcoal or other solid-fueled grills were involved in an annual average of 1,100 home fires.

Fire in the grill, under hot dogs and burgers, is a welcome sight at the family cookout. But fire anywhere else can make your summer kick-off barbecue memorable for all the wrong reasons.

General grilling safety:

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.

- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

Charcoal grills:

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

Propane grills:

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles.

If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.



Carteret Fire Department
240 Roosevelt Avenue
Carteret, New Jersey 07008
(732) 541-8000

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

Carteret issues Request for Qualifications to operate future Performing Arts Center

The Borough recently issued request for proposal and qualifications to operate and manage the future Performing Arts Center (PAC). The Borough has been seeking proposals from qualified firms with proven experience in management and operations to provide programming, day to day general management and operational supervision of all activities of the PAC.

The selected firm will manage all aspects of the operations of the PAC including sales and marketing, customer service, security, event services and financial services. The selected firm will provide a public economic benefit to the community as a whole. Respondents are required to possess a minimum of 5 years of continuous experience in the operation and management of a performing arts center and/or facilities of similar size and scale.

The selected firm will also recruit and employ all staff and develop a staffing plan that includes an organizational chart showing key management personnel and identification of on-site management personnel. All on-site managers have been required to have a minimum of 5 years experience in entertainment management and/or facility experience and an adequate technical background.

"We have seen interest from many organizations that operate nationally and regionally," said Mayor Reiman. *"We are looking for the best operators in the industry who have experience in managing and operating a performing arts center and the best deal for Carteret."*

The Borough will construct a new performing arts center at the site of the former Ritz Theater using components in the construction and renovate the current structure. The project is funded in part with a \$6 million grant from Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders Arts Initiative. The balance of funding is through redevelopment initiatives and development impact fees, grants, donations, endowments and the sale of adjacent Borough owned properties in the Arts District.

"This is the foundation of what will be a \$100 million private investment into the Arts District and downtown," said Mayor Reiman.

The PAC is part of an investment being made by the Borough in the Arts District. Once restored, the PAC will house an approximately 1,600 seat auditorium to host theatrical, comedic, musical, dance and other

performances. The PAC will also provide gallery space and opportunities for local and regional arts education initiatives by local performing arts groups as well as a corporate meeting and training space.

The operator has not yet been announced.

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"...downtown Washington Avenue will become THE entertainment center for residents and visitors from throughout New Jersey."

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Mayor announces update on Washington Avenue Parking Garage

Mayor Dan Reiman and the Carteret Business Partnership, Inc. (CBP) have announced that the Washington Avenue Parking Garage has reached midway in its ongoing construction. The 450-space parking garage began construction in October of 2015.

The project, funded by the CBP, is part of the larger mixed-use development project which will include residential and commercial space for retail businesses and restaurants. It is the latest project in the ongoing revitalization of the Washington Avenue Business District. The site is located at the center of what will be the Borough's new Arts District.

The Redeveloper, "Cooke Avenue Developers" is utilizing 100% union construction for the project. The footings, foundations, and excavations are completed and currently a 220 ft. tall crane is placing the individual precast pieces into place. The next step will be the installation to include electrical and mechanical equipment.

"We are fortunate that the weather has been clear as the laborers continue to work through winter," said Mayor Reiman. *"We anticipate the construction to be done within the next few months."*

The parking garage will be available to use by tenants, retailers, and other Washington Avenue commercial space users, including customers and business owners, as well as patrons for the future performing arts center.

The entrance to the garage will be on High Street, with pedestrian access from both High Street and Washington Avenue. Once completed, the parking garage will be eight levels high, and include two full service elevators and three staircases. Also, the parking garage will have a coordinated open exterior façade to allow fresh air and light into the space.

The garage exterior will be completed by the spring, while interior work will continue through the fall.



Clean out your medicine cabinet

Bring your expired or unused medicine to your local RX collection site shown below and safely dispose of medications that are commonly abused.

Year-round drop-off zone:



CARTERET POLICE DEPARTMENT

**230 Roosevelt Avenue
Carteret, NJ 07008**



AmericanMedicineChest.com

Carteret receives \$20,000 grant towards LEGO Robotics program from Verizon Foundation

Mayor Reiman joined with the Verizon Foundation to announce that the Carteret School District has received a \$20,000 grant. The grant will assist an after-school Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program focused on programming skills and LEGO robotics at the Nathan Hale Elementary School. The school demonstrated a specific road map to launch and accelerate a STEM program that would incorporate experiential learning. Nathan Hale Elementary School teachers will be trained on the effective use of mobile technology to help increase student achievement and create more personalized learning environments to help students succeed. The school was deemed eligible by Verizon Foundation via predetermined criteria.

The instructional program will include hands-on problem-based activities utilizing LEGO robotics. The program curriculum will challenge students to collect sample data and make inferences from graphs and statistical evidence. The curriculum is rigorous with the application of investigative reasoning, applying mathematical problem-solving techniques in real-world situations.

Students will apply geometric principles as well as discrete math when programming robots to perform various procedures. They will be given real-world problems addressing area and measurement as well as computer coding.

"We are happy to announce that by working with the Board of Education we have been able to secure this grant towards a STEM program," said Mayor Reiman. *"The potential growth and expansion of this model is limitless."*

75 students in grades 3 through 5 will be selected for this 12-week LEGO robotics program. The curriculum will focus on assembling and programming LEGO Robotics. Training will be provided to teachers implementing the curriculum as well as to the 25 students from each grade using LEGO Robotics. Monthly competitions will be held to measure the success of the program.

"We are excited about how the grant will help expand our program offerings for our gifted and talented students," said Rosa Diaz, the Assistant Superintendent of the Carteret School District. *"The funding will allow the district to create a challenging and innovative educational program fostering student inquiry, problem-based learning, and creativity."*

In addition to providing students with experiential learning, the Carteret School District anticipates to create a cohort of teachers trained in robotics. Based on the program outcome, it may be replicated in the other two elementary schools in the district.

"Study after study has shown that students who participate in after-school programs such as this have higher test scores," said Marty Murray, Board of Education President. *"The start of the LEGO Robotics Program is a big step towards improving our schools and helping students utilize their full potential."*

"Verizon is proud to support the education system in Carteret," said John Szeliga, the External Affairs Field Director of Verizon. *"We will continue to use our resources in helping set up targeted programs where they are most needed."*

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*Added savings for additional siblings.

Carteret receives NJDEP Waterfront Development permit to construct public marina

Mayor Dan Reiman was joined by the Borough Council and Carteret Port Authority to announce that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has issued the final permits required for the Borough to begin construction of a Municipal Marina at the Carteret Waterfront Park.

The permits represent the culmination of a decade of planning and development which will allow the construction of 190 slips for recreational boat users and the environmental remediation of the long-abandoned IT Williams treatment pond, adjacent to the Arthur Kill Channel.

"I am proud to announce that this summer we will begin remediation and construction on our Municipal Marina which will be largely funded by the \$23 million in grant funding already awarded by state agencies and Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders for this specific project," said Mayor Reiman. *"Because of our commitment to clean up our natural resources and our willingness to fight for our vision, this long-standing goal will soon be a reality."*

Carteret Waterfront Park has been the focus of significant investment at the local, county and state levels in recent years, with features that include a fishing pier, miniature golf course, exercise trail, recreational and fitness amenities, and a sensory-perception garden. The site, which until 2003 had been a dilapidated, abandoned Brownfield, now hosts tens of thousands of visitors and residents each year, during its Concerts by the Bay Summer Music series and Independence Day Festival.

Phase I of the project, the creation of Veterans' Pier, was opened in 2004. Phase II followed closely behind in 2005 which transformed the adjacent areas with an access road. Subsequent stages included the addition of mooring bollards at the existing promenade in 2010 to allow large vessels to temporarily moor, as well as a pier extension in 2012 which serves as a breakwater for the marina.

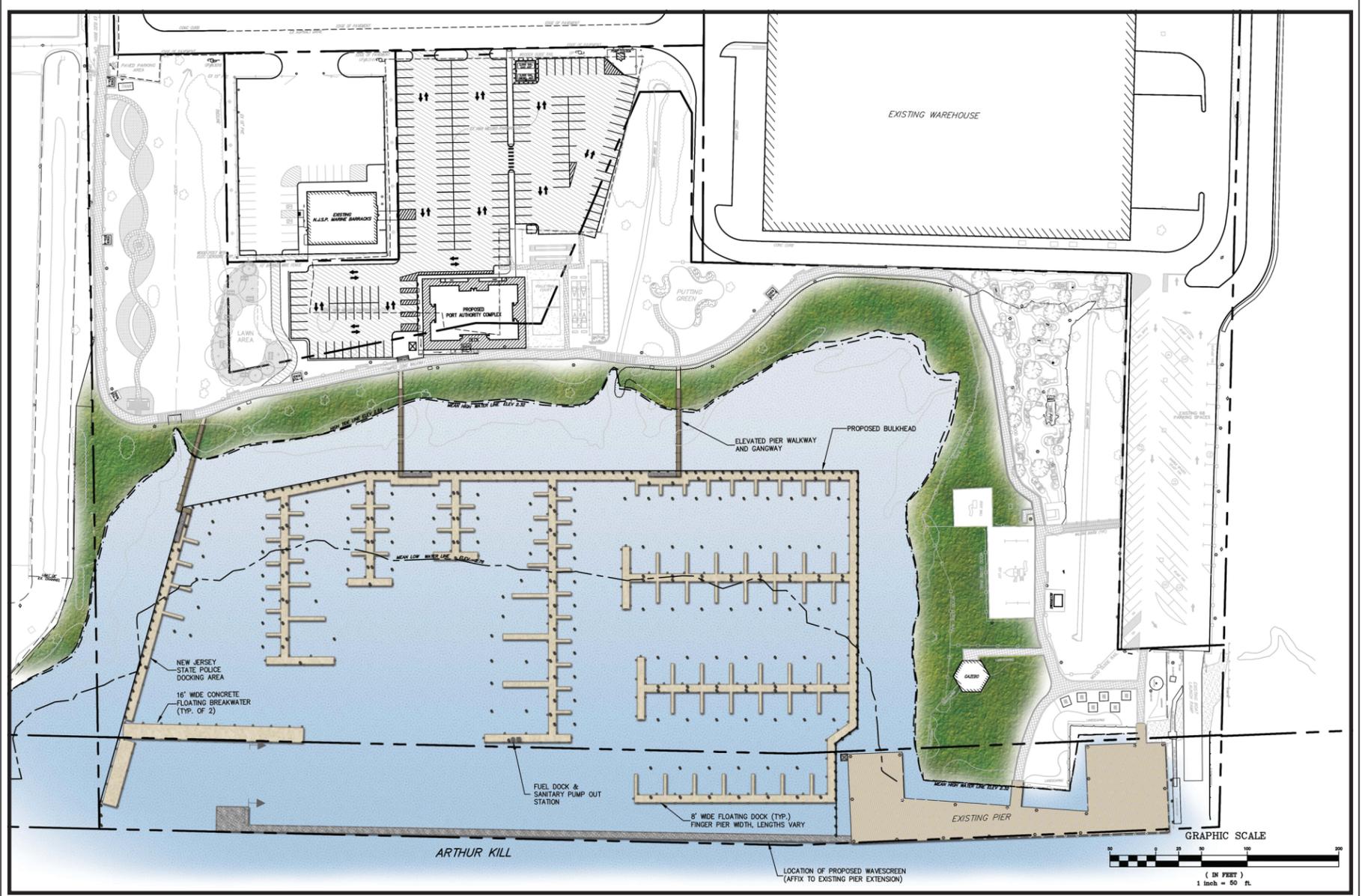
"This has been a project in the planning stages for many years," said Freeholder Director Ronald Rios. *"I remember from my years on the [Borough] Council working with the Mayor and the rest of the Council to make this a reality. Mayor Reiman has been relentless in his efforts despite the roadblocks of many agencies. I'm happy that the Freeholder Board has been supportive to the tune of \$7 million."*

The Borough's initial request to build the marina was denied by the ACOE, but it has since reversed its decision after the Borough filed an appeal and raised the issue of public access. The list of professionals that assisted Carteret with the ACOE and NJDEP permit appeal process for the marina is as follows:

- **Attorneys from Bathgate, Wegener & Wolf, P.C.**
- **Engineers from CME Associates**
- **Regulatory consultant from BC Peabody**
- **Navigation and security consultants from Ridge Global and Retired U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Joel Whitehead from Joel Whitehead & Associates, Inc.**
- **Marina designers from Applied Technology and Management, Inc.**
- **Environmental consultant from EXCEL Environmental Resources, Inc., and**
- **Computer simulation experts from DHI Water & Environment, Inc.**

In large part due to the Borough's aggressive approach to grant-seeking, the project will be funded through a combination of federal, state, and county funds that have been awarded over a period of several years. Brownfield Development Area (BDA) funding will assist with the remediation and dredging that will make way for the marina, which constitutes Phase III of Waterfront Park's development. The municipal marina will provide opportunities for Carteret as well as Central New Jersey residents for access to the water which will provide tremendous recreational outlets. The project has also led to the establishment of the town's local Port Authority, and the site is now home to a marine barracks and dock for the N.J. State Police.

The NJDEP issued its approval in December and the Borough has issued a public bid for the various phases of the marina development. Phase 1 of the project consists of remediation of the IT Williams Cove, including the dredging and disposal of 130,000 cubic yards of dredge material. The Brownfield site is part of the NJ BDA property funded by the HDSRF and has received \$11 million in remediation funding from the state.





JAMES J. ELEK
Broker/President



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Carteret

\$ 515,000

IT'S THE DETAILS THAT MAKE A HOUSE A HOME you'll find so much to love about this 6 bedroom 5 bath colonial. The ideal expanded single family with a 4 room, 2 bedroom in-law suite. Custom kitchen, living room, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths in the main apartment. A pampering spa type bath in the MBR and a hot tub in the yard.



Carteret \$489,000
BRIGHTER ROOMIER WARMER truly elegant, contemporary style colonial featuring a custom cabinet filled kitchen, spacious living room and dining room a first floor family room, 5 privacy located bedrooms, 4 full baths a finished bsmt w/ recreation room and a built in garage. Skylit vaulted ceiling, central vac. Surround sound etc

NOBODY DOES IT BETTER THAN SUKHWINDER "SUKHI" KAUR, A CARTERET RESIDENT WHO HAS 100 CLOSED SALES AND LISTINGS IN TOWN RECENTLY



Carteret \$299,999
YOU'LL FEEL LIKE ROYALTY in this king size 1/2 duplex. Cabinet and appliance filled kitchen, living room, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths and a finished basement w/ a recreation room and an attached garage. Convenient to schools, shopping and exit 12 on the N.J.Tpk.



Carteret \$315,000
KIDDIE PERFECT NEIGHBORHOOD kids and other people will love this 4 bedroom, 2 bath cape cod on quiet residential Carteret Ave. in the Carteret Park Section, and it's convenient to neighborhood schools. Eat in country kitchen, living room, a full finished basement w/ a recreation room, and a detached garage.

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Carteret \$329,000
PLENTY OF ROOM FOR MOM in this 2 kitchen 2 bath bi-level. Kitchen, living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms and bath on the main level and a kitchen, living room, family room, bedroom and bath on the other level. Great for the family with more than one generation of family under one roof. Call for details.



Carteret \$239,000
2 Kitchen 2 bath, here's a family home on a 75x100 lot in the High School Section. Features include a 6 room 3 bedroom apartment and a 4 room 1 bedroom apartment. Convenient to neighborhood schools, shopping and exit 12 on the NJ Tpk.



Carteret \$234,900
EFFICIENT & ORGANIZED 1/2 duplex featuring a cabinet filled kitchen and dining area, living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and a built-in garage. Convenient to schools, shopping and exit 12 on the NJ Tpk. Ask about our 3% down conventional mortgage with no P.M.I.

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Paid advertisement

Mayor Daniel J. Reiman delivers 2016 State of the Borough Address (con't. from p.3)

Excerpts continued from page 3

again demonstrated its commitment to improving our infrastructure in a way that benefits both commercial and residential property owners.”

“We remain committed to improving our town, block by block and neighborhood by neighborhood...”

The past year provided us with a shining example of what can be achieved if government and private businesses work together. It was well over a decade ago, we committed to work to rebuild a neighborhood of boarded up and abandoned buildings on lower Roosevelt Avenue, critics said that it could not be done...

...Now, that the fourth and final phase of this historic redevelopment, has been completed and the first new businesses in decades have opened their doors; we can confidently say, it could be done, it was done, we did it as a community by fostering private development, and it will last.”

“Last year, we announced plans to transform this neighborhood into an Arts District. To create a destination to which residents from throughout Central New Jersey would come to enjoy live performances, dining and shopping. We announced that the cornerstone of this new Arts District would be a performing arts center on the site of the former Ritz Theater...”

...The Carteret Performing Arts Center is in the final stages of design and construction will begin this year. When completed, it will host a 1,600 seat theater with performances that range from live music, off-broadway plays, comedy shows, Community Theater and cultural events.”

“We have begun putting into place the infrastructure that will support both the Performing Arts Center and the Arts District. Nearing completion is a 450 car parking garage which will provide parking for theater goers, shoppers and residents in the new mixed-use development...”

...We have also engaged a prominent national planning firm to design a streetscape for the Arts District, that call for streets resembling piano keys, crosswalks that play music as you cross, as well as street art that includes fire and water features.”

“We recently announced that we are under contract to purchase a former parochial school. Once the acquisition has been completed it is our goal to partner with the Middlesex County and N.J. State educational agencies in developing an academy dedicated to visual and performing arts. Just one block from the Washington Avenue Arts District, the school will provide students from Carteret and Middlesex County an opportunity to receive training in the arts and will become an important part of our efforts to expand access to the arts and make Carteret an incubator for artists.”

“Last year, we officially opened the Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center. Located in the former library building on Carteret Avenue, this center is quickly becoming a meaningful contributor to arts and cultural programming in Carteret and throughout the area.”

“This past year we won an important victory in our fight to expand public access to the Arthur Kill Waterway. For years the Borough has sought to construct a Municipal Marina at Waterfront Park. In fact, the idea was proposed 22 years ago...”

..But we took on the challenge starting in 2005 and we have confronted bureaucratic hurdle after bureaucratic hurdle...

...We won that appeal and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection issued its approval in December and, just this past week, the United States Army Corps of Engineers reversed their original denial and have now green lighted the project and issued a permit to proceed with the public marina.

I am proud to report that this summer we will begin remediation and construction on our Municipal Marina which will be largely funded by the \$19 million in grant funding already awarded by State agencies and Middlesex County for this specific project. Because of our commitment to clean up our natural resources and our willingness to fight for our vision, this long-standing goal will soon be a reality.”

“This past year we held numerous meetings with State and federal officials and their many bureaucratic agencies seeking to advance the Carteret-Manhattan Ferry Project. We engaged the foremost experts in the field of transportation who conducted an extensive needs analysis and who determined that Carteret is ideally situated to serve the growing regional transportation needs. And, most importantly, we conducted test runs from our waterfront to lower and mid-town Manhattan...”

...Dozens of residents participated in the test runs by boarding a commuter ferry at our waterfront pier and traveling to Manhattan and back. The results were fantastic. Commuters would be able to make their morning and evening commutes in under 50 minutes without the need to sit in traffic at one of the already congested tunnels or bridges...

...Once in place the ferry will further highlight Carteret as a premier location to call home and will ensure that Carteret continues to grow.”

“Recently, we received our final NJDEP permits and in the coming months will begin work on a \$9 million Noe Street Area Drainage Improvement Project to improve stormwater flow on over 700 acres of residential property in town.

After Hurricane Irene and then again after Hurricane Sandy, engineers were tasked with developing a plan to alleviate recurring flooding and backups in the center of town. That

Mayor Daniel J. Reiman delivers 2016 State of the Borough Address (excerpts con't.)

plan which has now been approved by the State of New Jersey call for increasing the size of our underground storm sewers, installing additional on street catch basins, and new flood control gates at Noe's Creek and for the construction of a 2 acre storm water retention pond and pump station on Noe Street."

Unique to this project is our decision to simultaneously develop that retention pond into a new Borough Park that will serve as an all season, multipurpose recreational facility that includes a fountain, a walkway and will also allow for ice skating in the colder weather months.

When completed, it will become part of the best kept and most modern system of parks in Central New Jersey."

"Investing in upgrades and then maintaining our park system has been a priority since day 1 of my administration and this year Bishop Andrewz Park will see increased public parking, handicap accessible sidewalks and the Borough's second spray park as we make a significant investment in this neighborhood park."

"We continue to invest in our residents by creating programs to help them develop job skills and then find positions where they can put those skills to work. That is why we partnered with the New Jersey Community College Consortium to hold work training sessions for residents, offered grants for companies hiring local residents, sponsored regular job fairs and launched a jobs page on our municipal website that alerts residents of local job opportunities as they become available. We have partnered with Amazon, RWJ, Serta, Fedex, Continental Coffee and the many other Fortune 500 companies choosing to call Carteret home. I want to thank

these companies and their representatives for being here and for their very wise decision to locate in Carteret."

"Each and every day our police officers, firefighters, EMT's and other emergency service personnel report for duty with one goal; to keep our Borough secure and to keep our residents safe..."

...That is why we have upgraded our dispatch system to assist 911 operators, and installed Mobile Data Terminals in all police cars to allow for immediate access to criminal and motor vehicle databases. We have also purchased body cameras for all police officers and added dozens of special law enforcement officers to supplement the work of full time officers, allowing them to focus on crime prevention, and we have increased the minimum level of staffing to ensure adequate police presence 24 hours a day, 365 days a year."

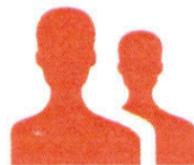
"Crime rates in Carteret are down across the board. According to numbers recently released by the New Jersey State Police, year ending 2015; robbery was down 26 percent from the prior year; assault was down 30 percent; and burglary dropped by 37 percent."

"Last year we completed upgrades to our Fire headquarters adding 4 additional bays to store upgraded emergency equipment and to improve emergency response time. We also secured homeland security grants that allowed us to buy a new ladder truck and a new pumper truck to further enhance the ability of our volunteer and full-time personnel to respond to emergency situations. This year we will continue to invest in our emergency services when we begin renovations on our new Office of Emergency Management headquarters on Pershing Avenue."



It's your neighborhood. Make an impact.

How does MyCarteret help you and the Borough get stuff fixed?



See a problem?

Spot something in your neighborhood that needs a fix?

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Submit a service request using the MyCarteret mobile app or webpage.

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Requests go directly to a city employee, who can keep you updated on the status.

Get results

Watch your city close requests!



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Mayor and Carteret Business Partnership announce West Carteret façade improvements

Mayor Reiman was joined by Councilman Jorge Diaz and Mark Hruska, Chairman of the Carteret Business Partnership (CBP), in announcing the start of construction for the West Carteret Façade Improvement Project. The project will improve and remodel the exterior of the commercial buildings. The project is located along the entrance corridor on Roosevelt Avenue in West Carteret. Commercial properties that are part of this project range from 1247 – 1297 Roosevelt Avenue and include a total of eleven buildings and businesses.

The façade design will have a unified, consistent and aesthetically appealing look with arches connecting the buildings, creating a walkable shopping district. New canopies, slopes, matching exterior paint and exterior lights will be installed throughout the whole development which will significantly improve the image of the business corridor. With its new and improved architectural character, it will attract consumers and make shopping a pleasant experience.

“The idea is that, by facilitating improvements to business facades, business areas become more appealing to consumers,” said Mayor Reiman. *“It will increase the marketability of commercial spaces, assisting in business retention and providing a better sense of pride within the community to retain both current and future residents.”*

The CBP is a 501c3 non-profit organization that acts as the District Management Corporation for the Special Improvement District and an economic development entity. It is providing 50-percent Façade Matching Grants towards improvements for businesses enrolled in the program. The grant will allow

business owners to renovate, revitalize, and fit-out the interior and exterior spaces of their commercial properties. The façade improvements will have a singular theme and color scheme throughout the development to provide the look of a decorative strip mall.

“This series of works, dominated by a unified exterior character, will invite the residents to shop more locally,” said Councilman Jorge Diaz. *“This increased activity at the shopping district will result in increased economic opportunity for local residents and businesses.”*

West Carteret Façade Improvements consist of the following businesses:

- Carpet Giant and Flooring
- Psychic Tarot Reading
- Halal Mart
- Jezif Fried Chicken & Pizza
- Pro Hair & Nails
- Subzi Bazar
- Cold Cut Center of Carteret
- Family Flowers & Art
- Hong Kong Chinese Restaurant
- Atlantic Financial Services
- Star Wine & Liquor

Businesses will be fully operational during the length of the construction as temporary signs will be placed in front of individual businesses.



ADVERTISE in the Carteret Newsletter



The Carteret Public Information Office now offers advertising space in Carteret's full color newsletter, "On the Move," issued to over 8,000 residents and businesses, and made available on the Worldwide

Web. This opportunity can provide you with a new and affordable promotional edge, increase awareness regarding your business or organization, and attract new customers and clientele from both within and

beyond the Carteret community.

For more information, or to begin promoting your business in the Carteret Newsletter, please call (732) 541-3817, or email info@carteret.net.



Arts on the Deck coming soon to Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center

Mayor Reiman has joined with the Central Jersey Arts Council (CJAC) in announcing that improvements are nearly complete at the Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center outdoor patio. The center, which is located at 63 Carteret Avenue, has an incredibly rich and diverse cultural history.

The additional space will allow more guests to be served with a wide variety of experiences ranging from family art workshops, story-telling, and culinary arts demonstrations. The Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center is home to the Carteret Historical Committee, and the Central Jersey Arts Council. In addition, the Blazing Star also serves as a practice space for cultural groups such as the new Carteret Community Choir.

The building itself has served many generations of Carteret residents. The structure was originally built in 1898 as a YMCA. It was then purchased by local industrial businesses and donated to the Borough in 1930 to be used as a public library and educational facility. It served as the Borough's library until 2001 when the library was relocated to 100 Cooke Avenue. All of the building's architectural highlights have been preserved throughout its restoration.

Improvements to the building were made over a five year period as grant funding and donations became available. It now houses pictures, documents, and artifacts relating to Carteret's local history and also provides a resource for the creative arts and cultural history. The building is functioning as an educational resource for residents and visitors, serving as a museum, reference center, meeting place, and arts facility.

"This is a great example of our efforts to diversify Carteret's recreational and educational resources," said Mayor Reiman. *"We are pleased to announce the improvements of the Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center. This facility will now be able to provide more community members with a comfortable place for learning, sharing, and congregation."*

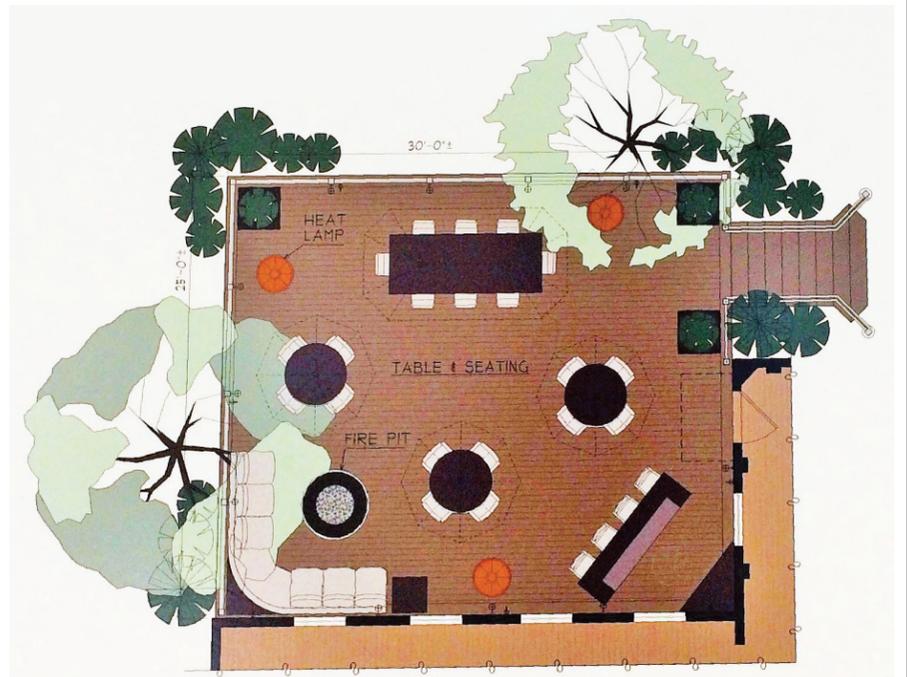
In addition to the deck improvements, the basement, which was once a bowling alley, is also under renovation. It will serve as a multipurpose space for historical, cultural, and arts-related activities. These renovations will add valuable studio and classroom space to the Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center.

"We are planning to dedicate a working library section for the public to research the Carteret Historical Committee's archives," said Lindsay Erben, the Executive Director of Central Jersey Arts Council. *"Many residents have fond memories of visiting the children's section of the old library. We are looking forward to opening that space again for folks to enjoy."*

The types of activities hosted at the Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center include: historical exhibitions and presentations, art shows, musical performances, community arts and musical workshops, classes and more.

For more information regarding the upcoming events at the Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center, email:

info@centraljerseyartscouncil.org



CARTERET PIANOS in the PARK

presented by Mayor Dan Reiman, the Carteret Borough Council,
& the Central Jersey Arts Council

About "Pianos in the Park"

Here's to Carteret's wonderful parks and open spaces! Regardless of where we live, work and play, our local parks are great social equalizers – providing green spaces to relax, exercise and connect with our communities. And let's not forget the music and the arts, which also thrive in our area and are great conduits to express ourselves. Put all this together and you get: the Mayor's "Pianos in the Park" program! *Get out and play!*

Pianos in the Park is a public partnership between the Central Jersey Arts Council [CJAC] and our community, using the power of art and music to get us out to rediscover Carteret's parks, connect with each other, and have fun. It is truly a community effort, combining the great talents, visions and efforts of committed residents who donate their upright pianos, and our creative students who are then invited to decorate them. The pianos will

be made publicly accessible throughout Carteret's parks to beautify and invigorate both visually and culturally.

Work is underway to place artistically decorated pianos in Carteret's public parks and community spaces. Each piano will be a painted work of art as well as a tuned instrument for all to play and enjoy over the upcoming summer months.

Keep In Touch:

Join our mailing list and to learn more about the Pianos In The Parks program:

Email: Info@CentralJerseyArtsCouncil.org
or call 732-541-3879



Community Spotlight



Kenneth Totten & United Roosevelt Savings Bank

Kenneth R. Totten became the President of United Roosevelt Savings Bank in April of 2016 following a thirty year career at other successful community banks local to Carteret. Since then, Carteret's oldest and only hometown bank has made major commitments in both its product offerings and its service to the community.

The United Roosevelt Savings Bank (URSB) building has been remodeled, providing an expanded lobby and drive-up service hours. Also, commercial checking accounts are being offered as well as a full suite of internet and mobile banking

products that include the ability to issue instant consumer mortgage pre-approvals online.

There are many other positive changes coming. Recently, URSB purchased and installed a new scoreboard for the football stadium at Carteret High School. URSB is also the principal sponsor for this year's Concerts in the Park. Residents will soon see URSB staff support future community events in Carteret like teaming up with Robert Wood Johnson Health Center for community health fairs.

When a new Community Checking account is opened a \$100 is deposited into the account as well as URSB donating \$50, on behalf of the account holder, to the registered Carteret civic organization of choice.

United Roosevelt Savings Bank welcomes all to stop in at the office located on Cooke Avenue or call Kenneth Totten at 732-541-5445 extension 209.



UNITED ROOSEVELT SAVINGS BANK

Are you a Carteret historian?

Q1: Joe "Ducky" Medwick still holds the MLB record for the most for consecutive seasons with 40 or more doubles. In what years did he accomplish (achieve) this?

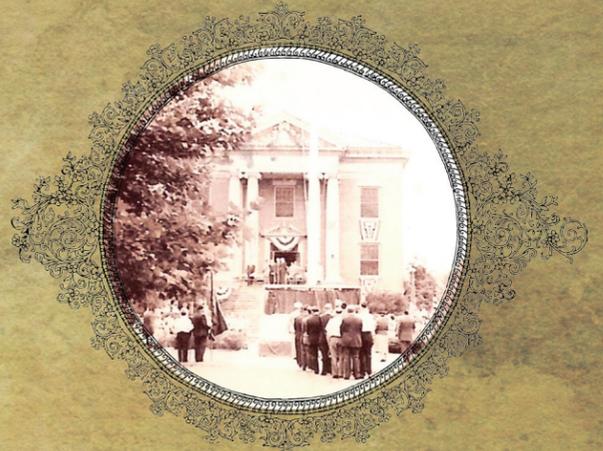
Q2: What Carteret resident worked on the Manhattan Project while serving with the Army Corps of Engineers?

Q3: In 2007, which Carteret company was awarded the design-build contract of Metlife Stadium?

Answers to above questions will appear in the next issue.

Answers to last issue:

Q1: September 1, 1927 Q2: 1,200 Q3: Dress manufacturing



<http://www.carteret.net>



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Carteret now has its own Snapchat Geo-filter! Carteret Geo-filter is a special overlay for snaps that can only be accessed in Carteret. Whether you are a resident or a visitor, it is a fun way to share where you are with your friends.



SAVE THE DATE > UPCOMING EVENTS

INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL
FRIDAY JULY 1ST
6P.M. - MIDNIGHT
WATERFRONT PARK

CARTERET'S 41st ANNUAL ETHNIC DAY
September 17th at Carteret Park www.carteret.net

CARTERET SATURDAY Latin Fest 2016
JULY 23RD
4:00 PM - 11:00 PM
WATERFRONT PARK

MAYOR DAN REIMAN'S CHARITY GARNIVAL
SEPTEMBER 15-17 AT CARTERET PARK