

Public Issues, Winter 2010/2011 Newsletter

Recent Cellphone Laws in New Jersey

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety/Highway Loss Data Institute's website reports that in October 2010, "A jurisdiction-wide ban on driving while talking on a hand-held cellphone is in place in 9 states (California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Utah, and Washington) and the District of Columbia... Local jurisdictions may or may not need specific state statutory authority to ban cellphones or text messaging."

Looking at the table on the website- <http://www.iihs.org/laws/cellphonelaws.aspx> it lists individual state, laws restricting cellphone use along with texting and the manner in which law enforcement can mandate the state laws. The use of all cellphones while driving a school bus or automobile is prohibited in New Jersey. Text messaging is banned for all drivers in New Jersey. The laws in New Jersey are enforced as primary laws. An officer can stop someone solely due to cellphone usage.

The Official Website of New Jersey- <http://www.state.nj.us/>

Use this as a resource to learn about New Jersey and information about what is going on in your state. Here are a few online services that you can access from this website-

- [Patent Bank Web Portal](#)
- [File NJ Income Taxes](#)
- [Public Records Requests](#)
- [File For Property Tax Relief Programs](#)
- [Obtain a NJ Public Library Card](#)
- [Do Not Call Registration](#)
- [Vehicle Registration Renewal](#)
- [Schedule a Road Test](#)
- [Request Your Driver History Abstracts](#)
- [Pay Parking/Traffic Ticket Online](#)

This site provides the answers as to How do I...

- [Find a school](#)
- [Search for unclaimed property](#)
- [Pay a traffic/parking ticket online](#)
- [Get a list of job openings with the state](#)
- [File my tax return online](#)
- [Register to vote***](#)
- [Get a birth, marriage, or death certificate](#)

***Voting is an important way to express one's opinion in government. Help others get registered to vote in your community. Make efforts to help transport and or arrange for transportation for those who cannot get to the voting booths.

New Jersey Legislature

Host an activity for the community informing children about the law making process. To make the activity even more educational, have older children facilitate the activity for younger children! You can use the resource, New Jersey Kids Legislature Page- <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/kids/index.asp>

On this site children can learn about what legislature is and how a bill becomes a law, the New Jersey state symbols, the state flag, a legislative maze and word search, teacher resources and much more.

Question: What is does the goddess of grain, Ceres, a shield, a horse head, a staff and a helmet all have in common?

Answer: The State of New Jersey Seal

To learn more about these symbols and what they mean, go to <http://www.state.nj.us/nj/about/facts/symbols/details.html>

The New Jersey Judiciary Website for Kids

Go to the state of New Jersey website- <http://www.state.nj.us/> then go to the NJ KIDS tab. There you will find activities to do with children and ways to keep them safe such as the importance of buckling up ones seat belt and bicycle safety.

On the website <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/kids/index.htm> it describes jury information, municipal courts and trial courts. It links to NJ State links and external resources like Children's Museums in New Jersey.

New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency

FORECLOSURE FAST FACTS **STATEWIDE FORECLOSURE PREVENTION RESOURCES**

Help your community by informing individuals and groups what **FREE** foreclosure prevention resources are available in New Jersey. Many people are afraid, don't what to do or know where to go for help. Connect with your town's social worker for ways in which you can help your community. Perhaps, at local health fairs or town functions your club can bring website information, counseling resources for children and adults, pamphlets and brochures on this topic. Here are several websites and telephone numbers for statewide foreclosure prevention resources:

http://www.nj.gov/dca/hmfa/foreclosureprevention_resources.pdf

1-800-NJ-HOUSE

1-800-446-7467

<http://www.nj-hmfa.com>

There is an anticipated New Jersey Home Keeper Program that will begin in January 2011. Here is the information directly from the website:

<http://www.nj.gov/dca/hmfa/home/forclosure/homekeepers.html>

New Jersey Home Keeper (NJHK) Mortgage Assistance



- “Provide 0% interest rate, deferred-payment mortgage loan to unemployed and substantially underemployed homeowners who, through no fault of their own, are financially unable to make their mortgage payments and are in danger of losing their homes.”
- “While the homeowner seeks work or job training, *NJHK* loan proceeds may be used to cover an approved amount of the mortgage payment, property taxes, property insurance, mortgage insurance, and homeowner association dues.”
- “As proposed in the award application made by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (“HMFA”) to the U. S. Treasury the maximum payment amount will be up to \$48,000 and the maximum period of assistance will be 24 months. Assistance will be secured by a subordinate mortgage.”

Public Safety and Security

Learn about different types of emergencies and how to prepare for them in your community. The website is: <http://www.nj.gov/nj/safety/>

Here are just a few that they list on the website:

- [Chemical Emergencies](#)
- [Drought](#)
- [Earthquakes & Geologic Events](#)
- [Floods](#)
- [Hazmat Incidents](#)
- [Heat-Related Emergencies](#)
- [Hurricanes](#)
- [Lightning & Thunderstorms](#)
- [Nuclear / Radiological Events](#)
- [Pandemic Flu & All Flus](#)
- [Power Outages](#)
- Blizzards & Winter Hazard
- Terrorism

Additional Ideas for the Community Service Program Public Issues

1. Use the GFWC Emblem:
 - The GFWC emblem identifies your club's connection to the organization.
 - Use of the GFWC emblem and associated trademark will identify our organization.
 - Include the GFWC emblem on your website, in publications, correspondence, advertising, and in all related communications.
 - Active members are granted a non-exclusive, royalty-free limited license to use GFWC emblem and associated trademarks subject to the conditions listed in the GFWC Trademark Use Policies, which can be found in the *GFWC Stylebook*. GFWC does not, however, authorize use of its trademarks to promote or identify any product.
2. Invite public officials/candidates to speak at club meetings
3. Participate in community events, such as parades, holiday lighting celebrations, high school athletic events, and other community-wide celebrations.
4. Gather and send letters/items to the Troops - Provide assistance to their families- see service providers in the Sept./Oct. online bulletin at ww.jerseyjuniors.com under the Public Issues Community Service Project.
5. Attend town council meetings and other community meetings
6. Support Community Fundraising programs- such as bricks, benches and ads
7. Write/Update the written club history or clubhouse history
8. Celebrate local community women of the past with a past ceremony
9. Obtain Women's History materials for use in the schools
10. Club sponsor a program on women's history throughout the years
11. If you don't have the resources to host or plan a special event, sponsor a relevant event that someone else is organizing. Make sure your sponsorship is acknowledged on advertising, programs, posters, or other promotional materials.
 - Sponsor a local sports team (*i.e.*, Little League, soccer, basketball). Team sponsorships are usually inexpensive, help young people, and generate positive awareness within the community.
 - Adopt a Highway. Contact the Department of Transportation to arrange adoption of a section of a local highway. The department will provide a sign with your GFWC club name and instructions on how to plan your clean-up events.
12. Strengthen GFWC's presence and role within your community by representing the Federation on the boards of other local organizations and associations (*i.e.*, chambers of commerce, beautification committee, and library board). Check with community officials to determine available opportunities in your area.
13. Appoint an interested and informed member to serve as Public Policy Chairwoman.
14. Become familiar with the public policies of GFWC by reviewing the current GFWC Resolutions.

15. Devote time at club meetings for discussions about existing resolutions, proposed amendments, current events, and news stories of interest.
 - Subscribe to LegNet—GFWC’s electronic newsletter that advances and supports GFWC’s impact on important policy issues.
 - Participate in issue-awareness programs and nonpartisan issue panels in your community.
 - Read the “Watching Washington” and “Program Updates” columns in *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*. Report on this information at a club meeting.
16. Educate club members on the legislative process (e.g., how a bill becomes a law).
 - Create club programs to educate members and the community of government at all levels as well as the responsibilities of elected and appointed officials.
 - Distribute or develop a directory identifying public officials and their contact information.
17. Visit GFWC online at www.GFWC.org to learn more about priority issues and how you can advocate, as well as download information on how to plan a legislative day and how to study an issue.

Resources

The White House | www.WhiteHouse.gov | P 202-456-1414

This official website of the President of the United States contains comprehensive information on our country’s executive branch, including the White House Blog, featured legislation, and important issues.

The United States Senate | www.Senate.gov

P: 202-224-3121 | Democratic Cloakroom P: 202-224-8541 | Republican Cloakroom P: 202-224-8601

The cloakroom phone numbers provide a recorded message with up-to-date reports about activity on the Senate floor.

The United States House of Representatives | www.House.gov

P: 202-225-3121 | Democratic Cloakroom P: 202-224-7400 | Republican Cloakroom P: 202-224-7430. The cloakroom phone numbers provide a recorded message with up-to-date reports about activity on the House floor.

General Accounting Office | www.GAO.gov | P: 202-512-4800

The General Accounting Office is a non-partisan, investigative arm of Congress. Through reports, Congressional testimony, and legal findings, the GAO advises Congress and federal agencies about becoming more responsive and efficient. These reports are available to the public.

Government Printing Office | www.Access.GPO.gov | P: 202-512-1800

The Government Printing Office was established by Congress to serve the printing and information needs of Congress and is the focal point for all Federal printing. GPO offers a growing number of government publications online and operates regional bookstores. GPO documents are distributed to approximately 1,400 federal depository libraries nationwide.

Library of Congress | www.Thomas.LOC.gov | P: 202-707-5000

Thomas is maintained by the Library of Congress and provides information about all pending legislation. This site provides comprehensive bill information including, title, number, statues, description, text, and cosponsors. It also details bills and laws from recent Congressional sessions.

C-SPAN | www.C-SPAN.org | P: 1-800-523-3174

C-Span provides televised proceedings of Congress and other public policy programming. Check local listings for stations.

For state-specific public policy resources, contact your state's legislature's office.

Encourage fellow clubwomen to read the *GFWC Guide to Public Policy and Advocacy* available in the comprehensive online version of the *2010-2012 GFWC Club Manual* to learn about the legislative process, how members become involved with Federation advocacy, and opportunities and restrictions as a GFWC advocate. Here is the website: http://www.gfwc.org/gfwc/Club_Manual.asp
Many of the suggestions above were used from this already created resource.

Please check the www.jerseyjuniors.com website for bulletins with ideas for upcoming projects for your club related to public issues. If you have any questions or suggestions for projects throughout the state feel free to contact Susan Fenker-Warner at publicissues@jerseyjuniors.com.