

Wall Township



Congressman Chris Smith [R-4] attended a public input session seeking comments on a national Alzheimer's strategic plan, held Tuesday in Wall Township.

Alzheimer's Assoc. holds public input session for national plan

By Jamie Biesiada

According to the Alzheimer's Association, the population with Alzheimer's disease is steadily growing — the association estimates 5.4 million Americans currently have the disease, and that number could grow to 16 million by 2050.

In January, the National Alzheimer's Project Act [NAPA] was passed by both houses of Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama. Under the law, a strategic, national plan will be created to address what the association calls "the rapidly escalating Alzheimer's crisis."

However, the plan is not being created only by legislators. Input is being sought from those with Alzheimer's and their caregivers all across the country via public input sessions.

A session was held in Wall Township Tuesday night, run by the Alzheimer's Association, Greater New Jersey Chapter, and attended by caregivers, healthcare professionals and Congressman Chris Smith [R-4].

The congressman co-introduced the legislation that led to the Alzheimer's plan.

Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible, progressive neurological disorder. Symptoms range from gradual memory loss to personality change, disorientation, difficulty in learning and loss of language skills. There is currently no cure.

"I so appreciate everybody being here, I really do," Debbie Warburton, coordinator of public policy and advocacy with the Alzheimer's Association, said. "I know that you're going to have some good input for us tonight."

The Alzheimer's Association mission, she said, is to eliminate Alzheimer's by advancing research, provide and better care and support for those affected by the disease, and reduce the risk of dementia through promoting brain health.

She noted while NAPA has been passed into law, "in many ways, that was the easy part."

Around 100 public input sessions were being held around the country, Ms. Warburton said, to provide input from the people "in the trenches," working with those with the disease daily.

The idea behind creating a national, strategic plan, Congressman Smith said, was to get everybody in the country on the same page with regard to the disease. He noted Alzheimer's is the sixth-highest killer in the country, and numbers of those affected will

Input will be used to create a national strategic plan to address increase in those with Alzheimer's disease, the sixth leading cause of death in the United States

keep increasing "unless there is a game-changer — or game-changers."

Moving forward, the congressman said, Alzheimer's should also be studied on a global level. He had met with members of the European parliament, he said, and wanted to create a coalition of lawmakers that could share their research and work on future research together.

Several other pieces of legislation are also in the works and have been introduced this year, Congressman Smith said: The Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act to accelerate treatments to prevent, cure or slow the progression of the disease, and the Health Outcomes, Planning and Education [HOPE] for Alzheimer's Act.

The HOPE Act, if passed into law, would provide Medicare coverage for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's. It would also provide information and educational resources to patients and their families.

Alzheimer's screening would ensure early diagnosis, he said.

"There are ways of frustrating the disease," he continued — and while there are not many ways of slowing the progression of Alzheimer's, early diagnosis would help.

During the public input session of the meeting, various personal stories and ideas were discussed. All agreed education — for patients, their fam-

ilies, and, especially, all caregivers — is paramount in the fight against Alzheimer's.

Adult day care centers were also discussed.

Those in attendance said stimulation for Alzheimer's patients is an important part of their care. If a patient is not stimulated, he or she often becomes depressed or suffers similar consequences.

Adult day care can provide that stimulation, but it often comes at a great expense for family members of those with Alzheimer's, and, or centers are located too far from homes. Suggestions ranged from getting day care covered under Medicare to creating more centers in existing buildings, like hospitals.

Julie Kellner, regional marketing director with Fox Rehabilitation, was in attendance.

Caregivers need the proper knowledge when they are with Alzheimer's patients, Ms. Kellner said.

"It's tough to deal with," she added.

Ms. Kellner told those in attendance there is a program, Skills 2 Care, covered by Medicare that provides in-home education for caregivers and patients from certified therapists.

Fox Rehabilitation provides the therapists, she said. The program, developed at Thomas Jefferson University, offers participants the chance to learn how to manage challenging behaviors, make their homes safer, reduce the stress of being a caregiver, and engage the Alzheimer's patient in meaningful activities.

Anyone who would like to offer input to the national Alzheimer's plan can still do so online by visiting alz.org/napa.



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Monmouth County to hold 9/11 memorial ceremony

On Sunday, Sept. 11, at 2 p.m., the Monmouth County Park System will host a Memorial Ceremony at Mount Mitchell Scenic Overlook in Atlantic Highlands, the site of the county's 9/11 Memorial.

The ceremony will be held rain or shine, and all are welcome to attend. The guest speaker will be Capt. David J. Harrison, commanding officer at Naval Weapons Station Earle.

Parking will be available at the Claypit Creek section of

Ceremony will be held at county memorial in Atlantic Highlands at 2 p.m. on Sept. 11

Hartshorne Woods Park, 239 Locust Ave., Middletown. Shuttle busses will be provided to and from the memorial from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monmouth County's 9/11 Memorial has three symbolic components: a timeline walkway to recollect the events of Sept. 11, 2001; a stone base carved with the names, ages and hometowns of the 147 county residents who lost their lives that day; and an eagle sculpture with a beam from one of the fallen World Trade Center towers.

Set against views of New York City, the memorial honors both the lives lost and the fearless display of heroism by rescue teams and citizens who responded to the tragedy.

Monmouth County's 9/11

Memorial was dedicated in 2005 and made possible through donations to Monmouth County's 9/11 Memorial Committee.

Mount Mitchell Scenic Overlook will have extended hours on Friday to Sunday, Sept. 9 to 11, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., to provide the public with additional opportunities to visit the 9/11 Memorial.

For more information about the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony, please visit www.monmouth-countyparks.com or call 732-842-4000, extension 4312. For persons with hearing impairment, the Park System TTY/TDD number is 711.

The Monmouth County Park System, created in 1960 by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, is Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks, and Recreation agency.

Wet road causes one-car accident

A slick roadway caused a one-car motor vehicle accident on Friday, Aug. 19, at 7 p.m.

The Wall Township Police Department responded to the South Wall Interchange [Route 34, 35, 70 intersection] for a one-car, rollover crash. The South Wall Fire Department and Wall Community First Aid Squad also responded.

Investigation on the scene revealed that Edwin Case, 27, of Brick, was traveling south on Highway 34 in a 2003 silver Nissan Xterra. Mr. Case entered the Highway 70 west ramp, and lost control of his vehicle on the wet roadway, police said.

The vehicle left the travel portion of the roadway and slid into the embankment, ultimately causing the vehicle to overturn. Police said no injuries were reported.

The Highway 34 southbound to Highway 70 westbound ramp was closed for approximately 45 minutes while the vehicle was removed from the embankment.

Ptl. Daniel Santoro is the investigating officer.

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