

## Mountainside Council Will Raise Alcohol License Fees

By **KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL**  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**MOUNTAINSIDE** - It was announced at the Tuesday evening Mountainside agenda setting meeting that the Union County Freeholder Board will unveil the county's September 11 Memorial on Saturday, September 13, at 6 p.m. in Echo Lake Park in Mountainside.

Turning to other board business, a second reading of an ordinance to amend chapter six of the code of the Borough of Mountainside regarding Alcoholic Beverages is scheduled for the next regular council meeting on Tuesday, September 16, at 8 p.m. If the ordinance is passed, the annual license fees will be raised from

\$2,000 per year to \$2,500 for retail sales and consumption and from \$150 to \$188 per year for a club license.

The council also reported that paving improvement work for Birch Lane and Oak Tree Road was awarded to Jenicar Builders Contractors Company, Incorporated in Kearny for the sum of \$89,547.86.

Recreation Director Sue Winans also told the council that the Mountainside Recreation Department's 14-year-old Girl's Softball Team that was sponsored by the Police Athletic League has won first place in their division's conference.

The council noted that a resolution honoring the players on the team would be read at the September 16 meeting.



Betsy Burgdorf for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
21ST DISTRICT ASSEMBLY HOPEFUL...State Assembly hopeful Ellen Steinberg, center, is surrounded by campaign manager John Brach, left, and the former Mayor of Fanwood, Maryanne Connelly.

## Ellen Steinberg Kicks Off Assembly Election Campaign

By **BETSEY BURGENDORF**  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**DISTRICT 21** - 21st District State Assembly hopeful Ellen Steinberg was the guest of honor at a campaign party held in support of her on Sunday night. She called the gathering her "official kick-off for the general election campaign."

Ms. Steinberg's platform focuses primarily on property tax relief for senior citizens. She is running as an independent Democrat.

Ms. Steinberg was introduced to supporters by Maryanne Connelly, former Mayor of Fanwood, who described Ms. Steinberg as an "independent who has the ability to fight for what is right."

Mrs. Connelly also called Ms. Steinberg "the best Assemblywoman in New Jersey, one with intelligence and experience."

"For too long we have been paying the most in taxes but getting little in return," Ms. Steinberg stated.

"We need a voice down there in Trenton...someone who will stand up and keep education strong."

If elected, she pledges to work on trimming the redundancy between state and county infrastructures in order to alleviate "double billing," deferring property taxes for seniors, controlling development and safeguarding the environment. She feels that she has common sense solutions for the issues that impact her district.

Ms. Steinberg has earned endorsements from prominent organizations such as the AFL-CIO, which for the first time is endorsing a Democrat in the mostly republican District 21.

Ms. Steinberg is a long-time New Jersey resident, and an active member of the community. She grew up in Hillside and now resides in Chatham Township. For more information, visit her campaign website at [www.steinbergforassembly.com](http://www.steinbergforassembly.com) or call (908) 687-8500.

## Union County Announces Partnership With Kean Univ.

By **MATT MARINO**  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**COUNTY** - At the agenda meeting held on September 5, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders announced a newly formed relationship between the planned Children's Museum of Central New Jersey in Union County and Kean University.

Board Chairwoman Deborah Scanlon, in her opening remarks, explained that Kean University's Early Childhood Studies Program will partner with the museum's educational center to help provide education for the children there.

"The children's museum, like so many others around the nation, is a learning institution, and its exhibits will complement and extend the State of New Jersey's Core Curriculum standards," remarked Chairwoman Scanlon.

In making the announcement, she added that U.S. Senator Jon Corzine has asked the Senate Fund for Improvement of Education to contribute \$1 million to the museum's development. Further, Congressman Robert Menendez has requested that the House of Representatives' Education Fund contribute \$10 million to be used toward the museum.

Chairwoman Scanlon expressed the board's great satisfaction at continuing to focus on education as it relates to the county.

"I believe being a public servant elected to office is about...leaving a legacy of learning, which is this board's proven history over the last couple of years through our support of the Magnet School, the Vo-Tech, the Freeholder Scholars Program, the College for Teens, as well as Access 2000 and college scholarships for our senior population," Chairwoman Scanlon noted.

Freeholder Alexander Mirabella echoed the sentiments expressed by Chairwoman Scanlon regarding the museum's new partnership with Kean University. He affirmed that, "They (Kean University) are New Jersey's premier higher education institution for Pre-K teaching."

Freeholder Mirabella explained that the county is currently working with the Liberty Hall Foundation (associated with Kean) and Kean University to build the museum on a site in close proximity to

Kean University. The building currently on that site - the Liberty Hall Museum - is currently run by the Liberty Hall Foundation. Within the next year, the Children's Museum of Central New Jersey - a non-profit organization dedicated to operating the museum - expects to have a full set of plans in place for the museum's construction and integration with the existing Liberty Hall Museum.

Plans also include the construction of a Fire Engine Museum on that property, thereby adding another facility to the already-existing structure and forming a "museum complex." Within that complex - which will take from three to five years to build - will be various interactive exhibits for children to make use of, as well as outdoor exhibits geared toward environmental education. "Their (Kean's) location directly across the street from the new potential site of this education center and hands-on children's museum makes this a win for Union County's children," Freeholder Mirabella observed.

Freeholder Mirabella then delivered some news regarding the Esposito farm property located in Clark, which the county recently acquired as part of its Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation program. There will be two public hearings conducted relating to the Esposito property and a planned park for that site. The first meeting was to be held on September 10 at the Union County Administration Building, while the second meeting will be conducted at Clark Council Chambers on Monday, September 15, at 7 p.m.

Freeholder Mirabella concluded, "I know that I, along with this entire board, eagerly await the comments of the public on the exciting plans for this new park in the Township of Clark."

Later in the evening, Karen Blumenfield from New Jersey's Group Against Smoking Pollution (G.A.S.P.) made a presentation to the board regarding county initiatives for smoke-free parks and other public areas. Ms. Blumenfield expressed appreciation that the Freeholder Board, in a previous resolution, had declared all County buildings and vehicles "smoke-free," meaning that smoking is prohibited within those buildings and vehicles. The board also recently declared that Warinanco Park's ice skating rink be smoke-free.

Ms. Blumenfield requested that the board continue the trend toward a smoke-free environment, with specific focus on children's areas - most notably, playgrounds and ball fields in county parks.

Ms. Blumenfield remarked that "Red Ribbon Day" at Nomehegan Park, scheduled for October 18, would be the perfect opportunity for the Freeholder Board to launch a new smoke-free initiative.

Freeholder Mirabella suggested that Ms. Blumenfield's ideas be remanded to the Policy Committee chaired by Freeholder Nicholas Scutari for further study and possible implementation.

Finally, the board will dedicate the Union County September 11th Memorial on Saturday, September 13, in Echo Lake Park, beginning at 6 p.m.

The memorial commemorates the lives of the 60 Union County residents who were victims of the terrorist attacks. All members of the public are invited to attend the dedication, but the county asks that the public kindly gather at the memorial no earlier than 5:45 p.m.

In addition, visitors should enter from the Springfield Avenue entrance to the park.

The list of speakers includes several relatives of those who were killed in the terrorist attacks; Chairwoman Scanlon and other members of the Freeholder Board; Union County Sheriff Ralph Froelich; and representatives of groups who either donated resources or materials to construct the memorial.



Lauren S. Pass for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
MEMORIAL ART...Patricia Brentano Brannick, left, of Westfield presented the town with an original watercolor of the September 11th Memorial Park. The painting will be hung in the office of Mayor Gregory McDermott, right.



Elizabeth Correll for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
HONORING MANYA...Fanwood Mayor Louis Jung, left, presented a resolution honoring Fanwood resident Many Unger, who recently passed away, to her husband Skip, and her grandsons Sam and Ben.

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