

Union County News UC Marine 1 to Make Our Port Area Safer

Bette Jane Kowalski
Freeholder Board Chairwoman

Citing the need to provide increased security to industrial plants along the coastline of the "most dangerous two miles" of America, my freeholder colleagues and I recently unveiled UC Marine 1, a new homeland security vessel that will patrol the Arthur Kill and Newark Bay waterways.

The Union County Police will operate the vessel, a 36-foot SeaArk Dauntless model with firefighting, diving, tugging and rescue capabilities. The vessel has two 360-horsepower engines to power its motor, as well as an additional engine that enables it to pump and fire 1,000 gallons per minute of water at a distance over 100 yards. The vessel was dedicated to Union County residents who have served or continue to do so in the Gulf wars.

We christened the vessel at the Veterans Waterfront Park in Elizabeth, home to one of the nation's largest container ports, and of course, Newark Liberty International Airport. We were joined by war veterans from our county police, prosecutor's office and sheriff's office, who attended in uniform. During our ceremonies, we acknowledged three Union County residents who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Gulf wars:

U.S. Army Sergeant Steven Checo, 22, of Elizabeth, was killed in Afghanistan on December 12, 2002; Sergeant First Class Gladimir Philippe, 37, of Linden was killed in Iraq on June 25, 2003, and Private First Class Stephen Benish, 20, of Linden was killed in Iraq on November 28, 2004.

Our nation is eternally grateful to our Iraq war veterans and their families for the sacrifices they have made. One veteran, Lieutenant Robert McGuire of the Union County Police, spoke at the event. Lt. McGuire serves as a master sergeant in the Army Reserve and served as an adviser and trained Iraqi national troops in Iraq.

"I would like to thank the freeholder board and the county for their efforts in assisting our veterans and remembering them today," Lt. McGuire said.

The location was appropriate, as the vessel is intended to provide a level of deterrence, surveillance and response to incidents along the Chemical Coastline, which is also in the area. Even with the additional funding allocations made to Union County and the six other counties under the Urban Area Securities Initiative (UASI), it is important to note that the State of Montana still receives more Homeland Security fund-

ing per capita than New Jersey.

Terrorism experts have estimated a worst-case attack could bring harm to more than 12 million people in a 14-mile radius, including the New York-New Jersey region that includes our coastline, our port and airport. In fact, security experts argue there are still many vulnerabilities that need to be addressed by the federal government and private sectors.

There are more than four million containers that arrive in the port alone each year; many are still unsecured or uninspected. The county vessel represents a step in the right direction. The vessel, which cost \$541,000, was paid for with federal Homeland Security funds obtained through the efforts of the county's Homeland Security Committee, chaired by Freeholder Chester Holmes and including Freeholders Rick Proctor and Nancy Ward. The county police will provide a three-man complement on the vessel and will patrol county waterways, including the Arthur Kill and Newark Bay, home to the nation's second largest container port, a refinery, chemical plants, rail lines, the Goethal's Bridge and Newark-Elizabeth Liberty International Airport.

The two-level boat contains a sophisticated radar and GPS navigation, a long-distance zoom lens camera system, thermal imaging and infrared systems for night surveillance. The vessel can hold as many as 12 people, and is equipped with a water pump to fight fires, a water rescue basket, diving amenities and a towing system.

"The vessel has such a powerful navigation system that if you covered it with blankets, you would be able to maneuver it to where you need to go," said my colleague Freeholder Dan Sullivan, who also spoke at the christening.

At the press conference, Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage said the vessel "will add an additional layer of security" along our city's coastal front.

The city is constructing a new \$7 million fire facility less than a mile from the waterfront that will house a Hazardous Material Team and engine and ladder companies, which will better safeguard residents in the Port area. Rest assured that working hand in hand with municipal partners such as Elizabeth, the freeholder board will continue to explore new ways of improving our Homeland Security in the years ahead.

Cranford Rolls Back Fees Charged for Senior Courses

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — Seniors in Cranford can soon exercise, take a pottery class or watch a movie at the Community Center at no charge.

Seniors attended the township committee's July 16 workshop meetings to convey their concerns over fee alterations to the program, a measure passed by the governing body on April 3.

Prior to the fee increase, Beginner Tai Chi and yoga were \$10, while the other social, recreational, educational and cultural activities offered at the Cranford Community Center on Walnut Avenue were free. Now, the programs cost \$10 each, with Tai Chi and yoga augmented to \$15.

Although the township has an initiative to increase fees to help offset funding problems, at the committee's official meeting on July 17, the governing body adopted an ordinance to offer seniors aged 60 and over free courses.

The township committee assessed that the township would bring in \$5,580 a year if the program were fee-based. Commissioner George McDonough was the first to advocate a gratis senior program during the workshop meeting.

"It serves the social, physical and mental (well-being for seniors)," he said.

The other four commissioners were not as apt to revert back to free classes.

"What I've advocated and I continue to advocate is that the programs need to be geared towards user fees," said Commissioner David Robinson. However, Mr. Robinson voted in favor of adopting the ordinance.

At the workshop meeting Deputy Mayor Robert Puhak recommended setting up a requested fee and required fee where seniors could choose to pay the required fee or pay what they deemed appropriate.

"Why don't we embarrass them while we're at it," Mr. McDonough responded.

Seniors in attendance thought that would not work and would be awkward to admit that they did not have the \$10 required fee.

Some seniors said if the township were to charge for classes, they would no longer be able to attend.

"I think that many take four classes

a week, and they take it all year long," Holly Phillips of Columbia Avenue. "If we're exercising, we need it all the time. You need your brain stimulated all the time. Some people come in and say, my doctor said you're doing really good; keep up the classes."

Other free programs offered to residents this summer include Movies Under the Stars every Friday night at dusk at Hanson Park on Springfield Avenue, the classic rock band, Brother John Brown, will perform downtown on July 27 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. and a dog trainer from Animal Planet will share training tips at The Mill on August 5 from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

The Citizen Police Academy will offer a 10-week course beginning Saturday, September 15. Citizens learn how police officers perform their duties, and the course includes patrolling with officers and a simulation of pulling over a driver.

During Tuesday night's meeting, the committee also adopted ordinances to permit sidewalk cafes at restaurants along Centennial Avenue and allow Elements for Women, a high-end adult fitness center, to occupy 4,600 square-foot of Cranford Crossing, the new development along South Avenue.

Resolutions were passed to build a double slide at the Centennial Avenue pool and to execute an agreement with the County of Union for replacement of the Springfield Avenue bridge and relocation of the sanitary sewer line.

ACA Critical of FCC's Digital Proposal

REGIONAL—The American Cable Association (ACA) filed comments with the Federal Communications Commission on July 16 expressing its extreme concern about the proposals and conclusions reached by the Commission in its Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule-Making.

The ACA stated in its filing that the commission's proposed digital broadcast carriage obligations are unconstitutional, and their implementation would cause small cable operators, particularly all-digital providers, to incur additional costs that would affect cable customers.



Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of The Leader/Times

AG's Office Serves Subpoena On Somerset Parks Commission

The state Attorney General's office last week served a subpoena on the Somerset County Parks Commission after a report criticized the commission for billing taxpayers for golf outings, dinners and luxury travel, as well as homes at little or no rent and cars with free use of gasoline for senior staff members, according to nj.com.

The report was commissioned by the Somerset County freeholders following the arrest of an employee for charges of accepting kickbacks for contracts.

The Somerset freeholders ordered the commission to implement the recommendations noted in a report on spending and operations abuses. The board warned that if the recommendations are not acted upon they might dissolve the 50-year commission and assume the operations of the county parks.

Lynch Loses Pension For Years in State Legislature

The state's Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) board last week took action to strip former State Senate President John Lynch of the annual \$27,000 he has earned for over 20 years in the Legislature. His pension will be recalculated to include only the nearly 12 years he served as East Brunswick mayor, the

report stated. Lynch is serving a 39-month jail term in federal prison for corruption.

Sen. Kenny Injured In Hoboken Accident

Doctors told the Jersey City Journal that injuries sustained by State Senate Majority Leader Bernard Kenny on the morning of July 18 were not consistent with his statement that he tripped over a pothole during a morning jog on July 18 in Hoboken. Initial press reports said Mr. Kenny was seriously injured after a car hit him. Reports said the lawmaker broke his femur and collarbone, fractured his pelvis in four places, broke his nose and dislocated his right shoulder. Mr. Kenny is among 12 senators who are not seeking reelection after long tenures.

Hudson County Prosecutor Edward DeFazio told the paper that Mr. Kenny's injuries might have been the result of a "hit and run" car accident.

Corzine Rejects Deal For Takeover of Roads

Gov. Jon Corzine last week rejected an un-solicited proposal by a private company to take over the operations of the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway and raise tolls by 173 percent by 2009, according to the Gannett Newspapers.

goleader.com



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Smart Wines

From Everywhere at Every Price

VILLEMAINE PINEAU D'AUNIS ROSE TOURAINE \$14.99

You are not going to find this in a stack at your local discounter. The Pineau d'Aunis is a very rare grape from the Loire that is on the verge of extinction. This lovely dry rose has spice, cherry and citrus, as well as a firm mineral and acid background. Think chicken, fish, or spicy Asian food. Or just drink it out of pure joy.

FINCA CORONADO \$29.99

This very fine red blend is an excellent ambassador for all that is right about the Spanish wine boom. Made under pristine modern conditions, it still reflects the earth and stone character of the soils that is traditionally Spanish. Full of lush black fruit and berry tones and is more than rich enough for a steak.

KEITH TULLOCH PER DIEM RED \$15.99

Tulloch, based in the Hunter Valley in New South Wales Australia, has a keen eye for all kinds of good wine growers around Australia. This blend of grenache, mataro / mouvedre and cabernet sauvignon comes from sites around South Australia. Wonderful complexity, with cherry, plum and cassis fruit and little chocolaty earth notes. A great wine for burgers or ribs.

Wine Of The Week

Le Cellier du Palais Chardonnay Vin de Savoie \$21.99

If you think you don't like chardonnay, or you think chardonnay has said all it can to you, try this. Grown in the French Alps on clay and limestone soils, this is a revelation. Filled with honeydew, mineral and hay notes, it is exceptionally bright and clean. The finish lingers. It will go with all kinds of food or have it with nothing. Among the best values in the store.

Your Favorite Cordials

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

Your Favorite Vodka

Absolut 80 \$29.99 1.75L
Ketel One \$35.99 1.75L
Grey Goose \$26.99 750ml
Smirnoff \$19.99 1.75L
Stolichnaya \$31.99 1.75L
Skyy \$25.99 1.75L
Wolfschmidt \$13.99 1.75L
Gordons \$14.99 1.75L

Your Favorite Scotch

Dewars White Label \$29.99 1.75L
Chivas Regal \$57.99 1.75L
Johnnie Walker Black \$57.99 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 \$25.99 1.75L
Seagrams 7 \$15.99 1.75L

Your Favorite Gin

Bombay Sapphire \$35.99 1.75L
Tanqueray \$32.99 1.75L
Hendricks \$28.99 750ml
Beefeater \$28.99 1.75L
Gordons \$14.99 1.75L
Seagrams \$16.99 1.75L

Your Favorite Rum

Captain Morgan \$25.99 1.75L
Bacardi Silver \$19.99 1.75L
Bacardi Gold \$19.99 1.75L
Malibu \$24.99 1.75L

Your Favorite Wines

Blackstone Merlot	\$8.99	750ml
J Lohr Chardonnay	\$10.99	750ml
Simi Chardonnay	\$13.99	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	\$12.99	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

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