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April 25, 2024



Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

Commissioner's Corner



Implementing Long Term Solutions

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is engaged in long term efforts to ensure the highest possible standards of care and quality of life for the Veterans, Veterans Spouses, and Gold Star Families living at our state veterans homes. Readers such as yourself, together with Governor Murphy and our bipartisan partners in the Legislature, have supported us every time we came to you to ask for the tools and the solutions necessary to ensure that we meet this goal. In State of New Jersey Fiscal Year 2025, we intend to embark upon the most ambitious capital improvements of veterans homes in New Jersey history.

The state fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th each year. With funds provided in the current Fiscal Year 2024, my team and I were able to engage architects and engineers in a deliberate process to identify ways to structurally contain future outbreaks at Menlo Park and Paramus, two of our hardest hit homes during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last week, that work culminated in New Jersey's submission of two applications to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs State Home Construction Grant Program. This program provides federal

matching funds to enable critical capital improvements that will enable the conversion of resident rooms from dual occupancy to single occupancy, improve airflow and ventilation systems, and establish new wings of state-of-the-art isolation rooms to more effectively cohort new admissions and residents exposed to or exhibiting symptoms of an infectious disease.

DMAVA's proposed budget also includes nearly \$2 million in investments to replace all resident mattresses, beds, and essential medical equipment not only at Menlo Park and Paramus, but also our most recently renovated facility, the Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland. My desired end state is for the three veterans homes to be among the best equipped long-term care facilities in New Jersey.

I am proud of our state's progress. While there is more work to be done, these investments testify to the shared values that unite us all, chief among them a commitment to supporting and caring for those who serve, those who have served, and the people who love them.

As always, thank you for staying connected to DMAVA.

We invite you to share ideas, events and feedback. Please email our team at outreach@dmava.nj.gov.

Major General Lisa J. Hou, D.O.
The Adjutant General & Commissioner



Featured Events



Multiple Dates and Locations
Free Eight-Hour Training Sessions

Mental Health First Aid Training

Learn How to Support Veterans

Intended for community organizations that interact with

Service Members, Veterans, and their families at the local level, but is open for all interested participants.

[Learn More and Register](#)



Mental Health First Aid for Active-Duty Military, Veterans, and their Loved Ones

Wednesday, May 1, or Saturday, May 11 • 9:00am - 5:00pm
 Bergen New Bridge Medical Center Auditorium
 Breakfast and lunch provided • 6 NJOEMS CEU available • EMT CEUs pending

Presented by the New Jersey Hospital Association and the Mental Health Association in New Jersey, this course will equip advocates, educators, EMTs, and other community members to help support veterans, active-duty military, and their loved ones. Funded by the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, this statewide initiative addresses mental health and substance use disorders faced by this community.

Why participate

- Veteran suicide rate is 57% higher than non-veterans
- One in four active-duty military personnel are struggling with mental health challenges
- More than 80% of caregivers for veterans face increased stress

Course highlights

- Understanding the impact of mental health challenges on the military community
- Identifying risk factors
- Applying a Mental Health First Aid plan in military scenarios
- How to access national, regional, and local mental health resources

Post-course benefits

- Recognizing signs of someone in a mental health crisis
- Learning effective crisis intervention techniques
- How to connect individuals with appropriate support services
- Learning self-care strategies for mental health and well being

REGISTER TODAY
 Visit or scan the QR code to register for one of the dates.

May 1, 2024



NewBridgeHealth.pub/NJHA_050124

May 11, 2024



NewBridgeHealth.pub/NJHA_051124



A Clinical Affiliate of **RUTGERS**
newbridgehealth.org/veterans



NJHA
 New Jersey Hospital Association



Mental Health Association in New Jersey, Inc.





CALLING ON OUR WOMEN VETERANS








The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will hold a State Medal Ceremony for Women Veterans in conjunction with (Women Veterans Appreciation Day) in New Jersey

The ceremony is open to all Honorably Discharged New Jersey Women Veterans. For medal applications please use the QR code below.

The ceremony will be held during the Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention at 10:00am on Friday, May 31st at the Wildwood Convention Center, Ballroom C, 4501 Boardwalk, Wildwood, NJ 08260. It is asked that all medal recipients arrive by 10:00am.

Applicants must return a completed NJDMAVA Medal Application with a copy of their DD-214 to:
 Jennifer Glazewski by email:
Jennifer.Glazewski@dmava.nj.gov or by mail to:
 NJ Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
 ATTN: DVS-VBB (Awards)
 PO Box 340
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

PLEASE HAVE APPLICATIONS RETURNED BY MAY 9th, 2024





Events

DMAVA Calendar

DMAVA is sponsoring or will participate in the events below. A DMAVA Veterans Service Officer will be present at many of these events. Please check details to confirm.

- April 25 | Atlantic City
[Casino Career Fair & Veteran Resources](#)
- April 27 | Clayton
[First Annual Fishing with Veterans](#)
- May 1 | Paramus
[Mental Health First Aid Training](#)
- May 3 | Rochelle Park
[Veterans Resource Fair & Medal Ceremony](#)

- May 4 | Fort Dix
[Annual Military Retiree Appreciation Day](#)
- May 6 | Sea Girt
[National Holocaust Days of Remembrance Observance](#)
- May 7 | Holmdel
[NJ Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day Ceremony](#)
- May 8 | Sea Girt
[DMAVA Semi-Annual VSO Training Seminar](#)
- May 9 | Monroe Twp
[State Medal Ceremony](#)
- May 10 | East Orange
[Orange H.S. JROTC Mental Health Awareness Walk](#)
- May 11 | Paramus
[Mental Health First Aid Training](#)
- May 11 | Lawrenceville
[Coffee with a Vet](#)
- May 15 | Bordentown
[Transition / Retirement Seminar](#)
- May 16 | Lawrenceville
[USERRA & Military Leave Briefing](#)
- May 18 | Cape May
[Coast Guard Community Festival](#)
- May 20 | Flemington
[Hunterdon County Veteran's Resource Fair](#)
- May 22 | Atlantic City
[South Jersey Regional Stand Down](#)
- May 31 | Wildwood
Applications due May 9th
[State Medals Ceremony for Women Veterans](#)
- May 31 | Virtual
[Women Veterans Health Summit](#)

Community Calendar

We add new events to our calendar on a daily basis so please bookmark and check back often.

[View Full Calendar](#)

NJ National Guard



NJ Air National Guard

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Bradford R. Everman, commander, New Jersey Air National Guard, left, presents the New Jersey Air National Guard guidon to incoming State Command Chief Master Sgt. Wayne R. Miller during the New Jersey Air National Guard State Command Chief Change of Responsibility ceremony on April 18, 2024.

During the ceremony, Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael J. Rakauckas relinquished responsibility to Miller.

[View Images](#)



108th Wing

The [108th Wing](#)'s Medical Group ranked among the top 20 Air National Guard organizations in Individual Medical Readiness standings, and are on track for top ten in the nation.

[Read Full Story](#)



Best Warrior Competition

A Soldier prepares to qualify on the M4 carbine during the New Jersey Army National Guard's Best Warrior Competition at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ on April 23, 2024.

During the competition, the Soldiers demonstrate their adaptiveness, resilience, lethality, and the readiness of New Jersey's Citizen-Soldiers to respond to future threats.

Six Soldiers and five noncommissioned officers compete April 22-25, 2024, with the top Soldier and NCO going on to challenge seven other states' winners at Region I Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith, New York, May 13-16, 2024.

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Join Our Team

- 100% Free College Tuition
- Bonuses up to \$20,000
- Student Loan Repayment



DMAVA Veterans Services



Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, and Vincent Solomeno, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, recognized volunteers, which included more than 50 organizations, during the [New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park's](#) 40th annual volunteer luncheon in Edison on April 17, 2024.

[View Images](#)



Veterans Home at Paramus

Vincent Solomeno, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, recognized volunteers, which included more than 50 organizations, during the [New Jersey Veterans Home at Paramus'](#) annual volunteer appreciation luncheon in Hasbrouck Heights on April 19, 2024.

[View Images](#)



SMS Alerts - Text "NJVets" to 78015

Opt-in now to receive SMS Alerts from DMAVA! Text "NJVets" to 78015 or scan the QR code above and send. You will be immediately opted-in to receive alerts and important messages from the Division of Veterans Services.

This service is provided free of charge, however, carrier messaging and data rates may apply. To opt-out at any time, simply reply "Stop".

**THE DMAVA READJUSTMENT
COUNSELING PROGRAM PROVIDES
VETERANS WITH:
INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING
GROUP COUNSELING
FAMILY COUNSELING**

**SCAN THE CODE AND CALL YOUR
LOCAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER,
OR CALL:
(888) 865-8387,
OR EMAIL:
VBB@DMAVA.NJ.GOV**



**SUPPORT
IS PEER TO PEER**

Call Us 24/7
7 days a week
(866) 838-7654

NJ Veterans' Benefits Hotline
888-865-8387
vbb@dmava.nj.gov

Veterans Outreach Schedule

Veterans Service Offices

DMAVA Departments



Office of Records and Archives

DMAVA's Administrative Services Division's Office of Records and Archives is the office that receives military discharges from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, and occasionally, the Merchant Marines. This applies to both the Active Duty and their Reserves, to include the National Guard.

The DMAVA employees of the Records and Archives Office are some of the busiest people within the Department. They are responsible for the archiving, storage and issuance of copies of military records of all the State's service members and Veterans.

For more information, visit our website at [Request Military Records](#).



Sea Girt Beach, RV & Cottage Policies

The National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, NJ has updated their policies for 2024. Get more information at [NGTC MWR](#).

NEW JERSEY
YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY
 DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.



YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

Now accepting applications for Class 58 - July 2024.

APPLY NOW!

TUITION FREE



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- njyca.org/admissions
- rpm@dmava.nj.gov
- (800) 997-5587 / (732) 974-6516



Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

DEIB Newsletter

State Partners



Morris County Roundtable

U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs hosted a roundtable regarding VA services at the Morris County Veterans Services Office on April 23, 2024.

Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Vincent Solomeno joined VA Undersecretary Dr. Shereef Elnahal and U.S. Rep. Mikie Sherrill at the event, along with many local veterans and elected officials.

[View Images](#)

[Morris County News Feature](#)

MORRIS COUNTY CLERK
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
CHESTER TOWNSHIP
IS HOSTING A

Veteran's ID Card Event

**Chester Township
Municipal Building
1 Parker Road, Chester**

**May 8, 2024
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

NJ State Agencies

- [Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicides among Service Members, Veterans & Their Families](#)
- [The New Jersey's Governor "We Value Our Veterans" Awards](#)
- [Vote For Valor](#)
- [Career Services for Veterans](#)
- [Tax Resources for Military/Veterans](#)

- [Educator Certification for Military Spouses and Veterans](#)
- [Civil Service Preference for Veterans](#)
- [NJ National Guard Hunting / Fishing Licenses](#)
- [NJ Special Hawker and Peddlers License](#)
- [Veterans Designation for Drivers License](#)
- [Military CDL Skills Waiver Program](#)
- [Disabled Veteran / Purple Heart Recipient Placards](#)
- [Disabled Veteran Hunting and Fishing Licenses](#)
- [Veteran and Disabled Veteran-Owned Business](#)
- [Division of Consumer Affairs Military Outreach & Support](#)
- [Professional & Occupational Licenses for Veterans and Spouses](#)
- [Military and Overseas Voting](#)
- [Troops to Teachers](#)
- [Journey Through Jersey](#)

Federal Partners



VA announces plan for new counseling resources in northern New Jersey, expanding access to care for New Jersey Veterans

DMAVA Public Affairs | April 23, 2024

TRENTON - Tuesday, April 23, 2024, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced the plan to add a new Vet Center Outstation to expand access to care in the communities focused on Warren and Morris Counties. This new Vet Center Outstation will be in Hackettstown, New Jersey, with the exact opening date and location to be determined. In addition to the creation of this Vet Center Outstation, VA will soon add a Vet Center Community Access Point, or satellite location, in Morristown, NJ.

“This was the result of the hard work and advocacy of a coalition of Veterans, community leaders and elected officials,” said Vincent Solomeno, Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and Chair of the Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families. “Our state team, including our Veterans Service Officers throughout northern New Jersey, are so excited about this expanded access to counseling and mental health services.”

[Read Full News Feature](#)

VA announces new program to help more than 40,000 Veterans stay in their homes

VA News | April 10, 2024

WASHINGTON - On May 31, 2024, the Department of Veterans Affairs will launch a new program - the [Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase \(VASP\) program](#) - to help more than 40,000 Veterans experiencing severe financial hardship avoid foreclosure and stay in their homes.

VASP is a new, last-resort tool in VA's [comprehensive suite](#) of home retention options for eligible Veterans, active-duty Service members, and surviving spouses with VA-guaranteed home loans who are experiencing severe financial hardship. Through VASP, VA will purchase defaulted VA loans from mortgage servicers, modify the loans, and then place them in the VA-owned portfolio as direct loans. This will empower VA to work directly with eligible Veterans to adjust their loans - and their monthly payments - so they can keep their homes. With VASP, these borrowers will have a fixed 2.5% interest rate, which will provide a consistent, affordable payment for the remainder of their loan.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Buddy Finder provides a faster method to find former service friends

Brian Foster | VA News | April 10, 2024

Togetherweserved.com (TWS)'s new Buddy Finder was created specifically to help Veterans find those they served with. Now with more than 2.3 million members in five separate service branch websites, TWS has possibly reconnected more Veterans than any other website or organization. The secret behind this high rate of success is the depth of TWS's hand-built databases that contain hundreds of U.S. military units, ships, squadrons and bases going back to WWII.

[Read Full News Release](#)

ATTENTION: RECENTLY SEPARATED VETERANS AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS

JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL EVENT

May 7 – 9, 2024
12PM – 5PM EST

 You're invited to get 1-on-1 assistance to get the VA health care and benefits you've earned.

- GET HELP WITH:**
- ★ Signing up for VA Health Care ★
 - ★ Applying for VA Education Benefits ★
 - ★ Submitting a VA Disability Claim ★
 - ★ Toxic Exposure Concerns ★
 - ★ Mental Health Support ★
 - ★ VA Burial Options ★

 **REGISTER TODAY!**

Please note this is available only to residents of the listed states and all times are Eastern Standard Time.

www.VA.gov/veac



VETERANS EXPERIENCE ACTION CENTER



P.W.H.O.P.E. WARRIORS

Thank you for your service. We're here for you if you need us.
Download the VA Welcome Kit: VA.gov/welcome-kit
Subscribe to #VetResources: VA.gov/vetresources/
Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255, Press 1
The one number to reach VA: 1-800-MyVA411




U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veteran Wall of Honor

Applications are being accepted for the Wilmington VA Wall of Honor

Elected Veterans must...

- ...be deceased
- ...have had an honorable discharge from the armed forces
- ...have been treated in or eligible for care in one of Wilmington VA catchment areas to include Atlantic, Cumberland, and Cape May Counties in southern New Jersey and New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties in Delaware. A Wall of Honor will be displayed in our medical center and clinics in each county



Applications available <https://tinyurl.com/97756npb>
Submit applications to PAO.Wilmington@va.gov





U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Wilmington VA Medical Center

VIETNAM GULF WAR POST - 9/11

**WERE YOU EXPOSED TO BURN PITS,
NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CHEMICALS,
AGENT ORANGE, OR OTHER TOXINS
WHILE SERVING IN THE MILITARY?**

**Apply for VA
health care today
at VA.gov/PACT.**

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Have questions?
Call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 0
to speak with someone right away.

Featured Links

- [National Parks Pass](#)
- [VALife Insurance](#)
- [VA Urgent Care Services](#)
- [Accessing Records from the National Archives or NPRC](#)
- [PACT Act Performance Dashboard](#)
- [How to Check Your PACT Act Claim Status](#)
- [Download VA Benefit Letters](#)
- [Podcasts on Veterans' Issues](#)
- [VA Health and Benefits Mobile App](#)
- [Women Veterans Call Center](#)
- [Veterans Legacy Memorial](#)
- [Million Veteran Program](#)
- [#VetResources](#)

Community Spotlight



Commander Larry Bishop

On April 14, 2024, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of Veterans Affairs (right) and Vincent Solomano, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs (left), presented [The American Legion Department of New Jersey](#) Commander Larry Bishop a signed proclamation from [Governor Phil Murphy](#) declaring April 14 as "Larry Bishop Day," during a luncheon in Old Bridge.

The proclamation recognizes his service to Garden State Veterans and for his Department's Commanders' Project, which will benefit New Jersey's three Veterans Memorial Homes; both Veterans' Havens, and the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials.

[View Images](#)

In The News



Morris Teen Gets Thousands Of Dollars' Worth Of

Donations For Local Veterans

Michelle Rotuno-Johnson | Patch.com | April 19, 2024

MORRISTOWN, NJ - A Morristown teenager's fundraiser to fill a World War II-era Jeep with items for veterans received over \$1,300 in monetary contributions, and filled several vehicles with donations from the community.

Nicholas Heusel and his mom Michele said the contributions from neighbors, the Morris School District community, and other supporters ended up filling two rooms of their house, and totaled close to \$7,000 worth of items.

"It surpassed my expectations," he said of the drive. "I think it went really well."

[Read Full Story](#)

Never Forget

In Honor of all those from New Jersey who gave their lives in the fight against terrorism during Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In humble gratitude, we remember their sacrifice.

April 25, 2003

Operation Iraqi Freedom

SPC Narson Bertil Sullivan

U.S. Army

North Brunswick, New Jersey

May 4, 2013

Operation Enduring Freedom

SSgt Eric D. Christian

U.S. Marine Corps

Ramsey, New Jersey

May 5, 2006

Operation Iraqi Freedom

Sgt Matthew J. Fenton

U.S. Marine Corps

Little Ferry, New Jersey

May 6, 2007

Operation Iraqi Freedom

SGT Sameer A. M. Rateb

U.S. Army

Absecon, New Jersey

April 29, 2010

Operation Enduring Freedom

1LT Salvatore S. Corma

U.S. Army

Wenonah, New Jersey

May 2, 2005
 Operation Iraqi Freedom
LtCol John C. Spahr
 U.S. Marine Corps
 Cherry Hill, New Jersey

May 6, 2007
 Operation Iraqi Freedom
SSG Vincenzo Romeo
 U.S. Army
 Lodi, New Jersey

"But on the battlefield their feet stood fast, and in an instant at the height of their fortune, they passed away from the scene, not of their fear, but of their glory."
 ~ Pericles

NJ Fallen Heroes Memorial

History



New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel.

April 25, 1898

The United States declared war on Spain following the sinking of the Battleship Maine in Havana harbor on February 15, 1898. New Jersey National Guardsmen would subsequently be called to Sea Girt to form volunteer regiments for service in the ensuing Spanish - American War. The New Jersey Naval Militia was called up to serve on various navy ships, some

May 3, 1941

New Jersey National Guardsmen of the Forty-fourth Division, on active duty at Fort Dix since September 1940, held their "biggest ever" review for Navy Secretary Frank M. Knox, guest of the Seventy-eighth Division Veterans Association, holding a reunion at Fort Dix.

May 7, 1995

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, situated alongside the

of them engaged in the blockade of Cuba.

May 3, 1861

New Jersey's four regiment militia brigade, enlisted for three months' service, left Trenton for Washington aboard motorized canal boats down the Delaware River. Some militiamen celebrated by firing handguns randomly in the air, and one careless Jersey City man accidentally shot another soldier. The Jerseymen debarked at Annapolis and boarded trains to Washington -- the first full brigade to reach the capital.

Garden State Parkway in Holmdel, was dedicated. The memorial, a circular open-air pavilion, is ringed with black granite panels, each representing a day of the year, engraved with the names of New Jerseyans who died on that day during the war. Three sculpted figures—a dying soldier, a nurse and a standing soldier—represent those who died, women who served and those who survived the conflict.

Did You Know?

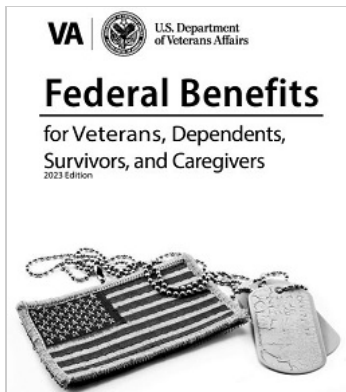
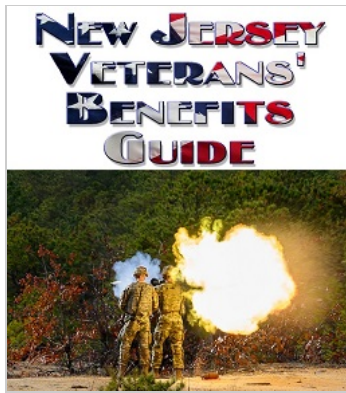
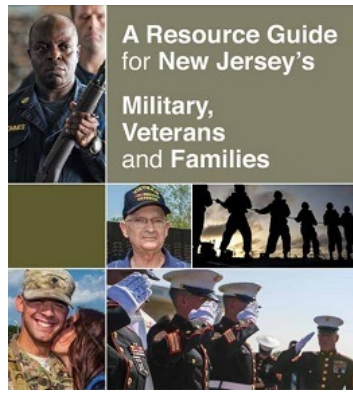


National Volunteer Month

April is National Volunteer Month. Look around you. More than likely you are surrounded by volunteers. They don't want to be pointed out. Instead, they want to make a difference. In any community, volunteers become the lifeblood that keeps operations going smoothly.

At the [National Guard Military Museum of New Jersey](#) in Sea Girt, we're lucky to have volunteers such as Bob Perricelli and Mark Ciansiosi pictured above.

Resources



DMAVA Careers

We Are Hiring!

At the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs we take our work in support of Veterans, Servicemembers and their families very seriously. Whether supporting our Veterans with nursing care, transitional housing, or assisting them in navigating access to their Veteran benefits, the Department provides valuable services and can offer rewarding career opportunities to members of the public.

We also have opportunities in facilities management and program management. In addition, we have job openings for members of our military to serve in AGR and Federal Technician roles.

Subscribe to [DMAVA Jobs Bulletin](#) to stay updated on job openings.

Vacancies

Stay Connected



We hope you enjoy receiving our newsletter and find it both educational and engaging. If you have questions about our department, our programs or your benefits, please visit our website at nj.gov/military to get contact information.

Contact DMAVA

Please email us at outreach@dmava.nj.gov with feedback and comments regarding the newsletter. If you would like to contribute with an item of interest to our subscribers, please email us your proposal.

Visit the [DMAVA archives](#) to view previous editions of our newsletter.

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Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

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