

Menendez Announces \$188M To Assist Foreclosure Victims



Photo Courtesy: Yasmeen Al-Shehab

Deputy Mayor Adam Gussen, U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, Jane Wright-O'John and Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin.

BY YASMEEN AL-SHEHAB

Flanked by Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin and Deputy Mayor Adam Gussen at Teaneck Township Hall, U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez announced an additional \$188 million to assist unemployed families in danger of foreclosure from the U. S. Treasury's Hardest Hit Fund during a press conference on Oct. 5. This is in addition to the \$112 million announced for New Jersey in September, totaling \$300 million.

The fund provides interest-free loans to unemployed and underemployed homeowners for up to two years or \$48,000. It is estimated that at least 6,200 New Jersey families who are in danger of losing their homes stand to benefit from the additional funding.

"Too many people have been led into mortgages they should not have been led into," said Menendez. "We are delivering this assistance to soften the blow so that families can stay standing as their breadwinners look for new jobs, and so that our economy can fully

recover without more setbacks."

Jane Wright-O'John, an unemployed homeowner who stands to lose her Maple Street home, praised the federal government for helping those in need.

"After 46 years of working, I bought a home to retire in," said Wright-O'John, "and now I have no job. This is a very good deal for families who just want to stay in their home."

As chairman of the Senate Banking Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation and Community Development, Menendez said he demanded answers from banks and mortgage companies regarding the large number of foreclosures that were authorized without due diligence. He did so by writing letters to more than 100 major mortgage firms

"To learn that some financial institutions have treated foreclosures as a rubber stamp process is deeply troubling," said Menendez, a Hoboken Democrat. "After all that has transpired in our economy, Wall Street should act responsibly toward and cooperatively with Main Street families."

Rotary Mini-Golfing Raises \$5K



Photo Courtesy: Fred Rohdieck

The Paramus Rotary Club raised more than \$5,000 for the Gift of Life program when roughly 125 golfers gathered at the Paramus Mini-Golf Course on Sept. 23 to tee off for charity.

Doris Spano, the event's chairwoman, said she was overwhelmed by the response and said all of the funds would go toward life-saving heart surgeries for children from across the world. Pictured: Paramus Rotary Club President Mary Ann Orecchio with the other members of her mini-golf foursome.

Coyle Named Grand Knight



Photo Courtesy: Joseph Shuler

Brian Coyle was installed as Grand Knight and his fellow members were installed as officers of the Knights of Columbus, Trinity Council No. 747, during a ceremony at Holy Trinity Church in Hackensack on Sept. 30 by District Deputy Tom Hyer. Pictured: Robert Raas, Stephen Martino, Raymond Kloeping, the Rev. Paul Prevosto, Brian Coyle, Tom Hyer, Ken Carlson, Joe Shuler and Dave Kuhles.

Music, Food and Family on Main



Photo Courtesy: Gail Vachon

Hackensack Councilman Marlin Townes, Mayor Karen Sasso, GQ, Upper Main Alliance Chairman Jerome Lombardo and Eddie Decker, an Upper Main board member.

Families from across New Jersey and New York gathered on Main Street in Hackensack to enjoy the fifth annual Hackensack Street Festival on Oct. 2. Crowds were estimated at more than 20,000 festival-goers, who enjoyed the international cuisine, bargains from vendors, rides and games for children, music and entertainment galore.

The festival is presented each year by the Upper Main Alliance and the City of Hackensack as a way of showcasing what Main Street has to offer in the way of shopping and dining.

A classic car show on the south end of Main provided a gateway into the festival, which included hundreds of vendors selling items such as jewelry, toys, clothing and collectibles.

Johnson Public Library hosted storybook characters, a demonstration by the Bergen County Police Department's K-9 Unit and the Robert Rogers Marionettes. There were also demonstrations by Shotokan Martial Arts Academy and dance troupes.

Live music was the draw for many of the festival-goers.

Fillet of Soul, a reunion band that's been

rehearsing since the summer, kept the crowd entertained with covers of Joe Cocker and others. The band, many of its members hailing from Hackensack, played some of the same songs they sang in the 60s and 70s.

Fillet of Soul was followed by GQ, another crowd pleaser and American Music Award winner. GQ is best known for his songs "Disco Nights (Rock Freak)" and "I Do Love You," both of which were featured in the Patrick Swayze film "Skate-Town USA."

Harold Melvin's Blue Notes, a Philadelphia-based R&B group, capped off the night with their popular hits "If You Don't Know Me By Now" and "The Love I Lost."

"Our annual Hackensack Street Festival was once again a huge success," said Albert Dib, interim executive director, Upper Main Alliance. "We are very grateful to our alliance members for participating and to the City of Hackensack for partnering with us to produce this truly wonderful event. Our hope is that festival attendees will return to Main Street again and again for its unique shopping and dining."

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Local 3172

Hackensack Firefighters Association
Local 2081

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