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ONE DOLLAR



ALLISON PERRINE

Supporters of the Red Bank Senior Center came together Saturday afternoon to make their demands clear – for the council to fix the senior center and to fix it now.

Red Bank Residents Rally for Senior Center Repairs

By Allison Perrine

RED BANK – Community members young and old again rallied together Saturday afternoon, urging the borough to fix its senior center on Shrewsbury Avenue which has sat in disrepair since 2019.

Organized by passionate residents, the second “Fix It Now Rally” held March 13 featured various speakers who shared their reasons for wanting the center to be repaired and reopened as soon as possible. Organizers tried to keep the event

nonpolitical despite the presence of council members Kate Triggiano, Hazim Yassin, Kathy Horgan, Erik Yngstrom, Michael Ballard and Mayor Pasquale ‘Pat’ Menna.

“Won’t each of us, God willing, someday be old? There’s a moral responsibility to demonstrate by action, not words,” said borough resident Patty Whyte during the rally. “We may be healthy and financially

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College on Fort Monmouth Nears Completion

By Laura D.C. Kolnoski

OCEANPORT – Students should be able to walk through the doors and into the light-filled, high-tech new campus of New Jersey City University (NJCU) beginning this July, said Michael Edmondson, Ph.D., the school’s director, during a tour of the facility March 11.

The former Fort Monmouth administration building known as Squier Hall remains a work in progress with multiple contractors working at full speed inside and out. Delays caused by COVID-19, including delivery of materials, prevented the school’s originally planned fall 2020 opening.

Some 350 students of NJCU currently attend classes at nearby Brookdale Community College in an arrangement that has been in place for 15 years, Edmondson said. That lease will end when NJCU students begin moving to the Oceanport campus in July. A full launch is anticipated for early fall, he added. The school’s main campus is in Jersey City.

“We hope to complete construction by the end of May,” Edmondson said.



LAURA D.C. KOLNOSKI

Earthmovers were hard at work at the new campus of New Jersey City University on Fort Monmouth March 11.

“We can now advance our mission to provide a diverse population with an excellent education, targeting and better serving people in the four surrounding counties, including an estimated 100,000 veterans.”

The school’s course offerings include nursing, cybersecurity, business, crim-

inal justice, fire science and exercise science. NJCU will have 15 classrooms accommodating 30 students each.

A state-of-the-art Nursing Education Center will include an intensive care unit and a skills lab with four beds for hands-on learning, along with a mock apartment where students

will learn to help patients navigate their everyday lives. Behind one-way mirrors in an adjacent room, professors will use computers to create high-fidelity simulations and monitor students’ performance. NJCU’s nursing and cyberse-

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Police Facility Plans Reviewed by Fair Haven Board

By Allison Perrine

FAIR HAVEN – The borough is one step closer to finalizing plans for a new police station in town after the planning board received refined proposals for the Fisk Avenue site March 16 for capital review.

The presentation was led by Eli Goldstein, professional planner with The Goldstein Partnership, a Maplewood-based architectural and planning firm. He and his team offered advanced schematic plans detailing what the future police station could look like should the council proceed with the project. Planning board members provided feedback and critiques for professionals, facilities committee members and council to consider.

“I think all of the comments tonight will be taken to heart. We’ll try to address as many of them as possible,” said Christopher Rodriguez, councilman and facilities committee chair,

at the closing of the presentation. “We’re also trying to not burn the bank down and be economical about these things but not to spite ourselves.”

According to Doug Kovats, planning board attorney, the existing structure is “outdated and suffers from a strange configuration of small rooms.” About 1,800 square feet, the facility has inadequate storage and jail cells only accessible from the outside. It is deteriorating in some areas, has mold issues and is not ADA-compliant.

The process to build a new station began in spring 2016 when the borough authorized a building facilities study to examine key structures in town, according to Theresa Casagrande, borough administrator. By the fall of 2017, the borough appointed Goldstein for the improvements. In 2018 and

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A YEAR LATER: FOOD NEEDS STILL EXIST

By Judy O’Gorman Alvarez

As many of us awaken from this year of COVID-19 quarantine, lost time, take-out meals and social isolation, we line up for vaccinations, patronize businesses and restaurants that are re-opening and we stand ready to greet spring.

But there are those among us who are still grieving for loved ones lost during this pandemic, so many who have lost jobs or businesses, even their residences. No 5-star Yelp review is going to help them

put food on their tables.

Lunch Break, the social service organization providing food, clothing, fellowship, life skills and employment training, has lived up to its motto to “never miss a meal” as a result of generous community members, partners and dedicated volunteers.

“It has been some year,” said Gwendolyn Love, executive director of Lunch Break. “Despite the many, many challenges that we had to face in terms of re-

fitting the building so it’ll be safe and working double with less staff in the building, there were concerns about shortages of supplies that everyone was feeling.”

All along the food supply chain – from food banks to soup kitchens – the concern was the same: will there be enough?

“It worked out,” Love sighed. “We were able to meet the need.” But it’s not over.

Last year, Lunch Break saw an unprecedented de-

mand for groceries – 111 percent more food pickups over 2019. The same holds true for grab-and-go meals – continental breakfast and lunch served six days a week – with a 22 percent rise over 2019.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, Lunch Break quickly adapted to modified food and grocery services, offering grab-and-go meals and contactless grocery

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