



My NJ. My PBS.



*"I just love what your network does and... continues to broadcast timeless classic music, movies and documentaries..."*

– Philip D., NJ PBS Viewer

## 2025 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



NJ PBS is a valuable part of the advancement of New Jersey and its surrounding areas.

In 2025, NJ PBS provided these vital services: Emergency Broadcast Service, quality local and national programming, and community/education initiatives.

NJ PBS's local services had deep impact in cities and towns across all 21 counties of the Garden State.



## 2025 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT IN THE COMMUNITY

### A Year of Growth Across Platforms

NJ PBS is dedicated to its mission of providing news, programming, and special events that inform and represent New Jersey and its multicultural communities. Its content goes beyond broadcast, with digital-first series, podcasts and an array of social media videos. Here are some of the network’s highlights and updates from the past year:

**We’re growing:** NJ PBS welcomed 3,600 new members in FY2025, strengthening our community of engaged viewers and supporters.

**We’re tuned in:** 26.2 million viewers watched NJ PBS programs on TV, giving us a home, in your home!

**We’re streaming:** 10.3 million digital and social streams of our content were viewed this year and our newsroom, NJ Spotlight News, gained more than 10,200 new YouTube followers, reaching viewers on all platforms they prefer to watch.

**We’re teaching:** 486,500 people from New Jersey accessed free classroom resources on our PBS LearningMedia website, so we can help kids learn.

**We’re going local:** We served up Jersey-centric new episodes of [Table for All with Buki Elegbede](#), [Treasures of New Jersey](#), [Vegan Pop Eats with Angela Yvonne](#), plus a special presentation of Treasures of New Jersey – [Grit & Grace – Revolutionary Heroines](#), which featured New Jersey women’s contributions to the Revolutionary War effort, and [Paradox: Rising Water and Mounting Costs](#), which explored environmental impact on the Jersey Shore.

**We’re winning:** NJ PBS productions and news stories took home four NY Emmy® awards and six New Jersey Press Association awards this year among the other honors that are recognizing the quality of our work.

**We’re in your neighborhood:** NJ PBS hosted events and specials from Jersey City to Morristown, from Bergen County to Monmouth County, extending our presence within the communities we serve.

### Appointment Local Broadcast Programming

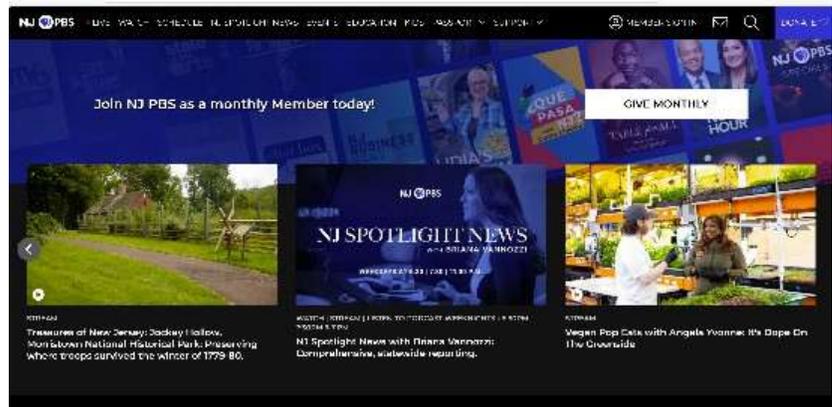


For those who prefer traditional television viewing and love local shows, NJ PBS continues to provide a dedicated program block called *NJmade* on Wednesdays at 8pm, featuring exclusively Jersey-centric programming. Additional local programming is scheduled throughout the week.

### Multiplatform Reach and a Website of Resources and Content

Programs like *NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi*, *State of the Arts*, *¿Que Pasa, NJ?*, and *Pathway to Success* are accessible on broadcast and digital platforms.

**NJPBS.org** offers live streaming of its broadcast line-up plus hundreds of hours of streamed programming, the NJ Spotlight News microsite, blogs, a community events calendar, membership information and free digital resources for education via PBS LearningMedia New Jersey. [Visit the site here.](#)





## 2025 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT STORIES OF IMPACT

### NJ PBS Local Television Series

NJ PBS's 2025 broadcast programming included Jersey-centric programs like these:

- ***Chat Box with David Cruz***: Half-hour weekly public affairs program featuring one-on-one interviews with New Jersey newsmakers and lawmakers.
- ***Drive By History***: The half-hour series follows the investigations of host Ken Magos as he stops at local roadside history markers to explore what happened and why it still matters.
- ***Drive By History: Eats***: The half-hour series finds host Ken Magos revisiting past *Drive By History* investigations with a focus on the food, seeking recipes/menus that appeal to today's palate.
- ***Governors' Perspectives with Kent Manahan***: Interview specials featuring former New Jersey governors sharing their insight on headlining issues and leadership.
- ***Here's The Story***: Half-hour monthly program that hits the road to tell the stories of unique people and places across the Garden State and beyond.
- ***NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozi***: Half-hour local news program concentrating on issues and news affecting New Jerseyans.
- ***Table For All with Buki Elegbede***: Half-hour program that examines local culture through a food lens.
- ***Pathway to Success***: Half-hour show produced by the African American Chamber of Commerce of NJ and hosted by its President/CEO John E. Harmon, Sr., spotlighting contributions of African American businesses.
- ***¿Que Pasa, NJ? With Carlos Medina***: Half-hour program hosted by business leader/entrepreneur Carlos Medina, who interviews the tri-state area's rising Hispanic stars and role models and celebrates the region's rich cultural diversity.
- ***Reporters Roundtable with David Cruz***: Half-hour weekly public affairs program featuring in-depth discussion with leading journalists from across the Garden State about NJ issues.
- ***State of Affairs with Steve Adubato***: Half-hour weekly public affairs show produced by Caucus Educational Corporation featuring in-depth analysis of critical issues that affect the lives of New Jersey residents.
- ***Soundcheck***: Specials feature behind-the-scenes look at local music performances and venues through the lens of performance collaborations.
- ***State of the Arts***: Half-hour weekly program goes on-location with creative NJ personalities and places.
- ***Think Tank with Steve Adubato***: Half-hour Caucus Educational Corporation series with insightful studio interviews and discussion, tackling a range of important issues.
- ***Treasures of New Jersey***: Half-hour specials profiling some of New Jersey's iconic places.
- ***Vegan Pop Eats***: Half-hour exploration of the plant-forward lifestyle and local food providers.
- ***Painting Community***: Hear the stories behind public art across New Jersey, from Newark to Atlantic City, and the impact it has to help create community.
- ***Special Live Coverage***: Live coverage of the Governor's State of the State and Budget addresses and more.

## Telling Jersey-centric Stories and Reaching New Audiences

To serve New Jersey’s multicultural communities, NJ PBS offers unique Jersey-centric programs and content intended to speak to local cultures and interests, including these network productions:

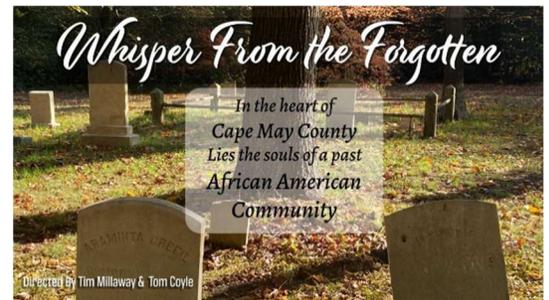
**TABLE FOR ALL WITH BUKI ELEGBEDE:** The Emmy® award winning series examines local culture through the lens of food. This year, it uncovered what it meant to be a Boricua in a vibrant episode devoted to the culture and cuisine of Puerto Rico. [Watch the series.](#)



**VEGAN POP EATS WITH ANGELA YVONNE:** NJ PBS premiered a new episode of the food series that explored the rich past, evolving present, and visionary future of the plant-forward lifestyle, packed with insights that challenged how we think about food. Host Angela Yvonne debated whole foods versus faux meats and looked at cutting-edge research of lab-grown meats with Dr. Joseph Freeman at Rutgers University. [Watch now.](#)



**WHISPERS FROM THE FORGOTTEN:** NJ PBS broadcast and streamed this documentary about Union Bethel Civil War Cemetery in Cape May County. The documentary unveiled the forgotten stories of African American heroes who fought for freedom and equality. The story delved into the history of this sacred ground and shed light on the lives of those who were marginalized and silenced. [Watch now.](#)



**TREASURES OF NEW JERSEY:** The *Treasures* series showcases some of the Garden State’s most fascinating places. This year, it told the story of a key moments of the American Revolutionary War in **Jockey Hollow, Morristown National Historical Park** and **Monmouth Battlefield State Park**. The series also expanded digitally, with YouTube series **Grit & Grace — Revolutionary Heroines**, an exploration of the women of New Jersey and tristate area whose bravery on both sides of the Revolutionary War shaped the founding of America. [Watch the series.](#)



## Representing and Engaging Local Communities

NJ PBS is a beacon for community discussion and engagement, hosting and participating in special local events throughout the year to spotlight topical issues and encourage public conversation, including these in 2025:

### **TREASURES OF NEW JERSEY: JOCKEY HOLLOW**

**SCREENING:** A screening of *Treasures of New Jersey: Jockey Hollow* was held on January 9 at the Morris Museum in Morristown. A reception and optional tour of the museum was followed by a screening and panel discussion, which featured the film’s Executive Producer Sally Garner in conversation with two of the historians featured, Steven Elliott and Jude Pfister.



### **NJ PBS LAW AND BUSINESS FORUM:**

The panoramic Sky Room at Saint Peter’s University in Jersey City was the setting for a Business and Law Forum with corporate and civic leaders. A panel discussion on “New Jersey’s Place in the Global Economy,” led by NJ Spotlight News anchor Briana Vannozzi, featured current and past leadership from JP Morgan Chase, Johnson & Johnson, and AIG. Another panel, moderated by NJ PBS General Manager Joe Lee, discussed the transition from private legal practice to the public sector and featured a former US Attorney for the State of NJ, a former NJ Supreme Court Justice, and former Chief Counsel to the Governor.



### **BERGEN COUNTY CULTIVATION DINNER:**

*American Masters* Executive Producer Michael Kantor was the featured guest for a cultivation dinner at Osteria Crescendo in Bergen County. Kantor highlighted celebrated New Jerseyans who have been profiled on the long running biography series, and shared previews from exciting upcoming episodes.





## 2025 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT STORIES OF IMPACT

### NJ Spotlight News: Informing the Garden State



**NJDECIDES  
2025**

NJ Spotlight News is the multiplatform newsroom of NJ PBS. From its weeknight newscast, *NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi*, and live coverage of events like the Governor’s State of the State and Budget Addresses to conversation forums, news specials and podcasts, the team gets to the heart of the news, issues and events that affect the families and businesses across New Jersey. Here are a few highlights from 2025:

**NJ DECIDES 2025: ELECTION NIGHT:** NJ Spotlight News covered the election across all platforms on November 4, broadcasting live with in-studio analysis from NJ Spotlight News Anchor Briana Vannozzi, plus in studio analysis from members of the NJ Spotlight News team. NJ Spotlight News Senior Correspondents Joanna Gaggis and Brenda Flanagan reported from the headquarters of gubernatorial candidates Jack Ciattarelli (R) and Mikie Sherrill (D). All coverage streamed throughout the night on [MyNJPBS.org/live](https://www.mynjpbs.org/live), [NJSpotlightNews.org](https://www.njspotlightnews.org), and the [NJ Spotlight News YouTube channel](#).

**GUBERNATORIAL RACE SPECIALS:** In February, NJ Spotlight News livestreamed an in-person conversation with New Jersey gubernatorial candidates, co-hosted in partnership with Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research and the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund. The event – held Rutgers Institute for Health in New Brunswick – welcomed Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, Sen. Jon Bramnick (LD-21), Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop, Rep. Mikie Sherrill (CD-11) and NJEA President Sean Spiller. In May, the news team produced *NJ Decides 2025: Conversations with the Gubernatorial Candidates*. *Chat Box* Anchor/NJ Spotlight News Sr. Political Correspondent David Cruz, WNYC’s “Morning Edition” Host Michael Hill, and NJ Spotlight News anchor Briana Vannozzi moderated the discussions with Republican and Democratic candidates about issues facing New Jersey, from affordability and health care to the environment and foreign affairs.

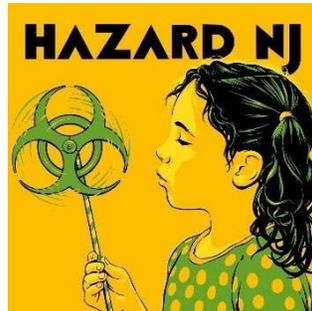
**NJ SPOTLIGHT NEWS WITH BRIANA VANNOZZI SPECIALS:** News specials this year included the findings of a two-year study by the NJ Reparations Council on slavery in New Jersey. During Shore Week, a special week of programming about the issues surrounding the New Jersey’s beach communities, “Paradox: Rising Water and Mounting Costs” examined the cost of keeping the Shore open for business amid dangerous storms.

**UNDER THE DOME** An in-depth, ongoing reporting project on New Jersey’s state government, its governor, its lawmakers and its extensive administrative operations.

**PARTY GAMES:** A partnership with America Amplified produced this digital-first project, featuring young voters discussing issues driving them to the polls. The goal: the cultivation of thoughtful conversation.

### NJ PBS Podcasts

For your listening pleasure, NJ PBS and NJ Spotlight News produced several podcasts in 2025 on a variety of topics from politics and the environment to local lifestyles:



- **NJ SPOTLIGHT NEWS WITH BRIANA VANNOZZI:** The weeknight newscast is available as a podcast.
- **HAZARD NJ:** This award-winning podcast, hosted by journalist Jordan Gass-Poore, covered stories on New Jersey’s superfund sites in its first season, and the plight of “forever chemicals” in its second.
- **HEY, NJ:** This podcast is for New Jerseyans who want to know more – and why. It focuses on what matters to New Jerseyans, and keys in on three driving themes: affordability, accessibility, and accountability.

### Education Initiatives



**FUTURE JOURNALISTS:** NJ PBS welcomed more than 40 members of the Princeton Summer Journalism Program to the Agnes Varis NJ PBS Studio in Newark. Their visit was part of a year-long preparation program for high school juniors who are interested in journalism. The students watched *NJ Spotlight News* Anchor Briana Vannozi tape reads for the news program, went behind the scenes in the control room with Sr. Managing Editor Jamie Kraft, and met journalists, producers, and editors to discuss their day-to-day responsibilities and career advice.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** For Constitution Day (Sept. 17), NJ PBS partnered with PBS LearningMedia for a powerful and inspiring day of learning at NJPAC. The event included a professional development session, which highlighted how resources based on the Ken Burns film *The American Revolution*, as well as NJ PBS documentaries and specials, can bring history and storytelling to life for New Jersey students and teachers. About 70 teachers from across the Garden State attended.



**CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING:** NJ PBS airs a significant amount of children’s programming throughout the week, including family favorites *Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood*, *Wild Kratts*, and *Odd Squad* as well as locally produced series such as *Cyberchase*, the award-winning and longest-running animated math series in the US.

## Public Recognition

**NY EMMY® AWARDS:** NJ PBS received four statues at the 68th Annual New York Emmy® Awards this year. *Table For All with Buki Elegbede* won three (“Best Magazine Program Series,” “Best Interview/Discussion — Long Form Content,” and “Best Diversity/Equity/Inclusion – Long Form Content”); *NJ Spotlight News: Miracle Cat from Kyiv* won “Best News Feature – Light Feature (Single Report).”

**NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION:** NJ PBS received six awards at the annual event, including First-Place wins for *Hazard NJ* in “Best Audio Portfolio,” Ben Hulac in “Government Writing Portfolio” and Colleen O’Dea in “News Writing Portfolio.”

**EDWARD R. MURROW AWARDS:** *Hazard NJ* Season 2 episode *First a Miracle, Then a Curse* was honored in the Television | Large Market – Podcast – Region 11 category.

## Viewer Feedback

- “We are proud to be a part of this project! Thank you to PBS for providing a space to grow!! 🍌🍌🍌” – @msangryredplanet on *Drift*, a “love letter” to New Jersey’s Barnegat Bay, part of NJ PBS Shore Week programming
- “This was a great episode. Loved seeing La Borinqueña. Glad to see people using their energy for something positive.” – @RHC\_NYC via YouTube on *Table for All with Buki Elegbede*
- “Such an informative piece. It certainly hits home for those of us living at the shore.” – @dranandame on *Paradox: Rising Water and Mounting Costs*
- “This was really well done. Loved hearing Ms. Bramlett share the painful yet miraculous history of ancestors like Ona Judge. I hope to hear more in the future.” – @najahphillips7103 on *Grit & Grace — Revolutionary Heroines*