

## Garwood Dem Club Elects Officers, Announces Events

GARWOOD — The Garwood Democratic Club has announced the recent elections of Matt Allouf as club president, Deborah McCarthy as vice-president, Carol Lombardo as secretary and Dennis McCarthy as treasurer. Charles Lombardo remains chairman of the Garwood Democratic Committee and also has agreed to serve as membership chairman for the Democratic Club. Mrs. Lombardo will serve as hospitality chairwoman. Councilwoman Sara Todisco will organize fund-raising events for the year, and Bill Nierstedt will provide publicity for the club.

At recent meetings, Mr. Allouf called for the creation of a community participation group with a goal of involving the club in activities that exist for the betterment of Garwood citizens, particularly those who need the most assistance. The group's first activities included donating food baskets for Thanksgiving and Easter food drives. The club will accept monetary or food donations for these causes and anyone who knows someone in need is asked to contact Mr. Allouf. Further information will be available as the holiday seasons approach.

Earlier this year, the Democratic

Committee selected Mr. Nierstedt and Mike Wilson to be the Democratic Party candidates for the 2012 borough council election. Their campaign will begin in earnest in September, with the candidates going door-to-door listening to residents' concerns and ideas. The 2012 Campaign to Elect Nierstedt and Wilson is also looking for volunteers to coordinate and assist in the campaign.

The club is scheduling a number of fundraisers for 2012. Proceeds will be used to advance club goals and activities. The club has scheduled a trip to a Somerset Patriots baseball game, featuring after-game fireworks, on Saturday, June 30. Future press releases will advise of time, ticket costs and more details. Other events to be scheduled are trips to Monmouth Racetrack, a Red Bulls Soccer game and possibly a New Jersey Devils game in the fall. Interested parties can contact Councilwoman Todisco as details become available.

Letters were recently mailed to registered Garwood Democrats in anticipation of increasing membership. For information about joining the club, call Mr. Allouf at (908) 264-8550.



**ON THE MAP...**The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's (NJMC) Geographic Information Systems (GIS) team recently took first and second place in the Best Instructional Presentation category at the 25th Annual New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Mapping Contest in Trenton. Pictured, from left to right, are: Clifton native Brian Kennedy and Stephanie Bosits, who won first place for their presentation, "Meadowlands District Emergency Response Information System (ERIS)," and Westfield native Adam Osborn, who finished in second place for his demonstration of "Parcel Management within the New Jersey Meadowlands."

## WF Native Finishes Second In GIS Mapping Contest

WESTFIELD — Westfield native Adam Osborn, a member of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's (NJMC) Geographic Information Systems (GIS) team, finished in second place for his demonstration of "Parcel Management within the New Jersey Meadowlands" at the 25th annual New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Mapping Contest in Trenton.

The team took first and second place in the Best Instructional Presentation category in the contest.

"The GIS team's pursuit of cutting-edge, digital mapping technology has helped the Commission provide Meadowlands District municipalities with invaluable tools that can help first responders better protect the health and safety of residents and allow town employees to work more efficiently," said Marcia Karrow, NJMC executive director.

The NJMC's ERIS (Emergency Response Information System) maps deliver precise information at the click of a mouse to first responders on the location and types of hazardous materials stored in every warehouse and industrial facility within District municipalities. Police, fire and emergency management departments also can use the maps to determine the locations of the nearest fire hydrants and turn-around space for heavy firefighting equipment.

Prior to GIS technology, first responders relied on paper maps and binders to find this information. The GIS team, which is part of the NJMC's Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute, is currently digitizing floor plans for every business in District towns.

Mr. Osborn showed how the GIS team has mapped every property within District municipalities—nearly 100,000 parcels. By clicking on a parcel, the public can view numerous data including block and lot, ease-

ments, address, zoning and land use, acreage, and building footprint. This web-based map can help building code and tax officials save time by generating property boundaries using the system's buffer tool. The application quickly establishes which property owners need to be informed of variance requests or other proposed changes to surrounding properties.

The Meadowlands Commission is the planning and zoning authority for the 30.4-square-mile Meadowlands District. The District includes portions of Carlstadt, East Rutherford, Little Ferry, Lyndhurst, Moonachie, North Arlington, Rutherford, Ridgefield, South Hackensack and Teterboro in Bergen County, and Jersey City, Kearny, North Bergen and Secaucus in Hudson County.

## Tri-State Campaign Changing Leaders

REGION — After 10 years at the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, Kate Slevin is leaving the organization to join the New York City Department of Transportation. The organization's board of directors has appointed Veronica Vanterpool as the next executive director. She has been with the Campaign for five years, most recently serving as associate director.

According to its website, Tri-State's focus is "to create more sustainable, equitable and transit-friendly communities in downstate New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and beyond," including advocacy and legislative work for safer roads, livable communities and more attractive walking, biking and transit routes.

Ms. Slevin will serve as assistant commissioner for intergovernmental affairs under the leadership of New York City Department of Transportation Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan.

## Kean: N.J. Job Numbers Are Encouraging

TRENTON — Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean, Jr. (R-21, Westfield) issued the following statement in response to the latest release of employment data showing New Jersey added over 17,000 jobs in May of 2012:

"The recovery is slow, sometimes frustrating, and that is to be expected given the massive deficits and high-tax burden passed on by the Democrats in Trenton to this (Christie) administration. But the numbers are encouraging. We are creating sustainable, private-sector jobs that will add dollars to our economy, and more people are re-entering the workforce."

## Bayway Refinery Wins EPA Certification

LINDEN — The Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery in Linden has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star certification, which signifies that the industrial facility performs in the top 25 percent of similar facilities nationwide for energy efficiency and meets strict energy efficiency performance levels set by the EPA.

Bayway Refinery has improved its energy efficiency by 11 percent since 2002 by strategically managing energy consumption and making cost-effective improvements to the plant.

"The fact that we've added more jobs in New Jersey than in any single month in the last seven years, and 25 percent of all jobs created in America last month, shows that path of fiscal discipline and low taxes Republicans and Governor Christie have chosen for the state is working."

"The same Democratic leaders who have criticized and politicized the tough choices Republicans have made to turn our state around are now watching their credibility on the economy evaporate. The Democratic Majority should abandon their desire to return to the days of higher taxes and unchecked special interest spending and join us in doing what is proving to work for New Jersey."

## State Senate OK's Lesniak, Scutari Bill on Drug Court

TRENTON — The state Senate has approved legislation that would expand eligibility for the state's drug court substance abuse treatment program and create a pilot program. Senators Ray Lesniak (D-20, Elizabeth) and Nick Scutari (D-22, Linden) have sponsored the bill.

"We need to understand that the current practice of incarcerating drug addicts does little to rehabilitate the individual, and may in fact only lead to a non-violent offender becoming a violent offender later in life," Sen. Lesniak said.

"Our current criminal justice system fails individuals who are addicted to drugs," said Senator Scutari, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and whose district includes Scotch Plains and Fanwood. "One of the popular definitions of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, and expecting different results. In the case of drug-addicted criminal offenders, if we think for a minute that the current vicious cycle of incarceration, release, criminal offense and incarceration will eventually yield

rehabilitated individuals, then we're certainly inviting questions about the efficacy of the state's criminal justice system, let alone our own mental health and well-being."

The bill, S-881, would expand the number of criminal offenders eligible for treatment for drug or alcohol addiction under supervision of the state's drug court programs by removing some of the disqualifications currently in place for eligibility into those programs. The bill would allow individuals currently serving a sentence of incarceration, or convicted and awaiting a sentence, to request that their eligibility for the drug court program be re-evaluated based on the new criteria for eligibility.

The bill would create a two-year pilot program that would mandate access to special probation under drug court in two selected vicinages—one in northern New Jersey and one in southern New Jersey—for any offender with a drug problem who is not disqualified from the drug court program under the revised criteria in the bill.

The bill now heads to the Assembly for consideration.

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