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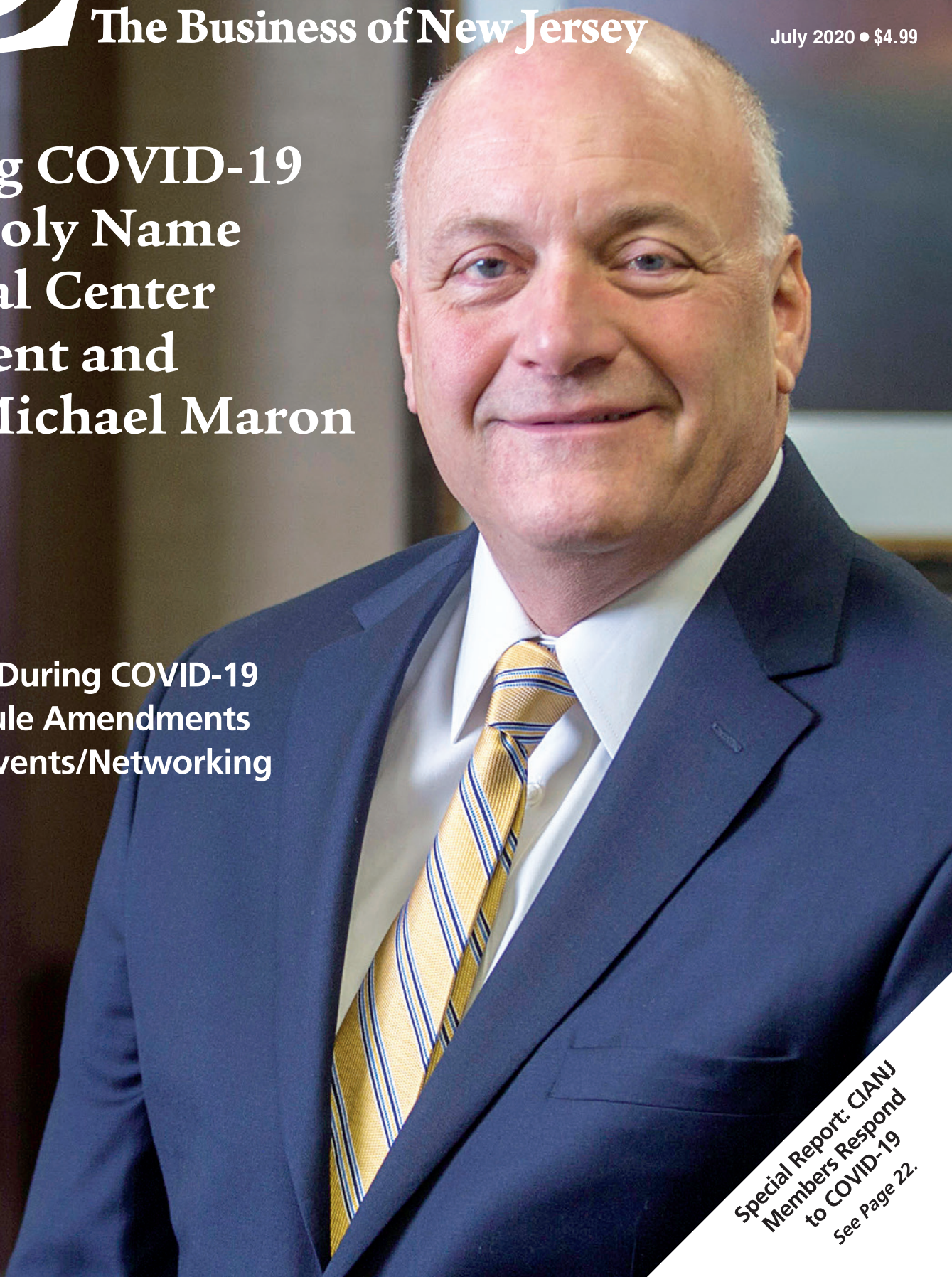
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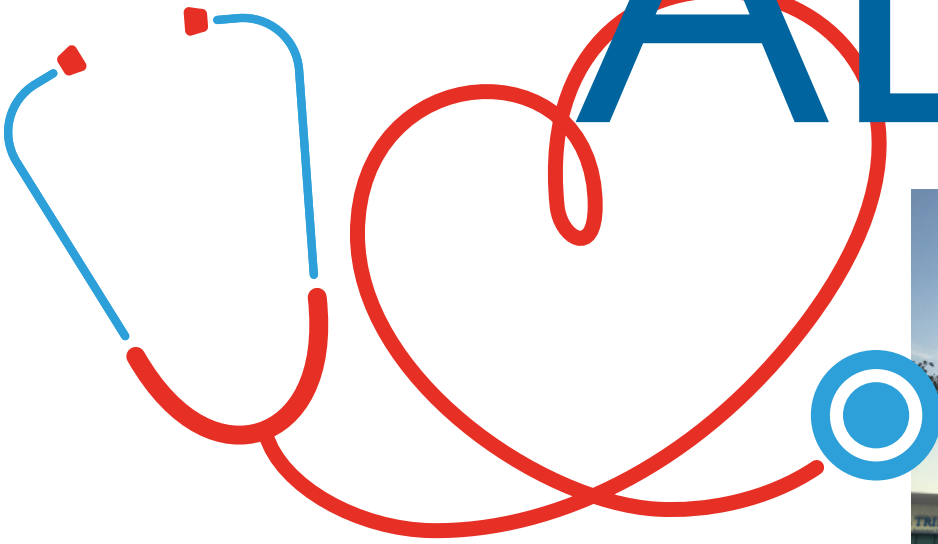
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Connecting Through Virtual Events and Networking

A key to a successful program on Zoom is getting everyone to use their video.

By Anthony Russo
President, CIANJ

Back in March, when we greeted our guests for a networking reception at the Glen Ridge Country Club, little did we know the COVID-19 shutdown was around the corner.

The social distancing guidelines that were

imposed to protect us from the coronavirus have made it impossible to hold the events that had defined CIANJ. We are, after all, the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey. Our members associate—connect—build relationships that help their businesses grow and succeed.

The shutdown forced us to pivot away from live events and into the virtual realm. Within days of leaving our Rochelle Park office to set up remote workspaces in our homes, we hosted our first virtual meeting via Zoom with Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo. He gave an update on unemployment and the new eligibility criteria. More than 150 people signed up for it, launching CIANJ into a new era.

We conducted it as an informal conversation-style program. I questioned the commissioner on the top issues facing employers and he answered candidly and openly. Questions from the “audience” came from the chat box on the screen. The format worked, creating a structure that our speakers, members and non-members, who were also welcomed to tune in, all like and appreciate.

In our first month up as a virtual meeting host, we organized no less than 19 events that gave our members the latest information on the Payroll Protection Program from the Small Business Administration; we interviewed state leaders, such as state Senate President Stephen Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin and spoke with Deborah Visconi, president and CEO of Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, who shared her experiences working as a healthcare provider working on the COVID-19 frontlines.

Our goal was the same one to which we have always aspired—to provide relevant and useful information that educates the business



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community and helps it succeed. Networking has always been a popular feature of all our events. People would mix and mingle over the breakfast buffet and sometimes hang back after the speakers finished to exchange business cards and set up appointments for a later date.

Creating an environment that fosters networking on a virtual platform posed a challenge. Our Senior Events Manager, Nicole Harencak, quickly adapted, however. She devised Friday networking sessions on Zoom with themes. The speaker became the sponsor of the event and led the conversation around topics like rebuilding your business in a pandemic and how to negotiate virtually. These sessions were limited to 30 to 40 participants to make it more intimate.

Nicole knew the virtual networking was a success when participants started asking questions of one another on the screen, not just the speaker. “I’m loving the fact that they are opening up and joining in the conversation,” she said.

When we pivoted to virtual events, we also got great advice from Marcella Gencarelli, a vice president and manager of client engagement at Lakeland Bank. She is the bank’s guru on networking. Before COVID-19 hit, she had programs planned out into 2021. Marcella

confesses, “I know nothing about technology,” but within a few days she was on the virtual platform, too. There are benefits too, she said, like greater flexibility with time. “Lunch can be anytime after noon.”

A key to a successful program is getting everyone to use their video. “You have to show up as if you’re going to a client call.” If participants fail to use their video or look disheveled, Marcella won’t hesitate to call them out. “I’ll say ‘so you’re not Zoom ready today.’”

We all have to be Zoom ready now. 📌



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New Jersey Banks Support Customers and Communities During a Pandemic

“Bankers proactively reached out to commercial customers to determine who was impacted and what could be done to help,” says John E. McWeeney, Jr., president and CEO of the New Jersey Bankers Association.

By John E. McWeeney, Jr.
NJBankers

New Jersey’s banks have been well-positioned with strong levels of capital and liquidity; and engaged with the economic and neighborhood impact of COVID-19 to help people save their homes and jobs and to take care of their families. As the coronavirus hit New Jersey, our banks responded with a series of actions to support customers and communities.

Designated an “essential service” by Governor Murphy’s Executive Order, first our banks ensured full access to banking services while at the same time protecting the safety and well-being of both their employees and customers. Bank lobbies remained open by appointment and drive-up windows were resourced to handle increased activity.

The massive investment in technology and innovation that banks have made in recent years paid huge dividends as customers accessed their accounts through digital options like online and mobile banking. Our bankers also mobilized to support their borrowers who were negatively impacted by COVID-19. Bankers pro-

actively reached out to commercial customers to determine who was impacted and what could be done to help. Thousands of customers were assisted with loan restructurings.

On the residential side, NJBankers partnered with the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance to enlist banks in a 90-day mortgage forbearance program to give COVID-19 impacted borrowers some relief. In a matter of days, Governor Murphy announced that close to 70 banks of various sizes had committed to the program. The next priority was to support small businesses and the jobs of their employees. The \$2 trillion CARES ACT was passed by Congress with \$349 billion allocated for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

Once again New Jersey’s banks stepped up with both traditional SBA lenders and banks that were not SBA lenders joining the PPP in an effort to support their customers and communities. After some initial challenges in launching the massive program, in less than two weeks New Jersey banks approved 33,519 loans totaling \$9.5 billion with an average loan size of \$284,000.

Bankers worked 24/7 and through the Passover and Easter holidays to handle the overwhelming volume. Congress approved another \$320 billion in PPP funding and New Jersey banks have close to 50,000 applications totaling almost \$6 billion. Our banks have also stepped up their charitable giving during



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COVID-19 to support New Jersey’s not-for-profit community.

NJBankers launched a charitable initiative that has raised more than \$112,000 to date for the New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund. In addition, a number of New Jersey banks have announced six-figure contributions of their own to worthy organizations in their communities.

The COVID-19 crisis is a terrible tragedy that none of us will ever forget. Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones and friends. If we can take any solace, it’s in the way that New Jerseyans have stepped up to help each other.

God bless all the heroes on the frontlines who are risking their lives to protect us. They’re an amazing inspiration to everyone else who is battling COVID-19 in their own ways. That includes our bankers who have answered the call on the economic front.

There’s a lot of planning underway now to help reopen our economy. Our banks are ready to play an important role in that because New Jersey’s banks never closed. 📌



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Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe on How COVID-19 Changed the NJDEP

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the NJDEP to rethink all of its actions.

Early in May, Commissioner McCabe signed an executive order extending the public comment period on applications for certain permits and approvals.

By Diane C. Walsh
Contributing Editor

The restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 crisis could speed up the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s conversion to an electronic permit process, according to Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe.

Commissioner McCabe was invited by the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey to speak at a virtual event and discuss how the shutdown affected the NJDEP. The 50-year-old department operates through an assortment of divisions to fulfill its mission to safeguard the state’s natural resources and the public health of its 9 million citizens.

One of the most critical and far-reaching operations is the permitting process in all land use rules. Like all government offices, most of the NJDEP staff was forced to work remotely during the shutdown. The reliance on paper did not help as the department tried to stay efficient in the new normal.

Commissioner McCabe said only 25 percent of applicants use e-submissions. The current system is “clunky” in her estimation. With the NJDEP’s intention to modernize as many

operations as possible, she said: “It’s silly for us to be working in such an antiquated system.”

The pandemic forced the NJDEP to rethink all of its actions. Commissioner McCabe said many site visits and inspections had to be done virtually using video cameras. After navigating the initial hurdles, she said her staff and applicants have found ways to operate efficiently. “We’re all still learning to ride this bike and we’re learning together,” she said.

Early in May, the commissioner also signed an executive order extending the public comment period on applications for certain permits and approvals to make certain there is opportunity for meaningful public interaction.

Her order coincided with Gov. Phil Murphy’s Executive Order 136, which extended the statutory deadlines for the NJDEP to hand down its decisions on permits. Commissioner McCabe said the extension gives the applicants more time to work with her staff, while also giving the NJDEP sufficient time to ensure its decisions align with the mission of protecting the public’s health, safety and the environment.

“Ensuring transparency and listening to all sides are core principles at the NJDEP,” she said. When she signed the order, Commissioner McCabe issued a statement



NJDEP Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe

saying: “While the COVID-19 public health emergency has changed how we work, learn and live, it does not change the importance of public participation in protecting New Jersey’s environment. We continue to evaluate how we can adjust our administrative procedures to remain attentive to the needs of businesses and residents without sacrificing New Jersey’s environmental protections.”

The commissioner also delved into her department’s finances in response to questions posed by CIANJ President Anthony Russo. While the brownfield reclamation project funds are not in jeopardy, she explained that due to the pandemic all state finances are under intense scrutiny by the treasurer. All departments are bracing for cuts.

“The governor has done an incredible job pushing at the federal level for direct state aid; hopefully, something will come through,” she said, adding, however that the treasurer must make contingency plans.

Anyone with questions about a specific project is advised to call the NJDEP.

The COVID-19 crisis has also hampered the NJDEP’s response to Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests. Shawn LaTourette,

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the commissioner's chief of state, said the department well understands that its information can be critical to completing a commercial transaction. The pandemic created problems for the staff to access paper files in warehouses.

Some reports are kept as electronic files that can be easily shared; however, it is not always the case. But the NJDEP is not denying any OPRA requests, the commissioner said. Instead, the department is trying to answer and prioritize them. As the shutdown restrictions are lifted and more staff are available, the requests will be resolved.

Diane C. Walsh is Executive Vice President of Communications and Programs for the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey.

NJDEP Rule Amendments

The NJDEP has adopted amendments to the Discharge of Petroleum and Other Hazardous Substance rules (N.J.A.C. 7:1E); Ground Water Quality Standards (N.J.A.C. 7:9C); Private Well Testing Act rules (N.J.A.C. 7:9E); Safe Drinking Water Act rules (N.J.A.C. 7:10); and New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System rules (N.J.A.C. 7:14A).

These amendments are related to the adoption of ground water quality standards and maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), which became effective on June 1, 2020.

The NJDEP has amended specific rules as follows:

- The List of Hazardous Substances in the Discharges of Petroleum and Other Hazardous Substances rules at N.J.A.C. 7:1E Appendix A to include the acidic and anionic forms of PFOA and PFOS and their salts and esters.
- The Ground Water Quality Standards at N.J.A.C. 7:9C to establish a specific ground water quality standard for PFOA of 0.014 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/l}$) and a specific

ground water quality standard for PFOS of 0.013 $\mu\text{g/l}$.

- The Private Well Testing Act rules at N.J.A.C. 7:9E to require testing of private wells subject to sale or lease for perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), PFOA, and PFOS and to require testing of newly constructed wells for public noncommunity water systems and nonpublic water systems for PFNA, PFOA and PFOS.
- The New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act rules at N.J.A.C. 7:10 to establish an MCL for PFOA of 0.014 $\mu\text{g/l}$ and an MCL for PFOS of 0.013 $\mu\text{g/l}$. The amendments also include monitoring requirements for PFOA and PFOS for public community and public non-transient noncommunity water systems.
- The New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System rules at N.J.A.C. 7:14A by adding PFNA, PFOA, and PFOS to the Permit Application Testing Requirements/ Pollutant Listings and the Requirements for Discharges to Ground Water.

Pursuant to the Remediation Standards at N.J.A.C. 7:26D-2.2(a), ground water quality standards are ground water remediation standards. The newly adopted ground water quality standards/ground water remediation standards for PFOA and PFOS should be used immediately as part of any ground water remediation at any contaminated site in New Jersey. 📌



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Talking COVID-19 with Holy Name Medical Center President and CEO Michael Maron

Holy Name Medical Center, a 361-bed, acute care facility serving Bergen County, was at the epicenter of the state's COVID-19 outbreak.

By Diane C. Walsh
Contributing Editor

In his 40-year career, Holy Name Medical Center President and CEO Michael Maron never imagined he would be forced to re-engineer the entire hospital in a matter of days; or that his supply chain department would be sourcing PPE and ventilators at a pace that just barely met the demand; or that otherwise-healthy people would come in complaining of respiratory distress, then crash within hours and die two weeks later.

These harsh lessons taught Maron the dangerous and deadly nature of COVID-19. "Anyone who spins it differently, isn't being truthful," he said, adding that, consequently, "we have to be cautious of the new normal and how we proceed forward."

Maron is a member of the board of directors of the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ) and chairman of its healthcare forum. CIANJ asked him to discuss his experiences at Holy Name Medical Center—a 361-bed, acute care facility serving Bergen County, which was at the epicenter of the state's coronavirus outbreak in February and March.

The hospital plunged into crisis mode quickly, Maron said. It was all-hands-on-deck. Staff from all areas worked to expand the intensive care unit from 20 critical care beds to more than 120 in a matter of days and reconfigured the HVAC system to create 250 negative pressure rooms that confined and controlled the contaminated air. Maron said the facility crews were like the ingenious Apollo 13 engineers—only in this case, they



Holy Name Medical Center President and CEO Michael Maron



Holy Name Medical Center's Michele Acito, NP, during the first weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

used what they could find at Home Depot and Lowe's to create an environment safe enough to carry their colleagues through the crisis.

Holy Name's facilities crew also converted the medical center's massive conference room space into a COVID-19 treatment area. It had been built after 9-11, inspired by Israeli designs as a subterranean space for the care of mass casualties. It has a ventilation system that is completely separate from the rest of the hospital and is engineered to be able to care for patients with simple or complex cases. Maron had 50 beds installed there, especially suited for treatment of COVID-19 patients. He plans to maintain the unit for two years.

In the midst of hospital's crisis, Maron, himself contracted the virus. Initially, he was in denial because he did not have the usual symptoms of fever and respiratory distress. He became so ill, however, that he lost 20 pounds. With chagrin, Maron also admits infecting his family, too. Yet his oldest son, who exhibited his same symptoms, tested negative twice.

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Jeff Rhode Courtesy of Holy Name Medical Center



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Jeff Rhoads Courtesy of Holy Name Medical Center

Maron said the facility crews were like the ingenious Apollo 13 engineers—only in this case, they used what they could find at Home Depot and Lowe's to create an environment safe enough to carry their colleagues through the crisis.

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Cover Story



Jeff Rhode Courtesy of Holy Name Medical Center

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An antibody test finally confirmed his son's exposure. It taught Maron that "while testing is helpful, it isn't always accurate."

His ordeal gave him a unique perspective. Society faces a "double whammy," in his words, because what started as a massive public health crisis has precipitated a devastating economic situation. In recovery, "we've got to find an equilibrium between the two. It can't be one versus the other," Maron said.

As a CEO, Maron recognizes the pandemic "changed the business model. It's not realistic to think we can go back to what was." He said every healthcare system is working to rebuild the public's confidence and trust, so patients are comfortable to come into hospitals. "People are dying at home out of fear," Maron said.

The strategy at Holy Name focuses on three words—schedule, space and sanitize. The volume of patients and employees coming into the hospital is being controlled by schedules. Careful attention is being given to spacing people six feet apart, keeping with social distancing guidelines and new, intense cleaning measures are being incorporated throughout the facility.

"We rewrote the playbook on cleaning and sterilization," said Maron. A special section on the hospital's website explains

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Cover Story

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an electrostatic sanitizing mist and blasts of UV-C light were used to kill pathogens through the building.

Maron said most businesses can adapt the same model. "Every business should have a Purell dispenser at the front door and all major entrances," he said, adding that wearing a mask is also key.

"A mask shows your social responsibility," he said. "We all have to adopt a selflessness, where we assume responsibility for our neighbors."

As one of the first and hardest-hit hospitals in New Jersey, Holy Name gained national attention for its innovative response and transparency throughout the crisis. Maron says operating an independent hospital allowed them to be nimble and adapt and thrive in a crisis.

He was also quick to credit the outpouring of generosity Holy Name received from residents and organizations throughout the region, especially in Teaneck. Maron appreciated the help from local leaders in Teaneck, Governor Murphy, state legislators and federal representatives in Washington.

"We were able to stay one step ahead, thanks to the substantial amount of support," he said. 📌

Diane C. Walsh is Executive Vice President of Communications and Programs for the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey.



Jeff Rhode Courtesy of Holy Name Medical Center

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CIANJ Members Respond to COVID-19

COVID-19 has changed the way people live and work, but one constant is businesses stepping up to help citizens, employees and the communities they serve.

Compiled by Miles Z. Epstein
Editor, *COMMERCE*

From finding innovative ways to keep working, to maintaining the supply chain, to donating money and food to caring for patients, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to call for an urgent response. Here is a snapshot of how CIANJ members are dealing with this health and economic crisis.

AKRF continues to meet the needs of essential construction projects benefiting its clients and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The firm continuously monitors Centers for Disease Control and Prevention social

distancing guidelines and recommendations concerning COVID-19, as well as local, state and federal government directives, and it maintains strict health and safety procedures that evolve accordingly. AKRF staff provided construction oversight and inspections during the public health crisis.

AmeriHealth New Jersey expanded coverage of telemedicine services during New Jersey's COVID-19 public health emergency. The change was one of many efforts to encourage social distancing and increase access to care due to COVID-19. The expanded telemedicine coverage for fully insured plans included providing coverage for any service that could be

appropriately delivered via video or telephone through telemedicine; waiving cost-sharing on any telemedicine services, including non-COVID-19 related services; and waiving prior authorizations on any telemedicine services while the COVID-19 emergency order is in place. Providers must notify AmeriHealth New Jersey that the member is receiving services. The new expansion of telemedicine complied with recently enacted New Jersey legislation. For self-funded health plans, coverage of telemedicine services was provided for COVID-19 services related to testing without member cost-sharing consistent with the federal Families First law.

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AKRF staff provided construction oversight and inspections during the public health crisis.



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Special Report: COVID-19

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Atlantic Health System's Overlook Medical Center undertook significant measures to ensure patient, family, staff and first responder safety. As cases of COVID-19 have continued to drop throughout Atlantic Health System and New Jersey, Overlook has put several measures in place, including triage screening at the ED door, separate entrances for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients, a deep cleaning process and temperature screening, all to ensure patients can safely access care. In recognition of national EMS Week, May 18–22, Overlook Medical Center celebrated the work of the dedicated EMS first responders throughout the communities it serves with awards, gifts and other honors. “The first responders throughout our region have been our steadfast partners through the height of the pandemic, and their collaboration in caring for our patients during this event has only deepened our appreciation for them,” says Christopher Amalfitano, M.D., chairman of the Emergency Department at Overlook.

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center President and CEO Deborah Visconi announced the medical center was using the NanoVaporBiotech Microbial Suppression System as an initiative to contain and mitigate the impact of COVID-19. The system facilitates the disinfecting and suppression of microbials, such as coronaviruses, by spraying surfaces with a product that removes and suppresses through a nano-coating. It inhibits the growth of microorganisms and helps prevent the growth and spread of bacteria and viruses for up to three months. The MSS antimicrobial agent is a non-

toxic water-based formula that is completely safe for human contact. Visconi says that, “Bergen New Bridge—New Jersey's largest hospital and largest nursing home operator—continues to assess how to best protect our patients, long-term care residents and staff through effective disinfectant procedures and products. I am proud to say that this cutting-edge disinfectant system came to us through Maurizio Miglietta, M.D., our Chief of Surgery, who has been one of the pioneers behind this process.”

The **Columbia Bank Foundation** announced a special program to support non-profit organizations affected by COVID-19. With an original pledge of \$300,000, the Foundation nearly doubled its support to \$600,000 due to the overwhelming need. A special carve-out of \$200,000 was designated to local hospitals in order to support the outstanding efforts of frontline healthcare workers. Grants offer support to a variety of organizations and causes such as school supply and healthy snack kits for children,



“We are committed to providing support for our Delta Dental providers who have been impacted financially as a result of the unprecedented level of care disruption COVID-19 has caused,” said Dennis Wilson, president and CEO of Delta Dental of New Jersey and Delta Dental of Connecticut.

“Our goal is to help get New Jerseyans back to their daily lives as quickly and safely as possible,” says EWMA VP Michael Sylvester.

support for abuse victims and the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). A grant to RENEW Life Center will equip struggling single mothers with necessary supplies such as diapers, toiletries, cleaning supplies and laundry detergent. Grants to organizations like CUMAC, Community FoodBank of New Jersey and Eva's Village will ensure plentiful food supplies to those in need. In addition, hospitals across the state such as Chilton Memorial Hospital, Hackensack Meridian Health, Holy Name Medical Center, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, St. Joseph's Health Care System, Virtua Voorhees Hospital and more will receive funds to assist with COVID-19 operations. In total, nearly 60 non-profit organizations and 15 hospitals will receive funding.

Delta Dental of New Jersey, Inc. (DDNJ) and Delta Dental of Connecticut, Inc. (DDCT) announced the launch of its Dentist Support Program to provide their network dentists in New Jersey and Connecticut with much-needed financial relief amounting to \$13 million during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program consists of two components—the Support for PPE Supplies Program and the Advance Payment

Program (APP). The Support for PPE Supplies Program will assist New Jersey and Connecticut Delta Dental participating network dental offices in purchasing PPE supplies, some of which have not customarily been used in dental practices. PPE includes N-95 and surgical masks, sterilization procedures and equipment, and implementing other sanitation as needed due to the COVID-19 health crisis. Eligible dentists will receive \$10 per DDNJ or DDCT patient visit over a two-month period. Payments will begin once emergency care restrictions are lifted in New Jersey and Connecticut and dental professionals are permitted to provide routine and preventive dental care.

Englewood Health received an outpouring of gratitude from emergency responders. In a display of pure camaraderie, more than a dozen Bergen County communities created a parade around the hospital campus, with fire trucks, emergency service vehicles, police cars and trucks. Sirens were blaring and first responders waved and cheered to the hospital staff. Hundreds of healthcare professionals watched the parade and held signs to thank the first responders.

EWMA is offering no-cost estimates to businesses in need of antimicrobial and antiviral mitigation, planned and conducted according to guidelines set out by leading health and disease prevention regulatory bodies. “Our goal is to help get New Jerseyans back to their daily lives as quickly and safely

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Bergen New Bridge Medical Center is using the NanoVaporBiotech Microbial Suppression System as an initiative to contain and mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

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as possible,” says VP Michael Sylvester. “One key step in doing so is to make many spaces which once housed diagnosed individuals safe and healthy to occupy once again.” According to Sylvester, antimicrobial and antiviral mitigation utilizes agents that either limit or completely stop the growth of microorganisms, including COVID-19. The service uses a process to thoroughly clean frequently used surfaces and touchpoints throughout an office building, event space, gym, restaurant or other facilities with which someone with COVID-19 may have come in contact. These surfaces include elevator buttons, doorknobs, chair railings, desks, lobby areas, waiting rooms and bathroom surfaces around toilets and sinks. “Without proper mitigation, these places may pose a risk, and will need to be disinfected properly before they open up once again to employees, visitors and the public,” says Sylvester. “By thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting these areas, our clients will have greater peace of mind.”

Greater Alliance Federal Credit Union's Greater Alliance Hopes and Dreams Foundation decided to reallocate some funds to be given to those most in need during this difficult time. A total of \$3,500 was donated to The Valley Hospital Foundation, Holy Name Medical Center Foundation, Hackensack University Medical Center Foundation, The Foundation supporting Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, St. Joseph's Health Foundation, CUMAC, Center for Food Action, Paramus Community Pantry and Eva's Village. The money will be used to purchase much needed Personal Protective Equipment as well as food for so many who are in need. “Short of being medical professionals, it is our duty to help during this crisis,” says Board

Member Glenn Guinto. “The credit union and the foundation are committed to helping our communities in any way we can.”

Hackensack Meridian Health's Jersey Shore University Medical Center is able to provide its patients access to existing clinical trials and the latest medical techniques in a variety of specialties. Currently, the medical center is recruiting individuals who have been clinically diagnosed with COVID-19 or have laboratory test results showing they have COVID-19 antibodies to donate their blood and potentially assist patients in their recovery from the virus. These efforts complement other COVID-19 research efforts across the HMH network to advance diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19, including the development of a novel test for the virus developed by the Hackensack Meridian Health Center for Discovery and Innovation.

Nanina's in the Park, Park Château, and The Park Savoy owners Joe Maurillo, Barry Maurillo and Vito Cucci extended their feeding program to help area hospitals and healthcare workers. Discroll Foods (Wayne) and A&J Produce (Bronx, New York) also contributed food towards this effort. The catering leaders have provided approximately 2,000 meals per week—delivered twice per week—to St. Barnabas Medical Center, Clara Maass Medical Center and the Morristown Medical Center. In lieu of meals, they've also made a financial donation to Hackensack Meridian Health. Likewise, they are providing food and meals to local area police departments. Joe Maurillo, Barry Maurillo and Vito Cucci said jointly: “Despite the incredible financial loss that the catering and wedding industry has taken due to the COVID-19 crisis, we believe that our community is at its strongest



Sherry Karpe, a laboratory outreach manager for Hackensack Meridian Health's Jersey Shore University Medical Center, donated her blood (convalescent plasma) in June for COVID-19 patients.

when we stand together. Our healthcare workers are on the front lines of this pandemic, risking their lives daily to care for those stricken with this terrible virus. We thank all our incredible employees who themselves are working to feed our frontline and essential employees, and we look forward to seeing our patrons and guests as soon as it's safe.”

Peapack-Gladstone Bank is beginning to see its efforts to help clients come to fruition. Small businesses that applied for the Small

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More than a dozen Bergen County communities created a parade around Englewood Health's hospital campus, with fire trucks, emergency service vehicles, police cars and trucks.



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ORBIS, a non-profit dedicated to eliminating avoidable blindness, operates the Flying Eye Hospital (FEH), a fully equipped mobile teaching hospital. On the outside, the plane is like most other aircraft. Inside, it is like no other — it hosts an ophthalmic hospital and teaching facility right on board.

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Special Report: COVID-19



Together, Saint Peter's University Hospital respiratory therapist Valentine Red and his daughter, Xanilyn (pronounced Zan- a- lynn), an intensive care nurse at Saint Peter's, are fighting the COVID-19 virus side-by-side in the intensive care unit.

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Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans through the bank, are starting to receive their money. "We've had employees working around the clock to process the thousands of PPP loan applications through the SBA that have come to us," says President and CEO Doug Kennedy. "It's truly been a herculean effort to tackle the process, but we wanted to be sure we were able to help as many businesses as we could before the funds ran out." Several local parishes, a school for performing arts, law firms, a family care facility, a pre-school and a high school, a community center and many others received loan approvals to support the retention of employees through this health crisis. The bank was able to secure approvals for nearly 900 organizations overall, which has saved approximately 30,000 jobs, before the SBA funding was depleted.

PNC Bank. The PNC Foundation announced it will provide \$250,000 in grant funding to support the New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund and as part of the Jersey 4 Jersey fundraising drive. Hosted by the Community Foundation of New Jersey and established by Tammy Murphy, New Jersey's First Lady, this new nonprofit organization is dedicated to concentrating resources across the state to identify critical needs and fight the economic and social impact of COVID-19 on New Jersey's vulnerable communities. This donation to the New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund is part of a

broader commitment announced by The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. to provide \$30 million in charitable contributions in support of coronavirus relief efforts, primarily directed toward basic needs and hardship relief programs across the markets in which PNC operates.

The Provident Bank Foundation's Emergency Response Grant for nonprofit organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic has awarded \$5,000 grants to 25 nonprofit organizations, so that they can continue to serve their respective communities with essential services. Organizations receiving grants span 12 counties in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and cover healthcare, shelter, food, senior and behavioral services. The recipients include: (Bergen) Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative, Inc.; Holy Name Health Care Foundation; (Essex) Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson & Union Counties; Family Connections Inc.; Foundation of New Jersey Institute of Technology; Montclair State University Foundation; Newark Beth Israel Medical Center; Table to Table; (Hudson) Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark; Hudson County CASA; The Hoboken Shelter; (Hunterdon) America's Grow-a-Row; Hunterdon County YMCA; (Middlesex) Jewish Family Services of Middlesex County; The RWJ University Hospital Foundation Inc.; (Monmouth) Monmouth Medical Center Foundation; Move For Hunger; Visiting Nurse Association Health Group of New Jersey; (Ocean) Ocean Medical Center Foundation; (Passaic) Eva's Village; (Somerset) Adult Day Center of Somerset County; (Union) Trinitas Health Foundation.

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey nurses continue to shape oncology nursing practice across our state and nation. Already facing the many complexities known to their profession, Rutgers Cancer Institute nurses are also faced with challenges associated with the impact of COVID-19. During Nurses Week each year, two nurses are named recipients of the Institute's Oncology Nursing Excellence Awards as a way to recognize the value and scope of their work. But this year, amid the coronavirus pandemic, Rutgers Cancer Institute is honoring all of its nurses and recognizing the nominees with this award during this Nurses Week.

The Oncology Nursing Excellence Awards are typically given during the annual Elizabeth Gibby Osborne Lecture, an event that is not taking place this year due to COVID-related restrictions.

RWJBarnabas Health (Monmouth Medical Center). Area fire and police departments, along with other local EMS squads, led a "heroes' salute" for Monmouth Medical Center staff on May 14 to recognize the incredible efforts of the physicians, nurses and entire healthcare team battling COVID-19. The event was organized in conjunction with National Hospital Week—observed from May 10-16—and featured 13 squads representing 12 towns,

including Atlantic Highlands, Deal, Eatontown, Highlands, Long Branch, Monmouth Beach, Ocean Township, Oceanport, Rumson, Sea Bright and West Long Branch. Nearly 40 first response vehicles were on site at MMC, running lights and sirens to boost morale and salute staff entering and exiting the building at the 7:00 p.m. shift change. In thanking the first responders for "an awe-inspiring show of support," Monmouth Medical Center President and CEO Eric Carney noted that the hospital, in turn, salutes the police and fire departments and EMS squads who also are at the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic response.

Saint Peter's University Hospital. Valentine Red has been a respiratory therapist at Saint Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick for 20 years. His daughter, Xanilyn (pronounced Zan- a- lynn) is an intensive care nurse at Saint Peter's. Just before the crisis, Xanilyn was planning to move from the family home in New Jersey where she lives with her parents to New York City, but the COVID-19 crisis has changed all that. Together they're fighting the COVID-19 virus, side-by-side in the intensive care unit, where Saint Peter's most vulnerable patients are fighting not only to breathe, but for their lives. For Xanilyn, the crisis has meant putting her plans on hold, but the silver lining is that she's doing what she loves and fighting the crisis alongside her dad. The two are on the front lines dealing with the sickest of the sick, but when asked about being called "heroes," they are incredibly humble. Xanilyn says, "I don't even think we deserve the title of hero; it's just us doing our day-to-day thing." Her dad, Valentine says, "Everybody that's doing the right thing right now is a hero, even those that are just staying home to ensure others are safe." Perhaps Xanilyn's sentiment sums it up best, "This is really where I need to be right now."

Spencer Savings Bank made a \$100,000 donation to support New Jersey hospitals battling the coronavirus pandemic. A donation of \$50,000 was made to Hackensack University Medical Center in Bergen County and to Trinitas Regional Medical Center in Union County.

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Special Report: COVID-19



The Blue Angels and the Thunderbirds precision jet flying teams saluted frontline workers with a flyby that took them directly over Trinitas Regional Medical Center in Elizabeth. Hospital staff members cheered the teams as they zoomed overhead.

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“We are so grateful to Spencer Savings Bank for their generous donation to Hackensack University Medical Center,” says Hackensack University Medical Center Foundation North Regional President and Chief Development Officer Helen A. Cunning. Says Trinitas Regional Medical Center President and CEO Gary S. Horan, FACHE: “We are fortunate to have such generous support from Spencer Savings Bank. Their donation will go a long way toward helping us care for our patients, while keeping our staff safe during this unprecedented pandemic.”

Terracon. Safety is a core value at Terracon, and its employee-owners are using their ingenuity and skills to follow CDC recommendations for cloth face coverings on the job site. Some employees are also using their free time to make homemade versions for their offices, first responders and healthcare workers in their communities. These efforts are also being highlighted with an internal “Show Off Your Face Coverings” photo contest. Concluding during Safety Week May 4-8, employees sent in photos of their favorite homemade or purchased protective facial wear.

The Steve Rich Group (Steve Rich Environmental Contractors and HOLES Solutions) and a large group of volunteers and sponsors staffed and donated supplies and funds to the “Tankque to the Unsung Heroes” event on Saturday, April 25th in the parking

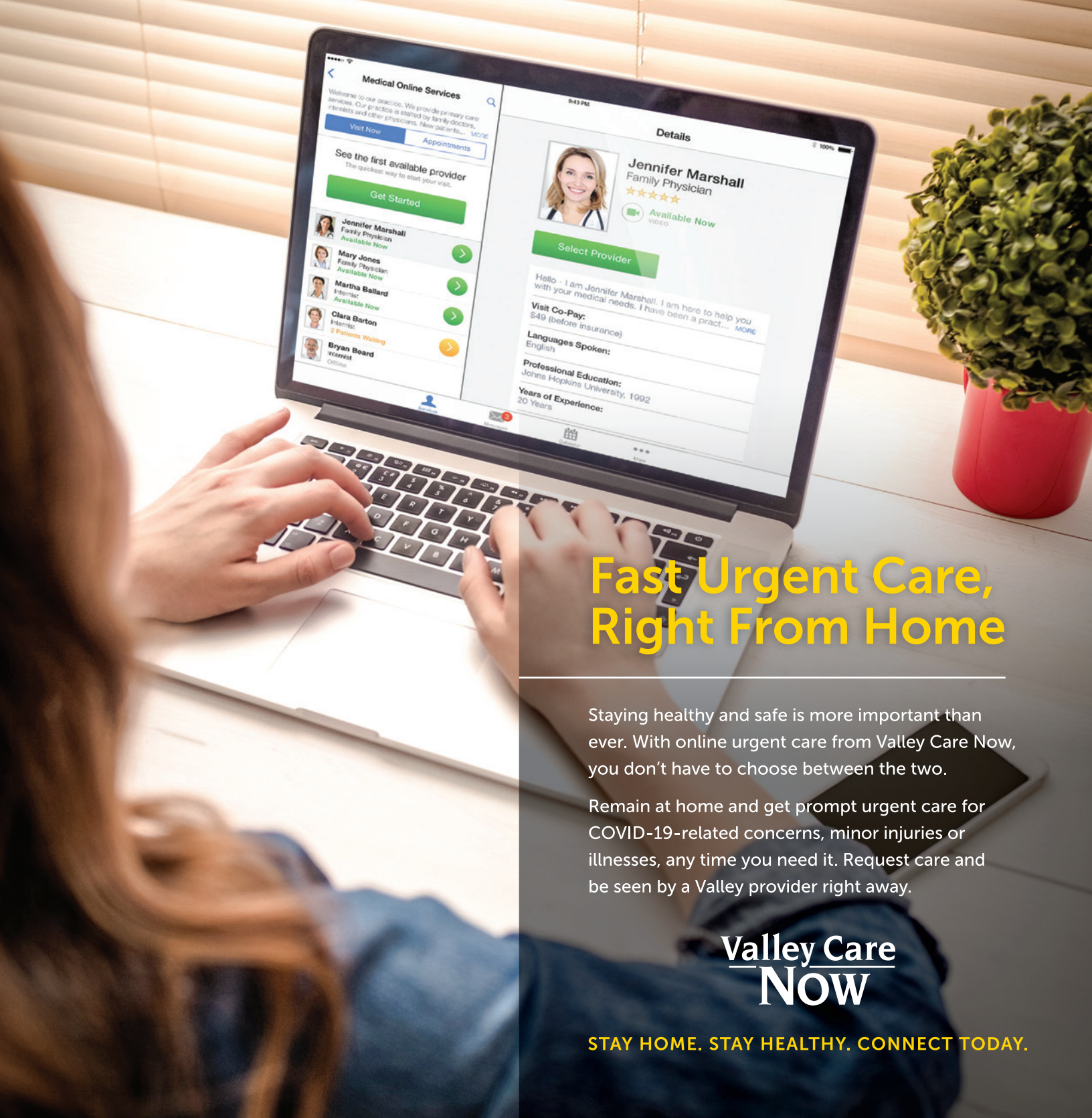
lot of the Park Ridge Pool on Colony Avenue. The community-supported event was a thank you for the healthcare workers, local police, fire and ambulance EMTs who are working hard to keep Northern New Jersey safe, fed and supplied during the COVID-19 pandemic. Organizer and local resident Steve Rich explained the giving project: “My company built a multi-purpose wood-fired and portable cooking machine from recycled oil tanks that is available to nonprofits at no charge. Fired completely by wood, the ‘Tankque’ and team of volunteers were able to feed more than 700 frontline workers by cooking 450 pizzas and 1,000 pounds of meat.” All event volunteers followed COVID-19 hygiene guidelines for disinfection and wore masks and gloves. The Health Department oversaw and approved the event along with the Park Ridge Fire Department. Dan and Kris Noonan, owners of Responsive Sales, donated the highest quality disinfectant and supplies and managed the health and safety distribution and process for event volunteers.

Trinitas Regional Medical Center has used innovations to fight the COVID-19 outbreak. For example, the oxygen delivery system was replaced to accommodate the increase in the use of ventilators. Other maneuvers to accommodate the unusual activity have included revamping the Same Day Surgery unit to function as an extra ICU unit, as well as a floor of administrative offices in the main

hospital being renovated to create an extra floor for patients. In addition, two Trinitas doctors produced a simple Plexiglas box designed to protect patients and staff during certain procedures and minimize exposure. When the Chairman of Trinitas Anesthesiology, Dr. Leon Pirak, saw a picture sent to him by a colleague from Thailand, he knew it could be a potent weapon in the fight against COVID-19. The trouble was, there were none available outside of Thailand. He consulted with a colleague at Trinitas, Dr. Pedro Cordero, and thanks to a connection to a plastics fabricating company in Union, the Medical Center took delivery of the first prototype intubation box. It has been pressed into use several times. Elizabeth Mayor Christian Bollwage, the Elizabeth Fire Department, the Elizabeth Police Department and the City of Elizabeth initiated a parade to honor the frontline clinicians at Trinitas.

Valley Bank donated \$200,000 to 14 food banks in New York, New Jersey, Florida and Alabama, which will provide two million meals to those in need. The bank is also offering a new online 12-month “Community Recovery” Certificate of Deposit (CD). With this product, Valley will donate in grants to local businesses a match of more than 40 percent of the interest customers receive from this CD. The goal is to contribute up to \$2.5 million to those most affected by COVID-19. For the safety of the

Continued On Page 32



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Special Report: COVID-19



Twenty Registered Nurses from Colorado-based Centura Health were warmly welcomed to Trinitas Regional Medical Center. The nurses are part of a “Heroes Helping Heroes” initiative that involves a total of 34 Centura Health nurses that are assisting Trinitas in Elizabeth, St. Joseph’s Health, Paterson, and Saint Peter’s Healthcare System, New Brunswick. The three hospitals are part of the Catholic Healthcare Partnership of NJ, and all have witnessed high numbers of COVID-19 patients.

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bank’s staff and its customers, the CD is available online only, with a rate of 1.15 APY (Annual Percentage Yield), a \$200 minimum deposit and a \$1 million maximum deposit requirement. “Our local communities need our support and these two programs are Valley’s initial steps to provide immediate assistance,” says Valley Bank President and CEO Ira Robbins.



The Valley Hospital’s Imaging Breast Center team was redeployed to help with dirty linens and garbage removal during the COVID-19 surge.

Valley Health System. The Valley Hospital’s Imaging Breast Center team was redeployed to help with dirty linens and garbage removal; the Operating Room team sewed up holes in reusable isolation gowns to help fight COVID-19; the Pronation team including physical therapists and Home Care physical therapists helped to support critically ill COVID-19 patients; and the 4 West unit was the first to respond to the pandemic.

ZAGO Manufacturing partnered with GM and Ford to provide thousands of air-tight sealing screws for life-saving medical ventilators. The company’s Co-Founder and

CEO, Gail Friedberg-Rottenstrich, saw an episode of *60 Minutes* where Tracy Streater, a longtime GM forklift operator, talked about installing ZAGO air-tight sealing screws into Ventec medical ventilator parts to prevent oxygen leakage. “There’s a little tiny screw that goes into the part that I build, but even though that screw is so small, it’s an important part,” Streater told the interviewer. By late March, ZAGO Manufacturing was fielding calls and filling orders for hundreds of thousands of its air-tight sealing screws—a small but integral part in the design and functionality of medical ventilators. 📌

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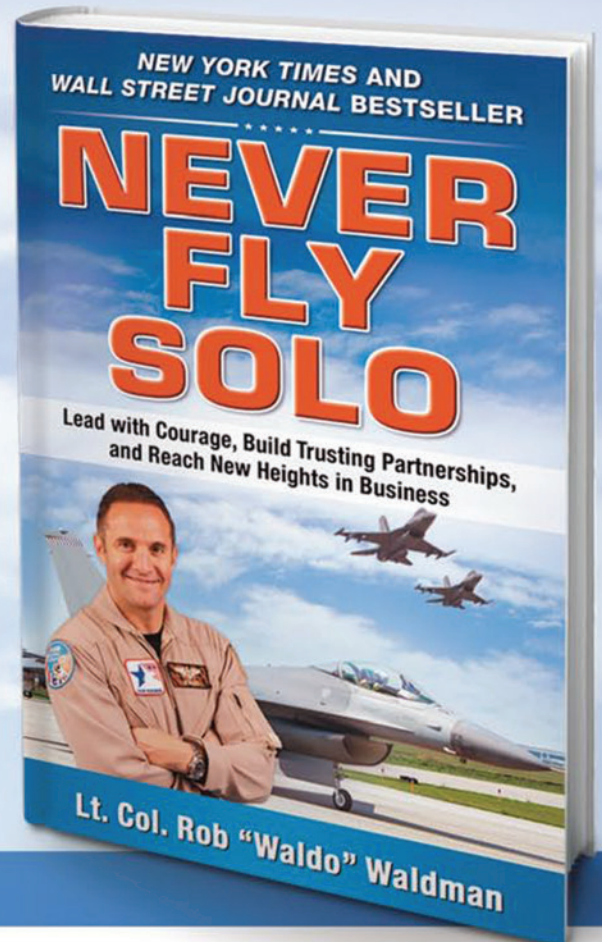
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