

**SIM in federal funds  
for new OEM Buildings**

**NJDOT Competitive  
Street Grant**

**Carteret PAC  
Marquee Awards**

# Carteret Press

**A Publication Presented by the Carteret Business Partnership**



## All Aboard!

**Borough ferry project  
makes significant strides  
in funding, construction**

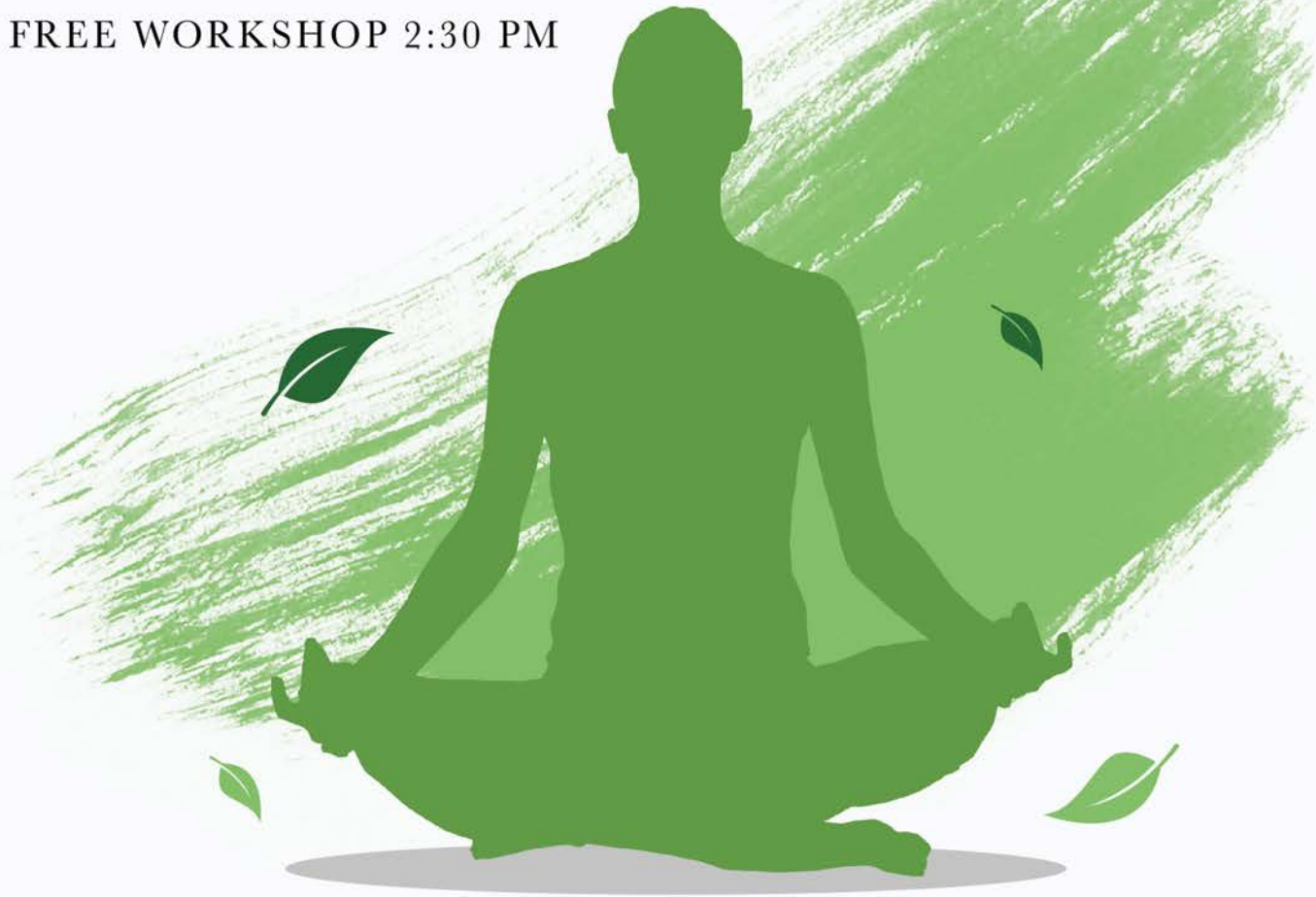
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CENTRAL JERSEY ARTS COUNCIL  
PRESENTS

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January 2023  
Volume 21, No. 1

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*Carteret Business Partnership is a nonprofit corporation that promotes economic development, business retention and recruitment through a variety of programs and incentives.*

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Dear Neighbors,

Welcome to the Carteret Press' first issue of the New Year!

In this issue, we take a look at the most recent developments of the Carteret Ferry Terminal and Intermodal Transportation Building, including \$6 million in funding secured by Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. within the the 2023 federal budget, completion of a steel bulkhead, beginning of dredging, and a NJ Transit contract to purchase a second ferry boat.

Coverage also includes an additional \$1 million within the federal budget secured by U.S. senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker for a new Carteret OEM Building. This issue also features recent groundbreakings of Crow Holdings' third forthcoming warehouse on the Rahway River and the 21 Washington mixed-use property, which will bring 153 apartments and 4,800 square feet of first-floor retail to Downtown Carteret. We also look at the \$681,405 competitive NJDOT street grant the Borough won that will help to improve Jackson Avenue, Tennyson Street and Monroe Avenue, making them safer and more accessible.

Carteret Press also includes an interview with John Cafferty of the Beaver Brown Band, who'll

return Jan. 21 for their second performance in as many years at URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center. Speaking of CPAC, there's also an announcement of the inaugural Carteret PAC Central Jersey Marquee Awards, honoring excellence in Middlesex County high school musical theater. The awards, which will take place May 17 at the arts center, will celebrate and encourage talent and achievement in musical theater in high schools throughout Middlesex County.

Other issue highlights include a business profile of Carteret Foot & Ankle Center. A great way to promote your business or event to all Carteret residents is to advertise in Carteret Press. Each issue is delivered to every home. For more info about advertising, contact the Public Information Office at 732-541-3835 or makinb@carteret.net.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Mayor Daniel J. Reiman



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# Breaking Ground!

*Crow Holdings Warehouses & 21 Washington forge ahead*



**21 Washington, left, a multi-use redevelopment in the heart of the Carteret Arts District, and Crow Holdings Development's third warehouse off Salt Meadow Road, above, both recently broke ground.**

**I**mportant groundbreakings recently took place in the Borough, including 21 Washington, a mixed-use development consisting of 153 apartments, a two-story parking garage and 4,800 square feet of first-floor retail in the borough's redeveloping Cultural Arts District.

Crow Holdings Development also recently broke ground on its third warehouse along the Rahway River.

Perpendicular to URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center, the \$41 million 21 Washington will include studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units, said Tyler Kalian, vice president of development for Kalian Companies, co-developer with Epstein Family Investments.

"The Kalian and Epstein partnership is proud to be developing this exciting development that will continue the growth and progress of the Carteret Arts District," Kalian said.

Kalian Companies operates 29 Washington, a mixed-use property with 64 luxury units and 12,500 square feet of retail directly across Washington Avenue from the arts center.

One of several planned downtown and waterfront mixed-use properties, 21 Washington is expected to be completed in early 2025 as part of a \$300 million redevelopment plan comprising mixed-use buildings and more than 30,000 square feet of commercial space, Mayor Daniel J. Reiman said.

"Downtown Carteret is a smart-growth redevelopment area that is thriving," Mayor Reiman said. "Residential and commercial opportunities, along with Carteret's upcoming ferry service, the Performing Arts & Events Center, upgraded parks, stable tax rates, and tremendous diversity solidify Carteret as a great place to live, work and raise a family."

The first of the three Crow Holdings warehouses is expected to be completed in January with the others finished by spring, Senior Managing Director Clark Machemer said.

Tenants are expected to sign soon, Machemer said, with operations to commence by late spring.

"We are proud to add Crow Holdings' development to the Borough's expanding portfolio of businesses that call Carteret home, including Amazon, Fedex, NuWorld Cosmetics, and Berje, to name a few," Mayor Reiman said. "Carteret is one of the most business-friendly municipalities in the state, which stimulates our local economy and serves as a catalyst for low property taxes and continued growth."

After purchasing the remediated Cytec site from Rahway Arch for \$87 million, Crow Holdings invested an additional \$240 million in constructing the site's three forthcoming 1.2 million square feet of warehouses.

Other Crow Holdings community investments are:

- \$135 million PILOT taxes over 30 years
- \$6.5 million redevelopment impact fee that will fund Carteret capital projects
- \$350,000 contribution to Waterfront Park Riverwalk
- \$250,000 contribution to municipally-owned URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center.

"That is real money to the residents of Carteret," Mayor Reiman said. "It's part of the reason why we went from the third highest taxed municipality to third lowest in the last 20 years. Crow Holdings voluntarily has contributed thousands of dollars to Carteret, not just toward development but also to the arts and local events programs that residents enjoy."

Updates about redevelopment will be available at [Carteret.net](http://Carteret.net) or by following @MyCarteret on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.



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# **Carteret Scores \$1M in Federal Budget for New OEM Building**

*Funds secured by U.S. senators Menendez and Booker as part of \$1.7 trillion Fiscal Year 2023 government funding bill*

Mayor Daniel J. Reiman announced that the Borough will receive \$1 million in federal funds for the borough's new \$2.5 million OEM building at 315 Pershing Ave.

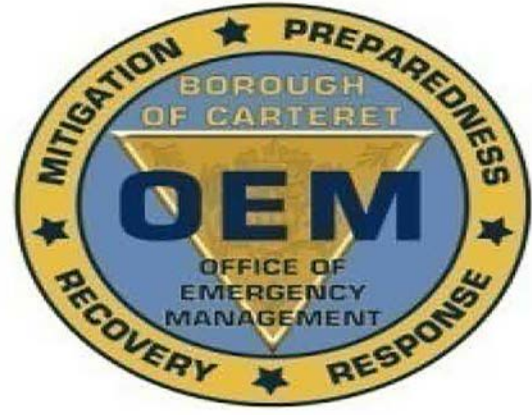
Senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker sponsored the Congressionally Directed Spending for the project.

"We are thrilled and extremely grateful to our senators Menendez and Booker for the support," Mayor Reiman said. "The plan for the OEM building is to retrofit and modernize the old volunteer first aid building, which the borough acquired several years back. Currently, OEM is housed on Roosevelt Avenue in an old 1900s-era firehouse that is beyond repair. Once completed, all OEM operations and our 911 backup will be housed on Upper Pershing Avenue in the modernized OEM building."

Senators Menendez and Booker secured more than \$166.2 million in federal funding for 130 projects throughout the state as part of the \$1.7 trillion Fiscal Year 2023 government funding bill.

In a news release, they said that upgrading vital infrastructure will provide major benefits to communities, such as Carteret, to keep families safe.

"I am proud to have fought to ensure this funding



A forthcoming \$2.5 million Carteret OEM Building on Upper Pershing Avenue partially will be funded with \$1 million in appropriations secured by senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker as part of the 2023 federal budget.

was included and am grateful for the organizations, community leaders, and elected officials who are working tirelessly to advance ... critical initiatives," Sen. Booker said. "I'm excited to see the positive impact ..."

Updates about the Carteret OEM Building will be available at [Carteret.net](http://Carteret.net) or by following @MyCarteret on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

## **Carteret Wins \$681,405 Competitive NJDOT Grant**

*Infrastructure project to be designed soon, under construction by summer*

Mayor Daniel J. Reiman has announced that the Borough recently was awarded a \$681,405 grant from the state Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Program for roadway and handicap curb ramp improvements along portions of Jackson Avenue, Tennyson Street, and Monroe Avenue.

The grant money will be used to cover a portion of the street improvement project, which is anticipated to be surveyed and designed this winter, bid in the spring, and to be under construction during the summer of 2023. The balance of the project will be paid for with municipal capital funds, Mayor Reiman said.

"Infrastructure improvements, such as these road

and transportation improvements, will improve the quality of life for all of our residents," Mayor Reiman said.

Along with Tennyson Street, the three roadways have a great deal of vehicular and pedestrian traffic as they are roads leading to schools, parks and churches and are heavily traveled by commuters en route to New Jersey Turnpike Interchange 12.

The condition of the roadways has deteriorated due to traffic, multiple years of service, and utility cuts.

"To mitigate excessive speed issues, traffic-calming speed humps, striping, and signage will safely slow vehicles and improve roadway safety as part of the project," Mayor Reiman said.

## Carteret ferry project moves forward with federal funding

Mayor Daniel J. Reiman announced that the Borough has taken major steps forward in constructing the long-planned Carteret Ferry Terminal and Intermodal Transportation Building.

The Borough will receive \$6 million in federal funds for the Intermodal Transportation Building that will serve the forthcoming Ferry Terminal, which recently completed Phase 1 and began Phase 2 of construction. The borough also will receive \$7.06 million in federal and state funds for its second ferry boat.

“Carteret is quickly becoming one of the most desired locations for commuters to call home,” Mayor Reiman said. “New residential and commercial opportunities, combined with our future ferry service, newly constructed Performing Arts & Events Center, upgraded parks, and stable tax rates solidify Carteret as a great place to live, work, and raise a family.”

### New federal funding

Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-6th) secured the \$6 million in federal appropriations for the Carteret Intermodal Transportation Building.

“We are thrilled and extremely grateful to our Congressman Frank Pallone for his support of these Carteret projects,” Mayor Reiman said. “Currently in its final design phase, the Carteret Intermodal Transportation Building will be another spectacular project on a constantly evolving waterfront. The Transportation Building will have a ticket office, restrooms, restaurants, bars, retail shops, office space, a lounge, and a banquet center. The project will be among many that will help to transform our once entirely industrial waterfront into a destination.”

Rep. Pallone said he was glad he was able to deliver critical funding to help the Carteret Intermodal Transportation Building move closer to completion.

The project is one of 15 within the 6th Congressional District for which the Congressman secured funding as part of the \$1.7 trillion Fiscal Year 2023 government funding bill.

“Mayor Reiman and municipal officials are working hard to make the Carteret ferry a reality, and I want to thank them for continuing to make the Borough a wonderful place to live and work,” Rep. Pallone said. “Once completed, the ferry will allow New Jersey residents and tourists to easily travel between New Jersey and downtown Manhattan. This funding will deliver efficient and reliable transportation options to residents in Central New Jersey and

will help reduce vehicle congestion. I look forward to seeing President Biden sign the underlying legislation into law.”

Other benefits of the ferry include:

- Reducing reliance on the automobile in a densely populated area well-suited to the development of robust public transit service
- Providing transportation service in instances of an emergency or catastrophic event
- Providing an affordable, accessible, and dynamic transportation system responsive to current and future customers
- Protection and improvement of the natural ecosystem and the human environment
- Retaining and increasing economic activity and competitiveness
- Transforming an area of environmental degradation into a catalyst for economic development
- Accommodating continued population growth in Carteret and the region.

### Ferry Terminal construction

Phase 1 of the game-changing state-of-the-art transportation project included the installation of approximately 130 linear feet of steel sheet pile bulkhead along the Arthur Kill waterfront that will be home to the future Carteret Ferry Terminal Landing. The \$473,258 contract was awarded to Agate Construction of Clermont in June. Work began and was completed in November 2022.

Phase 2 began in late December 2022 with dredging the waterside of the bulkhead to achieve sufficient depths for the ferry slips and docking area. At a cost of approximately \$2.5 million, this work includes 19,500 cubic feet of dredging and is overseen by the state Department of Transportation Office of Maritime Resources. The Borough received full funding for these phases of the project last year from the New Jersey DOT Transportation Capital Trust Fund.

“These are the first steps in what will be a spectacular transportation project on a constantly evolving waterfront,” Mayor Reiman said. “Eventually, there will be restaurants, bars, retail shops, a movie production studio, and office space that will help to transform our once entirely industrial waterfront into a work-eat-play destination.”

The Borough and NJDOT are currently finalizing bid documents for the next two phases, Mayor Reiman said, which is the construction of waterside improvements and upland site work.

Waterside improvements will include docking and



# Board!

## Federal funding, construction & 2nd ferry boat



Carteret Intermodal Transportation Building received \$6 million in federal funding secured by Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. Meanwhile, the first phase of the Carteret Ferry Terminal is complete, the second phase is underway, and bid documents are being created for the third phase. The first phase included the installation of a bulkhead. The second involves dredging. The third phase will include waterside and upland site improvements, such as docking, slips, a connecting boardwalk, and a 700-space parking lot. Also, the Borough will purchase its second ferry boat mostly with federal funds administered by NJ TRANSIT, as well as an NJDOT grant.

slips. Site improvements, which will include a 700-space parking lot, are anticipated to break ground later this year and immediately will be followed by a 20-foot-wide elevated pedestrian boardwalk connecting the parking lot and the ferry loading area. The boardwalk is expected to be completed in 2024, Mayor Reiman said.

The Ferry Terminal is part of Mayor Reiman's vision to turn Carteret's once inaccessible, completely industrial waterfront into a popular regional destination. The waterfront now includes a fishing pier, public park, mini golf course, 185-slip marina, and recent expansion of a Riverwalk that soon will open.

The seven-acre site of the ferry terminal is on a former industrial property north of Waterfront Park, the balance of which the Borough will obtain to develop a movie studio, hotel, events center, and more.

"Like so many of these projects that we plan in Carteret, these are game changers," Mayor Reiman said. "They create jobs, put people to work, pay significant taxes and economic benefits, and continue to change and improve the community."

### Second ferry boat

The Reiman Administration has brought in a total

of \$46 million in funding from the federal and state government toward the Carteret Ferry project, including \$6,000,000 from a USFTA-NJ 2017 Transit Ferry Boat Grant through NJ TRANSIT, \$500,000 of which must be used for administration. An additional \$1,060,000 is coming from an NJDOT Transportation Match for the second Ferry Boat.

With the funding, NJ TRANSIT soon will enter into a \$9,843,000 million contract with Hornblower Marine of Bridgeport, Conn., to construct a second ferry boat for the Borough that will seat 149 passengers.

"This is truly an exciting time for Carteret and Central Jersey," the Mayor said. "The ferry soon will provide quick and reliable service to numerous stops in Manhattan for both commuters travelling to work, as well those seeking recreation."

In its approval of the contract, NJ TRANSIT determined that Hornblower Marine provided the best value.

One year ago, the Borough bid and awarded its first 149-seat ferry boat from NY Waterway in Weehawken. The pre-owned boat was purchased for \$2,250,000 by Carteret Port Authority with a \$1 million state grant.

MAYOR DANIEL J. REIMAN, THE BOROUGH COUNCIL,  
AND THE CARTERET HEALTH DEPARTMENT REMIND YOU TO



# LICENSE YOUR DOG/CAT

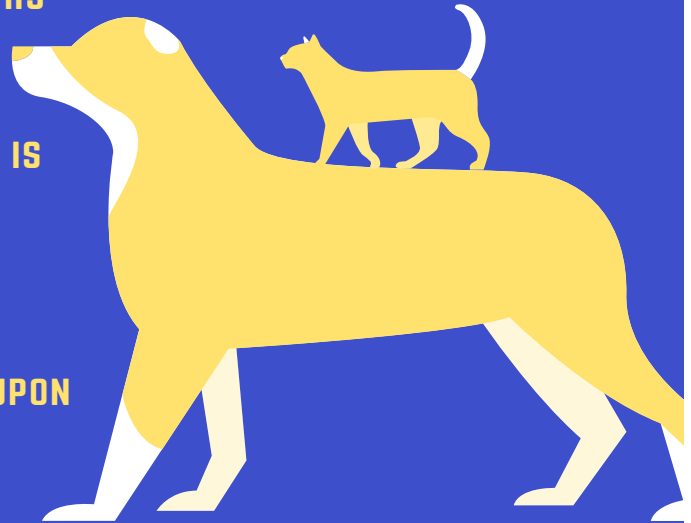
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## Dog

**Not Spayed/Neutered: \$19.20**  
**Spayed/Neutered: \$16.20**  
**Senior (Owner 65 or older)**  
**Not Spayed/Neutered: \$11.70**  
**Senior (Owner 65 or older)**  
**Spayed/Neutered: \$8.70**

## Cat

**Regular: \$15.00**  
**Senior (Owner 65 or older): \$7.50**

**Late fees incur after March 1**

## Friendly Community Reminders

**All pets must be on a leash**  
**Pets must be secured at all times**  
**Curb your pet**



# ***Business Profile: Carteret Foot & Ankle Center***



**Carteret Foot & Ankle Center at 29 Washington Ave. is a uniquely encompassing podiatry practice owned by lifelong borough resident Dr. Navrit Randhawa, pictured.**

**W**hen Dr. Navrit Randhawa was growing up in Carteret, he dreamed of becoming a doctor and to provide for others.

Dr. Randhawa stated, “I always wanted to work with athletes, treating sports-related injuries. One of the biggest sports related issues/injuries are in your foot and ankle.”

Before going on to attend the New York College of Podiatric Medicine, he received his Bachelor of Science from the New York Institute of Technology. He majored in Interdisciplinary Studies, graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors.

Dr. Randhawa completed his surgical residency at Veterans Administration Medical Center in East Orange, serving as chief resident in his final year. He went on to open a private office in his hometown. Carteret Foot & Ankle Center has swiftly become a thriving practice only two years after graduating residency. The dream of providing for others became reality.

The practice is uniquely encompassing. He treats a variety of issues, including Achilles tendonitis, amputation, ankle fractures, ankle sprains, athlete’s foot, bunions, corns, calluses, diabetic foot care, flat feet, fungal nails, gout, hammertoes, ingrown toenails, neuroma, plantar fasciitis, heel spurs, and warts. He also offers custom-made orthotics, diabetic shoes, hospital consults, minimally invasive surgery, and pediatric foot and ankle care.

Furthermore, Carteret Foot & Ankle Center treats all age groups of patients and accepts most insurance plans (including private plans, Medicare, and Med-

icaid), except for one, which is Amerigroup Medicaid.

“The best and most unique thing about podiatry is that a patient can walk into the clinic in so much pain, and then leave pain-free after treatment,” Dr. Randhawa said. “In order to increase the longevity of one’s life, being active is important. In order to be active, you have to protect and preserve your feet.”

A 2017 graduate of New York College of Podiatric Medicine and a 2013 graduate of New York Institute of Technology, Dr. Randhawa also prides himself on the amount of education he provides patients to preserve their feet and prevent debilitating conditions.

“Podiatry is one of the most underserved specialties in the United States,” he said. “In order to meet the demand of our nation’s population, we would have to approximately triple the number of graduating podiatrists.”

Dr. Randhawa said he is happy to see that Carteret is meeting the demand for a thriving downtown with more forthcoming multi-use properties, such as the one his practice is located in at 29 Washington Ave.

He said he appreciates being in the middle of a booming redevelopment area across from the URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center.

“Carteret is bringing a whole new renaissance that is attracting people from out of town,” he said. “It’s really helping local small businesses.”

Office hours at Carteret Foot & Ankle Center are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 to 6 p.m. Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays, and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays. To make an appointment, call 732-352-0015.

For more info, visit [CarteretFootDoctor.com](http://CarteretFootDoctor.com).



— central jersey —

# MARQUEE

# AWARDS

May  
17th

*Honoring Excellence  
in Central Jersey  
High School Musical Production*



**CARTERET**  
PERFORMING ARTS & EVENTS CENTER



# 2023 Inaugural Carteret PAC Central Jersey Marquee Awards Announced

URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center has announced the inaugural Carteret PAC Central Jersey Marquee Awards, honoring excellence in Middlesex County high school musical theater. The awards, which will take place May 17 at the arts center, will celebrate and encourage talent and achievement in musical theater in high schools throughout Middlesex County.

The program aims to recognize students participating in a range of roles on and off stage. A total of 20 categories will be awarded.

“URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center is honored to host the inaugural Central Jersey Marquee Awards,” Mayor Daniel J. Reiman said. “Middlesex County and Central New Jersey are full of talented artists, and we are excited to hone and celebrate that talent. The hope is that students and teachers will take these accolades and use them to sharpen their performing arts programs. These awards will serve as a resume builder and school unifier. We can’t wait to get started!”

The first 40 Middlesex County high schools to apply will be invited to participate by filling out an online application. Once entries are confirmed by the program manager, the arts center will send three trained adjudicators to watch, score, and write feedback for each entered musical production. Schools must produce a musical between Feb. 2 and April 16, 2023 to be eligible.

Adjudicators hail from a pool of local theater professionals, performing artists, teaching artists, designers, and technicians who will attend each school’s musical and provide scores and feedback that adhere to Carteret PAC Central Jersey Marquee Awards standards. The goal of providing scores and feedback to the participating schools is to boost attention and growth of Middlesex County high school theater programs.

Each participating high school will submit a video of the full production as soon as possible after the show closes. Scores and feedback will be recorded, and a list of final nominations will be announced online on April 24.

The program will culminate with a red-carpet celebration on the Carteret PAC stage. Nominated schools and students will rehearse during the day and perform at a Tony Awards-style ceremony to be



**URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center will present the inaugural Carteret PAC Marquee Awards, which will honor Middlesex County high school musical theater excellence on May 17.**

held on May 17. The event will highlight numbers from the nominated shows, as well as award the performers, directors, choreographers, orchestras, and designers, who have expressed excellence during the 2023 musical season.

The awards program is seeking evaluators to review and critique entered Middlesex County schools. Interested parties should send their resume to

CPACmarqueeawards@gmail.com. Candidates must be willing to attend at least four shows between Feb. 2 and April 16. All evaluators will receive complimentary tickets to the school shows being evaluated and to the awards ceremony. Applicants must be computer literate with their own means of transportation. A stipend plus mileage reimbursement will be available for each show payable after the May 17 ceremony.

Opened in 2021, Carteret PAC is a multi-level, flexible-space venue that boasts a lower-level comedy/jazz club with piano lounge and a main floor concert/comedy and entertainment space with luxury theater-style seating that is easily removed to accommodate a variety of events, such as expos, weddings, dinners and more.

For more information, email CPACmarqueeawards@gmail.com and visit Carteretpac.com.



# UPCOMING SHOWS



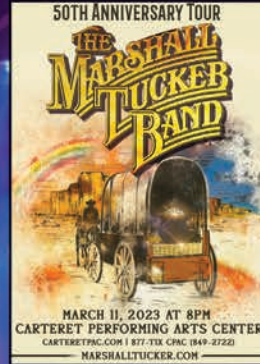
**JAN. 21 | 8 PM**  
**JOHN CAFFERTY & THE BEAVER BROWN BAND**



**FEB. 4 | 8 PM**  
**FACE 2 FACE: ELTON JOHN & BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE**



**MAR. 4 | 8 PM**  
**SAL 'THE VOICE' VALENTINETTI**  
AMERICA'S GOT TALENT GOLDEN BUZZER FINALIST



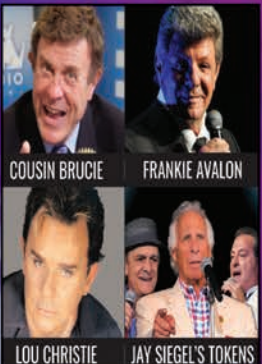
**MAR. 11 | 8 PM**  
**MARSHALL TUCKER BAND**  
50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TOUR



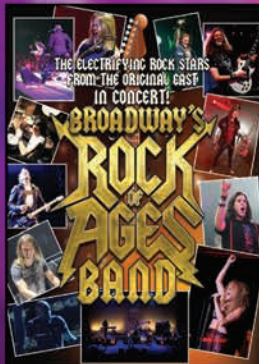
**MAR. 16-18 | 7 PM**  
**PIPPIN THE MUSICAL**  
PRESENTED BY CARTERET HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB



**MAR. 25 | 8 PM**  
**ITALIAN COMEDY NIGHT FEATURING MIKE MARINO FRED RUBINO**



**MAR. 31 | 7 PM**  
**COUSIN BRUCIE W/ FRANKIE AVALON, LOU CHRISTIE, & JAY SIEGEL'S TOKENS**



**APR. 1 | 8 PM**  
**BROADWAY'S ROCK OF AGES BAND**



**APR. 22 | 8 PM**  
**KISS THE SKY TRIBUTE TO JIMI HENDRIX**



**APR. 27 | 8 PM**  
**SCOTTY MCCREERY DAMN STRAIT TOUR**



**APR. 29 | 8 PM**  
**LITTLE RIVER BAND**



**MAY 19 | 8 PM**  
**MR. SPEED: A NIGHT OF KISS**



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*Additional acts to be announced online at: [carteretpac.com](http://carteretpac.com) or [@carteretpac](https://twitter.com/carteretpac) on social media*

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CARTERET, NJ 07008  
BOX OFFICE: 877-849-2722





# CPAC Artist Spotlight: John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band

The first-time John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band played in Asbury Park was in the late '70s at the Fast Lane, an influential club that now is the site of the expansion of the adjacent Asbury Lanes. The last time, Cafferty played in AP was Dec. 11 for La-Bamba's Holiday Hurrah at the Stone Pony.

A staple of the Asbury Park music scene for more than 40 years, John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of their formation in Narragansett, RI, a blue-collar shore town that at the time, shared a similar vibe with Asbury. A first-ever greatest hits package coincided with the anniversary, which will continue through May 11, 2023 in celebration of the band's debut gig at the University of Rhode Island.

In the meantime, John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown will make their second stop in as many years at the URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center on Jan. 21. For info and tickets, visit [carteretpac.com/events/john-cafferty-and-the-beaver-brown-band/](http://carteretpac.com/events/john-cafferty-and-the-beaver-brown-band/). For more about the band, go to [johncafferty.com](http://johncafferty.com). But first, enjoy this chat with Cafferty.

## **What do you like most about URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center and why?**

It's a beautiful venue. Incredible. One of nicest places we've played. It looks great, sounds great, very comfortable for the audience. It's beautiful.

## **When and where was the first time you played Asbury Park, and how did it lead to becoming a staple within the Asbury scene?**

The late '70s. We were playing Toad's Place in New Haven, CT. A guy saw us play there and wanted to bring us down to Asbury Park to the Fast Lane. At that point, we had met Bruce and all those guys, Southside, when we played in Providence and Boston. We were friends with those guys. When we played the Fast Lane, those guys started coming down to the show. Everybody was still young enough and unattached and wanting to hang out at night, so they'd come out to see us play and sit in with us. We made friends very quickly after that.

Bruce was coming around quite a bit in those days. He'd be up at his house writing, working all day and wanted to go out and play some rock 'n roll. He knew we knew a bunch of good songs from the '50s and '60s, so he'd come down, and we'd raise the roof.

## **You have worked with two of my boyhood heroes – Sylvester Stallone and Bruce Springsteen. What was the best part of working with each of them, and how did that experience impact you and your career?**

Both are multi-talented individuals. They are both great storytellers and writers and creators of characters to tell those stories. Their stories find a universal appeal where people hear them and are able to see themselves. That's the thing they have in common.



**John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band will return Jan. 21 to URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center.**

to be around. For the things they've accomplished in this world, both are elite artists in their own fields. Despite what they both accomplished, they remain remarkably down to earth and approachable. Standing by their side, it's a nice spotlight to be under. More than anything, they're both very inspirational at how hard they work and the things they try to obtain in their own work. Both have expressed that yjru really like what we do. That's a very good feeling to know that people you look up to also look to you with a certain degree of respect for your work.

## **How does it feel to have recently celebrated the band's 50th anniversary?**

It will be 50 years of playing out in May. We did our first gig on May 11, 1973 at University of Rhode Island. It's a good year because it's our 50th, and it's 40 years since the movie soundtrack for 'Eddie and the Cruisers' brought national recognition. We just released a greatest hits record and plan on releasing a new record with new material hopefully by May. After the virus shut the business down – shut the world down really – and then the curtains opened back up again, we said we either can get rusty or be better than ever. We decided to go better than ever and realized that we have a songbook that covers our whole career. Songs I wrote that we never recorded that are vintage songs for fans. I also wrote a bunch of new songs over the years, especially this past year. I don't know why I started writing again, but the songs are coming pretty frequently, and they're pretty good.

It's been a lot of fun. I think the whole world has a new appreciation for things that are really important to their lives. We're just very grateful and thankful for what has come our way and go out there and share it with people who have been there with us all along the way. To be a part of this live show, it takes a great band, but it also takes a great audience to make the magic. Everybody plays a part in it. Even if they're not playing an instrument, they're instrumental in making the night magical.



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