



**CLOSING THE GAP...**The Union County College Foundation raised nearly \$75,000 for the Close the Gap Campaign. This strategic initiative was established by key community leaders and elected officials to accelerate the pace of African-American student graduation rates. Pictured, from left to right, are: Union County College Foundation Executive Director Doug Rouse, Union County Freeholder Vice-Chairman Alexander Mirabella, Freeholder Andrea Staten, Union County College President Margaret M. McMenamin, Frank Bolden, Assemblyman Jamel Holley (D-20th, Roselle), and Freeholder Angela R. Garretson.

## UCC Foundation Raises Nearly \$75,000 for Campaign

CRANFORD - The Union County College Foundation celebrated a historic night by raising nearly \$75,000 at their fourth annual Close the Gap Cocktail Reception. The Close the Gap initiative was established by community leaders and elected officials to support the college's strategic initiative to accelerate the pace of African-American student graduation rates. This year, the Foundation honored Frank A. Bolden for his years of service as a member of the Union County College Board of Trustees and his generous support of the Close the Gap campaign.

Assemblyman Jamel Holley (D-20th, Roselle), one of the campaign's first supporters and honorary chair for the event, spoke about how UCC identified the issue facing the African-American students and developed a strategic response that has helped quadruple the African-American male graduation rates. He was joined at the event by Close the Gap supporter Assemblywoman Linda Carter (D-22nd, Plainfield), Freeholder Vice-Chairman Alexander Mirabella, along with Freeholders Andrea Staten and Angela Garretson also spoke highly of the successful initiative and presented Mr. Bolden

with a resolution outlining his many accomplishments that have made Union County College one of New Jersey's best community colleges.

Since the start of the campaign in 2015, over \$200,000 has been invested in scholarships, support, student programming, and emergency funding to help African-American students who are on course to graduate but need additional financial assistance.

When presenting Mr. Bolden with his award, UCC Board of Trustees Chairman Victor M. Richel stated, "The College is thankful for Mr. Bolden's continued support and service to improve the lives of Union students. He is a dedicated volunteer who has given much of his personal time and energy supporting the Close the Gap campaign to help increase the graduation rates of African-American students."

Those interested in learning more about how you can help accelerate the pace of student success and support the Close the Gap Campaign, or who would like to learn more about how you can provide financial assistance for students at Union County College, please call (908) 709-7505, email [foundation@ucc.edu](mailto:foundation@ucc.edu) or visit the Foundation's website at [www.uccfoundation.org](http://www.uccfoundation.org).

## New NJ Laws Focus on Trauma Treatment

TRENTON - Three new state legislative measures aimed at stemming gun violence by putting attention on mental health and counseling needs of gun violence victims were signed into law Monday.

The measures are sponsored by Assembly Democrats Lou Greenwald (D-6th, Voorhees), Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D-15th, Trenton), Gordon Johnson (D-37th, Teaneck), Dan Benson (D-14th, Hamilton Square), and Carol Murphy (D-7th, Cinnaminson).

"While acts of mass gun violence continue to pervade in communities throughout the country, most recently this weekend in El Paso, Tex., and Dayton, Ohio, we are taking action in New Jersey to prevent these atrocities from recurring by signing these three measures," Asm. Greenwald said. "With these new laws, we are placing our focus on community and hospital-based prevention services, which will be key to improving safety in our communities."

"Getting to survivors before they leave our hospitals is paramount to decreasing violence happening on our streets," Asw. Reynolds-Jackson said.

Specifically, the new laws in the package would: establish the "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative" in the Department of Human Services; require the Victim of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) to partner with trauma centers to provide referrals for trauma victims; mandate Level One or Level Two trauma centers provide hospital-based or hospital-linked violence intervention programs for firearm or stabbing related injuries.

According to a Assembly Democrats press release, nationally homi-

cide remains one of the leading causes of death among youth and young adults ages 15 to 34. Recurrent violence-related trauma accounts for up to 45 percent of all hospital trauma admissions. In some urban hospitals, up to 45 percent of patients treated for violent injuries like gunshot wounds are re-injured within a five-year period following discharge.

### DOT Work Begins on Interstate 78 in Hillside

STATE - Beginning at 10 a.m. Monday, August 5 until 4 p.m., and continuing daily, Monday through Friday, the right lane on I-78 eastbound express at Union Avenue in Hillside, Union County, will close from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. by the New Jersey Department of Transportation's (DOT) contractor, D'Annunzio and Sons, Inc., to create a work zone in the shoulder, which will then be milled and paved.

Following the completion of shoulder work, pavement preservation work will begin on the eastbound travel lanes, which will be overlaid with a High Performance Thin Overlay (HPTO). The work is taking place overnight, and all travel lanes will be open to traffic before the morning commute. A minimum of three lanes will remain open throughout the duration of the project between the express and local roadways.

Following the completion of the pavement preservation on the eastbound side of the roadway, work will begin on I-78 westbound beginning near Exit 58/ New Jersey Turnpike. The project is estimated to be completed by the fall 2020.



## Peyton's Peek at the Week in Politics

By Paul Peyton of The Leader/Times

### Westfield Among Towns To Garner DCA Grants

Westfield was one of 17 Main Street district organizations throughout the state that received grants last week totaling nearly \$350,000 from Main Street New Jersey (MSNJ).

Acting Governor Sheila Y. Oliver announced the grants during a ceremony at Spiotta Park in South Orange, Essex County.

This year marks the first time in its 30-year history that the MSNJ Program has awarded grants to designated MSNJ district organizations around the state, according to a Department of Community Relations (DCA) press release. Lt. Gov. Oliver is DCA commissioner.

The South Orange Village Center Alliance (SOVCA) will use the \$21,500 MSNJ grant it received to create a downtown "MusicWalk" in a centrally-located pedestrian walkway by adding music-related art and murals, pedestrian lighting, seating, a musical-themed bike rack, an interactive musical installation, and landscaping.

The Downtown Westfield Corp. received \$20,000. Westfield was the only Union County town to receive a grant. Other towns to receive grants are Bloomfield, Boonton, Bridgeton, Denville, Hammonton, Highland Park, Metuchen, Millville, Montclair, Mount Holly, Red Bank, Salem City, West Orange, Wodbury, and Vineland.

### Quijano Cheers Signing of Permanent 9/11 Victim Fund

Assemblywoman Annette Quijano (D-20th, Elizabeth) joined the chorus of supporters cheering the recent federal vote to make the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Act permanent.

"I applaud the federal government's decision to take action on the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Act and solidify its standing for all first responders who suffer health problems today as a result of their heroism years ago," she said. "We've all felt the impact of 9/11 in many different ways. Those who selflessly and bravely stepped in to help and the families who still need our support deserve the protection provided under the act."

"We will always remember the family and friends we lost on 9/11. And now, through the fund, we will also remember the sacrifice others have made to rescue survivors. The incredible acts of our first responders in the face of unspeakable tragedy will never be forgotten."

### Twenty NJ Towns Get Preservation Grants

Twenty New Jersey municipalities were awarded a total of \$2.5 million Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) grants. Each city received \$125,000.

Elizabeth and Roselle were the only Union County cities to receive funding. The other towns are: Berlin Township, Burlington City, Cape May City, East Orange, Egg Harbor City, Garfield, Glassboro, Hammonton, Key Port, Millville, Mount Holly, New Brunswick, Passaic, Paterson, Perth Amboy, Phillipsburg, Pleasantville and Woodbury.

### RFK Granddaughter Dies At 22 of Suspected Overdose

Saoirse Kennedy Hill, the granddaughter of Robert F. Kennedy, died suddenly last Thursday at the Kennedy compound in Hyannis Port, Mass., according to news reports Thursday. She was only 22. The cause of death is suspected to be an overdose. She was the child of Courtney Kennedy Hill, the fifth of Robert and Ethel Kennedy's 11 children. Her father, Paul Michael Hill, was one of four falsely convicted in the 1974 Irish Republican Army bombings of two pubs, according to news reports.

### GOP Lawmakers Praise New Anti-Corruption Law

Three Republican lawmakers are praising the signing of legislation (A-3766) that will expand the scope of state anti-corruption laws.

Senator Christopher Connors, Assemblyman Brian Rumpf, and Assemblywoman DiAnne Gove, (all R-9th, Forked River) say under A-3766, any person who holds or has held any public office, position, or employment will forfeit their pension or retirement benefit if convicted of sexual contact, lewdness, or sexual assault when the offense is related directly to the person's performance in, or circumstances flowing from the specific public office or employment held by the person. The new law also requires pension forfeiture if a person is convicted of the crime of corruption of public resources in the first degree.

"Unquestionably, the new law upgraded existing state anti-corruption laws to include more criminal acts unbefitting a public office or position," the lawmakers said. "...Individuals who commit acts of sexual assault, sexual contact or lewdness have absolutely no place in public service and, certainly, should not be entitled to a public pension on account of the seriousness of their crimes," they said.

### New Law Requires Transparency On College Tuition, Fees

Legislation requiring institutions of higher education as well as proprietary degree-granting institutions to improve transparency of tuition and fees has signed into law. The sheet will include information concerning the costs and the amount of debt that the student can expect to incur in attending that institution. It will also include information concerning the institution's graduation rate, student retention rate, and student loan default rate.

The governing board of public institutions of higher education and state colleges will be required to take additional steps to increase transparency regarding student fees.

### Twenty NJ Towns Get Preservation Grants

The New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC), New Jersey State League of Municipalities (NJLM), New Jersey Municipal Managers Association (NJMMA), and Government Finance Officers Association of New Jersey (GFOA) have joined forces to assemble a panel of finance officers, labor attorneys, and local governing body administrators that will provide management with effective strategies and recommended best practices on how to navigate what they say is an "uneven playing field created by the failure of state leaders to permanently extend the 2 percent cap on binding interest arbitration awards," which expired at the end of 2017.

"The temporary 2 percent cap on police and fire arbitration contract awards was an effective tool to control increasing salary costs and provide a solution to assist local governments in keeping property taxes down and costs under control. We urge you (municipal town councils) to pass a resolution urging the State Legislature and Governor to renew the 2 percent cap on Police and Fire Arbitration Contract Awards," the NJLM said in a memo on its website.

"One of the biggest mistakes made by the Legislature in recent memory was allowing the arbitration cap to expire at the end of 2017," said Senator Declan O'Scanlon (R-13th, Holmdel).

## Cranford Man, 19, Arrested In Police Vehicle Burglaries

CRANFORD - On Sunday, July 28, the Cranford Police Department discovered six Cranford Police vehicles parked at the Cranford Municipal Building were broken into overnight. The suspect gained entry to the vehicles by breaking their rear windows, according to a press release from the department.

Inside the vehicles, the suspect rummaged through police equipment stored in the trunk area and in one instance physically removed a gun vault, which was bolted into the vehicle. The suspect attempted to make entry to the gun vault, but was unsuccessful and only managed to steal a police "Raid" jacket with Cranford Police patches. The suspect caused over \$4,000 in damage during the commission of this crime, police said.

A thorough investigation led by the Cranford Police Department Investigative Division commenced and a person of interest was developed, by midweek, using video surveillance

from local businesses and residents. The suspect struck again on Friday, August 2, returning to the municipal building parking lot and breaking into several more police cars. This time the suspect stole three bulletproof vests, an entry tool kit and a police gear bag.

The investigative division was able to confirm the identity of the suspect by midday Friday and received charge approval from the Union County Prosecutor's Office for two arrest warrants, according to the press release.

On August 2 at 12:44 p.m. the Cranford Police Department Investigative Division arrested Jake Fichiera, 19, of Cranford, outside his residence. Fichiera was charged with four counts of criminal mischief and two counts of burglary and theft. He was processed and remanded to the Union County jail pending a detention hearing. Police recovered all three bulletproof vests, entry tool kit and police gear bag.

## Westfield 300 Kicks Off With Logo Contest

WESTFIELD, NJ - The Town of Westfield is preparing to commemorate its 300th anniversary in 2020 with the introduction of Westfield 300, a celebration that aims to engage, educate and inspire all residents to participate in a year-long series of programming and events.

To initiate this effort, the town has established a logo contest, which is open to all Westfield residents and businesses, to identify a winning entrant that best captures the spirit of the celebration and serves as the face of Westfield 300.

"The Westfield 300 celebration is an opportunity to bring the community together to not only pay homage to Westfield's unique and rich history, but to rally around a bold and shared vision for our future, one that establishes Westfield as a model 21st century live, work, play community," according to Mayor Shelley Brindle.

The logo should, first and foremost, be a reflection of Westfield 300's vision: bold, commemorative, current, and celebratory. It will be included on all signage, banners, marketing and promotional materials (digital and print), pins, clothing, and video used in connection with Westfield 300. Submissions will be accepted through Sunday, August 25 via email at [westfield300@westfieldnj.gov](mailto:westfield300@westfieldnj.gov).

and the winning entry will be unveiled in September after a selection process by the Initial Planning Committee. Additional guidelines and an online submission form can be found at [www.westfieldnj.gov/300](http://www.westfieldnj.gov/300).

"The creation of an iconic logo to appear on all Westfield 300 materials is an exciting first step to obtain community input and leverage the vast creative talent within the town," added Mayor Brindle. "We are in the process of establishing a soon to be announced Steering Committee to drive the year's activities intended to engage countless volunteers and empower as many community groups as possible to incorporate Westfield 300 into their 2020 plans and beyond. We look forward to every resident participating in some capacity."

**Support Local Journalism**

[goleader.com/form/subscribe](http://goleader.com/form/subscribe)

### The Family Law Department of Dughi, Hewit & Domalewski

*Jennifer L. Young, Esq. • Kristin M. Capalbo, Esq. • Mario C. Gurrieri, Esq.*

**3 Lawyers, 3 Levels of Experience, 3 Hourly Rates**

All designed to serve your interests in all aspects of divorce including custody, parenting time, relocation, distribution of assets, alimony, child support, college costs, prenuptial agreements, mediation, domestic violence, palimony and post-divorce changes in financial circumstances.

Mention this ad to receive a complimentary conference

**Dughi, Hewit & Domalewski, P.C.**  
340 North Avenue Cranford, New Jersey 07016  
(908) 272-0200  
[www.dughihewit.com](http://www.dughihewit.com)

The Law Office of

## FRANCIS M. SMITH, ESQ.

# INJURED?

## LEARN YOUR RIGHTS IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Do you really want to deal with the insurance companies yourself?

I can help.

OVER 30 YEARS OF PERSONAL INJURY EXPERIENCE IN NEW JERSEY

- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Slips & Falls
- Dog Bite Injuries
- Construction Accidents
- Wrongful Death

928 Mountain Avenue, Mountainside NJ 07092

908-233-5800 • [www.FrankSmithLaw.com](http://www.FrankSmithLaw.com)

NO FEE IF NO RECOVERY

CALL ME FOR A FREE CONSULTATION

### LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT G. STAHL, LLC

MOTOR VEHICLE TICKETS • DWI • DRUGS IN CAR STATE AND MUNICIPAL CRIMINAL COURT MATTERS -

CALL US TO SPEAK WITH OUR TEAM OF FORMER PROSECUTORS WHO CAN HELP.

CERTIFIED CRIMINAL TRIAL ATTORNEYS

53 Cardinal Drive, 3rd Floor, Westfield, NJ  
908.301.9001 • [www.stahlesq.com](http://www.stahlesq.com)

## Rely On Us to be Your Trusted Platform

Display Ad Creation  
Stand-Alone Inserts  
Email Marketing  
Website Banner Ads  
Promotional Bulletins

908-232-4407  
[sales@goleader.com](mailto:sales@goleader.com)