

GWACC Elects Four New Members to Bd. of Directors

WESTFIELD—The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) at its board of directors meeting held in May elected four new members to a two-year term of office, Ron Basky, Paul Mecca, Matthew Pejkoivic and Marta Alexandre. Maria Fuentes, GWACC Board President, said, "These new board members bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to our board and they will have a positive effect on the chamber."

Patricia and Paul's Artisans of Fine Oils and Balsamics, located on Elm Street in Westfield for the past five years. He also has a new venture as the publisher of Westfield Neighbors Magazine. He resides in Mountainside with his wife.

Mr. Pejkoivic is a vice-president and client advisor at J.P. Morgan Private Bank. He has over 13 years of industry experience advising wealthy individuals and their families, charitable organizations, entrepreneurs, corporate executives and



Ron Basky



Matthew Pejkoivic



Paul Mecca



Marta Alexandre

ciates. Allstate Insurance, specializes in auto, home, business, and life insurance and, in addition to their primary location on East Broad Street in Westfield, has a second office in Princeton Junction. He has been a part of the Westfield community since 2000, when he opened his first Allstate agency, which has received over 50 Awards from Allstate in recognition of their customer service and sales.

Mr. Basky supports various organizations in the community including the New Jersey Festival Orchestra and the Westfield Marching Blue Devils. Each year during the holiday season his company partners with Furniture Assist to collect toys for children of families in need. He has also served on the national and regional agency advisory boards for Allstate Insurance, as a board member for Liam's Room, and as a member of the Westfield Insurance Advisory Board. Mr. Basky resides in Westfield with his wife, Cindy, and two sons.

Mr. Mecca has 25 years of diversified experience as a corporate account executive, photography studio manager and sales manager. He has been part of the Westfield Community since 2013. He is the co-owner with his wife Patricia of

private business owners on strategies to preserve and grow investment capital. He has a range of experience including financial planning, traditional and alternative investment selection, asset allocation construction, portfolio analysis, estate planning, lending and risk management. He holds an MBA in finance from Baruch College and a BS in Marketing from Siena College. He is also on the New Jersey Board of After-School All-Stars and currently resides in Westfield with his wife and son.

Ms. Alexandre is currently the manager of Spencer Savings Bank in Garwood, which will be soon relocating to its newest location, the Westfield Financial Center, on North Avenue in Westfield. She started her career as a part-time bank teller.

She has been with Spencer Savings Bank for 15 years and been in the banking industry for 24 years. In addition to being part of the GWACC board, she has also a member of the Westfield Rotary Club since 2011. Ms. Alexandre has an associate's degree from Union County College and currently resides in Union with her husband, Nuno, daughter and son.



HELPING OUR VETS...Union County Freeholder Chairman Sergio Granados and Freeholder Alexander Mirabella presented resolutions to local residents, at the May 17 Freeholder meeting, honoring those who served in the military and those who provide services to military veterans while expressing gratitude during Military Appreciation Month. Those honored were: Joe O'Neil who is the president of Benner's Auto Body in Cranford, members of the New Jersey Veterans Network, the Union High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, U.S. Navy Petty Officer Josue Jaramillo and U.S. Navy Operations Specialist Jorge Vasquez, now a sergeant in the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Linda Carter Sworn In to Assembly Seat In District 22

TRENTON – Vowing to fight for affordable housing, education funding, tax relief, environmental protection and women and minority-owned businesses, Linda Carter took the oath to join the New Jersey General Assembly on Thursday, representing the 22nd Legislative District in Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties. She fills the seat left vacant by the passing of Assemblyman Jerry Green (D-22nd, Plainfield.)

"I am humbled and honored to be able to swear this oath and become a member of the General Assembly," said Ms. Carter, a Democrat. "Now it's time to roll up my sleeves and get to work in passing legislation to make New Jersey safer, stronger and more affordable."

Prior to joining the Assembly, Asw. Carter was elected as a Union County Freeholder in 2010, and became the first African-American woman to serve as the chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders in 2013.

"I know how hard Assemblyman Green worked in making housing more affordable in our urban communities, and I am committing to picking up that torch and making him proud."

NJ MVC Warns of Phone Scam

TRENTON — The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) has been notified that some customers may have been contacted via phone by persons identifying themselves as representatives of the MVC. These customers are being fraudulently told that their New Jersey (NJ) driving privileges are suspended.

The Motor Vehicle Commission wants to assure the public that unsolicited telephone calls are never made by the MVC to our customers. Customers are reminded not to make any monetary payments to anyone who calls them on the telephone and says that they represent or work for the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission. The MVC sends suspension notices through the mail services and does not call for payments.

Customers with questions are advised to call the MVC suspension and restoration information line at (609) 292-7500. Additional information is available on our website; www.njmvc.gov.

RVSA to Sue State Over Law Limiting Budget Hikes

By WAYNE BAKER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

RAHWAY — The board of commissioners of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) voted, May 17, to file a lawsuit against the state in the belief that a new law that limits budget increases of regional sewerage authorities to 2 percent is unconstitutional.

RVSA's board voted to bring suit in federal court against the state in regards to the newly-passed law that limits rate increases by authorities. This bill was among the last signed by former Governor Chris Christie before leaving office. The basic argument is that the law impairs the agreement between the RVSA and its member municipalities. The suit is expected to be consolidated with one already filed by the Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority and others expected to be filed by other authorities around the state. Because of a difference in their structure, Two Rivers had to name its municipalities as defendants. RVSA does not need to do that, officials said.

In other business, RVSA's Co-Gen black start project is nearing completion. The project has set up procedures and testing to ensure that in case of a power loss, the facility would be able to rapidly start its cogeneration equipment and reduce the load on the emergency generators. At the May 17 meeting, John

Buonocore, RVSA's staff engineer, said that functional testing was completed about a few weeks ago. He said that a test was being set up for PSE&G to shut down the power to the plant when a blackout occurred. That eliminated the need for that test and the costs involved. The transition worked as designed.

Clark Commissioner Frank Mazzarella asked about safety in cases where RVSA is generating power. Mr. Buonocore said the plant is automatically disconnected from the grid. Another question related to when the plant would transition out of "island mode;" the response was that the decision is made by an operator at RVSA who makes the determination based on perceived stability of the utility's power.

At April's meeting, it was revealed that the public-private partnership for treatment of food waste had begun. At this meeting, it was revealed that there is a possibility of modifications to the contract with Waste Management. The board was not asked to take action on this. Executive Director Jim Meehan described it as "some back and forth on equipment issues." He indicated that the monetary portion of the contract will not change.

Westfield's new commissioner, Marty Rothfelder, is working to arrange facility tours for Westfield's town council and other interested parties. It is expected that these tours will occur on Wednesday, June 20, and/or Thursday, June 21.

County Clerk Extends Hours For Primary

COUNTY – Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi has announced that her main office in Elizabeth will be open for special hours on Saturday, June 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for voters seeking last-minute mail-in ballots. Ms. Rajoppi's Annex Office in Westfield will also be open for ballots on June 2 for its regular Saturday hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Any voter can use a Vote-by-Mail ballot for any reason," said Ms. Rajoppi. "The special Saturday opening in Elizabeth helps ensure that voters can cast their Vote-by-Mail ballot in time to participate in the Primary Election. Voters can also use our Westfield office during regular Saturday hours to cast their mail-in ballot."

The County Clerk's office is located at the Union County Courthouse, 2 Broad Street, Room 113 in Elizabeth, and at the Colleen Fraser Building, 300 North Avenue East in Westfield. Voters can obtain their Vote-by-Mail Application, receive their ballot, fill it out, and cast it in a secure lock box at the Elizabeth or Westfield offices, all in one convenient "One-Stop" visit. Voters using the One-Stop service have until Monday, June 4 at 3 p.m. to obtain their ballot.

To visit the Elections Office in Elizabeth during the special June 2 hours, use the rear entrance of the Courthouse Com-

plex and proceed to Room 113. For complete details on Vote-by-Mail and all other election services call the County Clerk at (908) 527-4996, download the free Union County Votes app or visit the County Clerk's new elections website, unioncountytvotes.com. Information on all County Clerk services is available at ucj.org/county-clerk.

Poll Shows Tight U.S. Senate Race

MADISON – A new Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) Poll has Senator Robert Menendez holding a 4 percent lead, 28 to 24 percent, over his likely Republican fall opponent Bob Hugin, with 46 percent of poll respondents undecided.

"Senator Menendez's recent federal trial and bipartisan censure by his Senate colleagues are clearly taking their toll. It's not uncommon for incumbents to cruise to reelection, but these numbers suggest he's going to have to woo voters like he hasn't had to in a long time," said Krista Jenkins, director of the poll and professor of political science at FDU.

The Poll was conducted May 16 to 21 using a random sample of 856 adults in New Jersey aged 18 and older.



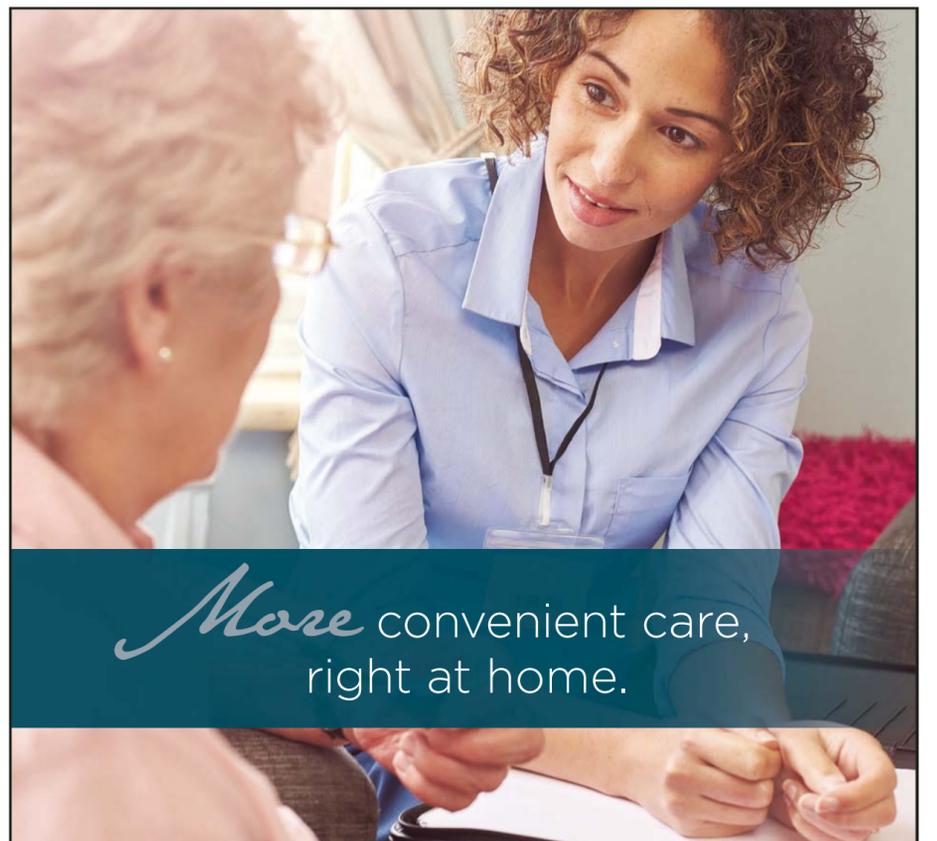
Asw. Linda Carter (D)

Mr. Green passed away on April 18 at the age of 79.

Asw. Carter previously served as a commissioner of the Middlesex County Utilities Authority, commissioner of the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition and Councilwoman at-large for the 1st and 4th wards on the Plainfield City Council, where she held the positions of council president and chairwoman of the Committee of the Whole, liaison to the housing authority, board of education and advisory board and chairwoman of the Public Safety Committee and Neighborhood and City Services Committee.

Asw. Carter also has a career as a public school teacher in Passaic and was formerly employed by AT&T.

"While it is my great privilege to have the opportunity to bring lasting change to my home district, this is not about me. This is about the people of Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties, and I will never lose sight of that."



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