



Sixth District News

Jump Starting Our Economy

We're living in uncertain economic times. As children, some of us heard stories from our parents or grandparents about the Great Depression. Likely, we never thought we'd experience an economic event in our lifetime like the Depression that wrought havoc through our country.



start in New Jersey, nor can New Jersey end it all by itself. Still, we have an opportunity to help improve our local economy by saving our families money and creating jobs.

Assemblyman Greenwald and Assemblywoman Lampitt have already backed key measures to help save families money.

But as the Great Depression provided the country with a great opportunity to lift our country up by investing in infrastructure, this recession presents us with similar opportunities to lift our country and our families up. Let's be clear; this economic situation did not

Under new law, the Senior Property Tax Freeze eligibility will be expanded over the next three years to include seniors with an income up to \$80,000 annually. This measure will ensure 70,000 additional New Jersey seniors

receive property tax relief.

LIHEAP, the Low Income Heating Assistance Program, eligibility has been expanded to help families heat their homes this winter. In addition, NJSHARES, which provides energy assistance for those not eligible for other entitlements, will be boosted by \$10 million this year.

The state has increased mortgage and foreclosure assistance to help families remain in their homes through mediation programs. Assemblyman Greenwald and Assemblywoman Lampitt have also taken key steps to create jobs in this difficult economic climate. These measures will

(Continued on page 2)

Economic Assistance Expo: January 15th

On January 15, 2009, from 5-8 P.M., Assemblyman Greenwald and Assemblywoman Lampitt will host *National Crisis, Local Solutions*, an Economic Assistance Expo to help you and your family weather the nation's economic downturn.

This Economic Expo will feature representatives from several state agencies, as well as representatives from community organizations and local businesses.

At the event, you can find

out more information about state programs to help with foreclosure, unemployment, utility, and college tuition assistance, NJ Family Care health insurance eligibility, and much more.

With unemployment rising and a deepening global recession, Assemblyman Greenwald and Assemblywoman Lampitt are commit-

ted to meeting these serious challenges head-on.



The event will take place in Camden County College's The Atrium at Madison Connector Building, located on Peter Cheeseman Road in Blackwood.

No RSVP is necessary.

For more information or to get directions, please call our office at 856-435-1247.

We hope to see you there!

Inside this issue:

Jump Starting Our Economy Economic assistance Expo	1
Digital Transition: What You Need to Know Blindness Awareness Month	2
From Pam's Desk: Green Jobs—The Future is Now From Lou's Desk: Cracking Down on Medical Waste Dumping New Year's Message	3
Energy Efficiency Tips to Help Save Money Greenwald & Lampitt Announce Heating Aid Congratulations Congressman Adler, Senator Beach	4

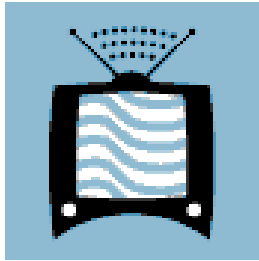
Pam and Lou would like to remind you to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Digital TV Transition: What You Need to Know

On February 17, 2009, broadcast television stations such as ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS, and Fox will switch to digital broadcasting as part of the Broadcast Digital Television Transition (DTV). What does this mean for you?

It is very important to know what kind of TV set you have. If you have an analog TV set that receives broadcast through a rooftop or "rabbit ears" antenna, you may



need to purchase a converter box to process the digital signal to your analog TV set, buy a new TV set, or purchase a cable subscription. If you currently have cable from a cable provider, the transition will not affect you.

Fortunately, the federal government has made coupons available to consumers. Each household may apply for up to two \$40 coupons to purchase a digital converter box. The program is limited, so if

you need to purchase a converter box, make sure to apply for the coupon discount soon.

For more information on the coupon program or to find out if this transition affects you, call 1-888-388-2009 (voice), 1-877-530-2634 (TTY), or visit their websites at www.dtv2009.gov and www.DTVtransition.org.

As always, feel free to contact our office at 856-435-1247 if you need assistance with this or any other issue.

Jump Starting our Economy (contd.)

(Continued from page 1)

make our state more business-friendly to encourage job growth and retention, even as national unemployment rises.

InvestNJ, a program sponsored by Assemblyman Greenwald, will provide a \$3,000 tax credit to New Jersey businesses that create a job and retain that employee for at least a year. This measure will create incentives to keep New Jerseyans employed and earning paychecks. The New Main Street Business

Assistance Program will ensure New Jersey businesses continue to have the credit they need to support our communities.

Assemblyman Greenwald and Assemblywoman Lampitt supported expediting infrastructure projects including school construction, critical bridge repairs, investment in public transportation, reducing congestion on state roads. Estimates suggest these programs will create over 40,000 jobs in the next few years.

Another piece of Assemblyman Greenwald's legislation, now law, will allow

businesses to write off twenty years' worth of operating losses in their taxes, increased from seven.

Assemblyman Greenwald and Assemblywoman Lampitt are committed to helping families during this economic struggle. The important thing to remember is that, just like we got through the Great Depression, we'll all get through this by coming together as a community.

For more information about economic assistance programs you may be eligible for, call our office at 856-435-1247.

Blindness Awareness Month

We first met Rocco Fiorentino, a Voorhees resident, in Trenton as he testified about the importance of Braille education. What we heard was truly an inspiration.

Born four months premature, doctors said he had less than a 5% chance of survival. Rocco spent six months and underwent ten surgeries at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia after birth. Unfortunately, the highly-oxygenated environment that allowed him to survive rendered him blind.

Despite these tough obstacles, Rocco has become a star. He learned how to play the piano at the age of four and learned how to sing at age six. Since then, he has charged full speed ahead—performing for the Today Show, the Philadelphia Phillies and 76ers, Governor Ed Rendell, our troops through the USO, American Idol, and count-

less more—all at the age of twelve! In the face of adversity, he has remained passionate and upbeat.

In addition to being a fantastic performer and entertainer, Rocco is also a tireless advocate for blindness awareness and education. When we first spoke to him, hearing his story and his positive outlook on life, we were compelled to do something, increasing funding to ensure visually impaired students would have access to education through Braille instruction.



Just a month ago, on December 4,

2008, Governor Corzine signed into law a joint resolution of which we were the primary sponsors. Rocco was our inspiration. From now on, October of each year will also be known as "Blindness Awareness Month," and will help to promote public awareness about eye disease, eye care, and the rising trend of severe visual impairment.

We are both truly thankful and deeply proud to have welcomed Rocco into our lives and to have been able to help him and countless other New Jerseyans who live with visual impairments.

-Lou & Pam

From Pam's Desk: Green Jobs—The Future Is Now



It's no secret; our economy is struggling. The troubles on Wall Street have rebounded to Main Street, as declining stocks have devastated some retirement accounts. Unemployment is rising; wages are stagnant, and as President-elect Obama has said, it will likely get worse before it gets better.

There are some who don't believe that we need to pursue a "green" economy here in New Jersey. I couldn't disagree more. I believe those who criticize the potential of green jobs fail to grasp the urgency of the moment we're in. The truth is the renewable energy industry is

already benefitting New Jersey and becoming a vital part of our economy. More and more high-tech firms are making their homes here. According to the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers, New Jersey ranks behind only California as the nation's leading host for solar firms.

Years ago, New Jersey made a commitment to invest in a budding pharmaceutical research industry; today, New Jersey is a national leader in that industry, which is a major part of our state economy. Aggressively positioning New Jersey as a hub for green-collar jobs will not only ensure we pass on a healthy environment to our children and grandchildren, but leave them with a stronger economy, as well.

The Center for American Progress and the Political Economy Research Institute at

the University of Massachusetts estimate, New Jersey could create over 57,000 new jobs through investments in alternative energies. By supporting green education and workforce training, New Jersey will be better positioned to attract more green industry to our state.

New Jersey's goal of producing 22.5% of our energy through renewable sources by 2021 will take massive investments by cutting-edge companies. We should help these firms through stronger tax incentives for, and investment in solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, and other renewable power sources.

For our economy, our environment and our future, investing in green energy and green jobs in is an opportunity we can't afford to miss.

From Lou's Desk: Cracking Down on Medical Waste Dumping



Growing up, my grandparents and my parents would always take our family to the Jersey Shore for vacation, where we'd enjoy the sunshine, the ocean, the boardwalks (with the attendant funnel cakes), and much more.

As a father, I carry on this tradition. Every summer, my kids count down the days until we head to the Shore. When we catch that first whiff of salt air on the ride down, they start to chatter excitedly. After a short stop for sunscreen (SPF 45, of course), they're off, charging into the ocean,

carefree. Imagine the heartbreak if a life-guard told them the water wasn't safe.

This summer, some of our most popular Shore communities closed their beaches because of dangerous medical waste. Greedy individuals had dumped this waste offshore instead of properly disposing of it. Not only did this put our families at risk, it also dramatically hurt both local revenue and tourism—one of our state's most important economic industries.

I was outraged and introduced a bill to respond. Currently, if someone dumps dirty needles or other medical waste on our beaches, they only face a fine—a slap on the wrist. This penalty doesn't deter dump-

ing; for some, it's cheaper to pay the fine and keep dumping instead of spending more to properly dispose of the waste.

Under my bill, we'll crack down on dumpers. If we catch them, they'll lose their medical license—from at least three years up to a lifetime. Instead of a slap on the wrist, we'll effectively end their ability to do business in New Jersey—creating a tough deterrent against illegal dumping.

Our families shouldn't have to worry about medical waste ruining their vacations or putting them in danger. By getting tough on dumpers, we can take back our beautiful Shore communities for our families.

New Year's Message

We enter 2009 with high hopes and the sober realization that the New Year will bring some truly tough challenges in shaping New Jersey's future.

As legislators, we depend on hearing from you, our constituents, to help guide us in crafting policy. In 2009, Trenton will consider a variety of issues important to

our state. With that in mind, we're asking for your help.

Please, take a minute to reply to us; write to us about the challenges facing your family and the state issues which are most on your mind. Knowing the issues that matter most to you will help us better represent you in Trenton and will help us

better address state legislation that affects your life and livelihood.

Your views on the issues facing New Jersey are very important to us. If you're able, please take a moment to reply and share them with us.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones for a happy, healthy New Year.



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CONGRATULATIONS

Congressman John Adler
Senator Jim Beach

And good luck in your new offices

John Adler, longtime State Senator from district 6, was sworn in as a new member of the U.S. Congress last week. **Jim Beach**, longtime Camden County Clerk, was sworn in as the 6th District's new senator this week.

To Contact Senator Beach's Office, call 856-489-3442

Greenwald & Lampitt Announce \$150,000 in Home Heating Aid

Assemblyman Greenwald and Assemblywoman Lampitt recently announced a \$150,000 grant from the Sunoco Foundation to the Camden County Council on Economic Opportunity.

The grant, given as part of the Foundation's Low Income Energy Assistance Program, will cover the home-heating bills of approximately 600 low income families across Camden County.

"We're proud to stand with the Sun-

oco Foundation to present this critically needed assistance to South Jersey families," said Greenwald. "This economic crisis is hitting family budgets hard. The grant we announce today will provide help to those who can't afford their heating bills as we approach the heart of winter."

"Around kitchen tables across South Jersey, families are struggling to make ends meet," said Lampitt. "This money will help struggling families afford the home heating

they need to stay safe through the winter. With home-heating oil prices so volatile and the economy in recession, we need to do more to make sure families don't fall through the cracks."

The aid will be distributed to families through the federal Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

To apply, call the Camden County Council on Economic Opportunity at 856-964-6887

Energy Efficiency Tips to Help Save Money

It seems that the cost of heating your home is constantly rising, making weatherizing your home all the more important to help you save money. Here are a few tips that will help keep you warm and save money.

- Keep the draperies and shades on your south facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

- Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable when home.



- By resetting your programmable thermostat between 68 and 65 degrees, if your health permits, for eight hours a day (for instance, while no one is home or while everyone is tucked in bed) you can cut your heating bill by up to 10%.

- Caulk and weather-strip any doors and windows that leak air.

- Properly maintain and clean heating equipment.

- Replace furnace filters regularly.

During the winter heating season, many families need a hand paying their utility bills. The federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps thousands of disadvantaged households each year.

Many gas and electric companies support the New Jersey Statewide Heating Assistance and Referral for Energy Services (New Jersey SHARES). They assist people in need of temporary help paying their energy bills.

For more information on any of these programs, please contact our district office.