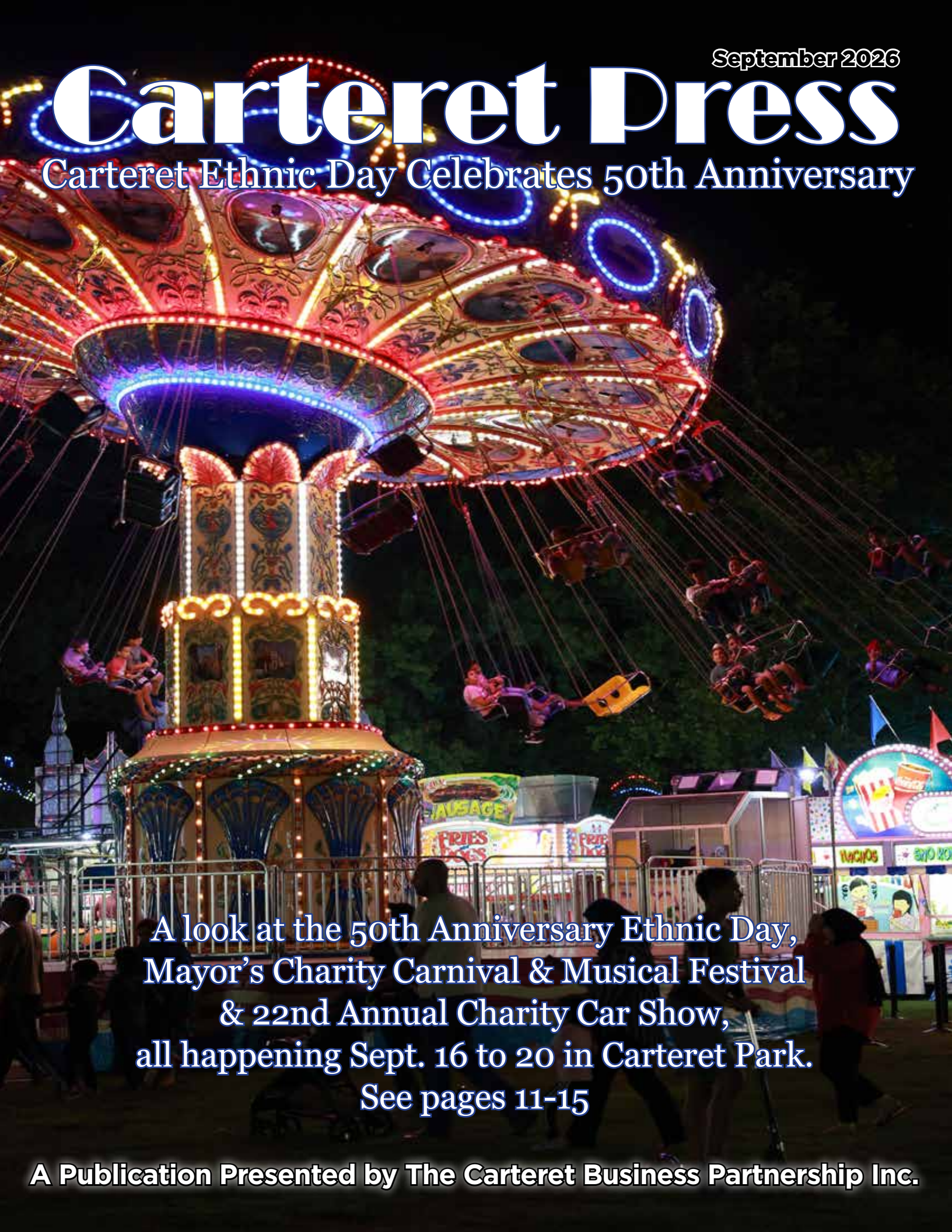


September 2026

Carteret Press

Carteret Ethnic Day Celebrates 50th Anniversary



A look at the 50th Anniversary Ethnic Day,
Mayor's Charity Carnival & Musical Festival
& 22nd Annual Charity Car Show,
all happening Sept. 16 to 20 in Carteret Park.

See pages 11-15

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September 2026

Volume 24, No. 9

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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,

Big news this month in Carteret!

The cover story in this month's issue of Carteret Press is the 50th anniversary celebration of Ethnic Day, Carteret's beloved multi-cultural festival. This coincides with the Mayor's Annual Charity Carnival & Music Festival and the 22nd Annual Charity Car Show. All raise funds for the Children's Charity Trust, which helps Carteret youth realize their full potential. Details are on pages 12 to 15.

In the center of this month's issue is the latest happenings related to the forthcoming ferry service, including a \$9.6 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration for an electric ferry boat, plus coverage of the celebration surrounding the signing and installation of the final beam of the Carteret Multimodal Ferry Terminal.

Also in this issue:

- Photo gallery of National Night Out on Aug. 4 in Carteret Park
- A Business Spotlight on Apples Mexican Italian Restaurant and Bar in Hotel Executive Suites in West Carteret
- A CPAC Spotlight on kids rock star Laurie Berkner, who'll return Sept. 20 to URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center
- An Events Calendar

- A look at the new Early Childhood Center at Columbus School

- Notices about CPAC's schedule, our free Recycle Coach app, OEM tips on keeping safe during a hurricane, recruitment notices from the Borough police and fire departments, the Granny Squares senior crochet group, Carteret Senior Club, Carteret Municipal Marina, info about new state e-bike laws, the Fall Town-wide Yard Sale on Sept. 26 and 27, the Fall Town-wide Park Cleanup on Oct. 24, the Middlesex County Job Fair on Sept. 17 at Middlesex College, a flu shot clinic on Sept. 16 at Rahway Community Action Organization, and the Carteret 9/11 Memorial Service at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 11 in Carteret Park.

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 local home and business. For more about advertising and/or a calendar listing, contact the Public Information Office at 732-541-3835 or makingb@carteret.net.

Sincerely,

Mayor Daniel J. Reiman

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Two CPD Veterans Are Celebrated for More Than 30 Years of Service



Veteran Borough Police Sgt. Rowland Platt and longtime Police Dispatcher Debbie Lindsay have retired from the Carteret Police Department, each after more than 30 years of service. Lindsay is pictured above with colleagues at her retirement.

Veteran Borough Police Sgt. Rowland Platt and longtime Police Dispatcher Debbie Lindsay are officially “end of watch” for finishing exemplary public service, both after more than 30 years.

The Carteret PBA Local 47 police union described Sgt. Platt as “one of the best in the law enforcement business” with more than 35 years on the force. The union also wished Lindsay the best in her retirement.

“We often joke that our police department didn’t run on Dunkin’, it ‘Ran on Rowland,’” the PBA said on social media. “He would always cover shifts and get dispatched as needed for court duty or to direct traffic. Sgt. Platt did it all. As our most senior officer, we were lucky to have Sgt. Platt train a lot of our officers. His even temperament and cool demeanor was passed on to many.”

The PBA called Platt, 60, “one of the good guys,” and “a staple around our community,” who has long supported local veterans and “will definitely be missed.”

Police officers turned out in force recently to bid farewell to long-time dispatcher Deborah Lindsay for her many years of dedicated service to the department and the Carteret community.

“Both Sgt. Platt and Dispatcher Lindsay brought experience, knowledge and consistency to the Carteret Police Department,” Mayor Daniel J. Reiman said. “I agree that they will be sorely missed, but the Carteret Police Department will carry on and continue to do the exceptional job it has done throughout my administration.”

The Municipal Marina
at CARTERET WATERFRONT PARK

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.

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& the Borough Council**



invite you to join with friends, family, and neighbors at the
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Friday, September 11th, 2026
6:30 p.m.

Honoring those who perished in
New York ★ Washington D.C. ★ Pennsylvania

& remembering Carteret's own

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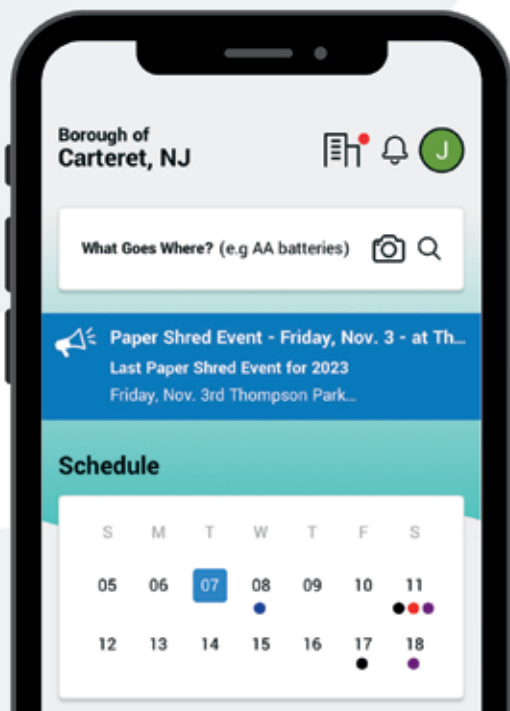
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Carteret Ethnic Day Turns 50 on 9/19, Music Legend CeeLo Green Headlines

The Carteret Music Festival, Annual Charity Carnival, and Car Show return Sept. 16 to 20 to Carteret Park. Highlights will include live jazz on Sept. 16, DJ-driven electronic dance music on Sept. 17, Freestyle Night on Sept. 18, the 50th Annual Multi-cultural Day celebration of the most culturally diverse town in Central Jersey on Sept. 19, the 22nd Annual Charity Car Show on Sept. 20, and lots of rides, game, food, more music and other family fun throughout.

The Charity Carnival benefits The Children's Charity Trust, which Mayor Daniel J. Reiman founded in 2003 at the beginning of his first term. Mayor Reiman recognized that the Borough's younger residents often lack the finances needed to achieve their goals. The Trust Fund was created with the knowledge that these children are often high achievers with great potential who with proper financial support could continue on a path of success. The nonprofit supports education, health, athletics, veterans, art and culture, and recently distributed \$72,500 in community support this year, including scholarships for Carteret-based students from Carteret High School, Middlesex County Magnet Schools and local parochial schools.

"The Charity Carnival is a long-standing tradition here in Carteret," Mayor Reiman said. "With summer coming to an end and the children returning to school, the Carnival is a great way to mark the end of the season as a community and raise money for a great cause. The Children's Charity Trust Fund realizes the importance of helping our neighbors in their greatest times of need.

"Carteret is one of the most culturally diverse towns in New Jersey," the Mayor continued. "Ethnic Day is an opportunity for us to highlight what makes Carteret unique as a community. Carteret is the melting pot of Central Jersey. We have so many different cultures coming together to form a strong communal bond and contribute to making Carteret a great place to live. Our annual Ethnic Day reflects that diversity as does our fantastic music lineup."

This year's headliner for the 50th anniversary celebration of Ethnic Day is **CeeLo Green**, a five-time Grammy-winning singer, songwriter, producer and rapper, and a celebrated pop culture and fashion icon. CeeLo's free concert will take place at 8 p.m. on Sept. 19 followed by a special light show and fireworks display in celebration of America's 250th anniversary, Carteret's 120 years, and the 50th anniversary of Ethnic Day as a multicultural food festival. Past headliners have included Shaggy, Spin Doctors, C&C Music Factory, Smash Mouth, Sister Hazel, Taylor Hicks, Gin Blossoms and Carteret's own New Jersey Hall of Famers The Smithereens.

Ethnic Day also will include food, art, craft vendors and cultural performances beginning at noon.



On Sept. 19, five-time Grammy-winner CeeLo Green will be the headliner for the 50th Annual Carteret Ethnic Day, Central Jersey's most culturally diverse municipality's multi-cultural fest, which is sandwiched by the Mayor's Charity Carnival & Music Festival and Charity Car Show.

Freestyle Night, which will take place from 6 to 11 p.m. on Sept. 18, will include performances by:

- **TKA**, the popular '80s & '90s trio from New York City and Miami who just dropped a new EP, "Give Your Love to Me"
- **Soave**, the Jersey City native who had a huge hit in 1989 with "Crying Over You"
- **Lisette Melendez**, the Spanish Harlem singer who had a Top 40 hit with "Together Forever" in 1991 and has a new single, "Recalibrate"
- **Joel Mae**, lead singer of the Bronx freestyle group CBank, who had the 1997 hit "I Won't Stop Loving You" and recently released a remix EP.

The freestyle performances will be presented for free by Brooklyn freestyle legends Dom G & Dream Girl Cynthia, the folks behind the annual Dream Girl Cynthia Freestyle Cruise.

All four days of the festival are free to attend, but there is a cost for food, beverages, and tickets to rides and games. Unlimited Ride Wristbands are \$37 per rider on Sept. 16 and 17.

Festival/carnival hours are 6-10 p.m. Sept. 16 and 17, 6-11 p.m. Sept. 18, and 3-11:30 p.m. Sept. 19.

Attendance to the 22nd Annual Charity Car Show is free to the public. Only cars entering the competition pay the \$10 entry fee, which also will benefit The Children's Charity Trust. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., participants will vie for trophies, including the grand Mayor's Trophy.

Events sponsorship and naming opportunities are available at 732-541-3807.

MAYOR DAN REIMAN'S CHARITY CARNIVAL

SEPTEMBER 16TH & 17TH

6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

WEDNESDAY JAZZ NIGHT
THURSDAY LIVE DJ EDM NIGHT

Brasserie Night!

SEPTEMBER 18TH

6:00 PM to 11:00 PM

FREESTYLE NIGHT

SEPTEMBER 19TH

3:00 PM to 11:30 PM

50TH ANNUAL ETHNIC DAY - 12PM
CEELO GREEN PERFORMS - 8PM*
SPECIAL LIGHT SHOW - 9:15PM*
FIREWORKS - 9:30 PM*

*Time subject to change per permitting conditions.

Carnival age and height restrictions may apply. Unlimited Ride Wristbands \$37 per rider. Valid for the date of purchase only. Non-refundable.

FREESTYLE NIGHT

TKA



SEPTEMBER 18th
CARTERET PARK
FREE SHOW

Performances by:
Soave,
Lisette Melendez,
CBank,
TKA

presented by Dom G &
Dream Girl Cynthia



MAYOR'S CHARITY FUND 22ND ANNUAL CAR SHOW

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9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

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Carteret Ferry Service to benefit

As Ferry Terminal's final beam is installed, signed and celebrated, Borough will



The Federal Transit Administration recently awarded a \$9.6 million grant to NJ Transit to partner with Carteret on a service. Just days later, the Reiman Administration celebrated the installation of the final beam for the \$50 million project by Mayor Daniel J. Reiman, far left; Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, third photo from left; Borough Council members and several other dignitaries, municipal employees, and project team members. Also pictured is the ferry terminal under construction by the end of 2027 and opened soon after. The electric ferry boat is expected to begin operating in 2030, two years after the terminal opens.

Mayor Daniel J. Reiman recently announced that the Federal Transit Administration has awarded NJ Transit with a \$9.6 million Ferry Grant to build an electric and low-emitting ferry boat for Carteret's forthcoming ferry service.

The FTA's ferry grant programs help to fund new ferries, as well as modernize terminal infrastructure and launch new ferry routes in order to connect American families to their jobs and communities.

"This \$9.6 million federal award represents another major milestone for the Carteret Ferry Service Expansion Project and the continued redevelopment of Carteret's waterfront," Mayor Reiman said. "I'd like to thank U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy and our partners at FTA Region 2 for their continued commitment to this transformative project."

"Grant funding of this magnitude would not be possible without strong congressional support for public transportation," the Mayor continued. "We gratefully acknowledge New Jersey's congressional delegation, led by New Jersey's senior U.S. Senator, Cory Booker, and U.S. Sen. Andy Kim, as well as Congressman Frank Pallone, dean of the state's Congressional delegation as its most senior members. Sen. Booker has been a leading voice in advocating for public transportation, renewable energy and the revitalization of urban communities throughout New Jersey."

The award will help the Borough establish a modern, reliable and environmentally responsible ferry service that expands access to employment opportunities, reduces roadway congestion and emissions and strengthens connections between

Central Jersey and New York City, Mayor Reiman said.

U.S. Sen. Cory Booker described the grant as a "win for New Jersey."

Sen. Booker said, "I'm proud to have helped advance and secure investments like this through the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and I'll never stop fighting to bring home every federal dollar possible to shore up the transportation infrastructure New Jerseyans depend on."

Congressman Pallone added, "People in Central Jersey should not have to spend hours of their lives sitting in traffic just to get to and from work. We need to give commuters more reliable ways to get where they need to go, and that means actually investing in public transportation. For years, I've fought for federal funding to make the Carteret ferry a reality because projects like this make a real difference in people's lives. This \$9.6 million investment helps to put another vessel on the water and takes cars off our overcrowded roads. That is exactly what federal infrastructure dollars should be doing."

Typical procurement and construction of a new ferry boat will have a delivery time frame of 2030, the Mayor said.

The terminal is expected to open by early 2028 or sooner, but ferry service may be provided earlier through a smartphone app on a kiosk on the dock of the ferry slips, he said.

"The latest award represents another major investment in making the Carteret Ferry a reality," Mayor Reiman said. "With our new Multimodal Ferry Terminal already under construction, this funding will help us build a modern, reliable ferry service that offers commuters another

Fit from \$9.6M FTA Ferry Grant

Partner with NJ Transit on 3rd ferry boat, which will be electric & low-emitting



an electric boat for the Borough's forthcoming ferry
Carteret Intermodal Ferry Terminal. The beam was signed
members, County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios,
r construction. The terminal is expected to be completed
ter Carteret's ferry service will commence.

option, reduces congestion on our roadways,
and strengthens Carteret's connection to the New
York Metropolitan region."

The grant for what will be the Borough's third ferry
boat was among 23 projects in 14 states that totaled
\$665 million in federal funds.

The Borough has two other ferry boats, one of which,
the Theodore Roosevelt, is in Carteret Municipal
Marina, while the other is under construction in New
Orleans. The Borough has received an additional
\$8 million in grants for its ferry boats, including
a \$6 million FTA grant also administered by NJ
Transit and a \$1 million grant from the New Jersey
Transportation Trust Fund.

To pay for the overall ferry project, the Reiman
Administration has secured more than \$100 million
in federal and state grants.

In late October, a construction contract of
\$47,502,761 was awarded to Brockwell and Carrington
Contractors of Towaco, NJ, to construct the four-
story, 52,000-square-foot Carteret Multimodal Ferry
Terminal. The facility is designed to be a destination
onto itself with retail, restaurants and recreational
space.

Planned since the inception of the Reiman
Administration, the terminal is expected to be an
18- to 24-month construction project. Completion is
expected by December 2027. Each floor will be
approximately 13,000 square feet, according to
architect Tom Potter of Potter Architects in Union.

Final beam celebrated

The grant announcement came the same week the
Borough celebrated the installation of the final beam
of the ferry terminal.



Mayor Reiman, Assembly Speaker Craig J.
Coughlin, County Commissioner Director Ronald
G. Rios, Borough Council members, several other
dignitaries, municipal employees, and project team
members signed the beam, followed by refreshments
at the Borough's new Pier Pavilion on Veteran's Pier.

"We're near halfway through construction," Mayor
Reiman said. "By the end of this year, the entire
exterior of the building will be completed, and the
project then will start construction on the interior fit
out. We're still a year away from the grand opening.

"This is a project that we undertook starting 24
years ago," the Mayor continued. "Twenty-four
years to fight through the bureaucracy of the Army
Corps of Engineers, the Coast Guard, the FTA, the
USDOT, the alphabet soup of acronyms that make up
the federal, state and regional agencies. But working
together with legislature, mostly the Speaker and the
Congressional delegation – Congressman Frank
Pallone and senators Booker and Kim – we've raised
over \$100 million in federal and state grants. But we
wouldn't be here today without the help of Speaker
Coughlin."

The Speaker added, "This is a really special day for
Carteret and a really special day for all of us who have
watched this over the course of 24 years. There's been
an enormous amount of investment – \$35 million
from the state alone. But what really is at the essence
of this is vision, determination and the relentlessness
that makes sure something gets done. We owe a big
round of applause to the Mayor and Council, who for
decades has taken on everyone – the Coast Guard,
the harbor pilots, the Army Corps of Engineers.
Every roadblock that was put in the way of getting this

continued from page 25

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Columbus Elementary School opens Early Childhood Center for preschoolers



Rosa Diaz and School Board President Martin Murray cut the ribbon of Columbus School's new Early Childhood Center, which will accommodate 120 preschoolers. Pictured with them from left to right are Borough Financial Coordinator Sukhpal Saini, Councilmen Vincent Bellino and Randy Krum, Mayor Daniel J. Reiman, School Board Members Elham Hussain, Dennis Cherepski, Claire Panazzolo, Kyle Hansen, and Jean-nie Bellino, School Vice President James Hart, Assistant Superintendent Melissa Jones, Early Childhood Director Michelle Jonte, Vice Principal Mike Gurriere, Principal Mayling Cardenas, Kurt Vierheilg of DMR Architects, and Hector Berrios, the district's interim business administrator.

Just before the new school year started, Mayor Daniel J. Reiman and Borough Council members joined School Superintendent Rosa Diaz and Borough school officials to celebrate the ribbon cutting of the new Columbus Early Childhood Center.

The school addition was created especially for the Borough's youngest learners: 3- and 4-year-old preschool students.

"The exciting milestone would not have been possible without the support and collaboration of many," Superintendent Diaz said. "We are grateful for the continued support of Mayor Daniel Reiman and the Carteret Borough Council, whose partnership and commitment to our schools have helped make projects like this possible. We also extend our appreciation to DMR Architects, EPIC, and M&M Construction for their partnership in bringing our vision for this facility to life. Every detail of the Columbus Early Childhood Center was designed with our youngest learners in mind, creating a welcoming and engaging environment where children can learn, explore, grow, and thrive."

Mayor Reiman added, "In keeping with the school motto Ramblers Rise, the Early Childhood Center at Columbus School is one of many examples of how the Carteret Public Schools is rising to the next level of educational excellence. We wish the school district, Columbus School and its new Early Childhood Center all the best."

According to the school district, the total cost to launch the program was \$10.6 million. A \$5.85 million grant from the state Department of Education covered a significant portion of the expenses.

The addition significantly will enhance the district's ability to accommodate preschool education, benefiting families across the Carteret community, Superintendent Diaz said.

"A high-quality preschool program is not just about what children learn – it's also about where they learn," the Superintendent said. "The right infrastructure, including modern classrooms and spaces for physical development, creates an environment where children can thrive. These early years are critical for building essential skills in language, literacy and social-emotional growth. By investing in both our programs and our facilities, we're ensuring that every child in Carteret, regardless of their background, has the strong foundation they need for lifelong success."

The new addition includes eight classrooms, a large gross motor skills room, nine bathrooms and two office spaces, creating a dedicated space for up to 120 preschool students. The inclusion of a gross motor skills room highlights the district's commitment to a holistic approach to early childhood development, recognizing that physical activity is a vital part of the learning process for young.

The expansion not only will increase the capacity of the district's existing preschool programs but also will help support the growing needs of Carteret's special education population, Superintendent Diaz said.

Carteret offers 16 preschool classrooms across three elementary schools – Columbus, Nathan Hale and Private Nicholas Minue – serving a total of 240 students. The expansion allows for the redistribution of current students to better meet community needs while increasing accessibility for families in the district, according to the school district.



MULTI-SECTOR CAREER FAIR

Connecting Talent with Opportunity

Connect with Employers: Meet face-to-face with employers from a variety of industries who have open positions and are ready to hire.

Connect with Resources: this event will feature community partners and resource providers offering career readiness support, training programs, and other resources to help you on your career journey.

Whether you're searching for your next job, exploring a new career path, or looking for support services, we encourage all to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to connect with employers and resources in one convenient location.

September 17, 2026

10 am – 1 pm

**Middlesex College
West Hall, Parkview Room**

2600 Woodbridge Avenue, Edison
Parking - Lot 1



**JOB SEEKER
REGISTRATION**

Business Spotlight: Apples Mexican Italian Restaurant & Bar



Apples is a Mexican-Italian restaurant within Hotel Executive Suites in West Carteret. Owner Ivan Alvarez has 12 years of experience working in Italian restaurants and 16 years of experience owning Mexican restaurants.

Ivan Alvarez has been working in the food industry since he was 17 years old in 1998. After working mainly at Italian restaurants, he opened his own Mexican eatery, Grill Creations in 2010 in Garwood, followed in 2018 by Mexico Grill in Watchung.

With nearly 30 years' experience in both Italian and Mexican restaurants, Alvarez decided to fuse the passionate cuisines with his latest venture, Apples within the Hotel Executive Suites in West Carteret.

"Because I have many years of experience cooking and working with both Italian and Mexican cuisine, when the opportunity came to open Apples, I decided to bring both sides of my experience together," he said. "Rather than limiting ourselves to one type of food, we wanted our customers to be able to enjoy both Mexican and Italian favorites in one place."

"I love food," Alvarez continued. "I love traveling around New Jersey, and I was looking for another location when Carteret caught my attention. I started reading more about the Borough, and I already knew a little about the area. I realized that Carteret is a beautiful, up-and-coming community with a lot of potential."

Apples has two signature dishes: one Italian, one Mexican. The Mexican signature dish is Baked Chimichanga, which distinguishes the restaurant as it sits on the menu surrounded by such South of the Border favorites as tacos, quesadillas, nachos and burritos.

The Italian dish is Spaghetti all'Amatriciana, a traditional Roman pasta meal made with a savory tomato sauce, crispy cured pork cheek, and pecorino cheese.

"Our menu also has plenty of other options, including sandwiches, burgers, wings, along with seafood and steaks, so there is something for everyone," Alvarez said.

Apples' signature drinks are flavored margaritas that complement both the Mexican and Italian dishes, Alvarez said.

Being located within a hotel provides the restaurant a unique opportunity to serve two groups of customers: travelers staying at Hotel Executive Suites and people who live or work in Carteret and the surrounding communities, Alvarez said.

"I felt it was a great fit," he said. "The hotel is very nice and clean, and the owner has updated the rooms with a modern look, while keeping the hotel affordable. It creates a welcoming experience for visitors, and we wanted the restaurant to add to that experience while also becoming a place for the local Carteret community."

"But we wanted Apples to be more than simply a hotel restaurant," Alvarez continued. "Our goal is for it to be a local restaurant and bar where anyone can come in, enjoy good food and drinks, and feel welcome, whether they are staying at the hotel or not. Apples is open to everyone, not only guests staying at the hotel. We want to become part of the Carteret community and give people a place where they can enjoy Mexican and Italian food, drinks and a welcoming atmosphere. We are grateful for the opportunity to be in Carteret and look forward to continuing to grow with the community."

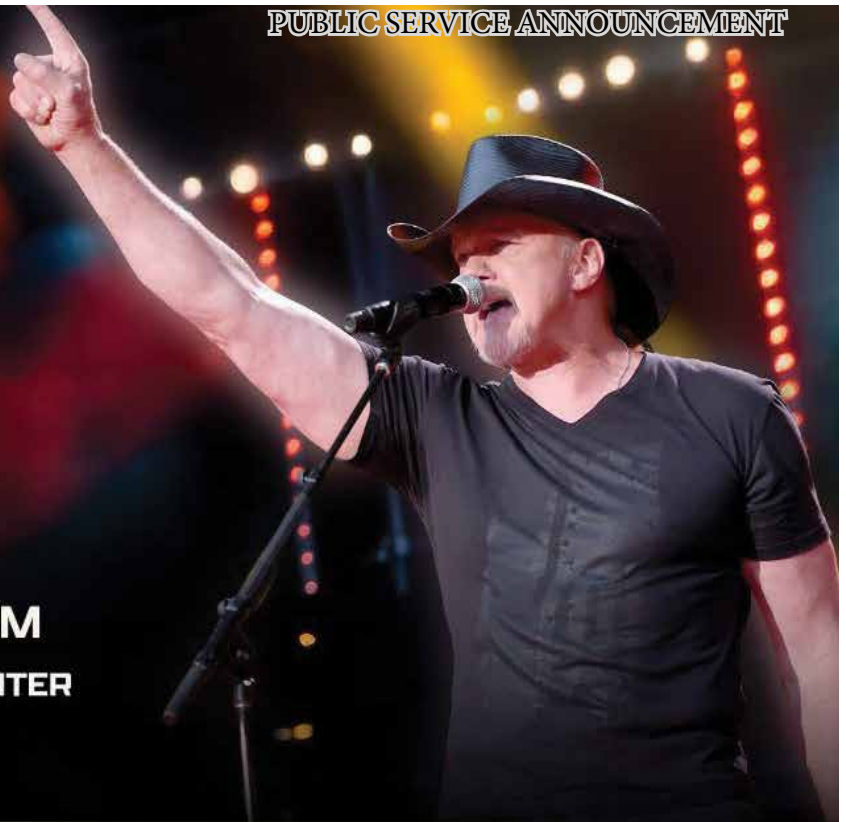
Apples offers 15 percent off an entire check for dine-in or takeout, giving customers a chance to enjoy a variety of menu items at a great value, Alvarez said.

Dine at Apples at 30 Minue St. For more info, call 732-366-2121 or click applesrestaurantbar.com/. 21

TRACE

30th

ANNIVERSARY TOUR



SEPTEMBER 18, 2026 AT 8PM

URSB CARTERET PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

WWW.CARTERETPAC.COM

Upcoming Performances and Events



September 12
Magic Men



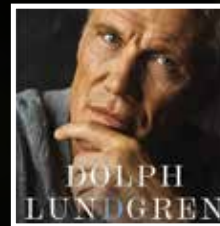
September 18
Trace Adkins
30th
Anniversary
Tour



September 20
Laurie Berkner
Children's Show



September 23
Allied Beverage
Group 2026
Wine Expo
Industry Only



September 24
Dolph Lundgren
In Conversation



September 25
Free Event:
Middlesex
County Jazz
Festival



September 26
An Evening with
Emerson, Lake &
Palmer



October 1
Lonestar



October 3
W.A.S.P. with
KK's Priest



October 10
Dueling Pianos
The
Underground



October 11
Crossing Over
with Psychic
Medium
John Edward



October 16
A Bronx Tale
starring
Chaz Palminteri



CARTERET
PERFORMING ARTS
& EVENTS CENTER

FOR TICKETS, INFO 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



SCAN FOR DINING OPTIONS:



Pre-show buffet dining on
site in addition to diverse
restaurants nearby!

CPAC Spotlight: Laurie Berkner

It's a banner year for the "Queen of Kids' Music," Laurie Berkner! Hot on the heels of releasing her 18th album, "Walking With The Penguins," Laurie is back with a treasure trove of even more original songs that encourage imagination, movement, and singing along. Laurie's new EP, "I Got Invited." The trifecta of 2026 album releases started in March with "Cinco Canciones En Español," an EP of Spanish language versions of some of Berkner's most popular songs.

What sets her apart: an instinctive understanding of children's natural rhythms and energy that keeps kids enraptured and brings parents and caregivers happily along for the ride. Raised in Princeton, Berkner's continual touring will bring her Sept. 20 to URSB Carteret Performing Arts Center in her home state of New Jersey. Tickets are \$43.50, \$108.50 for VIP, which includes a meet-and-greet and photo op, at . Enjoy the following interview!

You are playing your second concert in as many years at URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center on Sept. 20. What do you like most about that venue and why?

I love that it's a beautiful and relatively new space that is comfortable for my fans and for me backstage! It also seems to have become a real community gathering space for local families.

Will Carteret become an annual appearance?

That's mostly up to them! But I would absolutely love to keep playing there.

What do you enjoy most about writing, recording and performing for children?

I love how inspired I am by what interests kids, which is part of what makes it so fun to write and record songs for them. I also love performing music for children because they are so open and ready to sing, move, and enjoy themselves at a concert. It's also an incredible honor to often be the first concert that a child ever attends!

Your 18th and latest album, 'Walking with the Penguins,' is your first new studio album in five years, which is an entire generation of music listeners. Why did it take so long to release the album?

Mostly because I was doing lots of other projects in the meantime! Among other things, I released a second Christmas album, an album of Halloween songs, a Greatest Hits album, a second season of my Audible Original series, 'Laurie Berkner's Song and Story Kitchen,' re-released my first three albums on vinyl, released an EP of my songs in Spanish, and made multiple YouTube videos and hour-long specials. Whew!

Why did you want to release an EP in Spanish?

I have so many fans who speak both Spanish and English at home. I wanted to have some songs that were in Spanish for them, for families who live in Spanish-speaking countries, and for families where the kids -- and even adults! -- are learning to speak Spanish.



The Queen of Kids' Music, Laurie Berkner, will perform Sept. 20 at URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center. PHOTO BY JAYME THORNTON

Did you already know how to speak or sing in Spanish or did you have to learn?

I don't know how to speak Spanish! Someone helped me translate the songs, and then I learned how to sing those specific words. The translator coached me and also came into the studio to make sure I was pronouncing everything correctly. It was a really fun challenge!

Besides touring, what projects are you working on, when will they be available and how?

I have a new EP titled 'I Got Invited.' This group of songs was so much fun to write, and they came to me while I imagined the magical land of Juniper Fields, where Harry the Chipmunk was going on a treasure hunt. While these new songs helped bring that world to life, they also very much stand alone as a compilation of fun, interactive, and sometimes touching songs that the whole family can sing along to. I can't wait for my fans to hear it!

The magical land of Juniper Fields was the setting for two 'Laurie Berkner's Song and Story Kitchen' series that I created for Audible studios. Looking ahead to 2027, I plan to produce an entire album of music and stories set in Juniper Fields.

TICKETS AVAILABLE!
carteretpac.com/events/laurie-berkner-solo-show/



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.

SEPTEMBER

9 Jones Martial Arts, 5 pm, Carteret Public Library (also Sept. 16, 23 & 30)

12 Magic Men Australia: Feel the Magic feat. Will Parfitt, 8 pm, URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

14 Carteret Seniors Ice Cream Social & Bingo, 1:30 pm, Community Center

15 Toddler Sensory Play, 11 am, Carteret Public Library (also Nov. 17)

16 Flu Shot Clinic with RWJBarnabas Health Department of Community & Global Health, 9:30-11 am, Rahway Community Action Organization, 796 E. Hazelwood Ave., Rahway (advance registration recommended at 732-913-9075 or Hannah.Drill@rwjbh.org; valid photo ID required)

Mayor Dan Reiman's Charity Carnival & Music Festival, various times through Sept. 19, Carteret Park

18 Charity Carnival Freestyle Night with TKA, Soave, Lisette Melendez, Joei Mae of CBank, 6-11 pm, Carteret Park

Trace Adkins, 8 pm, URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

19 50th Annual Carteret Ethnic Day with CeeLo Green (8 pm show followed by light show & fireworks celebrating Ethnic Day's 50th anniversary and America's 250th birthday), 3-11 pm, Carteret Park

20 22nd Annual Charity Car Show, 8 am-2 pm, Carteret Park
Laurie Berkner, 3 pm, URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

21 Carteret Seniors Barbecue, 1:30 pm, Community Center

24 Dolph Lundgren in Conversation, 7 pm, URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

25 Middlesex County Jazz Festival with Lance Bryant

& Shout! Big Band/Jeff Levine, 7 pm, URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

26 An Evening with Emerson, Lake & Palmer, 8 pm, URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

28 The Granny Squares: Crochet with Seniors, 12:30-2:30 pm, Carteret Community Center (also Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 23, 30, and Dec. 14 & 28)

29 Storytime and Artistic Creative Expression for Toddlers, 11:30 am & 5:30 pm, Carteret Public Library (also Oct. 13)

CARTERET SENIOR CLUB Septembers Dates

Senior Meetings

September 14 ICE CREAM SOCIAL & BINGO



September 21 ANNUAL BARBECUE



Events are for paid members of the Carteret Senior Club only, but visitors are welcome to come and sign up to join the club.

For more info, call President Linda Marciniak at 732-453-4170.

OCTOBER

1 Lonestar, 8 pm, URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

3 W.A.S.P./KK's Priest, 8 pm, URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

10 Dueling Pianos, 8 pm, URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

11 Crossing Over with Psychic Medium John Edward, 2 pm, URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

16 "A Bronx Tale" with Chazz Palminteri, 8 pm, URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

17 Tusk, 8 pm, URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

24

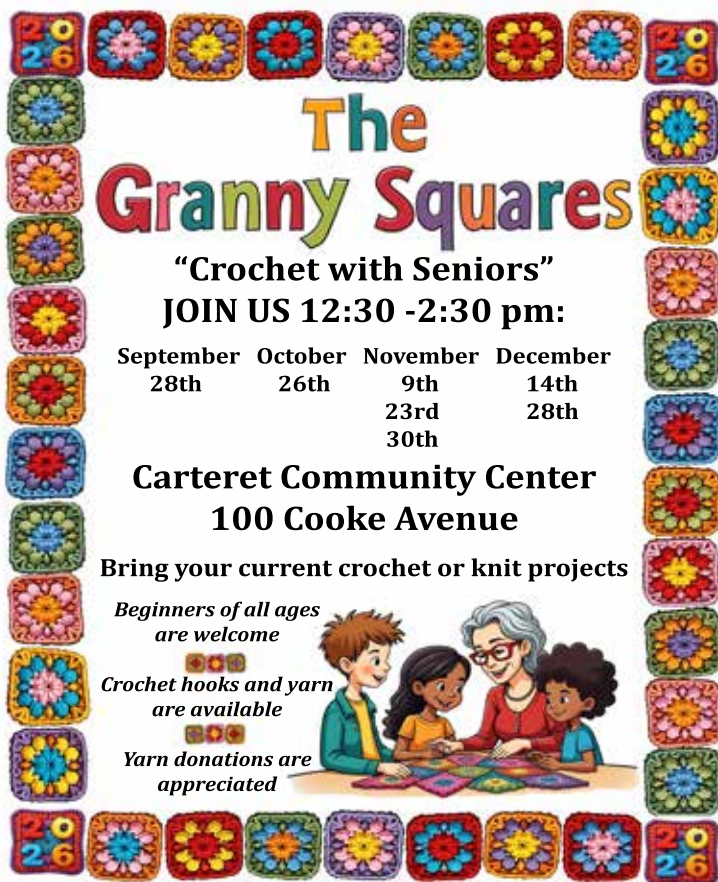
22 Here Come the Mummies, 8 pm, URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

23 Toast: The Ultimate Bread Tribute, 7:30 pm, URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

24 Townwide Park Cleanup, 10 am to noon in all adopted parks (call 732-541-3835 or email makinb@carteret.net to adopt a park)

Proud to New Jersey Funny with Steve Trevelise, Bill Spadea, Eric Potts, Jil Myra, Gemini & Fred Rubino, 8 pm, URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

31 Carteret Fall Festival, noon to 2 pm, Carteret Park



The Granny Squares

**“Crochet with Seniors”
JOIN US 12:30 -2:30 pm:**

September 28th	October 26th	November 9th 23rd 30th	December 14th 28th
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**Carteret Community Center
100 Cooke Avenue**

Bring your current crochet or knit projects

*Beginners of all ages
are welcome*

*Crochet hooks and yarn
are available*

*Yarn donations are
appreciated*



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flu Shot Clinic

Rahway Community Action Organization
796 E. Hazelwood Avenue, Rahway
Wednesday, September 16, 2026; 9:30 am to 11:30 am

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend getting a flu shot as the first and most important step in protecting yourself this cold and flu season.

Please note:

- Consent forms will be provided in advance of the clinic date and should be completed prior to arrival.
- A valid photo ID will be required for verification.

The flu shot clinic will be administered by the Department of Community & Global Health at RWJBarnabas Health.

Advanced registration is recommended.
 Please contact Hannah Drill at
 732-913-9075 or Hannah.Drill@rwjbh.org

continued from page 17

project done has been overcome, and that doesn't just happen. It happens because you have a team of people who are dedicated to getting it done. It happens because you have the voracity and the belief that you're going to accomplish something good. And it happens because you have true leadership.

"I've seen the renaissance that is Carteret," continued Coughlin, who often visited relatives here as a child. "It really is a special place. Time and time again, it gets better and better with the performing arts center, the downtown, and now here on the waterfront. You're going to have restaurants and shops and more places to go."

The groundwork for the ferry service and terminal was a 1990s study by Port Authority of New York and New Jersey that concluded that Carteret was the best location for its next regional ferry stop.

Completed work on the ferry project to date includes the installation of 130 feet of steel sheet pile bulkhead along the Arthur Kill waterfront, 19,500 cubic feet of dredging of the waterside of the bulkhead to achieve sufficient depths for the ferry slips and docking area, and the in-water terminal docks and gangplanks. Construction of a 700-space parking lot and on-site work is underway.

"There will be two to three stops in Manhattan leaving about three or four times a day and arriving back to Carteret three or four times a day," Mayor Reiman said. "Three or four times in the morning and three or four times in the evening. That's the initial projection. We'll increase that as ridership demands."

The intermodal aspect of the Ferry Terminal will allow NJ TRANSIT buses, municipal jitneys, and NJ Rideshare to drop passengers off. The jitney will pick up passengers throughout the Borough, as well as at Rahway and Woodbridge train stations.

Other benefits of the ferry include:

- Providing redundant transportation service in instances of an emergency or a catastrophic event
- Providing an affordable, accessible, and dynamic transportation system responsive to current and future customers
- Protection and improvement of the quality 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.

The Carteret Multimodal Ferry Terminal Building is part of Mayor Reiman's vision to turn Carteret's once inaccessible, completely industrial waterfront into a popular regional destination for arts and public recreation. The waterfront now includes a fishing pier, a public park, a mini golf course, a 185-slip marina, and a soon-to-open Riverwalk, Pier Pavilion and mobile kitchen.

The seven-acre site of the ferry terminal is on a former Dupont property, the balance of which the Borough will obtain to develop a \$1.5 billion movie studio and hotel, as well as a helicopter pad and much more.



MIDDLESEX
COUNTY

SEPT 24 - 28, 2025

FREE

middlesexcountyjazzfestival.org

FESTIVAL

**WOODBIDGE** Parker Press Park, 400 Rahway Ave**Wed, Sept 24 | 7:00-9:30pm**

Elizabeth Bougerol (of the Hot Sardines)

Brass Queens • Woodbridge HS Jazz Choir (Director Lisa Romero)

**CARTERET** Performing Arts Center, 46 Washington Street**Fri, Sept 26 | 7:00-8:30pm**

Lezlie Harrison

**METUCHEN** Metuchen High School, 400 Grove Ave**Sat, Sept 27 | 5:30-9:45pm**

Sherrie Maricle and The DIVA Jazz Orchestra

AAPI Jazz Collective led by trombonist Peter Lin

Metuchen High School (MHS) Jazz Ensemble and MHS Orchestra

Metuchen Dance Centre plus MHS Jazz Combo Celebrate the

75th Anniversary of Peanuts Comic Strip

**NEW BRUNSWICK** 11 Livingston Ave**Sun, Sept 28 | 1:00-5:30pm**

Conrad Herwig & the Latin Side All Stars

Antoinette Montague • Mike Noordzy & Rutgers Alumni Jazz Orchestra



Grant funding has been provided by the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners through a grant award from the



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PHOTO GALLERY: National Night Out



Pictured clockwise from top left at National Night Out on Aug. 4 at Carteret Park: the cutest fire engine ever, Mayor, Council and members of the Carteret Police Department, the Office of Emergency Management sharing community info, Emergency Medical Services turning the next generation onto first response, family-friendly fun, and members of the Carteret Fire and Police Departments joining forces on the evening's barbecue.

The CARTERET POLICE DEPARTMENT is seeking dedicated individuals with a passion for community service. Embrace a rewarding career that challenges you, offers growth, & allows you to make a real difference in the lives of our residents.

Minimum Qualifications

- ▶ U.S. Citizen & NJ Resident
- ▶ 18-35 Years old at Appointment.
- ▶ Valid NJ Drivers License
- ▶ Sound Moral Character & Good Physical Condition
- ▶ No Disqualifying Criminal Convictions



Salary & Benefits

- ▶ Top Salary \$134,242.78 + Overtime
- ▶ 19 Holidays/Paid Sick Leave & Vacation
- ▶ Pension (PFRS) 30 years for Full Pension
- ▶ Patrol Schedule 4 on 4 off (Straight 10 Hour Shifts)
- ▶ Extra Duty Jobs: \$85/Hr. \$127.50 after 8 Hrs. & Emergency Work
- ▶ Specialized Units



Now Hiring SLEO I, SLEO II (Waivers Accepted), SLEO III, Full-time Officers & Lateral transfers

For more information contact:

DSG Luis Maldonado at (732) 561-3868

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS



NOW HIRING!

Certified Emergency Medical Technicians
Full-Time & Per Diem



Full Time Benefits
NJ PERS Pension
Yearly Contractual Raises
In-House Training
Comp-Time for outside Training

Contact: Chief Eric Wahl - wahle@carteret.net



NEW NJ E-BIKE LAWS

NOW IN EFFECT



WHAT IS REQUIRED?

- ✓ **Valid License:** Age 17+ (Driver's License) or Age 15-16 (Motorized Bicycle License).
- ✓ **State Registration:** All e-bikes must be registered with the NJ MVC.
- ✓ **Insurance:** Liability insurance coverage is now required.

Note: License and registration fees are waived for the first first year.

IMPORTANT RESTRICTIONS:

- ✓ **Age Limit:** Children under 15 are prohibited from operating e-bikes.
- ✓ **Speed & Power:** The new law applies to all e-bike classes (Pedal-assist, Throttle, and High-powered).
- ✓ **Sales & Mods:** Online e-bike sales are **banned statewide** for one year. Modification kits to increase bike speed are now **illegal**.

BE PREPARED FOR A HURRICANE

Threats from hurricanes include powerful winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents, tornadoes, and landslides.



Hurricanes are massive storm systems that form over warm ocean waters and move toward land. The Atlantic hurricane season runs June 1 to November 30. The Pacific hurricane season runs May 15 to November 30.



Can happen along any U.S. coast or territory in the Atlantic or Pacific



Can affect areas more than 100 miles inland



Most active in September

IF YOU ARE UNDER A HURRICANE WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY



Determine your best protection for high winds and flooding.



Evacuate if told to do so.



Take shelter in a designated storm shelter or an interior room for high winds.



Listen for emergency information and alerts.



Only use generators outdoors and away from windows.



Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.



Prepare Your Pets for Disasters

Your pets are important member of your family! This is why they should be included in your family's emergency plan.

To prepare for the unexpected, keep your pets in mind as you follow these tips:

1. Make a plan.
2. Build an emergency kit.
3. Stay informed.

Make a Plan

If you have a plan in place for you and your pets, you will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry when you need to make a decision during an emergency.

THINGS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PLAN:

- Know what to do with your pet during an evacuation. Many public shelters and hotels do not allow pets inside. Know a safe place where you can take your pets before disasters and emergencies happen.
- Develop a buddy system. Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.
- Have copies of your pet's vaccination record, and make sure your pet is microchipped. Keep your address and phone number up-to-date and include an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.
- Keep contact information for your local emergency management office or animal control office and shelters on hand in case you become separated from your pet.

Build a Kit for your Pet

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival.

Review your kit regularly to ensure that their contents are fresh.

HERE ARE SOME ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN AN EMERGENCY KIT FOR YOUR PET:

- Food and Water. Keep several days' supply of both.
- Keep food in an airtight, waterproof container, and have a water bowl to use.



Ready.

HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A HURRICANE THREATENS

Prepare NOW

Survive DURING

Be Safe AFTER

Know your area's risk from hurricanes.

Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

If you are at risk for flash flooding, watch for signs such as heavy rain.

Practice going to a safe shelter for high winds, such as a FEMA safe room or ICC 500 storm shelter. The next best protection is a small, interior, windowless room in a sturdy building on the lowest level that is not subject to flooding.

Based on your location and community plans, make your own plans for evacuation or sheltering in place.

Become familiar with your evacuation zone, the evacuation route, and shelter locations.

Gather needed supplies for at least three days. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets.

Keep important documents in a safe place or create password-protected digital copies.

Protect your property. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves in plumbing to prevent backflow. Consider hurricane shutters. Review insurance policies.

If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Do not drive around barricades.

If sheltering during high winds, go to a FEMA safe room, ICC 500 storm shelter, or a small, interior, windowless room or hallway on the lowest floor.

If trapped in a building by flooding, go to the highest level of the building. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising flood water.

Listen for current emergency information and instructions.

Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery ONLY outdoors and away from windows.

Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Turn Around, Don't Drown! Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.

Listen to authorities for information and special instructions.

Be careful during clean-up. Wear protective clothing and work with someone else.

Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off electricity at the main breaker or fuse box to prevent electric shock.

Avoid wading in flood water, which can contain dangerous debris. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.

Save phone calls for emergencies. Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messages or social media to communicate with family and friends.

Document any property damage with photographs. Contact your insurance company for assistance.

Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to ready.gov and search for hurricanes. Download the FEMA app to get more information about preparing for a hurricane.



- Medicine. Keep an extra supply of the medicine your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.
- First aid kit. Include items appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs.
- Backup collar with ID tag and a harness or leash. Have copies of your pet's registration information in a waterproof container and available electronically.
- Traveling bag, crate or sturdy carrier for each pet.
- Grooming items. Pet shampoo and other items, in case your pet needs some cleaning up.
- A picture of you and your pet together. If you become separated from your pet, a picture will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet.
- Sanitation needs. Include pet litter and litter box, trash bags and other items to provide for your pet's sanitation needs.
- Familiar items. Put favorite toys, treats or bedding in your kit to reduce stress for your pets.

Stay Informed

Stay informed of current conditions and know how you will receive emergency alerts and warnings.

Download the FEMA app to get weather alerts for up to five different locations anywhere in the United States.

Always bring your pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm. For more information about how to prepare your pets, visit Ready.gov/pets.

Ready.





YOUR HOME. YOUR EQUITY. YOUR NEXT MOVE.

Put your home's equity to work with a URSB Home Equity Line of Credit. A HELOC can help you make the most of the equity you've built in your home. Ready to explore your options? Visit [URSB.bank](https://www.ursb.bank) or stop by your local branch today.



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The Carteret Business Partnership, Inc.
Office of Mayor Daniel J. Reiman
Memorial Municipal Building
61 Cooke Avenue
Carteret, New Jersey 07008

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