

## School Lighting Upgrade Program Launched by BPU

TRENTON – The Christie Administration has announced the launch of a new initiative designed to promote energy efficient lighting upgrades in public and private schools throughout the state. A total of \$6 million has been allocated to pay project costs, which will be available to participants on a first come-, first-served basis.

The New Jersey's Board of Public Utilities' (BPU) Schools Lighting Initiative provides for the replacement of T-12 fixtures in New Jersey's K-12 school facilities with T-8 and T-5 energy-efficient lighting. According to the BPU, upgrading to high-efficiency lighting significantly reduces operating costs and helps in the effort to lower carbon dioxide emissions. The incentives, provided through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (CEP), will cover the entire cost of the upgrades, including materials, labor, permitting and proper disposal of the T-12 fixtures.

All public and private K-12 schools in New Jersey that contribute to the Societal Benefits Charge are eligible to participate. This initiative serves as a supplement to the CEP programs: N.J. SmartStart Buildings prescriptive lighting incentive, Pay for Performance, or Direct Install. Participants will be required to meet all conditions and criteria of the chosen program.

Incentives range from approximately \$100 to \$500 per fixture depending on the type and are offered in association with complete fixture replacement.

"Lighting efficiency was not a priority when most schools were designed. On average, lighting represents more than 30 percent of a school's electricity usage, making it an ideal choice for efficiency improvements," NJBPU President Bob Hanna said. "Proper lighting can have a dramatic effect on learning and overall well-being in the classroom, while at the same time advancing Governor Christie's Energy Master Plan energy conservation goals."

School administrators interested in participating or learning more about the T-12 Lighting Replacement Initiative can visit NJCleanEnergy.com/T1. The site includes additional specifics of the T12 Schools Lighting Initiative along with links to the application, required worksheets and detailed incentive tables. The web page also includes links to NJ SmartStart Buildings, Pay for Performance and Direct Install where additional materials can be accessed.

## Lance Leads Push for Access To Congress Research Services

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In an effort to increase transparency and access to Congressional Research Services, Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) has announced that he has introduced the "Congressional Research Service Electronic Accessibility Act of 2012." The Seventh District lawmaker said he was working jointly with Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Ill.) to advance the bipartisan legislation.

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) is a little-known but highly regarded division of the Library of Congress. The research service is by law exclusively for the use of members of Congress and congressional staff. The Lance-Quigley measure would amend that law and allow the public release of congressional reports that CRS produces.

"American taxpayers spend more than \$100 million a year supporting the work of the Congressional Research Service," Rep. Lance said. "It is good public policy to allow educators, students, members of the news media and everyday citizens access to CRS' non-partisan taxpayer-funded reports. What is good for Congress should be good for the general public."

The lawyers, economists, reference librarians, and social, natural, and physical scientists of CRS offer research and analysis to members of Congress on all current and emerging issues of national policy.

As a Congressional support agency, CRS is joined by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in providing Congress with information and analysis. While GAO and CBO reports are already available to the public, CRS reports are not.

"This new bill introduced by Reps. Lance and Quigley opens the door to greater understanding of Congress by the American people, the media and government employees. It's time to bring reports from the Capitol's

publicly-funded think tank online for the public to use," said Daniel Schuman, policy counsel at the non-partisan Sunlight Foundation, which is a non-profit that advocates for government transparency.

"Librarians have long been supporters of public access to CRS reports. The Lance-Quigley bill would direct the Clerk of the House to put widely-distributed CRS reports on a publicly available website and doing so would be a boon for researchers, students and the public. Similar to GAO reports, which are publicly available online from the 1920s to the present, CRS reports offer in-depth information, analysis and legislative histories across the entire legislative process. Publishing CRS reports on one publicly available website would greatly enhance their availability to the public," said James Jacobs, co-founder of Free Government Information.

### Holt Sponsoring Appraisal Party

LAMBERTVILLE — Rep. Rush Holt (D-12th) will hold an Antiques Appraisal Party fundraiser from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 26, at the M. Rago Arts and Auction Center, located at 333 North Main Street, Lambertville, N.J. Attendees are asked to bring one or two treasures to be appraised by experts in the following categories: decorative arts and furnishings, 20th Century design, fine art, jewelry, silver, coins, asian, historical, and ethnographic.

Contribution levels to attend are: \$150 Individual, \$250 friend, \$500 supporter, and \$1,000, co-host. To RSVP or for more information, contact Annie O'Toole at (609) 799-0800 or e-mail Annie@RushHolt.com.

*Editor's Note: Effective January 2013 the 12th Congressional District will include most of Scotch Plains and all of Fanwood.*



## Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of The Leader/Times

### Booker Picked to Draft Platform For Democratic Convention

The Democratic National Committee and Obama for America have announced that Newark Mayor Cory Booker has been selected as co-chairman of the committee for the 2012 Democratic National Convention. The committee is charged with drafting a platform that outlines Democratic principles and priorities. The convention will be held September 4-6 in Charlotte, N.C.

"The platform of the Democratic National Committee is a statement of our Democratic guiding principles, our priorities for coming years, and our vision for the future of this country," said Assemblyman John Wisniewski (D-19, Sayreville), chairman of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. "As Chairman of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, I am pleased that Mayor Cory Booker was selected to lead the platform committee. I know that under his leadership, the platform will reflect our strong commitment to middle class and working families."

### Dignitaries Attend Launch of Jewish Fed of Greater MetroWest

Governor Chris Christie delivered remarks at the official launch of Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ (Federation), the state's largest philanthropy, Tuesday night at the Alex Aidekman Family Jewish Community Campus in Whippany, the organization's headquarters. The new federation is the result of the July 1 merger of United Jewish Communities of MetroWest NJ and the Jewish Federation of Central N.J. It is the largest merger of two active federations in the history of the organized federation system.

In addition to Gov. Christie, other

dignitaries that were scheduled to attend included state Senators Barbara Buono (D-18, Edison) and Anthony Bucco (R-25, Denville), Assemblywoman Mila Jasey (D-27, Maplewood) and mayors from the Greater MetroWest community.

The geographic area served by Federation encompasses Essex, Morris, Sussex, Union, and parts of Somerset County. A regional office is located in Scotch Plains at 1391 Martine Avenue and satellite offices are planned for Montclair and in Morris and Somerset counties.

### Scranton Works to Add Revenue to Resolve Crisis

The Scranton, Pa. mayor and city council are said to be making progress in plugging a \$17-million budget gap, *The Times-Tribune* has reported. In the meantime, city employees are currently being paid the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour after salaries were slashed on July 6. The city's fire, police and public works unions have filed a petition to hold Mayor Chris Doherty in contempt for paying minimum wages despite a judge's order requiring full wages.

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development has offered the city a \$2 million loan and \$250,000 grant to cover payrolls until the budget gap is resolved. Mayor Doherty has proposed a 78 percent hike in city real-estate taxes over three years and a \$22 new garbage-collection fee to be paid over a two-year span. The city council has only agreed to a 12 percent property tax hike in 2013 to cover payments on city bonds with maximum hikes of 10 percent in 2014 and 2015 if needed. The state has given the city until August 1 to resolve the budget crisis, the paper reported.

## BNI to Host Networking Breakfast July 24 in Clark

CLARK – BNI (Business Network International) will host a kickoff networking breakfast of its newest chapter, BNI Synapse, on Tuesday, July 24, from 7 to 9 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Clark.

BNI is a business organization that allows only one person per profession to join its chapters. "Each chapter has one realtor, one photographer, one business banker, and so on," said Claudia MacDermott, senior director consultant. "BNI members become a close knit sales team and focus on helping one another's businesses grow. Using a 'Givers Gain' mentality, members learn to keep an eye open for new business contacts that might benefit other members." Meetings are held weekly and referrals are exchanged in a structured manner.

"Referred business is the best business. BNI has a time-proven program to help business people generate word of mouth referrals. It makes sense for us to team up and create this new chapter," said Wayne Zuhl, a residential realtor with Hallmark Realtors and the chapter's president. BNI members carry each other's business cards and to hand out to someone who needs the services of one of the members.

BNI was started 27 years ago and is now in 50 countries worldwide. For more information on

how to join BNI or just to visit, contact Mr. Zuhl at (908) 917-4189. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 7 a.m. at the Clark Holiday Inn.

### Bramnick Sponsoring Annual Photo Contest

WESTFIELD — Amateur photographers are encouraged to enter photographs in the Fifth Annual Summer Photo Contest sponsored by Assemblyman Jon Bramnick's office.

The contest includes three categories: New Jersey Shore, State Parks and Wildlife. The contest is open to all ages and entries will be accepted through the Friday, September 7 deadline. Contestants should submit their work via [asmbnambrnick@njleg.org](mailto:asmbnambrnick@njleg.org).

"The contest goes hand in hand with summer fun, and it is a great way to capture the beauty of our great state," Assemblyman Bramnick said. "Each year I look forward to seeing the wide array of colorful summer photographs, and I'm truly impressed by the creativity and talent shown by the contestants."

With three categories, shutterbugs can take their cameras to the boardwalks, beaches, and amusement parks, or they can go on the trails at a State Park, historic sites or even their own backyards to photograph their favorite critters.

The photographs will be judged for their quality and creativity. The winners and prizes will be announced in September.

For more information on the contest, please call (908) 232-2073.

See it all on the Web!  
[www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com)

The Law Offices Of  
**Lisa M. Black, LLC**  
223 Elmer Street, Westfield, NJ 07090  
**908-233-1803**  
[lmb.blacklaw@gmail.com](mailto:lmb.blacklaw@gmail.com)  
Specializing in all aspects of Family Law, Adoptions, Estate Planning, Real Estate Sales and Purchases  
Call for a free consultation

**DEEGAN ROOFING COMPANY**  
**908-322-6405**  
Tear-Offs • Re-Roofs  
Repairs • Gutters  
Free Estimates • Fully Insured

## Sens. Unveil Bill Requiring U.S. Made Olympic Uniforms

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) and nine of his colleagues have introduced the "Team USA Made In America Act of 2012" which would require the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) to adopt a procurement policy for ceremonial uniforms for the Olympics, Paralympics and Pan-American Games that would require the uniforms to be made in the United States, unless the USOC provides to Congress a detailed justification for why the uniforms were not manufactured in the United States.

The legislation follows on the heels of news stories that athletes for this summer's games, which begin July 27 in London, will be wearing uniforms made in China after Ralph Lauren outsourced the production of uniforms.

USOC CEO Scott Blackmun informed Sen. Menendez that future ceremonial uniforms for Team USA, starting with the 2014 Winter Olympic Games, would be made in the USA.

"While I was shocked that it's not already a given that Team USA's ceremonial uniforms should be made in America, I welcome the United States Olympic Committee's commitment to rely on American manufacturers and industry to produce uniforms for our future American Olympians," Sen. Menendez said.

"Olympians symbolize our pride for America and it's outrageous that their uniforms weren't made in America. This legislation will ensure that the U.S. Olympic committee supports American jobs and manufacturing, just as the entire nation comes together to support our Olympic athletes," Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) said. "Made in America should be the rule for Olympic uniforms, and I am pleased that a commitment was made to produce the 2014 Olympic uniforms in the United States."

The "Team USA Made In America Act of 2012" is also co-sponsored by Sen. Lautenberg and Sens. Jay Rockefeller (D-W. Va.),

Bob Casey (D-Pa.), Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), and Joe Manchin (D-W. Va.).

The bill would amend the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act to require the adoption of a procurement policy that requires ceremonial uniforms for U.S. Olympians, including accessories, such as ties, belts, shoes and hats meet the standards of the Federal Trade Commission for labeling as "Made in USA."

The legislation follows on the heels of news stories that athletes for this summer's games, which begin July 27 in London, will be wearing uniforms made in China after Ralph Lauren outsourced the production of uniforms.

USOC CEO Scott Blackmun informed Sen. Menendez that future ceremonial uniforms for Team USA, starting with the 2014 Winter Olympic Games, would be made in the USA.

"While I was shocked that it's not already a given that Team USA's ceremonial uniforms should be made in America, I welcome the United States Olympic Committee's commitment to rely on American manufacturers and industry to produce uniforms for our future American Olympians," Sen. Menendez said.

"Olympians symbolize our pride for America and it's outrageous that their uniforms weren't made in America. This legislation will ensure that the U.S. Olympic committee supports American jobs and manufacturing, just as the entire nation comes together to support our Olympic athletes," Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) said. "Made in America should be the rule for Olympic uniforms, and I am pleased that a commitment was made to produce the 2014 Olympic uniforms in the United States."

The "Team USA Made In America Act of 2012" is also co-sponsored by Sen. Lautenberg and Sens. Jay Rockefeller (D-W. Va.),

## Lance Comments On House Efforts to Repeal Obamacare

WASHINGTON – Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) has issued the following statement following House passage of bipartisan legislation to repeal the President's Affordable Care Act:

"Our current health care insurance system is badly broken, but the President's Affordable Care Act will only make it worse. It will lead to fewer jobs, more debt, higher taxes and reduced access to higher quality care. The law's onerous burdens and taxes will stifle small businesses already reluctant to hire because of uncertainty. In New Jersey, the law's mandates on employers and individuals will cost jobs and hurt our economy at a time when we can least afford it.

"I am deeply concerned that the health care law does not even deal with our primary problem – health care affordability. There is a better way: Bolstering health savings accounts, capping medical malpractice judgments, allowing insurance companies to sell policies across state lines, permitting small businesses to pool together to purchase coverage for their employees and creating insurance pools for sick people who cannot buy insurance on their own. Taken together, these free-market

### Assembly Panel to Hold Hearing on Halfway Houses

TRENTON – The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee will hold a hearing on Monday, July 23, to investigate the "troubling lack of oversight" at New Jersey's halfway houses, which has been detailed in numerous recent news reports, according to the Assembly Majority Office.

common-sense, patient-focused measures would reduce health care costs as well as the deficit. This would be done without higher taxes, red tape and government mandates at the heart of the Affordable Care Act."

### UC Tea Party to Meet July 25 at Rustic Mill

CRANFORD — The next meeting of the Union County Tea Party will be held Wednesday, July 25, at 8 p.m. at the Rustic Mill Diner at 109 North Avenue, West in Cranford. Ron Bass of United Patriots of America will speak on the subject of border security.

The Union County Tea Party is a grassroots organization whose purpose is to educate, inform and empower New Jersey residents in Union County, as well as neighboring counties, to return government at all levels to Constitutional principles.

According to founding member Vikki Jensen, "Our goals include the resurgence of New Jersey's and America's economy and a return to liberty for all. We take action against high taxes and excessive spending, we seek the repeal of business-stifling and job-killing regulations, and we promote the principles of free-market capitalism. We seek a government limited to protecting citizens' individual rights."

The UCTP's general meetings usually take place on the third Wednesday of every month, but the July meeting has been postponed to the fourth Wednesday. There is no charge. The public and new members are welcome. For more information, e-mail [libertylady76@gmail.com](mailto:libertylady76@gmail.com) or call (908) 578-5005.

## Personal Injury Lawyer Helping Accident Victims Every Day

**JON BRAMNICK**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW



**JON BRAMNICK**  
Certified Civil Trial Attorney  
30 Years Experience

BRAMNICK, RODRIGUEZ,  
MITTERHOFF, GRABAS & WOODRUFF LLC

1827 East Second Street, Scotch Plains  
**908-322-7000**  
[www.jonbramnick.com](http://www.jonbramnick.com)



Christine Cosenza, Agent  
2 Elm Street  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
Bus: 908-233-9100  
[www.christinecosenza.net](http://www.christinecosenza.net)

Protect your family. Prepare for their future.

I can help with both.

Stop by for your free State Farm Insurance and Financial Review®. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.® CALL ME TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.



**State Farm**