

## We Can't Let U.S. Become A Land Where We Accept Only Laws We Like

The law is the law or is it? The manufacture, distribution, or possession of recreational and medicinal cannabis (marijuana) is a federal crime. (Schedule I of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse and Prevention Control Act commonly called the "Substances Control Act.")

The United States Supreme Court has held that there is no medical necessity exception in the Controlled Substances Act. (United States v. Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative, 532 U.S. 483 (2001). It has held that Congress has the power under the Commerce Clause to prohibit the intrastate manufacture and possession of marijuana despite California law as otherwise there would be a gaping hole in the Substances Control Act. (Gonzales v. Reich, 545 U.S. 1 (2005).)

We should know that no state under the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution may violate the Substances Control Act! (Article VI, Clause 2).

But none of this seems to matter to United States Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. who on August 29, 2013 told the governors of Washington and Colorado that the United States Department of Justice would allow states to implement ballot initiatives that legalized marijuana use in their states.

Deputy United States Attorney-General James M. Cole has stated that NOT all "marijuana-related conduct" would be prosecuted. (Memorandum, February 14, 2014).

The United States Department of Justice and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network Division of the United States Department of the Treasury issued rules on February 14, 2014 making it easier for banks to do business with marijuana merchants "now that some states have elected to legalize and regulate the marijuana trade."

Put another way, the chief federal law enforcement officer will not fully enforce a federal law! Nor recognize international conventions making cannabis an illegal drug upon which Congress in fulfilling United States treaty obligations enacted the Controlled Substances Act of 1970.

The President and the chief executive officer of the federal government stated in an interview with *The New Yorker's* David Remnick ("Going The Distance," January 27, 2014), "As has been well documented, I smoked pot as a kid, and I view it as a bad habit and a vice, not very different from the cigarettes that I smoked as a young person up through a big chunk of my adult life. I don't think it is more dangerous than alcohol."

Quite an amazing statement when Congress has determined that cannabis "has a high potential for abuse," "has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States," and "there is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision." (Schedule I, Controlled Substances Act).

When the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention maintains that "marijuana is a major health problem in the United States." (website).

When the public health service "concludes that marijuana has a broad range of psychological and physical affects, many of which are dangerous

and harmful to health." (website)

When the National Institute of Drug Abuse states, "The scientific evidence to date is not sufficient for the marijuana plant to gain FDA approval, and there are number of reasons why." (website)

When the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) states, "A growing number of states have passed voter referenda (or legislative actions) making smoked marijuana available for a variety of medical conditions upon a doctor's recommendation. These measures are inconsistent with efforts to ensure that medications undergo the rigorous scientific scrutiny of the FDA approval process and are proven safe and effective under the standards of the FD and C Act. Accordingly FDA, as the federal agency responsible for reviewing the safety and efficacy of drugs, DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) as the federal agency charged with enforcing the CSA, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as the federal coordinator of drug control policy, do not support the use of smoked marijuana for medical purposes." (website)

Nobody has the right to choose what law to observe and what law to flout! Dissatisfaction with a law must be expressed by lobbying legislatures or appealing to the courts or there is no certainty of law!

What comes next if a law is accepted based upon one's personal views? What value will there remain in a legislature voting a bill into law if people decide not to obey it and law enforcement decides not to enforce it? What happens when a President decides to change provisions of a law as is being famously claimed with regard to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act?

The central idea that the United States is a land of laws ("lex terrae") has permitted and sustained American political stability for more than two centuries. We must not accept the proposition that the United States is the land where people accept only the laws that they like!

Law is not a popularity contest.

Stephen Shoeman  
Westfield



## Union County News Planning Ahead for A Sustainable Future

Christopher Hudak, Chairman  
Union County Freeholder Board

This year will be a very active one for Union County government, the business community, and other stakeholders, as we take important steps toward building a solid platform for sustainable economic growth.

That includes a firm focus on environmental sustainability and quality of life improvements, as public wellness and a strong education infrastructure are at the core of our long-term future.

One key activity this year is Union County 2030. Part of my chairman's Initiatives, Union County 2030 is a multi-layer planning effort designed to support economic growth while improving quality of life.

Part of Union County 2030 involves traditional shovels-in-the-ground civic projects that form the backbone of every thriving community.

This year our projects include a new Family Court building, expansion of the Union County College campus in Cranford and renovation of its Plainfield campus, and several major "Turf and Build" public recreation projects.

A second layer of planning encompasses the complex challenges of sustainable development, transportation, infrastructure resilience, and competitiveness.

To address these issues, we have embarked a two-year initiative in partnership with Together North Jersey aimed at achieving a regional plan for sustainable development based on the principle that public health, safety and quality of life are essential to long-term economic growth.

That includes a new Union County Sustainable Communities Guide that we will share with stakeholders this fall, with the ultimate goal of forming a Livable Communities Network.

A significant element in our transportation planning is one-seat service to New York City on the Raritan Valley line. I pledged to push for that service as freeholder chairman this year, and NJ Transit set it in motion

on Monday, March 3.

The new one-seat service enables commuters using stations in Plainfield, Fanwood, Westfield, Garwood, Cranford, Roselle Park, and Union to travel to New York Penn Station without changing trains in Newark. It is currently available during the midday hours (for a printable Raritan Valley schedule with the new service highlighted in bold frames visit [njtransit.com](http://njtransit.com)).

Other aspects of our long-term planning include infrastructure hardening and a forthcoming report on competitiveness by the Heldrich Center at Rutgers University.

We are also continuing with our Union County Means Business networking sessions and Union County Women Mean Business, a special program introduced last year that aims to tap into the rich vein of skills and talents among women in our business community.

I hope you will join us in these efforts to prepare and plan for the future of Union County.

Keep up with Union County programs online at [ucnj.org](http://ucnj.org), at [ucnj.org](http://ucnj.org)/facebook, and at [twitter.com/countyofunionnj](http://twitter.com/countyofunionnj).



## Residents Can Recycle Electronics On March 29 in Cranford

CRANFORD – The County of Union will sponsor a recycling event for electronic equipment on Saturday, March 29, so Union County residents can get rid of unwanted computers, televisions and other electronic equipment in an environmentally proper manner.

The special E-cycling event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the campus of Union County College, located at 1033 Springfield Avenue in Cranford.

All residents of Union County are eligible to participate at no cost. There is a limit of six electronic items per car.

"Computer monitors, old televisions and other electronic devices are the source of a considerable amount of dangerous material, including lead, mercury, cadmium and PCBs – and it is unlawful to dispose of them with the regular garbage," said Freeholder Chairman Christopher Hudak, liaison to the Union County Solid Waste Advisory Board. "Up to 95 percent of most electronic appliances can be recycled. This is a responsible way to keep hazardous heavy metals out of our environment."

Electronic equipment that will be accepted on March 29 includes computer monitors, hard drives, modems, keyboards, CPU's, mice, printers, scanners, speakers, televisions, tablets and e-readers, VCR's, fax machines, telephones, circuit boards, CD's, DVD's and video cassettes.

All that residents need to do is drive to the site with their unwanted electronic equipment. Workers at the site will unload the vehicles.

Pre-registration is not required for this special Saturday collection.

Refrigerators, washers and dryers, microwaves, and air conditioners will not be accepted, but they are accepted at Union County's Scrap Metal Recycling Program.

A complete list of the materials that will be accepted on March 29 is available at the Union County Bureau of Recycling and Planning

website: [www.ucnj.org](http://www.ucnj.org).

The electronics collection will be held rain or shine, for Union County residents only and not for businesses. Proof of Union County residency is required.

In addition to the special March 29 recycling event sponsored by the County of Union, there are local businesses as well as 14 municipalities that provide E-cycling opportunities for residents. Visit the county website or call your municipal recycling coordinator for more computer and electronics recycling options.

Goodwill and Dell have teamed up to recycle computers. Goodwill in Union County is located at 126 Route 22 West, Springfield, next to Macy's Furniture. Call Goodwill at (973) 912-0156 for more details or visit their website: [www.reconnectpartnership.com](http://www.reconnectpartnership.com).

Best Buy stores now offer electronics recycling, including TVs, computer monitors, DVD players and other consumer electronics. Visit their website ([www.bestbuy.com](http://www.bestbuy.com)) for store locations, or call toll-free for information about electronics recycling: 1-888-237-8289.

Staples also offers a computer recycling program seven days a week. For more information, visit the Staples website for store locations: [www.staples.com](http://www.staples.com).

Waste Management accepts "covered electronics" (televisions, monitors, computers, etc.) at 629-647 Amboy Avenue, Elizabeth, Monday-Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; (908) 629-9270.

An alternative drop-off program for recycling electronics equipment is available Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at Newtech Recycling, located at 600-A Appar Drive, Somerset; (732) 564-3110. Visit [www.newtechrecycling.com](http://www.newtechrecycling.com).

For more information about recycling events, please call the Union County Recycling Hotline at (908) 654-9889.



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**TOWN OF WESTFIELD**  
**2014 BULK WASTE SCHEDULE**

**PERMIT REQUIRED**

A permit is required at a cost of **\$80.00**. *The amount of material placed at the curbside cannot exceed 750 pounds per permit.* More than one permit can be obtained. The permit fees must be paid for at the time of registration. Each registrant will be issued a placard to be displayed in a window visible from the street. Neighbors may share a permit, but all material must be placed at the address of the designated permit holder. **Permit fees shall be non-refundable.**

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Fill out the registration form contained in the brochure, detach it and either use the mail or in person registration as described below. The registration form can also be downloaded from the Town website at [www.westfieldnj.gov](http://www.westfieldnj.gov).

**Registration by Mail**

Permits may be obtained through the mail and are to be postmarked no later than the following schedule:

Ward	Postmarked no later than
<b>Ward 1</b>	May 16, 2014
<b>Ward 2</b>	May 23, 2014
<b>Ward 3</b>	May 30, 2014
<b>Ward 4</b>	June 6, 2014

Residents are to mail the completed registration form with a **check payable to "Town of Westfield" to the Department of Public Works, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, NJ 07090, Attention: Residential cleanup. DO NOT SEND CASH.** Permits will be mailed back to the resident. Registrants should have a general idea of what they will be placing at curbside when they purchase the permit to determine whether they will need to purchase more than one permit.

**Registration In Person**

Permits may also be obtained in person at the Westfield Public Works Center, 959 North Avenue, West. Residents are to complete the attached registration application and bring it to the above address along with a **check or money order** payable to the **Town of Westfield. Cash will not be accepted.** Permits will be sold in accordance with, **and not after**, the following schedule:

Wards	Days	Time
<b>Wards 1, 2, 3 &amp; 4</b>	Mon. - Fri.	8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
	Mon. - Fri.	8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
	Mon. - Fri.	8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
	Tues. - Thurs.	8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
<b>Wards 2, 3 &amp; 4 only</b>	Mon. - Thurs.	8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
<b>Wards 3 &amp; 4 only</b>	Mon. - Thurs.	8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
<b>Ward 4 only</b>	Mon. - Thurs.	8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**2014 BULK WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE**

Collection of materials will be made **BY WARD** according to the following schedule during the month of June. If you are unsure what ward you reside in, please call the DPW at 908-789-4100 ext. 4600. For more information on the Town's permit based cleanup program, please call: 908-789-4100 ext. 4600 or visit the Town Website at [www.westfieldnj.gov](http://www.westfieldnj.gov).

Collection of materials will be random within each ward; therefore, **material must be out at curbside by 6:00 p.m.**, on the Sunday before your designated week but no sooner than the Thursday before. Please be neat! **This is important because collection moves quickly and you will not be picked up if you do not have the materials curbside.**

<b>Ward 1</b>	June 2 - 6
<b>Ward 2</b>	June 9 - 13
<b>Ward 3</b>	June 16 - 20
<b>Ward 4</b>	June 23 - 27

# Negligence Cases



**Jon Bramnick**  
Certified Civil Trial Attorney

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