

40 Years



New Jersey Meadowlands Commission 1969-2009

ELECTRONIC NEWS SEPTEMBER 2009

For more details on any of these stories visit our Web site at

www.njmeadowlands.gov click on "Press Releases"

September Flyway Gallery Exhibit



Artwork by local children from the Putting the Pieces Together organization, a Lyndhurst-based support group for children with special needs, will be on display at the NJMC's Flyway Gallery through Tuesday, Sept. 29. A reception is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Sunday, Sept. 27. The Flyway Gallery is located in the Meadowlands Environment Center, in DeKorte Park, in Lyndhurst, and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekends. For more information, call 201-460-8300 or visit www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec. Directions to the park are available in the "About Us" section of the NJMC's Web site www.njmeadowlands.gov.

# NJMC Today

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY MEADOWLANDS COMMISSION

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## Greetings from Acting Chairman Richman



Welcome to the latest edition of NJMC Today, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's electronic newsletter. It has been an exciting summer, with the NJMC making major progress on solar and redevelopment projects, saving property owners money on flood insurance, and launching new public programs and partnerships.

Last month the NJMC was awarded \$8.5 million in federal funding by the state Board of Public Utilities for use toward the construction of a solar facility on a closed landfill in Kearny. The site is large enough to produce 5 megawatts of electricity, which would make it the largest solar facility of its kind in the state.

In July the Commission announced an agreement with insurer American Home Assurance which allows major work to commence on the Meadowlands Redevelopment

Project and provides more than \$2 million in desperately-needed financial assistance to two local communities. In addition we secured more than \$323,000 in flood insurance savings for District property owners.

The NJMC also recently formed a partnership with the Meadowlands Museum and launched an Oral History Blog, both of which highlight the unique history of the area. This month, the Commission begins a series of free, public Green Living programs, and we've been attracting crowds during our new, twice-monthly nature walks with the Bergen County Audubon Society.

To keep track of our upcoming events, visit the NJMC's Web site, www.njmeadowlands.gov, and click on the Events and Alerts button.

Thank you, Charles A. Richman

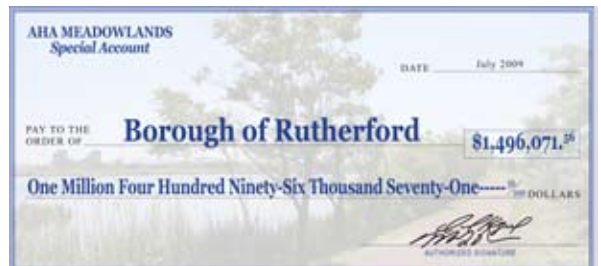
Acting Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs  
Acting Chairman, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission

## NJMC Awarded \$8.5 Million for Solar Landfill Project



The NJMC was awarded \$8.5 million in federal funding by the state Board of Public Utilities in August for use toward the development of a solar power facility on a closed landfill in Kearny. The landfill project ranked the highest among the seven state-sponsored projects the Board selected to share \$20.6 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act monies. The NJMC plans to lease space on parts of the 35-acre 1-A landfill to a company that would design, finance, own and operate the solar facility. The project site is large enough to support enough panels to generate nearly 5 megawatts of power, which would make it the largest such facility in the state.

## Local Communities Receive \$2 Million Plus Through NJMC Settlement with AHA



Insurer American Home Assurance (AHA) paid more than \$2 million in July to help offset lost property tax revenue in Rutherford and North Arlington as part of a takeover agreement approved by the NJMC. The agreement also allows major work to proceed on the Meadowlands Redevelopment Project, which includes the remediation of four former Meadowlands landfills. AHA, which previously agreed to pay \$148.8 million toward the landfill cleanup, also pledged to help Lyndhurst pay for its new ball fields. AHA paid Rutherford nearly \$1.5 million and North Arlington \$550,000 to cover property taxes owed by EnCap in each community.

## NJMC to Make Permitting Process More Efficient

In July the NJMC announced plans to promote greater government efficiency by working with the state Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to share the permitting process for certain development applications within the Meadowlands District. Under the permit efficiency proposal, NJMC engineers would perform preliminary technical and administrative reviews for several NJDEP permits often required for local projects, creating the potential for a more efficient

review process without modifying any regulatory standards. The NJMC and NJDEP are currently working on a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the program. Since commission staff has local knowledge of the area, the agreement could allow those with compliant projects to receive permits sooner than in the past. The NJDEP would remain responsible for all environmental reviews and a final sign-off on NJMC assessments.

## NJMC Saves Property Owners \$323,000 in Flood Insurance Premiums

Meadowlands District property owners are eligible for more than \$323,000 in flood insurance savings thanks to the NJMC's flood control efforts, which were recently recognized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for exceeding national standards. More than 2,300 commercial, industrial and residential property owners in the District are eligible for a 15 percent savings through FEMA when they renew their policies or purchase new flood insurance. The NJMC was recognized by FEMA for several large-scale flood control projects, such as a \$5.5 million project to reduce flooding on Route 17 near the Rutherford-East Rutherford border and a \$1.4 million upgrade of the West Riser Tide Gates in Moonachie, which protect Teterboro Airport and its surrounding area. The NJMC has invested \$8 million in flood control projects throughout the Meadowlands District in the past six years.

## NJMC to Host Public Green Living Programs

Beginning this month the NJMC will host a series of free Green Living programs to help people better conserve resources, protect the environment and improve their quality of life. These practical workshops will be held in public buildings and stores around the District, and each event will include handouts and free samples for participants. The first program, Green Purchasing & Slow Foods, was held on Sept. 10 at 11 a.m. at the Kearny Library. A Green Home Remodeling Workshop will follow in early fall at the Lowe's in East Rutherford. Other programs will focus on recycling, sustainable gardening, low-cost home energy audits and other aspects of green living. The Green Living program is funded by a Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation grant, and is an extension of the NJMC's Meadowlands Challenge, which encourages area businesses to "go green." To register for an NJMC Green Living event and learn more about the series, contact Debbie Lawlor at debbie.lawlor@njmeadowlands.gov or 201-460-4671.

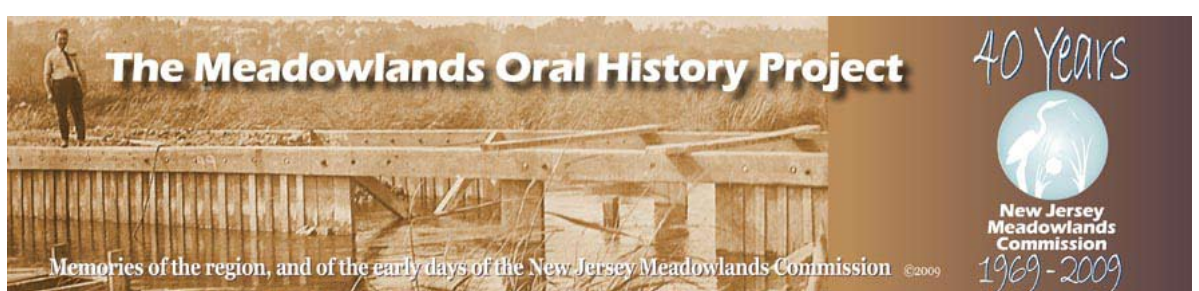


## NJMC Partners with Meadowlands Museum

The Commission and the Meadowlands Museum recently announced a partnership that will boost both organizations' educational programming while promoting the rich history of the Meadowlands District. Under the partnership, the museum will present local history programs and exhibits at the NJMC's Meadowlands Environment Center to complement the existing menu of arts, science and environmental education programs. The Meadowlands Museum was established in 1961 to document the cultural, social and economic history of the Meadowlands area.

## Birding and Nature Programs a Huge Success

Approximately 75 people gathered in DeKorte Park on Saturday, Aug. 22 for a day of free birding programs with renowned bird photographer and author Kevin Karlson. The event, one of many popular nature programs sponsored by the NJMC this summer, included a shorebird walk along DeKorte's mudflats, a workshop on identifying shorebirds and a slide show and talk on bird migration. The NJMC also co-hosts free nature walks with the Bergen County Audubon Society on the first Sunday and third Tuesday of each month throughout the Meadowlands. For more information and to register for these walks, which have proved hugely successful, contact Jim Wright at 201-460-2002 or jim.wright@njmeadowlands.gov.



## Oral History Blog Launched

The NJMC is bringing the rich and colorful history of this region to life through its new Oral History Blog, www.meadowpast.net. The blog, launched in July, features audiotaped, videotaped and written recollections of longtime Meadowlands residents and is part of the NJMC's 40th Anniversary Celebration. The Commission is looking for additional stories from people who grew up in the Meadowlands, so if you would like to participate in the project, or if you know someone who might be interested, contact Brian Aberback at 201-460-4619 or brian.aberback@njmeadowlands.gov.

## Commission Awards \$24,000 in Science Scholarships

This summer the NJMC awarded \$24,000 in science scholarships to 12 college-bound students from throughout the Meadowlands District. The New Jersey Science Scholarship Award recognizes graduating high school seniors who have excelled academically and plan to major in a science-related field in college. The NJMC has funded nearly \$130,000 in scholarships since the program's inception five years ago.