

June 2025

Carteret Press

Summer Fun Starts Here!



See a guide
to summer fun
in Carteret, including
parks, festivals, concerts
& much more
on pages 16-17

A Publication Presented by The Carteret Business Partnership Inc.



**Central Jersey
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Our Services Include

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PAID AD



June 2025
Volume 23, No. 6
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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.

Follow @MyCarteret



Dear Friends,

The summer season is here and the time is right to enjoy the outdoors here in Carteret with our magnificent parks, exciting festivals, popular family fun, such as outdoor concerts and movies, and so much more! Check out all the possibilities this summer on pages 16 & 17.

Also in this issue:

- A look at the fully operational Downtown Parking Garage, which recently opened to residents, visitors and businesses
- A CPAC Spotlight on the New Jersey-originated Rock and Roll Hall of Fame act The Rascals ("Good Lovin'," "Groovin"), whose 60th anniversary tour is June 13 to Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center
- An Events Calendar
- A Business Spotlight on Brunswick Burger House, a new chain that has taken the spot of Burger Express at 215 Roosevelt Ave.
- A photo gallery of the restoration of the steps of Carteret's historic Memorial Municipal Building
- Notices about our free Recycling Coach app, the county's Home Hazardous Waste dropoff schedule, opportunities to

train and volunteer with the Borough's Office of Emergency Management, upcoming local and county residential paper shreds, the Municipal Marina, Carteret Soccer Academy, the state's senior property tax relief program, recycling do's & don'ts, food waste tips, the county's distracted driving initiative, film opportunities for Carteret residents and businesses, and two Borough-sponsored well-ness events happening on June 28.

A reminder to promote your business or event to all Carteret residents and businesses by advertising in Carteret Press or at least submitting to the Events Calendar. Each issue is delivered to every home and business. For more about advertising and/or a calendar listing, contact the Public Information Office at 732-541-3835 or makinb@carteret.net.

Sincerely,

Mayor Daniel J. Reiman

RWJ RAHWAY
FITNESS & WELLNESS CENTER
at
CARTERET

SUMMER CAMP 2025

sign up
today!

Summer Adventures Await!

An 8-week summer camp filled with fun,
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*Children can join for the whole summer or a couple of weeks;
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**LEARN MORE!
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try.rwjfitnesscarteret.com/summercamp2025
RWJCASummerCamp@fitnessandwellness.org

RWJ Rahway Fitness & Wellness at Carteret

60 Cooke Avenue, Carteret, NJ 07008
732.541.2333 | RWJFitnessCarteret.com

play

explore

swim

PAID AD



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www.eyecare-carteret.com



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Schedule and keep your eye exam by July 31, 2025, to enter a drawing for one of 10 giveaway bundles.

PAID AD



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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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We have all your
Father's Day grilling needs...
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801 Roosevelt Ave, Carteret, NJ • (732) 541-6457

OPEN: 7AM TO 9PM - 7 DAYS A WEEK

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PAID AD

MCIA Downtown Parking Garage Now Open to Residents, Visitors & Businesses

Middlesex County Improvement Authority's High Street Parking Garage adjacent to 29 Washington Avenue recently opened to the public and local businesses.

The parking garage is one of five planned by the County Division of Parking to help promote economic development throughout Middlesex County.

"We're looking forward to the great benefit the parking garage will have on our residents, businesses and visitors to our restaurants and state-of-the-art Carteret Performing Arts Center," Mayor Daniel J. Reiman said.

"The parking garage will impact the Downtown Carteret Arts District, which has had a huge redevelopment with new restaurants, the performing arts center, and apartment buildings," added Tom Merli, MCIA's director of parking. "Now that this garage is open to the public, it will support local businesses and residents in that area. We really wanted to support the performing arts center with safe, secure parking, as well as commuters and daily parkers who are using the arts district for restaurants."

With a capacity of more than 400, the six-level parking garage will be open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. A total of 14 American Disabilities Act-compliant spaces are available closest to the elevators on each level.

Daily rates are:

- 0-2 Hours – \$2
- 2-4 Hours – \$3
- 4-6 Hours – \$4
- 6-8 Hours – \$5
- Over 8 Hours – \$6.

"For only \$6, the parking garage is perfect for commuters who catch the bus on Washington Avenue with safe, secure, weather-protected parking," Merli said. "We also provide parking for all Carteret PAC events at a flat rate of \$20. The event rate goes into effect two hours prior to a scheduled PAC Event."

During PAC events, the garage stays open later than 10 p.m., the parking director said.

MCIA recently installed a new state-of-the-art parking revenue control system from IP Parking with license plate recognition cameras for enhanced safety, Merli said. The system offers several convenient payment options:

- Cash or with credit card at a pay station in the lobby
- Via phone by scanning the QR code on the parking ticket
- At the exit terminal via credit card.

"People will pull into the garage on High Street, park,



Public parking now is available at High Street Parking Garage adjacent to 29 Washington Avenue.

go down to the lobby of the building, and exit as a pedestrian on Washington Avenue," Merli said. "Then they use that lobby to get back into the garage by scanning their parking ticket at the exterior access reader mounted to the building outside the lobby doors. A reader in the lobby can scan their credit card."

"The garage is equipped with intercoms 24 hours a day," he continued. "Intercoms also are at the pay stations, entrance and exit. The garage is remotely monitored 24 hours a day. No staff is on site except during PAC events."

Businesses are able to lease parking spaces for their employees and provide parking validation to their customers to offset costs, Merli said.

Interested businesses can contact Merli at 732-997-5212 or Tom.merli@mciauth.com.

Other MCIA parking garages are located on Hardenberg Street in New Brunswick and Pearl Street in Metuchen. More are coming soon to Middlesex College in Edison and North Brunswick Train Station. For additional info, visit middlesexcountynj.gov/government/departments/departments-of-economic-development/middlesex-county-improvement-authority/parking.

**DOWNTOWN
CARTERET
PARKING
GARAGE**



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HEARTFELTCHILDCARE.COM

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Festival 2025

FEATURING BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

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EXPECT:

- Free Health Screenings
Blood Pressure | Glucose | Vision
- Mental Health Wellness
- Fitness and Nutrition
- Health Concierges
- Financial Wellness
- **SAME DAY MAMMOGRAMS**
(advanced registration required)
- Food & Vendors
- Music & Giveaways
- Free Mini Manicures & Mini Massages*

**limited availability*



Pre-Register for
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S A T U R D A Y
JUNE 28 2025

12PM - 4PM

UKRAINIAN BANQUET HALL
691 Roosevelt Avenue, Carteret, NJ
For More Information:
973-378-0909 or thehaven@ceoloft.com

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Central Jersey Arts Council Presents Restore Gut Health & Yoga Workshop with Alexandra



Learn how to balance your gut and boost
your overall health!

Join us for a wellness talk where we'll
explore:

- Key lifestyle changes to prevent and manage disease
- How gut imbalance affects your risk for illness
- Natural ways to support gut healing

Finish with a relaxing Yin Yoga session

Date: June 28th, 2025

Time: 10AM - 2PM

Location: Blazing Star Cultural Arts
Address: 63 Carteret Ave, Carteret NJ

PUBLIC SERVICE
ANNOUNCEMENT

Information:

Telephone: 732-541-3879

Instagram:

@centraljerseyartscouncil

@carterettac



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF DAYS — 2025 SCHEDULE

This event is offered free of charge and is for County residents only.

TIMES: 8 am - 2 pm (Rain or Shine)

| DATE | LOCATION | TOWN | ADDRESS | ZIP |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------|
| Sun, March 16 | Middlesex College | Edison | 2600 Woodbridge Avenue | 08837 |
| Sat, May 17 | Middlesex County Public Works | North Brunswick | 97 Apple Orchard Lane | 08902 |
| Sun, June 22 | Old Bridge Recycling Center | Old Bridge | 1 Old Bridge Plaza | 08857 |
| Sat, Sept 20 | Middlesex County Public Works | Sayreville | 750 Jernee Mill Road | 08872 |
| Sun, Nov 16 | Middlesex College | Edison | 2600 Woodbridge Avenue | 08837 |

WHAT TO BRING:

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Adhesives | Drain Cleaners | Kerosene | Pesticides/Herbicides |
| Aerosol Cans | Fire Extinguishers | Lighter Fluid | Photographic Chemicals |
| Antifreeze | Flares (Road Only) | Mercury | Pool Chemicals |
| Brake Fluid | Fluorescent Bulbs | Motor Oil/Filters | Propane Tanks |
| Car Batteries | Gasoline | Paints (Latex/Oil) | Stains/Varnishes |
| Cleaners | Gas/Oil Mix | Paint Thinner | Thermometers/Thermostats |

Rechargeable & Button Cell Batteries (individually bag each battery or tape each terminal end prior to transport)

Alkaline batteries can be disposed of in regular trash.

Asbestos containing materials: call to pre-register, must be double bagged.

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

| | | | |
|------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Appliances | Electronics | Explosives/Munitions | Smoke Detectors |
| Furniture | Empty Containers | Infectious/Medical Waste | Tires |

RESIDENTIAL MATERIAL AND RESIDENTIAL LICENSE PLATES ONLY | NO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES!

No commercial or industrial waste. No containers over 10 gallons.

Residents must stay in their vehicles at all times. Please have your materials in your trunk, cargo area or truck bed, easily accessible to our staff, who will remove it from your vehicle.



Please help us feed Middlesex County residents in need: Bring a non-perishable food item when you come to one of our household hazardous waste events. Donated items will be delivered to REPLENISH, the Middlesex County foodbank.

QUESTIONS? Call **732-745-4170** or E-mail **solidwaste@co.middlesex.nj.us**

This service is sponsored by the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners with the host location.





Mayor Daniel J. Reiman & Borough Council

2025 Residential Paper Shred Program



Date: Saturday, June 14th

Time: 10 am - 12 pm (or until shredding truck is filled, whichever occurs first)
Event held rain or shine

Location: Parking lot between Civic Center Park & Carteret Public Library, 100 Cooke Avenue

For more info on this & other recycling & Clean Communities programs, please contact:
732-541-3835
info@carteret.net

Sponsored by the Borough of Carteret and funded by the Board of County Commissioners

This is a free paper shred program for Borough residents.

Recycle your old confidential files safely and securely!

- Limit of 5 boxes or 100 pounds per car.
- Paper must be in a manageable container. No plastic bags.
- No need to remove paper clips, staples or paperboard binders.
- Do Not Bring: Newspapers, magazines, hardcover books, junk mail, photos, x-rays, CDs, shredded paper or garbage.
- Loads containing unacceptable items may be rejected.
- Residential Paper Only. **No Businesses Allowed.**

Carteret.net

@MyCarteret



**PUBLIC SERVICE
ANNOUNCEMENT**

MIDDLESEX
COUNTY • NJ

RESIDENTIAL 2025 PAPER SHREDDING

Recycle your old confidential files safely and securely!

Rain or shine | 9 am - 12 pm
(or until the shredding truck is filled)
County residents only - No businesses

**PUBLIC SERVICE
ANNOUNCEMENT**

| DATE | TOWN | LOCATION | ADDRESS | ZIP |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Sunday, March 23 | Old Bridge | Recycling Center | 1 Old Bridge Plaza | 08857 |
| Friday, April 11 | Monroe | Veterans Park | Avenue K | 08831 |
| Saturday, April 26 | Sayreville | Fort Grumpy | 3750 Bordentown Avenue | 08872 |
| Saturday, May 3 | North Brunswick | Babbage Park | Laurel Place | 08902 |
| Friday, May 16 | Piscataway | Health Services Parking Lot | 1 Ericsson Drive (off Hoes Lane) | 08854 |
| Sunday, June 1 | Edison | Papaanni Park | 100 Municipal Boulevard | 08817 |
| Saturday, June 7 | Spotswood | High School Parking Lot | 105 Summerhill Road | 08884 |
| Sunday, September 7 | South Brunswick | Beech Woods Park | 137 Beekman Road | 08852 |
| Sunday, September 28 | Woodbridge | Department of Public Works | 225 Smith Street | 08832 |
| Friday, October 10 | Highland Park | Donaldson Park | South Second Avenue | 08904 |
| Saturday, October 18 | Cranbury | Cranbury School | 23 North Main Street | 08512 |
| Friday, November 7 | Monroe | Thompson Park | Manalapan Lake Lot | 08831 |

Maximum of 5 file boxes or 100 pounds per car.

Loads containing unacceptable items may be rejected.
Must be in manageable containers: no plastic bags.
NO BUSINESSES, NO BATTERIES, NO METAL

DO NOT BRING:
Newspapers, magazines, hardcover books, junk mail, photographs, X-rays, CDs, shredded paper or garbage.

NOTE: No need to remove paper clips or staples.

For more information on this and other programs, please contact:

Middlesex County Solid Waste Management

732-745-4170

solidwaste@co.middlesex.nj.us

Residents must stay in their vehicles at all times. Please have your materials in your trunk, cargo area or truck bed, easily accessible to our staff, who will remove it from your vehicle.

**Please help us feed Middlesex County residents in need:
Bring a non-perishable food item when you come to one of our paper shredding events.
Donated items will be delivered to REPLENISH, the Middlesex County food bank.**

This free service is sponsored by the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners in conjunction with the host town.

middlesexcountynj.gov





Do you know
what goes in your
RECYCLING BIN?



DO

put in recycling bin

- **Plastic**
bottles, jars, jugs, tubs
- **Mixed Paper**
paper, newspaper, magazines,
soft cover books, cereal boxes
- **Cardboard**
corrugated boxes
- **Cans**
aluminum and steel (tin) cans
- **Glass**
Bottles & Jars
all sizes, shapes and colors



DON'T

put in recycling bin

- **Plastic**
bags, film, wrappers, cups, utensils
- **Styrofoam**
- **Greasy or food
contaminated items**
- **Tanglers**
i.e: garden hoses, electric cords
- **Syringes, batteries
and bulbs**
- **Pots, pans, and
small appliances**
- **Dishware, glass,
and mirrors**



Thank you for recycling right!
MiddlesexCountyNJ.gov/recycle
732.745.4170

FOOD WASTE

REDUCTION TIPS

**Buy only what
you expect to
use and prepare
perishable
foods first**

**Donate nutritious,
safe and untouched
food to food banks
to help those in
need**

**Use up old
ingredients and
leftovers**

**Compost food
scraps rather than
tossing in the
trash**

**Store fruits and
vegetables
for maximum
freshness**

**If food waste was a country, it would be the 3rd largest
greenhouse gas emitting country in the world!**

(United Nations 2011 Report)



**Food scraps represent 20-25% of the
waste that is disposed as trash!**

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

LEARN MORE AT RECYCLE.NJ.GOV
AND MIDDLESEXCOUNTYNJ.GOV/GETFOODSMART





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732-541-3817 | FILM@CARTERET.NET



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Carteret Soccer Academy

📍 Joseph Medwick Park (near 14 Pauline St)

Early Summer Soccer

**June
2-27**

Practice Monday & Wednesday
Games Saturday
ages 3-15 years old
\$125 <http://bit.ly/csaES25>
In Person Registration June 2, 4, 9
5:45 pm

Summer Soccer

**July 7
Aug 14**

Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays
Morning Session: 8:30 am - 10 am
Evening Session: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
\$250 ages 3-15 years old



Travel Try-Outs

June 10

Player Birth Years: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
Check-In: 5:45 - 6:15 pm | Practice 6:15- 8 pm

June 12

Player Birth Years: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
Check-In: 5:45 - 6:15 pm | Practice 6:15- 8 pm



For more details

carteretsocceracademy.com 732-421-4290



Outdoor Fun

A look at the festivals, outdoor concerts, outdoor movies & other r



Carteret's new pickle ball courts, right, can be enjoyed all summer long at Failace Memorial Park on Sycamore Street and Bishop Andrews Chrome Park, right. The park also features a variety of other amenities, including a playground, picnic area, and a stage for outdoor concerts, music, dance, food and more.

With the summer season now upon us, here's a look at some of the best ways to enjoy the outdoors in Carteret:

Festivals

Few towns offer as many lively festivals as Carteret. On July 3, the Independence Day Festival returns with fireworks, food, music and much more from 6 to 11 p.m. in Carteret Park while the event's usual location, Waterfront Park is under renovation. Thanks to Gold Sponsors The Botanic and Xfinity, Latin Fest will take place 4-11 p.m. on July 26 in Civic Center Park. The celebration of Latin music, dance, food and other culture is one of Central Jersey's most popular events.

The summer festival season in Carteret will conclude Sept. 17 to 21 with the Mayor's Charity Carnival, which includes Carteret's 49th annual Ethnic Day on Sept. 20, a battle of the bands, and an antique car show on Sept. 21. Families can enjoy rides, games and other attractions, as well as a headlining music act at Ethnic Day, all in Carteret Park.

Another enjoyable family event happening this summer season is Saint Joseph Parish

Festival, a fundraiser for Saint Joseph School from June 12 to 15 on the school grounds. Highlights will include rides, games, food, raffles and other fun.

Courts & Fields

Carteret prides itself on its parks and their outdoor amenities, especially their courts and fields. Last summer, the Borough opened a brand new court for one of the hottest recreational activities in the country: pickle ball. The pickle ball court is located in Failace Memorial Park on Sycamore Street and Sumutka Avenue. Last spring, Carteret Park's tennis and basketball courts were repaved. And it was not too long ago that Sullivan Field in Carteret Park, as well as all the fields in Civic Center Park were upgraded.

Sports Leagues

Carteret is crazy about baseball, softball and soccer, and youngsters have ample opportunity to participate in all three all summer on those aforementioned fields with Carteret Little League, Kraze Fast Pitch, and Carteret Soccer Academy. For baseball, visit carteretlittleleague.org/. For softball, there's krazefastpitch.ryzerevents.com/. And for soccer, check out carteretsocceracademy.com/.

n in Carteret!

Recreational happenings in Carteret throughout the summer season



t and Sumutka Avenue. Latin Fest, center, returns to Carteret on July 26 in Civic Center Park with a celebration of , and Carteret Park.

Spray grounds & playgrounds

Nearly all of Carteret's amazing parks have impressive playgrounds, and two also have spray grounds: Carteret Park and Bishop Andrews Chrome Park. Both will thrill wee ones and are open now through Labor Day.

Outdoor concerts

Carteret's Summer Concert Series is legendary. At 7 p.m. on Fridays in Carteret Park, some of the region's best bands play weekly all summer. And at 7 p.m. on Sundays, it's the same, typically in Waterfront Park but likely relocated due to renovations. Keep an eye out for the annual Borough of Carteret Recreation Guide for exact details.

Mini Golf and Putting Green

As soon as the renovations in Waterfront Park are complete, folks once again will be able to enjoy the lavish riverside park's miniature golf course and putting green, both of which offer great family fun.

Fishing

Waterfront Park also offers fishing off Veteran's Pier, but in the meantime, Sitar Pond remains stocked in

Carteret Park. Weekend fishing is a great way for families to enjoy the outdoors together.

Movies in the Park

Twice a week at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout the summer, Carteret offers family-friendly films in Carteret Park. The summer schedule of flicks will be announced soon in the Recreation Guide.

Recreation Bus Trips

The Recreation Guide also will have all the details on the latest bus trips that the Borough offers all summer long to such places as the Point Pleasant Beach Boardwalk and Atlantic City.

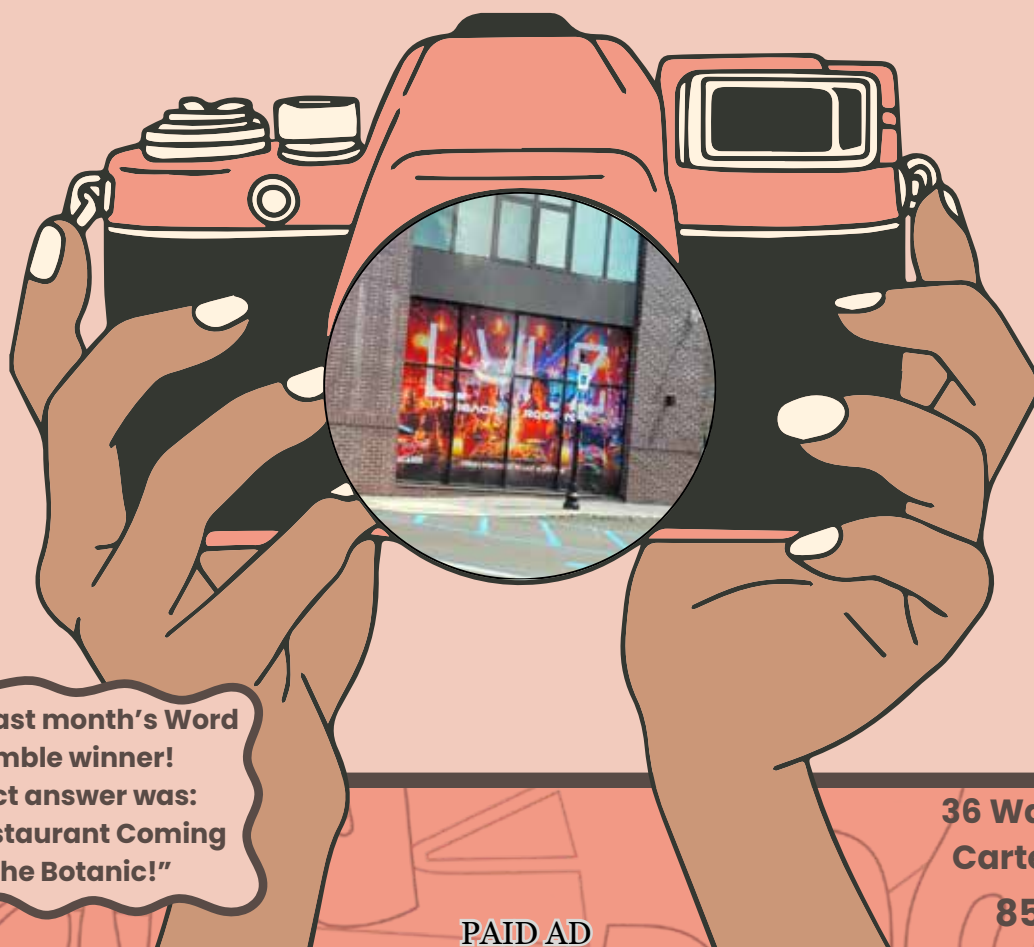
Exercise in Noe Street Park

Working out in the outdoor gym at Noe Street Park after a warmup walk around the lovely pond and its majestic fountains is a great way to get some exercise and fresh air. Then you can follow the workout with a run around the pond. Walking/running trails also are offered in Medwick Park, Carteret Park, and Waterfront Park once it reopens.

SHOW US YOUR BEST SHOT!

Snap a selfie in front of the Botanic selfie window and share it on Instagram!

Tag us @thebotanic.nj and use #BotanicLifestyle to be entered into a raffle for a \$100 gift card!



Congrats to last month's Word Box Scramble winner!
The correct answer was:
"Rooftop Restaurant Coming Soon to The Botanic!"

36 Washington Ave
Carteret, NJ 07008
855.534.4373

PAID AD



The Borough of Carteret, New Jersey, is now offering registration for slips at the Carteret Municipal Marina, which just opened this past spring. The Marina, located along the Arthur Kill River at Carteret's beautiful Waterfront Park, 200 Middlesex Avenue, features 185 slips, 38,000 square feet of floating docks, gas and diesel fueling stations, sanitary pump out, deepwater port, and a 17-foot draft.

Slips are offered at competitive pricing - the lowest along the channel in the region. Carteret residents are offered even lower rates. Slip contracts and registration are available online for seasonal, annual, or short-term rentals at Carteret.net/Marina.



- Nestled along the Arthur Kill, adjacent to Staten Island with immediate access to the Raritan Bay, Upper & Lower Bays, and Sandy Hook, protected in a man-made cove
- Less than 20 miles from Staten Island marinas, under 10 miles from the Raritan Bay
- Less than 30 miles from Manhattan, Long Island, and key points along the Jersey Shore
- Private restrooms & parking for slip holders
- Steel piles, concrete floating docks, and state of the art marina design for boat safety
- Complementary dock boxes
- Electric available
- Year-round wet storage
- Minutes from Carteret's Arts and Dining District

CALL FOR SLIP RENTALS & ADDITIONAL AMENITIES
732-541-3800, ext. 3103

Carteret.net/Marina



Upcoming Performances and Events

June 13

NJ 101.5 Presents: The Rascals

June 14

Latin Night in The Underground

June 20

Laughs on the Rooftop - starring Imagine

June 27

Zebra, Angel, and Starz: Spirit of '75 Tour

July 10

Terry Fator: On the Road Again

July 17

Manhattan Comedy Nights in The Underground

July 18

Murder Mystery Dinner in The Underground

July 25

Summer Brew Fest - Craft Beer Festival

August 7

Doo Wop Summer - Jimmy Gallagher, Cleveland Still's Dubs, LaLa Brooks, plus Classic Sounds

August 9

Carribean Dance Hall Night in The Underground

August 14

Starship - Featuring Mickey Thomas

August 15

Toast - The Ultimate Bread Experience

August 21

Rich Francese Italian Comedy Night featuring Rich Francese, Eric Tartaglione, Frank Santorelli, and Special Guest Fred Rubino

September 12

The Nelsons

September 13

10CC - The Ultimate, Ultimate Greatest Hits Tour

September 25

Heart & Soul: A Love Story. A film directed by Kenny Vance. With Q&A and performances by Kenny Vance.

September 27

Freestyle Takeover 2

October 3

Cinderella's Tom Keifer and LA Guns

October 5

Laurie Berkner - The Greatest Hits Solo Tour

October 12

Crossing Over with Psychic Medium John Edward

October 18

The Magic of Rob Lake

November 7

Magic Men of Australia - USA Tour

November 15

A Bronx Tale starring Chazz Palminteri

November 16

Taylorville - Taylor Swift Tribute

December 6

Vic Dibitetto

FOR TICKETS AND MORE SHOWS:



Online 24/7

visit carteretpac.com

Box Office: (877) 849-2722

Box Office Window: Cooke Avenue
Monday-Friday: 10am to 4pm
excluding holidays

CPAC Spotlight: The Rascals

Having gotten their professional start in 1965 at The Choo Choo Club in Garfield, The Rascals are very much a Jersey band. Two of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame act's legendary founders, singer-songwriter-keyboardist Felix Cavaliere and guitarist-vocalist Gene Cornish, will return to the Garden State on June 13 to play Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center. The Rascals' 60th anniversary tour will feature No. 1 hits, such as "Groovin'," "Good Lovin'," and "People Got to Be Free," as well as the signature "A Beautiful Morning."

Along with The Righteous Brothers, The Rascals are considered the epitome of American blue-eyed soul. Their influence on the Sounds of Asbury Park is legendary. While coming up in the mid-to-late 1960s at the Jersey Shore, both Bruce Springsteen and Steve Van Zandt adored The Rascals. The band tapped Van Zandt to induct them into The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997. "Sopranos" creator David Chase loved Van Zandt's induction speech so much, he cast him as Silvio Dante in the classic HBO series.

Steve and his wife, Maureen, went on to produce the 2012 Broadway production "Once Upon a Dream," a Rascals revue starring the original band members. They also include Garfield-based singer-songwriter-percussionist Eddie Brigati and Jersey City-born drummer Dino Danelli. Unfortunately, Dino died in 2022 and Eddie no longer tours. But Felix and Gene, who hail from New York, have banded together to show why The Rascals also have been inducted into the Grammy, Vocal, Songwriter, Hit Parader and Hammond halls of fame. I spoke with Felix about the band's amazing career, and why it's still fun to share the music with audiences filled with smiling faces.

When The Rascals were starting out at the Choo Choo Club in Garfield, what was the New Jersey music scene like then compared today?

Very different. For example, the clubs did not allow you to play your own music. You had to do covers. That was very different. And you had to wear a suit, tie and jacket. You had to be dressed up. That was a major difference.

What is the Choo Choo Club now?

I don't know. I live in Nashville now. I know the owner's son. We keep in touch. It was the first place that we were able to work as a band just starting out. The owner, Sal Bonura, gave us a good shot. It was a great place with a lot of people. It got its name because the train tracks were behind the stage, so you know those trains were for real.

How did Sid Bernstein, the guy who brought The Beatles to America, have an impact on The Rascals that led the band to become the first white act signed to Atlantic Records?

While at the Choo Choo Club, a gentleman offered us a job for the summer in the Hamptons on Long Island at a place called The Barge. It was an important opportunity because people within the music industry vacationed there. The gentleman who got us the Hamptons gig knew Sid and introduced us. Sid started managing us, and our pay immediately doubled at The Barge. Then he tried to get us a record deal with Atlantic Records, the only label that would let us produce ourselves. None of the other labels would even hear about that, but they said yes! It was the beginning of a fantastic relationship.



Original Rascals members Gene Cornish, left, and Felix Cavaliere, right, will perform a 60th anniversary show on June 13 at CPAC.

What impact did The Rascals have on the Asbury Park music scene of the 1960s, and how did that impact come full circle working with Steve Van Zandt and Bruce Springsteen on occasion since 1982?

We were Americans. That was a big deal.

I remember doing an album one time down in the Village. I was looking for 45s for the project. This guy comes up and says, 'Felix, you made it OK for Italians to have long hair.' Prior to that, everybody was English. There was the Lovin' Spoonful, but they were more like folk.

I know we had the R&B influence on Bruce and Steve, and thank God, they influenced us years later. I live in Nashville near a couple of the E Street guys down here. It's definitely come full circle, as you say.

Are you a fan of the HBO series 'The Sopranos'?

Yes and no. Yes, because the way Steven got the show was inducting us into The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. David Chase called him up after that.

No, because I don't like the way Italians are depicted. It's a great show, but Italian families are more than that. It's like Mr. (Rodney) Dangerfield said, 'Give us a little respect.' We don't need that crap. Go to Italy. See what real Italians are like.

Shouldn't the Garfield, NJ-formed Rascals also be in the New Jersey Hall of Fame?

That's a good question. To be honest, we started in New York City, but we didn't work until we came to New Jersey. It's beautiful that we've been able to work throughout the tristate area, and all have accepted us as theirs. And that's where the most faithful fans are. But we don't call them fans. We call them friends.

THE RASCALS TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE!

<https://carteretpac.com/events/the-rascals/>



CARTERET EVENTS CALENDAR

**Submit items to Carteret Events Calendar by the 1st of each month to makinb@carteret.net.
For more info call 732-541-3835.**

JUNE

6 **Marcus Miller**, 8 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center
7 **Puka Puka Summer Song Festival: 2nd Annual Natsu Matsuri**, 7 p.m., The Underground at Carteret PAC
10 **Comic Con Open Studio**, 4-7 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center (also June 17 & 24)
Electricity & Magnetism with Liberty Science Center, 5 p.m., Carteret Public Library (reservations required at carteretlibrary.net or 732-541-3830)
11 **Junk Journaling Sessions**, 4-7 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center
12 **Carteret Soccer Academy Fall Travel Tryouts**, 5:45 p.m., Medwick Park (for players born 2016-18; also June 13 for players born 2012-15)
Popsicle Photo Wheel Craft, 4-7 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center
Saint Joseph Parish Festival, 6-10 p.m., Saint Joseph School (also 6/13, 5-10 p.m. 6/14 & 2-7 p.m. 6/15)
13 **NJ 101.5 Presents The Rascals**, 8 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center
14 **Carteret Paper Shred Sponsored by Middlesex County**, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Carteret Public Library Parking Lot (for residents only)
Celebrate Community, Celebrate Middlesex, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Roosevelt Park, Edison (middlesexcountynj.gov/celebrate)
Father's Day Event, 2-4 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center
"Heart & Soul: A Love Story," a doo wop documentary directed by Kenny Vance, 7 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center
I Love Perreo Party, 9 p.m., Underground at Carteret PAC
15 **Mushroom & Moon Night Light Workshop**, 2-4 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center
17 **"School's Out, Let's Rock" with Jennifer Hyjack**, 10-10:45 a.m., Carteret Public Library (reservations required at carteretlibrary.net or 732-541-3830)
Healthy Cooking Demonstration with Aliz Alaman: "Food & Mood," 6 p.m., RWJ Rahway Fitness & Wellness Center Test Kitchen, 2120 Lamberts Mill Road, Scotch Plains (reservation required at 732-499-6193)
Laughs on the Rooftop with Imagine, Big Momma, Peaches Rodriguez, Vishnu, David Raheem, and vocalist Aerion Angel, 8 p.m., The Rooftop at Carteret PAC
19 **Gay-Straight Alliance Meeting**, 7 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center
21 **Pride Paint Fusion**, 7-10 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center
22 **Trip to Metropolitan Museum of Art**, 10 a.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center



26 **Moon Board Workshop**, 4-7 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center
27 **Spirit of '75 Tour with Zebra, Angel and Starz**, 7 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center.
28 **Free Emergency Preparedness Training**, 9 a.m. to noon, 183 Roosevelt Ave. (register at oeminfo@carteret.net)
Restore Gut Health & Yoga Workshop with Alexandra feat. health talk about gut balance & healing and Yin Yoga session, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center (info: 732-541-3879)
Health & Wellness Festival with free health screenings, mammograms, food, music, mini manicures & massages, giveaways, and wellness, fitness & nutrition experts, 12-4 p.m., St. Demetrius Banquet Hall (reservations needed for mammograms at 973-378-0909 or thehaven@ceoloft.com)
29 **Mosaic Glass Art**, 2-4 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center

JULY

3 **Independence Day Festival**, 6-11 p.m., Carteret Park
7 **Movies in the Park**, 8 p.m., Carteret Park (Wednesdays & Saturdays through August)
10 **Terry Fator: On the Road Again**, 8 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center
15 **Summer Blood Drive**, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway Conference Room 1, 865 Stone St., Rahway (to meet critical need in face of summer shortage, call 732-235-8100 ext. 248)
22

11 **Concerts in the Park**, 7 p.m., Carteret Park (Fridays through August)
18 **"Good Riddance: A Gnarly Murder Mystery Dinner, Dude!",** 6 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center
25 **Summer Brew Fest feat. 15 NJ Craft Breweries + Artisan Crafters**, 6 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center
26 **Latin Fest feat. music, dance, food, culture and Gold Sponsors The Botanic & Xfinity**, 4-11 p.m., Civic Center Park

Third Annual Central Jersey Marquee Awards Honor the Best High School Musicals



Princeton High School, left, won the most 2025 Marquee Awards on May 19 at Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center with five for its production of “Groundhog Day: The Musical.” Pingry High School in the Basking Ridge section of Bernards, right, won Best High School Musical for its production of “Pippin.”



The 2025 Marquee Awards were presented to Central Jersey high schools and students on May 19 in a Tony Award-style red-carpet event at Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center.

Hosted by Broadway star Justin Matthew Sargent (“Rock of Ages, Spider-Man Turn Off the Dark”), the two-hour ceremony featured live musical performances and celebrated Central Jersey high school on-stage and crew talent.

Now in its third year, the Marquee Awards had 27 high schools in the running from Middlesex, Mercer and Somerset counties.

Awards were given for student achievement in 20 competitive categories, including performances, direction, choreography, theater technology and design. Nominees were selected by a panel of professional judges, who evaluated productions throughout the region during the 2025 spring musical season.

The big Marquee winner this year was Princeton High School with five awards for its production of “Groundhog Day: The Musical,” including Best Supporting Actor (Konrad Hedges), Best Designer & Crew Leaders (Colin Lansky), Best Props Manager (Robin Watchel), Best Direction (Julianna Krawjecki), and Best Scenery.

Juanita Hemingway won the award for Best Hair & Makeup for Carteret High School’s production of “The Addams Family.”

Best High School Musical went to The Pingry School in the Basking Ridge section of Bernards Township for its production of “Pippin.” Pingry also won Best Production Number for “Magic to Do” and Best Chorus.

Other winners are:

- **Best Lead Actor** — Rian Sanders, “All Shook Up,” Manville High School
- **Best Lead Actress** — Susie Polito, “Once,” Immaculata High School, Somerville
- **Best Supporting Actress** — Marisa Santiago, “Sister Act: A Divine Musical Comedy,” Woodbridge High School
- **Best Ensemble Member** — Kaley Welsh, “Legally Blonde,” Bernards High School, Bernardsville
- **Best Music Direction** — Jeffrey Pando, “The Addams Family,” Watchung Hills High School, Warren
- **Best Student Orchestra** — Alexander Minter, “Into the Woods,” Ewing High School
- **Best Lighting** — Megan Thompson, “Chicago: Teen Edition,” Hightstown High School
- **Best Costumes** — Bonnie Grube, “Cinderella,” Ridge High School, Basking Ridge
- **Best Choreography** — Melissa Calicchio, “Footloose: The Musical,” Colonia High School, Woodbridge
- **Set Designer & Crew Leader** — Rhyann Greene, “Chicago,” Hightstown High School
- **Graphic Design** — Katie Reagen, “The Wedding Singer,” Robbinsville High School.

The Marquee Awards receive support from the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners with a grant from the county’s Cultural & Arts Trust Fund to support a new generation of theater artists.

Watch the 2025 Carteret Marquee Award ceremony at youtube.com/watch?v=Leboc63rwHI&t=1s. 23

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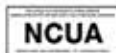
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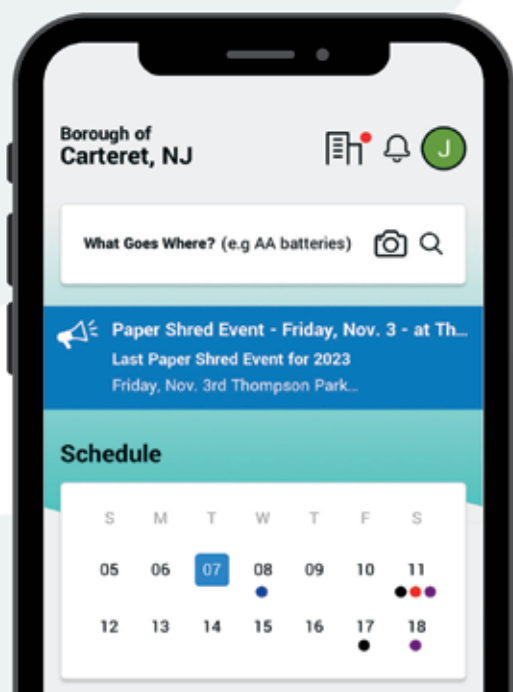
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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Brunswick Burger House



Brunswick Burger House partners Saleem Rahimi, Mohsin Daud, Vedant Bhatt, Safwan Eid, Omar Habib, Syed Ali, and Wali Rahimi are pictured outside the restaurant during its June 2 opening.

Brunswick Burger House recently opened at the site of the former Burger Express at 215 Roosevelt Ave.

While the new burger chain has big and iconic shoes to fill with its first location, the restaurant feels at home in Carteret, said Vedant Bhatt, COO of the restaurant's parent company, East Windsor-based Dream Big Partners.

"Carteret is a town with rich history and a great local community where everyone knows everyone," Bhatt said. "We feel like launching a brand like Brunswick Burger House will be right at home."

"We take pride in serving the best quality halal beef, which is fresh and never frozen," he continued. "It is a burger that is served in some high-end steak houses and other restaurants. We have a method to smash these burgers and are fanatics of proper procedures. What makes it yummy is our signature smash sauce that goes on our Smash Burger or the garlic aoli that goes on our classic George Street Burger."

Brunswick Burger House's Smash Burger is one of two signature dishes, Bhatt said. The other is the Chicken Sammie. Meanwhile, the milkshakes should not be missed, Bhatt said.

With more than 150 years of restaurant experience among its partners, Brunswick Burger House plans to open four more North and Central Jersey locations by year's end, then expand into New York and Philadelphia, Bhatt said.

"We want to have the American Dream of owning a business without having to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars to turn it into reality by bringing in operating partners for each of our locations," he said. "It will be an owner-operator model. We are giving the American Dream to own a business to anyone that has \$50,000 to invest and be an operating partner at Brunswick Burger House."

"For a consumer, they will get top brand quality food, which is fresh never frozen at value pricing so it doesn't break the bank to feed their families," Bhatt continued.

Brunswick Burger House will be open from noon to 10 p.m. through June, then expand hours and operations in July from 10 a.m. to midnight in the dining room and through 4 a.m. with the drive thru. Call 732-366-4067, click brunswickburgerhouse.com and follow @BrunswickBurgerHouse on Instagram, Facebook and TikTok.



The first step in emergency preparedness for individuals who may need assistance in a disaster.

What is Register Ready?

Register Ready is a free, secure, voluntary database designed to help emergency managers and first responders plan for and support people with disabilities and access and functional needs (DAFN).

You (or someone on your behalf) are encouraged to register if you have a physical, developmental, cognitive, or behavioral impairment.



Who Should Register?

Permanent and seasonal NJ residents with DAFN who may need help evacuating, sheltering in place or at a public shelter, or requiring emergency assistance should register. Individuals with a temporary disability, such as a high-risk pregnancy or other serious medical condition, should register.



How Can I Register?

- Go to: www.registerready.nj.gov
- Telephone 2-1-1 (within NJ), or 877-652-1148 toll free (TTY/ TDD and translation services available)
- Contact your County Office of Emergency Management
- Contact your local Center for Independent Living



[For More Information](#)

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



FEMA

FREE Emergency Preparedness Training Course

Date: Saturday, June 28th, 2025

Time: 9 AM to 12 PM

Location: 183 Roosevelt Ave, Carteret N.J. 07008



Register: oeminfo@carteret.net

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For program details, scan
the QR code or visit:
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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

SENIOR FREEZE

NJ residents born before 1959 or permanently disabled residents receiving Social Security disability payments as of 12/31/23 may be eligible if:

- You owned and lived in your home (or leased a site in a mobile home park and lived in your mobile home) in 2020 and through December 31, 2024;
- Your property was subject to property taxes (site fees); and
- You meet the 2023 and 2024 income limits:
 - 2023 — \$163,050 or less
 - 2024 — \$168,268 or less

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For Senior Homeowners

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- 🏠 **2024 income below \$500,000**
- 🏠 **Owned and lived in your home for all of 2024**

Stay NJ benefits are calculated after ANCHOR and Senior Freeze benefits are determined. If you qualify for all three programs, the Stay NJ benefit will be 50% of your property taxes (up to \$13,000) minus any payments received through ANCHOR and Senior Freeze (2024 benefit cap of \$6,500).

PHOTO GALLERY: New Steps for Historic Borough Hall



The steps to Carteret's historic Memorial Municipal Building recently were refurbished. Clockwise from top left shows the process of the project. The top left photo shows the steps before the project began. The photo on the bottom right shows the refurbished steps as they are now. And the rest of the photos detail a progression of the project. The steps are now more shallow and, therefore, safer. They also feature a beautiful granite finish. Carteret's Memorial Municipal Building is historic because it is the last "Great War" of its type in Middlesex County. The high level of original details and its homage to World War I also make it a rare survivor in New Jersey. The Memorial Municipal Building was constructed in 1925 and last went under restoration in 2006.



Middlesex County Launches Vision Zero Campaign to End Distracted Driving

Middlesex County has launched a new public awareness campaign, Vision Zero, to address the leading cause of traffic fatalities in our region: distracted driving. Running from May 2025 through August 2025, the campaign aims to reduce preventable crashes by encouraging drivers to avoid distractions behind the wheel. From texting and phone use to grooming or adjusting music, small behaviors can have deadly consequences.

As the first county in New Jersey to adopt a Vision Zero Action Plan, Middlesex County is committed to eliminating all traffic-related deaths and serious injuries. This campaign is part of that broader strategy to make our roads safer for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists alike.



Learn more, take the pledge, and help us reach zero: discovermiddlesex.com/VisionZero

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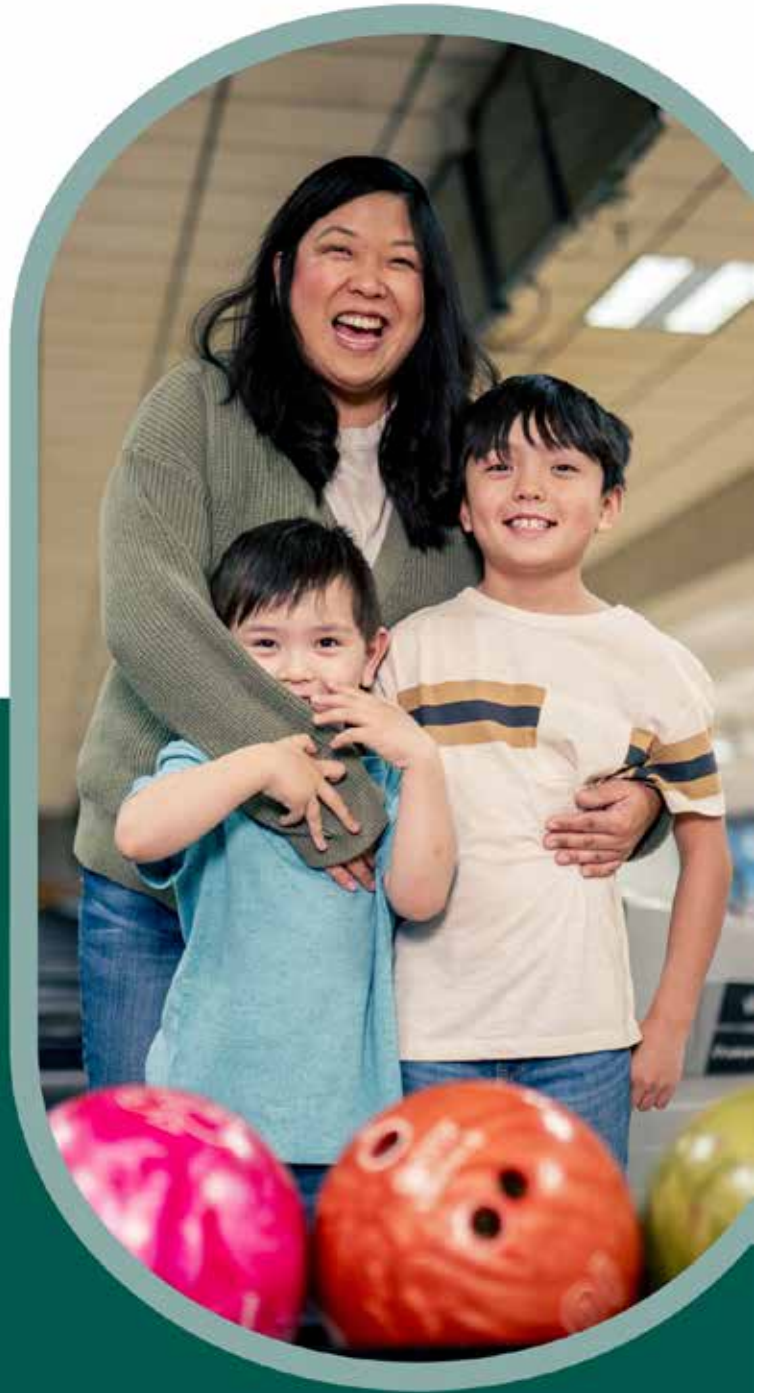
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