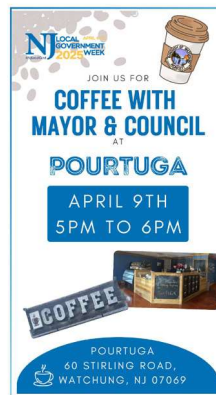




Voorhees put the spotlight on the dedicated individuals and departments that contribute to the growth and well-being of Voorhees Township. Each day the focus was a different aspect, including Social Media.

Watchung ran social media introductions to meet the clerk and administrative team, among other faces seen representing local government at Borough Hall. Also, residents were invited to join the Mayor and Council for coffee and conversation, were introduced to Municipal OEM (Office of Emergency Management) Coordinator Carolyn Solon and the Police Department.



President's Summit of Monmouth Mayors Hosted by Brookdale Community College

Brookdale Community College celebrated New Jersey Local Government Week and National Community College Month welcomed mayors and local officials from the greater Monmouth County area to its inaugural President's Summit of Monmouth Mayors, a signature. The morning gathering, led by Brookdale President Dr. David M. Stout, provided a dynamic platform for collaboration between the College and municipalities across Monmouth County, spotlighting shared opportunities to build stronger, smarter communities.

The program opened with welcome remarks from Monmouth County Commissioner Director Thomas A. Arnone and NJ Conference of Mayors President Mayor Robert Conley, with a special video address from Mayor Ricardo Rio of Braga, Portugal, Chair of the Global Parliament of Mayors. Brookdale's leadership team then presented four key initiatives for municipal collaboration.

Led by Professor Mike Qaissaunee and NJ Chief Information Security Officer Michael T. Geraghty, this session highlighted urgent threats to municipal data and the training Brookdale provides to prepare the next generation of cybersecurity professionals.

"Most local governments don't have the resources to defend against cyber threats on their own," said Geraghty. "That's where we come in, offering risk assessments, monitoring tools, and expert guidance to help municipalities protect their systems and recover quickly. We're here to help, and our services are free."

Dr. Jackeline Mejias-Fuertes, Director of Brookdale's Small Business Development Center (SBDC), emphasized the importance of supporting small business creation and growth at the local level.



Mayor Ricardo Rio broadcast from his hometown of Braga, Portugal.



Brookdale President Dr. David Stout speaking at Mayors summit.

The SBDC, supported by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the New Jersey Business Action Center, and Brookdale as the host institution, has made a measurable impact. Over the past two years, the center helped launch approximately 100 new businesses annually and provided over \$10 million in capital infusion to local companies.

Brookdale plans to make the President's Summit of Monmouth Mayors an annual tradition.