

## CF, FW, County to Hold Nat'l Night Out Events

AREA — Local towns will be participating in National Night Out this Tuesday, August 5. This free nationwide event, developed by the National Association of Town Watch, began in 1984 as an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and to send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods were organized and fighting back against crime.

The Cranford Police Department's event will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Patrolman Robert F. Hand Plaza and on the front lawn of the Cranford Police Department headquarters. The event provides an opportunity for residents to interact with members of the Cranford Police Department in an informal setting while also obtaining information about the Department's many youth, educational, safety and public awareness programs.

Numerous police and emergency vehicles will be on display, including a marked police patrol car, a zodiac jet powered rescue boat, a police motorcycle, emergency services unit utility vehicles and equipment from the Union County Office of Emergency Management. Public Safety personnel will be on hand to answer questions or demonstrate equipment. A DJ, face painter, and magician will be on site to provide entertainment for children and adults, and the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway and the Westfield Area Y will be handing out literature and giveaways. In addition, the Cranford Taekwondo Center will be conducting a free demonstration. A blood drive will also be held during National Night Out.

Members of the Cranford PBA Local 52 will be on hand to provide refreshments to all in attendance.

The Fanwood Police Department's will be participating in its 30th annual National Night Out Against Crime observance in LaGrande Park. The festivities get underway at 6 p.m. There will be raffles for both kids and adults. And, the kids will enjoy games, a bounce house and slide, face painting and tattoos and arts and crafts. There will also be free food and ac-

tivities. The evening will be topped off with a free showing of *The LEGO Movie* on Fanwood's outdoor screen in the park. The movie starts at dusk.

Union County will hold its National Night Out event at Meisel Park in Springfield. Activities start at 6 p.m. with free hot dogs, popcorn and refreshments; inflatable slides and activities for kids along with an assortment of emergency vehicles on display.

At sunset, after 8 p.m., the audience can enjoy the animated family comedy *Despicable Me 2*. Free hot dogs, popcorn and refreshments; inflatable slides and activities for kids will be available along with an assortment of emergency vehicles.

### Trinitas Foundation Golf/Spa Day Set

ELIZABETH — The Trinitas Health Foundation's Annual Golf Classic and Spa Day, set for Monday, September 8, returns to the Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield, New Jersey, and the Vito Mazza Day Spa in Woodbridge.

The \$650 per-golfer fee for the Classic covers golf, power cart, buffet brunch, refreshments on the course, cocktail reception, sit-down dinner, premium gifts, and a chance for raffle prizes. There will be a single Shot Gun start at noon. Early registration is encouraged.

The Vito Mazza Day Spa option, limited to only 29 guests, offers guests round trip limousine transportation from Echo Lake to the Spa in Woodbridge for sessions at 8:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at a cost of \$650 per person. "Evening Only" events — a cocktail reception and dinner — are available at a cost of \$125.

"Those who support Trinitas Regional Medical Center always have a great time at this fundraiser," explained Jan Margolis, chairman of the Trinitas Health Foundation.

To make reservations, call the Trinitas Health Foundation at (908) 994-8249. Checks may be made payable to Trinitas Health Foundation, and mailed to P.O. Box 259, Elizabeth, N.J. 07207-0259.

## Middlesex Man Charged With Insurance Fraud

PLAINFIELD — A Middlesex County man has been arrested and charged with falsely claiming that he had been the victim of a carjacking in Plainfield prior to an accident, ultimately costing his insurance company approximately \$60,000 in claims, acting Union County Prosecutor Grace H. Park announced last week.

Darwin Edward, 29, of North Brunswick, is charged with second-degree insurance fraud and fourth-degree false swearing. His bail was set at \$35,000. The case was referred to the Prosecutor's Office by the New Jersey Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor and the Plainfield Police Division. Through an investigation by the Insurance Fraud Section of the Prosecutor's Office's Special Prosecutions Unit and the examination of physical evidence by the Union

County Forensics Laboratory, it was determined that Edward was the person behind the wheel when his Lexus SC400 sports coupe was wrecked on April 7, 2013, according to the prosecutor's office.

However, Edward later told police and the Progressive Insurance Company, which insured the vehicle, that he had been carjacked in Plainfield before his unknown assailant struck several parked cars and wrecked the vehicle.

Edward was arrested without incident at his place of employment on South Second Street in Piscataway.

Convictions for second-degree crimes typically result in terms of five to 10 years in state prison, while convictions for fourth-degree crimes can result in imprisonment of up to 18 months, according to the prosecutor's office.



## Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of *The Leader/Times*

### Sweeney, Barnes Bill Would Force NJ to Re-Enter RGGI

Senate President Steve Sweeney (D-3rd, Gloucester), Senate Environment and Energy Chairman Bob Smith (D-17th, Piscataway) and Senator Peter J. Barnes III (D-18th, Edison) have introduced legislation that would stop the Christie Administration and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) from changing rules and regulations in order to withdraw from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). The new bill would override the DEP rule change and force the state to reenter the market-based, carbon-emission program.

"This isn't Governor Christie's empire. He cannot simply ignore the law," Senator Sweeney said. "RGGI can reduce carbon emissions, lower energy costs for families and businesses, increase the development of renewable energy and create thousands of jobs in the process. We cannot allow Christie to once again turn his back on an economic driver that will put New Jerseyans back to work."

According to a Senate Democrats press release, "RGGI is the nation's first auction to sell and trade carbon dioxide emission credits to large-scale CO2 polluters such as coal-powered plants. The proceeds from the auction go towards clean and renewable energy investments and energy efficiency programs. Nine Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states belong to the coalition."

Cardinale Calls for Action to End Unused Sick Time Payouts  
Senator Gerald Cardinale (R-39th, Creskill) has urged action on legislation ending abusive sick leave payouts, following news that Bayonne taxpayers are on the hook for a \$444,450 payout to the retiring police chief.

Sen. Cardinale, who with Democratic Senator Brian Stack (D-33rd, Jersey City) are sponsors of a Senate bill to eliminate sick-leave payouts and limit comp-time payouts.

"On behalf of our constituents, I'm issuing an urgent request for Senate President (Steve) Sweeney to allow a vote on complete reform once and for all," Sen. Cardinale said.

According to a *Jersey Journal* report, the Bayonne police chief, who retired earlier this month, will receive \$444,450 for unused sick, vacation, personal, terminal and holiday time.

"We have to take action to end these payouts before the nearly \$1 billion unfunded liability from accumulated sick leave hanging over the state totally disables taxpayers in our local towns," Sen. Cardinale said. "Everybody complains about property taxes, but nobody does anything about it. Here's something we can do immediately without cutting services."

### Bramnick Pushes for Special Session on Crime Bills

Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick (R-21st, Westfield) said he wants to hold a special session of the New Jersey Legislature this summer to address crime-related bills, New Jersey 101.5 FM has reported.

The push for a special session follows the recent murder of Jersey City police officer Melvin Santiago, as well as shootings in Camden, Newark, Jersey City, Trenton and Patterson.

"We need to make it more apparent to criminals that they're more likely to go to jail and less likely to get an early release. We have seen an epidemic of violence — children shot in the streets as a result of crossfire, police officers shot point blank," Asm. Bramnick told the radio station.

Among the bills pushed by the Republican Leader is one that would make all forms of sexual assault subject to sentencing under the No Early Release Act. A second bill increases the maximum penalty for attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder, while a third would upgrade the crime of threatening to physically harm a prosecutor, law enforcement officer, or a member of their family to a crime of the second degree.

Asm. Bramnick also supports legislation to create the first-degree crime of home invasion, and to upgrade burglary of a residence to a second degree crime under certain circumstances.

Also being pushed the Republican Leader is a bill that deals with the so-called "knockout game" assault. Under the bill, an assault by a person attempting to cause someone to lose consciousness by a single punch or kick, would be considered a third-degree aggravated assault.

### Ex-Water Official Pleads Guilty to Falsifying Results

A former top official of the East Orange Water Commission (EOWC) pleaded guilty this week to conspiring to manipulate testing of the agency's water supply to falsify results and report lower levels of a regulated contaminant in the drinking water supplied to customers.

William Mowell, 52, of Wyckoff, the former assistant executive director and engineer for the EOWC, pleaded guilty to a charge of second-degree conspiracy in Superior Court. Mowell was indicted in 2013, along with Harry L. Mansmann, the former EOWC executive director. Mansmann is now deceased. Mowell pleaded guilty to conspiring to engage in a pattern of official misconduct, tamper with public records, and violate both the state's Safe Drinking Water Act and the New Jersey Water Pollution Control Act.

Under a plea agreement, the state will recommend that Mowell be sentenced to three years in state prison. Sentencing is scheduled for Friday, November 7.

## U.S. Army Corps Narrows Flood Control Alternatives

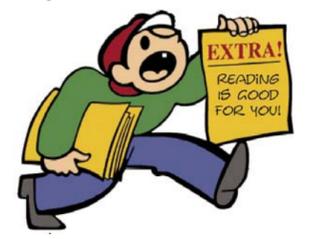
REGION — A major step in the effort to gain flood mitigation by the Mayors Council Rahway River Watershed Flood Control took place this week with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) agreement to narrow the alternatives and focus the final stages of the evaluation on the Alternative 4 and Alternative 7A. The USACE had evaluated 10 different alternatives including the development of a South Mountain detention basin before narrowing the alternatives.

In a letter from the NJ DEP to the USACE, the DEP recommended to proceed with alternatives 4 and 7A and the USACE has begun the next phase which is to optimize the benefits derived from the proposed project. Alternative 4 is estimated to lower river water elevations by 2.6 feet in Millburn and 3.4 feet in Cranford and benefit other communities in region. The project is estimated to have the strongest benefit cost ratio of structural flood mitigation solutions that were evaluated, according to a press release from the Mayors Council.

Alternative 4 would modify the Orange Reservoir in South Mountain to permit the reservoir to be drained several days before a major storm thus providing storage capacity for peak storms. In addition, the alternative includes either improvements in Lenape Basin in Kenilworth or channel improvements in Cranford. The

Mayors Council is now asking citizens to ask that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to make the Rahway River Flood Mitigation Plan a priority by contacting their Congressmen to advocate for the full funding to complete the evaluation in 2014. The Mayors Council will be meeting with the New Jersey congressional delegation in September for that purpose. An online petition has also begun to gather signatures at Change.com.

The Mayors Council is represented by the Millburn Mayor Robert Tillotson, Maplewood Mayor Victor Deluca, Union Mayor Clifton People, Springfield Mayor Richard Huber, Cranford Mayor Andis Kalnins, Kenilworth Mayor Scott Klinder and Rahway Mayor Samson Steinman. The organization was formed after Hurricane Irene in October 2011 at Union County College and has worked cooperatively with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to evaluate 10 flood mitigation alternatives.



COLLEGE FOR TEENS... Union County Freeholders Vernell Wright, left, and Bette Jane Kowalski, second from left, congratulate Jada Peterson of Rahway, Beryl Artman of Springfield and Isabella Hurtado of Fanwood on completing the Union County Freeholders College for Teens during the class commencement at Union County College in Cranford. This summer more than a hundred students from throughout Union County completed the three-week program which offers teens in grades 9 through 12 opportunities to explore a variety of career choices while experiencing life on a college campus. They are joined by UCC Director Lisa Raudelunas and UCC President Margaret McMenamin.

## Personal Injury Auto & Pedestrian Accidents



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