



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BERGEN
4233 KENNEDY BOULEVARD
NORTH BERGEN, NJ 07047
Phone: (201)392-2000

Purchase Order

THIS NUMBER MUST APPEAR ON ALL INVOICES,
 PACKING LISTS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.

NO. 18-01214

ORDER DATE: 03/01/18

DELIVERY DATE:

REQUISITION #: R8-01195

VENDOR ACCT NUM:

VENDOR PHONE #: (201) 798-7800

VENDOR FAX #: (201) 798-0018

DELIVER TO

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
 4233 KENNEDY BLVD.
 ROOM 203
 NORTH BERGEN NJ 07047

VENDOR

Vendor #: HUDSO235

HUDSON REPORTER ASSOC. LP
 447 BROADWAY
 BAYONNE, NJ 07002

PAYMENT RECORD

CHECK NO.

52399

DATE PAID

4.11.18

NOTICE: TAX EXEMPT - TAX ID: 22-6002151

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	ACCOUNT NO	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
7.00/EA	INV# 2210 - JAN/FEB - B&W ADS JAN 28,18 EMPIRE CITY JAN 28,18 BIRTHDAY BINGO FEB 4,18 JERSEY GARDEN FEB 4,18 FREE MOVIE FEB 4,18 HIBACHI FEB 11,18 BINGO LUNCH FEB 11,18 EMPIRE CITY	8-01-20-122-000-1080 ADVERTISING	398.4000	2,788.80
1.00/EA	JAN 28,18 - B&W CALENDER BRC ATTACHED	8-01-20-122-000-1080 ADVERTISING	610.0500	610.05
			TOTAL	3,398.85

CLAIMANT'S CERTIFICATION & DECLARATION

I do solemnly declare and certify under penalties; of the law that the within bill is correct in all its particulars; that the articles have been furnished or services rendered as stated therein; that no bonus has been given or received by any; person or persons within the knowledge of this claimant in connection with the above claim; that the amount therein stated is justly due and owing; and that the amount charged is a reasonable one.

X Sharon Metro
 VENDOR SIGN HERE
Bookkeeper 3/13/18
 OFFICIAL POSITION DATE

APPROVED FOR PURCHASE

Suzanne Taylor 3/1/18
 SUZANNE TAYLOR, QPA DATE

VENDOR MUST SIGN CERTIFICATION STATEMENT ON THIS
 VOUCHER. MAIL VOUCHER & ITEMIZED BILLS TO:

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BERGEN
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
4233 KENNEDY BLVD, RM 211
NORTH BERGEN, NJ 07047

OFFICER'S CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that there are sufficient funds available in the accounts of the Township to enable the commissioners to authorize the entering into this contract between the Township of North Bergen and the above vendor. By this certification, I have encumbered the above named accounts for the amount of the contract pending action by the Board of Commissioners.

Devin 3/6/18
 SIGNATURE DATE

Having knowledge of the facts in the course of regular procedures, I certify that the materials and supplies have been received or the services rendered; said certification is based on delivery slips acknowledged by a municipal official or employee or other reasonable procedures.

Devin 3/19/18
 SIGNATURE DATE

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BERGEN

4233 KENNEDY BOULEVARD
NORTH BERGEN, NJ 07047
TEL (201)392-2000

REQUISITION

NO.

R8-01195

ORDER DATE: 02/28/18
DELIVERY DATE:
STATE CONTRACT:
F.O.B. TERMS:

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PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
4233 KENNEDY BLVD.
ROOM 203
NORTH BERGEN NJ 07047

V
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VENDOR #: HUDSO235

HUDSON REPORTER ASSOC. LP
447 BROADWAY
BAYONNE, NJ 07002

QTY/UNIT	DESCRIPTION	ACCOUNT NO.	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL COST
7.00	1/28, 2/4, 2/11 1/4 pg b&w ads	8-01-20-122-000-1080 ADVERTISING	398.4000	2,788.80
1.00	1/28 1/2 pg b&w calendar	8-01-20-122-000-1080 ADVERTISING	610.0500	610.05
			TOTAL	3,398.85



REQUESTING DEPARTMENT

DATE

HUDSON REPORTER ASSOC. LP
447 BROADWAY
BAYONNE NJ 07002

(201) 798-7800

Fax(201) 798-0018

Advertising Invoice

1) Billing Period 02/2018		2) Advertiser/Client Name TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BERGEN	
23) Total Amount Due 4195.65		Unapplied Amount	3) Terms of Payment net 20 days
21) Current Net Amount Due 4195.65	22) 30 Days .00	60 Days .00	Over 90 Days .00
4) Page Number 1	5) Billing Date 02/28/18	6) Billed Account Number DAVE UNGER	7) Advertiser/Client Number 2210

8) Billed Account Name and Address TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BERGEN ATTN: ART SCHWARTZ 4233 KENNEDY BLVD NORTH BERGEN NJ 07047		Amount Paid: Comments:
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Thank you for your business! We know you have a choice in advertising and are happy you chose the Hudson Reporter chain.

Please Return Upper Portion With Payment

10) Date	11) Newspaper Reference	12) Description-Other Comments/Charges	13) SAU Size 14) Billed Units	15) Times Run 16) Rate	17) Gross Amount	18) Net Amount
01/28/18 04	231551 D	EMPIRE CITY NBR	4.0X 32.00	8.00 12.45	1	398.40
01/28/18 04	231552 D	CALENDAR NBR	7.0X 49.00	7.00 12.45	1	610.05
01/28/18 04	231553 D	BIRTHDAY BINGO NBR	4.0X 32.00	8.00 12.45	1	398.40
02/04/18 04	231651 D	JERSEY GARDEN NBR	4.0X 32.00	8.00 12.45	1	398.40
02/04/18 04	231652 D	FREE MOVIE NBR	4.0X 32.00	8.00 12.45	1	398.40
02/04/18 04	231653 D	HIBACHI NBR	4.0X 32.00	8.00 12.45	1	398.40
02/04/18 04	231714 D	RABIES NBR	4.0X 32.00	8.00 12.45	1	398.40
02/11/18 04	231714 D	RABIES NBR	4.0X 32.00	8.00 12.45	1	398.40
02/11/18 04	231750 D	BINGO LUNCH NBR	4.0X 32.00	8.00 12.45	1	398.40
02/11/18 04	231751 D	EMPIRE CITY NBR	4.0X 32.00	8.00 12.45	1	398.40

Credit Card payments will be accepted using the enclosed form.

Statement of Account - Aging of Past Due Amounts

Due date: 03/15/18

21) Current Net Amount Due 4195.65	22) 30 Days 0.00	60 Days 0.00	Over 90 Days 0.00	Unapplied Amount	23) Total Amount Due 4195.65
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HUDSON REPORTER ASSOC. LP
(201) 798-7800

* UNAPPLIED AMOUNTS ARE INCLUDED IN TOTAL AMOUNT DUE

24) Invoice Number 2210	25) Advertiser Information 1) Billing Period 02/2018	2) Billed Account Number 2210	3) Advertiser/Client Number 2210	4) Advertiser/Client Name TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BERGE
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BRIEFS

Community meeting Jan. 30 to discuss Hudson Tunnel project

NJ Transit and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) will hold a public information session on Tuesday, Jan. 30 to provide opportunities for members of the public and stakeholders to learn about the Hudson Tunnel Project and potential impact to our area.

The Hudson Tunnel Project is intended to preserve the current functionality of the North River Tunnel – the existing passenger rail crossing under the Hudson River between New Jersey and Penn Station in New York – and to strengthen the resiliency of Amtrak's Northeast Corridor (NEC).

The North River Tunnel, which is over 100 years old and sustained damage during Superstorm Sandy, is a critical link in the NEC and is used daily by thousands of Amtrak and NJ Transit passengers.

The public information session will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Jan. 30 at the Lido Restaurant, 2600 Tonnelle Ave., in North Bergen. Project staff will be available to answer questions about the project. Spanish language interpreters will be present and the meeting facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If any other special accommodations are needed, contact the project team five days prior to the meeting at (973) 261-8115 or team@hudsonstunnelproject.com.

More information about the Hudson Tunnel Project and the DEIS is available at www.hudsonstunnelproject.com.

Registration for North Bergen Library's winter literacy classes begins Jan. 29

From Jan. 29 to Feb. 24, North Bergen residents can register for the North Bergen Library's 2018 winter literacy classes. The classes include medical billing, childcare development associate, ESL and conversation, and legal assistant. All classes are in English, with most running for 16 weeks.

Space is limited, and preference will be given to low-income and unemployed residents. There will also be a one-time attendance deposit of \$50 that will be refunded after successfully completing a class. Classes begin Feb. 25. For more information, call (201) 869-4715.

Free citizenship courses offered at both libraries

The North Bergen Free Public Library will offer free 15-week citizenship courses at both the main library and the Kennedy Branch. Beginner and high intermediate/advanced level classes are available.

The courses are funded through the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program, which was awarded to the library by the Department of Homeland Security. The grant aims to help organizations promote prospective citizens' assimilation into American civic life by funding educational programs designed to increase their knowledge of English, U.S. history, and civics.

Bring your green card when you register. A \$50 refundable attendance deposit is required (check or money order).

The main library is located at 8411 Bergenline Ave. and the Kennedy Branch is at 2123 Kennedy Blvd. For more information call (201) 869-4715 or visit www.nbpl.org.

see BRIEFS page 8

Mayor Nicholas J. Sacco

invites North Bergen Seniors to enjoy a day at

EMPIRE CITY CASINO

& Yonkers Race Track

Saturday, February 3rd

8:30am-5:30pm, \$5pp

Receive \$10 coin voucher and \$10 food voucher
Lite snacks will be served on the return trip home



Payment must be made in advance. North Bergen seniors only, proof of residence is required. Seating is limited.

For reservations or more information please call Linda Cecchini at 201-869-9595 or 201-869-5001

calendar

The North Bergen Reporter welcomes entries of community interest for its weekly Calendar listings. To be considered for publication, entries must be received one week prior to publication date. No information will be accepted over the phone.

Ongoing

Narconon - Drug overdoses have become the leading cause of accidental death in the United States with heroin and other opiates being the largest contributor. If your loved one is struggling with drug abuse of any kind, now is the time to get them the help they need.

Learn more about the signs of heroin addiction. If you believe one of your loved ones is abusing drugs, learn how you can make a difference by visiting

<http://www.narconon-newliferetreat.org/drug-rehab/>

ADDITION SCREENINGS

Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today for free screenings or referrals. 1-800-431-1754

Narconon - Top excuses for substance abusers who fail to seek treatment include: not ready to quit using, too scared to kick, their habit is not that bad. All result in continued abuse and all

boil down to one real excuse – they want to use drugs. If you are suspicious one of your loved ones is abusing drugs or alcohol call us today for free information on the signs of drug abuse. **Narconon** can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today at 1-800-DRUG FREE or by visiting <http://www.narconon-newliferetreat.org> for free screenings, referrals, or your free copy of signs of addiction.

Free breast cancer screenings available at three locations in HC to uninsured & underinsured women ages 40-64. Screening locations: Hoboken Family Planning, 124 Grand St., 1st fl. Hob.; Hoboken Family Planning Summit Center, 1206 Summit Ave., UC; Family Planning of West New York, 5305 Hudson Ave., WNY. Program is for residents of HC who meet specific criteria. Info call (201) 963-0300.

North Bergen Public Library – To get the latest information about library news, programs, special events, or volunteer work visit WWW.NBPL.ORG or call: (201) 869-4715.

Pet adoptions – every Sunday 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Petsmart, 400 Mill Creek Mall, Secaucus – for more info. call Charlene (201) 200-1008 or Kathleen (201) 895-3874.

Toastmasters en Español meets the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month - 9:30 a.m. at the Burger King, 3501 Bergenline Avenue, Union City. Improve your Spanish and your speaking skills in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Meetings conducted in Spanish. Contact (201) 334-2713 for more information.

St. John's Episcopal Church, thrift store open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. We accept donations during business hours. All items are carefully inspected and cleaned for resale. All proceeds go to St. John's Episcopal Church at 1514 Palisades Ave., Union City, for community and church services. Stjohnsthift@gmail.com

St. Augustine's School, Union City will be having ongoing school registration – Mon. - Fri 9 a.m.-5 p.m., pre school, ages 3 & 4 and K-8, for more info. (201) 865-5319.

Alzheimer's Association Support Group: Secaucus Library, 1379 Paterson Plank Rd., Secaucus, Louise Munsch and Eydie Shapiro, (201)340-2238, meets every first Monday at 7:00 p.m. 24-hour helpline, 1-800-272-3900, or visit www.alz.org/nj

Rent increases across NJ

Is luxury housing a factor?

By Rory Pasquariello
Reporter staff writer

The high cost of shelter

The cost of rental housing throughout New Jersey has been increasing faster than inflation and is taking a greater chunk of household income than ever, according to new data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey released in December 2017.

The data shows that the median rent rose by 10 percent or more in more than 100 New Jersey municipalities. In Hudson County, rents were 5.3 percent higher in 2012 through 2016 compared to 2007-2011.

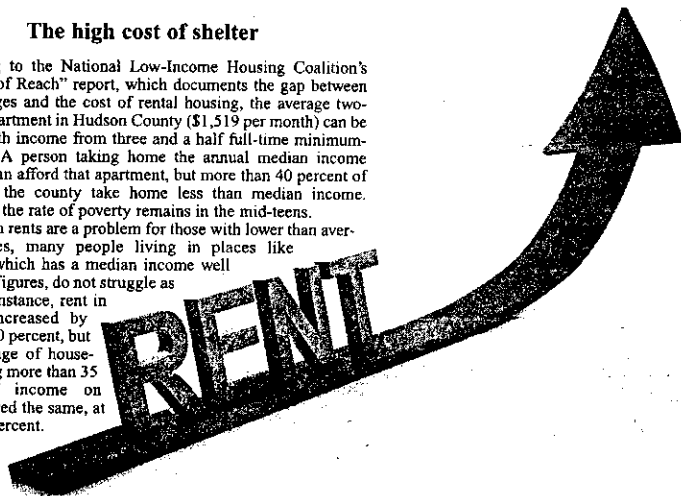
The number of rental homes in the county increased by 3 percent. However, the overwhelming majority of new housing construction is marketed to high-income residents as "luxury" housing. While housing for low to moderate income people is in demand, not much is being built as developers are betting that renting to high-income residents will turn greater profits.

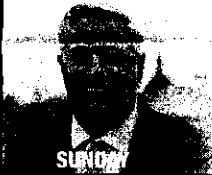
Towns like East Newark, Secaucus, Harrison, and Weehawken increased their rental stock more than 10 percent, but had fewer rental homes to start with. Hoboken and Union City added around 5 percent to their rental stock, West New York around 4 percent, Jersey City added a little over 2 percent, and Bayonne added barely any, with a 0.1 percent change. With multiple rental developments in Bayonne expected to be completed in 2018 and 2019, that may change soon.

Rents that shot up the most around the county were Hoboken (10.2 percent) and North Bergen (9.3 percent).

According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition's 2017 "Out of Reach" report, which documents the gap between renters' wages and the cost of rental housing, the average two-bedroom apartment in Hudson County (\$1,519 per month) can be afforded with income from three and a half full-time minimum-wage jobs. A person taking home the annual median income (\$63,000) can afford that apartment, but more than 40 percent of families in the county take home less than median income. Meanwhile, the rate of poverty remains in the mid-teens.

While high rents are a problem for those with lower than average incomes, many people living in places like Hoboken, which has a median income well into the six figures, do not struggle as much. For instance, rent in Hoboken increased by more than 10 percent, but the percentage of households paying more than 35 percent of income on housing stayed the same, at around 22 percent.





MAYOR NICHOLAS J. SACCO
COUNCIL ON AGING
PROUDLY PRESENTS
EVENTS FOR:

February 2018



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm EXERCISE 9:30am-10:30am MOVIE NUTRITION CENTER 10:30am-12:30pm	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm BIRTHDAY BINGO 11am-1pm	EMPIRE CITY YONKERS 8:30am-5:30pm 
4	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm TAI-CHI 9:45am BINGO 11am-1pm LUNCH SPECIAL \$1.75	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm EXERCISE CLASS 9:15am	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm TAI-CHI 9:45am HIBACHI GRILL BUFFET 12pm-2:30pm \$11pp 	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm EXERCISE 9:30am-10:30am MOVIE NUTRITION CENTER 10:30am-12:30pm	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm FREE MOVIE 	JERSEY GARDENS 10am-4pm 
11	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm TAI-CHI 9:45am BINGO 11am-1pm LUNCH SPECIAL \$1.75	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm EXERCISE CLASS 8:15am	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm TAI-CHI 9:45am BINGO LUNCHEON 11am-1pm	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm EXERCISE 9:30am-10:30am MOVIE NUTRITION CENTER 10:30am-12:30pm	LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY 	17
18	PRESIDENT'S DAY 	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm EXERCISE CLASS 9:15am	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm TAI-CHI 9:45am RANCHO MATEO 1pm-3pm \$16pp 	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm EXERCISE 9:30am-10:30am MOVIE NUTRITION CENTER 10:30am-12:30pm	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm FREE MOVIE 	EMPIRE CITY YONKERS 8:30am-5:30pm 
25	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm TAI-CHI 9:45am BINGO 11am-1pm LUNCH SPECIAL \$1.75	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm EXERCISE CLASS 9:15 am	Regular Shopping Trips 8:45am-3:00pm TAI-CHI 9:45am BINGO LUNCHEON 11am-1pm	Senior Transportation Call: 201-869-9595 Senior Events Questions Call: 201-392-2159 NUTRITION CENTER 1441 45TH ST (201) 866-8791		

RENOVATIONS from cover

said. "They play Bingo there, and they have an official Bingo night on Thursdays. And that was canceled. Seniors have their parties there, seminars, and workshops."

The work will bring brand new windows, an updated entryway, new flooring, walls, ceiling tiles, a gray and maroon color scheme, and new kitchen with appliances to the room, according to officials.

But the resident claims other residents have been unable to find replacement space for their activities, and that management did not provide them with one.

She also argued that doing winter renovations keeps residents from a warm space to congregate, as they usually go outside to chat only during warmer months.

"The complaint was, they did it when the weather was cold," the resident said. "If they had done it in the summertime, people could've sat out here."

"We were using the room to visit and learn about each other," said another anonymous resident. "It's been stressful because we have no place to go, especially in the wintertime. Even inside the lobby, it's freezing."

The resident did admit though that "it's probably going to be for the best of us."

The NBHA had its contractor install a temporary

walkway in the community room during renovations, to allow residents access to the building's laundry room without going outside. However, it is not currently set up for recreational activity. For any essential gatherings, the authority is also offering bussing to other community rooms during the shutdown.

Gerald Sanzari, the authority's executive director, admitted that, "I know they were disappointed, and they wanted to have their Christmas Party." But, the authority did offer to have it at another nearby building, which the seniors refused, he said.

"With progress, sometimes, you have to make some sacrifices," Sanzari said. "Like when you have to go to a hotel and they say, 'Pardon our appearance, we're under construction.' In order to give them a grade A place to live, sometimes you have to make a little bit of a sacrifice. I don't think three months is unreasonable."

The renovations will cost roughly around \$400,000, Sanzari said. It will be paid for by a modernization capital improvement fund, around \$1.2 million annually.

"We get it every year," Sanzari said.

"The seniors are going to love it," he added.

Hannington Dia can be reached at hd@hudsonreporter.com or leave a comment on this story at hudsonreporter.com

obituaries

BIONDO, CATHERINE M. A funeral mass was offered Jan. 19 at St. Joseph's Church for Catherine M. Biondo. She passed away Jan. 14. Born in Jersey City, she was a lifelong resident. She was employed as Executive Secretary to the president at Mechanics Financial Company in Jersey City for over thirty years, retiring twenty five years ago. She enjoyed life and her retirement, spending time gardening, traveling and reading. She was also active in several organizations. She was a member of the Holy Rosary Society of St. Joseph's Church and was active in their Pre Baptismal Program, The St. Peter's Prep Mother's Club and later, joined The Secular Franciscan Order, to pattern her life in the spirit of St. Francis. Kathleen is predeceased by her husband, Vincent J. Biondo, brother Harry O'Carroll and grandson, Thomas. She is survived by her sons, Vincent Biondo, Thomas Biondo, (Lucille) and Michael Biondo, (Sue Ann); grandchildren, Michael, Melissa and Danielle and six great grandchildren.

Services arranged by the McLaughlin Funeral Home, Jersey City.

ELLIOTT, ANN. A funeral mass was held Jan. 19 at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, Avon-by-the-Sea, for Ann Elliott. She passed away peacefully on Jan. 14 at Roosevelt Care Facility, Old Bridge. She was born in Jersey City to Mary and George Betz and resided in Jersey City most of her life. She worked at St. Michael's High School as a library aide and office clerk for both Hudson County and Dickinson High School. Ann's joy in life was her family. She is predeceased by her parents, brothers William and George Betz and husbands Howard Mount and Wallace Elliott. Also predeceased by daughter-in-laws Margaret and Margarita Mount. Surviving are her three sons; Howard of Ocean Township, Robert and partner Rochelle Marcus of Cape Cod, MA and Kenneth (Bernadette) Mount of Neptune; Granddaughters Alison (Michael) Krzywdzinski and Carrie (William) Picone and great-granddaughters Riley, Ava and Grace.

Services arranged by the Ely Funeral Home, Neptune.

FORMISANO, FRANK DAVID. A memorial mass was held Jan. 20 at Immaculate Conception Church in Secaucus for Frank David Formisano, 75, of Secaucus. He passed away Jan. 16 at the Care One at Wellington in Hackensack. Born in Jersey City to the late David and Cecelia (Potoczniak) Formisano, Frank owned his own auto parts store, and has been living in Secaucus most of his life. Frank is survived by his wife, Elisa (Acerra) Formisano; sons Scott Thompson and Frank Formisano; daughter Tara and her husband Kevin Nolan; and brother and sister Michael and Cecelia Formisano. He is also survived by his grandchildren Sophia and Gaetano Formisano and Frank, Ava, and Riley Nolan.

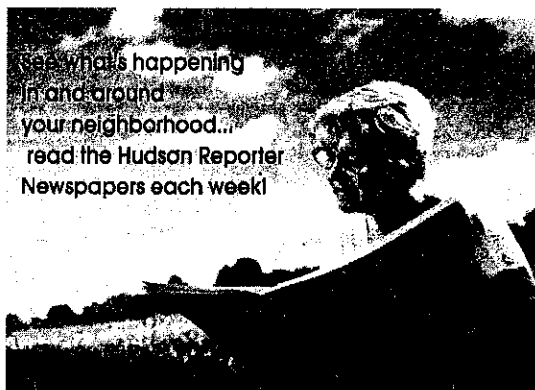
Services arranged by the Mack Memorial Home, Secaucus.

PISA, MARY ANNE FERRI. Funeral services were held Jan. 16 for Mary Anne Ferri Pisa, 79. She died Jan. 11 at her home. Born in Jersey City, the daughter of the late Lorraine and Harold McNally, she lived in Secaucus the last 15 years. She worked as a sales rep for A-Plus, Bayonne. She was the wife of the late John Ferri and the late Joseph Pisa; mother of John Ferri and the late Thomas Ferri and Joseph Pisa; grandmother of Anthony, John Paul and Christine Ferri; great-grandmother of John Julian; sister of Patricia Petrozelli and the late Clara and Claire McNally.

Services arranged by the Greenville Memorial Home, Jersey City.

SALTARELLA, MARIE P. Funeral Mass was held Jan. 20 at Holy Rosary Church, Jersey City for Marie P. Saltarella, 87, a lifelong resident of Jersey City. She passed away Jan. 16. Marie was a retired international underwriter for Commercial Union Insurance Company in New York City. Marie was a proud member and past-president of the Dante Alighieri Society Woman's Auxiliary in Jersey City. She was also a member of the

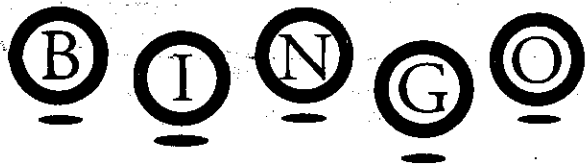
see **NOTICES** page 5



see what's happening
in and around
your neighborhood...
read the Hudson Reporter
Newspapers each week!

www.hudsonreporter.com

BIRTHDAY



Mayor Nicholas J. Sacco

invites North Bergen Seniors to a Birthday Bingo!

Friday, February 2nd, 11:00am

North Bergen Senior Nutrition Center

1441 45th Street in North Bergen

Suggested Lunch Donation:

\$1.75 per person



Lunch Includes:

Entree
Coffee/Tea
Milk
Dessert



Reservations are not
required for Bingo, just for
the meal.

Please call 201-866-8791
by 11am the day before to
reserve your meal.

For transportation please call 201-869-9595.

BRIEFS

Feds drop charges against Menendez

The U.S. Justice Department has dropped its corruption case against U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez.

This decision came after a mistrial was declared in the proceedings against the New Jersey Democrat and co-defendant Salomon Melgen in November when the jury could not come to a verdict.

The Justice Department refilled the charges earlier this month, but U.S. District Judge William Walls, who heard the original case, dismissed seven of the most serious charges against Menendez and Melgen. Walls said the trial had shown no evidence of wrongdoing in regards to Menendez accepting campaign contributions from Melgen. This left the lesser charges of Menendez accepting gifts and trips from Melgen. Menendez's defense team was expected to request that the other charges also be dropped.

But it appears the Justice Department decided the case was not worth pursuing and dropped the remaining charges against both men.

"From the very beginning, I never wavered in my innocence and my belief that justice would prevail," Menendez said in response to the decision. "I am grateful that the Department of Justice has taken the time to reevaluate its case and come to the appropriate conclusion. I thank God for hearing my prayers and for giving me strength during this difficult time. I have devoted my life to serving the people of New

Jersey, and am forever thankful for all who have stood by me. No matter the challenges ahead, I will never stop fighting for New Jersey and the values we share."

The case could have had serious political implications. Republicans hold a narrow majority in the U.S. Senate and Menendez faces reelection this fall.

The two men were charged in a case that claimed Melgen had given Menendez significant campaign contributions as well as gifts and trips in exchange for helping in solving problems Melgen was having with several agencies of the federal government. Menendez has argued that he simply helped out a constituent.

A number of local officials had urged the federal government to drop the case, from Rep. Albio Sires to Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise.

Hudson County CASA is seeking volunteers

Learn how to become a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer and help foster children find safe and permanent homes. The next information session will be held at the Hudson County



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see BRIEFS page 5

Mayor Nicholas J. Sacco

invites North Bergen Seniors to the

JERSEY GARDENS OUTLET MALL

Saturday,
February 10th
10am-4pm
Seating is
limited

For reservations or more information
please call Linda Cecchini at
201.869.9595 or 201.869.5001



calendar

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Ongoing

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ADDITION SCREENINGS - Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today for free screenings or referrals. 1-800-431-1754

Narconon - Top excuses for substance abusers who fail to seek treatment include: not ready to quit using, too scared to kick their habit is not that bad. All result in continued abuse and all

boil down to one real excuse - they want to use drugs. If you are suspicious one of your loved ones is abusing drugs or alcohol call us today for free information on the signs of drug abuse. Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today at 1-800-DRUG FREE or by visiting <http://www.narconon-newliferetreat.org> for free screenings, referrals, or your free copy of signs of addiction.

Free breast cancer screenings available at three locations in HC to uninsured & underinsured women ages 40-64. Screening locations: Hoboken Family Planning, 124 Grand St., 1st fl. Hob.; Hoboken Family Planning Summit Center, 1206 Summit Ave., UC; Family Planning of West New York, 5305 Hudson Ave., WNY. Program is for residents of HC who meet specific criteria. Info call (201) 963-0300.

North Bergen Public Library - To get the latest information about library news, programs, special events, or volunteer work visit WWW.NBPL.ORG or call: (201) 869-4715.

Pet adoptions - every Sunday 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - PetSmart, 400 Mill Creek Mall, Secaucus - for more info. call Charlene (201) 200-1008 or Kathleen (201) 895-3874.

Toastmasters en Espanol meets the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month - 9:30 a.m. at the Burger King, 3501 Bergenline Avenue, Union City. Improve your Spanish and your speaking skills in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Meetings conducted in Spanish. Contact (201) 334-2713 for more information.

St. John's Episcopal Church, thrift store open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. We accept donations during business hours. All items are carefully inspected and cleaned for resale. All proceeds go to St. John's Episcopal Church at 1514 Palisades Ave, Union City, for community and church services. Stjohnsthift@gmail.com

St. Augustine's School, Union City will be having ongoing school registration - Mon. - Fri 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., pre school, ages 3 & 4 and k-8, for more info. (201) 865-5319.

Alzheimer's Association Support Group: Secaucus Library, 1379 Paterson Plank Rd., Secaucus, Louise Munsch and Eydie Shapiro, (201) 340-2238, meets every first Monday at 7:00 p.m. 24-hour helpline, 1-800-272-3900, or visit www.alz.org/nj

Fighting an 'epidemic'

NJ non-profit hosts substance abuse awareness seminar in Hudson County



Former Gov. Jim McGreevey presides over a substance abuse awareness seminar at Union City High School Jan. 25.

have a great, big steak in front of you, and you eat that. It goes to your reward center and you feel good. Now think about taking something like fentanyl" which makes you feel the same way, he said.

Fentanyl can be disguised as heroin, making it all the more dangerous, according to Tanya Pagan, from the Health Resources and Services Administration's Office of Regional Operations.

"When that happens, a person can have an overdose," Pagan said. "A lot of times, when you try to help the person overcome the overdose with Narcan, which is a medicine used to reverse the overdose, it doesn't work [because it's more potent than heroin]."

Therefore, Narcan has to be administered multiple times and sometimes "people don't make it."

Dr. Aakash Shah, a medical director at the NJRC and emergency room doctor, said he has seen many overdose victims.

see **OPIOID** page 7

By Hanington Dia
Reporter Staff Writer

Last year, former Gov. Christopher Christie called New Jersey's opioid crisis the "AIDS epidemic of our generation." According to the State Medical Examiner's Office, the Garden State saw over 1,600 opioid-related deaths in 2015, up from 1,300 the previous year.

Due in part to doctors prescribing opioid-based painkillers that proved addictive, the opioid epidemic over the last few years has torn families apart and resulted in the deaths of artists such as Prince and Tom Petty.

"In 2016, we had approximately 2,200 people that died of drug related deaths in the state," said Juan Colon, of the New Jersey State Police Department, at a substance abuse seminar that took place on Jan. 25 at Union City High School. The seminar was meant to educate area students and residents.

The NJ Reentry Corporation (NJRC)—a non-profit helping former convicts find employment—organized the event. Former NJ Gov. Jim McGreevey, who chairs the group's board, moderated the seminar.

It featured speakers from RWJ

Barnabas Health, the West New York Health Department, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, among others.

Colon said that vaping—electronic, tobaccoless smoking—can be a gateway drug for kids.

"Our kids are now using these little pens. It's very hard for parents to identify them because they look like USB chargers," Colon said. "You can also use marijuana in these devices and go on to other drugs."

Fentanyl

The synthetic opioid fentanyl has been responsible for many of the drug overdoses in the state. It is around 50 times more potent than heroin.

"The moment you take it, it works almost immediately," said Dr. Amir Friedman, the interim medical director at Alliance Community Health.

He said that fentanyl can be taken in many different ways, including injections, orally, and by inhalation. It can also be mixed and laced with heroin.

"It's 100 times the dose of morphine, and it's acting within six minutes or so," Friedman said of fentanyl's effects.

Opioids are dangerous because they control the body's reward center, Friedman said. "For example, you

Mayor Nicholas J. Sacco

Announces for North Bergen Senior Citizens Only...

FREE MOVIE DAY!

Must present Mayor's Council on Aging Card

Friday, February 9th

Located at:

32nd Street and Kennedy Blvd. in North Bergen, Empire 12 Cinaplex

Vincent J. Picone, D.D.S.

1001-79th St., North Bergen, N.J.
(corner of 5th Avenue)

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TIMES PLEASE CALL COMMUNITY
SERVICE AT 201-392-2159.

BRIEFS from page 2

Courthouse, 595 Newark Ave. Rm. 901 on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Hudson County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is a non-profit organization committed to advocating for the best interests of abused and neglected children. CASA works through trained community volunteers to ensure that needed services and assistance are made available to children while helping to move them toward safe and permanent homes. Hudson County CASA volunteers are everyday people who make a direct impact in foster children's lives. They are trusted, dedicated adults who seek to improve children's well-being. CASA volunteers get to know their assigned child and his or her circumstances and provide valuable information to the court. Judges rely on the volunteers' recommendations to make the best decisions about the children's futures.

For further information, visit www.hudsoncountycasa.org.

Men sentenced in connection with largest fentanyl seizure in state history

Two men have been sentenced to state prison in Connecticut in connection with a record-setting fentanyl seizure in North Bergen last year, according to the NJ Attorney General's Office.

On Jan. 26, a judge sentenced Jesus Carrillo-Pineda, 31, to 10 years in state prison. He was charged with possession of heroin with intent to distribute, and will serve a concurrent seven year sentence on a charge of possession of fentanyl with intent to distribute.

Pineda was also charged in connection with the seizure of five fentanyl kilos, almost 40 kilos of heroin, and a smaller quantity of methamphetamine in Willingboro, which happened a day after the North Bergen seizure.

Daniel Vasquez, 28, received a six year prison sentence Jan. 24, a press release said. He was charged with possession of fentanyl with intent to distribute, a press release said. Both men pleaded guilty to their charges on Dec. 18.

Officials seized 40 of the fentanyl kilos from the record bust in North Bergen, with the remaining five kilos seized in Willingboro.

Fentanyl is known as one of the most dangerous opioids. It is 50 times more potent than heroin. According to the press release, fentanyl caused 417 fatal overdoses in the state in 2015. That number exceeded 800 in 2016.

"Many lives were undoubtedly saved as a result of this record-setting fentanyl seizure by the New Jersey State Police," said A.G. Gurbir Grewal in the release.

"The 100 pounds of fentanyl trafficked into our state by these drug dealers could have generated enough lethal doses to kill the entire populations of New Jersey and New York City combined. Because dealers use this super-potent opioid to boost heroin and create counterfeit oxy pills, drug users are left to play a deadly game of Russian roulette each time they give way to their addiction."

Basketball clinic season ends with awards

Mayor Nicholas Sacco and Commissioners Hugo Cabrera and Julio Marengo handed out awards on Saturday, Jan. 27 to mark the end of the annual Basketball clinic season.

Coordinated by Nick Sacco Jr., the clinic is designed to teach kids the fundamentals of the game.

About 120 kids ages 5 to 7 participated in the clinic on Saturday mornings. Everyone who participated received an award at the weekend event, along with a hot dog and drink.

Become a substitute teacher

Interested in a career in education? Or just looking for a rewarding part time job? Get started now as a substitute teacher. Many substitute teachers go on to be hired as full time teachers. To apply, come to the Board of Education building at 7317 Kennedy Blvd. to fill out an application. Pay is \$85 per day. Schedules are flexible. You must have 60 college credits and pass a background check and drug test.

NBPD partners with Hudson County Prosecutor on new fatal collision unit

The Hudson County Prosecutor's Office recently established a new Regional Fatal Collision Unit, in partnership with various local agencies, including the North Bergen Police Department.

The new unit will include crime scene personnel from the prosecutor's office equipped with the latest available collision technology software, along with a specially-equipped vehicle, an aerial drone, and newly acquired laser scanning and measuring equipment.

A dedicated group of assistant prosecutors will be working with the unit and will be on call at all times.

In 2017 there were 26 deaths caused by vehicle collisions in Hudson County. Of those, 18 (70 percent) were pedestrians or pedal cyclists. Due to the high rate of fatal collisions in the region, Suarez, along with police chiefs throughout the county, determined that citizens required highly trained detectives with the most up-to-date equipment at their disposal.

see BRIEFS page 8

HELP WANTED

Write for us!

Always wanted to write for the newspaper?

The Hudson Reporter newspaper group seeks a talented full-time reporter with an interest in local politics, news, features, and the arts, to cover challenging Hudson County news beats. Entry level OK. You must have writing experience, be creative and a self-starter, efficient at time management, interested in both hard news and features. Salary plus medical benefits.

Send letter of interest with salary requirements (a must), resumé, and any writing samples to: Kate Rounds, Editor, the Hudson Reporter,

krounds@hudsonreporter.com

and put "Reporter job" in the subject head.

Mayor Nicholas J. Sacco

invites North Bergen Seniors to



HIBACHI GRILL
supreme buffet

81st Tonnelle Avenue (Tonnelle Plaza) • North Bergen, New Jersey

Wednesday, February 7th

12pm-2:30pm

\$11.00 per person, tax and tip included

(payment to be made on the day of the trip.)

All you can eat buffet

Drinks and desserts included



For additional information, reservations or transportation regarding this event please call Linda Cecchini at 201-869-9595 or 201-869-5001

Food and Shelter Coalition Meeting set for March 13

All interested persons are invited to attend a Tuesday, March 13 meeting of the Food and Shelter Coalition to discuss food and shelter concerns and share ideas. The meeting is an opportunity to advocate to state and federal lawmakers to promote responsible public policies to improve quality and access to food for thousands of people.

The National Law Center on Homeless and Poverty currently estimates that each year at least 2.5 to 3.5 million Americans sleep in shelters, transitional housing, and public places not meant for human habitation.

At least 7.4 million have lost their own homes and are doubled-up with others due to economic necessity.

The meeting will take place at 10 a.m. at Old Bergen Church, 1 Highland Ave., Jersey City (take the elevator and press 1). For more information contact chairperson La-Trenda Ross at (201) 618-5745 or (201) 420-3000 ext. 2543, or email ltross@xbp.dhs.state.nj.us.

The North Bergen Reporter • February 11, 2018 • 4

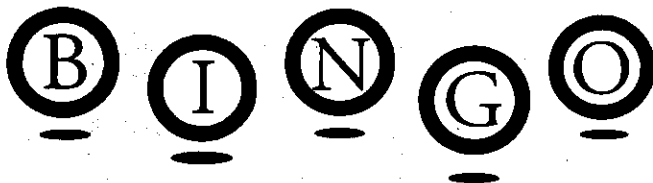
Hudson County CASA is seeking volunteers

Learn how to become a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer and help foster children find safe and permanent homes. The next information session will be held at Little City Books at 100 Bloomfield St., Hoboken, on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. Hudson County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is a non-profit organization committed to advocating for the best interests of abused and neglected children.

CASA works through trained community volunteers to ensure that needed services and assistance are made available to children while helping to move them toward safe and permanent homes. Hudson County CASA volunteers are everyday people who make a direct impact in foster children's lives.

They are trusted, dedicated adults who seek to improve children's well-being. CASA volunteers get to know their assigned child and his or her circumstances and provide valuable information to the court. Judges rely on the volunteers' recommendations to make the best decisions about the children's futures. For further information, visit www.hudsoncountycasa.org.

hudsonreporter.com



LUNCHEON

Mayor Nicholas J. Sacco

invites North Bergen Seniors to a Bingo Luncheon!

Wednesday, February 14th, 11:00am-1:00pm

North Bergen Senior Nutrition Center
1441 45th Street in North Bergen

Bingo Cards: \$1 each

Suggested Lunch Donation:

\$1.75 per person

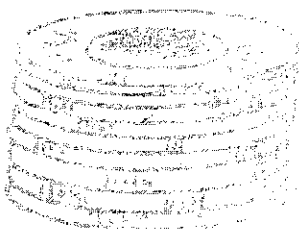
Lunch Includes:

Entree

Coffee/Tea

Milk

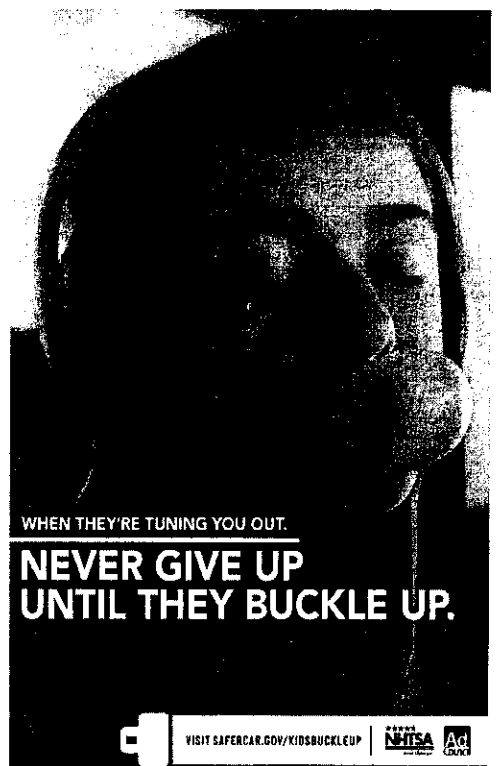
Dessert



Reservations are not required for Bingo, just for the meal.

Please call 201-866-8791 by 11am the day before to reserve your meal.

For transportation please call 201-869-9595.



VISIT SAFERCAR.GOV/KIDSBUCKLEUP



POWER from cover

3. Gov. Phil Murphy.

(New) Phil Murphy has already taken the lead in Hudson County concerning major issues, including opposing NJ Transit's attempt to buy land in Hoboken and promising to make improvements to the beleaguered transportation system. He will likely push ahead with the new rail tunnel under the Hudson River, and has supported citizen groups that opposed development plans for portions of Liberty State Park. At an appearance in Jersey City just after being sworn in as governor, Murphy made a commitment to support Hudson County in the future.

4. U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez

(3 last year). Menendez, who has become a leading spokesperson against Trump administration immigration policies, is up for reelection. Although he will not be re-elected on corruption charges, his mistrial may be used against him by Republican opponents.

5. Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop

(4 last year). Fulop, despite a police scandal during his reign and a near-scandal involving former associates in City Hall, won reelection with 78 percent of the votes cast. He appears to be mending fences with



ANTHONY VAINIERI



RAVI BHALLA

Menendez and Murphy, which bodes well, and is close to Stack. If the prediction is right that Jersey City will become the most populated city in the state (and with buildings rising everywhere, it seems likely), Fulop as mayor will have a lot to say in the future.

6. Anthony Vainieri

(8 last year). Named for the second year in a row as chairman of the Hudson County Board of Freeholders, Vainieri is a rising star, someone seen as the heir apparent to North Bergen political power once Nicholas Sacco decides to retire. Within a few short years, Vainieri has grown as a

leader, laying out his vision for county government and expansion. He will likely oversee the groundbreaking of the new Hudson County Jail.

7. Ravi Bhalla

(New). Ravi Bhalla was elected Hoboken mayor last November after facing five other candidates for the office of mayor. He became the first Sikh mayor of New Jersey, making national news. His election was considered a victory not only for minorities but for all Americans, according to Sen. Cory Booker, who in January swore him in. Since his inauguration, Bhalla has designated Hoboken a "welcoming city" and fought NJ Transit so the city can try to acquire northern waterfront property. With the force of a wealthy economy helping, Bhalla has the potential to influence county spending and the impact of county tax burdens on municipalities.

8. Esther Suarez

(new). Esther Suarez as Hudson County Prosecutor has already proven herself as a powerful force for law enforcement as well as serving a role model for the Latino community. The Hudson County Prosecutor is poised to take on issues still plaguing the county like murder, gangs, and domestic violence. Political corruption cases can also fall under her purview.

see POWER page 6

from page 2

Secaucus - for more info. call Charlene (201) 200-1008 or Kathleen (201) 895-3874. **Toastmasters en Espanol** meets the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month - 9:30 a.m. at the Burger King, 3501 Bergenline Avenue, Union City. Improve your Spanish and your speaking skills in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Meetings conducted in Spanish. Contact (201) 334-2713 for more information.

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Trinity United Methodist Church, 8541 Kennedy Blvd. North Bergen, is began its fall schedule: Regular weekly Sunday services 9:30 am; Choir meets at 10:45 every Sunday except for communion Sunday (the first Sunday in each month); **Bible classes** Once per month the first Tuesday of each month both at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. parsonage;

Private voice lessons by appointment; **After school tutoring** in Math and reading Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, by appointment, and ELS classes. All inquiries (201) 472-9362.

Alzheimer's Association Support Group: Secaucus Library, 1379 Paterson Plank Rd., Secaucus, Louise Munsch and Eydie Shapiro, (201)340-2238, meets every first Monday at 7:00 p.m. 24-hour helpline, 1-800-272-3900, or visit www.alz.org/nj

Third-Tuesday-of-the-Month Bird Walk with the NJMC and BCAS. Free two-hour guided nature walk will take place at Harrier Meadow in North Arlington, a 70-acre restored wetlands area usually closed to the public. RSVP at greatauk4@aol.com or (201) 230-4983.

Autism Support Group will meet at the Bayonne Jewish Community Center, 1050 Kennedy Boulevard, Bayonne on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Give and receive support from other parents experiencing the same struggles.

The Family Support Organization Youth Partnership meets Mondays & Fridays from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Open Enrollment- Free Membership. Offering a variety of fun and interactive activities, special events, field trips & workshops to

continued on page 6

Mayor Nicholas J. Sacco

invites North Bergen Seniors to enjoy a day at

EMPIRE CITY CASINO

& Yonkers Race Track

Saturday, February 24th

8:30am-5:30pm, \$5pp

Receive \$10 coin voucher and \$10 food voucher
Lite snacks will be served on the return trip home



Payment must be made in advance. North Bergen seniors only, proof of residence is required. Seating is limited.

For reservations or more information please call Linda Cecchini
at 201-869-9595 or 201-869-5001

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