

Senator Bagger Appointed To PS Joint Committee, IRC

WESTFIELD—State Senator Richard H. Bagger (R-21) has been appointed by Republican Senate President, John O. Bennett to the New Jersey Intergovernmental Relations Commission and the Joint Committee on Public Schools for the 2002-2003 Legislative Session. "It is an honor to be appointed to these important commissions where I will have an even greater opportunity to serve the people of District 21 on issues relating to municipal government and our public schools," Senator Bagger responded.

Senator Bagger, who also serves as Deputy Republican Whip, is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee. Mr. Bagger was elected to a two-year term in the Senate in November after having served 10 years in the State Assembly. District 21 includes Berkeley Heights, Chatham Township, Cranford, Garwood, Harding, Long Hill, Madison, Mountainside, Millburn, New Providence, Roselle Park, Summit, Springfield, Warren, Watchung and Westfield.

Georgette Hritz Honored For Pin Contest Entry

WESTFIELD - Georgette Hritz, a sales and service associate at the Mountainside Branch of the Westfield Post Office, was recently presented with a Special Achievement monetary award for her runner-up entry in a district-wide contest to design a pin for her fellow employees. The contest invited all employees in the Postal Service's Northern New Jersey District to design a special pin exemplifying the "Courage, Commitment and Pride" displayed by postal workers over the past year. Ms. Hritz, a Scotch Plains resident, was one of nearly 200 employees who submitted entries. All

13,000 employees in the district will receive a pin. "Congratulations to all employees for your courage, commitment and pride in a job well done in the face of the recent adversities," wrote Eugene H. Rear and Louis R. Rizzolo, lead executives of the Northern New Jersey District in a letter to employees. "Your actions in the face of the recent uncertainties reminds everyone, employees and customers alike, that the spirit of public service continues today in the hearts, minds and actions of the hard-working, dedicated employees of the United States Postal Service."



SONGS OF THE 'SEA'...The Youth and Family Counseling Service (YFCS) of Westfield prepares for a benefit concert by the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea that will take place on Saturday, April 20, at 8 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield. Pictured, left to right, are: YFCS Board President Jim Slabe, Executive Director Milt Faith, and Concert Chairman Frank Sullebarger.

St. Peter by the Sea to Play Benefit Concert at Church

WESTFIELD - Youth and Family Counseling Service (YFCS) is preparing for its 12th annual benefit concert by the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea on Saturday, April 20, at 8 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield. This concert is the agency's major fundraiser for the year.

The Reverend Alphonse Stephenson and his 45-member orchestra will present a new program at their upcoming concert, showcasing musical selections from a repertoire of classical, traditional popular and patriotic pieces. Vocal soloists will again be featured. Reverend Stephenson will present lively and educational introductions to each selection. The priest-conductor and his orchestra of professional musicians have played for audiences for the past 16 years, both on tour to raise money for various causes and at their summer concert series, the Festival of the Atlantic, at Point Pleasant Beach.

In addition to his musical career, Reverend Stephenson is a Chaplain with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the New Jersey Air National Guard. Tickets for the concert are \$25 for general admission, \$20 for senior citizens (over age 65) and \$10 for students age 18 and under. Patron seating is available for \$60. Sponsorship listings in the evening's program, which include two patron tickets to the concert, are available for contributions of \$300. Tickets are currently available at

the following retail stores: Country Squire Men's Shop on Raritan Road in Clark; Michele's Hallmark on Union Avenue, North, in Cranford; Irma's Hallmark on Martine Avenue, South, in Fanwood; Shawn's West Mountain Auto Center in Mountainside; Nuts 'N Plenty on Park Avenue in Scotch Plains and Lancaster Limited on Elm Street in Westfield.

Tickets may also be purchased at the Parish Center of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield between 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or at the YFCS office at 233 Prospect Street in Westfield.

An independent, non-profit agency, YFCS provides counseling and mental health services to residents of Westfield, Scotch Plains, Mountainside, Berkeley Heights, Clark, Cranford, Garwood and Rahway.

For more information about the concert, to become a sponsor or to purchase tickets, please call YFCS at (908) 233-2042 or visit the agency office.

Post Offices Open Late For Tax Night

The U.S. Postal Service announces the Northern New Jersey offices that will be open late hours on Monday, April 15, which is the final day to mail tax returns to the Internal Revenue Service.

Ten offices will be open throughout northern New Jersey until midnight on April 15, while three more will be open until 9 p.m.

The offices in our area opened until midnight are: Elizabeth Main Post Office, 310 Broad Street in Elizabeth and the Plainfield Main Post Office, 201 Watchung Avenue in Plainfield. The Rahway Main Post Office, 123 East Milton Avenue, will be opened until 9 p.m.

Senator Suliga Sponsors Bill To Access Water Supply Plan

TRENTON - The Senate today approved a bill, sponsored by Senator Joseph Suliga, to provide an overdue assessment of the State's water supply plan based on input from water purveyors and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority. "For whatever reasons, the State Department of Environmental Protection has not met its mandate to update the State's Water Supply Plan that was due last year," Senator Suliga said. "Even the water supply update done by the Department in 1996, I'm told, is mostly a rehash of information left over from the 1980s."

Existing law requires an updated water supply plan every five years. The Suliga bill, S-1301, would require completion of the report within six months.

As Democratic Chairman of the Senate Environment Committee, Senator Suliga, earlier this month, presided at a hearing on New Jersey's drought conditions, which featured testimony from DEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell and private and public water purveyors.

"The recent rainfall should not cloud the fact that we need a coherent and comprehensive, long-range water supply strategy," said Senator Suliga. "This bill will make it clear that the revised plan will be based on input gathered directly from the

public and private water purveyors in New Jersey as well as from the Water Supply Authority and the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust," Senator Suliga said.

The measure, co-sponsored by Senator Henry McNamara, R-Bergen, the panel's Republican chairman, has a \$1.5 million maximum appropriation from the existing State Water Supply Fund. It passed the Senate 39-0 and now goes to the Assembly.

Rescue Squad Seeks Additional Funds

Fund drive chairman Dan Sullivan announced that the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad's fund drive has only achieved 28 percent of their 2002 goal. "With economic difficulties hitting everyone these days, it has hit the rescue squad too," Mr. Sullivan stated.

With ambulances costing over \$125,000 each and prices of supplies going up, it is becoming increasingly harder to remain on a budget. Necessary equipment, like defibrillators cost more than \$2,000 each to replace and the squad headquarters is in need of several repairs that should receive special attention this year.

Mr. Sullivan went on to say, "Westfield has always taken care of their squad in the past, and we are sure they will continue to do so now."

Help us help you by sending your tax-deductible contribution to the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 356, Westfield, New Jersey 07091.

Hiking Club to Hold Sunday Activities

AREA - The Union County Hiking Club has scheduled a ramble on Sunday, April 7, in Lewis Morris Park in Morristown.

Participants will meet at 10 a.m. in the upper parking lot at Lewis Morris Park, Sunrise Lake.

The leaders will be Lynn Gale, who may be reached at (973) 763-7230 and Louise White, who may be reached at (973) 746-4319.

Also on April 7, Al Rossi will lead a Pluckemin Area Bike Ride. The group will meet at 10 a.m. at the Bedminster II office parking lot on Burnt Mills Road in Pluckemin. The lot entrance is on the left, just west of the intersection of Routes 202 and 206.

The bicycle ride, along scenic roads from Pluckemin to Pottersville via Oldwick, extends about 28 miles (can be shortened).

The event will be cancelled if it rains and participants may either bring or buy their lunch. Helmets are required. Mr. Rossi may be reached at (908) 647-3417.

A complimentary, six-month schedule is available by calling (908) 527-4900.

Carden Endorsed By Union County Democratic Caucus

The Union County Democratic Caucus has endorsed Tim Carden as its candidate for the Seventh Congressional District. He will run against incumbent Republican Michael Ferguson.

Mr. Carden ran for freeholder in Somerset County in 1977 and previously served as former Governor Brendan Byrne's Commissioner of Human Services.

Redeemer Concert To Feature Range Of Musical Works

WESTFIELD - The Concordia College Tour Choir from Bronxville, N.Y., under the direction of Dr. Alice Cavanaugh, will perform a concert of sacred music from Baroque to spirituals at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Westfield.

The concert will be at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 7. A freewill offering will be collected. Jason Marks, a member of the church and a 1998 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, is part of the 20-voice choir.

Redeemer Lutheran Church is located at the corner of Clark Street and Cowperthwaite Place. For directions or other information, please call the church office at (908) 232-1517.

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