

## County Veterans Can Apply For Service Medals From State

ELIZABETH—The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders reminds honorably-discharged veterans who live in Union County that they may be eligible to receive military service medals awarded by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The medals to be awarded are the Distinguished Service Medal, Vietnam Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and Korean Service Medal.

To obtain application forms or get more information about applying, contact the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at (609) 530-6980.

Union County residents can also contact the Union County Office of Veterans Affairs at (908) 659-7407 or (908) 527-4890. All voice messages are returned promptly.

### Guadagno To Speak at ELC Meeting, Sept. 16

CLARK — Kim Guadagno, Republican candidate for lieutenant governor of New Jersey, will speak at a Union County Employer Legislative Committee (ELC) meeting on Wednesday, September 16. The meeting will be held at Lana's Fine Dining at the Hyatt Hills Golf Course, 1300 Raritan Road (Exit 135 of the Garden State Parkway) in Clark. Networking begins at 8 a.m. followed by a full breakfast and the meeting from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Sheriff Guadagno was a former Assistant United States Attorney and Assistant Attorney General. As Deputy Director of the Division of Criminal Justice, Ms. Guadagno supervised a staff of approximately 300 prosecutors and investigators. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Ms. Guadagno was the Deputy Chief of the Corruption Unit and was twice honored with the U.S. Department of Justice's highest award for Superior Performance.

The cost for the event is \$20. Make checks payable to: Union County ELC, c/o Organization Resources, 34 Ridgedale Avenue, Summit, N.J. 07901.

For those interested in attending, respond by e-mail to info@unioncountylec.org, call (908) 598-2532 or fax to (908) 598-2532.

ELCs, established by the New Jersey Business & Industry Association in 1959, are independent, local organizations representing all 21 counties in New Jersey. ELCs meet monthly for breakfast or lunch.

by mail, or receive their medals in person at a public Medal Ceremony in Union County. The ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, at 1 p.m., at the Center Court of the Jersey Gardens Mall. The mall is located at 651 Kapkowski Road in Elizabeth.

Eligible veterans include those who have served during a time of war or national emergency, or who have been on active duty in a qualifying area. A surviving spouse or immediate family member of a deceased veteran may apply to have an award presented posthumously.

The application for a service medal involves completing a one-page form and providing proof of New Jersey residency, along with proof of honorable discharge (WD Form 53 or DD Form 214), and evidence of active duty service in qualifying areas.

Applications can take at least three weeks to process and must be mailed to the N.J. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, to the attention of: DVS-VBB (Medals), P.O. Box 340, Trenton, N.J. 08625-0340. Applications may also be faxed to (609) 530-6970.

The public medal ceremony is part of a statewide effort to encourage veterans to connect with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in person and get information about their benefits. Personnel from the department will be on hand at the Jersey Gardens Mall from October 20 to October 22, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Union County Office of Veterans Affairs is a division of the county's Department of Human Services, providing a local resource for veterans in need of information or assistance.

#### REPORTERS NEEDED

Current openings for freelance reporters to cover town council and BOE meetings. We seek community-minded, detail-oriented writers with professional demeanor needed. Must be able to meet deadlines, know how to write a lead, and take an active interest in a regular beat in order to develop news stories. Great for stay-at-home moms, a second income or just for those who love to write. E-mail resume and clips to:

editor@goleader.com  
The Westfield Leader & The Scotch Plains-Fanwood TIMES



UNITED FUND 2.0... Sporting a new name and logo, the Westfield United Fund is gearing up for its annual town-wide fundraising appeal with a promotional campaign aimed at reaching new donors. The newly independent organization has been supporting local human service agencies since 1937. Pictured, left to right, are: campaign team members Charlie Weidman, co-chairman; John Schmidt, lawyers division; Jill Dispenza, residential; Elaine Swingle, dentists, and John Ripperger, special gifts.

## County Using \$22 Mil. Stimulus for Roads, Jobs

ELIZABETH—Union County has received more than \$22 million in federal stimulus funds for various projects and programs aimed at helping jumpstart the economy.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is investing \$787 billion into the U.S. economy to help the nation climb out of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, according to a county spokesman. Based on an independent analysis, New Jersey will receive about \$17.5 billion in total benefits over the three years from this package.

Residents in 12 different municipalities can expect to see a series of road repaving projects on county roads, totaling more than \$4 million. These municipalities include: Berkeley Heights, Elizabeth, Kenilworth, Linden, Mountainside, Rahway, Roselle Park, Scotch Plains, Springfield, Summit, Union and Westfield. Projects involve repaving, handicap ramp replacement/repair, signage upgrades, traffic striping, and stormwater management upgrades on inlets.

Another \$5 million will be used for corridor improvements in Plainfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Cranford, and Elizabeth. This work includes intersection improvements, signage, signalization, and safety enhancements for pedestrians, bikes, and the disabled. Thoroughfares such as South Broad Street, Terrill Road, Park Avenue and Springfield Avenue are among those witnessing improvements.

Through the Parks and Commu-

nity Renewal Department, more than \$2.6 million will be provided through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, benefiting Elizabeth, Plainfield, Roselle, Rahway and Hillside. Funds will be used among other items to build senior citizen and low-income rental units, demolish abandoned housing, renovate homes, and provide counseling.

An additional \$1.4 million was provided through the Community Development Block Program to municipalities such as Linden, Rahway, Roselle Park, Plainfield, Hillside, and Winfield.

Through Union County's Human Services Department, an additional 42,000 meals will be provided to seniors through Meals on Wheels, and Jewish Family Services. Approximately \$2.2 million will be available to provide short- and medium-term rental assistance including to those who lost their jobs, as well as a family whose home was foreclosed as they seek to move into a rental property. Another \$1.4 million will be distributed through the Community Services Block grant program for a Youth Financial literacy program, and for mortgage foreclosure assistance, including the hiring of counselors while \$125,000 will be provided for homeless assistance.

More than \$2.1 million will be provided for job skills training through the county's One Stop Centers and the provision of training and employment opportunities for disadvantaged adults and youth.

## CSA Baubles Discusses Dist. Goals and Bullying Policy

By MAGGIE DIGGORY  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MOUNTAINSIDE—Mountainside Chief School Administrator (CSA) Jeanette Baubles met with *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* in her office at Beechwood School to discuss the district's goals for the 2009-2010 school year, as well as how she plans to address the issue of bullying in the district.

With a student population of approximately 1,000, "it's a welcoming and inviting place," said Ms. Baubles when asked to describe what she finds special about the district.

The *Leader* asked Ms. Baubles to summarize the Board of Education (BOE) goals for the district for the 2009-2010 school year. She said the goals are test score evaluation, curriculum review and changes, staff supervision and leadership, shared service opportunities and financial accountability.

Ms. Baubles said the district's first goal is to focus on improving student achievement. Students in K-8 take the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) test in the spring half of the school year. In addition to analyzing the NJASK results, district administrators are planning on restructuring the basic skills and gifted and talented program.

In the coming year, the BOE plans to work on making sure the district's curriculum meets 2009 New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS).

With regard to the teaching staff, Ms. Baubles said another goal this year is to consider using a value-added assessment approach, defined as "objective evidence that students are meeting high-achievement standards," according to the Education Consumers ClearingHouse.

To support staff communication,

Ms. Baubles said the district's website will have a new intranet side where teachers may post messages on discussion boards, since she stated staff members have different free periods during the school day.

Further details regarding the district's vision and action plan will be discussed during the September BOE meetings, Ms. Baubles said.

The *Leader* then asked Ms. Baubles about her plans to address the issue of bullying. Ms. Baubles spoke at length about educating students with what she called "sensitivity training" to avoid situations where a student may be bullied or be the bully.

During the 2008-2009 school year, there were six reported incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying in the Mountainside school district.

The district is required by law to maintain compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A, which includes submitting an annual violence and vandalism report.

In addition, students receive a student handbook every year outlining their school's policy on the consequences of committing violent acts while on school grounds.

For the coming school year, Ms. Baubles has scheduled a Violence and Vandalism Week at Beechwood and Deerfield schools. In addition, Ms. Baubles said, "school guidance counselor [Barbara] Komoroski will be developing a character education program and assisting Deerfield School Principal [Robert] Phillips with the coordination of a bullying prevention assembly."

"Overall," Ms. Baubles concluded, "we have exceptional students, who on occasion, make choices and decisions that are less than positive. We will continue to guide and support them to the best of our collective ability in 2009-2010."

## Lance Does Not See GOP Support For Public Option on Health Care

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — In advance of President Barack Obama's speech to Congress (after press deadline on Wednesday), Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) told reporters during a Tuesday morning teleconference that he does not believe the health bill sponsored by House Democrats will attract Republican votes unless the public option (government run health care) is removed.

"I just don't think there are any votes for that (public option) on the Republican side," Mr. Lance said. "And I don't think it could pass the U.S. Senate," noting that there are some Senate Democrats opposed to the public option as well as Republicans.

He said he hoped the President

would "reach across the aisle to Republicans as well as Democrats" on the issue.

The Congressman said he believes there is ground for a compromise including a provision whereby Americans could not be denied health insurance for a preexisting condition or have their coverage canceled if they get sick. Mr. Lance and other Republicans also want to include medical malpractice reform in the legislation, which is currently excluded from the bill but which he said former Senator Bill Bradley (D-N.J.) believes Democrats would support.

Mr. Lance said the GOP also wants to allow small and mid-sized companies to be able to purchase insurance for their employees across state lines.

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