



Get Verizon High Speed Internet
And Save Over \$150 With



Home News Weather Sports Entertainment Living Interact Jobs Autos Real Estate

Sign in to nj.com »

Site Search Search Local Business Listings

Not a member? Register Now »

Search by keyword, town name, Web ID and more...

Home News Weather Sports Entertainment Living Interact Jobs Autos Real Estate
News Business Columns Education Forums National Obituaries Opinion Politics

Subscribe to our content (F

Sign up for news alerts
NJ.com Twitter feed

Ledger Live vodcast

NJ.com mobile site

Local news & conversation: North | Hudson | Essex | Union | Morris | Middlesex | Somerset | Hun



New Jersey Real-Time News

Breaking Local News from New Jersey

Sponsored By:



Crime/Courts, Essex County, Newark Live, Newark law and order, News, Union County »

Thousands line up on last day of 'Safe Surrender' program in Newark

By Nyier Abdou/The Star-Ledger
November 07, 2009, 5:24PM

TODAY IN NEW JERSEY
with The Star-Ledger

• [Send tips, photos, video](#)

- [Real-Time News](#)
- [New Jersey Politics](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [NJ Voices](#)
- [Real-Time Sports](#)
- [Comics | Puzzles](#)

POPULAR NEWS TOPICS

- [New Jersey corruption](#)
- [New Jersey traffic](#)
- [New Jersey transit](#)
- [Weird New Jersey news](#)
- [New Jersey shootings](#)
- [New Jersey plane crashes](#)

JERSEY NEWSPAPERS

Browse today's news:

Select a paper



Mark Dye/For the Star-Ledger

More than 3,500 people wanted by law enforcement turned themselves in at Bethany Baptist Church in Newark during the four-day "Fugitive Safe Surrender." Today, the last day of the program, an estimated 2,000 people waited outside the church to be processed.

Browse by week:

Select a date



GO ▶

NEWARK -- Thousands of people lined up outside Bethany Baptist Church on the last day of a **successful fugitive surrender program** that has already processed some 3,000 people with warrants out for their arrest.

2009 ELECTION

✓ Get live results as they

come in for statewide and mayoral races:

[LIVE ELECTION RESULTS](#) »

Latest election news from around New Jersey:

- [N.J. Supreme Court hears arguments on officials using campaign funds for legal fees](#)
1:43 p.m. ET
- [South Jersey state senator diagnosed with aggressive cancer](#)
12:24 p.m. ET

[MORE N.J. POLITICS](#) »

STAR-LEDGER VIDEO



Sayreville's Dave Milewski is a potential Rutgers football recruit

Popular video categories:

- [News videos](#)
- [Entertainment videos](#)
- [HS sports videos](#)
- [Sports videos](#)

[WATCH ALL STAR-LEDGER VIDEOS](#) »

[WATCH LEDGER LIVE: NJ'S NEWS WEBCAST](#) »

PHOTOS

People began lining up at 6 a.m. this morning. By midday, some 2,000 people were lined up along Warren Street outside the church. The line snaked along Hudson Street for a block before rejoining Warren Street for another block.

The four-day "Fugitive Safe Surrender" program, a joint effort between numerous law enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Marshals Service, the State Police, the New Jersey State Parole Board, and the Essex County and Union County prosecutors' offices, and local community groups, offers an opportunity for fugitives wanted in New Jersey to safely turn themselves in and be given favorable treatment by a judge.



Thousands lined up on last day of Safe Surrender program in Newark

Star LaGrier, Tiana Lowe, Zimika Leonard and Amirah Johnson show off their papers after waiting in line with the number of fugitives turning themselves in at Fugitive Safe Surrender has increased dramatically at the Bethany Baptist Church on West Market St. in Newark, November 7, 2009. (Mark Dye/For The Star-Ledger)



Gerald Johnson left his home in Williamsport, Pa. at 6 a.m. this morning and drove three and a half hours for the chance to clear up driving violations more than 10 years old. The 41-year-old Orange native has only been able to find sporadic work packing books at a local bookstore, and he is hoping to find work as a truck driver. But he can't get a Pennsylvania driving license until the



[New York Giants vs San Diego Chargers at Giants Stadium - 11-8-09](#)

[MORE STAR-LEDGER PHOTOS »](#)

[ARCHIVED STAR-LEDGER PHOTOS »](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

- [Win huge. Play Mega Millions from the New Jersey Lottery.](#)
- [Rutgers University offers one of the largest summer programs in the country!](#)
- [Macy's Veterans Day Sale Extra 15% Off In Store - Shop Now! Free Shipping Online!](#)
- [Need new Carpet or Flooring? Never pay store prices again. Click for details!](#)

"After this, I'm good to go," Johnson said hopefully.

U.S. Marshal James Plousis said charges "run the gamut," from driving tickets to armed robbery. Most of the people waiting in line had long-time warrants hanging over them from violations like driving without a license or registration, failure to pay child support, or minor drug charges.

Those who came early enough were seen on the spot by one of eight judges set up in temporary courtrooms at the nearby Priory building, the headquarters of the outreach group the New Community Corp. The judges were scheduled to hear cases until midnight.

"People are getting big results," said Ryien Press, 30, of Newark, who heard about the program through word of mouth.

Press said he has been living with outstanding warrants for traffic violations and drug possession for some five years. Without work, he can't afford the fines and good legal representation.

Having the warrants cleared would be a big relief, Press said. While he doesn't

Thaddius Tedder, 31, of Plainfield, said he was hoping to drop thousands of dollars worth of fines related to outstanding driving charges and a drug possession charge. If he can clear the warrants without any jail time, he will be a "whole new man," he said. "I won't make the mistakes I made the first time."

People who are not able to see a judge today will be given a new court date and a voucher that can be shown to law enforcement officials indicating they have taken part in the program.

An estimated 2,000 people showed up today, according to the New Jersey Parole Board, and more than 3,500 people turned themselves in over all four days.

"This is not an exact science," Plousis said. "We didn't expect this many."

Newark is the 17th city in the country to host a safe surrender program and the final numbers make it the second-largest in the country, after Detroit last year. A **similar initiative in Camden** last year saw 2,245 fugitives surrender.

Introducing Windows® 7

Simplify your PC. Fast. Get Up to Speed with a Tour of Windows 7. www.Microsoft.com/Windows

Get A Fixed Mortgage Now

\$200,000 for Only \$1,059/Month, Fixed Rate for Life at LendingTree www.LendingTree.com

Douglas Telecom Saves \$\$\$

Telephone Capacity on Demand \$12.5/month + 1.5c/minute DouglasTelecom.com

Sponsored Links

Recommend (0)