

Swine Flu Updates Online

The state Department of Health and Senior Services has developed an H1N1 Influenza Web site with current information for local citizens, schools, businesses and governments. By logging onto <http://nj.gov/health/er/swineflu/> one can learn of the latest health advisories in both English

and Spanish. A public H1N1 Flu Hotline is also available at 866-321-9571. Additional information is available online at www.bergenhealth.org, www.nj.gov/health and www.cdc.gov/swineflu/ or by calling the Bergen County Health and Safety Information Line, 201-225-7000.

School Attorney Hiring Questioned

BY REANIN MCROBERTS

During the Hackensack Board of Education meeting on May 5, several members took issue with the process used to hire the new board attorney, Richard Salkin.

Trustees Carolyn Hayer, Jonathan Gilmore and Tenya Pierce were left out of a poll taken by board president Frank Albolino about who should be hired. Albolino consulted with some new board members who had not yet been sworn in, and considered this a majority in favor of hiring Salkin. Because the board attorney is a public appointment for a professional service, not a personnel appointment, no confidentiality was breached, and the board members were not creating a quorum by speaking about it informally, Albolino said. However, in the future, Albolino vowed to keep all board members in the loop. The board also agreed that going forward there would be a request for proposals when hiring professional services.

In other business, the board reported that full-day preschool would be postponed for another year. The state still has not committed to funding the district's five-year plan to provide full-day preschool to 375 three- and four-year-olds.

"We have to do it right if we are going to do

it," said Michael Wojcik, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. "We need time to recruit and secure facilities."

The district will advertise and put together a half-day program instead.

The district welcomed David Petrella as assistant principal at Fanny Meyer Hillers School and Christopher Moran as assistant principal at the 5ive/6ix School.

Trustees were assigned as liaisons to each school: Modesto Romero will work with Hillers; Mark Stein with 5ive/6ix; Robert Mortorano with Nellie K. Parker; Hayer and Gilmore with the middle school; Pierce and Gilmore with the high school; Albolino with Jackson School; and Jeanne Dressler with Fairmount.

Michelle Zhu, a visiting teacher from China, was thanked for her two years of work with fourth graders in the district. Her students read essays about their experience learning the Chinese culture and language. Zhu will now return to China to teach.

Bernard Kaminsky, a former assistant superintendent, was honored as a volunteer at Parker School. Principal Lillian Whitaker described him as "proof that education doesn't stop when you retire." Jacqueline Salinas, a second grader, read a poem written for him entitled "You are Special."

Rochelle Park Girl Wins Legion Awards



Photo Courtesy: Loeky Salvini

Kaitlin Abrams of Rochelle Park was awarded the \$500 Peg Ebbe Scholarship from the Bergen County American Legion. Kaitlin, who received the award during the county group's convention in Rochelle Park on May 1, also won the \$2,000 Luterman Scholarship awarded by the American Legion, Department of New Jersey.

Bergen LEADers Tackle Environmental Issues



Photo Courtesy: Maureen McCormick

Bergen LEADS participants at an observation platform overlooking Celery Farm in Allendale, a 107-acre freshwater wetland nature preserve which is a refuge for a variety of wildlife including herons, ducks, minks and foxes. In the forefront, Hugh Carola, program director, Hackensack Riverkeeper, with Liz Corsini of Englewood; Mark Heard of Hackensack; Mary Rossettini of Hackensack; Ellen Rafferty of Franklin Lakes; Kathleen Bikoff of Hackensack; Tony Luciano of Teterboro; Eric Cawood of Park Ridge; and Kim Caesar of Hackensack.

The 28 members of Bergen County's first community leadership program recently spent a day exploring the county's economic development and environmental issues.

Bergen LEADS, sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County, focuses on preparing local leaders, who live or work in Bergen County, to tackle the unique challenges and embrace the opportunities in Bergen County.

Since September 2008, the class has met monthly to dissect issues, debate viewpoints and get a first-hand look at Bergen County's infrastructure. Past seminars included government, education, healthcare, public safety and diversity.

The environmental seminar featured a panel comprised of developers, planners and representatives of environmental organizations who addressed sprawl, open space, development and redevelopment in the region. Class members also learned about the model regional planning efforts in the Meadowlands.

The class visited four sites: Palisades Interstate Park in Alpine; Celery Farm Natural Area in Allendale; Meadowlands Environment Center in Lyndhurst and Meadowlands Xanadu in East Rutherford, where they learned about the juxtaposition of land development and conservation and gained an understanding of how environmental concerns are balanced with the

need to provide more retail, commercial, retail and residential space.

The Bergen LEADS seminar year will conclude with the presentation of special group projects and a graduation where the class of 2009 will welcome the Class of 2010, whose members are currently being selected. The ultimate goal of the Bergen LEADS program is to encourage participants to take their new knowledge and skills and apply them to solve some of Bergen's challenges.

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