

THE LINDEN PROGRESS

AUTUMN 2019

Linden Breaks Job Record

Page 6

Consecutive Tax Cuts

Page 8



From the Mayor	4
Linden breaks job record	6
Linden achieves three consecutive tax cuts	8
Linden leads on clean renewable energy	10
Linden is moving full STEAM ahead	11
New, more secure voting machines debut in Linden	13
On the Road to a Street Smart Linden	14
William M Hasco Jr is Linden's 12th Fire Chief	16
Linden Events 2019	18
Hawk Rise Sanctuary	22
Linden Emergency Response System	23
Recreation Center Crafters	23
Armstead presented Back "Pack" to School	24
Linden signs solar farms contract landfill	26
Mayors by comparison	28

The Linden Progress

Mayor Derek Armstead
City of Linden
301 North Wood Avenue
Linden, NJ 07036

Find Us On The Web!

www.linden-nj.org
www.uptownlinden.com



The Linden Progress is published by the Office of Mayor Derek Armstead. Its purpose is to keep citizens informed about important news, programs and decisions that the administration is making to improve City residents' quality of life.

Although great care has been taken to ensure that the information contained herein is accurate, the City of Linden assumes no liability for errors and/or omissions.

Comments and suggestions regarding content as well as issues of interest to the Linden community are welcome. Please write:

City of Linden
Office of the Mayor
301 North Wood Avenue
Linden, NJ 07036

LINDEN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Mayor

Derek Armstead
908-474-8493
darmstead@linden-nj.org

Linden Municipal Council

Council President

Michele Yamakaitis
908-494-0880
myamakaitis@linden-nj.org

1st Ward Councilwoman

Lisa Ormon
908-370-6482
lormon@linden-nj.org

2nd Ward Councilman

Barry E. Javick
908-494-4608
bjavick@linden-nj.org

3rd Ward Councilman

Peter Brown Jr.
732-814-8123
pbrown@linden-nj.org

4th Ward Councilman

Alfred Mohammed
908-463-4843
amohammed@linden-nj.org

5th Ward Councilwoman

Rhashonna C. Cosby
908-718-7933
rcosby@linden-nj.org

5th Ward Councilwoman

Rhashonna C. Cosby
908-718-7933
rcosby@linden-nj.org

6th Ward Councilman

John Francis Roman
908-494-5784
jroman@linden-nj.org

7th Ward Councilman

Ralph Strano
908-862-5097
rstrano@linden-nj.org

8th Ward Councilman

Paul Coates
pcoates@linden-nj.org

9th Ward Councilman

Armando Medina
908-986-6100
amedina@linden-nj.org

10th Ward Councilwoman

Gretchen Hickey
908-347-4548
ghickey@linden-nj.org

Board of Education

Gregory R. Martucci
Board President

Katarzyna Kozak
Vice President

Sheenaider Guillaume
Tracey Birch
Marianthe Manganello
Doris Johnson
Patrick Gargano
Ahmed Shehata
Dawn Beviano

www.linden.k12.nj.us

The mission of the Linden Public School District is to promote distinction through the infinite resource that is Linden's diversity, combined with our profound commitment to instructional excellence, so that each and every student achieves their maximum potential in an engaging, inspiring, and challenging learning environment.

The Linden Public School District is committed to developing respect for diversity, excellence in education, and a commitment to service, in order to promote global citizenship and ensure personal success for all students.

A brand new day is dawning in Linden

There's a brand new day dawning in Linden. After decades of decline and years of division, we are uniting more and more good people in pursuit of a healthier and wealthier future for us all. I set out to cut taxes, create jobs and make Linden a better place to live so I am proud to report solid progress in every one of those categories.

I am incredibly proud to announce that unemployment in Linden is at its lowest levels since 2000, and according to recent numbers from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, not only were there fewer than half as many unemployed city residents today as there were when I was first elected mayor in 2014.

In July, we set a new record high of 21,145 Linden residents with jobs. The number of city residents with jobs has never been over 21,000 before.

I attribute these stellar results to the excellent work done by the Special Improvement District, Linden First, and our economic development team, including my partners on the City Council.

Bringing people together has paid dividends for the city, where homeowners are celebrating the third consecutive year of tax cuts.

We eliminated the Garbage Tax two years ago and last year, we reduced the municipal portion of your property tax bill for the first time in living memory.

This time, the city cut taxes again and our partners at the Board of Education, led by school board President Greg Martucci, have joined us by presenting a budget with no tax hike.



Critics argue these tax cuts have not been as big as we all would like them to be but at least they are flat or going down. How many years did they go the other way?

Much of this is the result of budgetary discipline. We spend less money because we waste less money in this administration, compared to those organized by mayors who served before me. A lot of people complain that government seems to use little common sense and our experience proves them right. Linden residents asked for changes and I am proud to deliver lower tax bills, even if they are not as low as we would all like them to be.

Part is a result of our aggressive pursuit of state and federal grants, but as you look around and see construction projects around town, there is ample evidence of the last major contributor to our tax cutting: new development.

Progress continues on our transit village development, a solar energy project that is turning trash into treasure, new retail shopping areas and the largest planned development in the entire northeast region: The Linden Logistics Center, which broke ground this spring.

The eight-building, 4.1 million-square-foot joint venture of Advance Realty and Greek Development is the largest industrial development in the Port of New York/New Jersey region.

It is turning a 350-acre parcel of land that has been vacant for more than 25 years, into an innovative commercial project will create massive new tax revenues, attract new businesses, and, most importantly, put hundreds of area residents to work here in the Tremley Point industrial area.

Besides attracting the kind of 21st-century employers who will create new jobs, the Linden Logistics Center's location provides access to about 100 million consumers within a day's drive. We have an ideal location for creating jobs in a fast-growing economic sector. In 2016, transportation, logistics and distribution (TLD) employed 382,228 workers in New Jersey while the Port of New York and New Jersey handled 3,602,508 cargo containers, valued at nearly \$200 billion.

The construction and utilities sector provides many employment opportunities for blue collar workers to earn above average salaries. By building eight giant warehouses, the roads and infrastructure to serve them, and hauling products in and out every day, Linden will supply a large share of the 15,150 new jobs in Union County projected by the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Economic and Demographic Research.

That makes Linden home to the biggest industrial development in the northeastern United States, but we have plenty of smaller economic initiatives that contribute to our historic new record high number of jobs.

SuperFresh has opened on Stiles Street, Chic Filet and others major brands are opening as part of the new Super Walmart coming soon to Routes 1 & 9, Blue Apron is serving up thousands of meals while putting hundreds of Linden residents to work, and new home construction, retail opportunities and more new development is all part of our brand new day.

LINDEN BY THE NUMBERS

- **21,145** Linden Residents with jobs
- **3** years with tax cuts
- **187** arrests for major crimes
- **4.1 million** square-feet being built
- **\$240,000 x 20** years revenue from landfill lease

Thanks to our police and a cooperative community, we have experienced a 12 percent reduction in the number of index crimes over the past four years compared with the 4-year period from 2011 through 2014, according to data compiled by the New Jersey State Police.

In 2018, Linden police booked 187 arrests for major crimes, including murder, rape, assault and robbery. We all need to work together to make this community safer, and we hope you will join us in making the Street Smart initiative described in this newsletter a big success.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 21]



Linden breaks job record

Linden broke its historic record for the number of employed residents, as the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that for the first time more than 21,000 denizens have jobs.

In the last 50 years, the unemployment rate in Linden has never been as low as it was in April, May and June, when just 3.3 percent of the labor force was not working. Job creation has been a focal point for the city administration under the leadership of Mayor Derek Armstead.

Soon after taking office in 2015, Armstead convened top officials who had been engaged in the task of economic development to establish a consensus about what efforts had failed and which activities were producing results for city residents who wanted jobs.

According to James Coyle, President of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce, "Mayor Armstead has made Linden the most business friendly city in the state of New Jersey, if not the entire northeastern United States."

Among the new businesses opening their doors or breaking ground in Linden in recent months are Super Fresh, Walmart, Linden Logistics, Aries Energy, DC Hospitality, and Hathaway.

When Mayor Derek Armstead, Economic Development and the City Council held Linden First's Annual Career Fair on Thursday, September 26, 2019 at the Linden Multi-Cultural Center, there were more than 33 employers in attendance and over 500 job seekers.

employment



unemployment





Linden achieves three consecutive tax cuts

Last year, the average property tax bill in the Garden State set another record high, but despite New Jersey's sky-high property taxes, Linden is among a small number of municipalities that have managed to reduce their municipal tax rates or keep them steady.

Last year, the average property tax bill in New Jersey set another record high, at \$8,767.

However, despite New Jersey's sky-high property taxes, Linden is among a small number of municipalities that have managed to reduce their municipal tax rates or keep them steady.

Linden Mayor Derek Armstead eliminated the garbage tax two years ago and in 2018, he proposed the first municipal budget in memory that did not include a property tax increase but few would have imagined that the city's chief executive could score a financial hat trick.

Armstead's \$110 million 2019 municipal budget included a \$7 tax cut for the average homeowner that was approved by the Linden City Council around the same time the Board of Education announced that its spending plan would require no tax increase.

The proposed tax rate has been reduced to 52.1 cents per \$100 of assessed value — a decrease of 2.1 cents since 2012 (54.2) — and marks the third consecutive year of tax cuts proposed by the Armstead administration, counting last year's \$12 tax reduction and the elimination of the garbage surcharge.

The average assessed home value in Linden is \$375,000. The current budget includes funding for security in addition to the 21 police officers and eight firefighters that Armstead hired last year.

In Linden, municipal taxes account for only 30 percent of the overall tax burden paid by homeowners.

Half of every property tax dollar paid in Linden goes to fund public education but with a new majority comprised of members who share Armstead's concern for taxpayers, the city's school board this year produced its first zero-tax increase budget.

"Over the past 10 years we have seen very few towns in the state of New Jersey that have been able to say they have cut taxes, let alone do it two or three years in a row," Mayor Armstead said.

"The ability to not only provide the level of services we do in Linden, but to seemingly add to them every year within the confines of a 2-percent cap is quite an accomplishment by our entire team,"

Mayor Armstead said. "I am proud to have had the help of Council President Michele Yamakaitis, School Board President Greg Martucci and our department heads, because the ability to craft a \$100 million budget and cut taxes year after year is very difficult to do in today's fiscal climate."

“Budget time is stressful for many municipalities across the state,” said Yamakaitis. “But thanks to smart and efficient management by Mayor Armstead, his administration and the new school board majority, Linden homeowners are going to get their money’s worth and enjoy a savings at the same time.”

“Mayor Armstead’s budget has yielded another reduction in the municipal component of the city tax levy, and my colleagues on the Board of Education are thrilled to join in that kind of accomplishment,” said Martucci.

“A tax reduction of any kind is impressive in this economic climate, but it is simply outstanding that Mayor Armstead and the City Council could reduce taxes three years in a row, while continuing to provide residents with such a high level of services.”

Armstead said tax revenue from a new development occupied by Blue Apron, a 495,000 square-foot fulfillment center that created over 2000 jobs, will increase by roughly \$100,000 a year for the next four years. There are numerous other residential and commercial developments under construction that will also contribute greater tax revenues as they near completion.

Fifth Ward Councilwoman Rhoshanna Cosby was the only member of the governing body who did not support Armstead’s budget when he proposed the second consecutive property tax cut.

Among the services provided to the taxpayers are care of trees, sidewalk repairs or replacement, sewer line clearing at far below contractor service price, maintenance of all 2400 stormwater catch basins and 96 miles of sanitary sewer lines.

The municipal government also provides garbage collection, including bulky waste and recycling, along with street sweeper service plus cleanup at various streams and small rivers in the city. The school district provides educational services for more than 6,000 children who reside in Linden.

The county eats up almost 20 percent of every tax dollar paid by Linden homeowners, but that money covers costs for maintaining golf courses, parks and the Watchung Reservation located in the western end of Union County and seldom used by city residents.

Backed by a healthy \$4 million reserve for uncollected taxes and anticipating another \$8 million surplus, the city budget adopted by the full council.

Armstead saved taxpayers nearly half a million dollars by sharing services with the school board, special improvement district and housing authority.

The budget invests \$2.2 million for sidewalk, curb and street resurfacing, \$868,000 for a new firefighting apparatus, and another \$3.3 million in long term capital expenditures.

Armstead was credited with achieving massive reductions in the city’s insurance expenses, including a 36 percent reduction in the general insurance premium, which saved \$400,000, and an 11 percent cut in health insurance costs that is worth \$1,882,024 to taxpayers.

A penny in the Linden tax rate is worth \$270,774. The City of Linden has a bond rating of a AA-by Standard and Poor’s, but Armstead said he hopes to see improvements in the city’s credit as auditors measure his administration’s fiscal responsibility.



Linden leads on clean renewable energy

Aries Clean Energy received the green light last July to build New Jersey's first biosolids-only gasification facility, and construction has begun on a plant that will bring sustainable environmental benefits to the area by processing 400 tons of biosolids daily into clean renewable energy.

Linden Mayor Derek Armstead said the facility, located at the Linden Roselle Sewerage Authority (LRSA) complex in his city, would be the largest fluidized bed gasification system to process biosolids in the world.

The mayor explained that the industrial-scale energy facility will cleanly convert sewerage into fuel, keeping municipal and industrial waste out of landfills, and it is expected to be operational by the end of next year.

"Aries patented gasification system eliminates the need for environmentally harmful landfilling or incineration of biosolids, while producing beneficial renewable energy and biochar," said Gregory Bafalis, CEO of Aries Clean Energy.

"We believe this truly is a beneficial and disruptive technology that will revolutionize the wastewater treatment industry and establish itself as the best available control technology for biosolids disposal."

"On behalf of the residents of Linden, we look forward to a long relationship with Aries Clean Energy," Armstead said. "Its proven biosolids disposal technology will help the environment, save taxpayers money and provide a climate change solution that creates power without fossil fuels."





Linden is moving full STEAM ahead

During the 1970s, some parents got confused by the 'new math' that replaced older forms of arithmetic that still had them pulling out hairs, so maybe you don't have to brace yourself for evolving scholastic trends now that STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is no longer the major driving force behind K12 education.

Just understand that a growing number of schools are now incorporating teaching methods that are more in line with STEAM education (Science, Tech, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) as it has become clear that arts education makes learning more fun and keeps children more engaged.

Linden is not resisting this change because STEAM represents a paradigm shift from traditional education philosophy to a modern ideal that focuses on valuing the learning process as much as the results.

In essence, we dare our students to be wrong, to try multiple ideas, listen to alternate opinions and create a knowledge base that is applicable to real life as opposed to simply an exam. It is like putting a few lessons from the 'school of hard knocks' in our traditional public classrooms.

"STEAM helps students strengthen their critical thinking skills by recognizing that science, technology, engineering, art, and math naturally complement and inform each other," said Mayor Derek Armstead. "Implementing these principles into our classrooms allows better understanding, inspires more innovation and a creates truly cohesive learning process."

"By giving Linden children the tools to explore new and creative methods of problem-solving, displaying data, innovating, and linking multiple fields -- the STEAM subjects -- our public schools will put our students on the path to a better future," said Armstead.

"We're in a world where everything revolves around some form of technology or some type of integration of science, technology, engineering, math so getting students interested and involved early really helps them when they advance in school," said Armstead.

Armstead wants to bring greater diversity to the world of STEAM.

"A lot of minority students and female students have never before been encouraged to go into these fields, but this is a brand new day in America with great opportunities so this community is going to engage children in STEAM, which will allow them to make their own future," said Board of Education President Gregory R. Martucci.

Without losing any of the focus that STEM put on fundamentals, STEAM students are able to ask questions about different languages, foods, music, games, celebrations and they are given a chance to learn about other countries and cultures,

"The value of the program is that our students have the opportunity to enrich their lives with the exposure to cultures other than their own and by understanding the experiences, struggles, and successes of those around them" said Martucci, a retired teacher and principal who has invested 47 years of his life in education.

"Our own community is a microcosm of the world and we can learn so much from our neighbors as we learn to experience the interconnections of science, technology, engineering, art, and math both in and outside of a classroom setting."

According to AllEducationSchools, "STEAM aims to the foundation of STEM by helping students enhance their critical thinking skills and recognize the intersection of art, science, technology, engineering, and math."

"It gives students tools and methods to explore new and creative ways of problem-solving, displaying data, innovating, and linking multiple fields. The arts and STEM subjects naturally complement and inform each other, so implementing STEAM principles into education allows for more understanding, innovation and a cohesive education in the classroom."

Armstead selected Ralph Dunham to run the city's Recreation Department, putting in charge an experienced professional who got his start in neighboring Rahway.

Dunham's mission is to build a net of activities in coordination with the school district that will teach children as they play and develop physical fitness, as part of the STEAM strategy.

New, more secure voting machines debut in Linden

The Union County Board of Elections will fully implement the introduction of new ExpressVote XL Voting Machines in the 2019 General Election in Linden as well as Clark, Cranford, Hillside, New Providence, Plainfield, Rahway, Roselle, Roselle Park, Scotch Plains, Springfield and Summit.

Voters in other ten Union County towns completed a transition to the new vote tabulation system during the previous two election cycles.

The ExpressVote XL is a full-face universal voting system that displays the full ballot on a 32-inch interactive screen, and allows voters to review their selections on the paper ballot before casting their vote.

It is fully ADA-compliant, allowing all voters to have a similar voting experience.

The public is welcome to attend weekly demonstrations at two locations continuing through the weekend before the General Election at the following locations, excluding holiday closures:

Colleen Fraser Building
300 North Avenue East, Westfield
Saturdays 9:00am – 1:00pm

Union County Courthouse
2 Broad Street, 1st Floor, Elizabeth
Tuesdays, 11:00am – 3:00pm



The Express Vote XL voting machine is coming to Linden

On the road to a street smart Linden

Mayor Derek Armstead and Police Chief David Hart announced that Linden will be conducting a pedestrian safety education campaign aimed at reducing injuries as part of a statewide collaborative effort among public, private and non-profit organizations led by Street Smart New Jersey.

During the campaign, local police will be enforcing pedestrian laws in Linden and working with several partners – including Street Smart New Jersey – to educate people about roadside hazards whether they are driving and walking.

Pedestrian safety is concern nationwide, but it is particularly important in New Jersey, which the federal government has designated a pedestrian safety focus state for its high rate of fatalities and injuries.

Pedestrians comprised 29 percent (183 people) of the 624 people killed in crashes in New Jersey in 2017, nearly double the national average of 16 percent, according to the most recent data available from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).



New Jersey ranks 13th in the nation in pedestrian fatalities per 100,000 people. On average, one pedestrian is killed every two days in New Jersey and 12 are injured daily.

Street Smart New Jersey is one of several initiatives working to help the Garden State reach its goal of zero pedestrian fatalities.

The campaign reminds people that everyone has a role to play in making our streets safer. Drivers need to obey speed limits and stop for people crossing; walking people need to use crosswalks whether they are marked or not, and everyone must cross with the signals; just as every person needs to avoid distractions that can get them injured.

Linden received a \$41,000 grant from NJDHTS to support its campaign.

“Here in Linden we care about our residents and those that visit our City,” Mayor Derek Armstead said. “With daylight hours becoming shorter in the next few months, we want to make sure that drivers, pedestrians and those riding bikes are using the common sense safety tips that the Street Smart NJ campaign promotes.”

Police Chief David Hart said officers will be reminding everyone to keep safety in mind and obey New Jersey’s laws.

“Simply writing tickets will not solve this problem,” Chief Hart said. “Drivers need to stop for pedestrians, obey speed limits and avoid distractions. People out walking need to use crosswalks, cross at intersections and wait for the walk signal or green light. Each of us has to do our part for us to realize truly safer streets in our community.”

Union County Freeholder Angel Estrada, who is chair of the NJTPA Board of Trustees, commended the city for promoting pedestrian safety. He noted that evaluations of past campaigns show the program does improve safety.

“We’re excited to have the City of Linden join this important initiative” Freeholder Estrada said. “The more communities that join this effort, the more people we can educate about safe driving and walking. That helps make our county and state a safer place to live, work and visit.”

The statewide Street Smart New Jersey campaign is managed by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) and began in 2013.



STREETSMART

William Hasco is Linden's 12th Fire Chief

Fire Chief William M. Hasco Jr. with firefighters from Linden and Rahway, at the city's first Fire Prevention Night

Mayor Derek Armstead and Council President Michele Yamakaitis say it is time for new leadership at the Linden Fire Department, as the governing body designated William M. Hasco Jr. as the city's 12th fire chief.

Hasco, a 24-year veteran of the Linden Fire Department, replaced retired Fire Chief Joseph Dooley effective October 1, 2019. Hasco joined the Linden Fire Department in 1996, he was promoted to lieutenant in 2006, captain in 2010, and deputy chief in 2014.

A 1987 graduate of Linden High School, Hasco followed in the footsteps of his father, who was on the Linden Fire Department from 1961 until 1993, when he died at the rank of captain.

A 1987 graduate of Linden High School, Hasco followed in the footsteps of his father, who was on the Linden Fire Department from 1961 until 1993, when he died at the rank of captain.

Hasco and his wife Maria, are the proud parents of two sons, Jayson and Brian. The new Fire Chief served as union president of FMBA Local 34 & 234 for a combined total of about 15 years.



Over the years, Hasco has received awards and citations the New Jersey State Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association, the City of Linden and others.

Best known for rescue operations, fire suppression, emergency medical services and environmental protection, the Linden Fire Department not only battles blazes, but works with arson investigators to bring criminals to justice -- such as a culprit arrested in August after setting at least eight fires -- to provide fire safety education, and to insure fire prevention.

The Fire Prevention Bureau inspects businesses and homes to provide safety by insuring that fire extinguishers plus smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are properly installed at the time of all building and home sales, in accordance with the New Jersey State Uniform Fire Codes.

The inaugural Fire Prevention Night, which was held on Friday, October 4, 2019, in front of City Hall, drew a large crowd who attended and participated in what is expected to become an annual event sponsored by the Linden Fire Department.

Dooley, a 35-year veteran, joined the Linden Fire Department in 1984, was promoted to lieutenant in 1990, captain in 1995, deputy chief in 2000 and he replaced retired Fire Chief Joseph Rizzo in September 2015.



Linden Events 2019

Linden First

The Linden First employment program has changed its hours, as of the second week in October. Linden First will now meet every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon in the Planning Board Room on the Third Floor at City Hall.

Inaugural Latin Festival

Mayor DereK Armstead and the City of Linden presented the Inaugural Latin Festival on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at the Raymond Wood Bauer Promenade, 400 N. Wood Ave., from 2 to 7 p.m. with great music and amazing food!

Linden VFW Pancake Breakfast

The Auxiliary to VFW Post #1397, located at 20 Pennsylvania RR Ave., Linden, hosted a home cooked Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on October 26, 2019 from 8 a.m. till 12 noon. Everyone enjoyed pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, home-fries, toast, coffee, tea and juices, as well as pastries.

7th Annual Taste of Linden

Make sure to come out for the 7th Annual Taste of Linden on Tuesday October 29th, 2019 presented by the Kiwanis Club of Linden. The event will run from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at the Grand Banquet Hall, 12 North Stiles Street, Linden NJ. Admission is \$20 a person in advance, and \$25 at the door. Children 10 and under are \$10. Event proceeds benefit the Kiwanis Club of Linden's community projects and student scholarships.

To reserve your seat, contact June Lazaro at (908) 930-8310 or email at junlazaro@verizon.net. The Kiwanis Club of Linden was chartered on January 23, 1947 and has been serving the community for more than 61 years.

Linden's 67th Halloween Parade

This year, a wonderful autumn tradition will continue in Linden. On Sunday, November 3 at 2:00 p.m., marchers step-off for the 67th edition of Linden's Halloween Parade beginning on South Wood Avenue near Route 1. The parade proceeds north toward City Hall and continued to Curtis Street, for a total length of approximately one mile. According to the Parade Planning Committee, this year's parade will feature many new participants including municipal dignitaries, marching bands, decorated floats and performing groups. As in past years, most Linden schools are well represented with themed floats and children in costume.

As is tradition, the end of the parade will feature a visit by Santa Claus to help officially kick-off the holiday season. "We're thrilled with the response we've gotten from our municipality, our schools, and generous sponsors. We were able to build the Line of March by approximately 40% over last year's parade" stated Carl Pereira, Linden Halloween Parade Committee President.

"We expect a large crowd of spectators this year, and they won't be disappointed" he said. Many marching groups will stop and perform in front of grandstands erected at City Hall near Wood Avenue and Knopf Street, and that's where crowds are usually the largest. Carl added, "This year we are very fortunate to have received donations from Linden's business and corporate community. Their gracious generosity exemplifies the dedication and desire to keep a great Linden tradition alive and well, year after year"

Children in costume, decorated floats, fantastic bands, creative performances, and more will proceed from South Wood Avenue, all the way to Curtis Street by School 1. We're even expecting a special visit from that jolly fellow who will help welcome in the holiday season!

The Kiwanis Club of Linden Presents:

THE 7TH ANNUAL TASTE OF LINDEN FUNDRAISER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2019

5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**The Grand Banquet Hall
12 North Stiles Street, Linden**

TICKETS

ADMISSION

\$20/person in advance

\$25/person @ the door

\$10/children 10 and under

50/50 RAFFLE

\$5 for 3 tickets

\$10 for 10 tickets

1st place wins 25%

2nd place wins 15%

3rd place wins 10%

Event proceeds benefit the Kiwanis Club of Linden's community projects and student scholarships.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Linden Food Pantry, L.I.N.C.S. (Linden Interfaith for Community Services) and receive a free raffle ticket for a special drawing!



City of Linden
NEW JERSEY

Community. Diversity. Progress.



Like us at
Taste of Linden
for updates

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

Ill Amici Ristorante

Amsterdam Alley

Applebee's

Caruso's Cotton Candy

Chevy's Fresh Mex

Cold Stone Creamery

Planet Smoothie

Gold Leaf Pastry Shop

Jersey Mike's Sub

Mami's Cocina

Masala Twist & Grill

Meson Tropical

Metro Liquors*

Olivia's Catering & Dining

Parkway Grille

Pied Piper Liquors*

**Primavera's Café, *
Ristorante, Pizzeria**

Savannah's Southern Belle Restaurant

Starbucks

T & L/Leon Catering

Wing It On!

*** purchase tickets here**

Make CHECKS payable to:
Kiwanis Club of Linden
501C4 non for profit organization



Mayor Armstead announcing raffle winners at the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on December 7th, 2018

Annual Health Fair

Join us for free Health Screenings at the Annual Health Fair, sponsored by Linden Lions Club, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 10, 2019.

Located at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, across from McManus Middle School, 2018 Dewitt Terrace, Linden. Come get checked for vision, hearing and blood pressure, to ensure a safe and healthy holiday season.

Linden Annual Holiday Tree Lighting

Mayor Derek Armstead, the City of Linden and the Cultural Heritage Committee invite you and your family to attend the annual holiday tree lighting celebration at City Hall on Friday, December 6, 2019. Enjoy wonderful musical performances by local school and community groups, and light refreshments. Support the Spark of Love Toy Drive by bringing an unwrapped toy or sporting equipment for a child aged between newborn and 17 to help make this holiday season one to remember. Don't forget to bring your camera to take a holiday photo with Santa Claus!



Inquire about volunteer activities and the time involved, by finding us on the city website at <http://www.linden-nj.org/Departments/recreation> or contact the Recreation Department at (908) 474-8600.

In addition, there are numerous health and fitness programs available all during the year, such as Zumba, Yoga/Tai-Chi/Qi Gong, and a complete fitness program. There is also an exercise room open to adults. Some athletic programs are seasonal but there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Linden Mayor's Youth Commission

Linden Mayor's Youth Commission invites you to join Columbia Bank on Saturday, October 26, 2019 for its annual Halloween Parade and Halloween crafting event at the Columbia Bank, 701 N. Wood Ave. Create your special personalized Halloween decoration, plus open a "Kids Count" savings account and Columbia Bank will match your initial deposit up to \$25. On this day only!

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
CITY OF LINDEN, NJ

TUTORING PROGRAM

PROGRAM WILL BE HELD ON MONDAYS AFTER SCHOOL
OCTOBER 7, 2019

4PM TO 5:30PM AT 1025 JOHN ST.

TUTORING IS FOR ALL GRADES

TUTORS WILL BE STUDENTS FROM
THE LINDEN HIGH SCHOOL I.B. PROGRAM

ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN EVERYDAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
RECREATION LEADER ROOKS CRAWFORD
908-474-8639

FREE OF CHARGE

SIGN UP AT
THE LMPC CENTER
1025 JOHN ST JTG CENTER
330 HELEN ST &
CCB BUILDING
605 SOUTH WOOD AVE

ANOTHER QUALITY PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 908-474-8600

Recreation Department

The Recreation Department offers extensive programs for residents of all ages. With an extensive park system, residents can enjoy numerous outdoor activities, including ice skating. The success of Linden's recreation programs and activities depends upon its volunteers.

Hundreds of volunteers annually step forward to share responsibilities. Some have more time than others to take on full responsibility of an activity, while others may only have time for assisting. However much time you have to give, please do not hesitate to step up and become involved! You can coach or assist in sports programs, or just volunteer for special events.

A Brand New Day

- Continued from page 5

I won't shirk my responsibility as your mayor, but I hope you will live up to your obligation to be an active citizen and a good neighbor because we are all in this together. It is my profound honor to lead the police, firefighters and all the dedicated people who work for this city but that's only because I accepted an invitation to get involved that was extended from another mayor many years ago.

If each of us contributes a little bit, we can turn this brand new day into a bright and brilliant future. We still face many challenges but our recent accomplishments show we are capable of doing better. This is no time to rest on our laurels, so I am asking every city resident to help me and join in our collaborative effort to put Linden first.

My door at City Hall is open for anyone with suggestions or the inclination to lend a hand, so I invite you to reach out to me at <http://www.linden-nj.org/contactus> or 908-474-8493. If you are a parent, please participate with the local parent-teacher group at your child's school. Citizenship means more than voting, so pay attention to the candidates, ask questions and make sure the people you elect understand what you want because democracy is not a spectator sport.

Hawk Rise Sanctuary

Close to Route 1 in Linden, in an industrial area best known for strip malls, a police firing range, and a filled in landfill curious people who care about the natural environment will find a hidden treasure.

At the start of the nature sanctuary visitors have options on which way to go, and throughout the park there are other forks in the trails – choose wisely but be sure to go back and see what you missed.

In one of the last places you'd think to find an ecological preserve, is Hawk Rise Sanctuary! Hawk Rise was opened in 2012 and is maintained by the NJ Audubon. The flat trails inside the nature preserve are about 1.5 miles long, and the sanctuary spans 95 acres. At the entrance to Hawk Rise is information for visitors including animal and plant species to look for, as well as any upcoming programs. There's a Porta-Potty but no other facilities at the location, so plan accordingly!



Linden Emergency Response System

Like most Americans, we take pride in the strength gained by our diversity. The US Census Bureau reports that 32.7% percent of Linden's population was born in another country. There are more immigrants living in our city than any other city in Union County, but from wherever they hail, the residents of Linden are us.

That is just one of the reasons we respect our senior citizens instead of casting them aside.

One way we do that is by providing a free service to older residents, allowing them to feel secure knowing help is only a button away if they encounter an emergency.

That program is called the Linden Emergency Response System (LERS) and it provides a way for senior citizens to summon help like the people in those commercials that say, "I've fallen and I can't get up."

Linden is a community where people have always come together, like a family, so our residents know they are never alone even as the years deduct familiar people and things from our lives. You are never truly alone with LERS.

Anyone aged 65 and older may obtain information about LERS at the John T. Gregorio Recreation Center, located at 330 Helen St, Linden, NJ, 07036; by calling (908) 474-8627, or visiting the city website.

Recreation Center Crafters Knitting, Crocheting for a Cause

The John T. Gregorio Recreation Center is looking for crafters to create baby hats, chemo caps, comfort shawls and other needed items for those in treatment at area hospitals. Other popular items are lap blankets for those in care of local nursing homes.

The JTG Center will host a gathering for both novice and experienced yarn crafters, "Knit & Crochet for a Cause," every Tuesday, from 10 a.m. until noon.

Participants can bring their knitting needles, crochet hooks and yarn, and the Recreation Department will provide a selection of patterns.

There are no set requirements, but requested items in colors and patterns suitable for both men and women.

Once the projects are completed, the Recreation Department staff will deliver them to the selected hospitals and nursing homes.

To register, call (908) 474-8627, or visit the city website.

The center is located at 330 Helen St, Linden, NJ, 07036.

Armstead presented Back “Pack” to School

Area businesses, civic organization and volunteers partnered with Linden city officials to help local students prepare for the new year with new backpacks and school supplies.

Mayor Derek Armstead, in collaboration with the Mayor's Youth Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, local businesses and community based partners, presented “Back ‘Pack’ to School for You” event in the city on Monday, August 26, 2019 at the Raymond Wood Bauer Promenade.

Armstead said, "volunteers and charitable philanthropy fueled the event." The event was also supported by Northfield Bank, Ditto Copy Systems, Wieland Auto Coach, Columbia Bank, Greater Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Linden Airport, Brown & Brown Metro, Total Specialty, and Direct Energy.





Linden signs solar farms contract landfill

Mayor Armstead turns trash into \$5 million treasure

The City of Linden will earn at least \$4.8 million from a 20-year ground lease awarded to Hathaway Solar and CS Energy, the contractors planning to install a solar farm on the 55-acre municipal landfill that was closed and capped almost 20 years ago.

The contract was approved at the Aug. 20 City Council meeting, giving Hathaway Solar, a subsidiary of CS Energy, the rights to the landfill located off Lower Road along the Rahway River and adjacent to the Hawk Rise Sanctuary. The lease will offer a new revenue stream for the city that will pay dividends for 20 years.

"The Linden HawkRise Solar Farm will show how Linden, and our partners in industry, are leading the way," said Mayor Derek Armstead. "With this project, we get it all: cleaner energy, new revenue, lower costs and job creation through private industry."

"We are excited as this project has been a long time coming," said Armstead. "This solar facility on our landfill will not only generate revenue for the City of Linden, but it will help to reduce the carbon footprint and when it's complete, we will be able to offer residents an opportunity to save money through the Community Solar Program."



Aerial View of the Linden Landfill Property



The solar farm will generate surplus energy for the municipality along with revenue of \$4.8 million for the city over a 20-year period, and it is expected to transform the former city landfill site into a clean energy solution, providing approximately 7,000 MWh.

That is enough to generate power for more than 5,172 average homes with clean, renewable electricity from solar energy, which would offset the production of 5,012 metric tons of CO₂.

If the solar project is accepted to participate in the NJ Community Solar Pilot Program, the facility will provide about 1,000 low- and moderate-income households with clean electricity at reduced rates.

CS Energy operates solar farms on otherwise unusable property, such as landfills and abandoned mines, from New England to Utah, including one in Warren County.

Installing projects on closed landfills is a very specialized type of project, requiring a unique combination of first-hand experience and know-how, according to John Ervin, projects manager for CS Energy.

Partnering with CS energy, the leading landfill solar contractor in the United States, Hathaway Solar is perfectly suited to safely develop and build

this project and residents will reap the profit and enjoy myriad environmental benefits while contributing to the global effort to combat climate change by reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

The landfill has cost Linden about \$200,000 or more each of the last 20 years but the lease is expected to pay \$240,000 annually, so the city will turn that expense into a net annual gain of \$40,000. Armstead said this is one of several components designed to restore the environmental integrity to the heavily industrialized Tremley Point section of Linden.

Five years of planning and work culminated with converting the problematic garbage dump into Hawk Rise Sanctuary, a 95-acre preserve and wetland complex sculpted around the former landfill. The preserved forests and wetlands have become home to more than 120 species of birds, plus a variety of other wildlife, since it opened in 2012.

A law passed in 2012 makes it tougher to build solar panel fields on farmland or green space but the Linden garbage dump, which was closed and capped about 20 years ago, is ideal for solar development. CS Energy noted that landfill solar projects can mean lots of local jobs, which has been a priority for the Armstead administration.

Mayors by comparison

Like his predecessor, John T. Gregorio, Sr., Armstead has fulfilled the municipal responsibilities of a business administrator in addition to his role as mayor and dedicates himself fulltime to the job.

Armstead was first elected to represent the 4th Ward on the Linden City Council in November 1993, and served four terms before his election as mayor of Linden in 2014. According to James Coyle, President of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce,

"Mayor Armstead has made Linden the most business friendly city in the state of New Jersey, if not the entire northeastern United States." Coyle said that in his first five years as the city's chief executive, Mayor Derek Armstead cut Linden's unemployment rates in half, from an average of eight percent in his first year to four percent in the current year.

The economic catalyst says this is a direct result of Armstead's willingness to listen to business leaders, his tenacity in getting rid of unnecessary obstacles and his commitment to making the economy work for working people through such innovations as the city's "Linden First" program, his personal support for the Special Improvement District, and his hands on leadership working with the economic development team.

John T. Gregorio 1991 - 2006

Unemployment avg 6.4, with a high of 10.6 and a low of 3.6

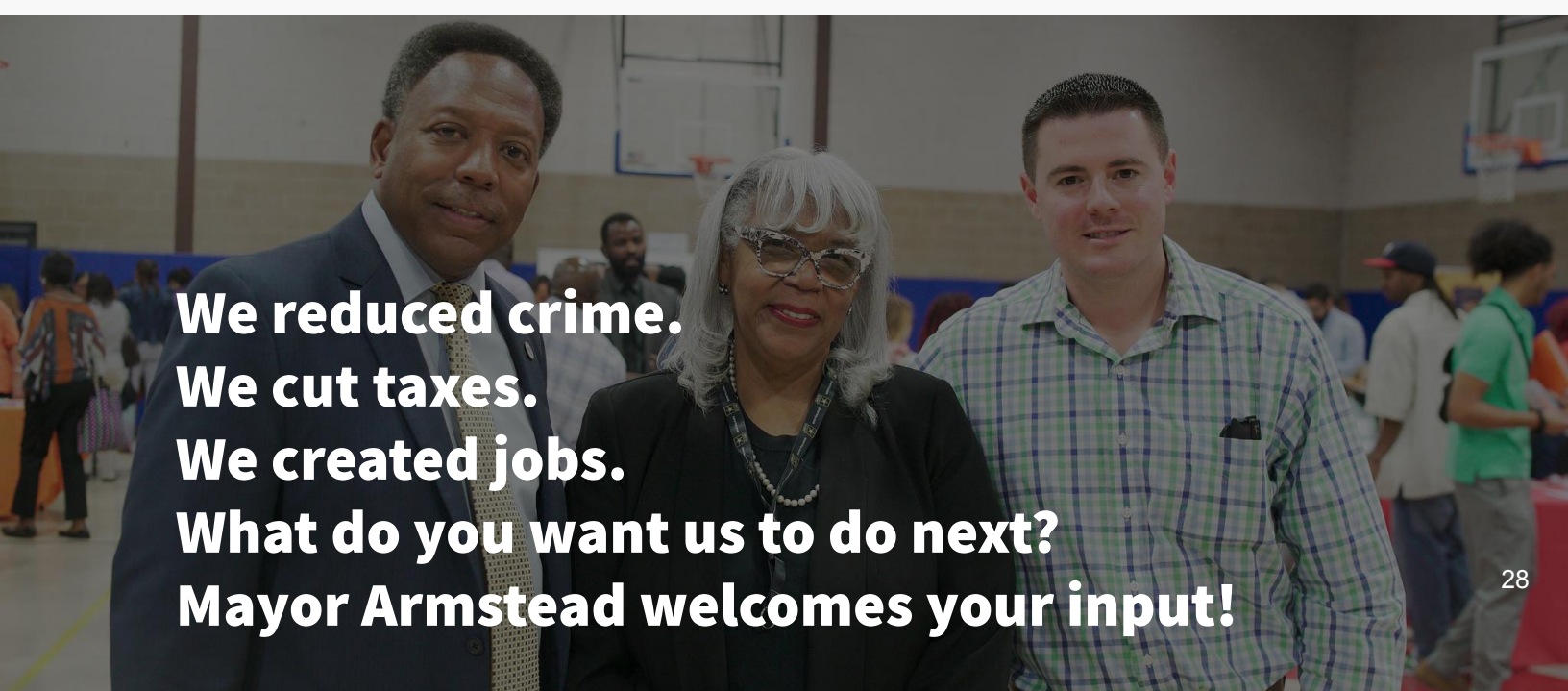
Richard J. Gerbounka 2007 - 2014

Unemployment avg 8.9, with a high of 11.5 and a low of 4.4

Derek Armstead 2015 - Present

Unemployment avg 5.7, with a high of 8.5 and a low of 3.3

"There have never been more Linden residents employed in any time in history then there are working today."
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



**We reduced crime.
We cut taxes.
We created jobs.
What do you want us to do next?
Mayor Armstead welcomes your input!**