

### Legislators' Office To be Open Feb. 16

WESTFIELD — The Westfield legislative office of Senator Richard H. Bagger, Assemblyman Thomas H. Kean, Jr., and Assemblyman Dr. Eric Munoz will be open to residents of the 21st Legislative District from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 16.

In addition to regular business hours on weekdays and one Saturday per month, Senator Bagger's office, located at 203 Elm Street in Westfield, is open from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

The 21st Legislative District includes Berkeley Heights, Chatham Township, Cranford, Garwood, Harding, Long Hill, Madison, Millburn, Mountainside, New Providence, Roselle Park, Springfield, Summit, Warren, Watchung and Westfield.

Further information may be obtained by calling the legislators' Westfield office at (908) 232-3673.

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TRENTON — Legislation that would protect New Jersey consumers from junk e-mail was approved January 31 by the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee.

The measure, sponsored by Assemblyman Tom Kean, Jr. (R-21st), would place strict limitations on the widespread practice of sending unsolicited commercial e-mail messages, often referred to as "spam."

"Junk e-mail costs the consumer time and money and, in its worst form, represents an unwarranted, often inappropriate, intrusion on individual privacy. More than 18 other states have already enacted laws regulating unwanted commercial e-mail. It is time for New Jersey to move forward on legislation that will put the power of the Internet back into the hands of the private citizen," said Assemblyman Kean.

The legislation, A-406, would require the sender of an unsolicited commercial e-mail message to include the word "advertisement" in the subject line of the message, as well as the name, mailing address, telephone number and return electronic mail address of the sender at the beginning of the message text. The date and time the message is sent must also be provided.

Recipients may request, by return electronic mail, that future unsolicited commercial electronic mail from the sender be discontinued.

Senders who did not comply within 30 days of the request would face penalties.

"This bill, if enacted, would not infringe on the right of legitimate companies to conduct business over the Internet. It would, however, ensure that the rights of the consumer remained paramount in New Jersey," commented Assemblyman Kean.

Identical legislation will be sponsored in the New Jersey Senate by Senator Richard H. Bagger (R-21st). A-406 now heads to the Assembly for a full vote.

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DECA SUMMIT...At a Fanwood Business & Professional Association meeting, DECA pupils gathered to discuss their projects and interviews with key corporate executives. Pictured, left to right, are: DECA student David Baumwoll, Tom Baker of the South Street Café, Fanwood Mayor Louis Jung, Peter Chemidlin of Family Investors, DECA student Ryan Crawford, Fanwood Downtown Coordinator Clayton Pierce, Fanwood Councilman Joel Whitaker, and DECA freshman students Michael Baumwoll, Christopher D'Annunzio and Jason Krueger.

### Fanwood Business Group Meets With DECA Pupils

SCOTCH PLAINS — Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA students attended a meeting with the Fanwood Business & Professional Association to discuss two of their major activities.

The students displayed their Scotch Plains-Fanwood Discount Card, which is now available at many local businesses at a nominal fee of only \$2, which covers the cost of printing.

The card entitles the user to discounts with over 60 participating businesses. The students explained the months long project and the research they conducted to determine the viability of the concept.

DECA students also discussed their recent interviews with many corporate executives as part of their research to determine the causes and effects of the recent recession, and if and how the September 11 terrorist attacks and the ongoing threat of terrorism has affected the national and global economies.

Among the corporations they visited were Pfizer, J.P. Morgan, Microsoft, Panasonic, McKinsey & Company, DeutscherBank, CreditSuisse, and First Boston.

The project is part of the student's goal of promoting the Free Enterprise System.

### Retired Colonel to Discuss N.J. Guard Since Sept. 11

WESTFIELD — Colonel Dennis J. Dougherty, retired Chief of Staff with the New Jersey National Guard and currently Special Assistant to the Adjutant General, will discuss the role of the New Jersey National Guard since September 11 on Friday, February 15, at the regular meeting of the Westfield Historical Society.

Members and guests of the Society, along with the general public, are invited to attend. The program is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building, located at 425 East Broad Street. There is no admission charge.

Prior to his retirement in 2000, Colonel Dougherty had served the New Jersey National Guard in a variety of command positions over a period of 28 years. These positions included providing combat service support to all elements of the 50th Armored Division and serving as Commander of the 57th Troop Command.

In his present role as Special Assistant to the Adjutant General, New Jersey National Guard, Colonel Dougherty serves as a Liaison between the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Reserve Officers Training Corps

(ROTC) detachments of New Jersey's high schools and colleges.

In civilian life, Colonel Dougherty is employed as a social studies teacher at Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark.

### Rink to Remain Open Through March 30

AREA — The Warinanco Ice Skating Center on Thompson Avenue in Roselle will remain open for the season until Saturday, March 30.

"The Warinanco rink is a great place to go with friends or family," said Union County Freeholder Deborah Scanlon, Liaison to the county's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. "Exercise is rarely this much fun."

Admission is \$4 for youth (17 and under), \$4.25 for senior citizens (62 and over) and \$5 for all other adults. Skate rentals are \$3 per person.

Discount cards may be purchased for Union County residents at the cost of \$40 for 10 visits and \$115 for 30 visits (both for adults), or \$30 for 10 visits and \$85 for 30 visits (both for youth and senior citizens). For information, please call (908) 298-7850.

## Assemblyman Munoz Urges Preparation For Biological Attack

SUMMIT — It's nearly five months after the devastating terrorist attack on the United States, and the State of New Jersey still does not have a real time anti-bio-terrorism plan in place and there appears to be little progress on developing one, says Assemblyman Dr. Eric Munoz.

The assemblyman, who is a trauma surgeon at the University of Medicine and Dentistry in Newark, has been urging the state to move quickly to adopt a bio-terrorism protection and response plan to protect residents against terror attacks using biological weapons. Munoz is especially concerned about the use of smallpox as biological weapon.

The assemblyman noted that President George W. Bush in his recent state of Union address, gave a high priority to preparing the nation against the ongoing threat of terrorism of all kinds, and noted that on the four key components of his homeland security strategy is bio-terrorism preparedness. "Bio-terrorism is a national concern and New Jersey should be at the forefront in having a response plan in place," said Munoz.

The assemblyman added that the Bush Administration has earmarked \$26.8 million to New Jersey to bolster the state's public health infrastructure so money should not be a problem in developing a bio-terror response plan.

"Given the threats to the U.S. that President Bush outlined, we should be moving far more quickly developing a 'real time' bio-terrorism response than we are doing right now," said Munoz.

Last November Munoz wrote to Gov. McGreevey and the state's two U.S. senators urging swift action on developing a bio-terrorism counter plan. He advocated a meeting with top pharmaceutical executives and state public health officials to discuss purchasing and stockpiling vaccines against smallpox and a system for vaccination starting with health care workers.

The assemblyman even wrote last month to Dr. Clifton Lacy, McGreevey's designee as state health commissioner, requesting a copy of the state's anti-bioterrorism prevention plan, but has received nothing so far.

"It is imperative that the leaders of New Jersey do whatever we can to implement an anti-bio-terrorism plan as soon as possible. The luxury of time is not on our side," said Munoz.

The assemblyman says the state needs to develop a comprehensive bio-terrorism response plan that includes vaccinations for emergency response personnel who would be the first line of defense in case of an attack. He also is advocating for more and better physician training to recognize and treat diseases such as smallpox.

"I would like the state to give protection against biologic attack a higher priority than it seems to be getting now," said Munoz. "The legislature should be involved immediately with the administration, public health professionals and pharmaceutical companies, now to develop a plan that will save lives. We simply cannot wait to address this issue until we have a crisis on our hands."

The assemblyman has begun meeting with public health officials and government leaders to discuss ways to address bio-terrorism. He hosted a meeting in December in Summit with public health officials, elected officials and legislators of the 21st Legislative District, who are concerned about the state's readiness for a bio-terrorism attack.

Among the areas of concern expressed by the meeting attendees were the lack of coordination and information sharing between state, county, municipal health officials and school nurses; the need for training and equipment for public health official and emergency responders, including police; and the lack of a priority vaccination plan and the need to educate the public about what to do if a bio-terror event takes place. Munoz is encouraging his fellow legislative colleagues to conduct similar public hearings.

Recently, Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes for Health said a smallpox attack on the U.S. is a "real threat" and advocated an open discussion on measures to minimize the threat through vaccinations.

The assemblyman said New Jersey, because of its location as an entry point to the U.S. and because of its dense and diverse population is a likely bio-terrorism target. He noted that the anthrax terrorists who unleashed toxic envelopes through the mail were apparently working out of New Jersey.

"I guarantee you that if and when terrorists unleash a biologic attack in

the United States. It's going to in and around densely populated areas like ours," said Munoz. "I'm not trying to be an alarmist but, bio-terrorism is a real possibility and we need to do a lot of work now to prevent a huge loss of life," he added.

The assemblyman, a recognized health care expert, said a widespread terrorist attack involving a highly contagious disease such as smallpox would quickly overwhelm medical facilities in New Jersey. "Anthrax is deadly, but it's not contagious and we have seen the damage it can do. A viral pathogen, such as smallpox would have far more devastating effects than anthrax," said Munoz.

### CFW Seeks Volunteers For 2002 Programs

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Center for Women and Families (CFW), a non-profit organization, is seeking volunteers throughout Union County to assist with their 2002 programs and activities.

Programs for 2002 include a children's theater benefit, a fashion show, potluck supper, and other fun activities.

The CFW provides professional counseling to adults, youths and families; free half-hour legal consultations; support groups for adults and children; community education seminars; workshops; job skills training and help-line referrals.

"In addition to assisting with our counseling programs, we are also seeking people who can provide liaison and outreach services with the municipal governments and local business communities in Union County," said Marilyn Vidovich, CFW President. "We welcome retirees, students, interns — anyone who has some spare time and a desire to help."

If interested, please contact the Center For Women at (908) 322-6007.

David A. Manning, LCSW, CADC  
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 (Union County Area)  
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