

Cryan, Vitale Rip New SNAP Rule

TRENTON — Senator Joseph Vitale (D-19th, Woodbridge) and Senator Joe Cryan (D-20th, Union) have criticized the Trump administration's new eligibility requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program known as SNAP. The new rule tightens work requirements for some SNAP recipients and is expected to eliminate benefits for roughly 688,000 adults, according to the lawmakers.

"This is yet another sad and shameful day for America. In a country that budgets more than a trillion dollars a year, thrusting nearly 700,000 people into food insecurity so it can save a drop in the bucket is cruel, inexplicable and unacceptable," Senator Vitale said. "Trump's administration is playing numbers and politics with people's lives and we cannot let it stand. I hope that, at least in New Jersey, my colleagues and I can find solutions to keep food on the table for the New Jerseyans threatened by this decision."

"It's clear this administration is oblivious to the needs and struggles of the people and families that rely on this program," Senator Cryan (D-20th, Union) said. "The new requirements are shortsighted, harsh, out of touch and handcuffs our own ability to respond to the needs of our constituents. I am confident, however, that my fellow legislators can work together to find solutions that will protect those among us that are most in need."

The new rule makes it more difficult for states to waive a requirement that able-bodied adults without children work at least 20 hours a week or else lose their benefits. The administration says the change is intended to encourage those receiving SNAP to get jobs, but anti-hunger advocates worry it will hurt low-income individuals who cannot find steady work.



HOLIDAY PARTY...The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) held its annual holiday party on December 5 at the Shackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains. Pictured, from left to right, are: GWACC Board of Directors, Vice-President Harold Star, Jennifer DiVirgilio, Stephanie Branna, Mario Cesario, Marta Alexander, Christopher Devine, Heather Bryant, Jim Mooney, Tony Bianchino, Ron Banksy, Chief Executive Officer Gene Jannotti, Barbara Murphy, President Darielle Walsh, Vice-President Carol Kearney and Maria Fuentes. Missing are Jodi Weinberg, Aimee Nuzzo, Mike Martin, John Capeci, Lauren Hammer, Paul Mecca and Mitch Beinhaker.

Westfield Chamber Holds Party, Honors Long-Time Members, Sherry Cronin

WESTFIELD, NJ — The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) held its annual holiday party on December 5 at the Shackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains. With 110 members and guests, the food, music and entertainment gave everyone an early holiday season treat.

The board of directors awarded plaques to long standing members of GWACC that included The Westfield Y, 35 years; Evalyn Dunn's Gallery, 20 years; Jay's Cycle Center, 15 years, and Mitch Beinhaker Law Firm, 10 years. In addition, the

board gave out an award to Mitch Beinhaker for his eight years of service on the board of directors including his time as board president. The first ever Life Time Membership Award was given to Sherry Cronin for her years of service in the Downtown Westfield Corp. and her commitment to Westfield.

The event was sponsored by Clearskies Title Agency, Northfield Bank, Two River Community Bank, Spencer Savings Bank, Christopher Devine and Rabadeau Wealth Group, Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook and Cooper, Gillman Strategic Group, Town Car Wash and Hehl and Hehl.

For 71 years, the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce

(GWACC) has been connecting commerce and community. The GWACC promotes the economic prosperity of businesses primarily in Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield. It is the largest association of businesses and nonprofits in the area. Members include business owners, professionals, managers and operators. Membership cultivates the opportunity to build relationships, partner, make referrals, increase business, attend lunch and learns, and support the community.

For more information, visit www.gwaccnj.com or call (908) 233-3021, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Rotary Offers Scholarship for Intern'l Graduate Study

REGION — Local Rotary Clubs are offering an international scholarship for students who are interested in pursuing further study abroad. Applicants must live in Essex, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, Union or Warren Counties, and must be interested in planning a career in peace and conflict resolution, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, and economic and community development.

Candidates must be accepted to a foreign university at the time of application. The scholarship is competitive, and the main factors considered are a scholar's experience, the graduate program of study and career goals. Of added importance is having a plan with a clear-cut purpose. Additional information may be found in the Rotary Foundation Sec-

tion of www.rotary.org, or by contacting Eva-Pia Reich at evapiareich@gmail.com.

Applicants should send their resume, college transcripts, and proposal (to include the program of study and a description of a career path) to Eva-Pia Reich, 24 South Shore Road, Denville, NJ 07834 or evapiareich@gmail.com.

The deadline to apply is May 1, 2020 with interviews to follow.

Bill Would Allow Theaters to To Apply for Liquor Licenses

TRENTON — Senate Republican Minority Leader Tom Kean's (R-21st, Westfield) legislation to support the arts by permitting small theaters to sell alcohol has advanced in the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee.

"Small, local theaters give back to our towns and cities in immeasurable ways, boosting both social and cultural capital, and enriching our community's character," Mr. Kean said. "Allowing community theaters the opportunity to serve alcohol will bolster attendance and improve the economic viability of the arts throughout the Garden State. What better way to enhance the night-out experience than by sipping a cold drink while watching a new show?"

Mr. Kean's bipartisan legislation, S-1648, would permit non-profit theaters with 50 seats or more to apply for liquor licenses.

Currently, only non-profit theaters with more than 1,000 seats are eligible to apply for a liquor license.

Mr. Kean, a longtime supporter of the arts, is a member of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. He has been named a Distinguished Arts Advocate by ArtPride NJ.

"Supporting the arts, particularly small non-profits, will strengthen every aspect of New Jersey's vibrant

arts community," added Mr. Kean. "This legislation will help venues serve patrons a memorable 'night at the theater' experience that will help the arts and the local economy flourish."

Bill to Require Colleges To Post Annual Budgets Online OK'd By Panel

TRENTON — Legislation, A-3680, sponsored by Assemblywoman Annette Quijano (D-20th, Elizabeth) to require public institutions of higher education to post their budgets for the upcoming academic year and a user-friendly summary on their websites annually was approved Thursday by the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

"Students and parents deserve to know how their college is spending money, particularly as tuition costs continue to rise. While public colleges are required under current law to make their budgets public, this bill takes it a step further by requiring colleges to make that information easily and readily accessible online. Greater transparency is key to helping parents and students understand how their tuition dollars are spent," Asw. Quijano said.

Robbie Beth Drossner, MD Office Reopening

The general and cosmetic dermatology practice of Doctor Robbie Beth Drossner is pleased to announce that we reopened on November 5, 2019. As always, we are available to treat our loyal and devoted patients as well as accepting new patients of all ages.

Doctor Drossner seeks to provide the highest quality individualized care for every patient and participates with both Medicare and most Blue Cross/ Shield Insurance Plans.

Our office offers a complete line of award winning skin care products and Doctor Drossner personally assesses which products are best for each patient who is interested in advanced skin care and anti-aging regimens. Long lasting dermal fillers and botox injections are also available.

A certified experienced esthetician is on staff and available, by appointment, for facials and chemical peels. Many facets set our Medical Anti-Aging Facials and Chemical Peel treatments apart from all the others, including pressure point massage and hand treatments,

customized peel solutions and our Biocellulose Recovery Mask for post-peel procedures. Our mask contains hyaluronic acid for hydration, nourishing peptides to repair the skin matrix and elasticity, antioxidants to protect the new exposed skin against environmental damage, and a perfect blend of anti-inflammatory botanicals to soothe and calm the skin.

Please visit us at 2350 South Avenue in Scotch Plains and contact us for more information or to make an appointment at 908-232-6668. And be sure to look for our informative dermatology articles and special monthly offerings on our website at www.robriebethdrossnermd.com

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VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS...Volunteers of the Westfield Historical Society Archives were recognized for their outstanding efforts during the Society's Member Open House held at the Reeve House on Saturday. Pictured, from left to right, are: Paul McGovern, Nancy Cunliffe, Raji Ernazath-Vengali, Ken Mirsky, Stan Lipson and Carey Golden. Honored volunteers missing from the photo are Kristi Chandra, Gregg Gorman, Nancy Hevert, Larry Hogan, Michael Miller and Cathy Owens.

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