



Fall preview: Some TV shows worth watching this season

LIFE, 1F

HERALD NEWS

NORTHJERSEY.COM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 | AN EDITION OF THE RECORD

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

HIDDEN DANGER



An August water main break in Paterson caused a crisis that impacted about 200,000 people in four Passaic County towns. Similar problems are likely to happen again, experts say, since the system is way past its life expectancy.

JULIAN LESHAY GUADALUPE/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Aging water pipes recipe for disaster

Joe Malinconico
Paterson Press

The Passaic Valley Water Commission was in a race against time when it started design work to replace an aging Paterson water distribution pipe that had been installed near the Passaic River in the 1880s.

The commission lost that race when the pipe broke on Aug. 8, causing a crisis that impacted about 200,000 people in four Passaic County towns and leaving some people without water for six days.

And more problems may lie ahead for the 800,000 North Jersey residents who depend on the commission for their water. The commission — operated by Paterson, Passaic and Clifton — has slid through the past 50 years without making a significant investment to replace and repair its aging water pipelines, officials said.

More than half the commission's 650 miles of water mains were installed more than a century ago, Passaic Valley's records show.

The problem with the commission's aging infrastructure is even more glaring when it comes to the major transmission lines, those exceeding 32 inches in diameter that carry the heaviest volume — and which if disabled affect the most people.

There are 158 miles of large transmission lines, and nearly 90% of them



Passaic Valley Water Commission employees at work. More than half of PVWC's water mains are more than 100 years old. YANNICK PETERHANS/NORTHJERSEY.COM

were installed before 1921, according to a report the agency filed with the state government.

Frank Blesso, who worked as project manager at the Paterson utilities authority for about 20 years, warned that people who depend on the commission for their water could face more crises like the one that took place in August.

"A lot of that system is way past its normal life expectancy," said Blesso. "It's something that should have been taken care of many years ago. This is something that is likely to happen again."

Recent events support Blesso's con-

cerns. Just 16 days after the Aug. 8 break, another water main busted at Arch and North 1st Streets in Paterson, leaving people in the city's Riverside Fair Lawn — as well as neighboring Fair Lawn — with taps that ran dry.

The number of water main breaks in Passaic Valley's main service area — including Paterson, Passaic and Clifton — has increased by about 52% in recent years, according to data in the commission's annual reports filed with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

See PIPES, Page 4A



Political Stile
Charles Stile
USA TODAY NETWORK

Democrats attack Ciattarelli on taxes

Republican Jack Ciattarelli's seemingly glowing remarks about the simplified tax structure in Tennessee have turned into a campaign headache.

Ciattarelli, the GOP nominee for governor, is getting slammed for expressing his interest at a recent Bergen County forum about the state of Tennessee's simplified 10% sales tax on "everything," including items exempted now in New Jersey. Tennessee, for what it's worth, has no state income tax.

His opponent in November's New Jersey gubernatorial contest, Democrat Rep. Mikie Sherrill, and her allies argue that Ciattarelli, if elected, will seek to duplicate the tax policy from the land of Hollywood and the Grand Ole Opry.

"Every option is on the table," the former member of the Assembly from

See STILE, Page 6A

Program helps find calm amid the chaos

Korean Americans face mental health challenges

Ricardo Kaulesar
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — NEW JERSEY

Jeannie Kang-Suh wants to see more Korean Americans seek help for mental health crises. However, she knows that's quite the challenge.

"You have to understand the challenges of our community, which is very important, actually, in terms of culture," Kang-Suh said. "It sounds like we are kind of a homogeneous community, but we really have to look at the Korean community as very different levels of culture within generations."

Kang-Suh, who lives in Paramus, is a licensed professional counselor and

See MENTAL HEALTH, Page 6A

It's not IF you'll lose power, it's WHEN.

FREE 10 YEAR WARRANTY

Valued at \$699

Powering your life.

FULLY AUTOMATIC 24/7

SUB-ZERO START

LESS THAN 5% THD

CLEAN POWER

QUIET OPERATION

FUEL EFFICIENT

10 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

"Thank you so much for your help...it's nice to see a company like Champion with folks that are willing to help others on a personal level...again thank you."
— Andrew, Miami, FL

Secure your home with a fully automatic HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

Call Us Today at 201-574-7524 For a Free Quote!

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to northjersey.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



\$3.49

