



## 21st District News Legislation Would Change How Libraries Are Funded

Assemblyman Eric Munoz, Summit

AREA—Assemblyman Eric Munoz (LD-21, Summit) recently introduced legislation to change a state mandate that links municipal library funding with property values.

This measure came as a response to recent concerns by Mountainside residents and the borough council members regarding a legally mandated, yet "unnecessary" surplus of funding for the Mountainside library.

According to Assemblyman Munoz, the mandate currently requires library funding to increase with any increase in property values, but the recent trend of "McMansions" in the borough and across the state has escalated property values without increasing the municipality's population or placing more strain on the public library.

Assemblyman Munoz's bill, A-

3133, would permit a municipal board of library commissioners to request that the municipal governing body reduce the amount of taxes assessed for library purposes in any year that the library board determines that it requires less funding due to an increase in ratables.

"Public libraries provide a necessary service to residents and we don't want to impede or curtail this extraordinary service," Assemblyman Munoz said. "However, in a situation where both the governing body and municipal library board agree that they are being forced by state mandates to spend more money than they need or will use, the only group that is hurt is the taxpayers."

He said he hopes that his legislation raises awareness of the impact state mandates have on municipalities.



**WORKING TOGETHER...** Union County Police Chief Dan Vaniska, president of the Union County Chiefs Association, left, and Prosecutor Ted Romankow, right, are shown with many Muslim leaders after announcing a training program for law enforcement officers to understand Arab American culture when responding to calls or handling cases involving Muslims.

## County to Recycle Tires, Electronics June 10 in SP

SCOTCH PLAINS — The County of Union will sponsor a recycling event for electronics and automobile tires on Saturday, June 10. The collection will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools campus, located at 1776 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains near the Stamler Police Academy.

All residents of Union County are eligible to participate at no cost, but must bring proof of Union County residency. Residents can drive to the site with their unwanted electronics and as many as eight tires without rims. Workers at the site will unload their vehicles.

Electronic equipment that will be accepted include computer monitors, hard drives, modems, keyboards, CPU's, mice, printers, scanners, speakers, televisions, VCR's, fax machines, telephones and circuit boards.

Pre-registration is not required for this special Saturday collection, which will be held rain or shine. This event is provided to residents of the county and not to businesses.

Refrigerators, washers and dryers, microwaves and air conditioners will not be accepted. A complete list of the materials that will be accepted on June 10th is available at the Union County Environmental Services website: [www.ucnj.org/oem](http://www.ucnj.org/oem).

An alternate drop-off program for electronics equipment is available every Monday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Newtech Recycling Facility, located in Bridgewater at 111 Chimney Rock Road, Building no. 2.

For more information, call the Union County Bureau of Environmental Services Hotline at (908) 654-9889.

## Fanwood GOP Club Convenes on Monday

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Republican Club will be meeting on Monday, June 5, at 7:30 p.m. The club will convene at the Forest Road Park Building located at Forest Road and Woodland Avenue in Fanwood.

At the June meeting, the guest speaker will be Marcus Rayner, district director from Congressman Mike Ferguson's (R-7th) office. He will discuss issues that affect the district and how Congressman Ferguson has been addressing those concerns.

For further information, call (908) 889-1915.

## SP Library to Host Radiologist June 14

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains public library will host Dr. Daniel Simon, a radiologist at Muhlenberg Medical Center in Plainfield, on Wednesday, June 14, at 7 p.m. Dr. Simon will discuss back pain and osteoporosis.

Participants will learn what actions to take to prevent associated complications. The free presentation will include a question-and-answer session. Free Muhlenberg first-aid kits will be available to all who attend.

For more information, call the library and at (908) 322-5007.



## 7th Congressional District News FAA Fails To Address Noise In Airspace Design

Representative Mike Ferguson

WASHINGTON — Rep. Mike Ferguson (R-7th, New Providence) last Thursday called on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to more aggressively consider alternative routing for commercial planes flying into and from Newark and New York City airports as part of the agency's overall regional redesign project.

In a letter to FAA Administrator Marion Blakey, Rep. Ferguson wrote that the agency's recent Integrated Airspace Proposal fails to consider the impact of air noise on communities in central New Jersey. The FAA is currently receiving public comments on its proposal.

"Like many residents of central New Jersey, I'm concerned about the effect that aircraft noise has on our quality of life," Rep. Ferguson said. "Air routes for planes taking off from and arriving to our area airports should minimize noise. It is clear to me that the FAA's most recent proposal fails to meet that test and has the potential to increase the levels of air noise in many communities in the seventh congressional district."

The FAA is considering redesigning 31,000 square miles of airspace

above five states in an effort to reduce flight delays. Rep. Ferguson said the agency must consider air noise reduction as part of its overall redesign.

In his letter, Rep. Ferguson said the goal of reducing air noise should compel the FAA to consider alternative routing plans, including routing planes over the Atlantic Ocean until they reach a certain altitude. This so-called "ocean routing" option could reduce aircraft noise for 119,768 state residents, including many who live in the seventh district, which includes portions of Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties.

In 2002, Rep. Ferguson called on the transportation department to investigate documents that local air-noise activists say demonstrate the FAA falsified government documents and failed to follow proper procedures when it changed the air routes, known as the "Robbinsville-Yardley flip-flop" in December 2001.

That change altered approach vectors for both the Newark and LaGuardia airports and now arriving flights approach the airports from the west over central New Jersey, resulting in the increase air noise over residential areas.

## SP-F to Hold Public Meeting On Superintendent Search

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education will hold a special public forum this Tuesday, June 5, at 7 p.m., where all members of the community are invited to give input regarding the district's ongoing search for a new superintendent. Superintendent Dr. Carol Choye will retire at the end of August after 13 years in Scotch Plains-Fanwood.

The meeting, which will be held at the board of education's administrative offices, Evergreen Avenue and Cedar Street in Scotch Plains, will be facilitated by Carole Larsen, a New Jersey School Boards Association field service representative. Ms. Larsen will ask those who attend to

identify the special strengths of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools and the communities they serve; to identify the critical issues they think the district will face in the next three to four years; to outline the training, background and experience they desire in a new superintendent and to describe the personal leadership style that is important to them in a new superintendent.

Ms. Larsen will conduct similar sessions with the district's administrators, principals and supervisors; the general staff and the SP-F Education Association leadership; district parent-teacher association leaders and officers of the SP-F Education Enrichment Foundation.

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## MADD Honors Intoxicated Driver Center Director

ELIZABETH — The Director of Union County's Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC) has been honored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) with the organization's "Outstanding Commitment and Service Award."

Cheryl Hathaway of Rahway received the award from the Middlesex/Union Counties Chapter of MADD during a dinner held May 17 at Middlesex County College in Edison.

The Union County IDRC, a state-mandated service, conducts a two-day, 12-hour education and prevention program for court-ordered offenders to determine whether or not a driver's license can be restored or if further treatment is required. All offenders are screened by licensed, certified alcohol/drug counselors to determine the level of care needed by each individual. The IDRC is part of the Union County Department of Human Services.

According to Maria Esteves, chapter coordinator, Ms. Hathaway was recognized for her "ongoing contribution in stopping drunk driving, supporting victims of this violent crime and preventing underage drinking through education to prevent further injury and loss of life."

The IDRC is funded by fines against

offenders convicted of driving while intoxicated (DWI) or driving under the influence (DUI) of other drugs. Effective March 1, the IDRC portion of the fines was increased from \$150 to \$230. Union County's IDRC conducts a minimum of 24 sessions annually. Last year a total of 815 people completed the program.

"Union County's IDRC has the distinction of having the lowest rate of recidivism in New Jersey," said Alexander Mirabella, chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The people who complete the IDRC program do not end up back in court, or worse, back on the streets driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs."

The IDRC was established in 1984. Ms. Hathaway has been employed by the County of Union, IDRC program for 19 years.

## Linda Stender, AAA Sponsor Safety Seat Check

CLARK — Assemblywoman Linda Stender (LD-22, Fanwood) and AAA will be sponsoring a child safety seat check on Tuesday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble on the corner of Central Avenue and Raritan Road in Clark.

"Every year, thousands of children are killed or injured in automobile accidents because they are riding completely unrestrained or they are restrained incorrectly by their car safety devices," said Asw. Stender.

## Girl Scouts to Hold Celebration May 24

FANWOOD — The staff of the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council (GSWRC) paid tribute to its corps of volunteers May 24 at the Service Team Year-End Celebration held at Forest Road Park. Thirty service team members from GSWRC's 24 communities attended.

The evening included a scavenger hunt through the park, a volunteer recognition, prize raffle and reports from GSWRC's directors and Chief Executive Officer Donna Dolce. All in attendance were honored for all of their hard work and dedication to the Girl Scout movement.

The seat check is free of charge and conducted by AAA-certified passenger safety technicians. Every technician has successfully completed a 40-hour training program offered through the National Highway Traffic Safety and AAA. Technicians will examine car and booster seats to ensure that they are installed correctly, fit the child properly and have not been recalled by the manufacturer.

In case of rain, the program will be held Wednesday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the same location. For additional information regarding the child safety seat check, contact Jennifer Mancuso at Asw. Stender's office at (908) 668-1900 or by e-mail at [aswstender@njleg.org](mailto:aswstender@njleg.org).

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