

Sens. Announce More Than \$24 Mil. In Water Projects

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senators Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) and Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) have announced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will receive more than \$24 million for beach replenishment, flood mitigation, environmental restoration, and waterway navigation projects in New Jersey.

"Last year, Hurricane Irene and other storms wreaked havoc on our state," Senator Lautenberg said. "While we have more work to do, these funds are a critical investment in helping our most flood-prone communities and finding long-term solutions to prevent future flooding. This federal funding will support our coastline by replenishing New Jersey's beaches, which protect our coastal economy from storms."

"This investment is critical to our state's economy, our environment, and the safety of our residents," Senator Menendez said. "Millions in resources will go towards flood control, water infrastructure, beach replenishment, and environmental restoration efforts that New Jersey needs to remain competitive. I am proud to have helped secure this important funding for New Jersey."

The funding comes from the fiscal year 2012 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, which funds the Corps. Following severe storms that caused extensive flooding last year, Senators Lautenberg and Menendez said they called on the Corps of Engineers to use these resources for flood prevention work in flood-prone areas. In addition, the Senators called on the Corps to fund beach projects, which help prevent damage when storms hit the coast.

These funds will go to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the following flood mitigation and water infrastructure projects: Passaic River Basin, \$250,000; Rahway River Basin, \$225,000; Peckman River (Essex and Passaic Counties), \$200,000; South River, Raritan River (South River and Sayreville), \$125,000; Stony Brook, Millstone River (Manville and surrounding area),

\$50,000.

Funds will also go for beach replenishment and storm damage reduction projects as follows: Monmouth Beach and Sea Bright (Sandy Hook to Barnegat Inlet), \$12.3 million; Atlantic City (Brigantine Inlet to Great Egg Harbor Inlet, Absecon Island), \$3.5 million; Brigantine Island (Brigantine Inlet to Great Egg Harbor Inlet, Absecon Island), \$3.58 million; Long Beach Island (Barnegat Inlet to Little Egg Inlet), \$600,000; Avalon and Stone Harbor (Townsend Inlet to Cape May Inlet), \$300,000; Wildwood, North Wildwood, and Wildwood Crest (Hereford Inlet to Cape May Inlet), \$300,000; Cape May (Cape May Inlet to Lower Township), \$200,000; Sandy Hook Bay (Leonardo), \$127,710.

Also \$100,000 was appropriated for a long-term beach nourishment study to improve the beach replenishment process.

In addition \$200,000 has been dedicated to the Hudson-Raritan Estuary to develop a comprehensive ecosystem restoration and management plan for the New York and New Jersey Harbor with another \$1.3 million to deepen the harbor on top of \$637 million already announced for that project. A total of \$620,730 will go to the Delaware River (Philadelphia to Trenton), the New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway will receive \$257,400 with another \$495,000 for the Shark River in Monmouth County to maintain and improve these waterways.

NJCH Names New Executive Director

TRENTON — Sharon Ann Holt has been named executive director of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH). NJCH is a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Ms. Holt was most recently executive director of the Sandy Spring Museum in Maryland near Washington, D.C. She also served as director of programs and outreach for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities at Rutgers-Camden.



GO RED...SAGE Eldercare staff joined their Spend-A-Day (SPAD) Adult Day Health Center clients this year on February 3 to support the annual American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" national campaign. SPAD is held at 290 Broad Street in Summit.

SP GOP Seeks Poll Workers for Elections

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Republican Committee is presently accepting applications from residents interested in working at the polls in upcoming elections.

Members appointed must be registered voters in Union County and are required to work at all 2012 elections.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education has moved its election from April to the Tuesday, November 6 General Election. The Primary Election is Tuesday, June 5 and the General Election is November 6. The hours for both the Primary and General Elections are from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Workers are asked to arrive no later than 5:15 a.m. in order to set up.

The compensation is \$200 tax free for each day.

It is mandatory that all new Board of Elections workers attend a class prior to working. The Union County Board of Election schedules several classes throughout the county so workers may choose a location near their home. In addition, workers who wish to work more than one year must attend a training session at least once every two years.

Anyone interested in being a poll worker in Scotch Plains for the Republican Party should call Bill McClintock at (908) 322-8401 or Joan Papen at (908) 889-2396 by Friday, February 24.

Rutgers to Host Program

For Women Running for Elective Office

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Center for American Women and Politics at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University in New Brunswick is sponsoring its annual Ready to Run event for women interested in seeking elective office next month. The event is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, March 9 and 10, at the Douglass Campus Center at Rutgers-New Brunswick. Ready to Run will be held on Friday, March 9, from

4:15 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Pre-conference programs for women of color will be held March 9 from noon to 4 p.m.

Women can register at http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/education_training/ReadytoRun/RtoR_New_Jersey.php. The Douglas Campus Center is located at 100 George Street in New Brunswick.

Christie, Cuomo Say PA's 'Failure Must Be Reversed'

TRENTON — New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie last week released the following statement regarding the phase one of the interim consultant's report on the operations of Port Authority of New York and New Jersey:

"The interim report released [February 7] on operations of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey describes an agency which failed to exercise proper oversight, control costs and budget transparently. The report's executive summary describes an agency that is 'challenged and dysfunctional,' and where poor management 'obscured full awareness of billions of dollars in exposure' to the Port Authority.

"Cause for further concern is the report's conclusion that the WTC gross project costs, last publicly reforecast at \$11 billion in 2008, have since grown a staggering \$3.8 billion to \$14.8 billion, at a minimum. Similarly, the report finds capital planning is plagued by management deficiencies that have resulted in a doubling of debt in 10 years as the agency drifted from its core responsibility as a transportation infrastructure organization. Coupled with the consultant's assessment of the impact of 'add-on' compensation for agency personnel -- an institutionalized practice that has contributed to an unacceptable 19 percent increase in gross compensation in just five years -- the interim report makes clear that wide-ranging reform is long overdue.

"This record of historic failure must be reversed. Steps have already been taken in the last two years, but much more must be done to restore the Port Authority to a responsible, highly transparent, well-managed organization focused on its core mission of maintaining and expanding our states' shared transportation infrastructure for the health and growth of our overlapping economies. We will demand nothing short of the

agency's implementation of comprehensive recommendations and reform to achieve this critical mission."

Haines Promoted at The Provident Bank

SCOTCH PLAINS — Gregory Haines of Scotch Plains has been promoted to first vice-president of commercial real estate lending for The Provident Bank.

He is responsible for the origination and monitoring of commercial real estate loans with an emphasis on construction lending. Mr. Haines also monitors portfolios of residential, commercial and industrial construction loans, permanent commercial real estate loans and lines of credit, and is involved in new business development.

Mr. Haines has more than 20 years of commercial lending experience. Prior to joining Provident, he served as a commercial mortgage officer at several financial institutions, including Midlantic National Bank, First Fidelity, Summit Bank and PNC Bank. Before beginning his career in banking, he served in the United States Air Force.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, W. Va. He also received a certification from the School of Mortgage Banking.

Motivational Humorist To Speak to Group

CLARK — The Irish Business Association (IBA) of New Jersey 2011 will host motivational humorist Tommy Hilcken at their Tuesday, February 21 meeting at Molly Maguire's Irish Pub and Restaurant in Clark. The meeting will be held at Molly Maguire's Irish Pub and Restaurant at 1085 Central Avenue, Clark, starting at 6 p.m. with Mr. Hilcken speaking at 7 p.m.

Mr. Hilcken is a motivational humorist and Irishman who gets audiences laughing while learning. With more than 5,000 speeches and performances in his 22-year career, he has connected with audiences worldwide.

Business owners and professionals interested in hearing new ideas for improving their business approach and outlook and those interested in learning more about the Irish Business Association are urged to attend.

The cost is free for first-time guests, \$20 for members and \$30 for returning non-members. For more information on the IBA, call Kate Conroy at the Gateway Chamber of Commerce, (908) 352-0900.

Count Birds This Weekend at Nature Ctr.

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Environmental Commission invites the public, especially children, to take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) this Presidents' Day Weekend, February 17 to 20, by conducting bird counts at the Fanwood Nature Center. Bird counts of at least 15 minutes on one or more days should be tallied at www.birdcount.org.

The eight-acre Nature Center, located on Cray Terrace, off Terrill Road, has been home to many types of birds including cardinals, woodpeckers, finches and scarlet tanagers.

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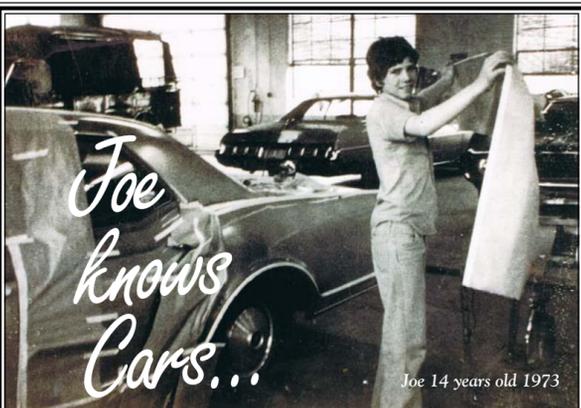
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