

NJ THIRD DISTRICT

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DEPUTY SPEAKER
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Newsletter



FALL 2021

Volume 16 - Issue 5

Fall 2021

Salem County Becomes Major Player in Offshore Wind Industry



Sweeney, Burzichelli, Taliaferro: *"New Wind Port Will Make Salem County the Hub of Offshore Wind Industry"*

Senate President Steve Sweeney, Deputy Assembly Speaker John Burzichelli and Assemblyman Adam Taliaferro participated in a groundbreaking ceremony in Lower Alloways Creek for the [New Jersey Wind Port](#), which will create 1,500 permanent jobs and would make Salem County the center of a \$150 billion East Coast offshore wind industry that will eventually employ tens of thousands of workers from Maine to the Carolinas.



Senate President Sweeney and U.S. Labor Secretary Martin Walsh at a groundbreaking ceremony for the New Jersey Wind Port in Lower Alloways Creek

"The Wind Port will fulfill a dream we had a decade ago to make South Jersey the staging, assembly, manufacturing and shipping base for the offshore wind industry for the entire Atlantic Seaboard," said **Senate President Sweeney**.

"The Wind Port will create 1,500 permanent jobs, employ hundreds of construction workers, and generate up to \$500 million in economic activity in Salem County," **Deputy Assembly Speaker Burzichelli** noted. "Offshore wind will be one of the nation's fastest-growing industry sectors, and Salem County is poised to grow along with it."

"This is the perfect location," added **Assemblyman Taliaferro**. "The wind turbines that are being assembled are so massive that they cannot go under bridges, which is why Artificial Island on the Delaware Bay is such a perfect location. It is also adjacent to the PSE&G nuclear plant, which is far from population centers, but have the sophisticated infrastructure needed."

The Third Legislative District lawmakers were joined at the groundbreaking ceremony by U.S. Labor Secretary Martin Walsh, as well as county and municipal leaders.

"Wind energy is our future - it's clean, it's safe, and it offers the opportunity for New Jersey to be a dominant leader in creating a new sector for our nation's economy," said **Senator Sweeney**. "That's why I sponsored the Offshore Wind Economic Development Act in 2010, and we now see that vision becoming a reality."



Assemblyman Taliaferro and Deputy Assembly Speaker Burzichelli attend a groundbreaking ceremony for the New Jersey Wind Port in Lower Alloways Creek

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Third District Lawmakers Take Swift Action to Assist Residents Affected by Ida-Related Tornado and Storms



In the immediate aftermath of the tornado and severe storms from Tropical Storm Ida, your Third Legislative District lawmakers were on-the-ground, touring the destruction and working to ensure affected property owners got the help they needed.

Senate President Sweeney and **Deputy Assembly Speaker Burzichelli** joined with other state, federal, county, and municipal leaders to assess first-hand the damage to the impacted neighborhoods, including Woodbury Heights.

The collaboration among all levels of government ensured a fast Major Disaster Declaration from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Gloucester County. This assistance covers temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs designed to help residents and business owners recover.

Sweeney Bill to Appropriate \$5 Million to the New Jersey Pediatric Cancer Fund is Now Law

Bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by Senate President Sweeney to dedicate \$5 million to the New Jersey Pediatric Cancer Fund to fund research to fight the growing scourge of childhood cancer has been signed into law.



“New Jersey has the nation’s third highest rate of pediatric cancer, and cases are increasing every year,” said **Senator Sweeney**. “Cancer is now the leading cause of death by disease for children under 15. That’s why the New Jersey Pediatric Cancer Fund is so important.

“We can be proud that our state is a leader in the fight against cancer, but we know that more research will help to identify ways to prevent and treat pediatric cancer. Additional support for pediatric cancer research is a top priority so that we can continue to make progress to reduce cancer incidence and improve outcomes for young cancer victims,” Senator Sweeney said.

The legislation appropriates \$5 million for pediatric cancer research projects with a focus on the causes, prevention, education, treatment, or cure of pediatric cancer and its symptoms.

“This funding is critical because less than 5% of federal funding for cancer research is dedicated specifically to seeking cures and treatments for pediatric cancer,” Senator Sweeney noted.

Sweeney Plans to Introduce Legislation to Protect Farmland and Prevent Warehouse Sprawl

In an effort to better protect farmland, Senate President Sweeney announced a plan to introduce legislation that would exclude farmland as a redevelopment or rehabilitation area under the “*Local Redevelopment and Housing Law*.”

The bill would amend the “*Local Redevelopment and Housing Law*” to specify that farmland is not a redevelopment area or an area in need of redevelopment under that law.



Specifically, the bill would revise the definitions of “redevelopment area” and “rehabilitation area” used in the law to exclude any land actively devoted to agricultural or horticultural use that is valued, assessed, and taxed pursuant to the “*Farmland Assessment Act of 1964*.”

“In the last few years, we have taken great lengths to protect our state’s farmlands,” said **Senator Sweeney**. “By taking these steps to exclude farmland from being classified as a redevelopment area or rehabilitation area, we are further ensuring the protection of these vital spaces and preventing further warehouse sprawl, which will help keep New Jersey green for decades to come.”

Breaking Ground on a New Rowan Medical Facility in Cumberland County

Senate President Sweeney joined Cumberland County leaders and Rowan University administrators for the [groundbreaking](#) of Rowan Medicine Center-Cumberland on the campus of Rowan College of South Jersey.

The medical facility, which is scheduled to open in 2024, will feature more than 17,000 square feet of learning space for professionals and students, and will have a special focus on the health and well-being of children and families.



More than \$20 Million in Infrastructure Improvement Funds Awarded to Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland Counties



Senate President Sweeney praised the announced distribution by the New Jersey Department of Transportation of more than \$160 million in county aid for local infrastructure improvements. The distribution of *County Aid* funds includes the following:

- ▶ Gloucester County: \$7,576,535
- ▶ Salem County: \$4,846,362
- ▶ Cumberland County: \$7,777,405

“Rehabilitating our roads and bridges is vitally important to every aspect of life in New Jersey,” said **Senator Sweeney**. “*County Aid* funds create projects that will improve public safety, fuel our local economy, and enhance our state’s livability. I look forward to seeing these infrastructure projects become reality in the months ahead.”

County Aid funds are appropriated by the Legislature annually for the improvement of public roads and bridges under county jurisdiction. Public transportation and other transportation projects are also included.

The full distribution statewide totals \$161.25 million. The funds are apportioned based on population and road mileage in each county. Each county selects the projects that receive funding.

Sweeney, Burzichelli & Taliaferro Announce More than \$3 Million in Pre-K Funding For Local School Districts

Senate President Sweeney, Deputy Assembly Speaker Burzichelli and Assemblyman Taliaferro announced that four school districts in the Third Legislative District have been awarded funds to establish or expand Pre-K programs, providing more state resources for the early childhood services that are extremely important for the educational development of young students. The four school districts in the Third Legislative District that received the state funding awards for Pre-K are:

- \$ Upper Pittsgrove Township: \$672,760
- \$ Penns Grove - Carneys Point Regional: \$1,138,728
- \$ Woodstown - Pilesgrove Regional: \$1,067,165
- \$ Deerfield Township: \$303,609



“We know that high-quality Pre-K programs are the single best head start we can provide to maximize a child’s full academic potential,” said **Senator Sweeney**. “Expanding Pre-K education throughout the state has been a longtime legislative priority. The continued expansion is a reflection of our state’s commitment to the academic success of all New Jersey students.”

“This aid is an investment in our future,” said **Deputy Assembly Speaker Burzichelli**. “Pre-K is an important stepping stone in a child’s cognitive development which needs special attention and greater investment. Our children will benefit immensely from the enhanced learning environment provided by this funding, and it will ensure that our children have the best resources available to receive a quality education.”

“Early childhood education is one of the best things you can do to improve the academic success of school children,” said **Assemblyman Taliaferro**. “It provides a foundation that will serve them for the breadth of their education and it will have a measurable benefit in all aspects of their future. This stronger foundation means a stronger launching pad for our young minds to grow, learn and succeed.”

The funding comes from the New Jersey Department of Education’s Preschool Education Aid program.

Senate President Sweeney Applauds \$700M in Aid to Expand Child Care, Increase Worker Pay and Assist Parents



Senate President Sweeney applauded the announcement that \$700 million in federal aid from the *American Rescue Plan* will be used to support and expand child care, improve worker pay and recruitment, and provide financial assistance to parents.

“The availability of quality child care that is affordable and reliable is one of the most vital needs of working families,” said **Senator Sweeney**. “It is critical for the health and safety of young children, their educational preparation for schools, and the ability of parents to remain in the workforce knowing that their children are well cared for. This federal support comes at a critical time as child care providers contend with near-crisis conditions caused by the pandemic. The aid will be put to use in meaningful and productive ways. I applaud New Jersey’s Congressional delegation for delivering this aid in a timely way.”

Just in Time for Winter: Community Organizations Receive More Than \$1.5 Million in State Funds to Assist Third District Constituents

Senate President Sweeney, Deputy Assembly Speaker Burzichelli and Assemblyman Taliaferro announced Gateway Community Action Partnership will receive a **\$500,000** award from the *Heating Improvement Program* and a **\$332,518** award from the *Universal Service Fund* program. These awards will provide funds to improve home heating system efficiency and provide funds to ensure that eligible utility customers in Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties pay no more than an affordable portion of their income for energy costs. Other grant awards announced:

- ▶ Gateway Community Action Partnership: **\$250,000** award from the LIHEAP Weatherization program to provide funds to implement weatherization and energy conservation measures in the housing units of eligible low-income individuals in Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties.
- ▶ Gateway Community Action Partnership: **\$355,451** award from the DOE Weatherization program to provide funds to implement weatherization and conservation measures in the housing units of eligible low-income individuals residing in Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties.
- ▶ Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey, Inc.: **\$117,950** award from the Universal Service Fund program to provide funding assistance to those with energy needs and energy crises.
- ▶ Lightup Your World Inc.: **\$270,000** award from the Universal Service Fund Assistance Outreach program to carry out outreach activities to assist residents of Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties initiate, complete and submit online applications for FY2022 USF benefits.

A Snapshot: Your Lawmakers, in YOUR Communities



Senate President Sweeney and Deputy Assembly Speaker Burzichelli meet with constituents at Salem Community College's homecoming festivities



Senate President Sweeney, Deputy Assembly Speaker Burzichelli, and Assemblyman Taliaferro salute America's heroes at the Salem County Veterans Dinner



Senate President Sweeney, Deputy Assembly Speaker Burzichelli, and Assemblyman Taliaferro participate in the annual *Septemberfest* parade in Pennsville