

Cranford Joins Westfield Bd. of Health As Ninth Shared Services Member

The Westfield Board of Health met on January 9, 2012. Four members were reappointed by the mayor with approval of town council: Thomas K. O'Neill, Dr. David Weinman, Dr. Ronen Gold and Gavin Handwerker. I was reelected president and Mr. O'Neill as vice-president. Most importantly, the Township of Cranford joined us as the ninth board of health to use the shared services of the Westfield Regional Health Department, which now protects over 140,000 people in our area.

A board hearing was convened concerning a local restaurant that had a history of sanitary code violations. The restaurant corrected all past violations and its most recent inspection was satisfactory. However, the board unanimously voted to place the restaurant on a 24-month probation with

conditions. Details will be posted in the board minutes when approved.

The health department is sponsoring free health screenings with Overlook Medical Center in the municipal building. A peripheral vascular disease screening will be on Thursday, February 9, from 10 a.m. to noon, and a respiratory disease screening will be on Thursday, March 15, from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information about these programs and to register, please call Laura Scanlon, the public health nursing supervisor, at (908) 789-4070, extension 4074.

Finally, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published the report of the recent investigation of imported human rabies in Union County (cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6051a2.htm?cid=mm6051a2_w) in which Megan Avallone, our health officer, participated. Although the person was infected outside New Jersey, the case highlighted the importance of preventing contact between residents and rabies-infected animals and of vaccinating all dogs and cats against rabies, which is mandatory in Westfield.

Information about all of the Department's activities is available on its website www.westfieldnj.gov/health. The complete minutes of the January 9 meeting will be posted after review and approval at our February 6 meeting, which starts at 5:30 p.m. in the municipal building.

Lawrence D. Budnick, MD
President, Westfield Board of Health

New Jersey Comeback

Today, I am proud to report that the New Jersey Comeback has begun. How do we know it has begun? Just look around you.

In the last two years, we have come together to address the mess that was our budget. The decline, deficits, and departures that plagued our state just two years ago have been reversed. The budget is balanced. Our unemployment rate is no longer going up, it is coming down. Job growth has been restored – in the private sector, where we want it. New Jersey is back.

We have restrained the growth of property taxes. We have put our pensions on a more stable and sustainable footing. And in doing all this, we have restored confidence and pride in New Jersey.

The New Jersey Comeback is taking place in large part because of what we have done in this chamber. Together, we have done something that Trenton hasn't seen in a very long time. We worked together. We achieved compromise. And we put New Jersey and its people first.....

Gov. Chris Christie
State of the State

Letters to the Editor

Assembly GOP Leader Bramnick's Remarks to The 215th Legislature

Editor's Note: The following are the remarks delivered (as prepared) by newly elected Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick (R-21, Westfield), at the reorganization of the 215th General Assembly Tuesday at the War Memorial in Trenton:

Speaker Oliver, Majority Leader Greenwald, Conference Leader Rible, members of the Legislature and my fellow New Jerseyans.

Last week we lost a leader and a friend who set a model for all of us to follow. Today, we as members of the 215th Legislature must look forward, yet never forget the legacy of a kind, honest, and dedicated leader of New Jersey, the Honorable Alex DeCroce.

I would like to offer a "thank you" to Speaker Oliver for her compassion and sensitivity over the course of the last week as we dealt with Alex's passing. I am grateful to my fellow members of the Republican caucus for their support, and I will try my best to honor the memory of our former leader.

Congratulations to Speaker Oliver, Majority Leader Greenwald, Conference Leader Rible, and our newest members of the General Assembly.

Today, in a media driven world where cable news shows close their minds to the views of others, we need to open ours. Television pundits do not have to govern, we do.

During the past two years, our Republican Governor Chris Christie and the Democratic Legislature worked together to enact historic reforms. But that progress cannot stop now.

Let's show New Jersey and the entire world that governments can reverse course when past policies have simply failed.

Instead of Republicans and Democrats exchanging press releases, let's exchange phone numbers.

Let us replace sarcasm with realism and partisanship with statesmanship.

Let's end the personal rhetoric and debate the issues straight up. As Detective Joe Friday said in the old TV show

Dragnet, "just the facts ma'am."

Please do not be misled by my call for bipartisanship as some unilateral disarmament of Republican principles. Actually, the war of ideas should escalate and the shallow rhetoric be discarded.

Let's make New Jersey synonymous with opportunity — opportunity for small businesses, opportunity for all our students in all our schools, opportunity for working families to have and keep good-paying jobs.

Governor Christie has inspired New Jerseyans and Americans to talk honestly and directly about the challenges facing our government. We must join our governor and engage in that difficult discussion each and every time we meet as a Legislature. As Governor Christie has said, let's do the big things.

So as a proud graduate of Plainfield High School, I accept the responsibilities of the Republican leader and am very fortunate to be married to a woman who is as pure as the human condition can be, Patricia Brentano Bramnick. You can be assured that there is a watchdog for good government and integrity living in my home.

In the words of the speech Leader DeCroce was prepared to deliver today, "Let's get to work."

Jon Bramnick
Assembly GOP Leader

Civil Rights March On Washington

Now, I say to you today my friends, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: - "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

Martin Luther King Jr.
August 28, 1963



FREEDOM MARCH... Marchers assembled at the Martin Luther King Monument on the South Avenue circle and marched through the downtown holding banners and singing civil rights songs on their way to The Presbyterian Church in Westfield for an interfaith service honoring the late civil rights leader. In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends. Martin Luther King Jr. - quotationspage.com

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