

# Carteret Press

Happy New Year,  
Carteret!

A Publication Presented by Carteret Business Partnership

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Lic: 0673992

**Sukhwinder "Sukhi" Kaur**  
BROKER ASSOCIATE

**732-589-1006**  
sukhigs@gmail.com

**Jobanpreet Saini**  
**848-666-0006**

jobanpreetsaini99@gmail.com  
Lic:1860378



☎ 732-596-2139 📍 117 Main St, Woodbridge, NJ



**January 2024**  
**Volume 22, 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,

Happy New Year!

As we usher in 2024, I look forward to many new developments in Carteret that will help the Borough remain "the center of it all."

In keeping with an excellent future for the Borough, this first issue of Carteret Press for the new year looks at the many ways in which residents can improve recycling efforts, as well as other environmental issues to help secure a better future for our children and grandchildren.

Inside you also will find:

- Coverage of the Borough's reorganization meeting on Jan. 2 in which Councilman Dennis MiMascio was sworn in as new Council President and recently re-elected council members Susan Naples and Randy Krum also were sworn in

- A report on the success of the Carteret Ramblers Football Team, featuring several players who made the All County and Division teams, as well as two who made all state and three who will be receiving Division II scholarships

- A business profile on Borough-based minority woman-owned J&A Insurance Agency
- A CPAC Spotlight on Southern Accents, the Tom Petty tribute band who will be performing Jan. 20 at URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center
- Notices about the Borough's latest Job Fair coming Feb. 22 to the Carteret Community Center, our free Recycling Coach app, and fundraising efforts at Saint Joseph School.

A reminder to promote your business or event to all Carteret residents by advertising in Carteret Press. Each issue is delivered to every home and business. For more about advertising, contact the Public Information Office at 732-541-3835 or [makinb@carteret.net](mailto:makinb@carteret.net).

Sincerely,

Mayor Daniel J. Reiman



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# ***DiMascio named Council President, Naples & Krum begin new terms***



**During Carteret Borough Council's annual reorganization meeting on Jan. 2, Mayor Daniel J. Reiman swears in recently re-elected Councilwoman Susan Naples as she stands beside her granddaughter Madeline. Also pictured in the background are council members Vincent Bellino, left, and AJ Johal, right.**

**A**t the Borough Council's Jan. 2 reorganization meeting, Mayor Daniel J. Reiman swore in newly named Council President Dennis MiMascio and recently re-elected council members Susan Naples and Randy Krum.

All three have served on the Borough Council for many years.

"I would like to thank our residents, our staff, my council colleagues, and our team leader, Mayor Daniel J. Reiman," Councilwoman Naples said. "Thank you, Mayor, for your friendship and your support and your dedication to our community. Your leadership is second to none. Our Borough renaissance is nothing short of amazing. Myself being a generation-al Carteret person -- my family has been here since the early 1900s -- I'm sure they are looking down and are really thrilled that their land has become in such good shape due to your efforts."

The Councilwoman also thanked for his support Middlesex County Commissioner Director and Borough resident Ronald G. Rios, who was in attendance, and the recently expanded police department and its Chief Dennis McFadden, who leads daily by example, she said. She also thanked young granddaughter Madeline for taking the time to participate in the swearing-in ceremony.

Councilman Krum said he was grateful to have served with the Mayor for the past 21 years.

"We have a great team here," he said. "I also would like to thank my council mates and residents of Carteret for seeing what this great Council does. I look forward to moving Carteret in the right direction."

In accepting his one-year post as Council President, DiMascio said he was looking forward to Carteret continuing to make progress.

That progress includes a forthcoming ferry, a Riverwalk, and a movie studio on its Arthur Kill waterfront; three new Crow Holdings warehouses that recently opened on the Rahway River on a former Brownfield site; more than \$300 million in the downtown redevelopment of several multi-use properties; many park improvements with county and municipal Open Space and state Green Acres funds, and major investments in municipal infrastructure, such as repaved streets and repaired sewers and storm-water systems.

Mayor Remain is in the second year of a record sixth consecutive four-year term. He is the first person in the history of the Borough to be elected to six consecutive four-year Mayoral terms. Originally elected to the Borough Council in 2000 at the age of 24, the Mayor went on to become the youngest person ever elected mayor in Carteret at 26 in 2002.



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## CALENDAR RAFFLE

A graphic of a calendar grid with a large red "C" and the word "WINNER!" in yellow text overlaid on it.

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# New Year's Resolution: Do

## 12 Tips to Decrease Landfill

Do headlines like, "Climate change will increase wildfire risk and lengthen fire seasons" or "Fate of Arctic Sea ice likely sealed, even with climate action" have you frightened and angry enough to take action, but you don't know how?

All you can do is what you can do, and that can include reducing the amount of trash you contribute to the landfill.

Why?

According to the New York-based Environmental Defense Fund, methane, which is emitted by landfill waste, is 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide during the first 20 years after it reaches the atmosphere. Even though CO<sub>2</sub> has a longer-lasting effect, methane sets the pace for warming in the near term, which is what is inspiring the aforementioned scary headlines.

The ways in which to keep waste out of the landfill are plentiful. While you may not be able to go as extreme as Zero Waste, which is to reuse and recycle all waste, here are 12 goals that you can achieve this New Year:

1. Recycle at the curbside regularly. Items that will be picked up include newspapers and cardboard, which must be bundled and tied. Other items, which must be placed in blue recycling containers, are shirt boxes, cereal boxes, junk mail, magazines, coupons, metal, tin and aluminum cans, and glass and plastic bottles (#1 and #2 only). Additional blue recycling containers are available for purchase from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays at the Carteret Recycling Center at 339 Roosevelt Ave. Call 732-541-3881 for more info. Note that in Carteret, plastic bags – even if the company that markets them says they are for recycling – cannot be used for recycling. Only the Borough's blue bins can be used.

2. You also can call the Recycling Department to pick up bushes, branches, electronics and computers for free. Recycling also will pick up masonry and concrete for a fee based on volume. Call for an estimate. Branches must be bundled and tied.

3. All pick-up items also can be dropped off at the Recycling Center. All drop offs are free except for masonry, concrete, branches and bushes. The fees for those are based on volume, but the first cubic yard is free. Call for an estimate. Clothing, soft cover books, and hard cover books with the covers removed also can be dropped off for free at the Recycling Center. Tires also may be dropped off but for a fee. Tires are \$2 per car tire and \$5 per truck tire. Tires, books and clothing cannot be picked up. Call 732-541-3881 for info. Rechargeable batteries and watch batteries also



**Middle County Division of Solid Waste Management provides composting bins to residents for only \$25 to \$50. The easy-to-assemble bins come with a bucket for kitchen scraps and an instructional manual that makes composting easy.**

can be recycled for free but must be dropped off at the Carteret Public Library at 100 Cooke Ave. Call 732-541-3830 for info about that.

4. Bags of leaves also can be picked up by or dropped off to the Recycling Center. Leaf bags are available for free at the Recycling Center. Only Borough-provided leaf bags can be used because they are composted with the leaves by the county. Leaves in plastic bags will end up in the landfill if they're picked up at all. But rather than bag the leaves, consider mulching them by simply mowing over them without your lawn mower's bag. The mower will chop the leaves up into fine particles that are a great mulch for your lawn.

5. Another thing to do with leaves is compost them yourself in your backyard along with plant-based kitchen scraps, crushed egg shells, coffee grinds and filters, tea leaves and bags (without staples), cut flowers, garden and grass clippings, shredded newspaper, plant stalks, twigs, branches, wood chips, and undyed paper bags and brown paper packaging. Three types of compost bins are available from the county Division of Solid Waste Management for only \$25 to \$50. The composter comes with a small bucket to hold scraps and an instruction manual. Composting will greatly reduce the amount of trash and methane you contribute to the landfill. Everything you need to know about composting can be found at [middlesexcountynj.gov/government/departments/departments-of-public-safety-and-health/office-of-health-services/solid-waste-management-program/composting](http://middlesexcountynj.gov/government/departments/departments-of-public-safety-and-health/office-of-health-services/solid-waste-management-program/composting). Advice and suggestions also are available from the Borough Recycling/Clean Communities Coordinator at 732-541-3835.

# More for the Environment

## // Waste and Recycle More

6. In the kitchen and dining room, use cloth towels and napkins rather than paper ones. This will reduce how much you contribute to the landfill, as well as a significant savings in groceries. Similarly, in public bathrooms, use the hand dryer instead of paper towels. Other reusable items that will reduce landfill waste are shopping bags at all stores, not just the supermarket; refillable water bottles; washable travel mugs, and metal, glass or bamboo straws. And away from home, use real forks, knives and spoons rather than disposable plastic ones and real plates instead of plastic or paper ones.

7. Rather than recycle plastic containers, refill them at Rahway Refillery, a “no waste marketplace.” At 1425 Main St. in Rahway, the local refillery offers solutions to eliminate waste of single-use products in the home, which reduces landfill waste. A BYOB Refill Bar offers liquid and powder cleaning products for the home, laundry and bath, including shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, hand soap, body lotion, all-purpose cleaner, bathroom cleaner, laundry concentrate, laundry powder, dish soap, dishwasher gel concentrate, dishwasher powder, and non-alcoholic hand sanitizer. Rahway Refillery’s products are non-toxic, plant-based and sustainably sourced, according to founding co-owner Frances Zafra. Guests receive 5 percent off refills when they bring their own bottle. The No Waste Marketplace also offers a variety of other environmentally friendly products. Hours are noon to 7 p.m. Wednesday to Fridays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays, and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. For more info, visit [RahwayRefillery.com](http://RahwayRefillery.com).

8. Plastic bags, liners and packaging are not recyclable at the curb or the Borough Recycling Center, but they can be recycled by a company called Trex, which manufactures wood-alternative composite decking, railing and other outdoor items made from recycled materials. The items they utilize include plastic grocery bags, produce bags, ice bags, Ziploc and other re-closable bags, cereal box liners, case overwrap, bread bags, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, product wrap, bubble wrap, air pillows, and plastic e-commerce mailers. All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue. According to Trex, stores that collect Trex materials include Kohls in Linden, Stop & Shop in Edison, Target in Edison and Linden, and Whole Foods in Metuchen. For more, visit [nextrex.com](http://nextrex.com).

9. Takeout containers made from polystyrene, which is a harder plastic than Styrofoam, is illegal for New Jersey restaurants to use. Polystyrene is carcinogenic, according to the World Health Organiza-

tion’s International Agency for Research on Cancer. Ask restaurants to switch to paper takeout containers. If they don’t, report them to the state Department of Environmental Protection at 877-927-6337.

10. The county also offers recycling events. The 2024 Middlesex County Household Hazardous Waste schedule will be 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 17 and Nov. 17, Middlesex College, 2600 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, and Sept. 21, Middlesex County Public Works, 750 Jernee Mill Road, Sayreville.

The county regularly recycles paint and cooking oil, which the Borough Recycling Center doesn’t accept. For drop-off times and locations, as well as a list of household hazardous waste items, visit [middlesexcountynj.gov/government/departments/departments-of-public-safety-and-health/office-of-health-services/solid-waste-management-program/recycling-programs-and-events](http://middlesexcountynj.gov/government/departments/departments-of-public-safety-and-health/office-of-health-services/solid-waste-management-program/recycling-programs-and-events).

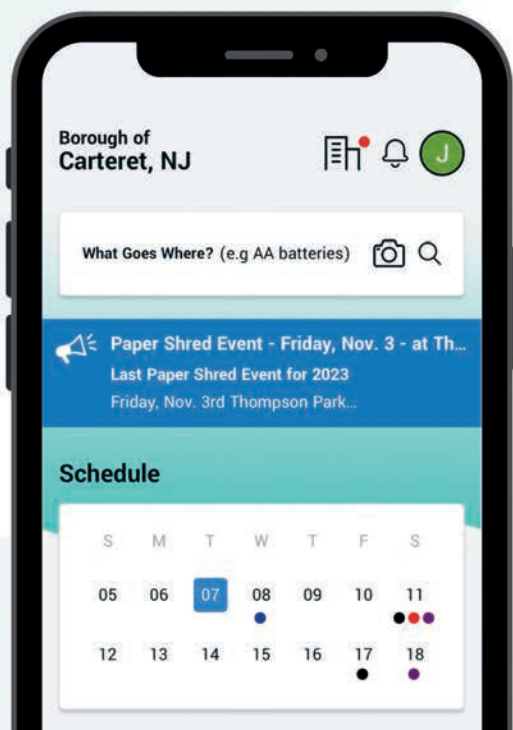
If you miss the Borough’s paper shred events from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 15 and Oct. 12 in Carteret Community Center parking lot, 100 Cooke Ave., the County Paper Shred Schedule includes April 27, Fort Grumpy, 3750 Bordentown Ave., Sayreville; June 2, Papaian Park, 100 Municipal Boulevard, Edison, and Sept. 22, Woodbridge Department of Public Works, 225 Smith St. For more info, call 732-745-4170. For the Borough Paper Shred events, call Recycling/Clean Communities at 732-541-3835.

11. If your employer doesn’t recycle, clean and store recyclables in a garbage bag, and when it fills up, bring the bag home and unbag, sort and recycle the materials accordingly. If you decide to compost, you immediately can bring food waste home from work for the composter. If your workplace is not recycling, report them to its county Solid Waste Division, which will help them get in compliance.

12. Stay abreast of recycling and environmental issues with the Recycle Coach app, available for free to every Carteret resident. Use the QR code in the advertisement on the next page to download the app. If you already have it, utilize it as much as you can. You’ll find more recycling opportunities throughout the year, and it will help with your recycling needs and knowledge. Recycling Coach is especially great to turn kids onto recycling and the environment.

Other recycling resources are at [middlesexcountynj.gov/recycle](http://middlesexcountynj.gov/recycle). You also can learn about recycling April 20 at the third annual Carteret Earth Day Celebration in Carteret Park, where there’ll also be a bunch of family fun, including live and DJ music, bouncy houses, food trucks, community art project, park cleanup, and health, wellness & fitness expo.

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## JOB FAIR

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**MORE INFORMATION**  
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# 7 Carteret Football Players Named to All County Team



**Carteret Ramblers Football won the United Silver Division Championship, landing eight players on the division's first team, as well as seven players on the All Middlesex County Team and two on the All State Team.**

Mayor Daniel J. Reiman offered a hearty congratulations to the Carteret High School Ramblers football team, who won the United Silver Division Championship while landing eight players onto the division's First Team. Seven players also made the All Middlesex County Team and two made the All State Team, according to Head Coach Kevin Freeman.

They are:

- Sir Hezekiah Ragland, senior linebacker/wide receiver, State, County & Division First Team
- Antwaun Jackson, senior defensive end, County & Division First Team, State Second Team
- Tyrece Parrott, senior quarterback, Division First Team, County Second Team
- Jahad Thompson, senior cornerback, wide receiver, Division First Team, County Second Team
- Ja'Kir Thomas, junior running back, Division First Team, County Second Team
- Jacob Bess, junior defensive end, offensive guard, Division First Team, County Second Team
- Sebastian Reina, senior kicker, County Second Team
- Jeremiah Serrano, senior wide receiver, Division First Team
- Kayson Smith-Grant, senior strong safety, Division First Team.

"We are extremely proud of our football team and wish them the greatest success in the future as players and accomplished members of the Carteret community," Mayor Reiman said. "Go Ramblers!"

Three seniors -- Ragland, Jackson and Thompson -- each have been offered three Division 2 college football scholarships, Freeman said.

College football signing day is Feb. 7.

"This senior class was here as sophomores my first year," Freeman said. "They're a special group. They've stayed together since Pop Warner. They really changed the culture at Carteret and brought back this program, putting in the work in the offseason."

The division champs competed in the NJSIAA Group 3 tournament, losing in the first round to eventual state champions Camden High School.

Next season, the team will face even greater competition in the more challenging United Gold Division.

"I have high expectations," Freeman said. "The freshmen were undefeated. Sophomore year is the hardest year, and the kids that stuck around already are putting in time in the weight room. I'm excited for this group moving up because we're going to see a lot better competition."

"I just really want to thank the community for all the support since I've been here," the coach continued. "It's been really rewarding so far."

For more, visit @carteret.ramblers.5 on Facebook.



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# ***Biz Profile: J&A Insurance Agency***

Jessica Perez, owner of J&A Insurance Agency in West Carteret, and her husband Alexander Curioso fell in love with the Borough when he started working for P.C Richard & Son as a high-end appliance installer.

The couple plans to move from Bergen County to Carteret this summer, but first Perez opened J&A in April of last year.

“We always knew it was going to be here ever since we started talking about opening an insurance agency,” she said. “We liked the area. We see the potential the town has with new businesses.”

Before she dove into the insurance industry, Perez worked as an income tax preparer for five years at different agencies, analyzing financial information, identifying potential deductions and accurately preparing returns.

Perez said she wanted to open an insurance agency to make a positive impact in the community, especially among fellow Latinos, with valuable services that help individuals and businesses protect their assets and plan for unforeseen events.

“I started working in the insurance industry back in 2008 learning how to service policies and assisting agents on their daily workload,” she said. “I quickly learned the concept of risk management and how insurance is crucial for mitigation financial risks for each individual and business, but I noticed that the Latino community didn’t have many Spanish-speaking agents who would sit down with them and explain the coverages and how to manage the different risks to protect their assets in their own language. It was then when I decided to go to school and get all my certifications and necessary licenses to be able start a career in this industry.”

J&A offers life, auto, home, renter’s, flood, trucking, worker’s compensation, and builder’s risk insurance, as well as insurance for recreational vehicles, vacant properties, general liability for all types of businesses, and business owners insurance, plus bonds.

Perez said one of the most satisfying aspects of owning her own insurance agency is helping individuals and businesses protect themselves financially.

“Providing clients with the right insurance coverage can offer peace of mind and assistance during challenging times,” she said. “Also, establishing long-term relationships with clients is very fulfilling. Being there for clients throughout various life stages and helping them navigate changes in their insurance needs can lead to a strong sense of connection



**J&A Insurance Agency is a minority woman-owned business based in West Carteret.**

and trust.”

The challenging part is the market competition, she said.

The industry is saturated with competitors, she said.

“Attracting clients with an outstanding customer service is the key to make the difference,” Perez said. “At J & A Insurance Agency, we believe in building lasting relationships. Our dedicated team is committed to providing personalized service for the needs of each Carteret resident, guiding each client through the complexities of insurance, and making sure you feel confident in your coverage choices. We will take the time to analyze each risk accordingly. Clients can visit the office conveniently located on Roosevelt Avenue. Being a local agency, we can meet all your insurance needs in one place.”

J&A Insurance is located at 1299 Roosevelt Avenue. Contact the agency at 732-366-4168 or [jaagencyservices@gmail.com](mailto:jaagencyservices@gmail.com). For more info, visit [instagram.com/jainsuranceagency.serv](https://www.instagram.com/jainsuranceagency.serv).



# UPCOMING SHOWS



**JANUARY 19**  
**LINKIN PARK NIGHT**  
FEELING EMO BAND TRIBUTE TO  
CHESTER BENNINGTON



**JANUARY 20**  
**SOUTHERN ACCENTS:**  
**TOM PETTY TRIBUTE**



**JANUARY 26**  
**TREACH, MARK MCGRATH,**  
**KID N' PLAY, LISA LISA, TONE LOC**



**FEBRUARY 10**  
**38 SPECIAL**



**FEBRUARY 24**  
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**MARCH 8**  
**THE HIT MEN OF**  
**COUNTRY**



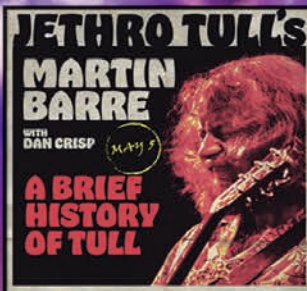
**APRIL 4**  
**RONDELL SHERIDAN**  
**STAND-UP COMEDY**



**APRIL 13**  
**ACE FREHLEY WITH**  
**SPECIAL GUEST ANGEL &**  
**WHITE TIGER**



**MAY 2**  
**REND COLLECTIVE**  
**CAMPFIRE TOUR**



**MAY 5**  
**JETHRO TULL'S**  
**MARTIN BARRE**



**MAY 11**  
**ABHISEK UPMANYU**  
**HINDI STANDUP COMEDY**



**MAY 17**  
**SPHERES BUBBLE SHOW**  
**EXPAND THE UNIVERSE**  
**TOUR**

## LOOKING AHEAD

**MAY 31**

JEN KOBER STAND-UP COMEDY

**JUNE 1**

KENNY VANCE & THE PLANOTONES AND MORE

**JUNE 15**

VIC DIBITETTO STAND-UP COMEDY

**AUGUST 22**

THE DUPREES

**AUGUST 31**

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**OCTOBER 19**

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# CPAC Spotlight: Southern Accents



Nashville-based Southern Accents, a tribute to Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers, will play Jan. 20 at URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center.

**A** team of ace musicians from the Nashville studio and touring circuit, Southern Accents recreates the music, style, and sound of the late great singer-songwriter-guitarist Tom Petty. Whether it be T.P.'s solo material or that which he created with his Rock and Roll Hall of Fame band, the Heartbreakers, Southern Accents will present their signature immaculate precision and wildly contagious enthusiasm on Jan. 20 at URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center.

Tickets to the 8 p.m. show are \$30-\$40 and an additional \$25 and \$29.50 respectively for preferred parking and a pre-show dinner. For show tickets and info, visit [carteretpac.com/events/southern-accents-a-tribute-to-tom-petty](http://carteretpac.com/events/southern-accents-a-tribute-to-tom-petty). For more about Southern Accents, click [southernaccentsband.com](http://southernaccentsband.com) and enjoy the following interview with front man Ronnie Gregg.

**How many tour dates do you do a year?**

We usually do around 50 to 60 shows a year.

**Who's in the band, what instruments do they play, to which Heartbreaker are they paying tribute, and how did you get together?**

Ronnie Gregg, lead vocals, rhythm guitar; Paul Jones, bass; Nick Swan, lead guitar; Tony Mac, drums, and Jeff Hollandsworth, keyboards. We formed the band in 2016 out of mutual love of Tom's music.

**Is Paul Jones a fan of John Paul Jones, Led Zeppelin's bassist?**

Paul is a fan of John Paul Jones. We all love Led Zeppelin.

**What do you admire most about Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers?**

Always loved their style. In my opinion, they were always one of the coolest bands.

**Why and how is Tom Petty the greatest rock 'n' roll songwriter?**

He wrote about life and love unlike any other songwriter I've ever heard. He is one of the few artists that makes the hairs on your arm stand up.

**Besides Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers, what is the greatest musical common ground of the members of Southern Accents?**

We just have a certain music chemistry between us that works. I'm very blessed to work with such a talented bunch of guys.

**How often do you play in New Jersey?**

We have only played New Jersey a few times, mainly in the Vineland area. So we're totally excited to be coming to a new area of New Jersey.

**After Carteret, when will you be back in Jersey and where?**

We plan on being back in the New Jersey area hopefully next summer or early fall. We have a date, but unfortunately we can't announce it just yet.

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Office of Mayor Daniel J. Reiman  
Memorial Municipal Building  
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