

DAILY RUNDOWN

Tickets available to honor Grzella on May 2

The Somerset County Business Partnership (SCBP), community and political leaders will gather to honor Paul C. Grzella, recently retired General Manager/Editor of the Courier News, Home News Tribune, and MyCentralJersey.com, as the 69th Somerset County Outstanding Citizen of the Year. The Citizen of the Year award, given annually to Somerset County's premier civic and business leader, is the county's individual award recognizing a single person for community and professional activities that have contributed to making Somerset County a special place. Grzella will be honored on Thursday, May 2, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Bridgewater Marriott, 700 Commons Way in Bridgewater. Registration fee is \$150. Reservations may be made by calling the Business Partnership at 908-218-4300 or ordering online at <http://bit.ly/2019citizen>. Registration deadline is Friday, April 26.



Grzella

Doherty: Pot law is 'deal with the devil'

State Sen. Michael Doherty (R-District 23) said he is opposing legislation to legalize the recreational use of marijuana because the proposal is "a deal with the devil" that will sacrifice children and communities for short-term gain. "It's a gateway drug that will destroy thousands of lives, starting with our kids," Doherty said. "Nobody is talking about the real, measurable impact that can be seen today in places like Colorado where car accident rates have risen and youth marijuana use has skyrocketed since legalization."

Bateman child abuse law signed by governor

State Sen. Kip Bateman's (R-District 16) legislation requiring witnesses of child sexual abuse to immediately report it to the Division of Child Protection and Permanency has been signed into law by Gov. Phil Murphy. "Anyone who witnesses child sex abuse has to speak up immediately. Silence is not an option," Bateman said. "Mandating immediate reporting will help survivors get justice as soon as possible, and help ensure the perpetrators quickly face the full wrath of the law." The bill requires that sexual abuse against a child be directly reported to the Division of Child Protection and Permanency. It also makes failing to report an act of sexual abuse a crime of the fourth degree.

Bridgewater police log

Rachel Elizabeth Occhipinti, 21, of Franklin, was charged at 4:08 p.m. March 11 with shoplifting at the Target on Promenade Boulevard. Police say the items

taken included underwear and cosmetics valued at \$174.74. Wykill L Sherrod, 20, of Plainfield, was arrested at 8:30 p.m. March 11 on an outstanding warrant. He was unable to post bail and was lodged in the Somerset County Jail.

Raritan Township police log

Mary E. Gaydos, 52, of Stockton, was charged with shoplifting items totaling \$35.56 from Shoprite at 4:23 p.m. Feb. 25. Christopher Fiorella, 56, of Piscataway, was charged at 10:12 a.m. Feb. 26 for driving while intoxicated in the area of Old Clinton Road and Rolling Lane. Aleida E. Montenegro-Alvarez, 22, of Maywood, Ca., was charged at 12:17 a.m. March 5 with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia on Route 202. Sabrina H. Maameur, 30, of Flemington, was charged at 1:20 p.m. on March 6 with driving while intoxicated on Commerce Street after police responded to a call of a woman for a woman slumped over the steering wheel with her foot on the brake. Lynn C. Hoehlein, 64, of Long Valley, was charged at 2:20 p.m. March 7 with driving while intoxicated on Route 202.

North Brunswick presented with award

The Township of North Brunswick was presented with the Agency Showcase Award for an Agency Brochure at the New Jersey Recreation and Park Association (NJRPA) Annual Awards Dinner in Atlantic City. Lou Ann Benson, director of parks, recreation and community services was present on Tuesday, Feb. 26, to accept this award. The North Brunswick Community Services Brochure is being recognized for its pictograph chart that uses symbols to clearly display the amenities at each of the township's parks, as well as the colorful headlines alerting residents to programs and events geared toward their specific age groups. Visit www.northbrunswicknj.gov.

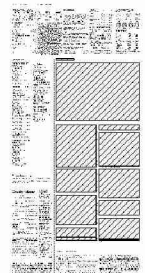
Housing Expo on March 23

A free Housing Expo will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 23, at Dr. Herbert N. Richardson 21st Century Elementary School, 318 Stockton St., Perth Amboy. Door prizes and giveaways. Workshops, vendors. For more information, call 732-442-0384. Visit <http://ci.perthamboy.nj.us/>.

Edison's 22nd Annual Taste of Middlesex

Edison's 22nd Annual Taste of Middlesex will be held from 5:30-8 p.m. on Monday, March 25, at Pines Manor, 2085 Route 27, Edison. Help choose the Best Restaurant at the Taste. Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/taste-of-middlesex-tickets-39298954230>. Tickets, \$50; \$45 seniors; table of 10, \$450 each. Register by phone, 732-738-9482 or email Admin@edisonchamber.com.

Email news tips to cnmetro@MyCentralJersey.com



sey.com or hntmetro@MyCentralJersey.com



Somerset County Freeholder Director Brian Levine, second from left, was at Hackensack Meridian Health **Carrier Clinic** on March 14, to declare the week of March 17 to March 23 as Horticultural Therapy Week in Somerset County. Joining him, from left, were Brian J. Schilling, Ph.D., senior associate director, NJ Agricultural Experiment Station, and director, Rutgers Cooperative Extension; Laura DePrado, registered horticultural therapist, and Susan Leight, director of Carrier Clinic's Adult Psychiatric and Addiction unit. Carrier Clinic sponsors an active horticultural therapy program that is overseen by DePrado in support of its patients. Levine said horticultural therapy is a time-proven practice with therapeutic benefits and, because spring officially begins with the vernal equinox on March 20, this "is an ideal time to focus our energies on the therapeutic benefits of garden environments."

COURTESY OF HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH CARRIER CLINIC