

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2025

THERE'S A NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN!

Thomas Adamo sworn in as Passaic County Sheriff along with Commissioners Bartlett, Lazzara & De Vore



The disappointment of Kamala's loss still lingers, but on January 8th at Passaic County Technical Institute (PCTI) here in Wayne, there still was much to celebrate for Democrats. Yes, Andy Kim retained New Jersey's Senate seat for the Dems, but on this night the rest of "Row A", winners in last year's election, would be sworn into office. Governor Phil Murphy was on hand to swear in the newly elected Passaic County Sheriff and Wayne resident, Thomas ("Tommy") Adamo. (See his subsequent remarks in the YouTube video below, along with one of the songs performed by The PCTI Vocal Technique Ensemble.) Also sworn in as Commissioners were incumbents, John Bartlett and Cassandra ("Sandi") Lazzara, as well as newcomer Rodney De Vore. As part of reorganization meeting, Pat Le Pore was elected Director and Sandi, Deputy Director. Congrats to all!



<https://youtu.be/fi8ZtYUbT3g>

YouTube
Sheriff Adamo's
remarks after
the swearing in
(left) & The
PCTI Vocal
Technique
Ensemble



<https://youtu.be/jRxceFBstYw>

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"ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL."

What's going on in Wayne? The Primaries!

This year's Primary Elections are still a few months away - Tuesday, June 10th to be exact. However, the Primary Election candidate filing deadline is right around the corner in March. Some may be aware that in order for candidates to be placed on the Primary Election ballot one must be petitioned for each election. Circulators go out to registered voters and have them sign the petition form for their candidate be placed on the primary ballot.

Already there are a handful of Democratic gubernatorial candidates who have declared their candidacy and are required to collect 1,000 signatures before March 24th. Also on the ballot will be candidates for two Passaic County Commissioner seats, Wayne mayor and three town council at large seats who will also require signatures to get on the ballot.

If you would like to get involved in getting petitions signed for our candidates, let us know!

FOR MAYOR:

FOR COUNCIL AT LARGE:

THE REPUBLICAN INCUMBENTS:



Chris Vergano



Jason DeStefano



Jill Sasso



David Varano

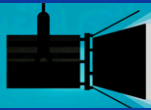
THE DEMOCRATS:



While all of this year's races are important, those right here in Wayne are especially critical. Township voters will be deciding who will be Wayne's mayor and who will hold the three council at large seats for the next four years. This comes at a time when the population of Wayne will be experiencing unprecedented growth as a result of the multiple housing developments that are being built to meet affordable housing targets.

There are differing opinions on how to meet those targets without causing such a dramatic increase in building. Unfortunately, Councilwoman Francine Ritter remains the lone Democrat on a nine-member Town Council, and the suggestions she has offered on behalf of the community have not seen the light of day. With a third round of affordable housing targets on the horizon, the future of our township has reached a crossroads, and we need our voices heard. We have screened six candidates thus far, but our door remains open for anyone else to step forward. Once the process is completed, our ticket will be presented to our Club members for endorsement.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate or know of anyone who is, please contact us!



Member Spotlight

Kamala Anupindi



This month we are proud to shine a spotlight on a truly remarkable Wayne Democratic Club member. Kamala Anupindi is a superstar who was just named Wayne's Person of the Year by Tapinto Wayne.

In 1989, a future Wayne resident named Kamala Anupindi emigrated from India with a one-way ticket to America, a college degree, and \$400 in her pocket. Thirty-five years later, with a master's degree and a PhD (ABD), this treasured member of the Wayne Democratic Club (and elected Wayne Democratic Committee member) has made such an impact in her chosen hometown that she has been named the 2024 Wayne Township Person of the Year.

Almost 25 years ago, Avik Ghosh and Kamala moved to Wayne and got married by the then Wayne Mayor in the Mayor's office. Years later, they adopted their beautiful daughter, Shivani, from India. Along the way, Kamala made a name for herself in the software industry and decided to give something back to the community where she had found such a wonderful life. And she hasn't stopped giving since.

Wayne's Person of the Year is well known in the Wayne community for her tireless efforts and commitment to service in support of others. Whether she is volunteering as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children; helping a neighbor in need through Wayne Volunteers (the community assistance organization she founded and leads); organizing and leading cultural events (like Wayne's annual community Diwali lighting); or supporting one of the many local service organizations dedicated to raising up those who need it most, Kamala seems to spend all of her free time and money giving back and, perhaps more importantly, inspiring those around her to get involved and do the same.

What Kamala has done has not gone unnoticed. She has been honored numerous times for her exemplary leadership in the Passaic County community, recognizing the transformation that can be achieved when people work together towards a cause. Kamala is steadfast in her dedication to ensuring that children living in foster care have everything they need for a safe, happy future in a permanent home (she personally mentors nine children over the past 5 years); as well as supporting homeless people; children and seniors in crisis; food banks; shelters; and so much more.

For over 20 years, Kamala has been organizing her friends and neighbors to lend a hand to support anyone in need. In addition to her almost full-time volunteering, she also personally finances many of her projects, mostly in the form of food, toys, clothing, and personal items. Since 2010, Kamala has used her knack for bringing people together toward a common mission and has grown the holiday wish program in her community to fulfill the wishes of more than 100 children in foster care every year.

Most notably, thanks to the networks she has created and with the help of social media, Kamala has established the "Wayne Volunteers" online community of local individuals who are equally eager to make a difference. Through Kamala's inspiration, this community has grown to more than 1,800 members across the county. Over the course of a year, this group supports Father English Food Pantry; Wayne Interfaith Network; St. Paul's Church; OASIS: A Haven for Women in Children; Eva's Village; and Summer Hill Senior Center, to name a few. In addition to these organizations, the Wayne Volunteers community has supported countless local families struggling to stay on their feet.

(continued)

[Read More](#)


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Photo credit: Anupindi Verano/Wayne Volunteers

And in her spare time? Hard to believe but Kamala is also a NJ Rutgers Master Gardner, and has cultivated the most beautiful home garden ever. Oh, and there is no bigger cricket aficionado or Yankees fan either, although it's going to take awhile for her to get over losing Juan Soto to the Mets!

Our late Congressman, Bill Pascrell, always used to tell us to always try to find ways to make your community better. We're quite sure that Kamala would have earned Bill's vote for Wayne Person of the Year. She certainly has ours. Kamala inspires everyone around her. As a talented professional, mother, wife, cultural icon, proud Indian-American, CASA volunteer and community organizer there are not many who can compare to her. The Wayne Democrats are proud to claim Kamala as one of our own.

On behalf of the Wayne Democratic Club, congratulations Kamala!
Bob Nulman, Wayne Democratic Co-Chair

Lets Get SMARTER



**Trying to find reputable New Jersey and local news and information sources?
Here are some suggestions!**

STATE & LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION SOURCES

TV/RADIO

News12 New Jersey
NewJersey.News12.com

PBS - pbs.org

WNYC 93.9 FM (NY Public Radio)
WNYC.org

National Public Radio
NPR.org

NEWSPAPERS

(Print & on-line editions)

The Record

Herald News

The Star Ledger
(on-line only, effective Feb 1st)

Wayne Today
(print only)

ON-LINE

NJ.com

northjersey.com

TAPintoWayne.net

Wayne.Patch.com

InsiderNJ.com

NewJerseyGlobe.com

NEWSLETTERS/MAILING LISTS

Subscribe at:

InsiderNJ.com

NewJerseyGlobe.com

NewJerseyMonitor.com

NJSpotlightNews.org/newsletters/

Politico.com/NewJerseyPlaybook

GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

WayneTownship.com

PassaicCountyNJ.org

NJ.gov

USA.gov

House.gov

Senate.gov

Congress.gov

MISCELLANEOUS ON-LINE

TheAtlantic.com

Axios.com

BBC.com

TheGuardian.com

NYTimes.com

NewYorker.com

Smerconish.com

...and, of course, WayneNJ Dems.org

TV/RADIO: News12 New Jersey can be found on Channel 29 on FiOS.

Wayne Township broadcasts its meetings live on Wayne Township's Public, Educational & Government Television Station, Channel 44 on FiOS & Channel 77 on Cablevision. Rebroadcasts are available On Demand from the township's website.

NEWSPAPERS (Print & on-line editions): Contact newspapers for subscription rates - print & on-line.

Wayne Today is free to Wayne residents. Contact Cory Cadrain, cadrain@northjersey.com - (973) 586-8218.

ON-LINE: Best sites for state and local Wayne news and information. Go to InsiderNJ & The Globe for the latest NJ political news and rumors.

NEWSLETTERS/MAILING LISTS: Excellent sources to get the "latest" e-mailed to you.

GOVERNMENT WEBSITES: Go to Passaic County website for election results. NJ.gov is an excellent source for voter information and answers to voters' questions.

MISCELLANEOUS ON-LINE: Some of our Club members' favorites!

Don't see your favorite sources? Let us know what they are!



UPCOMING EVENTS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRESENTATION

Members of the Wayne chapters of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the League of Women Voters (LWV) will be hosting a presentation on the affordable housing situation in our town.

Thursday, January 16 7:00 p.m.

[RSVP for in-person event \(click here\)](#)

[RSVP for Zoom event \(click here\)](#)

<https://www.greaterwaynearea-nj.aauw.net/>
<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWGreaterWayneArea>

<https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-wayne-township>

REGIONAL EVENTS

Washington, D.C. March

Saturday, January 18 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

WomensMarch.com AND PeoplesMarch.com/info

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. March of Resistance

Saturday, January 18 11:30 a.m.

495 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd Newark, NJ, 07102

<https://map.peoplesmarch.com/events/dr-martin-luther-king-jr-march-of-resistance>

Help Over Hate: MLK Weekend of Service: Donation Drive for kids in need [\(click here for the Wayne event\)](#)

Monday, January 20 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Chairman John Currie and the Passaic County Democratic Committee Annual Victory Celebration

Monday, February 10

The Brownstone, Paterson

Gubernatorial primary election debates at Rider University:

Sunday, February 2 7:00 p.m. (Democratic)

Tuesday, February 4 7:00 p.m. (Republican)

LOCAL & COUNTY MEETINGS

WAYNE GOVERNMENT

Council Meetings - January 8th (re-org), January 22nd, February 5th and February 19th

Planning Board Meetings - January 13th (re-org) and January, February dates to be announced.

Zoning Board of Adjustment - January 6th (re-org), January 21st, February 3rd and February 18th

All meetings start at 7:30pm in Township Council Chambers

WAYNE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting - January 2nd (re-org) 7:00pm, January 16th, February 6th and February 20th.

Meeting starts at 7:30pm in Town Council chambers

PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Meetings - January 7th 12:00 pm (188th re-organization meeting), January 21st, February 11th and February 25.

Meetings start at 5:30 p.m. inside the County Commissioners Board Room at 401 Grand St, 2nd Floor, Paterson

Wayne Democratic Club meeting dates:

Thursday, January 23rd

Monday, February 24th

Tuesday, March 18th

[Read More](#)



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IT'S 2025. SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Well, that probably depends on all of us.

It was over eight years ago that the Wayne Democratic Club held its November meeting after "the former guy" defeated Hillary and was elected for the first time. For so many years before then, our meetings had been sparsely attended by somewhere around a dozen or so dedicated Democrats.

But then a funny thing happened as the meeting was getting close to starting. A few new people came in. And then some more. And then more, until we had a "standing room only" crowd of about 50-60 people! As they say, the rest is history, as we "flipped a seat" in the House by helping to get Mikie elected, and Joe our President as well.

How many will be at our next meetings? Well, that depends on how many of us "throw up our hands", and how many of us "roll up our sleeves".

Hope to see you there. We have lots of chairs!

OUR FIRST QUARTER 2025 MEETING DATES:

Thursday, January 23rd

Monday, February 24th

Tuesday, March 18th

For times & locations, please e-mail us at WayneDemClub@gmail.com.

2025 Club dues to be paid before or at next meeting. APPLICATION follows.



973-650-8839

908-432-4159



WayneDemClub@gmail.com



P.O. BOX 4492
WAYNE, NJ 07474

VISIT US at WayneNJ Dems.org & FOLLOW US:



facebook.com/WayneNJDemClub



Instagram.com/WayneNJDemClub/



@WayneDemClub.bsky.social

**Club Vice-President Sal Schifano & Secretary Steve Parsons
are responsible for the content of our Newsletters.
Do you have any ideas or suggestions for future editions?
Let us know!**

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

for the Calendar Year 2025

Complete this form and *mail, fax or e-mail* to the WDC (see right) Make checks payable to the "Wayne Democratic Club" Other payment options:

Venmo or Pay Pal (see below)

(Completed forms with check or currency may be given to any Club Officer.)



**WAYNE
DEMOCRATIC
CLUB**

"Get in the game!"

TO CONTACT US:

P.O. Box 4492, Wayne, NJ 07474

VOICE/TEXT: 973-650-8839

FAX: 973-595-7785

WayneDemClub@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Adult \$ 40

Student/Senior \$ 20

Your Personal Information :

NAME 1 : _____ BIRTHDATE : _____

NAME 2 : _____ BIRTHDATE : _____

ADDRESS : _____

E-MAIL 1 * : _____

E-MAIL 2 * : _____

**** E-mail address(es) and the following telephone numbers will only be used by the club officers for Club and Democratic Party purposes and will not be provided to any other organizations or individuals.***

Your Telephone Numbers :

HOME : _____ CELL 1 : _____ CELL 2 : _____

Membership Dues :

AMOUNT OF DUES : \$ _____

AMOUNT OF DONATION : \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT SUBMITTED : \$ _____

Method of Payment (check one) :

VENMO : ☐ CASH : ☐

PAY PAL : ☐ CHECK : ☐

Pay Online :

[CLICK HERE FOR VENMO](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR PAY PAL](#)
(WAYNENJDEMCLUB after log in)

I certify that the above-named applicant(s) reside(s) at the above stated address; that the applicant(s) is/are registered to vote in the primary election of the Democratic Party; and that no applicant is a member of any club or organization of any other political party.

APPLICANT 1'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE : _____

APPLICANT 2'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE : _____

DATE RECEIVED : _____ WARD : _____ DISTRICT : _____

"Democracy is not a spectator sport."