

Hertell named Chair of Imagine Board of Trustees

WESTFIELD — Keith Hertell, a resident of Westfield for 43 years, has been named chairman of the Board of Trustees of Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss opening in Westfield effective as of April.

An honorary trustee of the Westfield Symphony Orchestra and retired institutional equity trader on Wall Street, Mr. Hertell has played an active role in many Westfield civic and community organizations. He is the founder of Westfield's Little League Fall Soccer program, the Westfield Y's soccer camp, co-founder of the Westfield Soccer Association, was the girls varsity soccer coach at Livingston High School, Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and Oak Knoll High School and currently coaches The Central Jersey Stars, an under 18 girls soccer team based out of Westfield.

He is a former member of the Westfield Board of Education, a former member of the Board of Directors of the Westfield Y, and was past chairman of the major gifts division of the Westfield United Fund. A two-time, heavyweight boxing champion for the One to One event at Madison Square Garden raising over \$130,000, Mr. Hertell is also the U.S. representative for SFA Austrian Educational programs, a Stephen's Minister and organized and ran "Up With People" concerts as fundraising activities for various organizations in Westfield. He is the past president of the Westfield Booster Organization and the Westfield Jaycees and a past trustee of the College Men's Club.

Mr. Hertell has been married to his wife Kathleen for 43 years, is the father of daughter Kerry Lynne LaVelle, son Darren Hertell, and Keith Hertell 2nd who was killed in 1997, and the grand-

father of David, Jack Riley, and Connor. "Like so many other families, my family and I are no strangers to grief and loss. The death of a beloved family member changes you forever and is especially difficult for children. To that end, I'm pleased to serve as chair of this new healing program coming to Westfield," Mr. Hertell said.

Imagine provides free year-round peer support groups for children age 3 to 18 who have had a parent or sibling die with concurrent groups for parents and guardians. Free support groups are also available for young adults 18 and up who have had a friend, sibling or parent die. For more information about Imagine, visit www.imagenj.org or contact info@imagenj.org or (908) 334-5723.

Bramnick, Greenwald Differ On Tax Cut

TRENTON — Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick (R-21, Westfield) said he was pleased to hear Governor Chris Christie's proposal to reduce income taxes by 10 percent over the next three years and fully restore the Earned Income Tax Credit, which the governor discussed in his State of the State address.

"The governor promised that taxpayers and businesses would benefit once New Jersey's fiscal house was put in order. [On January 17], he kept that promise," Asm. Bramnick said. "By closing huge budget gaps over the last two years and maintaining his pledge not to increase taxes, Governor Christie is keeping his word."

"Putting more money into people's pockets will not only help them and their families, it will help businesses create jobs," Asm. Bramnick explained. "The hard-working people of our state

will now get some relief because of the fiscal discipline and sacrifices that were made over the past two years. That is welcome news for everyone."

Assembly Majority (Democrat) Leader Lou Greenwald (D-6th, Camden) had a differing view in the Governor's proposal. "Gov. Christie's income tax plan may sound nice, but it would save a family earning \$50,000 per year just \$80.50 and a family earning \$100,000 per year just \$275, all while a millionaires get a \$7,265 tax break. "Under this tax cut, middle-class families don't save enough for a week's worth of groceries, while millionaires save enough to go on an exotic vacation. The governor is once again missing the point. He continues to focus on tax breaks for the rich while middle-class families struggle with the highest property taxes in the nation," Asm.

Greenwald said. "If the governor wants to cut a tax, let's focus on finding a way to chop property taxes by 10 percent."

"We will review any plan the governor puts forth, but it must be a plan and not a sound bite. Does he plan to take the money from schools to pay for his tax cut? Does he plan to let property taxes increase even more? We need to see a real plan, not political theater," the majority leader concluded.

PSE&G to Issue Credit On February Bills

NEWARK — PSE&G is providing a bill credit to be included in February residential gas bills. The bill credit will be 15 cents per therm on all February usage. That means that residential customers who use 200 therms in the month of February will see a reduction of \$30 in their bills.

Kyrillos Running for U.S. Senate Seat

State Sen. Joseph Kyrillos (R-13, Middletown) has announced that he will seek the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate. Mr. Kyrillos wants to run against Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) in November.

Mr. Menendez defeated state Senator Tom Kean, Jr. (R-21, Westfield) in the U.S. Senate race in 2006. Mr. Kyrillos has served in the Legislature since 1988. Mr. Kyrillos, who is employed as a commercial real estate broker, created an exploratory committee in June.

Anna Little, a former Highlands mayor and Monmouth County freeholder who ran against U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-6th Dist.) in 2010, is also considering running in the Republican Primary.

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Hauler Criticizes UCUA on Fee Hike

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

RAHWAY — The Union County Utilities Authority (UCUA) heard an objection at its meeting on January 18 from Fabio Araneo of A&S Sanitation, a private hauling company, concerning increased tipping fees at the county's garbage incinerator for carters from towns without contracts with the utilities authority.

"You just raised the rates from \$97 a ton to \$103 a ton [for a private hauler], and are hypothetically giving 'instant tax relief' to the towns under contract, by taking money out of my pocket," Mr. Araneo said.

He also chided the UCUA for settling with the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority, which had been charged with accepting illegal waste.

Part of the extended lease agreement deal the UCUA made with Covanta Energy, the private company which operates the Union County Resource Recovery Facility, which processes waste and turns it into electricity that is sold on the open market, is to charge haulers more money on tipping fees if they collect trash in towns that do not have contracts with the UCUA to dump at the burner. The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains Times, in an editorial three weeks ago, criticized the UCUA for raising the rates on private haulers, therefore making it harder for them to compete on the marketplace.

In response to the editorial, John Kulish, chairman of the UCUA, in a letter to the editor, touted the agreement as a win-win for both the contractual towns and the county, as a long-term inexpensive solution to waste disposal. He pointed out that no town was forced to be part of the agreement, and even those who are not participating will see reduced costs of three dollars a ton. For participating, a certain amount of tonnage is required by towns to reap savings.

John Bury of Kenilworth, a member of the Union County Watchdog Association, has questioned on his blog if Kenilworth, which is contracted for 3,000 tons a year, still has to pay for that amount if it only produces 2,700 tons of waste a year. Mr. Bury asked, "Where is the savings there?"

Toward the end of the UCUA's half-hour meeting, which included a 10-minute executive session, Freeholder Dan Sullivan, who is now interim executive director of the UCUA, at least until April when a permanent director is expected to be named, addressed Mr. Araneo's remarks.

"Mr. Araneo alleges that we are returning money to the haulers. The money is being returned to the municipalities. We are not actually going to send money to them. That three-dollar reduction [for the seven towns without contracts with the UCUA] is a credit that goes to the municipality." The towns without UCUA contracts are Berkeley Heights, Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield.

James Kennedy, former mayor of Rahway and a UCUA board member, said, "This is the only thing that I know of that is going down instead of up. Just keep in mind the price of gas in 1994, and it [the incinerator] also produces energy."

The UCUA's next meeting, on Wednesday, February 8, will be the authority's reorganization meeting. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m., on the third floor of the Resource Recovery Facility, 1499 Routes 1 and 9 North, Rahway.

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