



**Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies  
E-Newsletter – August 11, 2003**

## **Announcements**

### ***Erika Poulsen Joins the Cornwall Center***

The Cornwall Center welcomes Erika Poulsen as the new GIS Database Coordinator. Erika joins the Center from the School of Criminal Justice where she served as the Research Director for the Crime Mapping Research Lab. In her new role Erika will be creating a database that responds to the research needs of the Center, local scholars, and the community-at-large.

### ***Cornwall Center to Complete a Program Evaluation for the Newark Housing Authority***

The Cornwall Center, in cooperation with the Coalition for Higher Education in Newark (CHEN) has begun an evaluation of the Newark Housing Authority's Stella Wright Homes HOPE VI program. HOPE VI, a program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), provides funds for local housing authorities to demolish older high-rise public housing and replace it with lower density, mixed income units. The broad goals of the program are to reduce concentrations of poverty, to improve housing standards and neighborhoods, and to increase the economic self-sufficiency of public housing residents. The recently demolished Stella Wright Homes (SWH) were located in Newark's Central Ward. Former residents receive a variety of social services and relocation assistance. Some will return to the site when the new homes are completed. The Rutgers/CHEN research team will evaluate the relocation effort and its effect on the residents. The 3-year project will run from July 2003 through June 2006.

### ***Cornwall Center's Director Search Re-Opened***

After careful consideration, the Cornwall Center has reopened the search for a new director. Rutgers-Newark Provost Steven Diner has appointed Dr. Marc Holzer, Chair of the Graduate Department of Public Administration, to head the Cornwall Center as Interim Director until a permanent director is named. Dr. Elizabeth Strom, Associate Professor from the Department of Political Science, will serve as Interim Associate Director. The Search Committee will begin reviewing applications for the position on October 14<sup>th</sup>. For additional information on the position please visit the Center's website at: [www.cornwall.rutgers.edu/Employment.htm](http://www.cornwall.rutgers.edu/Employment.htm)

---

## **News**

### **Local News**

***Essex County legislators question school audits.*** At a hearing held in Trenton, Essex County legislators questioned the motives behind state ordered audits of school districts slated to receive special state aid. Department of Education Commissioner William Librera asserted that the audits were to insure that monies are allocated to existing

programs. Given the state's budget problems the department is unable to support new programs despite the provisions mandated under Abbott laws, according to Librera. Abbott requires the state to provide funding for special programs to improve education in the poorest school districts. In July, the state requested and won permission from the State Supreme Court to delay additional funding for another year. Legislators expressed concern that the audits appear to penalize districts that requested additional funding in the annual budget plan submitted in May. Only 25 of the 30 Abbott districts will be audited.

**Related article:** "State education commissioner defends audits: Essex lawmakers grill Librera on Abbott rule," Star Ledger, Wednesday, August 06, 2003  
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1060148169327160.xml>

***Newark youth triumph at Youth Games.*** Newark athletes placed third overall in a national competition for youth patterned after the Olympics. For the first time in the history of the games Newark youth were joined by representatives from several other communities across the state. Mayor Sharpe James cheered on Newark athletes at the event held in San Francisco. Mayor James lauded the achievements of every participant, declaring them all winners. The competition also included an academic bowl in which Newark teens placed sixth and were the only New Jersey team to place.

**Related article:** "Jersey kids come home with Youth Games medals," Star Ledger, Friday, August 01, 2003.  
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1059716112151620.xml>

***City considers relocating general assistance caseload.*** City and County officials differ as to the ramifications of transferring Newark's general assistance population—approximately 4,200 single, childless individuals to the county for services. Although Newark officials believe the move would better serve clients, county officials contend that the transfer would overwhelm the Essex County Division of Welfare. The unit currently serves about 1,900 adults. In 1998, the state legislature began encouraging municipalities to turn their welfare caseloads over to county welfare agencies. The move was intended to streamline the social welfare system, making it more efficient and cost effective. Newark is the largest city in the state that has not transferred its caseload.

**Related article:** "Newark weighs change in welfare plan: Shift would put general assistance clients under county's administration," Star Ledger, Sunday, August 03, 2003.  
<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1059889840234490.xml>

***Fire academy slated for relocation.*** Planned waterfront development along the Passaic River will dislocate a facility used to train fire fighters for nearly 30 years. The Newark Fire Academy, has occupied its Jersey Street location since 1974. The city plans to redevelop the area that will be known as the Joseph G. Minish Passaic River Waterfront and Historic Area.

**Related article:** "Waterfront development forces fire academy move: Newark firefighters worry about training center's future," Star Ledger, Thursday, July 31, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1059629637257850.xml>

### State News

***Feds reward improved food stamp program.*** Reforms in New Jersey's food stamp program have netted the state a bonus of \$14.4 million dollars from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. According to Human Services Commissioner Gwendolyn Long-Harris billing errors dropped by 8.8%, raising the state's program from the third worst in the country to the third best. Advocates recommend that a portion of the bonus go toward promoting the program to income eligible households. About 53% of New Jersey households that meet income guidelines receive food stamps. Nationally about 59% of eligible households use the program.

**Related article:** "Fixing food stamp program gets N.J. a \$14.4M reward," Star-Ledger, Friday, August 01, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1059716640151620.xml>

***State Supreme Court overturns decision on legislative boundaries.*** A split Supreme Court overturned a lower court decision that declared the state's legislative boundary map unconstitutional. A state appeals court found the map violated a 1966 amendment that prohibited cities from having more than two legislative districts. Republicans challenged the current map as it allows three legislative districts in Newark and Jersey City. Both cities have had three or more districts for almost 40 years. The Supreme Court found that the 1966 amendment had never been enforced and that consolidating districts in the state's two largest cities could violate federal voting rights laws

**Related article:** "Legislative map survives Supreme Court challenge," Star Ledger, Friday, August 01, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1059716633151620.xml>



## Upcoming Events

### ***Rutgers-Newark Centers Join Forces to Host a Fall Block Party***

The Cornwall Center, Prudential Business Ethics Center, New Jersey Small Business Development Center and GlassRoot, Inc. are joining forces to sponsor another Block Party. The event will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2003 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Additional details will be provided in the next edition of the *Cornwall MetroNews*.

### ***The Education Law Center Sponsors Program on School Construction***

The Education Law Center, Public Education Institute and Coalition for Our Children's Schools are sponsoring a series of programs titled, "**Facilities on Fridays**". These events will focus attention on critical issues that effect schools built under the State's School Construction Program. The first program, "**Are We Building Schools of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?**" will be held on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Rutgers University, Busch Campus Student

Center (604 Bartholomew Road, Piscataway, NJ). For registration information please visit [www.edlawcenter.org/index.htm](http://www.edlawcenter.org/index.htm).

***Upcoming Photo Exhibit Focuses on a Newark Photographer***

**“City on Display: A Newark Photographer and His Clients, 1890s-1940s”** a photo exhibit, will open at the New Jersey Historical Society (52 Park Place, Newark, NJ) on October 8<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit showcases the work of photographer William F. Cone, one of the earliest commercial photographers in Newark. The collection documents commerce, architecture, transportation and industry in Newark, NJ and the surrounding area during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. For more information on this exhibit, please visit the New Jersey Historical Society’s website at [www.jerseyhistory.org/exhibits\\_upcoming.php](http://www.jerseyhistory.org/exhibits_upcoming.php).

***The New Jersey Historical Society Leads Walking Tours of Newark***

The New Jersey Historical Society will offer guided walking tours of Newark this fall. These tours are designed to highlight Newark’s many historical attractions.

- *Behind Closed Doors: Selected Interiors of Downtown Newark*

Enter the Art Deco interior of the Verizon Building, the spacious First Baptist Peddie Memorial Church, the colonial interior of Trinity Cathedral, and the Renaissance-inspired courtyard in the Newark Public Library.

**Tuesday, September 9                      1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

- *Art for the Public Eye*

Celebrate fall with a stroll around downtown Newark. Examine and discuss public art in Military and Washington Parks including freestanding sculpture and architectural design.

**Saturday, September 27                      11:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, November 18                      11:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

- *Broad Street Highlights*

A new walking tour of downtown Newark, highlighting the treasures of Broad Street. Buildings such as the National Newark Building, City Hall, Prudential and Symphony Hall have all been instrumental in the development of Newark’s primary business districts. Also see historic photographs of Broad Street in the 1800’s and early 1900’s from the Historical Society’s collections.

**Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>                      1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

- *Culture and Commitment*

Downtown Newark has seen several periods of growth since the founding of the city in 1666. This tour explores three centuries of the City’s architecture through discussion and comparison of the buildings along Washington and Military Parks.

**Tuesday, October 28                      1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, November 1                      1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**



The Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies circulates the **Cornwall MetroNews** e-newsletter to publicize urban-related topics, news, and events on the Rutgers-Newark Campus and in the City of Newark.

If you would like to add an item or add / remove a name from our distribution list, please contact Katherine Accousti at [accousti@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:accousti@andromeda.rutgers.edu) or 973-353-1750 ext. 224.

*The following individuals contributed to this edition of the **Cornwall MetroNews**: Donita Devance-Manzini, Katherine Accousti, and Irene Welch.*

## **Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies: Executive Committee**

Marc Holzer, Interim Director, The Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies and Chair, Department of Public Administration

Elizabeth Strom, Interim Associate Director, The Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies and Associate Professor, Department of Political Science

Leslie Kennedy, Dean, School of Criminal Justice

Alan Sadovnik, Professor, Department of Education and Academic Foundation

Paul Tractenberg, Professor, School of Law

## **Staff**

Katherine Accousti, Senior Program Coordinator  
973-353-1750 ext. 224  
[accousti@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:accousti@andromeda.rutgers.edu)

Donita Devance-Manzini, Senior Project Manager  
973-353-1750 ext. 228  
[devance@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:devance@andromeda.rutgers.edu)

Kelly Robinson, Senior Research Analyst  
[krobins@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:krobins@andromeda.rutgers.edu)  
973-353-1750 ext. 226

Irene Welch, Administrative Assistant  
[irenew@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:irenew@andromeda.rutgers.edu)  
973-353-1750 ext. 221

## **Cornwall Center Contact Information**

47 Bleeker Street

Newark, NJ 07102

973-353-1750 - 973-353-1753 (fax)

[www.cornwall.rutgers.edu](http://www.cornwall.rutgers.edu)