



Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of The Leader/Times

Westfield GOP Selects Candidates for Council

The Westfield Republican Town Committee met last week and chose Frank Arena to run for the first ward council seat currently held by Peter Echausse, who is not seeking reelection. Mr. Arena, who ran unsuccessfully for Union County freeholder in 2004, will be joined on the GOP ticket by incumbents Jo Ann Neylan, second ward, Mark Ciarrocca, third ward, and Jim Foerst, fourth ward. Westfield Democratic Chairman Ken Rotter has indicated his party has not made a final decision on candidates and instead will wait until the primary election filing deadline on Monday, April 9, before releasing the candidates' names.

GOP Wants Ethics To Look Into Katz Matter

State Republican Chairman Tom Wilson has asked Governor Jon Corzine to ask his own advisory ethics panel whether he (Governor Corzine) must disclose the details of his financial relationship to Communications Workers of America (CWA) union leader Carla Katz. Mr. Wilson, in a letter to Governor Corzine, said the Governor wasn't abiding by the same "ethical tone" he had set for his staff, according to a Newhouse News Service report.

"Your refusal to divulge any details of your financial relationship with Ms. Katz not only creates an appearance of impropriety, it diminishes the public's respect, trust and confidence in the office of the Governor," Mr. Wilson said. Assemblyman Joseph Cryan (LD-20, Union), the state's Democratic Party chairman, responded by criticizing Mr. Wilson over his former lobbying partner, who pleaded guilty to fraud involving \$2.7 million in public contracts with the Burlington County Bridge Commission, according to Newhouse News.

During the 2005 campaign, news sources reported that Governor Corzine forgave a \$470,000 mortgage his company gave Ms. Katz while they were dating. The governor recently said he gave Ms. Katz other "substantial gifts" but said his financial ties with Ms. Katz were severed well before he became Governor in January of 2006.

Union Leaders Slam Katz over 'Relationship'

Five Union Leaders this week criticized CWA Leader Carla Katz over her past romantic relationship with Governor Jon Corzine, saying the labor leader "embarrassed" the state's unions as they attempt to ratify a new four-year contract with the state, according to The Star Ledger. News sources recently reported that Ms. Katz, who is paid \$103,000 a year as CWA leader, is spending half a million dollars for the renovation of house she

owns in Alexandria. Governor Corzine gave Ms. Katz a \$470,000 loan to purchase the home, a loan he later forgave. Ms. Katz recently paid \$1.1 million in cash to purchase a condominium in the same Hoboken building where the Governor rents an apartment.

Ms. Katz has said she believes the unions should return to the bargaining table because the state's offer "guts health care and attacks pension security."

"There was probably no contract that was acceptable to Carla because she knew that revelations that she had taken millions of dollars from the man who is now the employer were about to come out, and she wanted to appear tough. We are tired and embarrassed by all the drama," reads a statement by CWA Local 1031 president John Rose, Local 1032 president Jim Marketti, Local 1037 president Hetty Rosenstein, Local 1039 president Tom Palermo and Local 1040 president Carolyn Wade.

Newark Mayor Booker Backs William Payne's Senate Bid

Newark Mayor Cory Booker last week aligned himself with a new 29th district legislative ticket—Teresa Ruiz, vice chairman of the Essex County Democratic Party, for State Senate, and attorney and former special Newark prosecutor Grace Spencer and former state assemblyman Albert Coutinho, for Assembly. Ms. Ruiz is running for the seat held by former Newark Mayor Sharp James, who has not yet said whether he will seek reelection. The 29th district includes Hillside in Union County, as well as most of Newark.

One of the two current Assemblymen, William Payne, the older brother of Rep. Donald Payne, wants to move to the senate. He told The Star Ledger of Mayor Booker's endorsed ticket: "I'm dismayed at the position of some of my former colleagues who we have supported in their campaigns who have chosen to mount a campaign against us." The other current Assemblyman is Wilfredo Caraballo.

Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, North Ward power broker Steve Aduabato and Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura also back the Ruiz-Spencer-Coutinho ticket.

Legislators Pass Two Anti-Corruption Measures

The New Jersey State Senate last Thursday approved two new anti-corruption laws. One measure would make it illegal for non-elected recipients of government money or property to knowingly misuse those funds, while the second bill would allow prosecutors to seek fines against corrupt officials, which would be used to reimburse taxpayers.



FUN AND GAMES...Second-grade teacher Susan Foulds plays games with Tamaques School students during the school's annual Math Night.

Watchung Reservation Deer Management to Begin Mar. 26

COUNTY - The Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities has released details of its annual Watchung Reservation deer-management program, which will begin on Monday, March 26.

From 1996-1999, the county's deer-management program reduced the number of deer in the reservation from an estimated 180 deer per square mile to the goal density of 20 deer per square mile. This goal was achieved one year earlier than anticipated, officials said. The program currently underway, which began in 2000, changed the emphasis from reduction to maintenance of density level.

The deer-management program will operate from 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. from Monday, March 26, through Wednesday, March 28. In the event of inclement weather, Thursday and Friday, March 29 and 30, may become program days, "but under no circumstances will the program extend past Friday," according to a press release issued by the county last Friday.

The county has chosen 12 experienced, licensed hunters, most of whom have previously participated in Union County's program, to serve on a volunteer basis. The deer that are killed will be processed at a USDA-approved butcher, and the venison will be distributed to the needy and homeless through the Community FoodBank of New Jersey in Hillside, officials said.

The Union County Police and representatives from New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will supervise the teams of agents. Officials said anyone found hunting on any county park property outside the terms of this program "will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law." Citizens observing such illegal activity are urged to contact the Union County Police at (908) 654-9800.

The Watchung Reservation will not be closed during the deer-management program; however, portions of

Expertise, Experience for Best Results

by Nancy Bauer, Candidate for Scotch Plains-Fanwood BOE

The law makes it sound easy. It says boards of education are to ensure that the schools in their districts are run effectively and develop policies based on the students' educational needs, parent and community demands. These are, more often than not, responsibilities requiring fairness, the willingness to listen and compromise.

Compromises are only successful if developed by people with both knowledge and experience. I believe that I possess both qualities: I earned my Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Education at Florida State University. I worked as a kindergarten teacher and later as the director of a teaching museum. While living in Hamburg, Germany, I taught English at a nuclear research institute and, for the last 15 years, I have been in the College of Education at William Paterson University in Wayne. I am the director of field experiences at WPU, working with our state's future teachers and school districts around the state. In addition, I am the state coordinator for the "National History Day" program in New Jersey and serve on the coordinators' executive committee representing the mid-Atlantic region.

In short: I am used to work with the

restraints of mostly government-funded education, and I am definitely an experienced fighter for the best possible education.

My children have spent all their school life in our local public schools. My daughter Jennifer is a 2006 graduate from our high school and is now a freshman in the honors college of a state university, majoring in political science. My son Christopher is a sophomore at our high school and is in the words of my husband - "majoring in ice hockey." He is now also a "Raiders" goalie, since ice hockey has been added to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school's sport programs as a sport totally funded by parents. I was one of the charter members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Ice Hockey Association and am the outgoing president.

Although always a PTA member and later Music Booster member and Athletic Booster member, during my daughter's 13 years in school I devoted my free time to being a Girl Scout leader. Now, I believe I have the time to serve effectively as a school board member if elected. Would I be a good addition to the BOE? My friends and family think so - and, hopefully, you will agree by giving me your confidence and your vote.



Nancy Bauer

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