



MERCER COUNTY



City Gardens a legendary underground music venue and nightclub located on Calhoun Street in Trenton which was demolished last week. Patti Sapone, NJ.com

City Gardens reduced to rubble, ending an era for punk rock fans

The legendary Trenton venue, once home to Nirvana and The Ramones, was demolished last week.

Kevin Shea *NJ.com*

The eclectic mix of bands and acts that played Trenton rock hall City Gardens in its 1980s and 1990s heyday is legendary — Bad Brains, Gorilla Biscuits, The Replacements, New Order, Green Day, Public Enemy. And Freakin’ Nirvana!

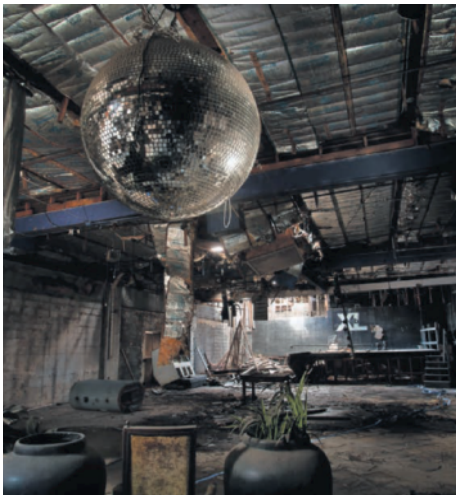
The Ramones headlined the most — 22 times.

And the stories of those shows are even better.

Just google “we played City Gardens” or “our show at City Gardens” or watch, “Riot on the Dance Floor: The story of Randy Now and City Gardens,” where you will see many of the bands wax poetic about the club, including Lawrence’s Jon Stewart talk about his days bartending at the club on Calhoun Street in North Trenton.

REM’s Michael Stipe wrote a song there while gazing out the back of the club, as chronicled by the book, “No Slam Dancing, No Stage Diving, No Spikes: An Oral History of the Legendary City Gardens.”

Trenton Mayor Reed Gusciora was at the club too, long before he led the capital city. “I saw Ween there,” the mayor



A disco ball still hung from the ceiling of the legendary punk rock nightclub in 2022. Michael Mancuso, NJ.com file photo

told NJ.com Thursday. “That’s my claim to fame.”

Ween, from New Hope, Pennsylvania, were City Gardens regulars in the late ’80s and ’90s before the club closed, entering two decades of reopenings and closings under different names and nowhere near the impact that alternative and punk bands gave the cinder block building.

Now, it’s pretty much gone forever as a building. The city started tearing it down on Tuesday.

By Thursday, it was a pile of rubble. In about two weeks, it will be a flat lot.

No sign of the disco ball that still hung from the ceiling in 2022, when a NJ.com photographer spelunked into the dilapidated building and found remnants of



Giants manage tie:
Big Blue battled back from a two-touchdown deficit, but were denied a win on a costly late turnover. **SPORTS**

JERSEY CITY

Mayor announces the departure of 3 key staffers

The moves come as Solomon navigates a \$255 million shortfall and a state-mandated 15% property tax increase.

Steve Strunsky *NJ.com*

Less than a year into his first term and confronted with a huge budget deficit and state-imposed tax hike, Jersey City Mayor James Solomon on Thursday announced the departure of three high-ranking members of his administration.

Solomon announced that he had “accepted the resignations” of Finance Director Bill Viqueira, Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development Keshav Poddar and Digital Director Megan Malloy, who most recently acted as a spokesperson for Solomon.

“Jersey City is experiencing an affordability crisis which requires nothing short of excellence from my leadership team at City Hall,” Solomon, 42, a former City Councilman elected in the city’s November nonpartisan race, stated in Thursday’s announcement. “One that is laser focused on ensuring our city finances stabilize, keeping the people of this city in their homes, and ensuring we are improving city services in every corner of this city.”

SEE JERSEY CITY, A2

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Bridgeton bars ICE from using city property

The 5-0 vote joins a growing list of towns and counties limiting ICE’s use of their property.

Lia Opperman *NJ.com*

The Bridgeton City Council unanimously voted Tuesday night to bar federal immigration agents from using city property as a launching pad for enforcement operations.

The 5-0 vote followed months of pressure from residents and immigrant rights groups, who said they found agents gathering at the Cohanzick Zoo, a dog park and public ball courts.

Bridgeton joins a growing list of New Jersey governments that have limited ICE’s use of their property this year.

The ordinance bars the use of city property as a staging or detention location, processing site or operational base for civil immigration enforcement unless accompanied by a judicial warrant or court order, or as otherwise required by law.

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