



21st District News

Media Must Help: Call to End Special State Spending

Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, Westfield

The budget process in Trenton was an example of why taxpayers are deeply concerned about the future. The Democrats, who have control of both houses of the legislature and the office of the governor, did not release the details of the budget until the late hours of Friday evening before the July 4th weekend. The debate began after midnight when most media representatives had left Trenton and legislators were exhausted from marathon sessions.

During the late night, it was slowly revealed that special pet projects, totaling hundreds of millions of dollars were carefully weaved into the budget document. At approximately 3 a.m., I respectfully asked the chairman of the assembly budget committee and all legislators to end the "pork barrel" spending.

In the past four years, spending has increased by \$6 billion, from \$22.5 billion to \$28.5 billion appropriated for fiscal year 2006. I ask for the help

of the media to carefully review the special projects and call for the end of this special spending.

I have listed below examples of these projects: \$37 million to Special Management Aid to balance Camden City's budget; \$500,000 to Montclair Board of Education - Desegregation Aid; \$1 million to Montclair Board of Education - Minority Student Achievement; \$1 million to Collingswood School District; \$300,000 for Alcyon Lake Dredging; \$200,000 for Lambertville Municipal Assistance; \$1.2 million for Jersey City Armory; \$20 million for Abbott Bordered Districts (Bayonne, North Bergen, Clifton, Hillside and Weehawken).

The property tax crisis in New Jersey has reached epidemic proportions. We must join together to speak out against "political spending." I hope this will be the last and final year of "special spending."

'Total Soul' to Perform At Echo Lake on July 20

MOUNTAINSIDE - Union County's free Summer Arts Festival concert series will continue on Wednesday, July 20, with a performance by Total Soul, a group of musicians offering a blend of Rhythm and Blues, classic Motown songs and contemporary hits.

The public is invited to attend this outdoor concert, which begins at 7:30 p.m. in Echo Lake Park, on the border of Mountainside and Westfield.

The Union County Education Association will sponsor the Total Soul concert.

Before the music begins, representatives from the Union County Department of Human Services and the Division on Aging will be stationed near the bandstand to distribute information about services offered by their agencies.

All Summer Arts Festival concerts are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the Springfield Avenue end of Echo Lake Park in Mountainside. Lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets are encouraged. A refreshment stand will be available at approximately 6:30 p.m.

In the event of inclement weather, concerts in the series move to Cranford High School, on West End Place off Springfield Avenue in Cranford. For up-to-date concert and rain information, please call the De-

partment of Parks, Recreation and Facilities hotline at (908) 352-8410 after 3 p.m. on the day of the concert.

The other free Wednesday night concerts in the series include: Mustang Sally, an all-female country and southern rock band, on July 27; Philadelphia Funk Authority, featuring high energy brass and popular music, on August 3; The Nerds, sponsored by Verizon, on August 10; The Fabulous Greaseband, sponsored by Wachovia, on August 17; Ed Palermo Big Band with Rob Paparozzi, sponsored by Schering-Plough, on August 24, and The Party Dolls, sponsored by Conoco Phillips-Bayway Refinery, on August 31.

On the evening of the August 17 Fabulous Greaseband concert, the Rummells Foundation will host a "Party in the Park" dinner as a fundraiser for Rummells Specialized Hospital of Union County.

The dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. in a tent at the top of the Summer Arts Festival hill. The \$35 admission charge includes dinner, beverages and preferred parking. For tickets and sponsorship information, please call (908) 771-5858.

For other concert information, or to find out about recreational activities, call the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities at (908) 527-4900.



MUSICALLY INCLINED...Clarinetists from the Westfield Community Band perform in a recent concert in the park.

Community Band Concludes Summer Concerts at Park

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Community Band, under the direction of Dr. Thomas Connors, brings its 93rd season of summer concerts to a conclusion in Mindowaskin Park on Thursday, July 21 at 7:30 p.m. The finale brings music that is both familiar and new to concertgoers in the park.

A feature for the evening will be "Belle of the Ball," by Leroy Anderson, well known for his music embracing American popular culture. In the early 1930s, Mr. Anderson was serving as band director of the Harvard University band when he was first noticed by Arthur Fiedler, conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. Mr. Fiedler encouraged him to write novelty pieces for the orchestra, which brought such hits as "Trumpeter's Lullaby," "Syncopated Clock" and "Sleigh Ride."

The band will continue their review of the music of Gilbert and Sullivan with the selection "Gilbert and Sullivan: Symphonic Suite." Gilbert and Sullivan were the masters of the light opera, known as operetta, at the end of the nineteenth century. With over a dozen of the finest musical theater productions to come from the Victorian era, Gilbert and Sullivan operettas continue to be immensely popular. The "Gilbert and Sullivan: Symphonic Suite" includes excerpts from three of their best known shows, "H.M.S. Pinafore," "The Mikado" and "The Pirates of Penzance."

Music that will be welcome to the young and young at heart will be Selections from "Star Wars." With the recent release of Star Wars, Episode Three, the saga is complete. While John Williams has composed music for dozens of movies, he is best

known for his work on the "Star Wars" movies.

Additional selections for the evening include "Sea Songs" by Ralph Vaughan Williams, "El Capitan," by John Philip Sousa, and "Handel in the Strand," by Percy Grainger.

Mindowaskin Park is located next to the Westfield Municipal Building at 425 East Broad Street. The event is free to the public; audience members are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the Presbyterian Church on the corner of East Broad Street and Mountain Avenue.

The band will complete their concert season on July 21 followed by the Westfield Community Swing Band on Thursday, July 28.

The Westfield Community Band is sponsored by the Westfield Recreation Department. For further information, please contact (908) 789-4080 or go to the band's website at westfieldcommunityband.com.

Rep. Ferguson on London Terrorist Attacks

"I am deeply saddened by the terrorist attacks in London, and my prayers and sympathies go out to every citizen in the United Kingdom, particularly those families who lost loved ones. The British people and the British government stood with us on September 11, 2001, and today the United States stands with the United Kingdom."

"The war on terror continues. The London attack will not diminish the resolve of nations that cherish freedom, and together we will continue to fight and defeat those who would maliciously attack innocent lives."



News From Trenton

FY 2006 Budget Launches New Era of Responsibility

By Acting Governor Richard Codey

The final passage of the FY 2006 budget has launched a new era of fiscal responsibility for New Jersey State government.

This \$27.9 billion budget has a decrease in overall spending, eliminating \$275 million in expenses through spending cuts and efficiencies.

This budget is lean but humane - New Jerseyans can continue to count on the aid and services they need and deserve:

Senior Citizens will still receive a property tax rebate check of up to \$1200; Working families will receive FAIR checks of up to \$350; yearly 75 cents of every dollar goes back to taxpayers in the form of grants and aid; one-third of the budget (\$9.36 billion) is dedicated to education assistance; numerous increases in healthcare funding and a continued commitment to enforcing ethics and accountability in government.

With this budget, gimmicks and speculative spending are a thing of the past. The result is a fair, responsible and disciplined budget that works for all the people of New Jersey.

For more information on the FY 2006 budget, visit the State website at <http://www.nj.gov/>.

NJ Honors its Fallen Heroes

Recently, the State honored those brave New Jersey servicemen who perished in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom by creating the Fallen Heroes Memorial at the War Memorial in Trenton. The Memorial was unveiled at a ceremony on May 25th and displays the names of each of these valiant Americans.

The memorial is open for public viewing Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In addition, a website has been created to bring the Memorial to those who cannot make the trip to Trenton. Please visit www.nj.gov/fallenheroesmemorial and take a moment to pay tribute to those New Jerseyans who have given their lives in service to their country. They made the ultimate sacrifice, and we must make sure they are never forgotten.

Inspector General Sets New Standard for State Government

Legislation has been signed that officially codifies the Office of the Inspector General into law, making it a permanent part of New Jersey

government.

The Office of the Inspector General was created earlier this year and has already proven to be a vital resource for New Jersey. Mary Jane Cooper, the state's first Inspector General, worked quickly to thoroughly investigate the School Construction Corporation and propose reforms that are being implemented and will make the SCC more efficient and responsible.

By making the position permanent, accountability, integrity and confidence is the new standard for State government.

New Monitoring Improves Safety for New Jersey Children

In today's world, we must use every available tool to better protect our children. A new program will allow New Jerseyans to use newly developed technology to do just that.

A bill that will initiate the use of Global Positioning Technology in monitoring sex offenders met final legislative passage. The legislation requires the Chairman of the State Parole Board, in consultation with the Attorney General, to establish a two-year pilot program for the continuous monitoring of certain sex offenders. In addition, it authorizes annual polygraph tests of those offenders.

Up to 250 convicted sex offenders will be monitored under the pilot program. They would include those who have been determined to have a high risk of offending again.

Westfielder Named To Insurance Panel

WESTFIELD - Governor Richard Codey recently nominated Raymond Kramkowski, an attorney from Westfield, for appointment to the state's Automobile Insurance Territorial Rating Plan Advisory Commission.

The commission's goal is to create a standard territory map that can be used by all insurance companies that service New Jersey.

Mr. Kramkowski is nominated to replace current commissioner Cyndi Bowman. Eight others were nominated to the commission, but only two others were to replace current members.

Mr. Kramkowski is a resident attorney at Kramkowski, Fabricant and Bressler and on the House Council for Liberty Mutual Group. He graduated from Seton Hall University School of Law in Newark in 1979.

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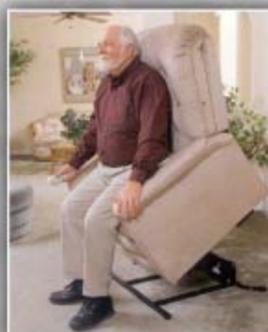
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