

## Democrats Pick Bergen As Assembly Candidate

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

TRENTON — Democrats in the state's 21st Legislative District have named Union County Freeholder Chairman Bruce Bergen of Springfield to run for State Assembly. He replaces David Barnett of Springfield, who has dropped out of the race.

Mr. Bergen joins Lacey Rzeszowski of Summit, the 2012 County Freeholder board in 2012 and was re-elected in 2015. He was appointed by his colleagues as board chairman in 2016 and 2017 after serving as vice-chairman in 2015.

The meeting of Union, Morris and Somerset Counties' Democratic Committees' members within the 21st Legislative District occurred on August 14.

According to the New Jersey Division of Elections website, Mr. Bergen previously ran for the Assembly in 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2011.

When reached Tuesday morning, Mr. Bergen said Mr. Barnett, a former Springfield mayor and township committee member, dropped out over an increased work load and travel commitment for his job. Mr. Bergen said he plans to make public appearances throughout the campaign.

"I think there is some tiredness in New Jersey over the status quo," Mr. Bergen said, noting that if candidates reach out to voters they, the voters, "(will) really think about this race." He believes that if Democratic gubernatorial candidate Phil Murphy's large lead in the polls holds up it would help Democrats up and down the elec-

tion ballot. All 120 seats in the Legislature are up this year.

If elected in the Republican-leaning district, he said he would have to resign as freeholder due to a state law that state lawmakers can only hold one elected office. "And I would do that reluctantly, but I feel this is an opportunity I did not want to pass up," Mr. Bergen said.

Mr. Bergen was elected to the Union County Freeholder board in 2012 and was re-elected in 2015. He was appointed by his colleagues as board chairman in 2016 and 2017 after serving as vice-chairman in 2015.

He is a partner in the law firm of Krevsky, Silber & Bergen in Cranford. Mr. Bergen previously served as township attorney in Springfield for 17 years.

Mr. Bergen has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Psychology from Case Western Reserve University. He received his law degree from the Seton Hall University School of Law.

Ms. Lazare, Ms. Rzeszowski and Mr. Bergen will face Republicans Senator Tom Kean, Jr. and Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, both of Westfield, and Assemblywoman Nancy Muñoz of Summit in the General Election in November.

The 21st District includes parts of Union, Morris and Somerset Counties. In Union County, the district includes Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Garwood, Kenilworth, Mountainside, Summit, Springfield and Westfield.

## Additional Farmers' Market Voucher Distribution Today

COUNTY — One additional distribution of 2017 Union County Farmers' Market program vouchers will be held today, Thursday, August 24, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., at the Roselle Community Center, 1268 Shaffer Avenue, Roselle.

The Farmers' Market program enables income-eligible adults age 60 and above to obtain five free vouchers worth a total of \$25 to purchase "Jersey Fresh" fruits, vegetables and herbs from participating farmers' markets.

Seniors from any municipality in Union County can apply for the vouchers, if they have not received any in 2017. To meet the eligibility requirements, a single person's annual income cannot exceed \$22,311 and a married couple's combined income may not exceed \$30,044. To receive a voucher, seniors should be prepared to show identification with their age, residency and income. A Medicaid card, SSI, SNAP (Food Stamp), annual pension, or Social Security statement may serve as proof of eligibility. For more details, call (888) 280-

8226 or (877) 222-3737, or visit [ucnj.org](http://ucnj.org).

## Westfield BOE to Meet August 29

WESTFIELD — The next meeting of the Westfield Board of Education will be Tuesday, August 29, at 7:30 p.m., in Room 105 at 302 Elm Street. The public is welcome to attend.

The business agenda will include a report on summer programs such as STEM camp, as well as an update on summer facility projects. A complete agenda will be available on the board agenda web page at [nj.westfield.schoolboard.net/](http://nj.westfield.schoolboard.net/) and in the board secretary's office at 302 Elm Street on Friday, August 25.

All general board meetings are taped and televised on Blue Devils TV36 on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sundays at 10 a.m. Videotaped meetings also can be viewed on the board of education page of the district's website.



ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL...District 21 Democratic Assembly candidate Lacey Rzeszowski of Summit meets a voter.

## Lacey Rzeszowski Added to DLCC's NJ Spotlight Races

SUMMIT — Legislative District 21 Democratic Assembly candidate Lacey Rzeszowski's campaign has been added to the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee's Spotlight Races ([races.dlcc.org](http://races.dlcc.org)) by the challenger in the traditionally Republican-leaning district.

Ms. Rzeszowski is one of five new candidates added to the list following a victory for a Democratic candidate in Iowa, announced Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee (DLCC) Executive Director Jessica Post.

"DLCC is thrilled by the recent successes of our Spotlight Race candidates and we look forward to adding more races as the cycle progresses and Democrats build momentum on the legislative level," Ms. Post said. "While Democrats hold on the New Jersey Legislature has never been stronger, the DLCC will continue to actively support our candidates and is excited to highlight Roy Freiman (LD-16), Lacey Rzeszowski (LD-21), Jannie Chung (LD-39), and Annie Hausmann (LD-39) as new Spotlight Races."

"I have seen the strong desire for

new leadership and a change in Trenton every day while knocking doors and meeting voters throughout the district," Ms. Rzeszowski said. "It's time to turn the page on the failed Christie era, and the only way to fully accomplish that goal is to remove two of his most loyal apologists in Jon Bramnick and Nancy Muñoz."

The DLCC is focused on rebuilding the Democratic Party at the local level. The DLCC recruits, trains, and supports local Democrats running for state legislative office.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Ms. Rzeszowski lives in Summit. She attended New York University with help from a merit scholarship, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's of Arts in Political Science. She is an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church, and she and her husband, Ed, have three sons.

LD 21 comprises 16 communities from Morris, Somerset and Union Counties including Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Garwood, Kenilworth, Mountainside, New Providence, Roselle Park, Springfield, Summit, and Westfield.

## Clark to Conduct DWI Checkpoint Saturday Night

CLARK — The Clark Township Police Department will hold a DWI checkpoint beginning this Saturday, August 26, at 9 p.m., and ending at 3 a.m. on Sunday, August 27.

The checkpoint will be located in the northbound lanes of Brant Avenue, directly in front of Mother Seton High School. Vehicles headed towards the Garden State Parkway will be subject to the checkpoint. The main goals of this checkpoint are to promote traffic safety within the Township of Clark and to reduce the number of motor

vehicle operators who violate the DWI laws through high-visibility enforcement.

The purpose of this notification is to provide the public with advanced warning of the checkpoint in hopes that motorists will choose not to operate a motor vehicle while impaired.

**TO BUY OR SELL, USE LEADER/TIMES CLASSIFIED ADS**

## Watson Coleman Calls for Censure of President Trump

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-12th), and two other members of Congress have introduced a censure resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives against President Donald Trump for his comments blaming "both sides" for the violence in Charlottesville, Va.

The censure resolution condemns the President for failing to immediately and specifically name and condemn the white supremacist, Ku Klux Klan, and neo-Nazi groups responsible for actions of domestic terrorism in Charlottesville, and for his comments to create a moral equivalency between white supremacists and those counterprotesting the 'Unite the Right' rally.

The resolution, co-sponsored by 79 Democratic members of Congress, offers an official censure by Congress of President Trump for his remarks.

In a joint statement they said: "...Refusing to completely and unambiguously denounce white supremacist groups and individuals provides en-

couragement for their bigoted, nationalist ideology and policies. This is not the position of the United States government, and we must send a clear message to President Trump that his comments are not only wrong, but an affront to the moral convictions and ideals of this country....It is incumbent on all (House) members, from all parties, to not only condemn the President's remarks, but to issue this censure of the President for the way he has represented our country and Constitution."

U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wi.) said Tuesday the will not support a resolution to censure the President but, according to news reports, he said the President "messed up" by saying "both sides" were to blame for violence and that there were "very fine people" among those marching to protect Confederate statues.

New Jersey Reps. Donald Payne, Jr. (D-10th), Frank Pallone (D-6th), and Albio Sires (D-8th) are among the bill's co-sponsors.

## Lance Offices Complete 5,000 Constituent Case

WESTFIELD — Congressman Leonard Lance (R-7th) has announced his congressional offices have closed its 5,000 constituent casework request. Constituent cases are opened by Mr. Lance's staff when residents ask the office for assistance and are experiencing difficulties with federal agencies.

"My New Jersey offices are dedicated to advocating for constituents who need help with federal agencies. Every day constituents contact my office to help sort through issues concerning Veterans Affairs benefits, Social Security checks and Passport requests. Too often these important matters get lost somewhere in the federal bureaucracy. My offices stand ready to help residents get the services or assistance they need and are entitled to receive. I am proud of our team in Westfield and Flemington and I encourage all residents experiencing difficulty with a federal agency to use our offices as a resource," Mr. Lance said.

Some successful examples was assisting a constituent in dealing with the Armed Services, his staff help constituents obtain earned benefits from the Veterans Administration.

"The Congressman's staff was relentless in its pursuit of our Dad's rights. Through continual determination, the Congressman's staff secured what had at one time seemed an unrealistic goal of obtaining benefits. We can rest assured that our father will receive all of the benefits he so rightly deserves as a veteran of our country due to the office's hard work," said Paul Ligas of Cranford.

After submitting Passport requests, some constituents never hear back from

the Department of State as graduations, weddings and vacations quickly approach. Mr. Lance's office has helped over 100 constituents get the paperwork sorted out in time for travel.

In another case, a Union County family was billed \$65,000 from the IRS in mistaken liens. Constituents have received thousands of earned veteran benefits after contacting our office for assistance with stalled dependency claims and benefits/correction claims. Mr. Lance's casework managers are able to escalate cases and clear the way for payment. Thousands of dollars have been recouped by the caseworker managers.

One Hunterdon County constituent had been waiting for months for a decision on his Social Security case. Caseworkers made an inquiry, submitted additional information to the file and determined that his situation warranted an expeditious resolution. This story has played out on almost a weekly basis. Mr. Lance's office also assisted 25 veterans or family members receive medals earned in military service. These include those lost, stolen or never-awarded.

Residents in need of assistance should call Mr. Lance's Westfield office at (908) 518-7733. The offices can assist with problems with the IRS, missing or incorrect figures from Social Security, assistance with Passports and visas and a number of veterans-related services including health care and pensions, treatment access and receiving service medals.

The 7th district includes Cranford, Garwood, Mountainside, Westfield and a portion of Scotch Plains.

The Partners of The Bramnick Law Firm congratulate

# JON BRAMNICK

as recipient of

## Trial Lawyers of New Jersey Award

on

November 2, 2017

Pleasantdale Chateau  
West Orange, New Jersey

Bramnick, Rodriguez, Grabas, Arnold & Mangan, LLC

1827 East Second Street  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076  
(908) 322-7000

[www.jonbramnick.com](http://www.jonbramnick.com)

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. ©2017 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. C0827, 1/16, 12/2016

**Westfield ANIMAL HOSPITAL**  
357 South Ave East  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
908-233-6030  
[westfieldanimal.com](http://westfieldanimal.com)

Where your pet vacations!



**Daily Rates:**  
\$29/day for Dogs  
\$23/day for Cats  
\$18/day for Exotics

Summer Boarding Specials!

1<sup>st</sup> Night FREE for New Visitors\*

\*A 2 night minimum stay is required. One coupon per client. Cannot be combined with any other offer. New visitors only. Expires 8/31/2017

Board 1 Pet & Receive 10% off an Additional Boarder\*

\*One coupon per client. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Both pets must board during same stay. Expires 8/31/2017

1 FREE Night of Boarding with a Week Stay\*

\*One coupon per client. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 8/31/2017