



Union County Police & Fire Pipe & Drums

Westfield Firefighter Friends
Kevin Caldwell, left
Benjamin Corbin

Piper Pete Klebaur



Sen. Scutari Registers Voters

LINDEN – The majority of Linden High School's senior class registered to vote on Wednesday, June 9 when Senator Nicholas Scutari (D-Union, Somerset, Middlesex) visited his Alma Mater to host an assembly. The assembly discussion was about voter registration and its importance to the democratic process. At the beginning of the assembly, foremost on the seniors' minds were the upcoming prom, exams and graduation. Things were put into perspective when Senator Scutari stated, "The time to start getting involved in government is not when you are unhappy with how your community is suffering; you should try to make things go your way by making your voice heard, by voting. Registering to vote is such a simple act; however, voting is one of the most important things that you can do as an American citizen. The founders of our nation would know that their efforts did not go to waste if they could see you taking part in the democratic process." Senator Scutari is trying to get people involved in politics early on so that they can shape the future of their community and state.

THE UNION COUNTY FIREFIGHTER ACADEMY GRADUATES FALL 2003/SPRING 2004 – Berkeley Heights (Chief Rich Boss); Michael Ambrose, David Eshak, William Hernandez, Stephen Imbimbo, Jeffrey Karl; Clark (Chief John Pingor); James Borden, Jr., Gregory Ofenleger, Christopher Salvato; Cranford (Chief Leonard Dolan); Paul Boesgaard, Kevin Magliaro, Thomas Polito, Thomas Stainsen; Fanwood (Chief Rich Regenthal); Jason Villani; Garwood (Chief Rich Bonfanti); Douglas Heintz; Mountainside (Chief Gary Cantagallo); David Lauricella, Patrick Morrissey, Robyn Vojt; New Providence (Chief Ralph Parlapano); Dominick Fiorilli; Roselle (Chief Robert Hill); Andrew Vasquez, Minerva Vasquez; Roselle Park (Chief Joseph Signorello); Steve Thompson, Patrick Wirkus; Scotch Plains (Chief Jonathan Ellis); Chris Nielsen; Springfield (Chief William Gras); Brant Hamilton, Michael Jorda; Union County OEM (Director of Emergency Management Ben Laganga); William Kane, Michael Marcino; Westfield (Chief John Castellano); Keith Brothers, Kevin Caldwell, Benjamin B. Corbin, Steven DiTrolio, Daniel Kaltnecker, Peter Klebaur, Richard Schwarz, Thomas Wengertler. The Nocera award winners are Gregory Ofenleger (Fall 2003) and David Lauricella (Spring 2004). The Shepis award winners are Benjamin Corbin (Fall 2003) and Andrew Vasquez (Spring 2004).

Whyte Honored With Governor's Award

TRENTON – Governor James McGreevey congratulated Gary Whyte of Mountainside for receiving the 2004 Governor's Volunteer Award for Health. "There is no greater gift that a person can give than the gift of volunteerism," Governor McGreevey said. "Gary is a fine example of the many people throughout our State who continuously give of their time and talent to improve the quality of life for others." Mr. Whyte became an outspoken leader in raising awareness of Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (FOP) when a friend's daughter was diagnosed with the rare ailment. He has helped to coordinate annual fundraisers and contacted all of the State's 566 mayors, as well as Senate and House members, seeking resolutions to help support research of the disease.

Kean Bill Seeks Permanence Of Counter-Terrorism Office

TRENTON – Senator Thomas Kean, Jr. (R-21) has officially introduced legislation to make permanent the Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT) within the Department of Law and Public Safety. The OCT, which Governor James McGreevey created through executive order in January of 2002, is responsible for coordinating and administering New Jersey's counter-terrorism and preparedness efforts. Senator Kean's legislation, S-1689, would make the state's top counter-terrorism office a permanent unit of state government. "In the last month, the federal government outlined how our enemies intend to carry out new attacks on our nation's soil," Mr. Kean said. "Terrorist groups are well-organized and well-financed, and must be monitored on a continuous basis.

In order to protect our state and its residents, we must have a permanent Office of Counter-Terrorism," the senator added. The bipartisan measure is co-sponsored by Senator John Girgenti, who is Chairman of the Senate Law, Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee. Senator Kean noted that every resident and lawmaker is committed to protecting New Jersey from a terrorist attack. "The war on terrorism transcends party lines, and my colleagues and I in the Legislature are dedicated to ensuring that our law enforcement community has the necessary resources to identify, detect and deter threats to our state now, and well into the future." The measure was officially introduced by Senators Kean and Girgenti during the June 10 Senate session.

Public Meeting Scheduled For NJ Redevelopment Plan

UNION – A public meeting updating the State Development and Redevelopment Plan will be held at Kean University on Monday, June 21 at 7 p.m. The meeting will focus on "Cross-Acceptance," the public process for updating the State Plan. Public input is sought. The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will host the meeting in cooperation with the State Planning Commission. "This meeting will provide residents, state, local and county officials, and all other interested parties an opportunity to comment on and discuss changes to the State Plan," said Freeholder Lewis Mingo, Jr., chairman of the Union County Economic Development Committee. "Through this public process, residents and officials from each of our 21 municipalities can have input into the creation of an updated State Plan that makes sense for all of New Jersey."

The meeting will be held in Kean Hall at the west end of the Kean University campus, located at 1000 Morris Avenue (Route 82), in Union. For directions and a campus map, see kean.edu/directions. For information about the Preliminary State Plan, see the Office of Smart Growth website: state.nj.us/dca/osg. For other information, please contact Jennifer Monaghan in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs at (609) 292-6055.

Police Checkpoints Set

WESTFIELD – Drinking and driving checkpoints will be established by the police department on Friday, June 18, to Saturday, June 19, on North Avenue, South Avenue, Central Avenue, Springfield Avenue, East Broad Street, Mountain Avenue and Lamberts Mill Road.

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