

## Styrofoam Recycling Encouraged By County

COUNTY – The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders encourages all residents to recycle clean, white, block-style Styrofoam at designated drop-off locations in their municipality, or at a countywide location in Springfield. As part of the effort to encourage Styrofoam recycling, the freeholder board has provided nine Union County municipalities with signage, educational brochures and new recycling bins.

Berkeley Heights, Cranford, New Providence, Plainfield, Scotch Plains, Springfield, Summit, Union Township and Westfield have all received the new materials.

“The Styrofoam recycling programs enable Union County residents to help increase our efforts to conserve resources and manage our waste stream more efficiently. It is a good opportunity for all of us to ‘think globally, act locally,’” said Freeholder Chairwoman Bette Jane Kowalski.

Styrofoam is the common name for polystyrene, which comes under the Plastic 6 recycling category.

All Styrofoam dropped off for recycling must be clean, dry, and in block form, such as that used for furniture and appliance packaging. Residents can look for the 6 recycling label to confirm it is acceptable for recycling. The unacceptable list includes all food service items, packing peanuts, egg cartons, and any colored, wet, or dirty foam.

All Union County residents and businesses are welcome to bring clean, dry, block-form Styrofoam for recycling to Foam Pack Industries, located off Route 22 East at 72 Fadem Road in Springfield. The recycling bin is in the company’s parking lot and is accessible at any time.

The following municipal Styrofoam drop-off sites have available only to residents of those municipalities, during the specified days and times:

Berkeley Heights: Berkeley Heights DPW yard, 101 Berkeley

Avenue, on the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to noon.

Cranford: Cranford Conservation Center, 210 Birchwood Avenue, on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:20 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.

New Providence: New Providence DPW, 29 Park Place, on the first and third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Plainfield: Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority Transfer Station, 95 Rock Avenue, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Scotch Plains: Scotch Plains DPW, 2445 Plainfield Avenue, on Thursdays between 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Springfield: Springfield Municipal Pool parking lot, 40-44 Morrison Road, first Saturday of every month from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Summit: Transfer station, 40 New Providence Avenue, Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Union: Union DPW, 1 Swanstrom Place, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Westfield: Westfield Conservation Center, 1300 Lamberts Mill Road. Styrofoam may be dropped off whenever the facility is open (visit [westfieldnj.gov](http://westfieldnj.gov) for days and hours of operation).

Other recycling initiatives this year include a new interactive display at the Trailside Nature and Science Center, new educational programs focusing on senior centers, continued promotion of “Recycle Right!” compliance guidelines, and the new “Reel In and Recycle” anti-litter campaign for Union County Parks.

For more information about Styrofoam recycling visit [ucnj.org/recycling/styrofoam](http://ucnj.org/recycling/styrofoam).

For all other Union County recycling programs call the Union County Recycling Office at (908) 654-9890 or visit online at [ucnj.org/recycle](http://ucnj.org/recycle).



### Éire go Brách

## Bill Would Require Study To Restore One-Seat Ride

TRENTON – Legislation sponsored by state Senator Nicholas Scutari (D-22nd, Linden) which would require NJ Transit to conduct a feasibility study on restoring the one-seat ride from the Raritan Valley Line to New York City, has been introduced in the Senate.

“The loss of the one-seat ride to Manhattan has been felt throughout my district and surrounding counties,” said Senator Scutari. “The Raritan Valley Line is a large rail operation with strong ridership numbers and it is perplexing to me, and to those in the area, why NJ Transit would view this passage to New York City as expendable. Our businesses, our residents and our economy are feeling the effects of this loss every day. The continued temporary loss of revenue, the loss of time and the loss of tax dollars cannot continue to persist without incurring permanent losses.

“I echo the strong advocacy displayed by the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition in calling for NJ Transit to re-commission the one-seat railcar. Alleviating the monetary strain on businesses and local economies

throughout the region and ending the inconvenience of ballooned travel times that riders are experiencing is paramount,” Sen. Scutari said. “Conducting a feasibility study would provide valuable analysis and projections of costs to restore service, as well as provide NJ Transit with the steps they can take to see this come to fruition. Our region needs this.”

The Regional Plan Association conducted a study on the impact the one-seat ride service into Manhattan has on the towns surrounding the rail line. The study revealed that towns are more desirable and see increases in their residential property values. These towns greatly benefit from workers traveling through as well. Salaries for jobs in Manhattan are 60 percent higher than the same jobs in New Jersey. This consumer spending correlates to strong local economies with healthy business districts, and attract new businesses to these towns.

Within six months of enactment, NJ Transit would be required to issue a report to the legislature detailing findings of the study.

## Spencer Savings Bank Announces Plans To Change Charter to Mutual Savings Bank

WESTFIELD, N.J. — Spencer Savings Bank, SLA has announced that its Board of Directors has adopted a plan to convert its charter from a New Jersey chartered mutual savings association to a New Jersey chartered mutual savings bank. Consistent with its Strategic Plan, the charter conversion will provide the bank with new opportunities to grow and expand in existing and new markets by increasing its amount of higher returning investments and commercial loans, providing expanded lending and investment powers and providing greater flexibility to structure and finance its operations, including acquisition opportunities.

Completion of the charter conversion is subject to the approval of the bank’s members and its regulators, the New Jersey Department of Banking and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”). It is anticipated that the charter conversion will be completed sometime in the third quarter of 2019.

“For more than 75 years, we have stayed focused on providing a bank that is financially strong and stable with exceptional service to our customers and communities,” stated José B. Guerrero, Chairman, President and CEO of the bank. “With this change, we will be able to provide more products for our consumer, small business

and commercial customers, grow the bank and better compete in our markets.”

Because of a recent change to federal law expanding the lending and investment powers of federal savings associations, conversion to a New Jersey chartered mutual savings bank will place the bank on a level competitive playing field, allowing it lending and investment powers not currently allowed to a New Jersey chartered savings association.

After the completion of the charter conversion, depositors and borrowers of the bank will remain depositors and borrowers of the resulting mutual savings bank. The charter conversion will not change any of the terms or conditions of existing deposits or loans. The deposit accounts of the resulting mutual savings bank will continue to be insured up to applicable limits by the FDIC.

About Spencer Savings Bank: Spencer Savings Bank, SLA is a community bank headquartered in Elmwood Park, N.J., that has been serving its local communities with integrity and pride for more than 75 years. The bank, serving consumers and businesses, operates 21 branches throughout New Jersey.

Paid Bulletin Board  
[goleader.com/form/bulletin](http://goleader.com/form/bulletin)

## Westfield Town Government

### Email Services

Westfield residents can sign up for email updates from the town government. Visit [www.westfieldnj.gov/townupdates](http://www.westfieldnj.gov/townupdates) to sign up for the following:

Update Newsletter from Mayor Shelley Brindle summarizing the latest issues in Town;

Finance/Taxes: Quarterly payment date reminders;

Agendas and Minutes: Meeting agendas and minutes for the town council, planning board, board of adjustment or board of health;

Press Releases distributed to the media;

Notifications about large-scale, pre-

planned utility work by the town’s service providers.

“We continue to prioritize communication to our residents, and this is the latest addition in reaching people through as many means as possible,” said Mayor Brindle.

“While the town is extremely active on social media, we recognize that many folks prefer to be reached via email, and this new service allows us to push information directly to them. As always, I encourage residents to stay informed and engaged about the town’s initiatives, and this is one additional way to help facilitate that process.”



A UNITED FRONT...Mayors of towns along the Raritan Valley Line (RVL) recently met to discuss NJ Transit’s response to three issues facing commuters on that line and how best to advocate for their residents. The mayors are pictured here with State Senator Tom Kean (R-21st, Westfield) and Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz (R-21st, Summit).

## Mayors Asks NJ Transit to Improve Platform Transfer

REGION — Mayors of towns along the Raritan Valley Line (RVL) met to discuss NJ Transit’s response to three issues facing commuters on that line and how best to advocate for their residents. RVL Mayors Alliance is working to get a same platform transfer in Newark, return of the off-peak midtown direct trains and ultimately, direct trains during peak commuter hours and on weekends.

According to Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr, who also co-chairs RVL Mayors, the platform transfer in Newark is a significant issue for commuters who must race downstairs then up to another platform hoping to catch a train into New York Penn. “The platforms and stairways are jammed packed and people sometimes miss a connection,” she stated.

The 32 mayors of the RVL are asking NJ Transit to at least improve service for RVL riders by providing a same platform transfer in Newark. “We don’t have a one-seat ride into New York so having to deal with a platform transfer is adding insult to injury. We’re the forgotten commuters, but the Raritan Valley Line Mayors Alliance plans to change that,” added Mayor Mahr.

Westfield Mayor Shelley Brindle, also a co-chair of RVL Mayors, described the other pressing issue is the return of the off-peak direct trains that were suspended last fall so NJ Transit could install the Positive Train Control system. “Three lines were affected and only Raritan Valley hasn’t been restored. RVL Mayors have asked repeatedly, including at the recent NJT Listening Tour in Westfield, and it appears there is no plan to return those trains to service in the near future. This is unacceptable. We represent more than 23,000 commuters and mayors can be a powerful voice for their residents,” Mayor Brindle said.

RVL Mayors have met with state Senators, members of the State Assembly, NJ Transit and plan to be more vocal and visible. “We’re tired of being the forgotten commuters,” Mayor Mahr said.

RVL Mayors is a bipartisan, independent Alliance of 32 mayors spanning four counties and organized by Mayors Mahr, Brindle and Mayor Bob Fazen of Bound Brook in 2018 to engage and organize the mayors, as well as the public.

More information on the website [www.rvlmayors.org](http://www.rvlmayors.org).

## Schools Invited to Apply for Kids Dig In Garden Grants

COUNTY – The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced that the 2019 “Union County Kids Dig In” garden grant program for schools in Union County. The program is designed to help schools provide enriching educational experiences while encouraging students to give back to the Union County community through donations of fresh produce.

Schools with students in grades pre-kindergarten through grade 12 are eligible to apply for a Union County Kids Dig In grant. The grants are funded through the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

“Union County Kids Dig In gives young people a chance at hands-on learning and service,” said Freeholder Chairwoman Bette Jane Kowalski. “They learn about organic gardening, soil health, water conservation, and pollinators. Kids Dig In helps kids see how their actions really do make a difference.”

Union County Kids Dig In began in 2017 as an initiative of Freeholder

Sergio Granados, chairman of the Trust Fund. Over the past two years, the program has provided funding for 92 school gardens.

“When children are introduced to gardening in the schools, it helps them begin to think holistically about their food, their schools, their larger communities and the health of the planet,” said Freeholder Granados. “UC Kids Dig In teaches kids about growing their own healthy food options and empowers them to help those in need, by donating 30 percent of their harvest to benefit local food pantries and shelters.”

Grant application forms have been sent to school superintendents in all Union County school districts. The deadline for submissions is Monday, April 1 at 5 p.m.

Principals and educators who are interested in having their school apply for a grant can contact Victoria Durbin-Drake, administrator of the Office of the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, at [vdurbin@ucnj.org](mailto:vdurbin@ucnj.org) or (908) 558-2277.

## Recycling Events Coming Up

Union County will host a weekend of mobile paper shredding events on the last weekend in March. Shredding will take place on both Saturday, March 30 and Sunday March 31 at the Union County Vocational Technical Schools located at 1776 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. Both events will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until the truck(s) get filled. Residents can bring up to four bags of confidential documents for shredding. The following mobile paper shredding event will be Friday, April 26 at Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield.

On Saturday, April 6, there will be a household hazardous waste program at the Union County Vo-Tech School. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Items for drop off include old pesticides and herbicides, pool chemicals, gasoline, oil-based paints and deck stain.

Union County’s Scrap Metal Recycling program also starts up again in April. The events are the first Thursday and Third Saturday of each month so for April the collections will be on Thursday, April 4 and Saturday, April 20. There are two locations in Union County for residents to drop off their metal for recycling, one in Cranford and Rahway. All loca-

tions will be open from 9 a.m. to noon. Residents can drop off old appliances, microwaves, air conditioners, and metal lawn furniture.

Please visit [www.ucnj.org/recycling](http://www.ucnj.org/recycling) for more information or directions.

**This is your new home we are talking about**

**Owen Brand**  
Mortgage Development Officer  
Phone - 908.789.2730  
Cell - 908.337.7282  
Email - [owen.brand@santander.us](mailto:owen.brand@santander.us)  
NMLS # 222999

All loans subject to approval. Equal Housing Lender. Santander Bank, N.A. is a Member FDIC and a wholly owned subsidiary of Banco Santander, S.A. ©2019 Santander Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. Santander, Santander Bank and the Flame logo are trademarks of Banco Santander, S.A. or its subsidiaries in the United States or other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. CD427\_12F\_12/09/16

The Law Office of  
**FRANCIS M. SMITH, ESQ.**

**INJURED?**  
**LEARN YOUR RIGHTS IN PLAIN ENGLISH**

Do you really want to deal with the insurance companies yourself?  
**I can help.**  
**OVER 30 YEARS OF PERSONAL INJURY EXPERIENCE IN NEW JERSEY**  
Motor Vehicle Accidents  
Slips & Falls  
Dog Bite Injuries  
Construction Accidents  
Wrongful Death

928 Mountain Avenue, Mountainside NJ 07092  
**908-233-5800 • [www.FrankSmithLaw.com](http://www.FrankSmithLaw.com)**

**NO FEE IF NO RECOVERY**  
**CALL ME FOR A FREE CONSULTATION**

Some people think that it’s holding on that makes one strong.  
**Sometimes it’s letting go.**

With more than 60 years of service within the communities in which we live and work, our family law attorneys have the resources and experience to guide you through the complex process of divorce.

Divorce • Child Support • Alimony • Custody • Children with Special Needs  
Post-judgment Modifications • Retirement & Pension • Relocation

James McGlew II, Esq.  
908.233.6800

**LINDABURY**  
McCORMICK, ESTABROOK & COOPER, P.C.  
Attorneys at Law

Westfield • Summit • Red Bank • New York • Philadelphia  
[lindabury.com](http://lindabury.com)