



Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of The Leader/Times

Recount Upholds Mayor Races In Linden, BH

Linden City Councilman Richard Gerbounka's victory over long-time Mayor John Gregorio was upheld Monday by the Board of Elections in Scotch Plains. The victory reduced Mr. Gerbounka's from 113 to 108 votes. The victory by Berkeley Heights Mayor David Cohen was also upheld over write-in candidate John Miller, a former councilman.

Corzine Makes Visit To NJ Troops In Iraq

Governor Jon Corzine met with military leaders and New Jersey troops during a visit to Iraq and Kuwait on November 29. The former U.S. Senator said he now believes more troops are needed to reduce violence in Iraq, according to a Star Ledger report. He said New Jersey would likely have more National Guard troops called to duty in Iraq over the next three years. The governor visited with servicemen from the state's 250th Brigade Support Battalion and the 102nd RSTA. Governors George Pataki of New York, Jon Huntsman of Utah and Ted Kulongoski of Oregon traveled with Governor Corzine on this trip.

NJ Business Group

Opposes Family Leave

Phil Kirschner, president of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, told New Jersey's 101.5 FM that a family-leave bill would be costly to business owners due to costs associated with replacement workers, overtime and training. He said funding through

Parkinson's Group Posts Holiday Party

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Parkinson Support Group will hold its annual holiday party at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, December 11, in the Parish House Lounge of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, located at 140 Mountain Avenue.

Individuals with Parkinson's disease and/or their caregivers are invited to join the festivities. Refreshments will be provided, as well as a short photo presentation of Barbara Ringk's recent trip to Kenya.

The non-denominational group meets regularly on the second Monday of each month. It provides speaker programs, a lending library and other information and support for those coping with Parkinson's disease.

The meetings are free of charge. For more information, call Barbara Ringk at (908) 322-9214 or the church office at (908) 233-0301.

the Temporary Disability Insurance Fund would not be sufficient to pay for three months of paid leave per applicant. An Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling at Rutgers reported that its recent survey found 78 percent of respondents favored paid leave.

DeCroce Says Income Tax Hike Is Wrong

Assembly Republican Leader Alex DeCroce said he hopes a statement in *The Burlington County Times* made by Assemblyman John Burzichelli, co-chair of the joint legislative committee studying property tax reform, was not serious when he said, "the issue of the income tax is going to be in play."

"New Jersey families are being bled to death," Mr. DeCroce said. "After five years of Democrat policies that have resulted in \$6 billion in new state taxes, \$10 billion in increased spending, \$37.5 billion in new debt and an average 35-percent jump in property taxes, the last thing people need is another tax hike.

"Democrats like Burzichelli just don't get it. We don't need to raise taxes to lower property taxes. That's not reform. What we need to do is control spending at every level of government, particularly at the state level."

Mr. DeCroce said Democrats should stop looking at creating new toll roads and raising state taxes and instead "seriously attack government waste and control spending."

AC Council Considers Smoking Ban in Casinos

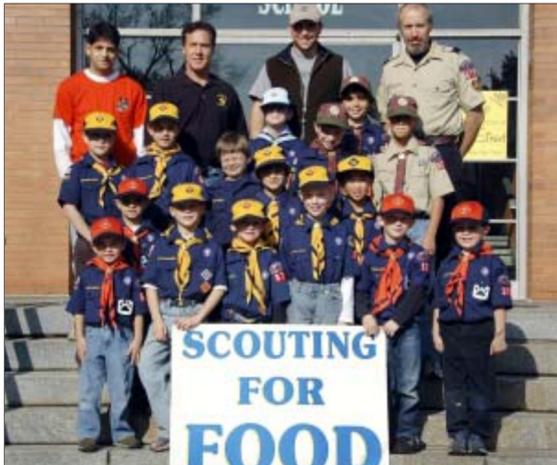
The Atlantic City Council has scheduled to hold a public hearing and to vote on an ordinance that would expand the statewide smoking ban in public places to Atlantic City casinos. The state's ban exempts the casinos from the law. Casinos have threatened to sue if the city enacts the smoking ban, according to a New Jersey 101.5 FM report.

Westfield Businesses Provide Parking Coins

WESTFIELD - Participating businesses in downtown Westfield provide one-hour parking coins to their customers. The coins can be used at any meter or pay station in town. The Downtown Westfield Corporation says it has sold 12,000 tokens to businesses for this program.

The Town of Westfield offers free on-street two-hour metered parking from December 1 to December 25.

The town also sells parking tokens and refillable parking cards. They can be purchased at the Office of Parking Services, located at 425 East Broad Street.



BANK ON IT... On November 11, more than 25 members of Jefferson School Pack 673 combined to contribute over one hundred bags of food to the Holy Trinity Food Bank at this year's Scouting For Food event.

DWC Announces Westfield Holiday Event Schedule

WESTFIELD - More than 100 holiday events are being planned in Westfield as part of the annual "Welcome Home to Westfield" celebration. The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) recently completed the production of the "Welcome Home to Westfield" brochure which is available at westfieldtoday.com and at downtown stores.

In the tradition of the holidays, the DWC will also sponsor entertainment for the remainder of the season. The Yuletide Carolers "Dickens" carolers, will perform at 105 Elm Street 3C Court Park on December 9, 16, and 23 from 1 to 2 p.m. Escape - Women's Barbershop Quartet will perform while strolling in downtown stores and restaurants on Thursday evenings, December 7, 14 and 21, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Watson Highlanders Bagpipe Band will perform while strolling around downtown every Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. on December 9, 16 and 23. The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts alphorns will perform every Thursday from 7 to 8 p.m. at the corner of Elm and East Broad

Streets.

In addition, the DWC is sponsoring free historic trolley rides on December 9, 10, 16 and 17 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Historic tours will be presented by members of the Westfield Historical Society offering interesting information about historic Westfield and its downtown. Overnight accommodations for the trolley driver are being provided by The Best Western Westfield Inn and two cans of food are being encouraged for the Knights of Columbus Holy Trinity Food Drive.

Free on-street two-hour meter parking is being provided by the Town of Westfield now through December 25 at the bagged metered locations. Visitors are reminded to still pay at the pay stations in the lots.

Parking tokens and smart cards (refillable up to a \$200 value) make great holiday gifts and can be purchased at the Parking Services Department in the Westfield Police Station at 425 East Broad Street.

For more information, contact the DWC at (908)-789-9444 or visit the DWC website.

Santa Train to Run Through Westfield, Raritan Stations

AREA—This year's Santa Train trip, operated by the Jersey Central Chapter, will be held on Saturday, December 9. The train will depart from Raritan at 8:30 a.m. and from the South Avenue location of the Westfield Station at 9 a.m. and at 1 p.m. There is no afternoon departure from Raritan.

The trip features Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, along with a few of Santa's helpers. Santa pays a visit to each car and is always willing to pose for a few pictures. There are sing-a-longs, candy canes and coloring books for the kids. In addition, each car on the train features a drawing for a miniature train set.

The train operates west from Westfield to Highbridge and back, a two-hour trip.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Seating is limited, so organizers recommend buying tickets in advance. Tickets are available at the following retailers: Big-Little Railroad Shop, located at 63 West Main Street in Somerville; Brunners Optician, located on East

Broad Street in Westfield; Redelico's Paint Center, located at 118 West Main Street in Somerville; the Model Railroad Shop, located on Vail Avenue and New Market Road in Piscataway, and Toysland, located at 29 Alden Street in Cranford.

Any remaining available tickets will be sold at the Westfield Station the day of the trip; there will be a \$1 surcharge per ticket, and only cash and checks will be accepted.

Anyone who wishes to purchase tickets for groups of 10 or more can call the JCRHS hotline at (908) 233-3603 or e-mail webmaster@jcrhs.org.

Anyone with questions can e-mail santa@jcrhs.org.

The Westfield station is located between North and South Avenues. There is free parking on the South Avenue side of the station on Saturdays. Metered parking is available on the North Avenue side of the station. The Raritan station is located between Thompson and Anderson Streets.

If handicapped access is required, contact (908) 233-3603.

UC Meeting to Discuss County Bicycle Master Plan

AREA - A meeting to focus on planning new bicycle routes in Union County will take place next week, announced the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The Union County Division of Planning and Community Development has scheduled the public meeting for Tuesday, December 12, at the Cranford Recreation and Parks Department building from 2 to 4 p.m.

The existing bicycle map and guide is almost 25 years old," said Freeholder Daniel P. Sullivan, Transportation Advisory Board liaison. "This meeting will focus on how to update the map and guide and create safer routes for all county residents regardless of how they use a bicycle."

This is the second meeting of the Union County Comprehensive Bicycle Master Plan Project. In addition to planning various bicycle routes, the planners will discuss challenges in creating the new routes and the development of an integrated

bikeway system that includes on-road and off-road facilities.

"We are encouraging the public to be a part of this meeting," Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella said. "Resident input is critical in the planning process; we need to know what their needs and concerns are."

The Comprehensive Bicycle Master Plan Project is designed to encourage the functional and recreational use of bicycles in Union County.

Upon completion, residents will have access to new routes and a new map. Guidelines will also be offered that can be used to encourage the safe use of bicycles in the future.

The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and the County of Union provide funding for the project. A consultant team led by The RBA Group has been awarded this contract.

The meeting will be held in room 204 of the building, located at 220 Walnut Avenue in Cranford. On-site parking is available.

PERSONAL INJURY LAW

Call
JON M. BRAMNICK
CERTIFIED TRIAL ATTORNEY
BRAMNICK, RODRIGUEZ, MITTERHOFF, GRABAS & WOODRUFF, LLC
WWW.JONBRAMNICK.COM
1827 East Second Street, Scotch Plains
908-322-7000

For All Your Business, Tax & Financial Needs

SCHEMBRE & GANNON
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Call for an appointment
Visit our website at: www.sg-cpas.com

282 South Avenue, Suite 103
Fanwood New Jersey, 07023
Tel: 908-889-9500

Don't Forget! Pick up your monthly edition of Wine News at . . .

PETERSON'S WINES
1120 SOUTH AVENUE, WEST
WESTFIELD, NJ 07090
908-232-5341

Smart Wines
From Everywhere at Every Price

MULDERBOSCH CHENIN BLANC \$13.99	BERERD DOMAINE DE LA MADONE BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU \$8.99	NINFA RIPANA PASSERINA \$11.99
-----------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

South Africa's traditional favorite white grape is Chenin Blanc. This is both complex and food friendly. Pineapple, guava, and lemon & lime come through against a backdrop of nutmeg, clove and a hint of mineral. Great before dinner or with light chicken or fish.

This wine proves that what is in a bottle of Nouveau can actually be more interesting than what is on it. This family owned estate has been around since the 16th century and they know what they are doing. Grapey and easy drinking? Yes. But also some depth and earth. **THE Nouveau** to buy.

Passerina is one of 864 grapes you can legally make wine out of in Italy. Nobody has heard of it. But it is a delight alternative to that same old every day pinot grigio. Floral, lemon and pear tones are perfect before dinner or with a light fish.

Your Favorite Wines

Blackstone Merlot	\$8.99	750ml
J Lohr Chardonnay	\$10.99	750ml
Simi Chardonnay	\$12.99	750ml
BV Coastal Cabernet/Merlot	\$7.99	750ml
Hess Select Chardonnay	\$9.99	750ml
Toasted Head Chardonnay	\$10.99	750ml

Your Favorite Value Wines

Mondavi Coastal Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$16.99	1.5L
Beringer Founders Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$15.99	1.5L
Woodbridge Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$10.99	1.5L
Vendange Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$6.99	1.5L
Fetzer Cabernet/Chardonnay	\$12.99	1.5L
Cavit Pinot Grigio	\$11.99	1.5L
Walnut Crest Cabernet	\$8.99	1.5L
Cesari Pinot Grigio	\$10.99	1.5L
Bolla Soave	\$10.99	1.5L
Beringer White Zinfandel	\$8.99	1.5L
Franzia Burgundy/Chablis/Chianti	\$10.99	5L
Carlos Rossi Burgundy/Chablis/Paisano/Sangria	\$9.99	4L
Opici Homemade Barbarone	\$11.99	4L

Wine Of The Week
Wild Earth Central Otago Pinot Noir \$29.99

Central Otago is the world's southern most winemaking region. Situated in the heart of the Southern Alps at the bottom of New Zealand's South Island, it is a perfect cool weather climate for producing high quality, small production pinot noir. This is very rich. It has lots of black currant, spice, plum and earth and gamey quality. You should decant for 30 minutes to fully appreciate all it has to give. From ribs to turkey - this works.

Your Favorite Cordials

Baileys	\$17.99	750ml
Romana Sambuca	\$17.99	750ml
Kahlua	\$16.99	750ml
Southern Comfort	\$14.99	750ml
Amaretto Di Saronno	\$18.99	750ml

Your Favorite Vodka

Absolut 80	\$30.99	1.75L
Ketel One	\$35.99	1.75L
Grey Goose	\$26.99	750ml
Smirnoff	\$19.99	1.75L
Stolichnaya	\$30.99	1.75L
Skyv	\$24.99	1.75L
Wolfschmidt	\$13.99	1.75L
Gordons	\$14.99	1.75L

Your Favorite Scotch

Dewars White Label	\$29.99	1.75L
Chivas Regal	\$53.99	1.75L
Johnnie Walker Black	\$56.99	1.75L
Johnnie Walker Red	\$29.99	1.75L
Clan MacGregor	\$16.99	1.75L

Your Favorite Whiskey

Jack Daniels	\$36.99	1.75L
Jim Beam	\$24.99	1.75L
Seagrams 7	\$15.99	1.75L

Your Favorite Gin

Bombay Sapphire	\$35.99	1.75L
Tanqueray	\$31.99	1.75L
Hendricks	\$27.99	750ml
Beefeater	\$28.99	1.75L
Gordons	\$14.99	1.75L
Seagrams	\$16.99	1.75L

Your Favorite Rum

Captain Morgan	\$24.99	1.75L
Bacardi Silver	\$19.99	1.75L
Bacardi Gold	\$19.99	1.75L
Malibu	\$23.99	1.75L

FALL SPECIAL!
10% OFF Any 2 bottles of wine with this coupon
Mix & Match is O.K. Sale items are excluded. 750ml only. Expires 12/13/06

Gift Baskets
Our Gift Baskets make Holiday Shopping Easy! Pick from our ready-made selections or let us design something special for you.

20% OFF Any 12 bottles or more of wine
10% OFF Any 6 bottles or more of wine
Mix & Match is O.K. Sale items are excluded. 750ml only.

HOURS: Mon. - Sat. 9am to 9:30pm • Sun. 12pm to 8pm
We reserve the right to limit quantities while quantities last. Not responsible for typographical errors. All prices do not include state sales tax.