

Will President Obama Work With Us?

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Leonard Lance (NJ-07) tonight (Tuesday) released the following statement after the President delivered the State of the Union Address: "Tonight I attended the State of the Union and listened with the American people as the President outlined his agenda for the coming year. There is room for bipartisan cooperation on many issues, such as job creation, and I stand ready to work together across the aisle to achieve shared goals. One goal must be reducing our national deficit, yet President Obama made scant mention of our more than \$17 trillion debt. "In areas of disagreement, I hope the President will work with Congress, rather than around it, to advance public policy. Unfortunately, the President's remarks focused more on how to circumvent Congress instead of working with both parties to enact pro-growth proposals. "The President directed a good deal of his attention tonight to health care. I remain in favor replacement of the President's health care law and I believe many reforms will gain traction

due to pressure from public opinion. I urge the President to consider the measures that have bipartisan support including allowing consumers to keep the plans and the doctors they know and like, repealing the onerous medical device tax, easing requirements on small business employers and eliminating any chance of a taxpayer funded bailout of the private insurance market. "I want to work with the Administration to address the issue of the cost of higher education. I was pleased the President agreed with Republicans in Congress that business taxes need to be lowered. We must work together to help the private sector create the jobs America so desperately needs. The labor participation rate in this country in unacceptably low. "Finally, I thought the President's strongest moment had nothing to do with his agenda or with public policy. It was about a hero; Sgt. First Class Cory Remsburg. Both parties must work together to ensure our wounded warriors have the care and compassion they have earned and deserve."

Mountainside 2014 Appointments

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Borough Council announced the following appointments at its reorganization meeting this month. **Rescue Squad Officers 2014:** President, Ann Marie Pires; vice-president, Corinne Moore; treasurer, Lori Rubino; secretary, Norma Huber; captain, Eric Pastore; deputy captain, Chris Sileo; 1st lieutenant, Chay Castro; 2nd lieutenant, Julius Korn; chaplain, Vickie Schmidt; Delegates to First Aid Council: Steven Susman and Norm Huber. **Members:** Michael Andre, Bruce Meyer, Tricia Baczek, Elitza Meyer, Chris Balok, Joshua Moss, Joseph Caello, Pedro Nieves, Christine Clark Elisa Paras, Sal DiDinato, Anthony Pecorelli, Zachary Fox, Angela Riscinti, Lucy Fromtling, Maggie Silva, Andrea Grave, Briana Spadaccini, Samantha Grindlinger, AJ Steinhart, Tremearne Hotz, Karen Villatoro, Thomas Keane, Kelly Wanca, Mark Korn, Terence Whalen, Rebecca Ladenheim, Emily Yucra, and Casey McGowan. **Fire Department Officers 2014:** Chief Matthew Watson, Assistant Chief Anthony Pecorelli, Deputy Chief Thomas Triolo, Captain James Debbie III, Captain Adam Foti, Lieutenant Anthony Bianchi, and Lieutenant Christopher Whyte. **Members:** Allan Attanasio, Troy Jalbert, Tom Root, Anthony Bianchi Ken Lawrence, Edward Smith, John Browne, Chris Legic, RJ Sobocinski, Gary Cantagallo, Candace Lesofski, Jeff Stoffer, Dennis Clark, Reid Macgowan, Odalys Sawycky, Cathy Cook, William McMeekan, Roman Sawycky, James Debbie III, Dean Paskow, Thomas Triolo, Pete Esemplare, Anthony Pecorelli, George Urban, Adam Foti, Victor Pereira, Matthew Watson, Samantha Grindlinger, Thomas Perrotta, Christopher Whyte, Kevin Guidiciopietro, Kevin Rogers, and Neil Williams Jr. **Council Committees:** Fire: William Lane, Chairperson; Glenn Mortimer and Rene Dierkes; Administrative and Executive: Glenn Mortimer, Chair; Robert Messler, and Rene Dierkes; Public Works/Facilities: Robert Messler, Chair; Glenn Mortimer, and Rene Dierkes; Police: Media and Information: Keith C. Turner, Chair; Glenn Mortimer, Chair; Glenn Mortimer, Deanna Andre, Robert W. Messler, and Rene Dierkes; Solid Waste/Recycling: Recreation Department: Glenn Mortimer, Chairperson; Keith Turner, Chair; Robert Messler, Deanna Andre, Rene Dierkes and William Lane. **Council Liaisons:** Planning Board, Glenn Mortimer; Board of Health, Rene Dierkes; Board of Education, William R. Lane; Library, Glenn W. Mortimer; Rescue Squad, Deanna Andre; Board of Tax Appeals, Rene Dierkes; Emergency Management, Keith C. Turner; Senior Citizen Services, Deanna Andre; Board of Tax Assessors, Rene Dierkes; Construction Board of Appeals, Robert W. Messler, Shade Tree, Rene Dierkes; Historic Preservation Committee, Deanna Andre; Children's Specialized Hospital, Glenn Mortimer. **Planning Board Members:** Mayor Paul N. Mirabelli, Michael Disko Jr., borough engineer; Glenn W. Mortimer, Councilman; John Tomaine, Todd Garran, Thomas Parker, Ted Zawislak, Jon Youngmans, Matthew Wyvrat, Steve Matlin, Alt. 1; Thomas Jakositz, Alt. 2. **Various Boards/Committees:** Board of Health: Tricia Freer, Lora Ford, Dr. Gary Cantagallo, Dr. James Dunne, Elsa Jackson, Jenny Disko, and Ann Marie Pires; Shade Tree Commission, Joseph Cantagallo, Ronald Romak, Gina Tomas, Lynn Samsky, Thomas Root, John Grossi, and Steve Dardanella. **Emergency Management:** Municipal Alliance Committee: Chief James Debbie, Jr., Director; Ronald Romak, Deputy; Keith C. Turner, Deputy, and Lewis Giordino. **Shade Tree Commission:** Gary Cantagallo, Ronald Romak, Gina Tomas, Lynn Samsky, Thomas Root, John Grossi, Steve Dardanella. **Municipal Alliance Committee:** Mayor Paul N. Mirabelli, James Debbie Jr., Robert Segear, Kim Richards, Michael Capko, Chief School Administrator Nancy

Letters to the Editor

We've Been Talking About This In NJ For Decades, Our Urban Children

In your editorial "The Legacy of MLK; How Would He Judge the Progress We Made?" you hit the mark in stating "Dr. King also would be tremendously disheartened by the violence that regularly erupts in neighborhoods around the country." Yes, we have abolished segregation laws and many African-Americans have made great achievements as a result of King's work and sacrifice, but we have not done enough. Violence has increased everywhere, but remains most acute in our urban centers. Too many young children living in these areas are still held hostage by challenging neighborhood environments, serious family issues, and lack of proper education. It's a complicated equation with damaging results. When one kid shoots another, we must be saddened for both. But how do we address this? Though self-determination and responsibility are crucial to the success of any plan (people need to want to help themselves), education is by far the best place to start. This is not meant to underestimate the challenges many educators face in these areas; rather to say that schools can, do, and must make a difference for these students. We've been talking about this in NJ for decades. We've made massive and important investments in our institutions whose charge is to educate our most disadvantaged young people. They can, and must, do better. As they search to find an effective way, time has been running out for too many children. One immediate solution for urban children attending failing schools is the passing of the Opportunity Scholarship Act. This will allow them to attend schools that are already demonstrating success in providing quality education and strong character development in a safe environment. There are some that argue only "the best" families will take advantage of these options. But do we have the right to penalize a low-income family for the ambition of wanting to save their children from a life of poverty and crime? The Opportunity Scholarship Act will provide them with a chance for a better future, which on many levels will be a win-win for everyone. Dr. King and the Civil Rights era are instructive in that they ultimately granted freedoms to the individual, not to the broad systems. They allowed a person of color to drink from the same water fountain as anyone else. Education, like water, is necessary for survival. For the future of so many of these children who have come into the world into a difficult situation, through no fault of their own, we need to make sure as many children can drink from the water of life. **Lorraine Cunningham Westfield**

Muñoz Named Assembly Deputy Republican Leader

TRENTON — Asw. Nancy Muñoz (Summit) has been named a Deputy Republican Leader of the Assembly Republican caucus for the 216th Legislature. Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick (Westfield) recently appointed Muñoz to the leadership post. "I appreciate the confidence Leader Bramnick has shown in me and am grateful for this opportunity to serve the constituents of the 21st legislative district, the residents of the state and the Assembly Republican caucus in this leadership position," said Muñoz. "I look forward to advancing our agenda for additional government reforms that will continue to help make New Jersey affordable for homeowners, renters, seniors and the business community." Muñoz will serve on the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee, the Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee and the Assembly Women and Children Committee.

Westfield 2014 Town Appointments

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Town Council Approved the following appointments at its reorganization meeting earlier this month. **Acting Mayor JoAnn Neylan; Alternate Acting Mayor James Foerst** **Council Appointments:** Planning Board Liaison, James Foerst; Board of Adjustment, William Heinbokel; Andrew Wasserman, Joe Loftus, Alt. 2. **Special Improvement District Board:** Frank D. Isoldi, Merchant; Shawn Hanna, resident; Council Designee, Sam Della Fera; Mayor Designee, Stephanie Walsh; Ex Officio, Town Administrator James Gildea. **Employee Appointments:** Municipal Prosecutor, Anthony Prieto; Public Defender, Gavin Handwerker. **Official Newspapers:** *The Westfield Leader* and *The Star Ledger* **Board of Health:** Tricia Lerner, Sheri Brand (to fill unexpired term), Maria LoGrippe, Alternate 1, Joshua Suri, Alt. 2 (to fill unexpired term) December 31, 2014, and Council Liaison David Oliveira. **Recreation Commission:** Peter Echausse, Chair; Larry McDermott; Kevin Neylan, Gary Fox, Jennifer Czarniecki, Alternate 1, Beth Dencker, Alternate 2, and Council Liaison Frank Arena. **Historic Preservation Commission:** Marc McCabe (to fill unexpired term), Robert Algarin, Alternate 2 (to fill unexpired term), and Council Liaison Vicki Kimmins. **Board of Architectural Review:** Robert Benacchio and Fernando Martinez (to fill an unexpired term); Tree Preservation Commission, Mike Schuman, Brian Daly, and Council Liaison Sam Della Fera **Memorial Library Board:** Robert Centrella (to fill unexpired term), Terry Quinn, and Council Liaison Vicki Kimmins; Communications **Advisory Board:** Dierdre Malacrea, Ed Stellingwer; Westfield Housing Commission: John Desena, Joseph Farella, Catherine Clifford and Ronald Banskly. **Planning Board:** Vince Wilt, Pam Wiaczek, Michael Fisher, Alternate 1; Ethan Kramer, Alternate 2; Mayor Designee Ken Donnelly and Town Engineer Kris McAloon. **Community Development Review Sharing Committee:** John Desena, Town Engineer Kris McAloon; Insurance Advisory Board: Ronald Banskly and Joseph Dazzo. **Solid Waste Advisory Board:** Vincent Spera; **Union County Transportation Advisory Board:** John Morgan, Delegate; George Lanzano, Alternate. Air Traffic Advisory Board: Jerome Feder. **Chamber of Commerce Liaison:** Councilwoman JoAnn Neylan; **Union County League of Municipalities:** Mayor Andrew Skibitsky; **Board of Education Liaison:** Councilman Sam Della Fera; **2nd Senior Citizens Housing Corporation Liaison:** Mayor Andrew Skibitsky, and **Municipal Alliance/PANDA Liaison:** Councilwoman JoAnn Neylan. **Town Council Standing Committees:** **Finance Policy Committee:** Sam Della Fera, Chairman; David Oliveira, Vice-Chairman; JoAnn Neylan, and Frank Arena; **Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee:** JoAnn Neylan, Chairwoman; Keith Loughlin, Vice-Chairman; Jim Foerst, and Mark LoGrippe; **Code Review and Town Property Committee:** Jim Foerst, Chairman; Mark LoGrippe, Vice-Chairman; Sam Della Fera, and Vicki Kimmins, and **Public Works Committee:** Frank Arena, Chairman; Vicki Kimmins, Vice-Chairman; Keith Loughlin and David Oliveira.

Drug or Criminal Charges?
Call Jon Bramnick
 And Speak With Our Criminal Defense Team
 We Have Three Former Prosecutors
908-322-7000
BRAMNICK, RODRIGUEZ, MITTERHOFF, GRABAS & WOODRUFF LLC
 1827 East Second Street, Scotch Plains
 www.jonbramnick.com

Specializing in all aspects of Mortgage Loan Financing
ROBERT DENA
 Mortgage Loan Officer
973-568-0902
 robert.dena@pncmortgage.com
 Call for a free review of your current mortgage or get an in-depth pre-approval for your new dream home.
 NMLS # 403800

PNC MORTGAGE™
 1 LINCOLN PLAZA
 WESTFIELD, NJ 07090

Sweet Sixteen
 Have your Sweet 16 Party at The James Ward Mansion!
THE JAMES WARD MANSION
 With one event at a time and one event a day, "Make Our Mansion Your Mansion" is an offer you cannot refuse.
 The James Ward Mansion • 169 East Broad Street • Westfield, NJ 07090 • 908.389.0014 • 908.425.6947
 www.jameswardmansion.com

Goods & Services You Need

Nature's Beauty
Marble & Granite Fabricators
 High quality wholesale prices on all your marble & granite needs. Specializing in kitchen countertops, bathroom vanities & fireplaces. "Looking forward to doing business with you. Come in for a FREE estimate or simply fax us your layouts."
2476 Plainfield Avenue Scotch Plains, NJ 908-233-5300 Fax: 908-233-5655

CHECCHIO
BLACK TOP PAVING
 DRIVEWAYS CONCRETE
 PARKING LOTS BRICK PAVERS
908-889-4422
 FREE ESTIMATES

Junk Removal Home Cleanouts Demolition
Paul Casolaro 973-979-2288
 email: paulcasolaro@gmail.com
 Free Estimates Fully Lic. & Insured Serving NJ

Grime Busters
POWER WASHING "The Gutter Specialists"
 Gutter Services, Painting, Power Washing, and Snow Removal Services
908-756-0090 www.grimebustersnj.com
 Free Estimates / Fully Insured

HYDRO-TEK LTD.
 Lawn Sprinklers
(908) 276-1062
 www.Hydro-TekLtd.com

SELLING YOUR HOME?
 Spruce up your bathrooms and tile floors in a day or less!
The Grout Guy
TILE REPAIR, REGROUTING, GROUT STAINING AND SEALING
 Call for a free in-home estimate
973-634-7384

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
HE HUNTER ELECTRIC INC.
 Member of BBB
20 Years in Business
908.654.0287 • SERVICE CALLS

Recessed Lighting
 Service Upgrades
 Phones & Cable Lines
 Additions and Renovations
 Builders & Contractors Welcome
 NJ Lic # 10421

30 Years Experience
Handyman
Mr. Reliable
(908) 462.4755

JK's Painting & Wall Covering
 Interior Painting
 Wallpaper Removal
 Wallpaper Installation
 Plaster & Sheet Rock Repair
 Call Joe Klingebiel
908-322-1956
 FULLY INSURED FREE ESTIMATES

OLIVER A HOWARTH PAVING
 DRIVEWAYS • PARKING LOTS
 SEAL COATING • RAILROAD TIES
 DRAINAGE PROBLEMS
 BELGIUM BLOCK CURBING
 STUMP GRINDING
 "Serving the area for over 50 years."
 Family Owned & Operated
 Fully Insured • FREE Estimates
908-753-7281