



# nj21st weekly news summary

# 21

05/17/2025

**This Week at NJ21st: Berkeley Heights Goes Dark, Warren Goes Quiet, and Michele Goes On Record**

**John Migueis | Editor**

**We Don't Need No Stinking Meeting** Despite the video blackout of the May 6, 2025 Town Council meeting — where the Council voted to begin the sale of our sewage plant, passed the municipal budget, and approved millions in new spending — we're unpacking everything they passed.

This week, our coverage focused squarely on the sewage plant. Our [first article](#) looked at eight New Jersey towns that privatized their sewage systems, and the curious absence of attention from our own Mayor and Council over the past year and a half. The [second article](#) challenges the recycled talking points about cost savings, tracks political donations from water companies, and outlines the questions that need to be answered — ideally, right in the referendum being presented to voters.

We're also waiting on responsive records from the Township connected to this decision.

**Warren Township Pulls a Berkeley Heights** Much like the Berkeley Heights School District, Warren Township has [shut down public comments](#) on its social media pages. Also like our district, this decision wasn't made by elected officials — it was made by an administrator. A convenient way to dodge criticism while letting officials claim, "Hey, that wasn't our decision!"

**Another BHPSNJ Agenda With a Billion Things** Laura [recaps a packed school board agenda](#): the Business Administrator is on the way out, there's a new Principal at Hughes with big shoes to fill, and a number of policy updates that impact students, staff, and spending priorities. We dig in and offer suggestions for where the district can do better.

**Mountainside Shows Up** In this week's Community Voices, a Mountainside resident shares [highlights from COPAA's federal advocacy](#) for students with disabilities. With so much in flux at the federal level, it's a strong reminder of the work happening behind the scenes to protect vulnerable learners.

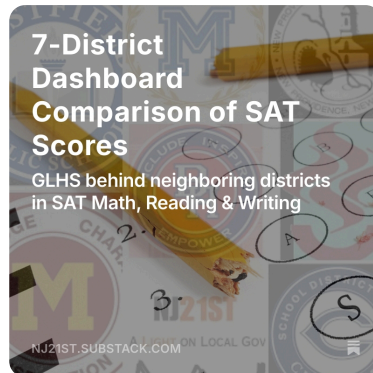
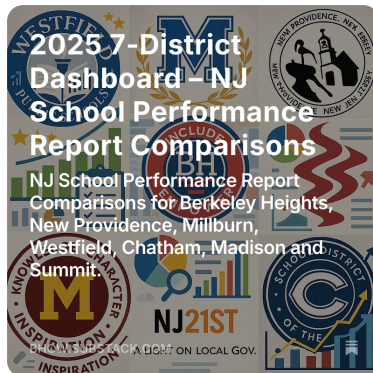
**America, Baby** An educator in the community highlights the [importance of American Sign Language instruction](#) and celebrates Governor Livingston High School's ASL program as a model for inclusion and expanded opportunities.

**Michele Ain't Scared of Nobody** A day after we published our article on the sewage plant — one that noted her name among NJ American Water campaign contributions— Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis [responded to our questions on education and housing](#). She's the first candidate we reached out to who replied. Touché, Assemblywoman. Touché.

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