

Westfield Appointments Told

WESTFIELD – The following appointments were made at the reorganization meeting of the Westfield Town Council:

Planning Board, James Foerst (council representative); Board of Adjustment, Mark Doherty, Mary Alice Ryan, Jack Schwetji (alternate) and Andrew Wasserman (alt.)

Special Improvement District Board, Jamie Chaves, merchant; Lee Hale; Councilman Mark Ciarrocca, Shawn Hanna (mayor's designee) and Town Administrator James Gildea.

Employee Appointments: Town Attorney, Robert Cockren; Municipal Prosecutor, Anthony Prieto; Public Defender, Gavin Handwerker, and Labor Attorney, Frederick Danser, 3rd.

Board appointments: Board of Health, Dr. Seymour Koslowsky, Mitchell Beinhaker, Sam Della Fera (council liaison); Recreation Commission, James Marvin, Chairman; Larry McDermott, Peter Echausse, Gary Fox, Kevin Neylan (alt.), Brett Glenn (alt.), Frank Arena (council liaison).

Historic Preservation Commission: Christopher Miele, Dave Lovato, Eric Diddel, Kelly Kessler, Vicki Kimmins (council liaison); Tree Preservation Commission, Mike Schumann, David Haas (council liaison); Memorial Library Board, Stacey Weinman, Doug Stokes, and Keith Loughlin (council liaison).

Communications Advisory Board: Dierdre Malacrea, Ed Stellingwerf, and Councilwoman Vicki Kimmins; Westfield Housing Commission, David Oliviera, Joseph Farella, Katherine Clifford, and Ronald Banský.

Planning Board: Robert Newell, Thomas Walsh, Dan Clifford (alt.); Mark LoGrippe (mayor's designee), Town Engineer Kris McAloon; Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee, David Oliviera and Town Engineer Kris McAloon; Insurance Advisory Board, Ronald Banský and Joseph Dazzo; Solid Waste Advisory Board, Vincent Spera; Union County Transportation Advisory Board, John Morgan and George Lanzano; Air Traffic Advisory Board, Jerome Feder and Rosemary Millet.

Council liaisons: Chamber of Commerce, JoAnn Neylan; Union County League of Municipalities, Mayor Andrew Skibitsky; Board of Education, Mark Ciarrocca; 2nd Senior Citizens Housing Corporation, Mayor Andrew Skibitsky; Municipal Alliance/PANDA, JoAnn Neylan.

Town Council standing committees: Finance Policy Committee, Mark Ciarrocca, chairman; Sam Della Fera, vice-chairman; JoAnn Neylan and David Haas; Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee, JoAnn Neylan, chairman, Keith Loughlin, vice-chairman, Mark Ciarrocca and Jim Foerst; Code Review and Town Property Committee, Jim Foerst, chairman; Vicki Kimmins, vice-chairman; Frank Arena and Sam Della Fera; Public Works Committee, Frank Arena, chairman; David Haas, vice-chairman; Vicki Kimmins and Keith Loughlin.

Pallone Seeks President To OK Aid for Blizzard

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-6th) has sent a letter calling on President Barack Obama to approval federal disaster aid for the state in response to the blizzard that recently struck New Jersey. Mr. Pallone ask the President to make a formal declaration of major disaster areas in order for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to immediately provide assistance to New Jersey residents impacted by the storm. The text of the letter appears below:

In his letter Mr. Pallone told the President, "The winter snow storm has left as much as 32 inches of snow in certain areas and created snow drifts up to five feet. The winter storm has created dangerous circumstances that have caused human and material harm... it is important that all the resources necessary are provided without delay."

Gov. Christie Signs Bills Including Anti-Bullying

TRENTON – Governor Chris Christie signed the following bills into law on January 4:

S-104/A-1758 – Requires state entities to examine opportunity of minority and women-owned financial institutions to serve as senior managing underwriters.

SCS for S-514/ACS for A-1592 – Permits bids for public works contracts to be withdrawn due to mistakes in certain circumstances.

S-911/A-2309 – Upgrades penalties for assaulting certain health care professionals and workers at health-care facilities and human services and veterans' facilities.

S-1537/A-3264 – Clarifies that gang related incident offense report is to be forwarded to Superintendent of State Police for inclusion in Uniform Crime Report.

A-2305/S-1179 – Expands "Jersey Fresh" program to include "Made with Jersey Fresh" designation of certain baked goods and other food products.

On January 5, Governor Chris Christie signed into law:



WITHSTANDING CHALLENGE Union County Sheriff's Officer Luis Alfaro, left, of Elizabeth shows Sheriff Ralph Froehlich the award he received for completing the John H. Stamler Police Academy Red Brick Road Physical Challenge. Officer Alfaro was the 17th recruit in recent academy classes to complete the demanding voluntary challenge that included timed races, weight lifting and finishing the academy's obstacle course in one minute.

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S-1557/A-3294 – Revises statutes concerning public adjusters.

S-1931/A-2811 – Establishes New Jersey Aphasia Study Commission.

S-2380/ACS for A-3450 – Requires four weeks pre-notification of exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

A-410/S-1846 – Revises the "construction lien law."

A-483/S-175 – Establishes the "Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact."

A-1637/S-2309 – Permits advertising on exterior of school buses.

A-3466/S-2392 – The "Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act."

The Governor conditionally vetoed the following legislation:

S-1248/A-2900 – Requires local unit or authority to provide director of the Division of Local Government Services with report concerning lawsuits to which it is a party before budget is approved.

A-3359/S-2388 – Prohibits practice of excluding unemployed individuals in advertisements for job vacancies.

Lance Praises Reforms Passed By New Majority

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) said the reforms passed during the opening days of the 112th Congress shows that the new congressional majority is serious about bringing fiscal sanity to Washington, D.C.

Among the new reforms passed by Congress are "cut-as-you-go," which replaces the "pay-as-you-go" rule requiring new mandatory spending to be offset with cuts to existing programs and a spending cut "lockbox" which will apply to floor amendments that make cuts to appropriations bills. Cuts will go to a special account in effort to make it easier to reduce overall size of spending bills.

A Fiscal 2011 spending cap now requires the House Budget Committee chairman to establish a budget enforcement mechanism for the remainder of fiscal 2011. Also new is a debt limit which Eliminates the "Gephardt rule" that allowed the House to pass a debt ceiling increase upon adoption by both chambers of a concurrent budget resolution. In addition, all bills will now have to be posted online for three calendar days before a final floor consideration.

Committees will now be required to post their rules online, provide three-day notice for markups, webcast all hearings and markups, post roll call votes within 48 hours and text of adopted amendments within 24 hours after a markup. In addition, sponsors of all legislation must submit statement in the Congressional Record explaining the bill's constitutional basis. The House voted last week to reduce the operating budgets of committees, leadership offices, and individual lawmakers' offices by 5 percent, saving taxpayers \$35 million in the first year.

"The House rules reforms coupled with [the House Majority's] action to trim congressional office budget spending makes it clearly evident to me that the new 112th Congressional majority is serious about cutting federal spending, reducing the deficit and restoring public confidence in the way the Congress does its business," Mr. Lance said.

Lance Focused on Federal Spending In New Term

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) began his second term in the House of Representatives last Wednesday, as the largest freshman class in Congress since the late 1940s was sworn in by new Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio).

Mr. Lance, a member of the House Financial Services Committee the past two years, said his focus remains on reining in federal spending. "I don't think we can balance the budget overnight, not this year or perhaps not next year, but I think we need a glide path toward a balanced budget," he said.

The Congressman said the annual current federal deficit is in the \$1.2-\$1.3 trillion range. "I would like to get these annual deficits down significantly," he said, saying he would like to see balanced annual federal budgets within the next few years. He gave credit to former President Bill Clinton and the Republican majority in Congress in the mid-1990s for balancing the annual budgets.

"I hope and believe that fiscal responsibility is on the minds of everybody in Washington (in 2011). It's certainly on my mind," Mr. Lance said.

The Congressman said he looks forward to working under the leadership of Mr. Boehner, saying the new speaker has advocated for "many more open rules that will permit the minority (party)" to offer amendments, which he said was not permitted in the last session of Congress under the Democratic majority.

Under new House rules approved by the new House majority, Mr. Lance said members also would not be allowed to vote on bills until after they have been released for review by the public 72 hours prior to a vote. "This is especially important for groups that follow legislation and make the general public aware of the contents of bills," he said.

Mr. Lance said the new GOP majority would "be much more business-friendly." He said Republicans hope "to enact policies that will help bring that (9.7 percent) unemployment rate down."

"The critical issue confronting the American people is the state of the American economy," Mr. Lance said. He also said he likes President Barack Obama's pick of William Daly

as chief of staff, replacing Rahm Emanuel, who left last year to run for mayor of Chicago. Mr. Daly, son of the late Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley and brother of current Mayor Richard M. Daley, served as commerce secretary in the Clinton Administration from 1997 to 2000. "This was an early indication that the President recognizes that he shouldn't be antagonistic toward business," Mr. Lance said.

The House Republican leadership postponed an expected vote on rescinding the health-care law following the Arizona shootings, including a Congresswoman and federal judge, on Saturday.

"I think we are going to have an up-or-down vote; that's what we promised the people in our campaign. I indicated in my campaign very vigorously that I wanted to start over (by redrafting a health-care-reform bill)." He admitted that with Democrats holding a 51-47 majority in the Senate (in addition to two Independents caucusing with Democrats), and with President Obama able to veto the bill if it reaches his desk, the health-care law would likely not be rescinded in this session of Congress.

"But I think (the GOP vote) is an opening indication that we want to engage in... repeal, replace and reform (of the health-care law)," Mr. Lance said. "The CBO (Congressional Budget Office) indicated that this is not budget neutral." The Congressman said he favors parts of the health-care law such as letting adult children stay on their parents' health-insurance policies until they are in their middle 20s and not denying health insurance to anyone for pre-existing conditions.

Mr. Lance said he was opposed to the total costs of the health-care law. "I think the promise was made this would lower the cost of health care. I don't think that has been borne out by the facts," Mr. Lance said.

"I hope that the White House and the Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services are willing to work with the new majority in the House," Mr. Lance said. "Time will tell, but I entered the new term in the hope that there could be bipartisan government in a way that did not exist these last two years the other party was in charge of all elected branches of (federal) government. Now the situation has been modified."

Volunteers Needed For C.H.I.L.D. At Recycling Ctr.

FANWOOD—The C.H.I.L.D. Organization of Scotch Plains and Fanwood helps to staff the Fanwood Recycling Center on Watson Road in Fanwood in return for a modest stipend.

Volunteers are needed to help with this staffing for only a few of hours for the next recycling day on Saturday, January 29. The money is used to help kids in Scotch Plains, Fanwood through informational programs for them and educational programs for their parents along with a special recognition event for the children at the end of the school year.

On Saturday, January 29 volunteers are needed to help on load recyclable materials (glass, plastics, cans) from the trunks of waiting cars and deposit them into the correct storage bins.

Two shifts are available, from 8:45 to 11:05 a.m. and/or 10:45 a.m. to 1:10 p.m. Volunteers should wear old clothes, sturdy shoes and bring work gloves. The outdoor facility is opened throughout the year regardless of the weather. Volunteers range from students, 6th, 7th and 8th through high school and adults.

All those interested in wanting to help should call (908) 322-4020 and ask for Susan.

Student volunteers who need letters of recognition regarding their student community service for their high school student portfolios, any senior projects or religious education programs can receive them by participating in this program.

For more information about C.H.I.L.D. programs and events, visit the C.H.I.L.D. website at www.childorgspf.org.

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