

MAIL LIST
December 5, 2025

	Date	From	Pertains to:	Agenda/Committee/ Liaison
1.	12-01-2025	NJ Government	NJ Updates: Events, Deadlines, Programs, Guidance, and More	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator
2.	12-01-2025	Hackensack Riverkeeper	Hackensack Riverkeeper in 2025	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator
3.	12-02-2025	NJ Business Action Center	NJBAC Business Enhancement Connection #43	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator
4.	12-03-2025	NJLM	Governor Murphy Announces Release of Energy Master Plan	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator
6.	11-12-2025	NJLM	<p>Weekly Roundup</p> <p><u>State Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S-4281 Advances • Bill Challenging Privatization of Contracts Advances • Governor Murphy Announces Release of Energy Master Plan • Governor Murphy Announces Health Benefits Proposal • Governor-Elect Launches Public Input Survey • Update DCA Mayors' List and GovConnect Authorized Users <p><u>Federal Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential Federal Preemption of AI Could Impact States and Municipalities <p><u>Also of Interest</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Records Council Annual OPRA Seminar • <i>NJ Municipalities</i> December Issue—Closing the Gap: Government & School Security Preparedness 	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator



1 ml

12.5.2025

Mari Margiotta <mmargiotta@closternj.us>

BOROUGH CLERK

Kids Ride NJ TRANSIT Free for the Holidays

1 message

DEC 01 2025

The State of New Jersey <updates@info.nj.gov>

To: mmargiotta@closternj.us

Wed, Nov 26, 2025 at 1:25 PM

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November 26, 2025



NJ Updates: Events, Deadlines, Programs, Guidance, and More

Want to know about current topics in New Jersey? The State of New Jersey Update features information, news, resources, guidance, and more. Additional featured news is also available at NJ.gov.

Kids Ride Free This Thanksgiving Weekend on NJ TRANSIT

Planning to travel for Thanksgiving? NJ TRANSIT is adding extra service to get you where you need to go—and your kids ride free.

The Family SuperSaver Fare lets up to two children 11 and younger ride free with each paying adult from Wednesday, November 26 at 7 p.m. through Monday, January 5 at 2 a.m. Extra rail and bus service will be running throughout the holiday weekend, with special service on Wednesday afternoon for early holiday getaways and additional trains on Thanksgiving Day heading to and from the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.



Pro tip: Download the NJ TRANSIT mobile app for [Android](#) or [iPhone](#) to buy tickets on your phone and skip lines at ticket windows.

Plan Your Trip

Gift a Head Start on College This Holiday Season

Looking for a meaningful gift that keeps giving? Open an NJBEST 529 College Savings Plan for a child in your life. With the free [Ugift](#) tool, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends can contribute directly to the account without opening their own.



New Jersey residents with gross income of \$200,000 or less can deduct up to \$10,000 in annual NJBEST contributions from state taxes (\$20,000 for married couples). Account owners earning less than \$75,000 per year can apply for an extra boost: a one-time, dollar-for-dollar state match up to \$750 for initial deposits on new NJBEST accounts. All growth is tax-free when used for qualified education expenses.

Get Started

Help New Jersey Wildlife Get Around

Unless they came from Chicago to play football, bears can't use the New Jersey Turnpike. Neither can timber rattlesnakes, blue-spotted salamanders, or any of the other [endangered wildlife that call New Jersey home](#). You can help NJ Fish & Wildlife identify places where roadways are impeding wildlife movement with the NJ Wildlife Tracker app. Use NJ Wildlife Tracker on any web-enabled device to report rare wildlife sightings

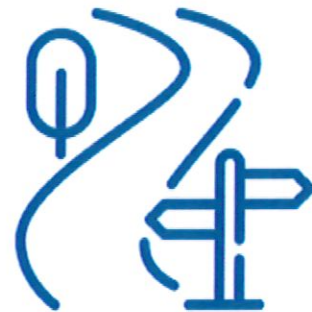


and any animal sightings on roadways. An [informative YouTube video](#) further explains the State's efforts to keep its wildlife habitats connected.

NJ Wildlife Tracker

Slow Down Around Schools—Crossing Guards' Safety Depends on It

Crossing guards in New Jersey have been injured and killed by vehicles while performing their duties. These incidents are preventable and often occur during low-visibility conditions—particularly as daylight decreases during fall and winter months.



Most collisions result from inattentive or careless driving near schools. If you drive near school zones, especially during morning and afternoon hours, reduce your speed, eliminate distractions, and remain alert. Crossing guards stand in traffic to protect children. Your attention and caution are essential to their safety.

Learn More

Was this email helpful?



Some newsletter content was created with the assistance of generative AI. [Learn more.](#)

2 ML 12.5.2025



BOROUGH CLERK
DEC 01 2025
BOROUGH OF CLOSTER



P1**C0***B4****306*****SCH 5-DIGIT 07628
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF CLOSTER
OR CURRENT OCCUPANT
295 CLOSTER DOCK RD
CLOSTER NJ 07624-2645

November 1, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council,

Well, that was an interesting year, wasn't it? But through it all Hackensack Riverkeeper persisted and grew. And in so many ways what we did in 2025 was down to the staff I have the privilege of leading.

Speaking of, we saw Donor Relations Manager Mike Panos off to a well-deserved retirement. I cannot thank him enough for all he did – especially during the pandemic and the aftermath of the 2020 fire. Fortunately, Tyler Tierney stepped into Mike's big shoes, and I hired Isaiah Leach as our new Outreach Coordinator. And the beat goes on. Here is some of what we accomplished this year:

- The Hackensack River Superfund process continues despite near-constant intrigue from the Trump administration. Regardless, we are in it for the long haul and committed to seeing the process through to the bitter end. On that you have my word.
- Our scientific efforts contributed critical data on water quality, American eel migration, and PFAS contamination. Earlier this year, Waterkeeper Alliance released its nationwide PFAS study – which includes our work on the Ramapo River in 2024.
- This past season we engaged over ten thousand people through our Eco-programs and community outreach. And all that in spite of the administration's unjust cancellation of the EPA Clean Hudson Grant, which would have funded us nearly \$100,000 in 2025.

But it's YOU who empowers the work and mission of Hackensack Riverkeeper. Your financial support keeps us effective and on the job, Every. Single. Day. I simply cannot thank you enough. Every program, effort, initiative and partnership is down to our dedicated crew of donors, grantors, sponsors and benefactors. I trust you'll make a Year End donation today.

On behalf of all of us here at 206 Main Street, I wish you the happiest of Holidays and a New Year full of every good thing for you, your family, neighbors and friends.

Yours in conservation,

Captain Bill Sheehan

continued on back →

Acting, Advocating, Educating and Engaging



4,612 Paddlers
Enjoyed Lots of New On-Water Experiences
at Our Three Paddling Centers!



751 Students & Teachers
Participated in Immersive Environmental Education programs!



939 Volunteers
Removed 12 Tons of Trash from Your River during 37 Cleanups!



2,110 Participants
Explored the River, the Bay and the Meadowlands on Eco-Cruises!

Please mail this form with your donation in the enclosed return envelope.
Make checks payable to: Hackensack Riverkeeper, 206 Main Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601
or donate online at HackensackRiverkeeper.org/Donate

Yes, I want to help Hackensack Riverkeeper fight for clean water. Please accept my donation of:

Amex MasterCard Discover Visa Check My employer will match my gift, form enclosed.

Card # _____ Exp. Date ____/____ V code _____

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- \$1000 Captain's Circle
- \$500 Officer
- \$250 Admiral
- \$100 Commodore
- \$50 Crew
- \$35 Quartermaster
- Other \$ _____

TIDELINES

Hackensack RIVERKEEPER® — Celebrating over twenty-eight years of clean water advocacy

NJ's REAL Rules and the Battle to Protect the Shore

How NJDEP is working against time to shore up our coastline—and our riverfronts, too.

By Michele Langa

What are the REAL rules?

Resilient Environments and Landscapes (REAL) is a rulemaking approach to updating the Flood Hazard Area Control Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Stormwater Management Rules, Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act, and other flooding-related rules to modernize the rules and apply current science to the regulations going forward so that climate related issues like sea level rise, extreme storm events, and flooding

are addressed; and our communities are made resilient.

REAL is part of the New Jersey Protecting Against Climate Threats (NJPACT) initiative directed by Governor Phil Murphy's Executive Order 100 (Jan. 2020). Through amendments to existing land resource protection rules, if adopted, REAL will bolster our resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. The proposed rules address sea-level rise, coastal storm surge, flooding, and stormwater management concerns while improving water quality,

protecting natural resources, and streamlining permitting processes that will expedite resilient investments in New Jersey's communities and economy.

The REAL rules are a comprehensive approach to addressing the very real, no pun intended, threat of sea level rise to New Jersey's 180 miles of coastline. These are regulatory updates to prevent harm to residents, first responders, and property when extreme weather events hit. The rules are not intended to prevent development, but to make development

Continued on page 3

PFAS Discovery Stalls Skyway Park Development

Contamination finding results in setback for new Jersey City park.

By Hugh M. Carola

Plans to create the long-awaited 32-acre park along the Hackensack River have stalled due to the discovery of a major PFAS discharge. The site is comprised of two closed and capped landfills: the former Siegel Property, which for many years was an illegal garbage dump operating in plain sight; and the former PJP Landfill, infamous for the underground fires that burned there from 1970 until

1985 when they were finally extinguished. The PJP was properly closed and capped in 2012. The area closest to Tonnelle Avenue was subsequently developed, and the rest set aside for parkland.

The Siegel property was the subject of litigation that resulted in the site being turned over to the city in 2010, and it was closed and capped soon after. A small

waterway, known locally as Sip Creek, separates the two "nodes" of the nascent park — all of which is owned by Jersey City.

According to Jersey City's Director of Infrastructure Barkha Patel, after a site inspection by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, the city was notified that the cap installed atop the PJP

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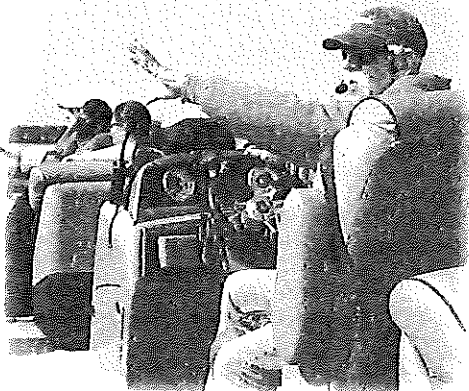


WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE
FOUNDING MEMBER

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At the Helm

with
Captain Bill Sheehan



More Than THE Riverkeeper

I'm sure it's obvious to *Tidelines* readers and to anyone who's ever connected with Hackensack Riverkeeper that ours is a true team effort – a “crew” if you like.

Over the years I've had the good fortune to welcome aboard many talented, dedicated staffers. IMO our current crew is a perfect mix of experience and enthusiasm. Some are “old salts” like Captain Hughie, who celebrates his 25th Anniversary as Program Director on January 1, and Project Manager Jodi Jamieson, who is responsible – among many other things – for your reading this newsletter. For almost ten years, Michele Langa has done a meticulous job – and double duty with NY/NJ Baykeeper – as Staff Attorney.

Marta Pomerantz and Tyler Tierney signed on after spending considerable time in the for-profit world, Marta as a corporate team manager and Tyler in medical administration. And we have solid rookies, too: Isaiah Leach, who served as your 2024-25 Watershed Ambassador and is now our new Outreach Coordinator, having taken over from Tyler in August. And do welcome your new Ambassador, Jason Peralta (see page 22).

Keeping us all on track is Office Manager Henry A. Washington, who does so with equal parts of skill and grace. Speaking of ...

Back in September, Donor Relations Manager Mike Panos retired for the second time in his career to enjoy a very well-deserved *real* retirement. During his ten years with us, Mike drew on his well-honed business acumen and decades of experience as a Ducks Unlimited state representative to provide Hackensack Riverkeeper with a level of financial stability that would be the envy of any nonprofit. I'll always remember and appreciate the many early mornings and long hours he put in day-to-day to make that happen.

More than that, I'll never forget how he stepped up during the pandemic and especially after the fire that destroyed our offices at 231 Main Street. He was literally my right-hand man during many of those dark, dark times. His calm, levelheadedness, and business experience are in many ways the reason for us being here at 206 Main. And despite being a “man of leisure” nowadays, Mike is never more than a phone call away,

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We gladly accept submissions of articles, photography and advertisements from the community; however, we retain editorial discretion. We do not necessarily endorse any individual or company whose advertisements are found in these pages.



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NJ's REAL Rules

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plans more sensible and forward looking; a novel idea in a state hellbent on developing beyond all sensible and practical limits.

Aspects like the creation of an Inundation Risk Zone allow homeowners, municipalities and developers to be aware of the extent to which their properties are at risk and can prompt them to be proactively prepared in the event of extreme flooding. However, these rules are now several years in the making and have been scaled back from the initial rule proposal, readjusting the projections for sea level rise despite the initial predictions being based upon a continuing reduction of causation by reducing fossil fuel emissions and green energy expansion. These factors are no longer applicable, with rollbacks at the Federal level removing the directive to reduce emissions or support renewable energy alternatives. The current predictions are most certainly going to be exceeded, but that is no reason to further delay implementation of REAL.

The reality of rising seas, increasing storm frequency and intensity, and catastrophic flooding is not going away, and we must meet the challenges with scientifically sound predictions, stricter standards for new development, and enhanced protections for redevelopment along our coast.

Busting the myths on REAL


There are a significant number of misconceptions being thrown around by those who would prefer to prevent the REAL rules from being implemented. Whatever their intentions, the facts speak for themselves, and our communities will be safer and more resilient for

MYTH	REALITY
THE RULES WILL CREATE "NO BUILD ZONES" OR FORCE RETREAT	"Where development is proposed within flood-prone areas, the new rule proposal would require, to the extent practicable, that buildings and infrastructure are constructed above flood levels that incorporate sea-level rise, which is four feet higher than required under current standards." – NJDEP
THE RULES WILL PREVENT REBUILDING STORM DAMAGED RESIDENCES	"The Flood Hazard Area Control Act, which is one of the enabling statutes for the proposed new rules, states at N.J.S.A. 58:16A-55.1 that 'No rule or regulation adopted [under this statute] shall prevent the repair or rebuilding within a flood hazard area of any lawful preexisting structure which was damaged by a flood or by any other means.' The REAL proposal is consistent with this requirement and would not in any way prevent new development or redevelopment before or after a storm." - NJDEP
THE RULES WILL PREVENT REDEVELOPMENT	REAL rules will increase resilience and improve water quality. "For too long, these [often] overburdened areas of the state have been plagued by flooding and poor water quality because they were developed before protective standards existed. The REAL proposal would ensure that new and redeveloped buildings and infrastructure would be safer for current and future residents, business owners and first responders, and that water quality, which is critical for recreation, fishing and industry, is improved." - NJDEP

them. The top three misconceptions on REAL, none of which are true or accurate, are these:

These rules are intended to make communities more resilient, better prepared for flooding and storm surge, and protect critical infrastructure like power facilities, hospitals, and transportation hubs. For anyone who lived through the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, we know the crippling effect of catastrophic storm surge flooding: power outages lasting days (or longer), entire communities inaccessible by land, fuel shortages, and lives and homes lost. This is the state's well-planned and thoroughly researched effort to minimize or eliminate those issues for our communities.

What's next and how you can help

We are all hopeful that the REAL rules will be signed into law in January. However, that is not guaranteed, and it is up to us all to make sure that our state representatives know that we support REAL and want these rules adopted without any further delay. While no regulation is perfect, and REAL is not, we cannot allow perfect to be the enemy of progress when it comes to resiliency planning. If you agree that the REAL rules are a necessary and crucial step towards making New Jersey a resilient and prepared state in the face of climate change, reach out to your representatives and the Governor's office to let them know. 

Science Updates

PFAS Results Go National, Newark Bay Looking Good & More Eels Than Ever

Plus, the next Harbor Herons conference is on deck for January.

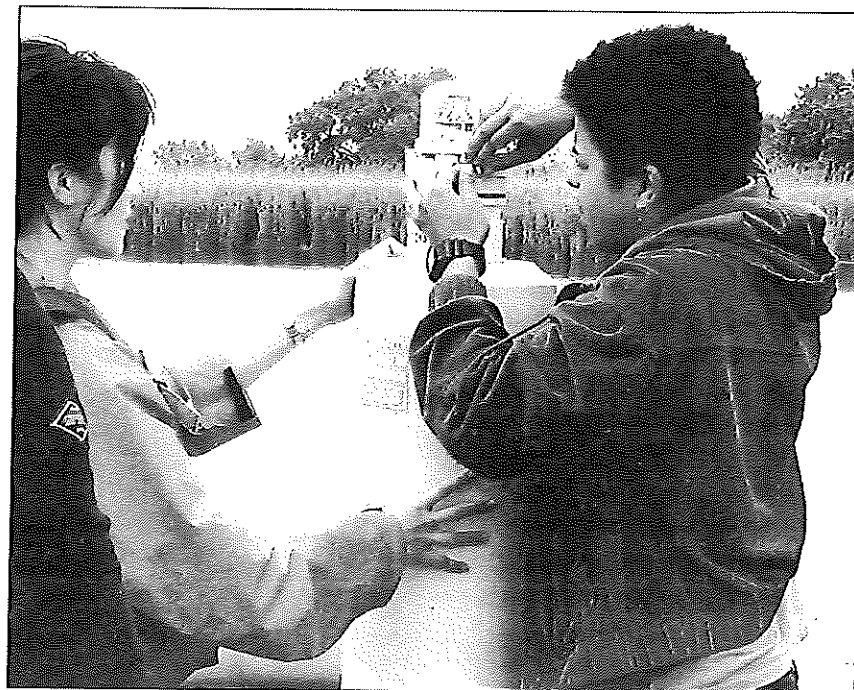
By Hugh M. Carola

As our 2025 boating season ended, our research work went into low gear as we reviewed and shared data while starting preparations for next season. As always, we greatly appreciate those who provide the training, hardware and support that enables us to add to the ever-growing collection of information regarding the Hackensack River and its adjacent waters. As the saying goes, "Knowledge is power" and thanks to Waterkeeper Alliance, Interstate Environmental Commission and the Hudson River Foundation, we're able to keep turning the power up. For example:

Waterkeeper PFAS Study

As I shared in the Summer issues of *Tidelines*, the Alliance released the second phase results of its nationwide study on June 26, including the data we collected on the Ramapo River in 2024. The release was covered by major news organizations including Newsweek and the New York Times as well as local and regional news outlets in affected watersheds.

In addition to the media coverage, results were also shared with Members of Congress and the appropriate divisions within the US Environmental Protection Agency. By the time you read this, we will have participated in a Virtual Advocacy Week with Senate staffers from affected jurisdictions; for us that was Senators Schumer and Gillibrand from New York and Senator Andy Kim from New Jersey. I'll include an update on



Jovan Snyder of IEC prepares the passive sonde for deployment.

those efforts in our next issue. At presstime, it has been reported that the Trump EPA has backed down on some PFAS restrictions approved during the Biden administration, with others (currently) still in place.

"In many ways, our watershed region is an overdeveloped, post-industrial landscape. Seeing both sets of results was particularly sobering, especially those taken from our Phase Two sampling on the Ramapo River. The percentage increase of total PFAS compounds in downstream samples as opposed to upstream is very sobering indeed." – my quote in Waterkeeper Alliance's *2025 Impact Report*.

You can find our full story here: www.hackensackriverkeeper.org/tidelines and access Waterkeeper's Phase 1 and 2 Reports here: www.waterkeeper.org/pfas.

www.waterkeeper.org/pfas.

Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) & Pathogen Sampling with IEC

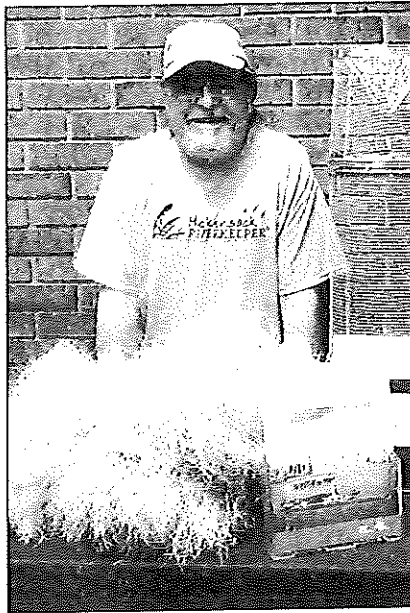
This past season (our sixth with IEC), we continued our double-fisted approach to WQM thanks to our Brooklyn-based partners. From May through October, Thursday is Science Day with myself and/or Tyler leading our team (Marta, trustee Susan Golden, and top volunteer Bill Getreuer) to six sampling sites: three on the Hackensack River, two on Newark Bay and one on the Kill van Kull as part of IEC's Volunteer Pathogen Monitoring Program. At each, we use a YSI®

sonde to check temperature, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen (DO) levels, and we collect samples that are tested for *Enterococcus* and fecal coliform bacteria. FYI, the IEC program coordinates with a similar one overseen by the NYC-based Billion Oyster Project (BOP).

While upriver sites in Ridgefield Park and Carlstadt, NJ consistently return high pathogen levels (e.g. over 104 colony-forming units – CFUs – of *Enterococcus* per 100-ml sample; unhealthy for human contact), the three Bayonne sites returned near-opposite results in 2025. On many a Thursday, at least two of them returned results of <10 CFUs – well within safe parameters for sustained human contact like swimming. Encouraging news for sure.

While my team and I drive to each landside sampling site, Captain Bill transports an IEC team lead by Environmental Specialist Stephen Biazio aboard the *Geraldine Theresa* to five mid-river sites to take readings and samples as part of NJDEP's continuing Harbor Monitoring Program. In addition to dropping a sonde and grabbing samples, in May the team also deployed a continuous monitoring sonde just upriver from the NJ Turnpike bridge between Carlstadt and Ridgefield. Additional deployments are planned for the region. The new IEC buoy, along with passive sondes maintained by the Meadowlands Research & Restoration Institute (MRRRI), makes ours a well-monitored river indeed.

You can review all our IEC-collected data here: www.hackensackriverkeeper.org/water-quality-blog. For all of IEC's regional work in NJ, NY & CT, visit: www.hec.org.



Captain Hugh with eel mop and trap at "Marsh Madness" at the Meadowlands Environment Center on 3/30

iec-nynjct.org. See BOP's Community Water Quality data: <https://www.billionoysterproject.org/water-quality>.

And review MRRRI's ongoing projects – including WQM – at: <https://meadowlandsrri.com>.

HRF Eel Monitoring Program

From March 30 through June 30, 2025, we participated for the fourth year in this important regional initiative, which is managed by the NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program, based at the Hudson River Foundation in NYC. The program seeks to better understand the distribution of American eels (*Anguilla rostrata*) in the metro region and expands on many years of eel research conducted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

As in previous years, I fabricated an "eel mop" using DEC specs and deployed it in the river in hopes of attracting migrating

juvenile (glass) eels. The device is suspended from a floating dock – this past year at RVR, where we keep our pontoon boats during the season – and mimics subaquatic vegetation, which protects eels from predators present in the river. By the time I pulled the mop for the final time on 6/30, I'd caught – and safely released – ten glass eels, a best-ever seasonal result.

We also continued angler outreach at four Hackensack River sites and three in Bayonne – on Newark Bay and the Kill Van Kull. At each, a yardstick and bilingual (English/Spanish) sign was posted requesting anglers to report data about eels caught and (hopefully) released by texting the length of the eel and location) to my work cellphone. At press time I'd received nine reports – more than any previous year – and I expect more to come in.

Finally, we tried again with an adult eel trap – this time deployed off our kayak dock at Overpeck Park. Despite the presence of eels in Overpeck Creek, and bait in the trap, only a single eel was caught and released. We plan to continue this passive study again in 2026, along with fabricating another eel mop for the RVR dock. Science!

Once again, sincere thanks to those responsible for our participation in each of these important research initiatives: Chelsea McDonald and the crew at Waterkeeper Alliance, including CEO Marc Yaggi; IEC Environmental Analyst Ruby Alcorn, who manages their WQM program, and Executive Director Evelyn Powers; and Isabelle Stinnette, Senior Scientist for Restoration Ecology, and Rob Pirani, Program Director at NY-NJ HEP. 🐟

2025 Eco-Program Recap

Once again, great boating, stewardship & educational times were had by all.

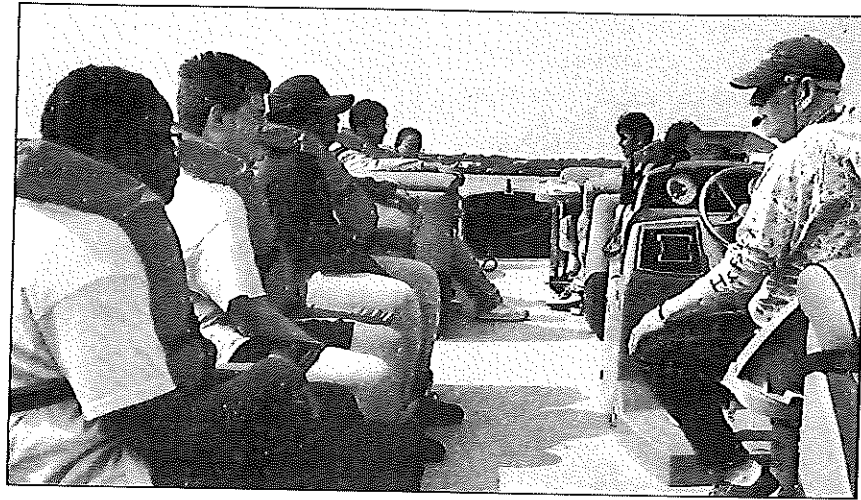
**By Hugh M. Carola,
Marta Pomerantz, Tyler Tierney
and Isaiah Leach**

At the start of each outdoor season, we say, "Maybe THIS season won't be full of rainouts, Heat Advisories, Small Craft Warnings, and storms." But it started cool, wet and windy. Then it got hot; REAL hot. It ended with a 3-day nor'easter, but not before a beautiful stretch of weather from August to October. Aply managed by Marta, our paddling centers had another great season. Tyler presided over a solid start to our River Cleanup program, then handed things off to Isaiah – who finished strong. And the captains welcomed many new and returning "crew" aboard the *Geraldine Theresa* and *Robert H. Boyle II*. Together, the five of us got the job/s done and helped bring thousands of people to and on the river in 2025.

ECO-CRUISES

Open Boat trips, scheduled in advance for the general public, were as popular as ever. We scheduled twenty-nine – less than usual as we kept dates clear for expected Clean Hudson trips. (Won't make THAT mistake again.) Fortunately, only four had to be cancelled for bad weather, so 370 persons joined us on twenty-five mostly two-boat Open trips. The 2026 Open E/C schedule will be released in March; registration via EventBrite goes live at 9AM on April 1 for all May trips, May 1 for all June trips, and so on.

Private Group trips plugged many of the holes in our E/C



calendar after the EPA cancelled the Clean Hudson grant. Captains Bill and Hugh conducted a total of eighty-six trips, while having to cancel twenty-six for bad weather. Still, 1,438 participants "shipped out" with us in 2025. Some highlights: four mini-trips conducted on 7/12 for City of Water Day – the regional celebration of all things water in NYC and northeast NJ, eight trips for the Secaucus Green Festival on 5/3, sixteen trips on the Passaic River and Newark Bay with the Newark City Parks Foundation, and trips for public officials including Bergen County Commissioner Tracy Zur, Assemblywoman Shama Haider (D-37), and Congressman Rob Menendez (D-NJ8).

Combo programs & Youth Eco-Cruise participation represented over one third of our "crews" this past season, including 192 Urban Watershed Education Program participants. Taken together, we provided 751 teachers and students from Pre-K to university (the latter including Bloomfield College, St. Peter's University and NJ Institute

of Technology) with quality, experiential environmental education.

In addition to honoraria from Eco-Cruise participants, we received funding from: the Town of Secaucus, Hudson River Foundation / NJ-NJ Harbor Estuary Program (which funded our City of Water Day participation); Wakefern/ShopRite Supermarkets (one of our longest-standing Eco-Cruise funders); and major funding from Attentive Energy, whose grant directly supports our Combos and youth Eco-Cruises. Many thanks to them – and all who donated funds to help keep our signature program running strong.

For those keeping score, 2,110 people participated in our 2025 Eco-Cruise season.

PADDLING PROGRAMS CENTERS

The 2025 season kicked off on Mother's Day, May 11 at all three of our centers – Laurel Hill Park in Secaucus, Overpeck Park in Teaneck, and Van Buskirk Island Park in Oradell, NJ. Taken together, they welcomed 4,261 paddlers

last season. Overpeck hosted the most – 3,020 to be exact – thanks to its being open seven days/week between Father’s Day and Labor Day; and hosting free paddling during EarthFest Overpeck on 5/18. Van Buskirk came in second with a solid 808, and Laurel Hill with 433, including 193 folks who joined us for our ever-popular Moonlight Paddles & daytime guided trips.

New paddling activities we began last year, like Saturday Kayak Club at Laurel Hill, beginner lessons at Overpeck, and the popular Scout Days and merit badge lessons at Van Buskirk, were joined by something *really* new: *Pup-n-Paddle Day* – where paddlers and their boat-experienced dogs enjoyed a wonderful time on the calm waters of Overpeck Lake on 9/20.

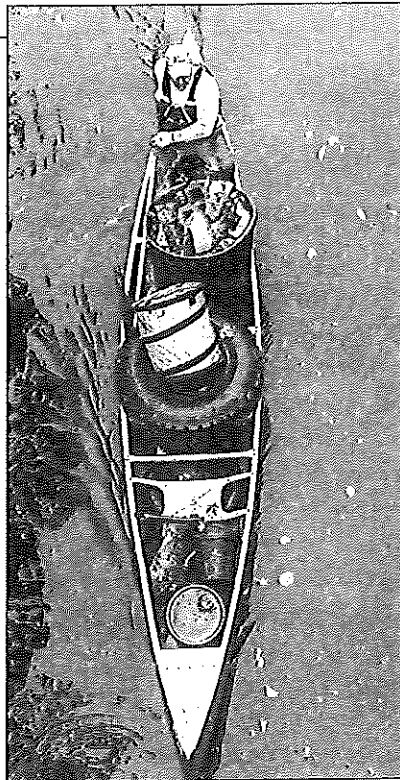
SPECIAL EVENTS

In addition to the centers, our Reservoir Paddle Series with Veolia – *Oradell Reservoir Challenge* on 6/7, *Lake DeForest Day* on 6/28 and *Lake Tappan Paddle Day* on August 2 – put **269** paddlers on the reservoirs for both racing and leisure. We also provided free kayaking for **82** more paddlers at three summer kayak events on the Passaic River in partnership with the Newark City Parks Foundation plus a student group from NJIT.

All told, our Centers and events put a **total of 4,612 paddlers** on the water in kayaks, canoes and SUPs last season. Speaking of next season...

If you know anyone who’d like some fun part-time work in 2026, Marta’s always looking for qualified seasonal staff. Send her an email today:

paddling@hackensackriverkeeper.org. Subject: *Paddling Center Staff Inquiry*.



RIVER CLEANUPS

Thanks to the sweat equity of our dedicated volunteers, the River Cleanup Program once again rocked the watershed during the 2025 Season. Amazingly, unlike last year’s record haul of trash and debris, this year’s totals were markedly lower. We attribute much of the difference to the aforementioned stretch of near drought conditions between August and October. No rain means no stormdrains washing litter and debris into the river. Of course, that’s not to say we had nothing to do; far from it. And our volunteers paid *particular* attention to smaller bits of plastic debris, removing them before they could break up into microplastics.

From March to November, **932 volunteers** joined us at thirty-seven River Cleanups, and as always, they showed up ready to work from start to finish. We hosted eleven community cleanups in Hudson and Bergen Counties. (We’re looking at *you*, Rock-

land County, for next season). In addition, we partnered with twelve sponsors for the other twenty-six events in our Corporate River Stewardship Program. Taken together, our dedicated volunteers removed **24,560 pounds** (AKA 12.28 tons, or 708 forty-two gallon trash bags’ worth) of trash and debris from the river, its tributaries, and environs.

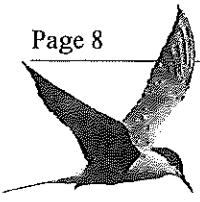
In so many ways, volunteers are the lifeblood of Hackensack Riverkeeper, and we appreciate each and every one. Partners like the Bayonne Nature Club, Bergen County Clean Communities, Bergen County Parks, Hudson County Parks, Hudson County Sierra Club, and communities all across our watershed are the proof. And special kudos to the volunteers who assisted at special events, with boat work, and in the office.

CORPORATE RIVER STEWARDSHIP

And as we shared with you last year, companies large and small are providing funding and sending hundreds of employees to volunteers with us. A special shout-out to all our 2025 Corporate River Stewardship sponsors: Becton Dickinson, EarthShare NJ, PKF O’Connor Davies, Ralph Lauren, Friesland Campina, Volvo, Shiseido, Urban Edge, Ocean Network Express, Samsung Electronics, PSE&G, and Veolia Water NJ/NY. Thank you all.

Finally, *many thanks* to the **7,654 people** who joined us on and at the water in 2025. Your donations, honoraria and volunteer hours went a long way towards keeping Hackensack Riverkeeper effective and on the job.

See *YOU* at the river in 2026! 🐾



Wanted: Experienced Birder(s) to Join Winning WSB Team

“Tryouts” are open to anyone with the skills and desire.

By Hugh M. Carola

Can't tell you how many people thought I was retiring from Hackensack Riverkeeper after reading about my (only) stepping back from the leadership of our World Series of Birding team – the Hackensack RiverCreepers. I mean, c'mon. But like I wrote before (and you “skimmers” can read again): I don't have it in me anymore to get up at 2AM, be onsite at 3AM, and bird until 9:30PM. I used to only need one day off to recover; three years ago, it became two. As the saying goes, “A man needs to know his limitations”. And I know mine, so ...

I've “promoted” myself from Team Captain to Coach and General Manager. And while I probably won't be doing too much actual *coaching*, save for reviewing hotspots and helping scout some of them, as GM I'll be doing plenty (of paperwork) and supporting the ‘Creepers every way I can. Speaking of the team, my son Dan Carola and our buddy Ray Duffy have agreed to serve as co-Captains going forward – and I'm really happy about that. And while

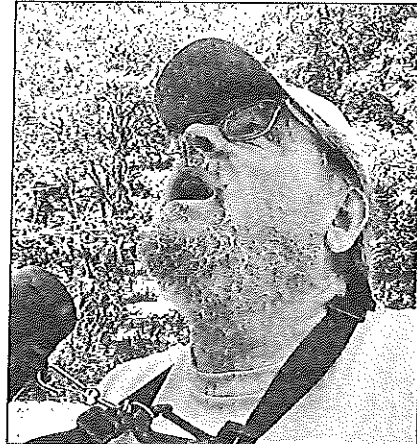
Dave Kaplan *always* has a place on the team, we do need more depth in our lineup to help ensure a successful WSB outing in 2026 and beyond. So ...

We're looking for a couple of experienced birders who can be free on the second Saturday in May. Full disclosure: in most years it's the day before Mother's Day. By experienced, we mean a person who's confident in their bird ID skills – both visual and aural – and that have been honed and tested for a good while. Someone for whom birding is a regular pastime. We also need someone who has a good handle on the species that can run up the tally, especially warblers, sparrows, shorebirds and waterfowl. Merlin® users and (especially) eBird® subscribers

Physically, in addition to the 19 straight hours, there's a fair bit of walking involved. Most of the day consists of “hit and run” tactics where you drive to locations and do a quick look, listen and list (we have the *entire* WMA5 region plotted, so there's always a strategy), but you *will* put a couple miles behind you by the end of the day.

As far as the fundraising goes, that's mostly down to me, but we appreciate ‘Creepers reaching out to those family members, friends and others who might like to help support your friendly neighborhood Riverkeeper. Putting the word out to one's FB or LinkedIn network wouldn't go amiss either. Any and all plays that advance the runners are good ones. So ...

If I've piqued your interest, and you think you have what it takes, let me know. Send me an email at: hugh@hackensack-riverkeeper.org and we can get a conversation going. ➤



What Captain Hugh looks like at around Hour 17 of the WSB.

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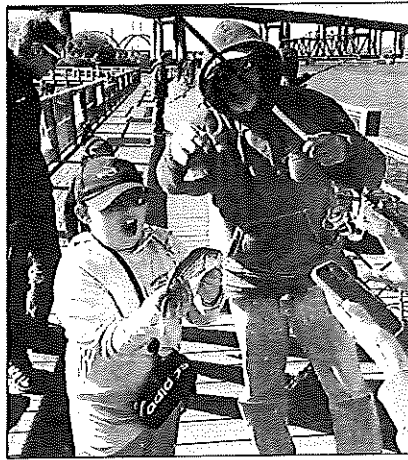
Autumn Angling for Moments of Excitement and Education

An 11 year old pro and a 7 year old novice took home the prizes at Our October 25th Derby.

By Jodi Jamieson

Every fall, for the past 10 years, we've been holding a fishing derby with our friends from the Hudson River Fishermen Association (HRFA). This family friendly event is held at Laurel Hill County Park in Secaucus and draws a host of newbies trying their luck while enjoying a fun day along the river. This year's *Autumn Angling Fishing Derby* was another fantastic event. Forty people signed up and many of them were young children who have never fished before, nor had their parents. It is always a pleasure for me to spend time teaching them how to cast and then watching them become more proficient throughout the event.

This year we had quite a few young children, so much so that I'm going to stock up on some smaller poles for future events. But the first participant to show up, 11-year-old Jaiden, from Fairlawn, I dubbed our mini-professional. His grandmother had pulled her car up next to our registration table and he jumped out in his deck boots and immediately asks, "What kind of water is this?" As a person who teaches kids about their water and how to fish... I was impressed and I replied, "Brackish water." He knew exactly what that meant and immediately unloaded the appropriate tackle from the back of their car. According to his grandmother, Jaiden is obsessed with fishing. She mentioned that he doesn't usually get excited about anything. But that day he was exuberant! Jaiden took first place prize for the



Jaiden, with his first ever Striped bass. HRFA's Joe Albanese assisting in all the excitement.



Addie, with her proud dad, showing off one of her many White perch caught that day.

largest fish when he caught a 13 inch Striped bass.

That was far from Jaiden's first fish ever caught, but it was his first Striped bass, and he was so excited. He was jumping up and down before he even landed it. He knew what he had hooked and was immediately barking orders to his grandmother.... "Grandma, grandma, take my picture, put it on Facebook, call my dad, I gotta tell him!"

All the HRFA guys and I loved this kid's enthusiasm. Those moments when a child is engaged like this can become great teachable moments. After the excitement of the catch, Jaiden asked me if he could take the fish home and eat it. I let him know that it was not large enough to keep, and also that our derby was a catch and release event. But I also let him know that there were fish consumption advisories in our waters and that adults needed to limit their consumption of Striped bass, to only 4 meals per year. "Four meals

per year?" he questioned. "That's not very much." My response, "Yes, I know, it's not a lot and that is for an adult. So, I wouldn't recommend eating any if you are a child." And that started us on a conversation about what type of contaminants are in our river and the concept of bioaccumulation, and he was receptive to this information. Although, any kid will try to get around something off limits.... and he was trying to ascertain how many meals he could eat a year.

I explained that scientists treated the level of contaminants like doses of medicine and that children's doses were always adjusted to smaller amounts because they did not have as large a body to handle an adult size dose. I suggested that he wait until he was a full-grown adult. I told him that the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) had information on their website that let fishermen know what fish are not safe to eat from almost all

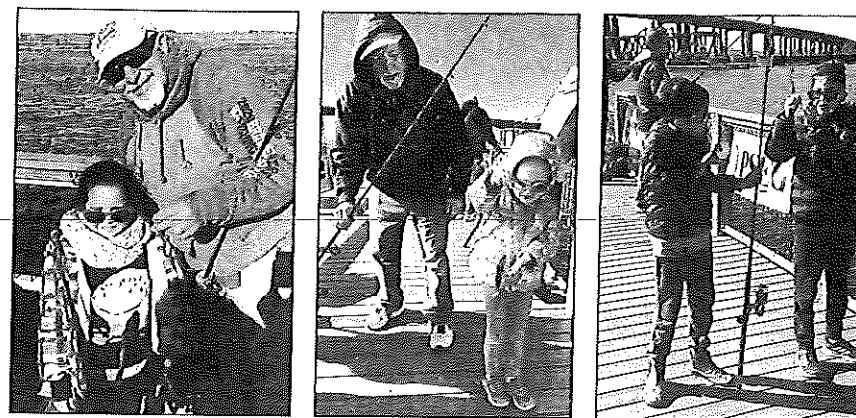
Continued on page 10

Autumn Angling

continued from page 9

bodies of water in New Jersey. Just recently, I looked up Fish Smart, Eat Smart on the NJDEP website and noticed that they posted a new report. The new 2025 Fish Smart, Eat Smart health advisories guide have changed their recommendations. Adults can now eat Striper once a month, up from 4 times a year. So, while I love helping people learn about our water, their curiosity also keeps me questioning and learning.

Another prize winner that day was 7 year old Addie. Her dad was so excited and proud of how



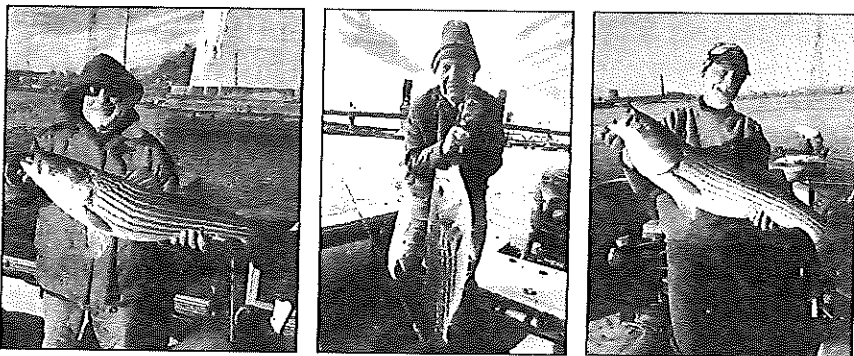
Hudson River Fishermen helping out some of our novice anglers with their fish.

well she did. It was her first time fishing... ever... and she won the prize for catching the most fish, a total of six White perch ranging from 5 to 11 inches. White perch,

along with the American eel was also on the older consumption advisories list as "Do Not Eat." Now, on the new 2025 advisories guide the scientists say that it is safe to eat four meals per year of White perch and American eel.

There were several other children and adults learning to fish, catching fish, and enjoying the beautiful autumn day in the Meadowlands along the Hackensack River. We couldn't run this event without all the expert help from the Hudson River Fishermen, a big thank you to them and all the folks who came out and participated, making this another memorable time along the river. >🐟

The Pros Show Off Their Catch....



Our helpers at the fishing derby, Joe, Wayne, and Scott from Hudson River Fishermen's Association sent some pictures of the Striped bass that they caught just a week after our fishig derby and very close to our same location.

CAG Corner!

Updates on the Community Advisory Group

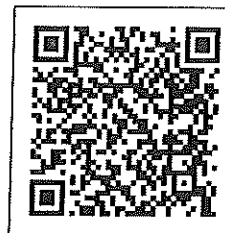
Our Lower Hackensack River Superfund Site has its CAG Co-Chairs! Congratulations to Michael Guariello, licensed industrial wastewater operator and Rutgers University Adjunct Professor, and our Staff Attorney, Michele Langa.

We've held the first two CAG Member meetings and are in the process of securing an in-

dependent third-party facilitator for future meetings. We are also looking forward to attending a Contaminated Sediment Technical Advisory Group (CSTAG) meeting being convened by EPA Region 2 for engineers and technical experts from around the US EPA Regions to review and comment on plans for the Lower Hackensack Superfund

site cleanup.

For more information about the site and its progress, please use the QR code to visit and to sign up for the email list! >🐟



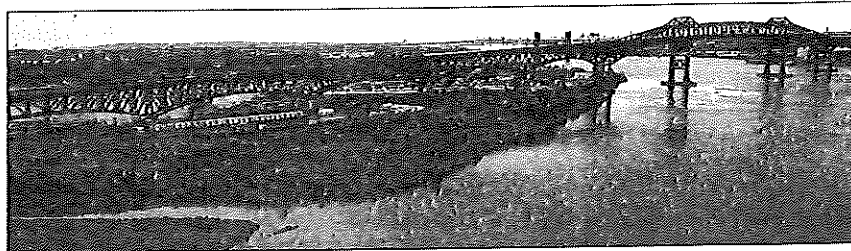
PFAS Stalls Skyway Park

continued from page 1

“is failing and introducing significant levels of PFAS into the Hackensack River.” Due to ongoing environmental impacts and potential threats to human health, the park project was halted, and site placed under the jurisdiction of the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Working together, EPA Region 2 and DEP are investigating the cause/s and extent of PFAS present in the groundwater, sediments, and surface water. It is assumed that the huge amounts of PFAS-laden firefighting chemicals – pumped into the PJP during the fifteen years when the fires burned are the source of the newly-discovered discharge.

Substantive discussions about moving the park forward can only happen after both agencies approve a remediation plan. Actual



development would most likely take place only after a finding of No Further Action is made after remediation is complete. Ms. Patel added that the city has retained the services of a consulting firm to help navigate the process.

To further complicate matters, back in June Captain Bill Sheehan reported to the DEP a possible cap failure on the “Siegel” portion of the property when he observed what appeared to be long-buried trash falling into the river from an area that was clearly eroded. Soon after, a temporary fix was installed, but the situation remains under investigation by the agency.

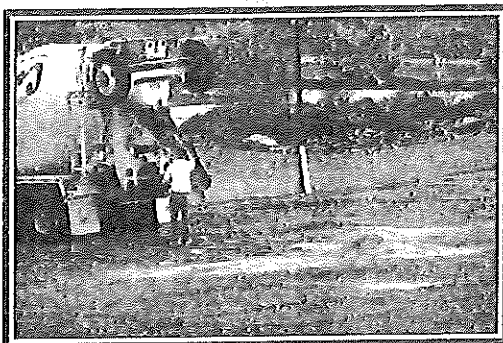
In better news, the park design

proposal submitted by engineering firm Arcadis is on track. Also, the city’s Business Administrator’s Office and Finance Department should soon be able to determine how quickly a contract can be awarded. According to Friends of Skyway Park president Steve Krinsky, Ms. Patel informed him “My understanding is that funds are available in the capital budget, which is awaiting Council approval.”

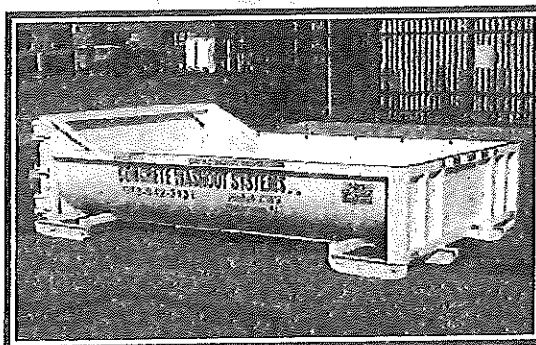
While that is certainly good to know, what we *don't* know is how much longer the people of Jersey City will have to wait before they finally get the park they were promised. ➤

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Celebrating 28 Years of Powerful Clean Water Advocacy

Our annual Gala honors three very special partners.

On October 29, The Estate at Florentine Gardens in River Vale, NJ was once again *the* place to be as Hackensack Riverkeeper hosted our annual Gala. Each year, the special event is an opportunity to highlight our work and mission – and celebrate some *very* special friends. As has long been our tradition, guests arrived to the gentle sounds of steel drum music; afterward enjoyed excellently-prepared food and drink, and good times were had all around. Throughout the evening, everyone had the opportunity to meet fellow Riverkeeper supporters, strengthening the bonds between friends old and new.

This year's theme – The Power of Water – centered around the many ways in which the element is central to all our lives, and to the lives of the wildlife that share our watershed. For that very reason, and as most people know,

we've worked tirelessly to protect, preserve, and restore the river ever since Captain Bill founded Hackensack Riverkeeper in 1997. And with the dedication of our partners, volunteers, and supporters, we look forward to many, many more years of continuing that critical mission.

Speaking of partners, we honored three outstanding ones this year. Each represents not only longstanding support of our organization, but forward-leaning excellence as environmental advocates in their own right. They are:

Carolyn Smith Pravlik, Esq., Partner, Ter-ris, Pravlik & Millian LLC, who received our *Excellence in Environmental Stewardship Award*, for her leadership of one of America's premier environmental justice law firms.

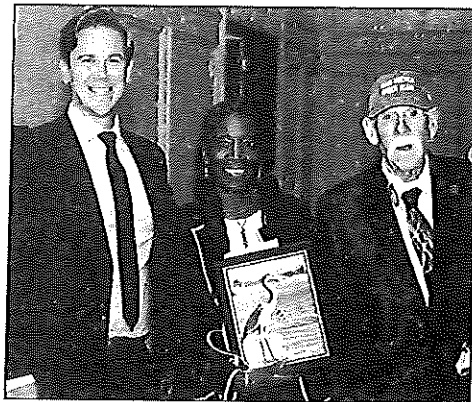
Robert Hoffmann, Englewood, NJ City Manager, who received our *Excellence in Public*



Carolyn Smith Pravlik receives her award from Captain Bill. Carolyn has been a trailblazer litigating cases in NJ since the 1980s to protect and maintain our state and the region's waterways.



Robert Hoffmann has played a significant role in open space preservation and ongoing flood prevention programs that have dramatically reduced flooding, and damage to homes and properties in the municipalities that he has served.



Tyler Tierney and Captain Bill presented De'Longhi Groups Roseann Gordon with our Corporate Environmental Stewardship Award. In addition to financial support, De'Longhi employees have joined us for several years at our River Cleanups.



All Gala Photos © Joseph Frazz

And the gang's all here! Tyler Tierney, Henry Washington, Michele Langa, Captain Bill, Marta Pomerantz, Jodi Jamieson, Isaiah Leach, Capt. Hugh Carola and Water-shed Ambassador Jason Peralta.

Emcees Brendon Reskakis and Brian Thompson.

Service Award, for his extensive track record steering municipalities toward environmental responsibility.

De'Longhi Group, who received our *Corporate Environmental Stewardship Award* for their

many years as an active member of our Corporate River Stewardship team.

Congratulations to each, and many thanks to our Gala sponsors, attendees and volunteers for celebrating with us and supporting a clean, powerful future for the Hackensack River! ➤



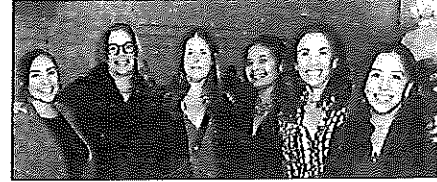
It wouldn't be a party without the beautiful Shiseido women in the house!



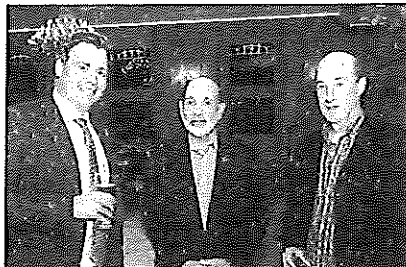
John Birkner with Robert Laux, Executive Director of BCUA.



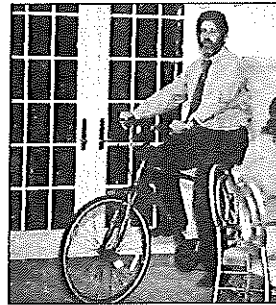
Kelsey Sarro and Lisa Trenchel of the Meadowlands Chamber



Celebrating the Power of Water with Veolia – an important friend, ally and supporter.



PSEG's Matt Jokajtyts and Jim Sullivan catching up with board member Russ Furnari (center).



Jeff Raskin making it memorable with his auction antics.



HRI's Board members in attendance from left to right: Henry Gajda, Will Leggett, Susan Golden, Captain Bill, John Birkner, Rob Gillies, Karen McDermott, Russ Furnari, and Craig Dorsett.

Thank You Sponsors

HACKENSACK WATERSHED FIELD NOTES

By Hugh M. Carola

When wildlife is “uncooperative” during Eco-Cruises, Bird Walks and such, folks will often hear me say, “Well, wild animals don’t always do what we want them to do, where and when we want them to do it. That’s what makes them *wild* animals.” This past season gave us a lot to consider along those lines, positive, negative and “huh?”.

For example, once again the vast majority of southbound migrating raptors bypassed local hawkwatch sites like Hook Mountain, Montclair and Stateline Lookout for sites much further west in New York and Pennsylvania. And then on 10/10/25 the season-to-date total of all raptors counted over Hook Mountain in Nyack, NY was 3,743. By comparison, the Little Gap Hawkwatch in Danielsville, PA had tallied an amazing 21,595 with more to come. The reason is pretty simple: strong, consistent easterly winds from August through fall made our loss PA’s gain.

Closer to home, the numbers of Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and Yellow-crowned Night Herons are clearly continuing their upward trends while Black-crowned Night Herons are increasingly MIA in the Meadowlands. The species’ continued decline is baffling since there’s little evidence of disease, predation, human disturbance or lack of prey. One possibility is that increasing numbers of Double-crested Cormorants within the NY-NJ harbor region are outcompeting BCNHs for optimal nesting

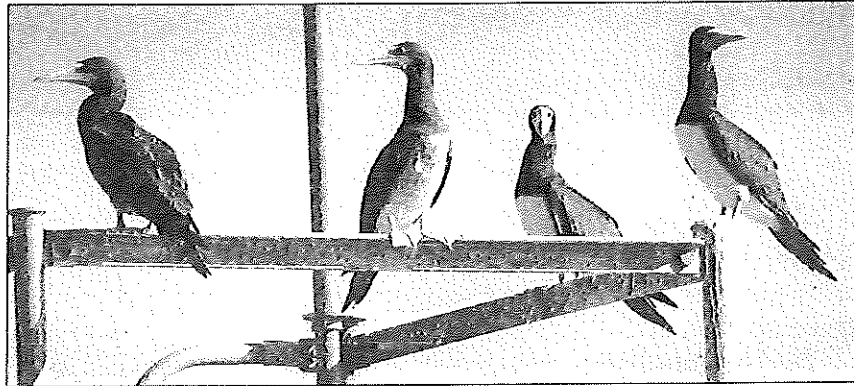


Photo © Orys Train

Brown Boobys on ATON 15

sites. We’ll learn more after the annual Harbor Herons Conference in January, and I’ll include my report in the Spring issue.

Speaking of learning, school is now in session. Pay attention and open your notebooks...

Bald Eagle – Many Eco-Cruise participants observed multiple adult and immature eagles this past season, but nesting successes were again mixed. Both Hudson County nests – at Kearny Point and the new one at Rutkowski Park in Bayonne, NJ – failed. As did Bergen County nests in Bogota and Teaneck, NJ. Two well-established south Bergen pairs – Ridgefield Park and Carlstadt – each fledged two chicks. We’re aware of at least three nests in the upper Hackensack Watershed, but at press time hadn’t received final season reports.

Bicknell’s Thrush – A true rarity in our area, as the species is usually found at high altitudes in the Adirondacks or White Mountains; yet one was observed May 18 through 24 (and at sea level) at Losen Slote Creek Park in Little Ferry, NJ. Truly amazing.

Black Sea Bass – Anglers fishing Newark Bay and at Brady’s Dock on the Kill van Kull in Bayonne, NJ reported catching and releasing large numbers in late September and early October. One told me, “Almost very cast we made caught us a small bass. Was a lot of fun.”

Brown Booby – Once again, a small group of this subtropical species found its way to Newark Bay beginning in August. After a brief sojourn to the NY side of the harbor estuary, four birds set up station at ATON #15 in Newark Bay, where they were seen and photographed on 9/28.

Brown Thrasher – Seen much less often than its cousins, the Northern Mockingbird and Gray Catbird, a Thrasher sighting is always a treat, as one birder enjoyed along Meadowlands Parkway in Secaucus, NJ on 9/20. Another was observed in the Northwest Resiliency Park in Hoboken, NJ on 9/30.

Caspian Tern – As is typical, pairs of this large tern species were observed during late summer and early fall at Anderson Marsh in Secaucus. Another pair was

seen on the dock of the abandoned Majestic Boat Club in East Rutherford, NJ on 8/30.

Common Tern – More great news from the Hoboken COTE colony: the seventeen nesting pairs on Pier 11 produced twenty-seven fledglings. Once again, our kudos to the city, the property owner, and our colleagues at Our Tern. Also, large mixed flocks of Common and Forster's Terns were observed along the river in Little Ferry, NJ in September.

Green-winged Teal – A harbinger of season's change in the Meadowlands, a flock of well over one hundred ducks was seen at Anderson Marsh in Secaucus on 10/5.

Lincoln's Sparrow – Four of these uncommon sparrows were noted at the aforementioned NW Resiliency Park in Hoboken on 9/28.

Osprey – The count along the Hackensack & Lower Passaic rivers and Newark Bay tallied in at 40 nesting pairs – three less than 2024. While most nests produced just one or two fledglings, they did much better than those along Barnegat Bay. Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ reported numerous nesting failures and abandonments there – the cause of which is believed to be the overharvesting of menhaden just outside state waters by so-called "Pogey Boats" based in Louisiana and other southern states.

Peregrine Falcon – Drama on the westbound Route 3 Bridge: beginning in late September through the end of our Eco-Cruise season, Capt. Bill and I witnessed multiple conflicts between Big Mama" and another female, sometimes joined by a male bird which may (or may not) have been "Mr. Mister". It

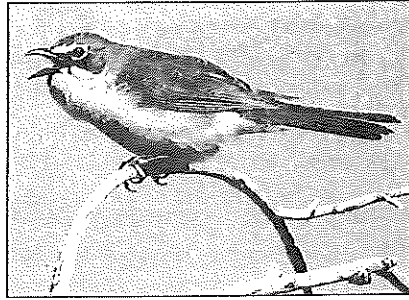


photo © Bigstack

Yellow-breasted Chat

remains to be seen which feisty female falcon will be in the nestbox next season. Watch This Space.

Upland Sandpiper – Typically observed in places like the Alpha Grasslands Preserve in Phillipsburg, NJ, a single bird was noted foraging alongside several Killdeer in a grassy area in Westwood, NJ on 7/10.

White-tailed deer – Our latest installment of "You saw a deer WHERE?" takes us to the east bank of the river near a newly-constructed warehouse in Ridgefield Park, NJ where a large buck in velvet was observed during an early evening Eco-Cruise on 9/7.

Yellow-breasted Chat – Probably the rarest and least-reported eastern warbler in our state; and almost never seen in our area. Nonetheless, we received TWO reports this past season: one was heard and seen back on 6/2 in a brushy area along Tice Boulevard in Woodcliff Lake, NJ; the other was observed on 9/27 at Hoboken's Northwest Resiliency Park

Yellow-crowned Night Heron – As reported previously, this season's count at Harmon Cove in Secaucus was twenty-three nesting pairs. In Bayonne, our colleagues at the Bayonne Nature Club updated their city nest count from eighteen YCNH to another twenty-three, making Hudson County home to an amazing forty-six nesting pairs in 2025!

Many thanks to our contributors and a tip o' the naturalist's hat to: Anonymous, Dan Carola, Judy Cinquina, John Coyle, Terry Doss, Ray Duffy, Patricia Hilliard, Doug Morel, Mike Ruscigno, Bill Sheehan, Stephanie Swanzey, Noelle Thurlow, Tyler Tierney, Jeff Train, Otys Train & Jim Wright.

Postscript: By all means, please don't let the fall and winter keep you from enjoying the outdoors and observing wildlife because there are lots of opportunities to do just that – in our watershed region and nearby. For example, there are LOTS more waterfowl species to see in winter – especially at places like DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst or the Celery Farm Natural Area in Allendale, NJ. For most ducks, northern NJ is south enough for them to migrate to.

One antidote for cabin fever is a winter trip down the shore – for birds and seals. The Sandy Hook unit at Gateway National Recreation Area is just the place for both. And admission is free. If seal-watching is your thing, you'll need three things almost any day between December and April: a sunny day, light winds, and low tide. If all three check out, head on down. Once at Fort Hancock, drive past the crowd of people on your left, park in the "Seal Watch Parking" lot, and join the crowd. Be sure to bring binoculars, too!

Of course, any walk in a park, natural area or other open space in winter offers a chance to observe nature at its most subtle. Animal tracks in the snow, flocks of winter finches feeding on winterberries, and overwintering raptors watching you from their roosting sites are all special things to see and experience. See you in the field!



VOLUNTEER CORNER

By Isaiah Leach

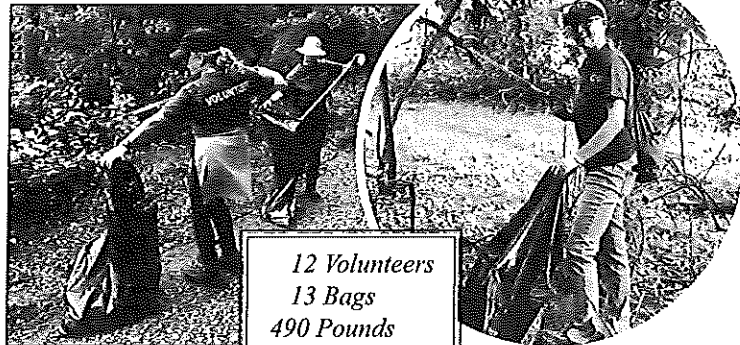
Let me reintroduce myself, Isaiah Leach, here as Hackensack Riverkeeper's new Outreach Coordinator. I was previously your WMA5 Watershed Ambassador for the 2024-2025 term of service. I rejoined the team in late August and began running the cleanups in late summer. This is typically the busiest time of year so it was definitely a quick learning process. Some of these cleanups have been great at ameliorating immense amounts of litter that could be found in some of the sites while others excelled at maintaining and getting some areas to near pristine conditions. During the upcoming season I hope to tackle new areas around northeast New Jersey so that we can continue to make an impact on the environment.

Thanks to all of you, 22,380 pounds of trash have been removed in total via the Community Cleanup

and Corporate Cleanup Programs this year. Many of the sites that we have done are now picked clean so I may need to take some time to search for new sites. Thank you to every last person that has lent a helping hand in order to do the dirty work in order to make our water clean!

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the following organizations who we would not be able to do our amazing work without. Special thank you to BD, EarthShare NJ, PKF O'Connor Davies, Ralph Lauren, Friesland Campina, Volvo, Shiseido, Urban Edge, Ocean Network Express, Samsung Electronics, PSE&G, Veolia Water NJ/NY, Bergen County Parks, Hudson County Parks, Hudson County Improvement Authority, and Bergen County Clean Communities!

BD Cleanup - Hackensack Greenway, Teaneck, June 26, 2025



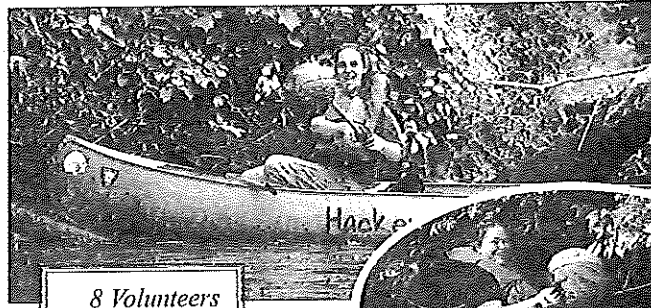
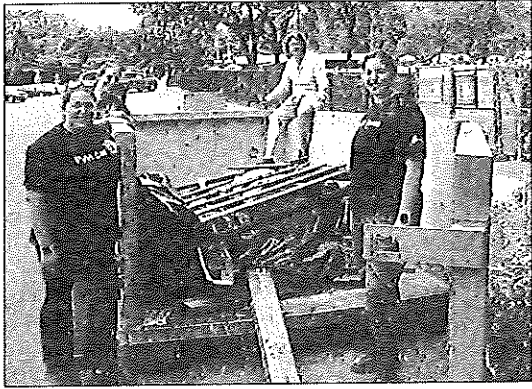
*12 Volunteers
13 Bags
490 Pounds*

Community Cleanup - Staib Park, Hackensack, July 20, 2025



*35 Volunteers
10 Bags
440 Pounds*

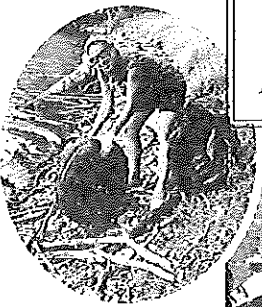
EarthShare NJ Cleanup - Hackensack River, River Edge, August 6, 2025



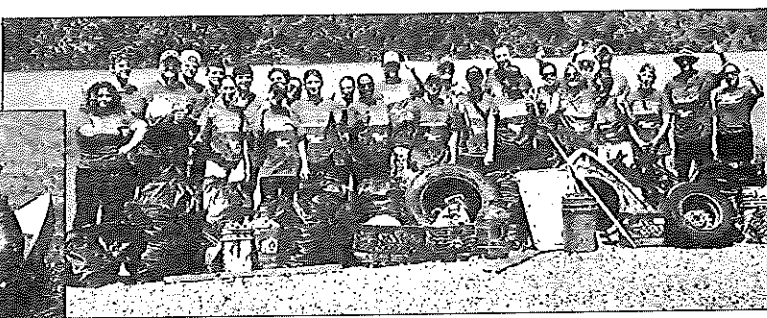
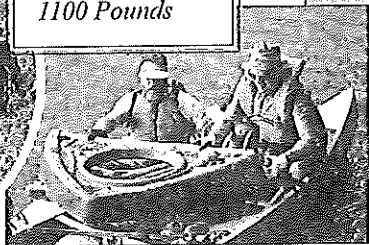
8 Volunteers
6 Bags
160 Pounds



PKF O'Connor Davies Cleanup - Woodcliff Lake Reservoir, Woodcliff Lake, August 13, 2025



30 Volunteers
25 Bags
1100 Pounds



Community Cleanup - Rutkowski Park, Bayonne, August 16, 2025



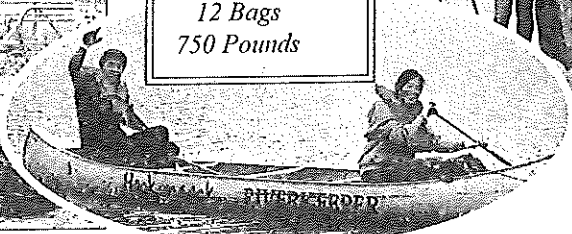
27 Volunteers
30 Bags
1400 Pounds



Ralph Lauren Cleanup - Overpeck County Park, Teaneck, August 20, 2025



14 Volunteers
12 Bags
750 Pounds

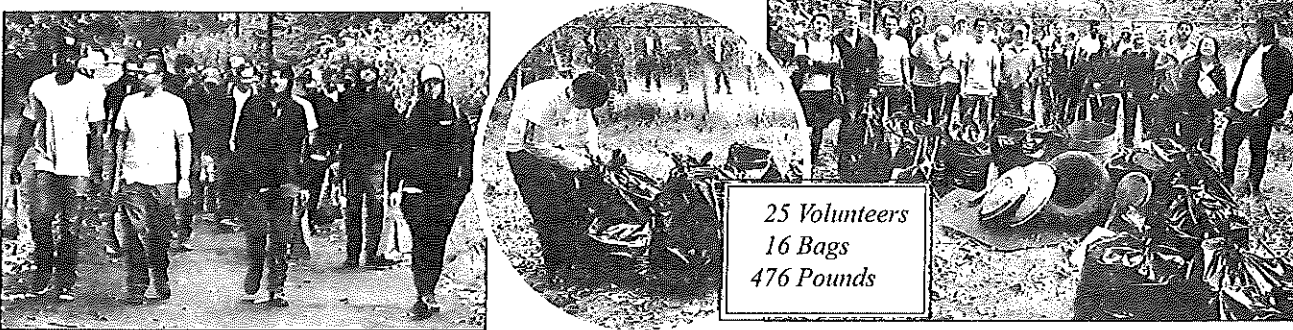


Friesland Campina Cleanup - Woodcliff Lake Reservoir, Hillsdale, September 3, 2025



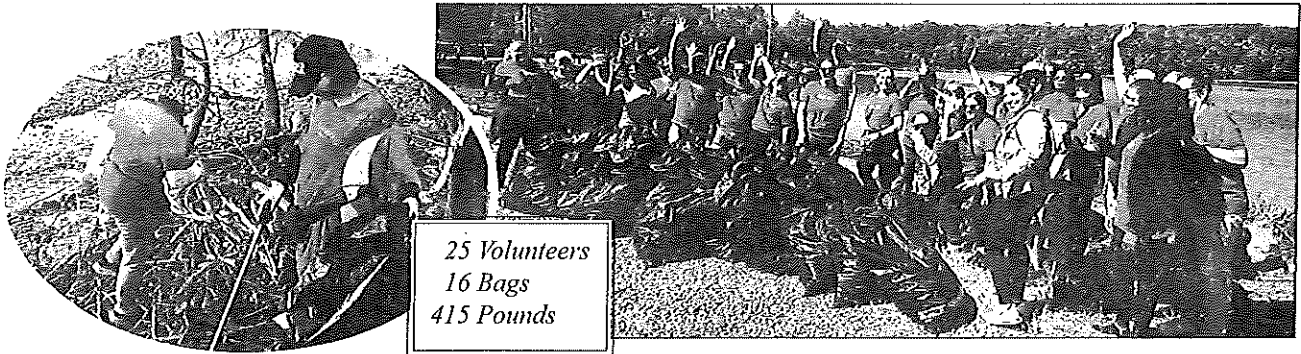
30 Volunteers
10 Bags
343 Pounds

Volvo Cleanup - Oradell Reservoir, Closter, September 10, 2025



25 Volunteers
16 Bags
476 Pounds

Shiseido Cleanup 1 - Woodcliff Lake Reservoir, Woodcliff Lake, September 15, 2025



25 Volunteers
16 Bags
415 Pounds

Shiseido Cleanup 2 - Overpeck County Park, Palisades Park, September 19, 2025



42 Volunteers
45 Bags
1125 Pounds

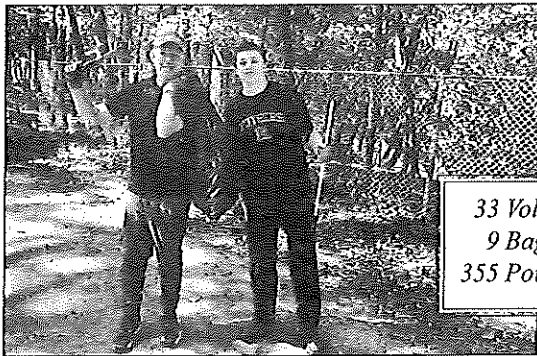
Urban Edge Cleanup - Hackensack River County Park, Hackensack, September 19, 2025



*23 Volunteers
18 Bags
810 Pounds*



International Coastal Cleanup Day - Oradell Reservoir, Haworth, September 20, 2025



*33 Volunteers
9 Bags
355 Pounds*



Samsung Cleanup - Overpeck County Park, Leonia, September 25, 2025



*41 Volunteers
15 Bags
1100 Pounds*

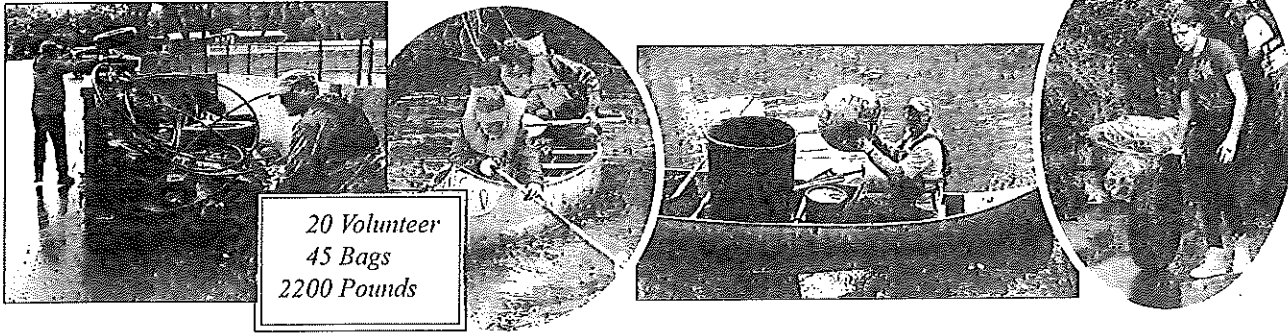


PSEG (EBRG Team) Cleanup - Rutkowski Park, Bayonne, October 1, 2025



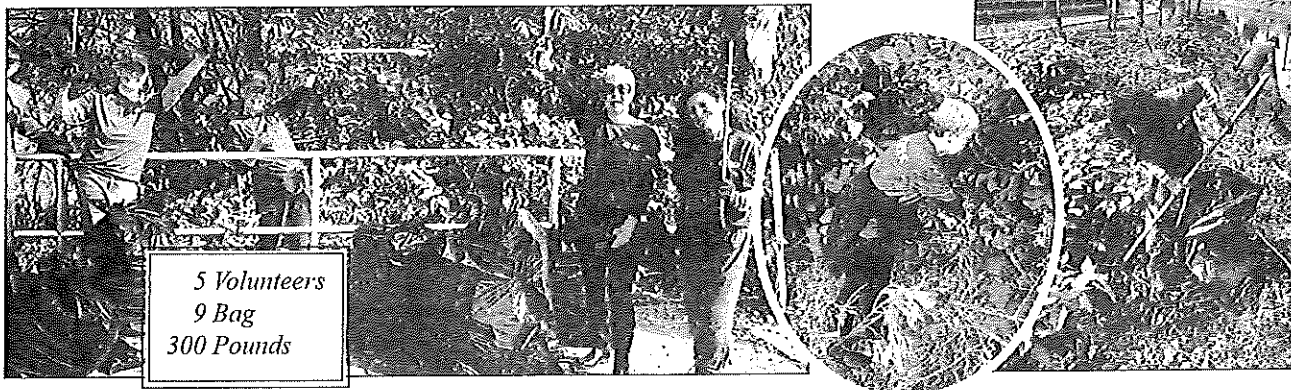
*21 Volunteers
17 Bags
620 Pounds*

Community River Sweep - Van Buskirk Island, Oradell, October 11, 2025



20 Volunteer
45 Bags
2200 Pounds

BD Cleanup - ShopRite, Hackensack, October 15, 2025



5 Volunteers
9 Bag
300 Pounds

Regeneron Cleanup - Woodcliff Lake Reservoir, Woodcliff Lake October 17, 2025



29 Volunteers
21 Bags
750 Pounds

Special Thank you to our 2025 River Cleanup Sponsors



SPOTLIGHT: Richie Robinson

Born and raised in Secaucus, Richie Robinson shares our love of the Hackensack River.

This issue's Spotlight features an interview with Richie Robinson, one of our paddling center staff. Richie is an Environmental Science major at Stockton University, and dreams of one day becoming the "next Captain Bill." He has an optimistic view on life and we wanted to find out more about what motivates him. We think you'll find him as charming as we do.



Richie (in staff shirt) standing with (l-r) Mike Mongon, Chief of Park Operations, Marta Pomerantz, Univision reporter Damaris Diaz and Bergen County Commissioner Germaine Ortiz. Univision was filming one of their daily spotlights at Overpeck Park.

1. How and when did you first hear about Hackensack Riverkeeper?

I first heard about Hackensack Riverkeeper when I was very young. My parents took me on an Eco-Cruise, and we also regularly spent time at local parks walking and fishing along the river. As I got older and was looking to work, I knew that being involved with the health of the river was exactly where I wanted to be.

2. What is it about Riverkeeper's work that resonates with you?

What inspires me is Riverkeeper's endless dedication to improving the health of the river and all the creatures that live in and around its environment. I especially love the mission of raising public awareness and giving communities the opportunity to get directly involved through cleanups and other vital events.

3. What is your vision for our river and its watershed?

My vision is to see the river recover to the point where we can fish and crab without restriction. I can envision a river that is truly

alive with renewed animal life. I want to see a high presence of recreational boating that rivals the Jersey Shore and for people to fully access it for avid personal recreation.

4. Do you feel your support is making a difference? How?

Absolutely! Hackensack Riverkeeper has given me a direct opportunity to contribute to the physical upkeep of the river through cleanups and water testing. Beyond the hands-on work, I feel I'm making a difference by helping the community understand the importance of our mission and the health of the river.

5. Please tell us about your personal experiences with the Hackensack River, its reservoirs, or the Newark Bay.

My connection to this place is generational. From the time I could walk, my grandfather took me fishing on the river, telling me inspiring stories of him and his father hunting and fishing here. This family history makes me feel

deeply connected to the river. I also have fond memories of my mom having to pick up my brothers and me and wrapping us up in towels to get into the car, covered head-to-toe in river mud from trying to catch minnows. Later, I spent several years working at the paddling centers at Overpeck Park and Laurel Hill with Marta Pomerantz, helping people learn to kayak. This past summer, I was honored to participate as a Community Outreach Intern with Tyler Tierney and also in the water sampling program with Captain Bill Sheehan.

6. Do you have a special message that you'd like to impart to Captain Bill?

Captain Bill is someone I have admired most of my life for his endless dedication to restoring the river to its intended glory. His work didn't just inspire me, it solidified my desire to pursue a degree in Environmental Science and confirmed that a career in environmental stewardship is what I am meant to do. >

Meet Jason Peralta

Our new Watershed Ambassador from Hackensack.

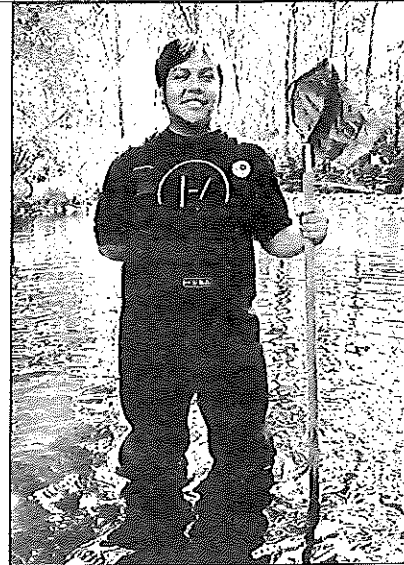
Hi everyone! My name is Jason and I'm honored to serve as your 2025–2026 NJDEP / AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador for Watershed Management Area Five: the Hackensack and Hudson River watersheds. I'm based right here in my hometown, where I'll be working with schools, nonprofits, and community members to promote watershed stewardship, environmental education, and a shared commitment to protecting our local waterways.

This watershed has always been a part of my life. The Hackensack River isn't just a body of water to me—it's part of home. Growing up here, I saw how connected our communities are to the river, whether through recreation, local parks, or simply knowing that this water supports our health and environment. That connection is what inspires me to do this work.

I earned my degree in Environmental Sustainability from William Paterson University, where I

was also part of the Global Public Health Honors Program with a concentration in environmental health. My studies helped me understand how closely our ecosystems and communities are linked. For example, water quality isn't just an environmental issue—it's also a public health one. Clean rivers mean healthier communities, more resilient ecosystems, and a better quality of life for everyone who calls this area home.

What really drives me is the idea that environmental justice and community well-being go hand in hand. I care deeply about making environmental science accessible to everyone—helping people see how small actions, like keeping storm drains clear or reducing litter, can make a real difference downstream. Through this program, I hope to empower people of all ages to see themselves as stewards of the environment, whether they live right on the river or miles away from it.



When I'm not out doing biological stream assessments or leading community outreach, you can usually find me swimming, playing volleyball, or kayaking. I just love to do anything outdoors! I'm excited to connect with people across the watershed this year to listen, learn, and work together toward a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future for the Hackensack River.

For more info you can reach me at: wma5.njwap@gmail.com for any future partnership and collaborations for events. 🐟



41st Annual Winter Conference **Forward Together** January 15–16, 2026

In the face of unprecedented global challenges, ANJEE's 2026 Winter Conference will highlight how environmental educators can harness collective wisdom and diverse perspectives to create a more just and sustainable future. EE is our foundation, equipping people with the tools to act, encouraging new ways of thinking, and supporting positive change. The two-day event takes place at The College of New Jersey, in Ewing, NJ. As always, ANJEE conference sessions are great for classroom teachers and nonformal educators alike; focus ranging from pre-K through Adult Ed. Hope to see YOU there!

For more information or to register, go to: <https://anjee.org/winter-conference.html>

Racing (and Training) on the Hackensack River

Our Wanda Canoe Club friends expertly navigate their home waters

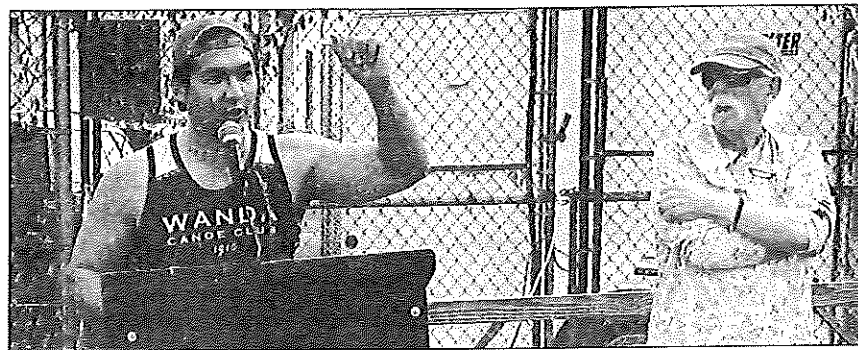
By Hugh M. Carola

The 10th Annual Hack Race took place on September 27, 2025, starting as always at the Wanda Canoe Club's HQ at Riverfront Park in Ridgefield Park, NJ. Sanctioned by multiple racing associations, the race is hosted by the Club with additional sponsorship from Hackensack Riverkeeper, In-serra Supermarkets, and Goodboy Paddlesports. Each year scores of competitors from across the northeast US and eastern Canada paddle canoes, kayaks, specialty, and Olympic-class boats up the Hackensack River before turning around and heading for the finish line back at Riverfront Park.

Under sunny skies and with favorable water conditions, Elite group racers followed a nine-mile course, turning around at Historic New Bridge Landing in River Edge, NJ, while the Novice group paddled a three-mile course, making its turn at the USS Ling in Hackensack. Three groups of Elite racers headed out first, with the Novice group following – and completing its race ahead of the Elite class. For the complete 2025 race results, visit www.wandacc.org or their Facebook page.

And Beyond Our Shores

In addition to the Hack Race (and lots of general “messaging about in boats” along the river), five Wanda members trained for – and made – the US Dragon Boat Team this year. All five trained on the river in one-person outrigger canoes to prepare for selection metrics and time trials. In July, they competed at the 17th World

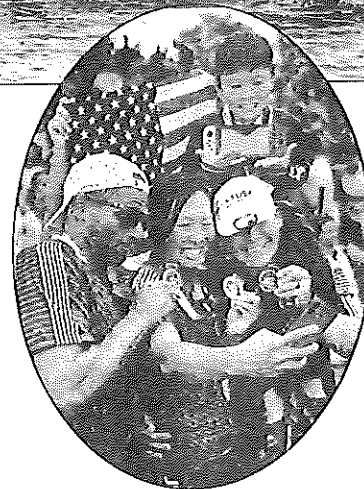


Wanda Commodore Wardell Lee firing up this year's racers at the 10th Annual Hack Race while Captain Bill looks on.



Dragon Boat Racing Championships in Brandenburg, Germany. For Katie Peck, it was her 7th time representing Team USA in the Premier Division. She and her teammates – including Captain Jenny Yu – credit their selection for Team USA and their successes at the World Championships to their training with the Wanda Canoe Club and its longtime partnership with the Village of Ridgefield Park. Truly amazing.

Although the club (founded in 1910) predates Hackensack Riverkeeper by 87 years, both our organizations have always worked closely together – even before Captain Bill founded our organization in 1997. Wanda was one of the first groups to support him in those early years and one of the first to echo Riverkeeper's call to protect



Middle photo: Katie Peck shows off her winning form with Team USA Dragon Boat racers in Brandenburg, Germany.

Bottom photo: Jenny Yu and team members show off their medals.

the Meadowlands. Not only are we proud cosponsor the Hack Race each year; we're proud to call the Wanda Canoe Club a true friend – to us and to the river. 🐟

At the Helm

continued from page 2

especially when our *new* Donor Relations Manager Tyler Tierney has a question about pretty much anything.

There's one more person I need to recognize; another veteran staffer who recently moved on, though I doubt more than a few of you ever met her: Elizabeth Salas. For over ten years she was our bookkeeper – and did an incredible job maintaining our Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable in perfect balance and keeping our financial records well in order. Thanks to her – and the working relationship she had with Mike – I never once had to worry about any

Annual Audit report. All of us will always appreciate everything they did for this organization.

So, there you have it. I may be THE Riverkeeper, but together WE are Hackensack Riverkeeper.

Yours in Conservation,



PS. I've not forgotten our amazing seasonal Paddling Center staffers and the work they do under Marta's direction. For literally *thousands* of people, they are the first face of Hackensack Riverkeeper. Thank you all for a job well done!

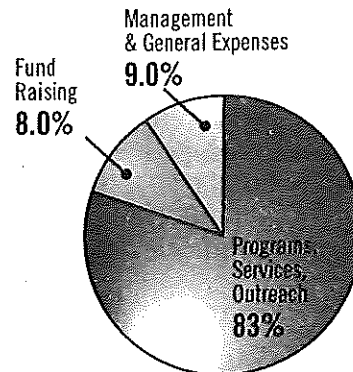


EarthShare
NEW JERSEY



Here at Hackensack Riverkeeper we provide award winning Education Programs, engaging Eco-Cruises, community enhancing Cleanup Programs and recreational paddling opportunities that bring 10,000+ people to our river and watershed every year. Our dedicated staff and volunteers are proud of the positive changes we see as a result of years of hard work. Come see the results for yourself. Be part of this evolution.

WHERE YOUR DOLLARS GO



Source: Hackensack Riverkeeper Inc. 2024 Year End Tax Filing

VIKKI HEALEY
PROPERTIES

THE HEALEY GROUP

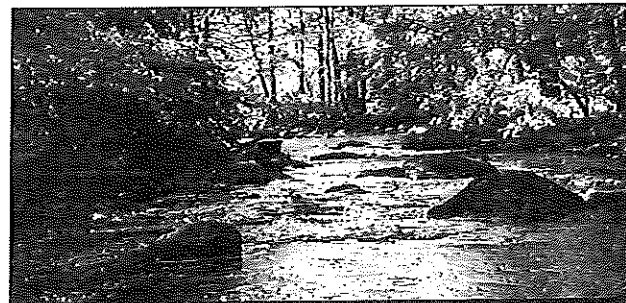
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Laura Rametta <lrametta@closternj.us>

NJBAC's Business Enhancement Connections #43

1 message

Gleason, Ryan [DOS] <Ryan.Gleason@sos.nj.gov>
To: "Gleason, Ryan [DOS]" <Ryan.Gleason@sos.nj.gov>

Tue, Dec 2, 2025 at 11:18 AM

December 2, 2025

NJBAC Business Enhancement Connection #43

Supporting Local Business This Holiday Season:

The holiday season represents a critical revenue window for small businesses across New Jersey's downtowns, commercial districts, and neighborhood corridors. NJBAC's Business Enhancement Services are available throughout December to help communities strengthen visibility, foot traffic, and consumer confidence during this peak season.

If your district could benefit from **quick messaging support, business engagement ideas, or tactical placemaking strategies**, reach out to NJBAC Business Enhancement Manager Ryan Gleason to get started.

Take Governor-Elect Sherrill's Online Survey:

New Jersey Governor-elect Mikie Sherrill is inviting residents and organizations to share their biggest ideas, thoughts, and concerns for the State with the launch of an online survey for public input. Click the link to take the survey, and if you are so inclined please mention a Strong Business Action Center as one of your issues / priorities!

Featured Grants & Training Opportunities:

American Express Shop Small Grant Program

To help small businesses grow, innovate, and support their local communities, American Express is teaming up with Main Street America this Small Business Saturday® to launch the Amex Shop Small Grants Program. The Program will provide an initial \$5 million to fund 250 grants of \$20,000 each to eligible small business owners.

NJEDA Small Business Improvement Grant

The Small Business Improvement Grant offers reimbursement for costs associated with making building improvements or purchasing new furniture, fixtures and equipment.

Main Street America: Smart Systems for Main Street Success (Virtual Webinar Series)

December 3, 10, and 17 - 3pm-4:30pm EST

Through three dynamic sessions rooted in actionable learning, explore the importance of strong internal systems for Main Street success and gain access to ready-to-use tools, practical next steps, and resources you can adapt to your own program's needs.

Holiday Shopping & Placemaking Strategies for Your Community:

Below are immediate, low-cost, high-impact ideas communities can still implement to boost local holiday spending and improve the public realm.

1. "Bundle Local" Campaigns

Encourage businesses to bundle giftable items from neighboring shops.

Examples: Restaurant and Spa bundles; Clothing and Home Decor; Coffee and Services.

These micro-collaborations create shared marketing momentum and drive multi-stop shopping.

2. Window Glow-Up Coordination: Warm Lighting for Cold Nights

Simple warm-white lighting (battery candles, string lights, luminaries) increases pedestrian comfort and walkability after dark.

A coordinated "window glow" across main street or a central corridor is inexpensive but highly effective.

3. Five-Minute Placemaking: Holiday Photo Zones

Encourage businesses or districts to set up small photo nooks with:

- Chairs, evergreens, blankets, and baskets
- "Shop local" signs
- Decorated storefront corners

This small intervention increases dwell time and drives social-media sharing.

4. Weekend Micro-Activations

Low-lift programming can be done even with limited staff/time:

- Acoustic music / caroling sets
- Cocoa stations
- Sidewalk gift-wrapping tables

These small activations are proven to increase foot traffic without major event logistics.

5. A Simple Digital Shopping Guide

Use Canva, a PDF, or Google Slides to create a quick "Top 10 Local Gift Ideas" guide. Send it via district email, text groups, and business pages. Many communities see a meaningful spending boost simply by curating choices.

Spotlight: Holiday Season Best Practices Around NJ:

We're already seeing strong local creativity and collaboration across the state. Notable trends include:

- Holiday scavenger hunts to draw families downtown.
- Warm light installations on key blocks and village greens.
- Small business gift-making workshops (candles, ornaments, food items).
- Extended retail hours in BID/SID districts.

If your district is doing something great, please share it! We'd love to spotlight communities in future editions.

Recommended Reading for December:

A curated set of resources that can support your seasonal work:

CRE Daily: "Holiday Retail Trends Split Shoppers In 2025"

Read about current trends in retail to get more context on this holiday season.

Smart Growth America: Best Complete Streets Policies 2025

Read Smart Growth America's report on the best policies enacted this year across the country.

Need Help Supporting Your District's Holiday Season?

NJBAC can provide:

- Short-turnaround business outreach messaging
- Shop local campaign support
- Quick graphic templates
- Tactical placemaking recommendations

Reach out to Ryan Gleason anytime to get plugged in.

Wishing you and your business community a strong holiday season,

 NJBAC New Jersey Business Action Center <i>Answers, Advocacy, Connections</i>	<p>Ryan Gleason</p> <p>Manager</p> <p>Business Enhancement Office</p> <p>NJ Business Action Center</p> <p>PHONE (609) 633.6942</p> <p>EMAIL Ryan.Gleason@sos.nj.gov</p> <p>ADDRESS 225 West State Street · Trenton, NJ 08625</p> <p>NJ Small Business Manual</p>
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4 ML

12.5.2025

Mari Margiotta <mmargiotta@closternj.us>

December Issue -- Hometown Security & Events

1 message

NJ Municipalities Magazine <noreply@civicplus.com>

Tue, Dec 2, 2025 at 1:09 PM

Reply-To: noreply@civicplus.com

To: mmargiotta@closternj.us

nj municipalities

Official Publication of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities



December 2025

Feature Articles

- **Closing the Gap:**
Government and School Security Preparedness
Kevin DiPatri and James Mullins
- **Navigating the Challenges of Electric Vehicle and Lithium-Ion Battery Fires in the Fire Service**
Richard Mikutsky
- **The Countdown Begins**
How municipalities can lead the way for New Jersey's celebration of America's 250th
De'jah Monai
- **Celebrating 105 at Exit 105**
The Borough of Eatontown Celebrates 105 Years of the 19th Amendment
Candace M. Faust and Danielle M. Jones
- **Uncover Raritan Landing**
A village hidden for 250 years is revealed in a QuestUpon walking tour
Jeff Siegel and Matthew Stroh



This month, NJ Municipalities looks at safety and celebrations as we move into a year that promises to include excitement and challenges from special events and everyday life.

- **The NJTIMES™ Model**
Paving the Way for New Jersey's Energy Future
Anuradha Singh, Pankaj Lal, and Upendra Chivukula
- **Solar Energy Solutions for Municipalities**
From community programs to direct installation
Christine Guhl-Sadovy

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Issue Focus: Hometown Security & Events Closing the Gap: Government and school security preparedness

In today's world, government and school leaders can no longer afford to view security and emergency preparedness as optional or reactionary measures. The frequency and sophistication of threats, ranging from

targeted violence in schools and government facilities to risks facing cannabis cultivation and dispensary operations demand a proactive, integrated response.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the FBI have long promoted the 'Run. Hide. Or Fight' model as a baseline for active shooter survival. While effective, we know municipalities and schools must go further. At KDNFS, we emphasize a complementary model: Observe. Move. and Engage. To continue reading, please visit page 6.

In This Issue

2025 Executive Director's Annual Report

The League is completing its 110th year of service to the municipalities of New Jersey. Our membership currently includes all 564 municipalities in the State of New Jersey. Visit page 54 for the Executive Director's Annual Report and 2025-2026 Adopted Budget.



NJ Knowledge Quiz

Q: What are the three nations sharing hosting duties for the FIFA World Cup?



A: Canada, Mexico, and the USA.

For more NJ trivia, view the last page of each magazine issue.



Next Issue

January 2026

Issue Focus: Leadership

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December 03, 2025

Governor Murphy Announces Release of Energy Master Plan

Governor Phil Murphy announced the release of the 2024 Energy Master Plan (EMP), a guide for future energy policy in New Jersey. The report compiles data and recommends steps for future goals based on supply and demand.

The EMP focuses on compiled data through October 25 from over the past 22 months. The goal was to incorporate the latest advancements in technology, policy, and programming to create affordable and clean energy. The report was prepared by a consulting team from Energy and Environmental Economics (E3), ILLUME Advising, and BW Research.

The output of the 2024 EMP is a framework of strategies and policies that includes:

- **Accelerating Clean Energy Deployment:** Increasing clean energy growth, such as solar, wind, advanced nuclear, green hydrogen, and battery storage. In doing so, the goal is to reduce electricity imports, boost in-state generation, grow clean energy jobs, increase resource diversity, and support long-term cost stability.
- **Expanding Decarbonization and Efficiency Programs:** The goal in expanding energy efficiency programming is for long-term bill reduction for participating residential and commercial customers.
- **Ensuring a Reliable and Modern Grid:** The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities has adopted the first set of regulatory changes aimed at improving transparency and the speed of interconnection for distributed energy resources.
- **Transportation Electrification:** New Jersey has made strides in advancing transportation electrification across multiple agencies to accelerate zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) adoption and expand charging infrastructure. The State's strategy has included consumer incentives, utility investments, regulatory streamlining, and public-private partnerships.
- **Ensuring Energy Affordability and Environmental Fairness:** The Energy Equity and Affordability Report recommended expanding bill assistance, piloting time-of-use rates that offer lower-cost charging during off-peak periods, and lowering upfront costs of energy efficiency, heat pumps, and EVs for low- and moderate-income customers.
- **Enhancing Regional Coordination and Advocacy:** New Jersey recently joined with 10 other PJM States to sign a Statement of Intent to create a formal PJM Governor's Collaborative to jointly address key challenges facing the region. The report recommends the continuation of that collaboration.
- **Driving Innovation and Workforce Development:** The 2025 Growing Green Jobs report notes a 12% increase in the green economy workforce. Initiatives would include clean energy training hubs, apprenticeship expansion, and funding wraparound services for trainees in overburdened communities.

Please review the components of the Energy Master Plan for the impact on your municipality.

Contact: Erin Knoedler, Legislative Analyst, eknoedler@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x116.

[View it on website](#)

6 ML 12.5.2025



Mari Margiotta <mmargiotta@closternj.us>

Act on Legislation, Energy Master Plan, AI Preemption

1 message

NJLM Weekly Roundup <noreply@civicplus.com>

Wed, Dec 3, 2025 at 4:17 PM

Reply-To: noreply@civicplus.com

To: mmargiotta@closternj.us



View a Featured Ad at the End of this Email

December 3, 2025

State Issues

S-4281 Advances

Legislation (S-4281) that would permit partnerships and joint ventures to bid on certain public works and prevailing wage contracts was amended and released by the Senate State Government Committee. The legislation now awaits consideration by the full Senate.

[Read more: S-4281 Advances](#)

Contact: Lori Buckelew, Deputy Executive Director, lbuckelew@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x112.

Bill Challenging Privatization of Contracts Advances

The Senate Labor Committee amended and released S-1518, which establishes onerous requirements for privatizing public services that results in the loss of employment for regular employees. Please contact your Senator and urge them to vote "no" on the bill.

[Read more: Bill Challenging Privatization of Contracts Advances](#)

Contact: Lori Buckelew, Deputy Executive Director, lbuckelew@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x112.

Governor Murphy Announces Release of Energy Master Plan

Governor Murphy has announced the release of the Energy Master Plan concerning future energy policy in New Jersey.

[Read more: Governor Murphy Announces Release of Energy Master Plan](#)

Contact: Erin Knoedler, Legislative Analyst, eknoedler@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x116.

Governor Murphy Announces Health Benefits Proposal

During his remarks at the Delegates Luncheon at the 110th League Annual Conference, Governor Murphy announced his proposal to address the “death spiral” of the State Health Benefits Plan (SHBP) for Local Government.

[Read more: Governor Murphy Announces Health Benefits Proposal](#)

Contacts: Lori Buckelew, Deputy Executive Director, lbuckelew@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x112, or Erin Knoedler, Legislative Analyst, eknoedler@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x116.

Governor-Elect Launches Public Input Survey

Governor-elect Sherrill's Gubernatorial Transition team has launched a public input survey as an opportunity for New Jersey residents, local governments, and business owners to provide feedback and recommendations on priorities for state government.

[Read more: Governor-Elect Launches Public Input Survey](#)

Contact: Erin Knoedler, Legislative Analyst, eknoedler@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x116.

Update DCA Mayors' List and GovConnect Authorized Users

The Department of Community Affairs is requiring municipalities to update the 2026 Mayors' List and GovConnect authorized users.

[Read more: Update DCA Mayors' List and GovConnect Authorized Users](#)

Contact: Paul Penna, Director of Government Affairs, ppenna@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x110.

Federal Issues

Potential Federal Preemption of AI Could Impact States and Municipalities

The National League of Cities, the League's federal partner, is warning of several possible preemptive actions by Congress and the Federal Communications Commission around AI

regulation that may potentially impact municipalities.

[Read more: Potential Federal Preemption of AI Could Impact States and Municipalities](#)

Contact: Paul Penna, Director of Government Affairs, ppenna@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x110.

Also of Interest

Government Records Council Annual OPRA Seminar

The Government Records Council will host its annual OPRA seminar on Thursday, December 11, 2025, via Microsoft Teams. The seminar is free, but you must pre-register by December 5.

[Read more: Government Records Council Annual OPRA Seminar](#)

Contact: Lori Buckelew, Deputy Executive Director, lbuckelew@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x112.


NJ Municipalities December Issue—Closing the Gap: Government & School Security Preparedness

The [NJ Municipalities blog focuses this week](#) on the December UpFront Feature about community security. In today's world, government and school leaders can no longer afford to view security and emergency preparedness as optional or reactionary measures. The frequency and sophistication of threats, ranging from targeted violence in schools and government facilities to risks facing cannabis cultivation and dispensary operations, demand a proactive, integrated response.


Want to share your local story? Please send in your 300- to 1,000-word items and photos to Editor Amy Spiezio at aspiezio@njlm.org.


Contact: Amy Spiezio, Editor, aspiezio@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x123.


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