

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Organ donation is urged by governor

Creating greater public awareness about the life-saving importance of organ donation, Gov. Chris Christie signed a proclamation designating April as Donate Life Month in New Jersey.

Last year, Christie took action to increase donor registration by signing legislation requiring the state to disseminate organ and tissue donation information to all state employees reminding them of the need for organ donors. In addition, the law calls on the Department of Treasury to encourage all businesses with contracts with the state to notify their employees of organ donation options through information and materials or through an awareness program.

"Becoming an organ donor is one simple act that has the ability to transform and save many lives," said Christie, who is a registered donor. "As the need for transplants continues to increase - with one name added to the waiting list every 18 minutes - so does the need for donors. That's why Donate Life Month is an opportunity to raise awareness about the critical importance of registering to become an organ donor now. Doing so can have the most profound impact - giving someone a second chance at a healthy life while bringing joy to family members."

Currently, there are 110 million registered donors in the United States, including 2.3 million registered donors from New Jersey. Nationally, there are more than 117,800 people waiting to receive a life-saving organ transplant. Another name is added to the waiting list every 18 minutes. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, an average of 79 people will receive an organ transplant each day. Last

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PHOTO COURTESY OF SEN. NELLIE POU'S OFFICE

Sen. Nellie Pou honored women from the 35th Legislative District for their leadership and contributions to their communities.

## COMMUNITY

## Local women honored by senator

BY KRISTIE CATTAFI  
Staff Writer

Sen. Nellie Pou honored women from the 35th Legislative District in March as part of Women's History Month for their leadership and contributions to their communities.

Pou hosted an annual awards reception at the Paterson Museum recognizing Women's History Month on March 27 honoring 14 women.

"Tonight's honorees represent

the fields of law, education, healthcare, elective office, law enforcement, ministry, volunteerism, and much more," said Pou.

Pou presented merit resolutions to Nora Caridad Adams of Hawthorne, Vittoria Caramagna of Elmwood Park, Elizabeth Gray of Garfield, Dr. Donna M. Koch of Garfield, Angela Lopez of Elmwood Park, Bernice Toledo of Prospect Park, Esther Perez of Prospect Park, Joan T. Yablonski of North Haledon,

Dawn Blakely Harper of Paterson, Jessica Funes of Paterson, Sandra Galvan of Paterson; Apostle Lilisa Mimms of Paterson, Dr. Amal Ali Al-Shrouf of Wayne and Barbara Tanis of Paterson.

"Trailblazers are innovators, pioneers, and have a legacy," said Pou in her welcoming remarks. "Each honoree is a trailblazer in her own right."

The honorees are selected by receiving nominations throughout the district, said Helen

Torres, Pou's legislative aide. The women receive a resolution from Pou honoring them and are usually recognized by their town's mayors, the freeholders and county sheriff.

"They are women who - through their generosity of time and spirit - have made the 35th District the great place that it is to call home," Pou said.

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## COMMUNITY

## Garden set to host plant sale

It's NJBG Plant Sale time again at the New Jersey State Botanical Garden, a delightful must-do on every gardener's list this spring. This year's sale will be held on May 4, 5 and 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It will feature a generous array of lush perennials, colorful annuals, robust hanging baskets, tasty vegetables and herbs, as well as dwarf and full-size trees and shrubs. Admission is free. Parking is also free in the spring and during the plant sale.

The sale is held in and around the historic Carriage House Visitor Center on the grounds of

the New Jersey State Botanical Garden in Ringwood State Park. Visitors flock to this sale not only for the great plants, but also to see the garden's lovely formal plantings, extensive historical statuary and world-class collection of mature tree specimens.

On May 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., NJBG members will be treated to the Plant-Sale Preview Party, an exclusive members-only reception during which many of the choicest plants are traditionally sold.

The New Jersey State Botanical Garden at Skylands,

which appears on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places, is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day of the year. Admission to the garden is always free and parking is free in the winter, spring and fall. A \$5 per car state park parking charge is in effect on summer weekends and holidays only from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

NJBG/Skylands is located on Morris Road in Ringwood. For a calendar of events, membership brochure, directions or more information, call 973-962-9534 or visit [www.njbg.org](http://www.njbg.org).

**Ridgewood Spring  
Craft & Art Street Fair**  
145 Quality Exhibitors of Arts & Crafts,  
A Large Children's Area,  
Great Festival Food & Music.  
**Sunday May 5**  
12pm to 5pm  
East Ridgewood Ave., Ridgewood  
Sponsored by:  
The Ridgewood Chamber of Commerce  
**FREE ADMISSION - HELD RAIN OR SHINE**  
Promoted by: P.J.'s Promotions - 201-666-1340  
[www.pjspromotions.com](http://www.pjspromotions.com)  
On Rt. 17 to Paramus Rd., Ridgewood Exit, right at light onto Linwood Ave. left onto Maple Ave. to E. Ridgewood Ave. Or Rt. 17N Ridgewood Ave. ramp to north Ridgewood, right onto W. Ridgewood Ave., turn to E. Ridgewood Ave.