

Robert Barrett

Rescue Squad EMT Robert Barrett Receives Overlook Award

SUMMIT — Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad member Robert Barrett will receive the Overlook Medical Center 2012 EMT Excellence Award. The award was to be presented at Overlook's annual Excellence in EMS Awards dinner last night, May 23, in Summit.

Mr. Barrett has been a member of the all-volunteer squad for 20 years. During those 20 years at the squad, he has served as captain, president, vice-president and treasurer.

Mr. Barrett said the reason he has volunteered for so long is that he has a desire to help people in a time of need. Not just helping people with injuries or medical needs, but for

their emotional needs as well. When asked why he does the squad work, Mr. Barrett replied, "I just like helping people, the sick, injured and elderly, and being on the squad has allowed me to do that." Mr. Barrett and his wife Nancy have been Westfield residents for 40 years.

This award comes during the squad's 2012 fund drive, which started in March. Westfield residents will again be receiving a mailing asking for their continued support of the squad with a donation. Fund Drive Chairwoman Lynn Feldman said the reason for the second mailing is to remind those who have not yet made a donation.

SP, GW Projects Recognized By State Planning Officials

AREA — Union County was well represented at the New Jersey Planning Officials' (NJPO) 14th annual Achievements in Planning Awards banquet held May 4 at the Woodbridge Hilton Hotel.

NJPO, the association of planning boards and zoning boards of adjustment which originated in 1939, works to preserve communities' quality of life standards by educating local municipal officials. Their board recognized two local projects by bestowing awards upon The Mews at Garwood, located in Garwood and Park Avenue Green in Scotch Plains. Newark Mayor Cory Booker was the keynote speaker for the event.

Park Avenue Green, built by Steve Needle of Needle Point Homes, was designed to include 12 luxury rental units in the heart of downtown Scotch Plains. This project achieved Energy Star recognition by incorporating energy efficient features to lessen

energy usage. Additionally, Park Avenue Green is located to offer easy access to public transportation, shopping, restaurants and other community offerings. Architect Roger Winkle and James Watson of EKA Engineering were engaged for their professional expertise.

The Mews at Garwood, constructed by Arc Properties and Millennium Homes of Livingston, is a mixed-use facility featuring retail and commercial spaces, residential condominiums and rental apartments. The project reclaimed a long unoccupied site, revitalizing Garwood by making use of its proximity to commuter transportation and the downtown area. Harbor Engineering and architects Chester Partnership were instrumental in this project.

www.goleader.com

Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of The Leader/Times



Roselle Council Endorses Rice in Congressional Race
The Roselle Democratic Committee, Roselle Mayor Jamel Holley and the majority of the Borough Council, including Council members Christine Dansereau, Roy Locke, Randy Sandifer and Kim Shaw, last week formally endorsed Newark Councilman Ron C. Rice's 10th Congressional District bid leading up to the June 5 Primary, politickernj.com has reported. They join Union County Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh, also a Roselle resident, who endorsed Mr. Rice in April. Councilman Rice is the son of state Senator Ron L. Rice (D-28, Newark).

Mr. Rice joins a Democratic field that includes State Senator Nia Gill (D-34, Montclair), Newark Councilman Donald M. Payne, Jr., Irvington Mayor Wayne Smith, and Cathy Wright of Newark. Brian Kelemen of Bayonne is the lone Republican in the heavily Democratic district contest. They are seeking to replace the late long-time Rep. Donald Payne, Sr.

Donald Payne, Jr., Mr. Smith and Mr. Rice are also candidates in a special election to be held June 5 to finish out the remaining six months of the Congressman Payne's term.

Christie at 53 Percent Approval Race in Poll

Governor Chris Christie received a 53 percent approval rating in the latest Quinnipiac University poll of 1,582 registered voters. In the same poll, President Barack Obama received a 54 percent approval rating from New Jerseyans.

"It's interesting. Obama is, without a doubt, the best campaigner we've seen in a long time. Christie does know how to keep himself favorably in front of people," poll director Maurice Carroll told politickernj.com. "They're both just excellent at projecting themselves and telling people who they are."

Also, Democratic first-term incumbent U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez leads Republican State Senator Joseph Kyrillos, 45 to 35 percent, in the U.S. Senate race. Democrats backed Mr. Menendez, 80 - 3 percent, while Republicans backed Mr. Kyrillos 79 - 7 percent, according to the poll.

President Clinton Endorses Pascrell Over Rothman

Former President Bill Clinton has announced his support for Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-8th) in the Ninth Congressional District Democratic Primary, politickernj.com has reported. Mr. Pascrell is being challenged by

Rep. Steve Rothman (D-9th). The primary fight developed after Mr. Rothman was redistricted into Rep. Scott Garrett's (R-5th) district, but opted to run against Mr. Pascrell instead of Mr. Garrett.

"I know Bill Pascrell and he is the fighter we need to support President Obama," President Clinton said. "Nothing is more important to Bill than creating jobs in New Jersey. I saw that in the eight years we worked together to build unprecedented prosperity for America. We can't afford to lose his ideas, energy, and experience just when they're needed most."

Sen. Scutari Schedules Hearing To Consider Harris for High Court

Republican Chatham Borough Mayor Bruce Harris, Governor Chris Christie's nominee to the state Supreme Court, will get a confirmation hearing May 31, Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D-22, Linden), the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee has announced.

Mr. Harris would be the first openly gay justice and the third African American to serve on the state's highest court if confirmed. His confirmation hearing was postponed in March because the Senate committee spent the day questioning Gov. Christie's other nominee, First Assistant State Attorney General Phillip Kwon, whose nomination was defeated in a 7-6 party-line vote, nj.com reported.

Senate Minority Leader Thomas Kean Jr. (R-21, Westfield) said in a statement that Mr. Harris "deserves better than a repeat of Kwon's confirmation hearing."

"As a public and commercial finance attorney and a long-standing local elected official, Bruce Harris uniquely understands how the Supreme Court's interpretation of the state constitution impacts the citizens of this state," Mr. Kean said. "Unfortunately, the last confirmation conducted for a Supreme Court nominee was anything but fair, impartial, or deliberate. Phil Kwon was rejected for reasons of partisanship and politics rather than his merits and qualifications."

Allen wants to Extend Bullying Bill of Rights to Teachers

State Senator Diane Allen (R-8, Burlington) has proposed legislation to speed the disciplinary process for teachers and other school officials found to have engaged in bullying, intimidation, or harassment of students.

"My bill extends New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act to bullying that is conducted by teachers and other school employees," she said.



GREEN AWARD WINNERS... Wendy Ramirez and Sandy Coleman of Artemesia were awarded the Cranford Green Business Certificate at a recent Cranford Township Committee meeting. Pictured, from left to right, are: Cranford Councilman Ed O'Malley, Mayor David Robinson, Cranford Chamber of Commerce President Eugene Matics, Cranford Green Business Team Chairwoman Debra Walker, Ms. Coleman and Ms. Ramirez.

DWC Readies for Summer; Ferraro's to Reopen in Sept.

By DOMINIC A. LAGANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC), the management entity of the Special Improvement District (SID), discussed upcoming events in town for the summer months at its monthly board of directors meeting Monday night.

Registration has been opened for the 11th annual Downtown Westfield 5K Run and Pizza Extravaganza scheduled for Wednesday, July 25, at 7 p.m. The first 2,000 registrants will receive a free T-shirt commemorating the event. Entrants can find information for registration at WestfieldToday.com. Last year's run had over 2,500 participants and over 6,000 spectators were present in the downtown area.

Executive Director Sherry Cronin stated there is already interest in this year's race. "We are doing well on our sponsorships for the 5K...considering where we're at compared to past year. Online, we've had 189 people who have registered." The deadline for registration is Monday, July 23.

The 16th annual Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival will be held Tuesday nights in July and August from 7 to 9 p.m. More than 30 jazz bands will be performing in four locations across town: Central Avenue by Quimby Street, the corner of East Broad Street and North Avenue, Elm Street near Orchard Street, and North Avenue near the train station.

The complete schedule for the jazz festival is featured on the DWC's website. In case of inclement weather, the event will move to the following Wednesday.

Several board members observed that restaurants are usually the only downtown businesses that remain

open from 5 to 7 p.m. while retailers usually close their stores at 5 p.m.

A discussion ensued amongst the board members on how to encourage businesses to remain open later in the evening to take advantage of the patrons in town for the jazz event, similar to the Girls Night Out event.

"We bring so many people downtown for jazz, why aren't they [retailers] open? Or why aren't they using that to cross promote their business, like Girls Night Out?" Ms. Cronin responded. "Girls Night Out is a ring the register type of event. Jazz is not. It's really more for the restaurants because it's different and it ended up that way. But it doesn't have to be."

The board then considered ideas on how to encourage retail businesses to remain open on jazz nights, which they will pass on to downtown retailers.

In other news, it was announced that Ferraro's Restaurant would be reopening its doors on Elm Street this September. A six-alarm fire on May 5 of last year destroyed restaurant and caused significant damage to neighboring buildings.

Initial estimates put the restaurant's reopening for this past Mother's Day. A reassessment later changed that date to June of this year. Town Administrator Jim Gildea said the construction delay was due to permit issues.

"They had an issue on how they were going to work on their interior. The exterior they had permits for, the interior was the issue they had. So, it is now two weeks ago they received their permits on the interior. We are waiting for them to get back to us with how it's going to be finished and so forth," Mr. Gildea said.

Mr. Gildea continued, "They're on pace now; they're going to move very fast. They're looking to September at this point."

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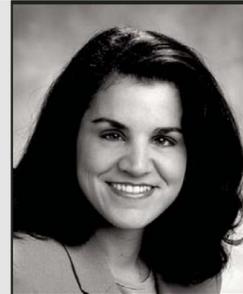
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