

County Prosecutor Hires Director for Forensics Lab

COUNTY — Union County Prosecutor Ted Romankow has announced that Matthew Gabriel has joined the staff of the prosecutor's office as director of the forensics laboratory in Westfield.

As the civilian director of the laboratory, Mr. Gabriel directs and evaluates the supervision of chemical, instrumental, and physical analysis of evidence. This includes the examination and testing of controlled substances and biological samples (DNA) to support investigative and prosecutorial efforts. He began working at the laboratory in December 2011, following a nationwide search.

A graduate of both Loyola College and The George Washington University where he earned degrees in forensic sciences and biology, Mr. Gabriel spent nearly 10 years working for the San Francisco Police Department's Forensic Services Division. There he spearheaded an effort to develop a system to support forensic science examinations.

The laboratory received accreditation in the disciplines of Controlled Substances and Biology through the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) in 2008. Union County was the first county laboratory in New Jersey to receive DNA certification from ASCLD/LAB and the second in the state, along with the New Jersey State Police Forensic Laboratory. The county lab met or exceeded all 151 required criteria for accreditation.

In his role as director, Mr. Gabriel

Irizarry Graduates Basic Training Course

SCOTCH PLAINS — Army National Guard Pvt. Gabriel Irizarry has graduated from One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

The course of instruction included basic military training and advanced individual training (AIT). The basic military trainee received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

Pvt. Irizarry is the nephew of Joseph Colon of Scotch Plains, and son of Lined Colon of San Juan, Puerto Rico. He is a 2010 graduate of Colegio Sagrados Corazones, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.

will oversee the review of evidence for court reporting purposes, develop regulatory guidelines for compliance with current forensic laboratory quality assurance reporting guidelines to maintain the laboratory's accreditation. He will also provide expert witness testimony in criminal proceedings.

The Forensic Laboratory's biology section provides DNA analysis to support criminal prosecutions. The laboratory has the ability to search DNA profiles from evidence items that meet the FBI's requirements to that of convicted offenders and DNA profiles from other involved cases via the Combined DNA Index System or CODIS. The prosecutor's office laboratory handles thousands of cases each year, and has played an instrumental role in solving many high-profile cases, including so-called "cold case" homicides.

"Matt brings a great wealth of experience, common sense, and a keen scientific mind to the forensic laboratory," Mr. Romankow said. "The laboratory is in capable hands and has a new reason for residents to be proud of this great resource."

Gov. Whitman Proposes Third Party Candidates Through Americans Elect

By SUSAN DOUGHERTY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SUMMIT — Former New Jersey Governor Christie Todd Whitman spoke at a luncheon Monday in Summit to discuss her involvement with a newly formed group called Americans Elect, a non-partisan, web-based organization designed to nominate a presidential candidate in the 2012 presidential race.

Sponsored by the Summit/New Providence/Berkeley Heights Suburban Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Summit/New Providence, the luncheon, held in the ballroom of the Grand Summit Hotel, drew 120 attendees.

"I am a Republican — have been all my life — and will continue to be one. We, as Americans, however," she said, "are being short changed by both parties."

Americans Elect is offered as the alternative to political extremes. She spoke of the new initiative of which she is a founder and Board of Trustees member.

Elizabeth Police Lt. Named Marshal of St. Pat's Parade

COUNTY — The 2012 Union County Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee has named Elizabeth Police Lt. Bill Dugan of Clark as grand marshal of the 16th parade to be held Saturday, March 16 at 1 p.m. in Union.

Mr. Dugan has been involved with the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade since its inception and leads the skilled motorcycle officers of the traffic unit that have been instrumental each year assisting the parade committee with logistics.

"On parade day I will be celebrating my heritage and my wonderful family," Mr. Dugan said. "Having my wife and children sharing this day by my side will be most fulfilling."

An Elizabeth native, Mr. Dugan traces his Irish roots on his father



Bill Dugan

Daniel's side to County Wicklow. His mother Mary Jane's people hail from Counties Antrim and Cork.

"I know my father's Irish eyes will be shining down on me from heaven," he added. "I humbly dedicate this great honor to my mother, Mary Jane Colgan Dugan, the greatest Irishwoman I have ever known!"

Parade day will be a family day for Dugan as well as a celebration of his Irish heritage. He is looking

forward to sharing the day with wife Carol, daughter Alison, and sons Ryan and Daniel.

Mr. Dugan will be officially installed as grand marshal during the parade committee's annual Investiture Mass at St. John the Apostle Church in Linden on Sunday, February 12 at 3 p.m. The Church is located at 1805 Penbrook Terrace. A reception will follow at the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad, located at 875 Raritan Road in Clark. Admission to the reception is \$30 per person.

For more information, visit unioncountystpatricksdaysparade.com.

Senator Recommended Shipp to White House

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) has announced that President Barack Obama has nominated federal Magistrate Judge Michael Shipp of Middlesex County to serve as U.S. District Court judge for New Jersey.

Earlier this year, Sen. Lautenberg recommended Judge Shipp's nomination to the White House. Mr. Shipp is a native of Paterson currently serving a U.S. magistrate judge in the District Court for the District of New Jersey and as an adjunct professor at Seton Hall Law School. His experience includes service in the New Jersey Attorney General's Office from 2003 to 2007, including serving as the top advisor to two New Jersey attorney generals. Judge Shipp also has experience in private practice, and served as a law clerk to former New Jersey Supreme Court Justice James Coleman.

RVSA Seeks to Join Third Party on Passaic River Suit

By DELL SIMEONE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

RAHWAY — The Commissioners of the Rahway Valley Sewage Authority (RVSA) voted last Thursday night to authorize the RVSA to participate in the Third Party Public Entity Cooperation Group in connection with its defense in the Passaic River litigation, also known as New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) vs. Occidental Chemical Corp. Occidental is being sued for allegedly dumping chemicals into Newark Bay.

The RVSA was named part to the suit in 2005 when Occidental and several companies were charged with polluting the lower Passaic River with dioxins. The authority operates a trunk waste system and waste water treatment facility which services Clark, Cranford, Garwood, Kenilworth, Mountainside, Rahway, Roselle Park, Scotch Plains, Springfield, Westfield and Woodbridge. Each municipality has one representative on the board of commissioners.

The RVSA participation in the Group would allow it to reduce costs by joint retention of services of expert witnesses and consulting experts and joint sharing of costs for alternative matters agreed upon by the Group. RVSA attorney Brian Hak, of the Weiner Lesniak law firm, told the commissioners that all Group members would share costs equally. He also said that, in time, Group members might change, decreasing or increasing the proportionate amount of shared costs.

Fiamingo Again Nominated For Superior Court in UC

TRENTON — Governor Chris Christie this week once again nominated Kenilworth Mayor Kathi Fiamingo for a superior court judgeship in Union County as well making it official by nominating his former attorney general Paula Dowd to the state superior court bench in Essex County. Prior to joining the Christie Administration in 2010, Ms. Dowd was the Essex County prosecutor. Ms. Fiamingo was nominated last year for a judgeship, but her nomination was never considered by Senate judiciary committee or the full Senate.

Also nominated were Chris Cerf for education commissioner. Mr. Cerf, who is serving as acting commissioner, has had his nomination blocked in the Legislature. The Governor nominated Richard Constable, who previously served as deputy commissioner of the Department of Labor

and Workforce Development, as his new commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, replacing Lori Grifa who has resigned. Mr. Constable is also currently serving as acting commissioner until his nomination is confirmed.

Rochelle Hendricks, who served as acting education commissioner after Bret Schundler was fired by the governor, has been nominated for commissioner of higher education. Locally, Michael DuHaime of Westfield, a Republican strategist and public affairs executive, has been nominated to the Rutgers University Board of Trustees. Westfield Town Councilman Sam Della Ferra, Jr. has been appointed to the Board of The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority. Westfielder Richard Ralph has been named to the New Jersey Cemetery Board while resident Alan De Rose has been nominated to the New Jersey Educational Facilities Authority.

Scotch Plains resident James G. Devine has been appointed a judge on the Frankford, Sussex County, Municipal Court. Maureen McLeer Morin of Cranford, the wife of Union County Republican Chairman and Cranford Township Attorney Phil Morin, was appointed to the Union County Board of Taxation. Former Summit councilwoman Cynthia Martin was appointed to the New Jersey Historic Trust while Maureen Ferguson of New Providence, the wife of former Rep. Mike Ferguson, was nominated to the New Jersey State Museum Board of Trustees.

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Peter M. Pasley, M.D., board certified in Internal Medicine, joined the Westfield Internal Medicine Practice after being in private practice in Manhattan for the past 11 years. Dr. Pasley received his Medical degree from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He completed an internal medicine and pediatric residency at Saint Vincent's Hospital, New York. He was Chief Resident prior to his graduation in 2000. Dr. Pasley is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the New York Medical College and a Clinical Instructor of Medicine at the NYU Medical School.



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Safe Disposal of Hard Drives Now Law In N.J.

TRENTON — Legislation, sponsored by Asw. Linda Stender (D-22, Scotch Plains), to provide for the safe disposition of state computers and portable communication devices has been signed into law. The law stems from a March report by state Comptroller Matthew Boxer that found state agencies left confidential data such as child abuse reports and Social Security numbers on discarded computers that were set to be auctioned off.

"It's unfortunate that we need to legislate common sense rules for safely disposing computer equipment to protect personal information, but unfortunately that's what must be done," Asw. Stender said.