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Monthly Digest

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March 2023

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Vol. VI, No. V

BOE Introduces Preliminary FY 2024 Budget



BUDGET PRESENTATION – Schools Superintendent John Ravally gestures during the March 9 Board of Education Finance Committee meeting, during which the preliminary FY 2024 budget was discussed.

The Board of Education has introduced its preliminary \$214 million Fiscal Year 2024 district budget.

The budget is under re-

view by the Somerset County Executive Superintendent and is expected to receive a final vote at the Board's April 25 meeting.

In its current form, the

tentative budget carries a tax levy of \$157,959,146, a \$6,900,836 or 5 percent increase over the FY 2023 tax levy of \$151,058,310.

The tax impact of the FY 2024 spending plan has not yet been determined, and can't be until the District receives assessment information from the Township, schools Superintendent John Ravally said.

During a two-hour open Finance Committee meeting on March 9, Ravally gave committee members a run-down of the considerations that went into the creation of the tentative budget, and district Business Administrator Luis Valencia broke down the tentative budget's numbers.

One of the biggest challenges in creating the budget Ravally said, was making up for \$3 million in grant funding that was connected to the Covid-19 pandemic, and which will not be repeated.

"Any recurring costs that we've been living off of using federal money, we have to get back into the budget," he said. "You want to wean off of, if not get totally independent from, recurring costs for programs that you were formerly funding" through Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief grant, he said.

Ravally said the so-called ESSER grants were invaluable during the district's shutdown. He said that without the grant, he did not know how the district would have afforded buying all of the Chromebooks it needed for students during the remote instruction period.

Ravally said a state mandate concerning health care will force an increase of about \$3.2 million in that line item, and that transportation costs will increase by about \$2 million.

"That's not the kind of increase that we typically see," he said. "That's about a 10 percent increase. That's a lot."

"This is restoring transportation to where transportation was pre-pandemic, but it comes with a cost," he said.

The District looks to spend another \$1 million in an effort to recruit and retain

Continued on Page 7.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS – James Betz of Princeton Junction and Najee Nasim of Franklin, (left to right) employees at Bloc in the Village Plaza, prepare for the next customer.

Township's First Adult-Use Cannabis Store Opens

History was made in the township on March 12 when Bloc, Franklin's first adult-use recreational cannabis shop, opened its doors.

Located in the Village Plaza, 1075 Easton Avenue, Bloc was already in operation for several months as a medical dispensary. It opened its adult-use recreational line just several days after its application to sell recreational cannabis was approved by the state Cannabis Regulatory Commission.

New Jersey is one of five states in which Bloc operates cannabis dispensaries and cultivation sites, Michigan, Utah, Pennsylvania and Missouri being the other four.

Bloc's holding company, Justice Grown, was formed in 2014 by civil rights attorneys

in Chicago who, according to their web site, "have spent their careers fighting for the rights of the wrongly convicted."

Kayla Breiner, the store's general manager, joined Bloc on Halloween, 2022, bringing with her about three years' experience in the cannabis industry and a pre-med college education.

One of the things that attracted her to Bloc, Breiner said, was that the company's CEO is a military veteran.

"I do come from a military family, so I value our veterans," she said.

The Bloc philosophy is to build a sense of community, she said.

"We bring everyone together," she said.

Theresa Adamson is

Continued on Page 6.

At 12 Years Old, Township Resident Has Broadway Lights In His Eyes



BROADWAY BOUND – Township resident Ethan Joseph made his Broadway debut at age 11, in "Tina, The Tina Turner Musical."

At 12 years old, township resident Ethan Joseph has appeared in a Broadway musical, an independent movie, as well as on Off-Broadway.

And from the looks of things, his journey is just beginning.

Joseph, a 7th Grader at Timothy Christian School in Piscataway, recently wrapped a production of "Raisin" at the Axelrod Performing Arts Center, a regional theater in Deal.

He's got other irons in the fire, though, at least one of which has to be kept confidential for now.

But trust us, it's big.

Joseph's real acting career began when he was 7 years old and a student at the Sundance School in North Plainfield, when he played the part of the Candy Man in a production of Willy Wonka.

"It was a such a happy time," he said "I loved playing

the Candy Man."

That wasn't Joseph's first role, just his biggest up to that time.

"Before that, I was in the Little Mermaid, it was a small part, and a couple other shows," he said.

A run as the "Older Simba" in Lion King led him to his first Broadway open call audition, for the same role, he said.

"I auditioned, and they said phenomenal job," he said. "But then Covid happened."

Covid reset everything, and Joseph had to audition again. This time, he wasn't as fortunate.

"I auditioned again and still didn't make it," he said. "I auditioned a year ago and made it to the finals."

A trip last February to a showcase at the Broadway Artists Alliance – a New York City based organization that provides theatrical training to talented youth – got Joseph

noticed by the people who would become his agent and manager.

It turned out that his agency, the Carson Kolker Organization Ltd., also represents Jay Aubrey Jones, Joseph's cousin.

That was all Ava Joseph, Ethan's Mom, needed to hear.

"I said if he's with you, you're family, basically," she said. "That's how we got signed."

"So then I started auditioning for stuff," Ethan Joseph said. "I got a Broadway reading in Pride, the Musical. It was such an amazing play, I loved everything about it."

"Two weeks later, I auditioned for Tina, and I got in," he said.

Tina, as in "Tina, the Tina Turner Musical."

That was April of 2022. Joseph was given the understudy position in the role of "Young Craig," Tina Turner's oldest son.

Joseph played the role for two weeks after the primary actor contracted Covid.

Joseph recalls his first thoughts as he stepped on Lunt-Fontaine's stage.

"It felt like, so this is what going on Broadway feels like," he said. "But mostly, I was nervous."

"I was always nervous when I was about to go on," he said. "What if I mess up, what if the timing is not right?"

"I was like, you get one

Continued on Page 5.

Council Moves To Raise Water Rates, Impose New Fee

An ordinance amendment that calls for a 15 percent increase in water rates was approved at the March 28 Township Council meeting.

The hike is the first such increase in about a decade, and caps a conversation started at least six years ago.

Township water customers pay a minimum charge of 10,000 gallons of water per quarter. Should the amendment be passed, the minimum quarterly charge for residential water customers would increase from \$56.60 to \$65.10, a \$34 yearly increase.

Mayor Phil Kramer said at the March 14 meeting that

the median residential charge – meaning half are higher and half are lower – would increase by about \$100 a year.

The increase is necessary, Kramer said, because the township is paying more for water from its suppliers than it charges. In fact, he said, the rate has increased 19 percent from the last time water rates to township customers were increased.

Two of the township's water suppliers – New Brunswick and New Jersey American Water – are each raising their rates by 3.5 percent, Kramer said.

The Financial Oversight Committee was advised to impose what's called a Dis-

tribution System Investment Charge, which would go to maintaining the water system's infrastructure, Kramer said.

The DSIC charge is calculated on the amount of water a customer actually uses, rather than having a minimum charge attached to it, said Township Manager Robert Vornlocker.

The proposed amendment sets the DSIC fee at \$1 per 1,000 gallons of water used.

Kramer said the hope is that the increased water rates and the addition of the DSIC charge will be enough to absorb the water supplier increases.


FHS To Participate In Controversial AP African American Studies Pilot Program

Meeting Budget Goals

To support the continued effort to reach the goals established in the Board approved District Equity Plan.

- Implementation of AP African American Studies and Honors Race Gender and Equity Courses as well as additional sections of Race Gender and Equity Courses to fulfill BOE Graduation Requirement mandate = \$100,000
- Equity Training & Coaching = \$20,000
- Membership in NJ Network of Superintendents = \$5,000
- Partnership with Equal Opportunity Schools = \$25,000

Total Impact = \$150,000



Franklin Township High School will be one of 26 schools in New Jersey to offer Advanced Placement African American studies, starting in the 2023-2024 school year.

The course, created by the College Board, is currently being taught in one New Jersey school and 60 schools across the country. The course is in its first year of a two-year pilot program.

The Board of Education last December approved the course and applied to the state to participate in the pilot program's second year.

Gov. Phil Murphy in February announced that 26 New Jersey schools would participate in the pilot's second year.

Speaking about the course at the school board's

Finance Committee's open budget hearing on March 9, schools Superintendent John Ravally said that a minimum of 20 students was needed to run the course, "and by the way, we already have 58 students signed up."

Ravally said the course will have several sections.

Advanced placement courses allow students to earn college credits while still in high school.

The course "is an interdisciplinary course that draws from a variety of fields—history, literature, the arts, geography, science—to explore the vital contributions and experiences of African Americans," according to the College Board web site.

"To develop this course framework, the AP Program consulted with more than

300 professors of African American Studies from more than 200 colleges nationwide, including dozens of historically Black colleges and universities, along with dedicated high school teachers across the country," according to the web site. "The course focuses on the topics where professors shared a strong consensus on the essential events, experiences, and individuals crucial to a study of African American history and culture."

More than 200 colleges around the country have committed to accepting the course's credits, according to the College Board.

Hundreds of schools across the country will participate in the pilot program's second year, according to the College Board. The course will be available to all schools in the 2024-25 school year.

The course has become a flashpoint among Conservatives, most notably Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. Murphy, in his press release about the expansion of the program in New Jersey, took aim at DeSantis' comments.

"As governors like Florida's Ron DeSantis prioritize political culture wars ahead

of academic success, New Jersey will proudly teach our kids that Black History is American History," Murphy said in the release. "While the DeSantis Administration stated that AP African American Studies 'significantly lacks educational value,' New Jersey will stand on the side of teaching our full history."

"We will set an example for the nation by demonstrating to our future leaders that our country is the greatest in the world because it is a work in progress, a promise, and an ideal we strive to achieve," he said in the release. Critics have charged that the College Board "watered down" the course to meet objections posed by opponents such as DeSantis, but the College Board denies there was any outside influence in its decision-making.

"No states or districts have seen the official framework that is released, much less provided feedback on it," the College Board says on its web site. "This course has been shaped only by the input of experts and long-standing AP principles and practices."

Girl Scouts Honored By Township Council

Local Girl Scouts, and Girl Scout Week, were honored at the March 14 Township Council Meeting.

Citations commemorating individual and group efforts were awarded by Mayor Phil Kramer.

Molly H. of Troop 60607 was commended for achieving the Girl Scouts' Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can receive. She won the award for creating the "Hiking Adventure Guide for Girls by Girls" to help in getting more girls outdoors.

"I wanted to get more girls out hiking," Molly said. She said the booklet was distributed to "outdoor stores, clubs and organizations."

Shanon S. and Stasha H. were commended for achieving the Silver Award, which is the highest honor a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. They received the award for creating a letterbox activity for a local Girl Scout Camp.

"Shannon and I and one other girl ... decided to make letter boxing for camp," Stasha said. "Overall, I think it

was really fun and we enjoyed everything that we did."

The Bronze Award is the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn. Three teams of Girl Scouts were honored for reaching that goal.

Two teams from Troop 60675 were honored.

The first team, comprised of Isla H., Mckayla P., Padmini S., Sadie G and Saniya B. were honored for creating an animal adoption education project and making toys for animals at the shelter.

The second team, comprised of Isabel U., Kayah S., Molly A. and Pavithra S. were honored for their "Save The Beel!" project, which sought to raise awareness about the importance of pollinating bees and for creating a pollinator garden at a local church.

A team from Troop 63202, comprised of Danielle C., Annabelle L., Emma A., Charlotte M., Mila V., Kamylle K., Maren W., Layla V., Gabriella S., Chloe L., and Alyanna B. were honored for creating a community donation drive for the Franklin Animal Shelter.

Delay In Equipment Delivery Delays Opening Of New Library

A delay in the delivery of an electrical panel has delayed the opening of the new Franklin Park branch of the Franklin Township Library.

The new branch, located at 64 Clover Place, was supposed to have opened around the middle of April.

But the delay has forced officials to push that opening date to "the end of April, beginning of May," library Director January Adams told the library's Board of Trustees at its March 22 meeting.

Still, Adams said, the process of moving from the old branch in the Franklin Towne

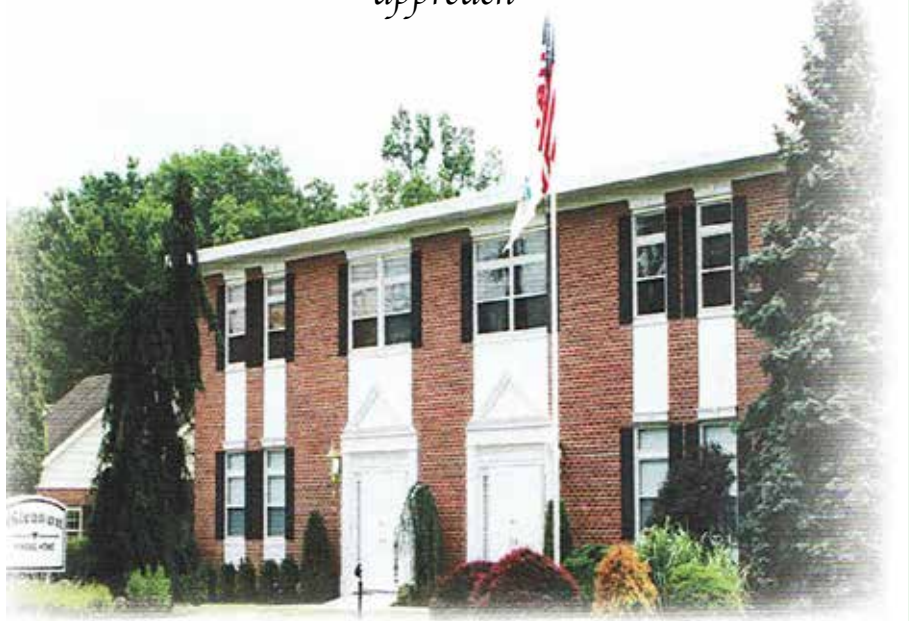
Center at South Middlebush Road and Route 27 to the new location continues.

"The good news is the book movers came in and moved the books to the new building," she said.

She said shelving should be moved out of the old space by the end of March.

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Kingston Teen Searching For Village History



BUDDING HISTORIAN – 13-year-old Markus McParland described parts of his history book on Kingston to members of the township Historic Preservation Commission on March 7.

A 13-year-old Kingston resident is putting the final touches on a voluminous history of the Village and is looking for help in tying up some loose ends.

Markus McParland, an 8th Grader at the Yinghua International School in Kingston, stopped by the township Historic Preservation Commission – of which his father, Glen, is a member – at its March 7 meeting to share some of his findings and put out a request for more information.

The book, which must be completed in May, is already more than 600 pages long. It is roughly broken up

into seven study areas: Inns, Taverns and Hotels; Homes and Historic Sites; People and How They Lived; Artifacts; Accidents; Uncovered Secrets, and Public Records.

McParland told the Commissioners that he is creating the book for the Kingston Historical Society.

“I’ve met twice with the Kingston Historical Society,” he said. “I have placed ads online and in the Post Office to ask if people have documents, articles or artifacts. I also have visited historic places and other places. I have also visited the churches.”

The young historian read from a number of pag-

es in his book, touching on a variety of topics including “lost” inns, notable buildings and some infamous events that occurred in the Village’s history.

All proceeds from the book’s sales will be donated to the Kingston Historical Society, he said.

McParland started the project around October 2022. In that time, said his mother, Andrea, he’s been scouring online newspaper archives, Census records, and historic collections to get as much information as he can.

There still is some information that he has not been able to locate, he said.

“We have not been able to get any original picture/sketch of Brooks Manor/ Millstone Inn,” which stood approximately where the middle of the Palace of Asia restaurant now stands, he said.

McParland asked that anyone with information, pictures or artifacts about Kingston’s history contact him at inaglen@aol.com.

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Monthly Digest

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The Franklin Reporter & Advocate Monthly Digest is distributed throughout Franklin Township at retail outlets, housing developments, at the Municipal Complex, Township Library, and the Senior/Community Center.

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WWII French Resistance Fighter Is Honored By His Native Country

It was 78 years in the making, but Michel Mockers, a member of the French Resistance during World War II, finally received the highest recognition available from his native country at a special ceremony March 21 in the Township Council chamber.

Mockers, who turned 100 in December, received the Knight of the Legion of Honor award before a crowd of friends, family and fellow veterans from the United States and France.

Mayor Phil Kramer also presented Mockers with a ceremonial key to the township,

and state Assemblyman Joe Daniels (D-17) presented him with a commendation from the Assembly.

After his medal was pinned to his jacket lapel, Mockers said he hoped the spirits of the men and women with whom he served were in the room to watch him receive the award.

Earlier, Mockers said that he fought in the Resistance “to get free, to remain free. You wanted your people to be free ... and act as they want.”

During the roughly hour-long program, the Star-Spangled banner was sung by Franklin High School student

Rebecca Russo, and La Marseillaise, the French national anthem, was sung by Jean-Baptiste Chal  roux.

The Franklin Township Police Honor Guard brought the colors for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The keynote speaker was J  r  mie Robert, the French Consul General.

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Life Stories

Donald J. Bell, 86; Ex-Chief Of Middlebush VFD

Robert Zisk, Sr., 67; Volunteer With FTLL



Donald J. Bell of Somerset passed away on March 24 at home. He was 86.

Born and raised in New Brunswick, he has lived in Somerset since 1963.

He worked as a repairman, first for GE then for his own business Mid County Repair in Somerset before retiring in the late 1990s.

Donald was a longtime active member and past chief of the Middlebush Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset. He served with the Fire Police and multiple terms as Fire Commissioner and received many awards for his community service over the years. He was also a member of the New Jersey Region Antique Automobile Club of America. Donald enjoyed watching NY Giants football, reading and learning, boating, fishing, woodwork-

ing, HAM radio, working on his antique cars and most of all spending time with his family.

He is predeceased by his parents, Donald and Catherine Bell; his brother, Stanley Bell, and sister-in-law, Sandra Johnson.

Surviving are his wife of 63 years, Nancy; son and daughter-in-law, David Bell and Rhonda Browning of Stockton; daughters and sons-in-law, Denise and Eugene O'Bara of Manville and Janice Bell and Fabio Bonetti of Arlington, Virginia; seven grandchildren, Kristen (and her partner Trevor), Kelly (and her fiancé Charlie), Lorenzo, Sveva, Austin, Rory and Kerri (and her husband Jason); 2 great-grandchildren, Brielle and Luke; brother-in-law, James Johnson Sr., sister-in-law, Patricia Bell; nephews – Stanley, Kenn, Peter, Paul and Jimmy; great nieces and nephews; and beloved family dog, Ginger.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to the Middlebush Fire Department, PO Box 6687, Somerset, New Jersey 08875-6687.



Robert C. Zisk, Sr., of Somerset passed away on March 12. He was 67.

Born in New Brunswick, he was a lifelong resident of Franklin Township.

Bob worked as an Operations Manager for Brenntag Northeast in New Brunswick and Branchburg before his retirement. He was also a longtime volunteer for the Franklin Township Little League. Bob was a fan of Rutgers University sports and the Dallas Cowboys. He enjoyed fishing and throwing the frisbee to his loyal dogs. Most of all, Bob loved spending time with his grandson, Charlie.

Bob is predeceased by his loving wife, Donna, who passed away in 2017, and his parents, Charles and Irene.

Surviving are his son and

daughter-in-law, Rob Jr. and Cathy of Somerset; sister, Diane Sitren, also of Somerset, and grandson, Charlie Zisk.

Cremation services have been handled privately.

Maxine Bell, 80; Was Teacher



Mrs. Maxine Bell passed away on March 24 at Foothill Acres in Hillsborough. She was 80 years old.

Maxine was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. After obtaining her Master's Degree from Brooklyn College, she began a long career as an elementary school teacher in Brooklyn. While on a blind date arranged by one of her closest friends, Maxine met her future husband, Joe. The young couple married and moved to Queens. They then

moved to the Somerset section of Franklin Township in 1972 to raise a family of their own.

"Mrs. Bell" as she was known to her beloved students was employed as an elementary school teacher for 25 years with the Franklin Township Public School System. Following her retirement, not surprisingly, Maxine continued her career as a substitute teacher at MacAfee Road School.

She was a longtime member of Temple Beth El in Somerset and a member of the Temple Beth El Sisterhood. Maxine was a participant in the Temple's inaugural adult Bat Mitzvah class. Maxine enjoyed spending time with her family, especially during her summer trips with Joe and his high school friends to Ogunquit, Maine and her family to Cape May. She also was an avid reader, and enjoyed shopping, knitting, and flowers. Above all else she was a modest woman who took remarkable care of her husband, children, grandchildren, and all of those she loved. She will be deeply missed.

Maxine is survived by her husband of 55 years, Joseph Bell of Somerset and their children, Jeffrey Bell and his wife Libby, and Betsy Thiffault and her husband Jef. She is also survived by her beloved grandchildren, Sophia and Logan Thiffault, and her brothers Barry Kummer and Robert Kummer and his wife Janny.

Please consider a donation in Maxine's name to Alzheimer's of New Jersey at www.alznj.org.

George H. Maurer, 86; Was Organist

George H. Maurer, of Somerset passed away on February 23 at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick. He was 86.

Born in New Brunswick, he was a lifelong resident of the New Brunswick/Franklin Township area.

George was a longtime organist for the Somerset Presbyterian Church and was beloved by members.

George is predeceased by his parents, George and Ada Maurer; sister Gloria Maurer; and brother Richard Maurer.

George will be sadly missed by a host of cousins, friends, and other beloved relatives.

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At 12 Years Old, Township Resident Has Broadway Lights In His Eyes

Continued from Page 1.

shot at this, if you do not make this, they will fire you,” Joseph said. “That’s what I thought.”

The contract for Tina expired in August, after which Joseph won a one-month role in “Still” at the Ensemble Playhouse, from October to November.

Next came a spot in the Paper Mill Playhouse’s production of “The Sound of Music,” which was a “swing” role, which basically meant he had to learn two roles and

be ready to play either one.

Following that run, Joseph auditioned for Axelrod’s “Raisin.” In this musical adaptation of “Raisin in the Sun,” he played the role of Travis Younger.

And then there’s the movie he appeared in, an independent production about immigration, and a father’s expectations for his children, called “An Expectation.” The movie wrapped in January.

“I’m in this scene where I sing, because my Dad wants me to be a singer when I grow

up,” he said.

Joseph already has his next steps planned, most notably two major productions that still have to be kept under wraps.

In the meantime, Joseph works at his art.

“He takes acting lessons, he takes voice lessons,” said Ava Joseph. “He started tap dancing a year ago. He’s starting hip-hop dance now. He’s going to do that so he can get himself ready for the next thing he wants to do.”

Helping him along in his

budding career is Tim Walton, who helms the Franklin High School theatrical productions.

Walton coached Joseph for future auditions during

the Covid-19 shutdown and taught him piano for a year.

“He’s a very smart young man,” Walton said of Joseph. “He loved theater at an early age.”

“He has a wonderful voice ... a beautiful tone,” he said.

Walton said he does see a Broadway future for his student.



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Township's First Adult-Use Recreational Cannabis Store Opens

Continued from Page 1.

Bloc's district manager for New Jersey. She, too, has about 3.5 years in the cannabis industry, starting her career in high-end retail 35 years earlier.

The recreational and medical sides of the business pretty much offer the same products, Breiner said, although the store's priority is serving the medical use patients.

"We're doing everything for the patients, they come first, but we also want to

serve the adult use community," she said.

The line of products offered by Bloc runs the gamut, Breiner said.

"We've got edibles ... we have flower, we have hybrids, we have sativas, we have indicas, we have small bud flower, we have large bud flower, one-gram pre-rolls, two-packs of pre-rolls ..." she said.

The pre-rolls are what they sound like, pre-rolled cannabis joints.

"I'm finding that here, edibles are flying off the shelf,"

Adamson said.

Edibles cost about \$30 for a package of 10, 10 milligram pieces. Three-and-a-half grams of cannabis costs \$40, while a 7-pack of half-gram pre-rolls is \$45.

Right now, the store employs about 14 people, but Adamson said she will be adding to the roster.

"I love our team," Breiner said. "This is the most favorite job I've ever had. If you have that passion and drive, you can make a career for yourself in cannabis."

Two Franklin residents who work at the store, Najee Nasim and Will Pelzer, said cannabis is their future.

Pelzer, a 2011 Franklin High School graduate, spent nine years in the Army as a military policemen after graduating and a year at Raritan Valley Community College.

When he got out of the Army, he said, he wanted to do something different.

Pelzer said his friend, Nasim, told him about Bloc and convinced him to apply.

"This is definitely something new," he said. "The cannabis industry is booming, so it felt like the right time to get my foot in the door."

"I love this company," he said. "I like how personable the company is."

Nasim said he came to the company with a background of being a medical cannabis patient.

"I always had what I thought was knowledge, but what I thought I knew ... (shakes his head.)"

Like Pelzer, Nasim sees

himself in the industry for the long haul.

"After being here since October, I just see myself growing and continuing to get educated in the cannabis industry," he said.


Bloc's hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays for medical patients and 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays for adult-use recreational customers.


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Board Of Education Introduces Preliminary FY 2024 Budget

Continued from Page 1.

quality teachers, a cost that Ravally said could change depending on negotiations.

The tentative budget includes about \$1.1 million for a number of programs that administrators would like to see continued or added.

That includes continuing the Great Expectations Mentoring Program, Effective School Solutions at Elementary Schools, both of which programs were previously funded by grants; putting an

additional safety officer at the two Middle School campuses and Franklin High School; contractual salary increases for Class III Franklin Township Police Department officers and for FTPD officers hired for outside events.

The tentative budget estimates \$3 million for various professional development programs and for teacher recruitment and retention that were previously funded by the ESSER grants.

The total estimated local

revenue general fund for FY 2024 is \$162,588,971, an increase of \$4,720,447, or 2.9 percent from FY 2023 figure of \$157,868,524. Local revenue includes the tax levy, surplus, special ed tuition, interest, withdrawal from the capital reserve fund and miscellaneous income.

The total of all state aid, called operating revenue, is estimated at \$24,002,066, a \$5.9 million increase from FY 2023's figure of \$18,065,168.

That total is comprised of

state aid, extraordinary aid and SEMI (Special Education Medicaid Initiative) Aid.

That creates a total estimated operating expense of \$186,591,037, a \$10.7 mil-

lion or 6 percent increase over FY 2023's figure of \$175,933,692.

Add in the \$19,638,379 in total estimated special revenue and \$7,861,005,

and the district has estimated FY 2024 total revenue of \$214,090,421, an \$8.2 million or 4 percent increase over FY 2023's figure of \$205,872,232.

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