ANOINTED NEWS JOURNAL

The Nation's Premier Bi-Weekly Faith-Based and Professional Publication For Winners

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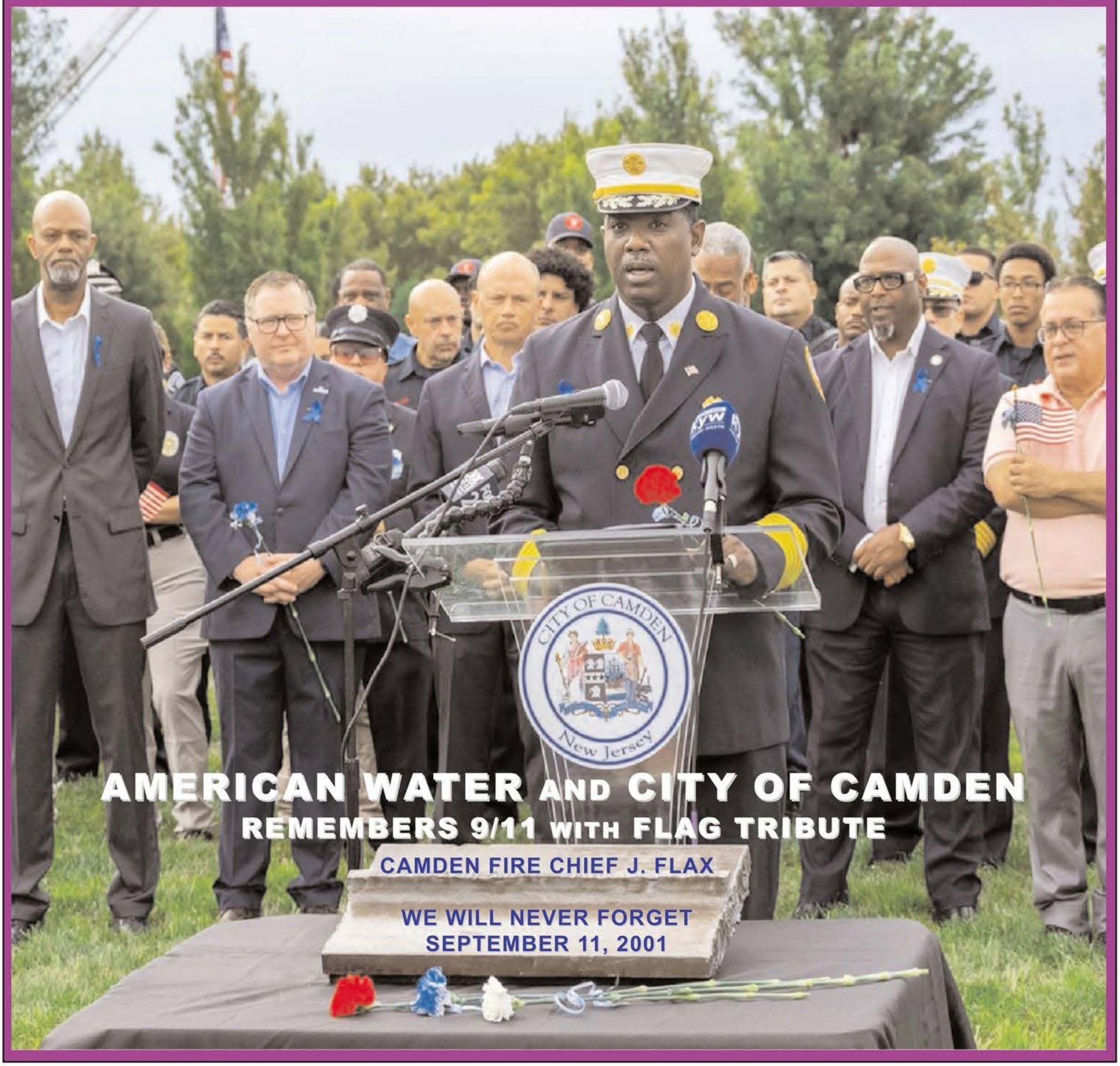

AMERICAN WATER AND CITY OF CAMDEN REMEMBERS 9/11 WITH FLAG TRIBUTE

CAMDEN FIRE CHIEF J. FLAX

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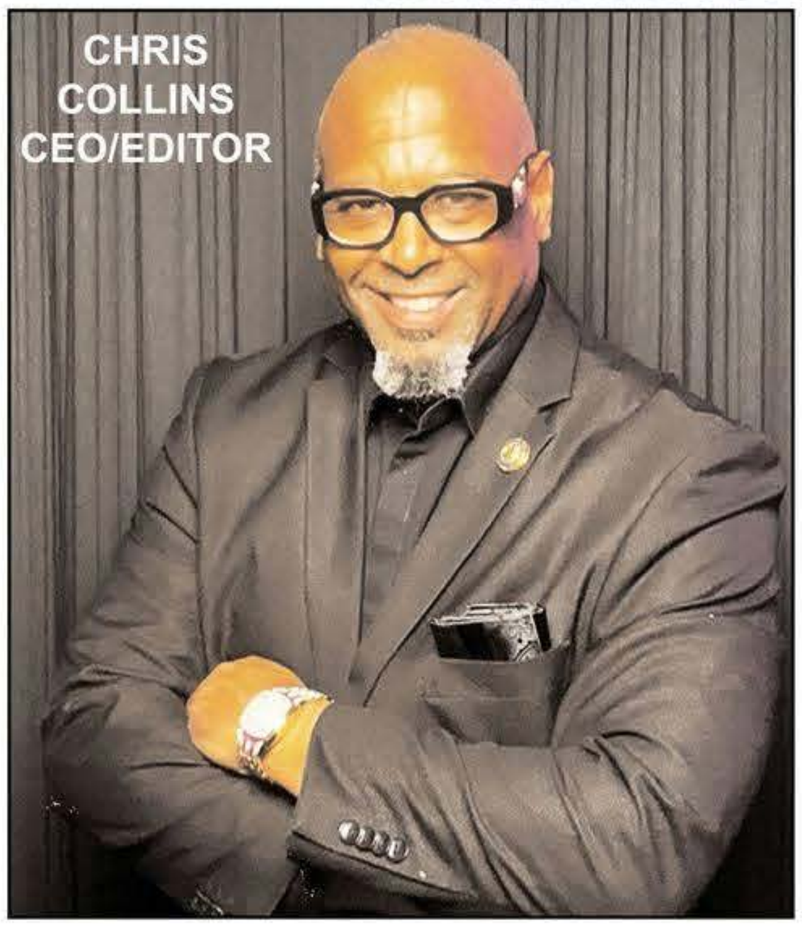

A Word from the Editor

Celebrating 32 years of providing quality news to our readers

Dear Readers of the nation's premier faith-based and professional newspaper for winners, Anointed News Journal (ANJ). I am taking this time personally to thank each and every individual that has read the Anointed News Journal. I hope you have been inspired by the many positive people interest stories, and stories that have uplifted and empowered our communities.

I am also taking this time to thank our many advertisers that saw the value in utilizing ANJ to accomplish your marketing goals for your companies and/or purpose. ANJ remains the VOICE of Camden city and the SOURCE for connecting people together. If you are in business and need to advertise, we can help. Based in Camden, NJ, the Anointed News Journal has distribution locally in CAMDEN, BURLINGTON, GLOUCESTER, SALEM, CUMBERLAND, DELAWARE, NEW CASTLE, KENT, and PHILADELPHIA COUNTIES. Since 1995 ANJ has provided stories and distribution to 28 states across the country and 11 nations around the world.

Getting your message in front of more than 180,000 readers bi-weekly in print and much more via the world-wide web is a great way to reach the market you are looking for.

I am also thanking those individuals that have given resources to support our mission of publishing positive press. Your contributions are paramount and my heart continues to be filled with joy from the smallest contribution to the largest, every time I receive a contribution, I cannot hold my smile in. I am forever grateful. For those that have been reading ANJ for many years and have never given a contribution, now is a great time to do so.

ANJ is a free publication that is supported by its advertisers. We offer cost effective advertising giving advertisers the opportunity to get quality exposure at a comfortable price point. We offer RISK-FREE Advertising, which simply means if you are not satisfied, you will receive a complementary ad in an upcoming edition.

About Anointed News Journal

In May 1994 the CEO/Editor-in-Chief, Chris Collins received a vision from the Creator to write a business plan to seek funding for a grass-roots newspaper. For eight months and through Divine intervention, the business plan was rewritten for the ministry of the Anointed News Journal. The Holy Scripture given divinely to Collins was Habakkuk 2:2 (Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry). As a result, and with prayer and seeking God's direction, the name "Anointed" was given. Knowing that English was not his favorite subject while attending school, and that his career goal had nothing to do with journalism, Collins completely trusted in the Creator while developing this business.

The name "Anointed" comes from the hands that God has anointed to master this work and profession. Collins left a career in law enforcement to pursue the vision he received from the Creator.

Using his hands cutting and pasting stories and artwork is how it all began. Typing, proofreading, and making sure things were camera-ready before the layout was the process before technology was included.

Today, 32 years later, ANJ is recognized as a leader in the newspaper industry. ANJ was awarded Best100 Small Businesses consecutively since 2017. In 2021 Chris Collins was recognized by CIO Magazine as a Top 50 Innovators of the Year.

Although it may seem as if newspapers are becoming obsolete, ANJ continues to thrive. As the daily press struggles due to increase rates that have simply priced them out of the market. Weekly newspapers continue to make their mark serving the community and its advertisers. Although many have embraced the digital divide, people still want their physical newspapers. Because of the types of "Peoples Interest Stories" found in ANJ, most readers save their copies for years. Although mainstream media focus on negative press, ANJ has built its legacy on positive stories. "We have written a lot of stories in the past 32 years, and in 32 years we still have not run out of great stories to write about the great people of Camden and surrounding areas," said Collins. "As we look at the rise of Camden, NJ and the great positive image it has today, I believe we helped to increase that image by sharing the positive stories Camden has to offer, and we've been doing that for 32 years now," said Collins.

My Ask!

This is what I am asking from you today. I am asking every reader of ANJ, those of you who believe in positive press and grass-roots press to make a financial contribution to support our mission. Many have been reading ANJ for 32 years and have never made a contribution but would like to. Now is the perfect time as we have entered into our 32nd season. For those who are unable to financially contribute, we are thankful for your continued prayers.

The Holy Scriptures in Matthew 7:7-8 (KJV) states, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Luke 6:38 (KJV) states, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

I'm believing in the POWER of God. I'm believing in the POWER of God's People coming together. Yes, I'm believing in YOU.

1 John 5:14-15 (KJV) states, "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He heareth us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."

Please make all contributions payable to: Anointed News Journal, P.O. Box 309, Camden, NJ 08101. You can also visit: www.anointedonline.net click on Donation button. You can also Cash App to $ANJEDITOR.

May God continue to bless you! May God continue to bless this world! May god continue to bless ANJ!

Yours truly,
Chris Collins, CEO/Editor-in-Chief

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Call to Salvation

Have you received your salvation? If not just say, "Father, forgive me of my sins. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins and that He arose again from the grave." If you believe this prayer, you are now saved by God's grace. I encourage you to get into a Bible teaching church to learn more about our wonderful Savior Jesus Christ.

Note: Opinions by columnists do not reflect those of the editor or staff. Feel free to respond.

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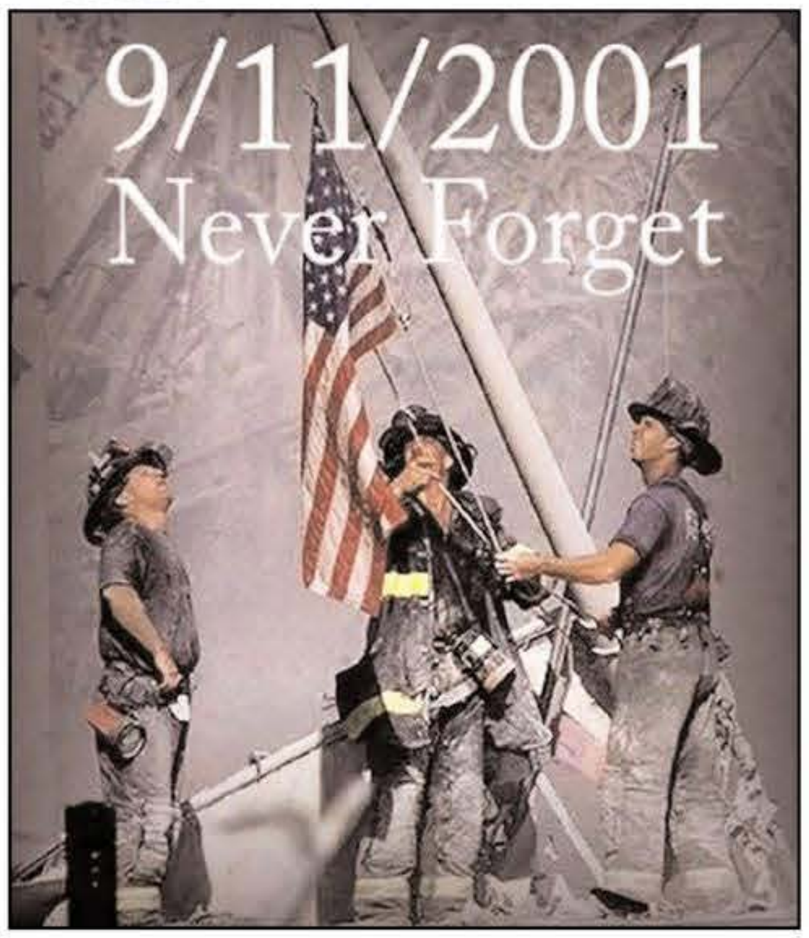

American Water and City of Camden Remembers 9/11 with Flag Tribute

CAMDEN, NJ - On September 11, 2026, American Water (NYSE: AWK) and the City of Camden held a solemn commemoration at RCA Pier Park in Camden, NJ, marking the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks

For the sixth consecutive year, American Water and the City of Camden lined RCA Pier Park with 2,977 American flags, one for each life lost on 9/11. American Water and City of Camden employees, along with first responders, physically installed the flags at the park, adjacent to American Water's Camden headquarters.

American Water and City of Camden officials and first responders, including:

Victor Carstarphen, Mayor, City of Camden
Jesse Flax, Chief, City of Camden Fire Department + members from the department
Camden County Police Department
John Griffith, President and CEO, American Water
Sean Wheatley, President, American Water Military Services Group and Contract Services Group
Mark McDonough, President, New Jersey American Water
Councilman Chris Collins, 2nd Ward, City of Camden
Councilwoman Jannette Ramos, 4th Ward, City of Camden
Council President Angel Fuentes, City of Camden
Representatives from Camden County Veteran Affairs (CCVA), Battleship New Jersey, Camden Community Partners, among others

Ceremonial Program included a wreath dedication by Mayor Carstarphen and CEO John Griffith following a moment of silence. Camden Fire Department rendered a siren salute, and other commemorative activities.

The flags will be displayed for about one week before being donated to Camden County Veteran Affairs for use during Veterans Day in November and other annual commemorations

This annual event is part of American Water's ongoing community engagement and remembrance efforts, uniting employees, local government, and first responders in honoring the victims and honoring the service of those who responded.

About September 11 Attacks

On September 11, 2001, 19 terrorists from the Islamic extremist group al Qaeda—founded by Osama bin Laden—hijacked four commercial passenger airplanes and carried out coordinated suicide attacks against targets in the United States. Two of the planes were flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Within two hours, both towers had collapsed into rubble, demolishing a large section of lower Manhattan. A third plane hit the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C. The passengers and crew of the fourth plane fought back, and the hijackers crashed the plane in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Almost 3,000 people were killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, including the 19 al Qaeda terrorists. The shocking events of September 11 were televised globally and left much of the world reeling in horror. The administration of President George W. Bush responded by declaring a "war on terror" and launching the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan. The attacks also led to a sweeping reorganization of the federal government, including the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.

World Trade Center

On September 11, 2001, at 8:46 a.m. on a clear Tuesday morning, American Airlines Flight 11, a Boeing 767 carrying thousands of gallons of jet fuel, crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City.

The impact left a gaping, burning hole between the 93rd and 99th floors of the 110-story skyscraper, instantly killing hundreds of people and trapping hundreds more on higher floors.

As the evacuation of the tower and its twin got underway, television cameras broadcast live images of what initially appeared to be a freak accident. Then, 17 minutes after the first plane hit, a second Boeing 767—United Airlines Flight 175—appeared in the sky, turned sharply toward the World Trade Center, and sliced into the South Tower between the 77th and 85th floors.

The collision caused a massive explosion that showered burning debris onto surrounding buildings and onto the streets below. It immediately became clear that the United States was under attack.

The hijackers were members of al Qaeda. Fifteen were from Saudi Arabia, two were from the United Arab Emirates, one was from Egypt and one was from Lebanon. The attacks were orchestrated by al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, who cited America's support of Israel, its involvement in the Persian Gulf War and its continued military presence in the Middle East as grievances.

Some of the hijackers had lived in the United States for more than a year and had taken flight training at American flight schools. Others had slipped into the country in the months before September 11 and acted as the "muscle" in the operation.

Where Did the 9/11 Planes Take Off From?

The 19 terrorists smuggled box-cutters and knives through security at three East Coast airports—Logan International Airport in Boston, Washington Dulles International Airport in Virginia and Newark International Airport in New Jersey—and boarded four early-morning flights bound for California, chosen because the planes were loaded with fuel for the long transcontinental journey. Soon after takeoff, the terrorists commandeered the four planes and took the controls, transforming ordinary passenger jets into weapons.

Pentagon Attack

As millions watched the events unfolding in New York, American Airlines Flight 77 circled over Washington, D.C., before crashing into the west side of the Pentagon military headquarters at 9:37 a.m.

Jet fuel from the Boeing 757 ignited a devastating inferno that led to the structural collapse of a portion of the Pentagon's giant concrete building, which is the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense.

All told, 125 military personnel and civilians were killed at the Pentagon, along with all 64 people aboard the airliner.

Twin Towers Collapse

Less than 15 minutes after the terrorists struck the nerve center of the U.S. military, the horror in New York took a catastrophic turn when the South Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed in a massive cloud of dust and smoke.

The structural steel of the skyscraper, built to withstand winds in excess of 200 mph, was severely weakened by the combined effects of the aircraft impact and resulting fires.

At 10:28 a.m., the North Tower collapsed. Only 16 people who were inside the towers at the time of the collapse survived. Most were with a group of FDNY firefighters in the North Tower's Stairwell B, which remained intact. One woman survived after the stairs she was rushing down disintegrated around her. Almost 10,000 others were treated for injuries, many severe.

Flight 93

Meanwhile, a fourth California-bound plane—United Airlines Flight 93—was hijacked about 45 minutes after leaving Newark International Airport in New Jersey. Because the plane had been delayed before takeoff, passengers and crew members learned of the attacks in New York and Washington during calls to the ground.

After learning about the earlier attacks, a group of passengers and crew members decided to fight back against the hijackers.

One of the passengers, Thomas Burnett Jr., told his wife over the phone that "I know we're all going to die. There's three of us who are going to do something about it. I love you, honey." Another passenger—Todd Beamer—was heard saying "Are you guys ready? Let's roll" over an open line.

Sandy Bradshaw, a flight attendant, called her husband and explained that she had slipped into a galley and was filling pitchers with boiling water. Her last words to him were "Everyone's running to first class. I've got to go. Bye."

The passengers and crew fought back against the four hijackers and may have tried to breach the cockpit using a fire extinguisher. As the counterattack continued, the hijackers rolled the plane onto its back and sent it into a steep dive. The plane crashed in a rural field near Shanksville in western Pennsylvania at 10:03 a.m., traveling about 563 mph.

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All 44 people aboard were killed. Evidence indicates that the hijackers were headed for Washington, D.C., most likely targeting the U.S. Capitol, although the White House has also been identified as a possible target.

How Many People Died in the 9/11 Attacks?

A total of 2,996 people were killed in the 9/11 attacks, including the 19 hijackers aboard the four airplanes. The victims included citizens of more than 90 countries.

At the World Trade Center, 2,753 people were killed in the attacks, including 343 FDNY firefighters, 23 New York City police officers and 37 Port Authority police officers who were struggling to complete an evacuation of the buildings and save the office workers trapped on higher floors.

At the Pentagon, 189 people were killed, including 64 people aboard American Airlines Flight 77, the airliner that struck the building. On Flight 93, 44 people were killed when the hijackers crashed the plane in Pennsylvania.

America Responds to the Attacks

At 7 p.m., President George W. Bush, who was in Florida at the time of the attacks and had spent the day being shuttled around the country because of security concerns, returned to the White House.

At 8:30 p.m., he delivered a televised address from the Oval Office, declaring, "Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve."

Signaling the U.S. response to come, Bush declared, "We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them."

Operation Enduring Freedom, the American-led international effort to oust the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and dismantle al Qaeda's network there, began on October 7. Within two months, U.S. and allied Afghan forces had driven the Taliban from power, but the war continued as the Taliban regrouped and launched an insurgency, with leaders and fighters operating from sanctuaries in neighboring Pakistan.

Osama bin Laden, the mastermind behind the September 11 attacks, remained at large until May 2, 2011, when he was finally tracked down and killed by U.S. forces at a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. In June 2011, President Barack Obama announced the beginning a phased withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan; the last U.S. military forces left the country on August 30, 2021.

Department of Homeland Security Is Created

In the wake of security fears raised by 9/11 and the mailing of letters containing anthrax that killed five people and sickened 17 others, the Homeland Security Act of 2002 created the Department of Homeland Security. It was signed into law by President George W. Bush on November 25, 2002. Today, the Department of Homeland Security is a Cabinet department responsible for counterterrorism, border and immigration security, cybersecurity and disaster response, among other duties.

The act was followed two days later by the formation of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States. The bipartisan "9/11 Commission," as it came to be known, was charged with investigating the events that led up to September 11. The 9/11 Commission Report was released on July 22, 2004. It named Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind behind 9/11, "the principal architect of the 9/11 attacks."

Mohammed worked with and eventually led al Qaeda's media committee while overseeing the planning of the 9/11 attacks. He was captured on March 1, 2003, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, in an operation involving Pakistani authorities and the CIA. He was subsequently held at secret CIA detention sites, where he was subjected to so-called enhanced interrogation techniques, including waterboarding. In 2006, he was transferred to the U.S. detention facility at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Mohammed and four other men were later charged before a military commission with offenses related to the 9/11 attacks.

In August 2019, a U.S. military judge at Guantánamo Bay scheduled their trial to begin in January 2021, but proceedings were delayed, in part because of the COVID-19 pandemic. After years of further legal proceedings, a military judge in August 2026 set a new trial date of June 5, 2028, for Mohammed and three co-defendants.

Economic Impact of 9/11

The 9/11 attacks had an immediate negative effect on the U.S. economy. Many Wall Street institutions, including the New York Stock Exchange, were closed in the aftermath of the attacks. On the first day of trading after the attacks, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 7.1 percent, or 684 points. New York City's economy alone lost 143,000 jobs a month and $2.8 billion in wages in the first three months. The heaviest losses were in finance and air transportation, which accounted for 60 percent of the lost jobs. The estimated cost of the World Trade Center site damage was $60 billion. The cost of removing debris at Ground Zero was $750 million.

Victim Compensation Fund

Thousands of first responders and people who worked or lived in lower Manhattan near Ground Zero were exposed to toxic dust, debris and other contaminants released when the towers collapsed and during the cleanup that followed. By the end of 2018, more than 10,000 members of the World Trade Center Health Program had cancers certified as 9/11-related.

From 2001 to 2004, the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund awarded more than $7 billion to the families of people killed and to thousands of people injured in the attacks. The fund was reactivated on January 2, 2011, when President Barack Obama signed the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 into law. Named for James Zadroga, a New York City police officer who died after developing respiratory disease following his work at Ground Zero, the law established the World Trade Center Health Program and reactivated the Victim Compensation Fund for 9/11 responders and survivors.

CAMDEN FIREFIGHTER PETE PEREZ

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In 2015, Congress reauthorized the World Trade Center Health Program for 75 years and extended the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund for five years, adding $4.6 billion to the fund. The Victim Compensation Fund was set to stop accepting claims in December 2020.

On July 29, 2019, President Donald Trump signed a law permanently authorizing the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund and extending its claim-filing deadline to 2090. Previously, administrators had cut some awards by 50 percent to 70 percent as the $7.375 billion in available funding was projected to run short. Prominent advocates for the fund included comedian Jon Stewart, 9/11 first responder John Feal and retired New York Police Department detective and 9/11 responder Luis Alvarez, who died of cancer 18 days after testifying before Congress.

Anniversary and Memorial

On December 18, 2001, September 11 was designated as Patriot Day to commemorate the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. In 2009, September 11 was also designated as a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

The first memorials to September 11 came in the immediate wake of the attacks, with candlelight vigils and flower tributes at U.S. embassies around the world. In Great Britain, the American national anthem was played during the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace. Queen Elizabeth II sang along during a memorial service at St. Paul's Cathedral the following day. Rio de Janeiro put up billboards showing the city's Christ the Redeemer statue embracing the New York City skyline.

For the first anniversary of the attacks in New York City in 2002, two bright columns of light were beamed into the sky near the site of the Twin Towers. The "Tribute in Light" became an annual installation run by the Municipal Art Society of New York. On clear nights, the beams are visible from more than 60 miles away.

A World Trade Center Site Memorial Competition was held to select a design for a permanent memorial to the victims of 9/11. The winning design by Michael Arad, "Reflecting Absence," occupies the eight-acre 9/11 Memorial plaza. It features two reflecting pools set within the footprints of the Twin Towers, with waterfalls cascading into them.

The names of all 2,977 victims are engraved on the 152 bronze panels surrounding the pools, arranged according to where individuals were on the day of the attacks and by relationships among the victims, so colleagues, friends and people on the same flight can be memorialized together. The names of the six people killed in the World Trade Center bombing on February 26, 1993, are also engraved on the panels. The 9/11 Memorial opened to the public on September 11, 2011, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11. The National September 11 Memorial & Museum opened on the original World Trade Center site in May 2014. One World Trade Center, also on the original World Trade Center site, opened in November 2014.

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AMERICAN WATER, NJ AMERICAN WATER & GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PLACING THEIR FLAGS. BELOW: RCA PIER BEHIND AMERICAN WATER'S HEADQUARTERS IN CAMDEN, NJ.

Don’t entertain FOG at your backyard bash!

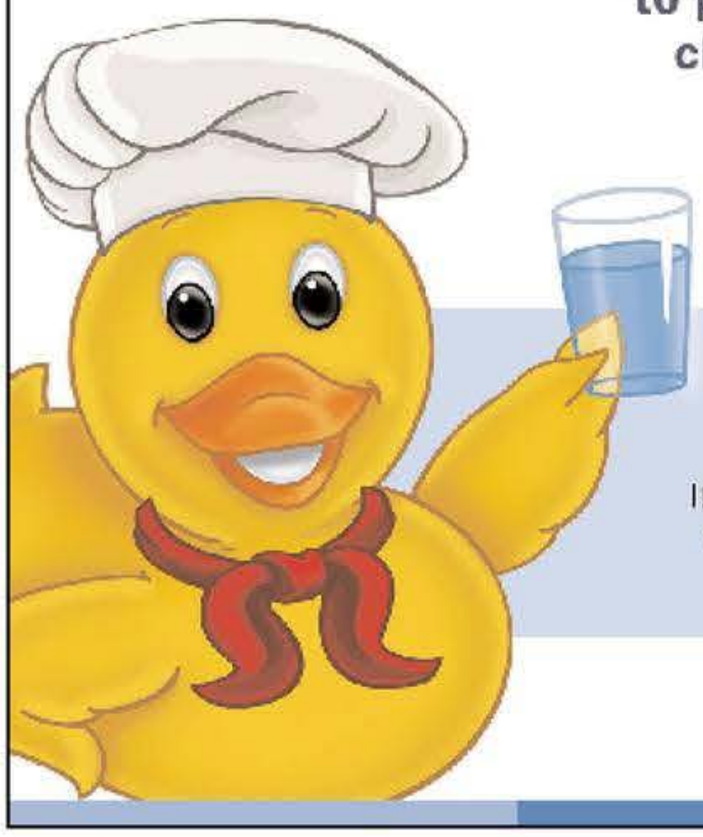
The summer grilling and backyard barbeque season is here! A time when family and friends gather around to enjoy each others company and good food. Quick reminder: pipes don’t like to party with FOG.

When preparing meals or cleaning up after your cookout, be sure to scrape and trash fats, oils and grease (FOG). These three troublemakers can wreak havoc on your pipes. Many sewer blockages occur between the house or business and the utility’s sewer main, where the property owner is responsible for correcting the problem. Avoiding blockages could mean avoiding an unnecessary plumbing bill.

Other items you should avoid flushing down the drain (throw them in the trash instead).

- Wipes (even if they say they're “flushable”)
- Dental floss
- Cotton swabs or rounds
- Hair
- Paper towels
- Tissues
- Contact lenses
- Medication

For more tips on how to protect your pipes, check out our video on YouTube!



Beat the heat and stay hydrated!

It’s getting hot out there. Be sure to drink plenty of water and stay hydrated this summer!

CITY OF CAMDEN New Jersey

AMERICAN WATER

WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING®

Coming Soon; New Camden Waterfront Development

CAMDEN, NJ - The redevelopment of the Camden, New Jersey waterfront started 34 years ago on the south side of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge. It started with the groundbreaking of the New Jersey Aquarium in 1992, now named the Adventure Aquarium. I was at that groundbreaking event, and as usual I was taking photographs of the dignitaries, including Mayor Randy Primas. I was a new city employee and eager to document this momentous event. At that time there was nothing there but acres of vacant land adjacent to the Delaware River and the skyline of Philadelphia in the distance.

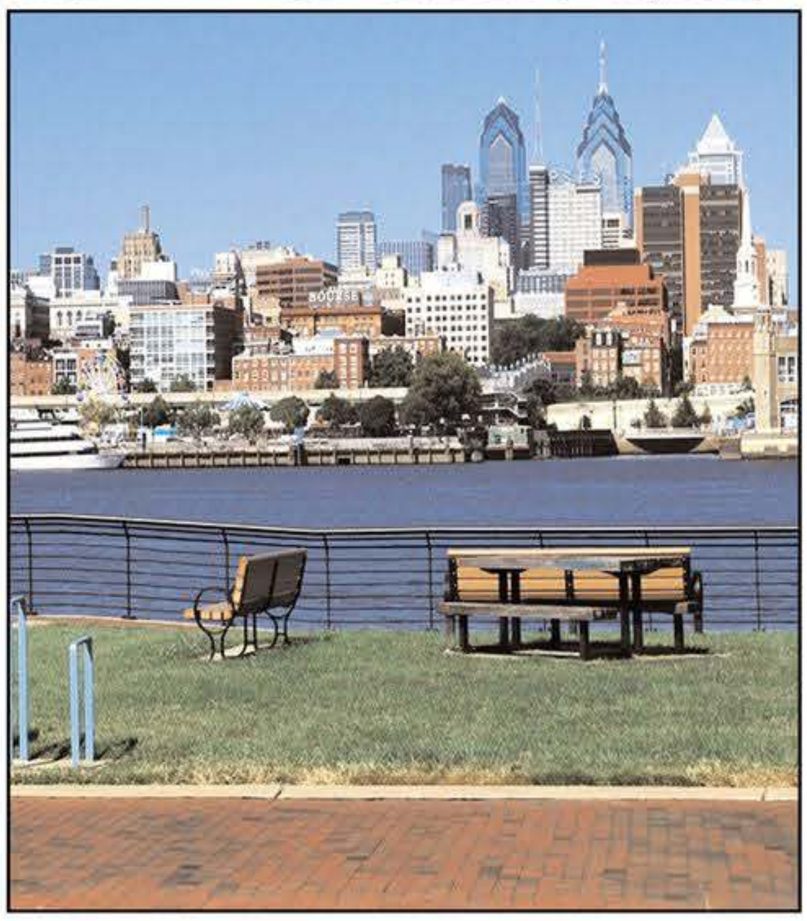
As years passed, after the New Jersey Aquarium opened, slowly new additions began to appear; the New Jersey Aquarium Children's Garden, the Wiggins Park Marina, Blockbuster-Sony Entertainment Center, now the Freedom Mortgage Entertainment Center, the River Link Ferry, and a minor league basement team named the River Sharks, complete with a new baseball stadium.

Later waterfront redevelopment included new apartment complexes, a beautiful park, restaurants, banks and retail stores sprang up. More recent development include, the Battleship New Jersey, new hi-rise commercial buildings, with companies like New Jersey Water Company, TRIADE 1828, the Philadelphia 76's Training Facility and the beautiful Hilton Garden Inn. As a resident of Camden, I watched the progression of each phase of the Camden waterfront take place. It was a slow and arduous pace, but it is steadily progressing and blossoming as its rebirth continues to unfold. But, so far, all of the waterfront redevelopment has taken place on the south side of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge. Or has it?

The truth is the redevelopment of the Camden waterfront in North Camden (north side of the Ben Franklin Bridge) has quietly been underway for a few years. The state and local governments have been working on a plan to develop a 54 acre Delaware River North Camden Waterfront District to be completed by 2036. Part of that plan includes the redevelopment of a 16 acre site on the former site of the Riverfront State Prison. The plan for the North Camden waterfront includes new residential homes, townhouses, 3 to 5 story apartment buildings, new restaurants, retail stores, and public plazas. Also, the waterfront park and trail from the south side of the bridge will extend into North Camden with walking trails and bike paths along the Camden waterfront.

A few keystone events have already taken place signaling the renaissance of the North Camden waterfront. The first was the demolition of the state prison in North Camden. This event showed everyone that local and state government officials realized that prime waterfront land in Camden had a higher and better use than as a site for a prison. A second event was the installation of new streets and lighting in the Cooper Poynt neighborhood, as well as the installation of the Cooper's Poynt Park and playground.

Another very significant event was the opening of the Museum of the American Revolution South Jersey located at 60 Erie Street in North Camden. The opening celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony of the museum was held on June 27, 2026.



The building housing the museum was built in 1734 by Benjamin Cooper. His grandfather William Cooper was the founder of Camden, New Jersey. The Benjamin Cooper House is the oldest and most historic house in the City of Camden, New Jersey and played an important role in the Battle of Camden, during the American Revolutionary War. The new museum will serve the City of Camden and the South Jersey community as a multi-cultural, education and tourist center.

The redevelopment of the North Camden waterfront will have a far-reaching social and economic impact on the City of Camden. The real estate market in North Camden will especially be affected. The North Camden waterfront sits in the perfect location to view the Philadelphia skyline, Delaware River and the Benjamin Franklin Bridge. North Camden property owners with property closest to the waterfront will be the first to catch the wave of real estate developers and investors eager to cash in on real estate opportunities connected with the redevelopment of the North Camden waterfront.

I asked a well- known North Camden waterfront property owner and developer his opinion of the impending redevelopment plans for the North Camden waterfront. Joe Incandela, long-time resident of this community and owner of J. Incandela Real Estate, LLC stated, "This will be the greatest thing to happen in North Camden in 100 years. The residents will benefit, the City will benefit and real estate values in North Camden will go through the roof. Location, location, location everyone knows, that's what drives real estate value. I'm all for redeveloping the North Camden waterfront. I think it is a wonderful thing." Mr. Incandela owns one of the largest portfolios of residential rental properties in the North Camden waterfront community.

The upscale development of new housing, businesses, parks, bike paths and walking trails will certainly attract young suburbanites, especially students from Rutgers University Camden campus. The Rutgers campus is already located in North Camden and a short distance from the North Camden waterfront. Due to the proximity of the Ben Franklin Bridge to the North Camden waterfront, the new project could also attract young urbanites from Philadelphia.

The entrance to the bridge bike and walking path are right across the street from the Rutgers Camden campus. The North Camden Waterfront is a short walk away, or a ten minute drive from Center City. There is a better waterfront view from the New Jersey side of the Delaware River and the monthly rent on their new apartment or townhouse would probably be a lot cheaper than living in Philadelphia.

Developers, investors, real estate owners, time waits for no one. The redevelopment of the North Camden Delaware River waterfront is quietly happening before our own eyes. The plans are on-going in private industry board rooms and in local and state government offices. Architects, builders, engineers, accountants, city planners and businessmen are moving this project forward. If you are interested in being a part of the Delaware River North Camden Redevelopment project, invest in North Camden waterfront real estate today. I am here to help you get started. Get your piece of the rock.

Photos and Text by: Alfred J. Dansbury, Sr. MBA

CAMDEN COUNTY COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Your Voice Matters!

CAMDEN, NJ - Your voice matters! Camden County OEO invites residents to share their input on the services and resources needed in their communities by attending the Community Needs Assessment Focus Group.

Monday, September 14, 2026, 6:00 PM
Lawnside Democratic Club
361 E. Charleston Ave., Lawnside, NJ 08045

This meeting will provide residents with an opportunity to share their feedback, discuss the services and resources needed in our community, and learn more about the programs Camden County OEO offers—including rental and energy assistance, weatherization, youth services, housing counseling, workforce development, and more.

We are especially seeking input from members of all Camden County communities to help us strengthen our outreach and better serve all residents.

Your voice matters, and we want to hear from you! Please join us and help shape the future of services in our community.

We want to hear from you!

Focus groups are small-group discussions led by a facilitator on predetermined topics of interest, in order for researchers to gain insight into the experiences and perspectives of various stakeholders. Focus groups are typically transcribed or recorded and then analyzed. They are a rich source of qualitative data that can help inform a collective view about a group's beliefs, attitudes, and experiences on a particular topic or issue. Focus groups are often used for community or stakeholder engagement in community assessment processes to explore perspectives, social dynamics, and insights.

Focus groups can be part of a robust local data ecosystem, which can help to transform communities by fueling advocacy and fostering data-driven decision-making. Focus groups often engage people affected by an issue to learn about their experiences and imagine solutions— they can be especially powerful in lifting up the voices of young people in communities about issues that impact them directly, and fostering youth engagement in shaping community initiatives. Focus group data can be combined with other qualitative and quantitative data to triangulate or examine an issue or question and paint a rich picture of the community.

Data collection, including focus groups, has a history of being extractive and failing to benefit the people in the community upon whom the research focuses. Data have been weaponized against people and communities, perpetuating discrimination and data misuse. Of particular concern is the potential for focus group data to be used to build or reinforce false narratives about the beliefs, attitudes, and experiences of people affected by a particular issue. When done correctly, focus groups can integrate community insights and provide a comprehensive understanding for fostering effective and inclusive solutions.

Focus groups are a widely-used data collection method and community engagement approach. Leading practices for focus groups include participant privacy, equity, accessibility, transparency, and accountability.

Ideally, focus groups bring diverse, representative perspectives on community issues, but they are only as good as the planning and execution behind focus groups.

FOR MORE INFO: Stephanie Raines, Director of Administration, Camden County OEO, 538 Broadway, Camden, NJ 08103
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Mosquitoes – Always a Nuisance and Sometimes Dangerous

Protect Yourself Against Mosquito-borne Diseases This Summer

TRENTON, NJ – As temperatures rise and mosquito activity increases across New Jersey, health and environmental officials from the New Jersey Departments of Health (NJDOH), Environmental Protection (NJDEP), and Agriculture (NJDA) are urging residents to take simple steps to protect themselves and their communities from mosquito bites.

"Protecting public health is a shared responsibility. The best defense against diseases transmitted by mosquitoes is to avoid being bitten in the first place and reducing breeding grounds," said Dr. Raynard E. Washington, New Jersey Health Commissioner.

The Departments offer the following tips and information for New Jerseyans to enjoy a healthier and safer summer.

Prevent Mosquito Breeding and Avoid Bites

The best way to prevent illness is to take steps to avoid mosquito bites. That means taking precautions when you go outside and doing your part to get rid of standing water where mosquitoes breed.

TIP #1: Prevent bites

• Use U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents.
• Wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors.
• Stay in air-conditioned places or screened areas whenever possible, especially during peak mosquito hours.

TIP #2: Eliminate standing water

• Dispose of items that can collect water, including unused containers and debris around your property.
• Dump water weekly that accumulates in containers such as flowerpots, birdbaths, buckets, and pet dishes.
• Drill drainage holes in the bottom and elevate outdoor recycling and trash containers.
• Clean and repair gutters to prevent water buildup.
• Keep ornamental ponds circulating or stocked with fish to prevent stagnant water.
• Maintain swimming pools, including those not in use, and remove standing water from pool covers.

TIP #3: Get help when you need it

• If a mosquito problem remains after taking the above steps, call your county mosquito control agency for help with larval habitats best addressed by experts.

"It's critical that everyone does their part to control nuisance mosquito populations by taking steps to prevent the pooling of water around their properties that can provide places for mosquitoes to breed," said Environmental Protection Acting Commissioner Ed Potosnak. "These steps can go a long way toward reducing localized populations of mosquitoes and will help support the work of county mosquito control agencies and the state's Mosquito Control Commission to protect the public from mosquito-borne diseases."

Mosquito-borne Diseases in NJ

While the most commonly reported mosquito-borne disease in New Jersey is West Nile virus (WNV), Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) and Jamestown Canyon virus are also causes for concern.

WNV activity started early this year and has been detected in mosquitoes in 12 counties so far this year. On average, there are 22 human cases of WNV reported each year in New Jersey.

TIP #4: Know the symptoms

• Most infected people have no symptoms or a mild flu-like illness that can include fever, headache, body aches, vomiting or diarrhea, and sometimes a rash. Most people with mild illness recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last for weeks or months.
• Some develop severe illness affecting the central nervous system or illness that results in hospitalization or death. Symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness, or paralysis.
• Some effects may be permanent, and risk of severe illness increases with age, certain chronic medical conditions, and a weakened immune system.

Summer Travel Risks

Summer travel to regions where dengue and malaria are common can increase the risk of these illnesses being introduced into local communities. Infected travelers can unknowingly transmit these diseases to mosquitoes, which may then spread them to others through subsequent bites.

TIP #5: Know before you go

• Review health advisories for your destination and consult your health care provider about recommended medications or preventive measures before departure.
• Upon returning to New Jersey, prevent mosquito bites for at least three weeks to reduce the risk of disease transmission within your community.

Mosquito Surveillance & Control Efforts

New Jersey's mosquito control agencies use a variety of methods, including public awareness campaigns, targeted larval habitat source-reduction programs, use of natural predators such as mosquito-eating fish, and judicious application of EPA- and DEP-approved insecticides by ground and aerial means.

• Mosquito-borne diseases can also cause severe illness and death in horses and other livestock species. West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis affect a horse's neurological system, so preventive care is encouraged.

"Mosquitos are one of those cross-species vectors as they seek warm blooded animals including people," said NJ Secretary of Agriculture Ed Wengryn. "To prevent infections in their animals, farmers must work to remove standing water on their farms and refresh water supplies for livestock to prevent it from becoming mosquito habitat."

About the New Jersey State Mosquito Control Commission

Founded in 1956, the New Jersey State Mosquito Control Commission protects the public from nuisance mosquitoes and mosquito-borne disease. It works closely with all 21 county mosquito control agencies, the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers, the Department of Health, and the Department of Agriculture, and recommends needed changes in state law to the Governor and Legislature. To learn more and for links to county mosquito agencies, visit dep.nj.gov/njfw/councils-and-committees/state-mosquito-control-commission.

NJDEP Resources:

• Mosquito control FAQ
• Mosquito Control Commission

NJDOH Resources:

• Fight the Bite NJ
• West Nile virus
• Vector-borne Disease Data Dashboard
• Mosquito-Borne Diseases and How to Avoid Them:
• Mosquito-Proof Your Yard: Habitat Checklist

NJDA Resources:

• Animal Health
• One Health

About New Jersey Department of Health

The New Jersey Department of Health is a nationally accredited health department working to ensure that all New Jerseyans live long, healthy lives and reach their fullest potential. With more than 6,000 employees, the Department serves to protect the public's health, promote healthy communities, and continue to improve the quality of health care in New Jersey.

Follow the New Jersey Department of Health on X (formerly Twitter) @njdeptofhealth, Facebook /njdeptofhealth, Instagram @njdeptofhealth, LinkedIn /company/njdeptofhealth, Threads @njdeptofhealth, and YouTube @njdeptofhealth.

About New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is dedicated to protecting New Jersey's environment and public health. The agency prioritizes addressing climate change, protecting New Jersey's water, revitalizing its communities and managing and promoting its natural and historic resources.

For the most recent information, follow the DEP on X @NewJerseyDEP, Facebook @newjerseydep, Instagram @nj.dep, LinkedIn @newjerseydep, and Bluesky @dep.nj.gov, or visit www.nj.gov/dep.

About New Jersey Department of Agriculture

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA), established in 1916, serves New Jersey's agricultural community and residents through a wide range of programs across its divisions that ensure the preservation and continuation of the state's agricultural landscape. NJDA works to ensure the safety and quality of New Jersey's food supply, protect animal and plant health, and promote the overall long-term viability of agriculture. The Department also connects consumers with New Jersey's farmers and locally grown products while supporting the state's diverse agricultural industry through initiatives of the Jersey Fresh program.

For more information about the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/NJDeptofAgriculture and facebook.com/JerseyFreshOfficial; on Instagram @njdeptofagriculture; on X/Twitter @NJDA and @JerseyFreshNJDA; and on LinkedIn at New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

About New Jersey One Health Taskforce

The New Jersey One Health Task Force, housed within the NJDA, brings together interagency partners from the NJDOH and NJDEP, along with experts across human, animal, plant, and environmental fields, to promote the health of all life in New Jersey. Learn more at OneHealth.nj.gov.

NJ Health
New Jersey Department of Health

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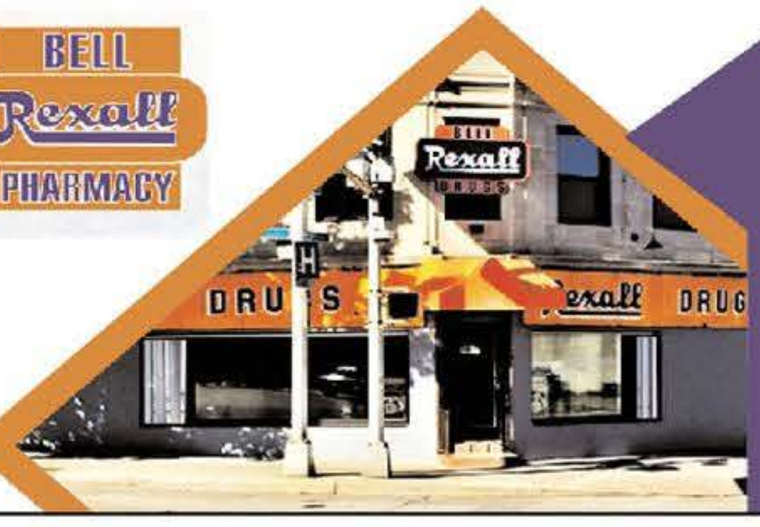

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SAVE THE DATE

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Celebrating 60 Years

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Camden County Council on Economic Opportunity, Inc. (OEO)

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Adventure Aquarium
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Reception Includes:

- Plated Dinner
- Two-Hour Open Bar

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Additional event details and sponsorship information coming soon.

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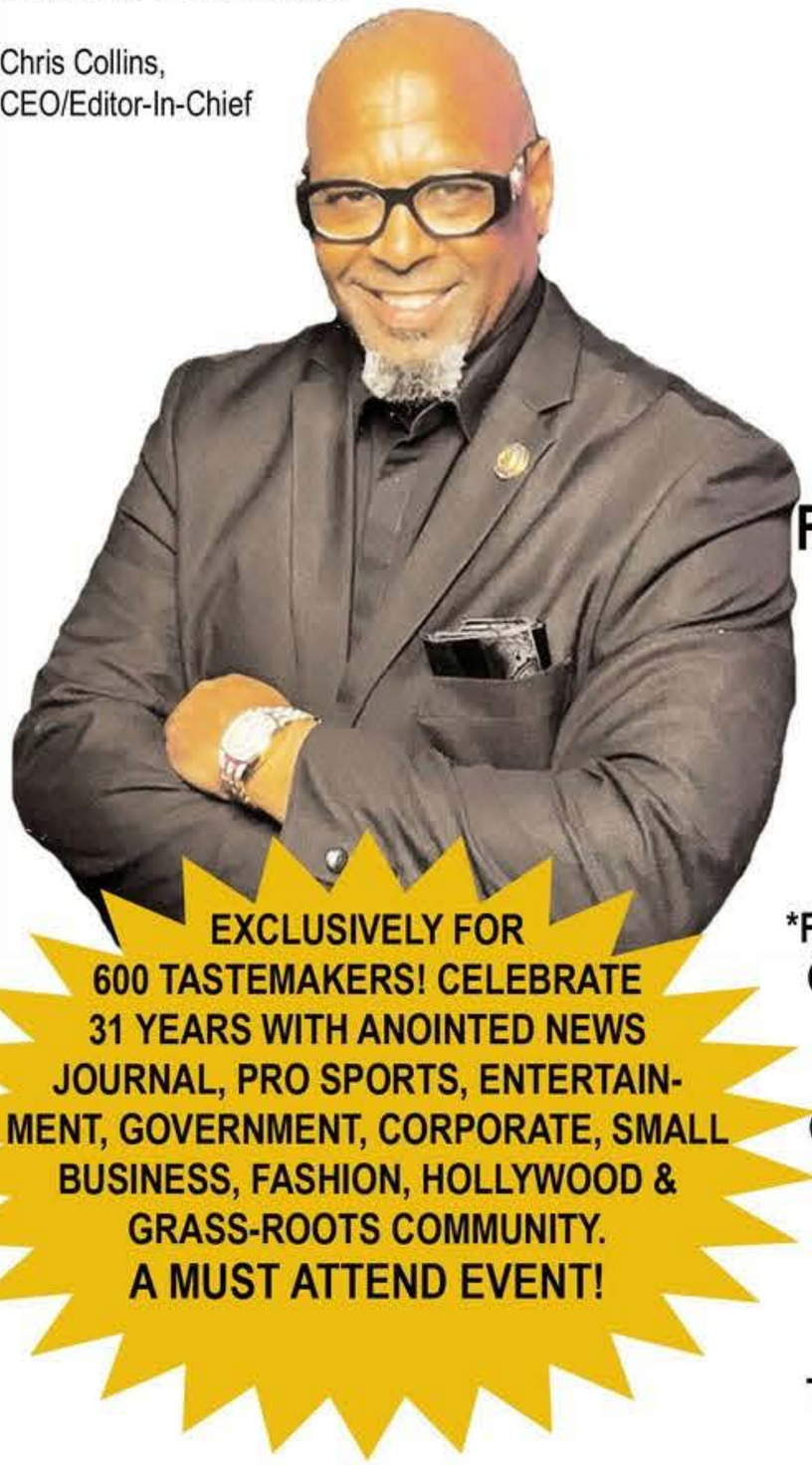

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camden education fund

What We Do

The Camden Education Fund (CEF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to accelerating progress in Camden's public school system. CEF works with families, school partners, and community leaders to identify citywide needs in education. CEF then provides grants and develops strategic partnerships to address these citywide needs. Grantees may include schools, non-profits, and universities.

Our Vision

Camden will be home to a vibrant public school system that inspires all students and prepares them for success after high school.

Our Mission

To sustain and accelerate progress in Camden's public school system.

Our Focus Areas

Talent

Recruiting, developing, retaining, and appreciating excellent teachers

Equity

Ensuring a great school for every child and services that meet all children's needs

Engagement

Creating opportunities for parents and community leaders to shape a system that meets families' needs

Instructional Quality

Providing all students with access to high-quality, rigorous, and relevant curricula

Post Secondary

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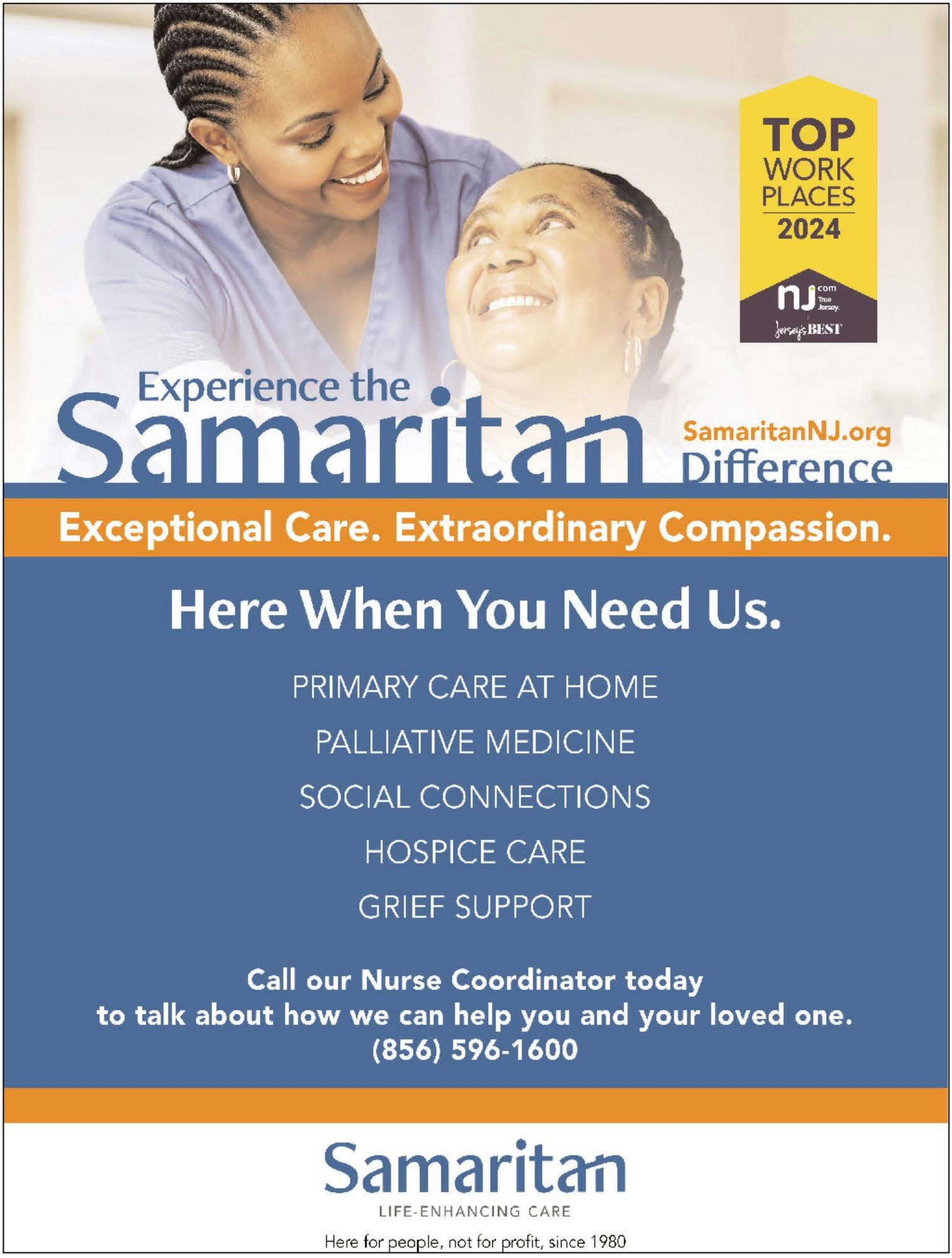
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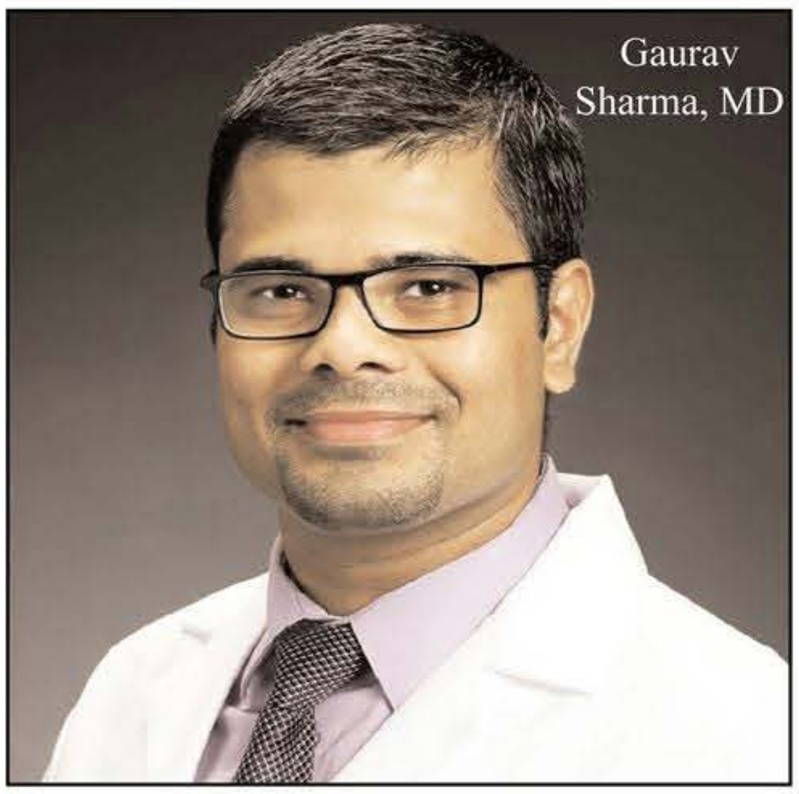
Virtua Health is First in Philadelphia Region to Earn Accreditation for Full Range of Obesity Medicine Services

Virtua's Complete Weight Management Program meets independent, rigorous standards for the full range of weight-loss options— from medications to surgery to extensive support services

Marlton, NJ - A prestigious national organization has accredited Virtua Health's Complete Weight Management Program as a Comprehensive Center with Obesity Medicine Qualifications. This designation, by the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP), recognizes the program's comprehensive approach to weight management. Virtua's Complete Weight Management Program is the first in the Philadelphia region to receive this recognition.

While the program had previously been accredited for its surgical treatments, the new accreditation endorses Virtua's entire weight management program. The accreditation recognizes the program's ability to seamlessly incorporate weight-loss medications, surgical and non-surgical procedures, and comprehensive support services to provide outstanding care.



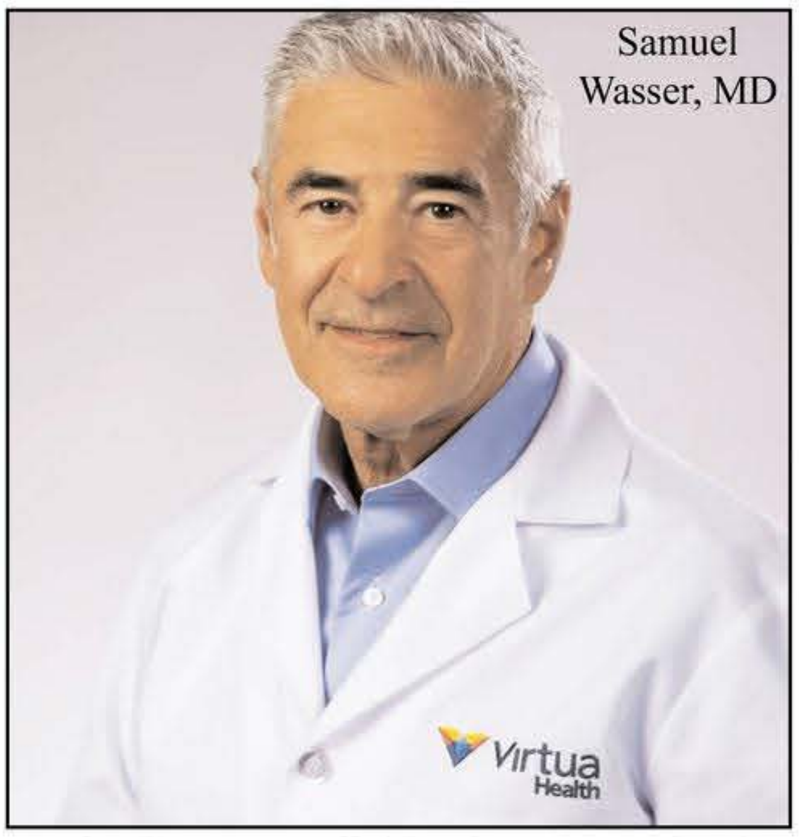
"Earning accreditation for our entire program is an important milestone," said Gaurav Sharma, MD, director of obesity medicine for Virtua's Complete Weight Management Program. "It recognizes the collaborative work of our team and our commitment to delivering nationally recognized care that helps patients achieve long-lasting weight loss success."

The MBSAQIP's accreditation process consists of a comprehensive evaluation to ensure high levels of care. To earn accreditation, programs must document patient care outcomes, complete online training modules, and participate in routine MBSAQIP quality assessments. The MBSAQIP seeks to standardize benchmarks and improve quality among programs.

"We offer our patients a range of choices so they can receive the treatment that's right for them," said Samuel Wasser, MD, director of bariatric surgery with the Complete Weight Management Program at Virtua Health.

The program provides a wide range of resources and services to ensure patients are well-supported throughout their weight-management journey. It offers:

- Medical weight-loss options, featuring multiple FDA-approved medications
- Bariatric weight-loss surgery, including minimally invasive, robotic-assisted technology whenever possible
- Non-surgical, endoscopic weight-loss procedures
- Comprehensive support services, such as nutrition counseling, behavior counseling, fitness counseling, monthly support groups, and access to a personal weight-management navigation team, ensuring patients have the highest degree of support to maintain their weight loss



"It's the full spectrum, which is what anyone needs to lose weight successfully," explained Dr. Wasser.

Additionally, this accreditation recognizes the Complete Weight Management Program's dedication to progressing alongside developing technologies. This commitment to innovation was on display last November when Virtua Health became the first in the region to offer a minimally invasive weight-loss procedure utilizing magnet technology. As only the 16th health system in the country to offer this procedure at the time, the program demonstrated its commitment to expanding access to minimally invasive treatments in addition to advancing innovations that enhance patient outcomes.

With locations in Haddon Heights, Marlton, Moorestown, and Sewell, the Complete Weight Management Program is committed to providing high-quality, leading, accessible care to the South Jersey community

"Having a full spectrum of services helps patients with their decision-making," said Dr. Wasser. "It gives them a range of options that they can't get anywhere else, and that's what sets our program apart."

For more information, visit Virtua Health's Complete Weight Management Program or call 856-246-4155.

About Virtua Health

Virtua Health is an academic health system committed to helping the people of South Jersey be well, get well, and stay well by providing the complete spectrum of advanced, accessible, and trusted health care services. Virtua's 16,000 colleagues provide tertiary care, including renowned cardiology and transplant programs, complemented by a community-based care portfolio. In addition to five hospitals, two satellite emergency departments, 44 ambulatory surgery centers, and more than 400 other locations, Virtua brings health services directly into communities through Hospital at Home, physical therapy and rehabilitation, mobile screenings, and its paramedic program.

ABOVE PHOTO: Staff members of Virtua Health's Complete Weight Management Program

Marlton, N.J.-based Virtua has 3,000 affiliated doctors and other clinicians, and its specialties include cardiovascular and gastrointestinal health, orthopedics, advanced surgery, and maternity. Virtua is academically affiliated with Rowan University, leading research, innovation, and immersive education at the Virtua Health College of Medicine & Life Sciences of Rowan University. Virtua is also affiliated with Penn Medicine for cancer and neuroscience, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for pediatrics.

As a not-for-profit health system, Virtua is committed to the well-being of the community and provides innovative outreach programs that address social challenges affecting health, most notably the "Eat Well" food access initiative, which includes the unparalleled Eat Well Mobile Grocery Store. To learn more, visit Virtua.org. To help Virtua make a difference, visit GiveToVirtua.org.

Virtua Health

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Rachel O'Day

Delaware Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Scholarship

Rachel O'Day of Seaford has been awarded a $1,000 scholarship from the state Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee. The funds will be used to support her pursuit in a degree in Agricultural Economics at the University of Kentucky.

Growing up on her family's farm and participating in 4-H and FFA provided O'Day with a strong foundation in agriculture. Her interest in agricultural economics was strengthened during an internship with First Citizens Community Bank, where she discovered a passion for helping farmers make informed financial decisions, manage risk, and maintain successful operations.

Outside the classroom, O'Day is active in the National Honor Society, Leo Club, Technology Student Association, Make-a-Change Club, and Ski Club. She also served for two years on the Delaware State Fair Junior Board. Through her education, O'Day hopes to support agricultural producers by providing the financial knowledge and resources they need to succeed.

Jaisohn's Journey: From Meal Guest to CK Apprentice

CAMDEN, NJ - "My goal in life has always been to help others, and cooking has always been one of the ways I can do that. Finding this program made it possible for me to turn my passion into a career."

Each year, Cathedral Kitchen hosts three cohorts of Culinary Arts Training (CAT) students. The CAT program equips low-income community members with the professional and personal skills needed to build successful careers in the hospitality industry. With 80% of restaurant owners and managers beginning in entry-level positions, the field offers tangible opportunities for advancement, and CAT graduates are achieving a job placement rate of more than 90% within three months of completing the program.

At each graduation ceremony, one student who demonstrates exceptional skill, dedication, and work ethic is selected to receive the Chef Jonathan Jernigan Apprenticeship. This prestigious award provides a four-month paid position in Cathedral Kitchen's culinary program, allowing graduates to continue developing their skills alongside experienced mentors.

This spring, that honor was awarded to Jaisohn Gantt.

For Jaisohn, the apprenticeship is much more than a job. Long before she enrolled in the CK Culinary Arts Training Program, Jaisohn knew about Cathedral Kitchen – she used to come for meals with her father and three sisters when she was a child. Today, CK is still here, providing her with the support and skills she needs to reach her goals.

After graduating high school, Jaisohn struggled to find a career path that inspired her.

"I didn't feel excited about what I was doing. I wanted to have a job where I didn't have to dread coming to work, but I was kind of stuck."

Jaisohn graduated from the CAT program this spring, but the experience offered far more than culinary skills. The program also helped her build confidence and discover her own strengths.

"I learned more about myself in those 15 weeks than I had in my whole life before then!"

As a Chef Jonathan Jernigan Apprentice, Jaisohn can continue learning in a supportive environment where growth is encouraged and mistakes are treated as opportunities.

"The position is really difficult, but in a good way. I'm allowed to mess up, and I'm allowed to make mistakes. I'm learning twice as fast because I'm in a safe space."

As she continues her apprenticeship, Jaisohn is building the skills, confidence, and experience needed for a successful culinary career—while staying true to her goal of using food to help others. Congratulations, Jaisohn!

CAMDEN COUNTY COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Camden County OEO invites residents to share their input and help us better understand the services and resources needed in your community.

WHAT DOES YOUR COMMUNTIY NEED? TELL US!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

6:00 PM

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Delaware Farm Bureau Announces 2026 Scholarship Recipients -

CAMDEN, Del. – The Delaware Farm Bureau Women's Committee, Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and the three Farm Bureau County Boards are proud to announce their 2026 scholarship awardees.

These scholarships are made possible through the fundraising efforts and support of Delaware Farm Bureau and county Farm Bureau members, volunteers, and community partners throughout the year.

The following students were awarded 2026 scholarships from the Delaware Farm Bureau:

PHOTO L-R TOP: H. DUNN, M. VEST, R. MCCLOSKEY, Z. BINNIE, S. PHIPPS
L-R BOTTOM: A. WEST, J. BAXTER, K. HEARN, R. O'DAY

Hope Dunn

State Women's Committee Youth Scholarship

Hope Dunn of Townsend was awarded the $2,500 State Women's Committee Youth Scholarship. She plans to pursue a degree in Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Delaware before earning a master's degree in education and becoming an agriculture educator.

A graduate of Odessa High School, Dunn was active in the National Honor Society, volleyball, and Odessa FFA. She has also gained hands-on agricultural experience through work on several farms and enjoys hunting, fishing, and crabbing.

Inspired by the impact her own agriculture teachers had on her life, Dunn hopes to educate future generations about agriculture and encourage them to become advocates for the industry. She also looks forward to continuing to learn about agriculture's many sectors and sharing that knowledge with her future students.

McKenna Vest

Kent County Women's Committee Scholarship

McKenna Vest of Clayton received the $1,000 Kent County Women's Committee Scholarship. She is currently pursuing degrees in Agricultural Economics and Agrifood Sales at Texas A&M University.

At Texas A&M, Vest works in the Agribusiness, Food and Consumer Economics Research Center and is active in many organizations, including Aggie Reps, the Agricultural Economics Society, the National Agri-Marketing Association, intramural volleyball, and Two42 College Ministry. She also remains involved in the dairy industry through Dairy Challenge, Dairy Science Club, Delaware 4-H Cow Camp, and raising and showing dairy cattle. Vest exhibits dairy cattle and market goats at the Delaware State Fair.

Following graduation, Vest plans to become an agricultural marketing specialist, helping bridge the gap between producers and consumers while supporting a stronger and more profitable agricultural sector. As a fifth-generation farmer, she is passionate about agricultural sustainability and credits her experiences in farming and interactions with industry professionals for shaping her career goals.

Rylin McCloskey

Hubert Cannon Memorial Scholarship by Kent County Farm Bureau

Rylin McCloskey of Houston earned the $1,000 Hubert Cannon Memorial Scholarship by Kent County Farm Bureau. A graduate of Lake Forest High School, she plans to attend Shenandoah University to pursue a degree in nursing.

Growing up on her family's farm gave McCloskey a strong appreciation for agriculture and the importance of serving her community. Inspired by the dedication of healthcare professionals, she chose to pursue a career in nursing with the goal of helping and supporting others during times of need.

After earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, she plans to work in an emergency room before continuing her education to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). She looks forward to making a meaningful impact through patient care while carrying with her the values she learned growing up in a farm family.

Zachary Binnie

New Castle County Women's Committee Scholarship

Zachary Binnie of Townsend was selected for the $1,000 New Castle County Women's Committee Scholarship to support his education towards a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Soil Sciences at the University of Delaware.

A 2026 graduate of Odessa High School, Binnie developed a passion for agriculture and environmental stewardship through FFA, particularly the Delaware Envirothon. He competed on the Envirothon team for three years and earned the opportunity to travel to Canada for an international competition, an experience that solidified his decision to pursue a career in environmental conservation.

Through his education, Binnie hopes to promote a greater understanding of the role wildlife plays in healthy ecosystems and help ensure a sustainable future for people, plants, and wildlife.

Sydney Phipps

New Castle County Farm Bureau Scholarship

Sydney Phipps of Wilmington received the $1,000 New Castle County Farm Bureau Scholarship. A graduate of Penn State University with a degree in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, she will attend the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine this fall.

Phipps developed her passion for agriculture and animal production through years of raising and showing sheep, where she gained experience breeding and managing her own flock. Her interest in livestock agriculture inspired her goal of becoming a large animal veterinarian. Through veterinary shadowing opportunities and involvement in organizations such as the Penn State Pre-Vet Club, Block & Bridle, and the Livestock Judging Team, she has expanded her knowledge and experience within the industry.

As a future large animal veterinarian, Phipps hopes to support the sustainability of the food system through the proper care and management of livestock. She also aims to educate new producers and inspire the next generation to become engaged in agriculture.

Ainsley West

Sussex County Women's Committee Scholarship

Ainsley West of Milton received the $1,000 Sussex County Women's Committee Scholarship and plans to attend East Coast Horseshoeing School to become a farrier.

West is also pursuing a degree in Production Agriculture at Delaware Technical Community College to support her work in livestock production, sheep management, and equine care. She owns and operates West's Woolies, where she is dedicated to preserving and promoting the Leicester Longwool sheep breed.

In addition to her involvement in 4-H, FFA, and agricultural ambassador programs, West is an active leader within Delaware Farm Bureau. She serves as the Sussex County Young Farmers & Ranchers Chair, which earned her a seat on both the Sussex County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and the Delaware Farm Bureau State Board of Directors. West plans to continue advocating for agriculture and promoting the industry's future.

James Baxter

Sussex County Farm Bureau Scholarship

James Baxter of Georgetown received the $1,000 Sussex County Farm Bureau Scholarship. A graduate of Delmarva Christian Academy, he plans to attend the University of Delaware to pursue a degree in General Agricultural Sciences. Raised on his family's farm, Baxter hopes to return home after college and continue his family's legacy. He believes the education and skills he gains at the University of Delaware will help strengthen the farm's long-term sustainability and success for future generations.

Baxter also follows a strong tradition of leadership and advocacy within Delaware Farm Bureau. His great-grandfather, James H. Baxter Jr., was a founding member of Delaware Farm Bureau and served as a past president. Continuing that legacy, Baxter looks forward to becoming involved with the Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and supporting the future of agriculture in Delaware.

Kassidy Hearn

Delaware Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Scholarship

Kassidy Hearn of Laurel received a $1,000 scholarship from the state Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee as she pursues a degree in Agricultural Communications at Oklahoma State University.

Hearn's passion for agriculture was shaped by her experiences in the industry. She grew up picking produce, raising and showing livestock, and competing in rodeos. At Oklahoma State, she remains actively involved in the Swine Club, Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, and the Honors Society while continuing to expand her knowledge of the agricultural industry.

Hearn hopes to use her education and experiences to share agriculture's story with consumers and advocates. Her goal is to highlight the people, animals, and dedication behind the industry while helping protect, represent, and strengthen agriculture for future generations.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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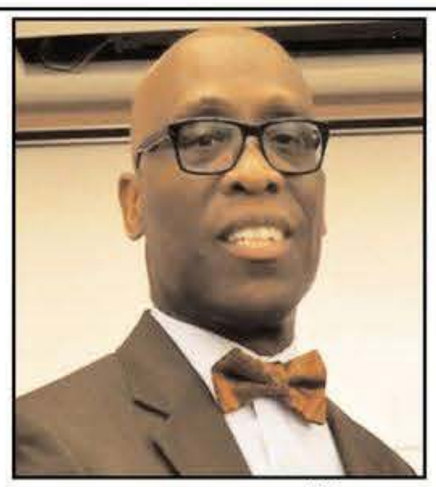

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