

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Every Wednesday - Line Dancing - "Chem Enter" located at 41 Central Ave, Passaic, NJ 6:pm
- Every Wednesday Chamber of Commerce meet for lunch (Round table) at Hamilton 12:pm Ward & Steak House
- Mar. 21 & May 16 The American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark, located at 83 Norwood St., Halden, is offering a 2-part program entitled Two Cities on Strike, Lawrence, Massachusetts & Paterson. There will also be teachers' workshop on Wednesday, March 21st and a motor coach tour of the labor & immigrant heritage sites of Paterson on May 16th. For more information, call (973) 595-7953.
- Mar. 24 23rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Ringwood Township at 1 p.m. For more information, call Barbara at (973) 296-7808
- Mar 28 Councilman A. Sayegh «Time for Healing» at 6:30 p.m. at PS #25, Paterson
- Mar 28 Taub- Doby Basketball Championship at the Prudential Center 165 Mulberry St in Newark, 3:30 pm NJ 6:30pm
- Mar. 29 The 4th Annual 5th Ward Leadership & Community Collaboration Awards at 6:30 pm Jacksonville Restaurant, located at 325 Grand Street, Paterson - \$75 For more information, call (862) 262-8621 or email info@juliotavarez.com.
- Apr 1 3rd Annual Hats for Hope at Hamilton/ Ward Steak House, Paterson 12:30 pm
- April 14 Support Event for Cong. Bill Pascrell Food/Drink at Fiesta Nightclub, 115 President St. Passaic, NJ
- Apr 19 Job Career Fair at PCCC 1 Blvd. in Gym on Memorial Drive Free 973 684-6603 9:-1pm
- April 21 Latinos Unidos for Sheriff Berdnik (Buffet/Open Bar/Dance) at Valley Regency, 1129 8 pm Valley Rd. til midnight. Formal attire is required for the event.
- Apr 25 Struggling Families for Success - at WPU Continuing Education Center 1600 Valley 9:30- 2:30pm Rd. Wayne NJ Workshops for Family Counseling, Nutrition, Education and Advocacy see page 16 for ad & contact information or call the Family Success Center @ 973-278-0220
- Apr 26 Athletes Making a Difference - In concert with Pat Great Falls Rotary - Presented at 7:pm Brownstone, Paterson, NJ
- Apr 27-29 A Weekend Cruise to NOWHERE, leaving from Norwegian Cruise from NYC 6:pm For booking 866-936-9722 ext 5633 Myra
- Apr 28 Bronze Shield of Pass. Cty. host Image Award Ceremony at Hamilton/Ward Steak 6:30 pm House tickets \$75.00 cocktail hr. @6:30pm to 7:pm Program begins at 7:pm contact
- May 9 Eastside Hall of Induction - Grand Chalet, Wayne, NJ contact 201 306-3215
- May 31 Johnny Ventura at WPU, Shea Center Performing Live-8:pm contact 862-686-1978
- May 31 Knights of Columbus of Rochelle Park, NJ Charity event for the Seeing Eye - 235 Rochelle 7:pm Ave ticket information 201 704 4982 Joe

## RED-LIGHT RUNNING SAFETY CAMERAS IN NEW JERSEY

By: Assemblyman Benjie E. Wimberly

This month, more than one-third of drivers will run a red light in the United States. On average, their recklessness will kill 74 people and injure 13,750 more. Many of those injuries will be severe or life altering. And tragically, the numbers will compound each month. At year's end, one-third of us will know someone injured or killed in one of the crashes. Two-thirds of those killed will be someone other than the red-light runner.

These grim statistics are real - they come from AAA, the Federal Highway Administration and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety - and they are the reason why hundreds of communities in the United States use red-light safety cameras. New Jersey's five-year, red-light safety camera pilot program was signed into law in 2008. Presently, 25 towns across the state have received permission from the Department of Transportation (NJDOT) to implement the program, with more than 20 other communities awaiting DOT approval. Based on the early success, it's time for the state to allow for the expanded use of this lifesaving technology.

A report released by NJDOT last year on the effectiveness of the cameras found they are working. Total crashes fell 45 percent and severe right angle crashes - which are the most likely type of crash to cause injury or death - decreased by 57 percent. Although only two intersections had red-light cameras operating long enough to make the state's first year-to-year comparison report, the message from those locations likely influenced drivers elsewhere to be safer and helped lower statewide fatal crashes at signalized intersections by 20% from 2009 to 2010.

These numbers are similar when you look nationwide. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that, over a five-year period, large U.S. cities with red-light cameras experienced 24 percent fewer crashes with the cameras than they would have without them. Please keep in mind of the dangers that await you at a curve. Below I've given you a few statistics on the subject.

**12 persons died in red-light running crashes in New Jersey in 2010, a 33% decrease from 2007 when there were 18 such deaths.**

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

**In 2009 there were 11 red-light running fatalities and in 2008 there were 8.**

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

**The state's 12 red-light running fatalities in 2010 cost its communities \$72 million in 2009 dollars.**

Source: AAA. Amount is based on 11 cost components selected by Federal Highway Administration including workplace, medical costs, property damage and emergency services. One fatality costs \$6 million. [http://newsroom.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/2011\\_AAA\\_CrashvCongUpd.pdf](http://newsroom.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/2011_AAA_CrashvCongUpd.pdf)

**First year-to-year comparison of red-light safety cameras' effectiveness at intersections before cameras in**

2009 to a full year with cameras in 2010 show:

- 45% decrease in total crashes
- 57% decrease in severe right-angle crashes
- 50% decrease in same-direction crashes

Source: New Jersey Department of Transportation, Report on Red-Light Traffic Control Signal Monitoring Systems, November 2011 <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/publicat/lmreports/pdf/rllrreport11.2011.pdf>

Although the above year-to-year comparisons involve two intersections only, there are fewer crashes at signalized intersections statewide as more cities install cameras.

• 44 fatalities occurred at all signalized intersections on city, county and state roads in New Jersey in 2010, a 20% decrease from the 55 deaths in 2009. Source: New Jersey Department of Transportation Crash Records <http://www.nj.gov/transportation/refdata/accident/>

• The 44 intersection fatalities cost New Jersey communities an estimated \$264 million in 2009 dollars. Sources: New Jersey Department of Transportation Crash Records <http://www.nj.gov/transportation/refdata/accident/AAA>. Amount is based on 11 cost components selected by Federal Highway Administration including workplace, medical costs, property damage and emergency services. One fatality costs \$6 million. [http://newsroom.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/2011\\_AAA\\_CrashvCongUpd.pdf](http://newsroom.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/2011_AAA_CrashvCongUpd.pdf)

• Injury crashes at all signalized intersections on city, county and state roads decreased 2.5% to 8,622 in 2010 from 8,849 in 2009.

Source: New Jersey Department of Transportation Crash Records <http://www.nj.gov/transportation/refdata/accident/>

• At the AAA estimated cost of \$126,000 per injury crash, the state's 8,622 injury crashes at signalized intersections cost its communities about \$1.08 billion. Sources: New Jersey Department of Transportation Crash Records <http://www.nj.gov/transportation/refdata/accident/AAA>. [http://newsroom.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/2011\\_AAA\\_CrashvCongUpd.pdf](http://newsroom.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/2011_AAA_CrashvCongUpd.pdf)

Statewide, total traffic crashes are decreasing. From 2007-2010: crashes are down 3%, injury and property damage only crashes are both down 3% and fatalities are down 20%.

Source: New Jersey Department of Transportation <http://www.nj.gov/transportation/refdata/accident/pdf/njcrash.pdf>

A 2011 National Research Inc. poll of 600 registered New Jersey voters found 76% approve of red-light safety cameras at busy intersections.

Source: [http://saferoadssaveslives.org/wp-content/uploads/EXEC\\_SUMMARY\\_RED\\_LIGHT\\_CAMERA\\_SURVEY.pdf](http://saferoadssaveslives.org/wp-content/uploads/EXEC_SUMMARY_RED_LIGHT_CAMERA_SURVEY.pdf)



## EVERYDAY PEOPLE

March - April, 2012