



PANCAKES AROUND...The line was out the door at Westfield High School on Saturday for the Rotary Club's annual pancake breakfast. Above, members of the Rotary Club flip the flapjacks in the kitchen. Below, Spongebob Square Pants takes some time out for the kids.



Residents Return to Adjustment Bd. For Approval of Scaled-Down Plans

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Unanimously, the Westfield Board of Adjustment granted variances to two different applicants that had gone before the board last month and were asked to "scale down" their projects.

Homeowners Ann and Tom Madaras were granted permission to erect an addition, an in-ground pool, as well as retain a shed after amendments were made.

Last month, the couple asked for an 18-foot by 37-foot pool and this month their request was reduced by four feet to 16-feet by 35-feet. In addition, the couple added another foot and a half to the rear yard set-back making the deficit 3.5-feet as opposed to the original five.

Finally, the maximum building coverage variance was granted after the homeowners reduced it from 20.7 percent to 20.5 percent, where 20 percent is allowed.

Homeowner Evgeniy Velkov was also granted variances for an addition with a front porch after reducing the porch size from eight feet to five feet. He had also been before the board in February.

In other business, applicants James and John Caldora who are proposing to construct a 14-unit proposed complex on the corner of Lenox Avenue and Elmer Street asked that their appeal be carried to the April meeting so that their engineer could have time to respond to the town planner's 15-page report opposing the project.

In addition, homeowners Edward Dugan and Alex Nesenjek asked to come back next month after they

make alterations to their application for a circular driveway at 819 East Broad Street. The applicants stated that they wanted a circular driveway for safety reasons and were also asking for permission to install a 35-foot by 34-foot parking area in the front of their home.

Neighbors to the property including, Al West, Nancy Brenner and Howard Adams, all opposed the applicant's request stating that the parking lot in front of the home would be "unsightly and not consistent with the neighborhood."

Board member Francis Smith asked the homeowners if they or anyone else they have known have had any accidents backing out of their driveway onto East Broad Street, to which they answered "no."

Mr. Smith also asked about the people who had lived in the house before them if they had any accidents to which the applicants also answered no.

Other board members asked the three neighbors the same question to which Mr. West stated that in the 17 years that he has lived at 809 East Broad Street, he has never had an accident backing out of his driveway. Ms. Brenner also cited no accidents, but mentioned that there are many accidents from people turning too fast at Wychwood Gate.

Mr. Smith concluded that he saw no

Caldora Brothers Propose 14-Unit Apt. Complex at Elmer and Lenox

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Scheduled to be heard at the April 12 Board of Adjustment meeting, applicants James and John Caldora are proposing to knock down existing offices and apartments at 143 and 147 Elmer Street and 311 Lenox Avenue to erect a three story, 14-unit apartment complex.

This complex is proposed to contain four units on the first floor with five units each on the second and third floors. The units proposed would consist of two, one bedroom apart-

ments and 12, two bedroom apartments.

According to their application, the plan consists of demolishing a current single-family house, one detached garage, and a converted house containing offices on all floors, one being a doctor's office.

The application notes that the developers are trying to attract older Westfield residents who no longer wish to own and maintain a single-family home. The application also states that the plan was reviewed by the Westfield Planning Board at a

concept hearing and was, as the applicants report, "favorably received."

Also, the plans state that the complex would sit on a 16,500 square foot piece of property and would have an elevator to transport its residents to all three floors. In addition, the Caldora brothers are proposing a 21-space parking lot below the complex. The project includes a pedestrian entrance, which includes a handicapped accessible ramp from Lenox Avenue.

Variances needed for the development, known as the Caldora Project

are: relief from the Land Use Ordinance that does not allow multi-family dwellings; relief from a front yard set-back proposed at 10-feet when the requirement is 29.7-feet; relief from a minimum side street for a corner lot ordinance where the set-back is proposed at 9.8 feet and 20 feet is required; exemption from the maximum allowable coverage ordinance that states allowable building coverage is set at 30 percent and the applicants propose 56.5 percent and a maximum coverage of improvements not exceeding 70 percent where the applicants propose 81.5 percent.

The applicants are also asking for relief from the maximum residential floor coverage, where they ask for 100 percent of residential floor area and ordinance only allows for two-thirds.

They are also asking for an exemption of seven parking spaces as the ordinance requires 28 and 21 are proposed. In addition, the developers are seeking relief from ordinances concerning height of fences, curbing materials and signage.

In a 15-page report from Town Planner, Blaise Brancheau, from City Planning Consultants in Denville, he states, "viewed in isolation, the development is not unattractive, but in the context of this neighborhood and in the context of the GB-3 (General Business District) zone as a whole, the proposal is an overly intense development that is not consistent with the neighborhood development pattern."

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WF Council Hears Updated Plans For Parking Deck-Redevelopment

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

On Tuesday night the council reviewed updated plans for the parking deck-redevelopment projects on South Avenue and Prospect and Elm Streets.

Developer Robert Powell of HKT Nassau presented the revised plans to the members of the council. Though a handful of residents were in the audience to observe, they were not permitted to participate in the question and answer period.

On South Avenue the garage is proposed to be 43.5 feet tall and the residential portion is proposed at 44 feet at the eastern portion and 40 feet at the western portion.

On Prospect Street the residential portion is proposed at 44 feet tall and the garage is proposed at 38.2 feet

tall. On Elm Street the proposal is for the retail/residential portion to be 40-feet tall and the garage to be 36.2-feet tall.

At South Avenue the proposal calls for 18,000 square feet of retail and 61 new residential units. Mr. Powell proposed 15 for sale condominiums and 46 rental apartments. He is proposing two efficiency apartments, 21 one-bedroom, 21 two-bedroom and two three-bedroom units. Mr. Powell said that the condos would sell for approximately \$600,000.

On Prospect Street, where the original proposal was for condominiums, 17 apartments are now proposed, as well as eight apartments over the 3,350 square feet of retail space on Elm Street.

Mr. Powell said that the retail on South Avenue would be geared toward "mom and pop" businesses, such as salons, bagel places and the like. He said that the retail space on Elm Street could draw a national chain.

The number of parking spaces proposed for the South Avenue deck is 1,105 spaces. According to Mr. Powell, when the existing number of spaces and those needed for the retail and residential portions are subtracted, there is a gain of 430 commuter spaces.

Several members of the council expressed their desire to see for sale units on Prospect Street. Mr. Powell said that he prefers rental units and that the town gets more revenue through Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) through rentals.

First Ward Councilman Sal Caruana pointed out that when the for sale units were added on South Avenue, they were removed from Prospect Street.

Third Ward Councilman Mark Ciarrocca asked to see plans that removed the top level of residential from the western portion of the South

Avenue project.

In two weeks the council will meet again with HKT Nassau representatives, as well as Desmond Associates and Robert Goldsmith to look at financial breakdowns.

"I have huge concerns about the entire project," First Ward Councilman Peter Echausse told *The Westfield Leader* after the meeting. He said that what developer HKT Nassau has done in going from the original specifications given by the council to their current proposal is a "classic bait and switch" in reference to the change from ownership to rental on Prospect Street. Councilman Echausse said, "I do not condone a two deck plan."

Borough Council Discusses Charles Street Closure During PGA Tournament

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

It was announced at Tuesday evening's agenda setting council meeting by Mountainside Mayor Robert Vigilanti that in August of 2005 the Professional Golf Association (PGA) would be holding their Championships at Baltusrol Golf Course in Springfield.

The mayor stated that he, along with Police Chief James Debbie and Police Captain Richard Oseja, met with PGA officials recently because the PGA wants to use Charles Street in Mountainside to make a private entrance for use by their players and officials attending the tournament.

The mayor also noted that a very small sliver of land that the club sits on is in Mountainside. He also reported that at the meeting he at-

tended he was told that when the PGA comes to a specific area it typically generates \$30,000,000.

In other business, the mayor and council members discussed earmarking between \$1,200-\$2,000 to hire a teacher to run TV-35 as an after school club or activity for children at the school.

The mayor stated that he has heard a lot of feedback from residents saying that the new broadcasts run on the television station has "amazing clarity" and he would like to see more school events broadcast.

He, and other council members, felt that if an audio/video club were established at Deerfield, all of the schools sports activities, plays and special events could be broadcast for all residents and especially those parents who have to work and have difficulty getting to every event.

In other business, Mayor Vigilanti announced that the county has asked the borough to consider losing three parking spaces on Mountain Avenue between Sherwood Parkway and Valley National Bank to realign lanes at the light. The county wants to make a right turn only lane in addition to a lane going straight.

The mayor noted, however, that businesses in the downtown area would lose three parking spaces, but noted that he had witnessed many "near miss accidents because of people staying in the right hand only lane and then deciding that they want to go straight at the light."

The mayor stated that the county wants to accomplish the project in the summer.

In other business, the council announced that Michael Disco, Jr. would be appointed as a part-time Assistant Engineer at an annual salary of \$15,000 retroactive to January 1, 2004.

The governing body also announced that John Damato has been appointed as a temporary Building Inspector at an hourly rate of \$25 per hour. In addition, Councilman Bob Messler would now serve as a representative to the Union County Transportation Advisory Board.

Finally, it was announced that the borough would conduct a first reading on an ordinance for a stop sign at

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MS BOE Reviews PEAK Program; Candidates Night Set on March 22

By BETSEY BURGDORF
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

At the Monday night meeting of the Mountainside Board of Education, Pre-school Education for All Kids (PEAK) coordinator Elaine Nestel updated the board on the pilot program that was

initiated last September.

Developed to help children who have been classified disabled to make the transition from pre-school to kindergarten, the program has proven to be a success and will be continued this coming September. The class will be downsized slightly to accommodate the classroom and enrollment will be selected by lottery.

To learn more about the program, please contact the school.

During a Candidates Night on Monday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m. at Borough Hall, residents will have an opportunity to meet the candidates vying for seats on the school board. A question and answer forum will be held.

There are four candidates running for three available seats. Board members Richard Kress and Sally Riveccio will not be seeking re-election. Board member Ray Haggart is seeking re-election, with Michael Melengo, Gene Nagel and Carmine Venes also hoping for a seat on the board.

In other business, board member John Perrin questioned a motion to approve a payment to Bloomfield Drapery in the amount of \$7,533 to furnish and install a stage curtain at Beechwood School.

"A playground will serve more kids in Mountainside than a stage curtain," Mr. Perrin said. The money

was to come out of a capital fund containing \$15,000.

When Mr. Perrin asked if the remaining monies could be earmarked for playground equipment, Business Administrator Paul Visuzzo stated that the remaining money was already reserved for another purpose. The board decided to reconsider the motion and discuss it further in private.

The construction at Deerfield School is running on schedule and should be completed within the projected timeline. The Musial Group, contractor for the project, ran into a slight problem with the insulation for the computer labs but quickly rectified the problem. The contractor is currently working on the science labs, with the cabinets already in place.

"We are moving," Chief School Administrator Dr. Gerard Schaller commented. Construction should be completed by the last week of April, or the first week of May.

When the meeting was opened up for public participation, resident Frank Kelly, Jr. questioned the board on Mountainside students receiving a low position in *The Star-Leader's*

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Westfield Public Schools To Close March 15

WESTFIELD — All nine Westfield Public Schools will be closed on Monday, March 15, for staff in-service. Classes for students will not be held, although school offices and the administration building will be operational.

Teacher training was one of the two top priorities mentioned by the community in a survey distributed by the school district in May of 2003.

To explain Westfield's philosophy and practice regarding teacher training, a panel discussion led by Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley is now being shown on TV-36 through the end of March.



GUN CONTROL...Congressman Michael Ferguson (R-NJ), center, announced his support of legislation that would curb gun trafficking at the Westfield Town Hall. Pictured with Congressman Ferguson are: Michael Harrington, Director of Congressional Affairs for Americans for Gun Safety, far right; Special Police Captain John Morgan, far left; and representatives from the New Jersey State Police.

MS BOE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
 article on school rank, which was published last Thursday.

"I was very disappointed with the survey," Mr. Kelly said.

Board President Peter Goggi responded, "I have the same bottom line as you do. I want to be in the top 10 percent. The *Star-Ledger* gives us a gauge for us to follow. We look at the numbers and we guide our actions."

Mr. Goggi added that the board hired a curriculum coordinator, Angela Cosimano, who has been assessing the district to determine where the weaknesses are. He also stated that in the past students were being tested on skills being taught after the test was taken.

"That sequencing of the curriculum was identified and corrected," he said. "We are figuring out where the gaps are and are getting in sync with Berkeley Heights," he continued. Governor Livingston Regional High School in Berkeley Heights was ranked in the top 10 percent of the state.

The next scheduled meeting of the Mountainside Board of Education will be held on Friday, March 26 at 7 p.m., in conjunction with the presentation of the 2004-2005 school budget beginning at 7 p.m. at Borough Hall. The school board meeting will follow at approximately 8 p.m.

MS Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Woodacres Drive and Whipoorwill Way at next Tuesday's meeting. The borough would also be selling three surplus vehicles.

The next Mountainside meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 16, at 8 p.m.

Adjustment Bd.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

they scale-down their request for front porch and another applicant on Dorian Road withdrew their application after being told that their plans for a two-story addition "were too massive and would almost double the size of their home."

Finally, board members granted six addition variances, one variance to construct an addition with a patio, one variance to erect an addition with a pergola and one variance for an addition with a handicapped ramp to be removed when the person that will utilize it vacates the property.

The next meeting of the Westfield Board of Adjustment will be held on Monday, April 12, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Franklin Elementary Marks Dr. Seuss' 100th Birthday

WESTFIELD — Students at Franklin Elementary School in Westfield celebrated the 100th birthday of Dr. Seuss on March 2. For several weeks, students read and completed projects about Theodore Geisel, who wrote under the pen name Dr. Seuss. The culmination was a celebration on March 2, the exact 100th birthday of this famous children's author.

With guidance from the Franklin School Librarian Debra Stern, all the students read books by and about Dr. Seuss. In addition, students created related projects in Lauren Schwartzberg's art classes. The second and third graders designed book jackets representing many of Dr. Seuss' books. These book jackets

adorned the halls of the school.

Fourth-grade students illustrated small squares with pictures of Seuss characters. Parent volunteer Trisha Ertman then sewed the squares together into one large quilt for permanent display in the Franklin School library.

Fifth-graders created three-dimensional Dr. Seuss characters using papier-mâché. These statues were displayed in store windows in downtown Westfield.

Students came to school on March 2 dressed as Dr. Seuss characters. The day's celebration culminated in a musical play that the teachers and staff performed for the students. The play was an adaptation of the Dr. Seuss book, "Horton Hatches an Egg," which focuses on this year's school theme of responsibility.

Vocal music teacher Stanley Schwartz wrote several original songs for the production, and vocal music teacher Elsa Hahn acted and sang in her role as Horton. Virtually all the grade-level teachers, special subject teachers, office staff and even principal performed in the show.

For several years, Franklin School has encouraged reading by participating in "Read Across America Day", an event sponsored by the National Education Association (NEA) on March 2, Dr. Seuss' birthday.

As part of this year's celebration, Dina Matos McGreevey, wife of New Jersey Governor James McGreevey, visited Franklin School on March 1 and read books to the students. On March 3 and 4, the Franklin School Parent-Teacher Organization sponsored Visiting Author Day.

Children's author Suzy Kline spent two days at the school, reading to the students and explaining how she writes her books.



HONORARY MEMBERSHIP... Westfield Policemen's Benevolent Association Local 90 recently presented Helen and Peter Rentoulis with Silver Honorary Memberships in Local 90. This honorary membership recognizes the continued efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Rentoulis in their support of Westfield PBA Local 90 and numerous community events. The Rentoulis' are the owner of Vicki's Diner on East Broad Street in Westfield. Each of the 350 PBA Locals throughout the State of New Jersey are permitted to issue honorary memberships to two individuals per year. Pictured from left to right are: Leonard Lugo Secretary, Robert Weiss President, Mrs. Rentoulis, Mr. Rentoulis, and John Cuzzo State Delegate.

WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Auto Theft
 that her car hood was dented while the vehicle was parked in a municipal lot off of Prospect Street.

MONDAY, MARCH 1

Vehicle Damage
 hicles owned by a South Avenue business. The damage occurred while the vehicles were parked outside the establishment.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Auto Theft
 theft of his 1986 dump truck while it was parked on Ripley Place. The truck was recovered the following day in New Brunswick.

APRIL 1, 2004

Simple Assault
 simple assault following an altercation

with another motorist on East Broad Street. The victim claimed the other driver had trained his high beams on the victim's vehicle, then demanded he exit the vehicle once the two were stopped at a traffic light.

The victim, who did not comply, said the suspect reached into his vehicle and grabbed him by his coat before both left the scene. The suspect is described as a white male, 5 feet and 11 inches tall, 30 to 40 years old and with a large build.

Auto Theft
 reported that a rear bedroom window on her home was damaged, possibly by someone firing a BB gun at it.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

Auto Theft
 ported the theft of the front passenger side headlight from a motor vehicle that was parked outside the victim's home.

Auto Theft
 Darquea, 19, both of North Plainfield, were arrested on South Avenue, East, and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and with possession of burglary tools. They were released after being issued summonses.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

Driving While Intoxicated
 was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated and with possession of a false document, described by police as a fraudulent driver's license. Abrusci, who was stopped for speeding at Central and Myrtle Avenues, was later released to a responsible party.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Driving While Intoxicated
 was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated following a motor vehicle accident in the 800 block of Shackamaxon Drive in which he struck a parked car. He was subsequently released to a responsible party.

Caldora Brothers Propose 14-Unit Apt. Complex

He said, "Furthermore, the proposal is a multi-family housing development not permitted by the zone district regulations."

Mr. Brancheau added that although the master plan endorses multi-family housing in what is termed as a mixed-use development, single-use multi-family dwellings are not what the master plan calls for as it states that the ground floor must be a commercial use.

He explained that "the subject property does not appear to have sufficient distinguishing characteristics to merit such intensity or such use and therefore an approval would open the door to similar applications in other locations of the GB-3 zone or elsewhere."

Mr. Brancheau concluded in his recommendations that the law requires that zoning policies be a result of the master plan and by its ordinances, not by variance approvals. He noted that the application lends itself more to a rezoning discussion rather than variance approval.

The application was first scheduled for Monday evening's Board of Adjustment meeting, but was rescheduled at the request of the applicant's lawyer. In the agenda for the March meeting, it stated that the engineer for the project did not have enough time to respond to the town planner's report which was dated February 17.

Rowan Univ. Honors Michael Attanasio

WESTFIELD — Drew Calandrella, Vice President of Student Affairs at Rowan University in Glassboro, has revealed that Michael Attanasio of Westfield has achieved Dean's List recognition for academic excellence for the fall 2003 semester.

A member of Rowan's Class of 2006, Michael is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Attanasio of Westfield. He is a 2002 graduate of Westfield High School.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. SEUSS... Franklin Elementary School students and staff dressed as Dr. Seuss characters on March 2 to celebrate the author's 100th birthday. Pictured, with Franklin Principal Dr. Mary Fleck, who dressed as the Dr. Seuss character, "Thing 2," are students from Carole Kling's fourth grade class.

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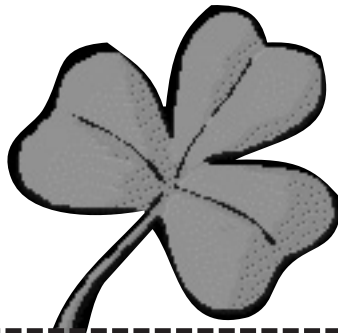
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SIXTY CENTS



LEANING TOWER OF PISA?...The communications tower at Fanwood Borough Hall is leaning and needs to be replaced. A special meeting was held on Monday night so that area residents could be informed of the new tower.

Residents Raise Safety, Cell Concerns With New FW Communications Tower

By ELIZABETH CORRELL
Specially Written for The Times

A special meeting regarding the proposed new communications tower to be located at Borough Hall was held on Monday night.

Residents who live within 200 feet of the expected site of the new tower were sent letters informing them of the meeting. Police Chief Donald Domanoski and Police Captain Edward White, as well as a consultant hired by the borough, Mark Gatanis from Salient Associates, presented information to the residents attending the meeting.

The current tower needs to be replaced immediately for several reasons: it is leaning and therefore unsafe; there is currently only a temporary fix for lightning suppression, to protect equipment, and the height of the tower, at 60 feet, does not provide complete reception for the new emergency communications system. The radio system was upgraded last year with an \$80,500 grant.

The new tower would be 120 feet

in height. The police explained that this height is needed to allow radio communication in all locations. The old system, which was VHF (Very High Frequency, a band of radio frequencies falling between 30 and 300 megahertz), could not penetrate certain buildings, such as the concrete school buildings in the area.

The new system, which is UHF

(Ultra High Fidelity, a band of radio frequencies from 300 to 3,000 megahertz), needs the additional height to function fully.

The police stated that the new tower will "enhance our communication capabilities."

In his presentation, Mr. Gatanis displayed a large photograph of the site on borough grounds where the

tower would be located, with an image of the proposed tower digitally added. The lattice tower style was chosen as the best option for Fanwood's needs.

The governing body decided that the best location would be on the strip of ground between the parking lot behind Borough Hall and the

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Township Council Passes More Ordinances Restricting Parking

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

In an effort to ease traffic congestion around Park Middle School, the Scotch Plains Township Council passed several ordinances at its meeting on Tuesday evening while introducing other ordinances affecting vehicle operation in the same area as

well as parking near the high school.

Stopping and standing will be prohibited on the north side of Church Street between Park Avenue and Forest Road. Parking along the first 215 feet of the south side of Church Street will be limited to two hours between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. on all days except Sunday. U-turns will be prohibited on Church Street between Park Avenue and Forest Road.

Councilwoman Carolyn Sarge said that vehicle traffic around Park Middle School "is very heavy" during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. She said the council, through the newly-enacted ordinances, was "trying to make it a safe environment" for students.

The council introduced another ordinance that will allow cars to make right-hand turns only out of the parking lot of a professional building across from the middle school during the morning drop-off hours and afternoon pick-up hours.

The council also re-introduced an ordinance that will limit parking along a 230-foot section of Concord Road starting from a point 100 feet south of Old Farm Road. Parking on both sides of the street will be restricted to two hours between 8 a.m.

and 3 p.m. on school days. A similar ordinance was introduced last month, but was withdrawn after a resident pointed out some contradictory language in the original ordinance. A public hearing on these ordinances will be held at the council's March 23 meeting.

In other business, the council passed an ordinance that adjusts salary ranges for certain municipal positions, including Chief Financial Officer (\$80,000-\$120,000), Township Attorney (\$50,000-\$90,000), Director of Parks and Recreation (\$60,000-\$88,000), Assistant Township Attorney (\$30,000-\$50,000), Principal Librarian (\$50,000-\$65,000) and Librarian (\$35,000-\$52,000).

The council also passed a resolution securing the services of Jersey Professional Management (JPM) to facilitate and coordinate the shared services activities between Scotch Plains, Fanwood and the board of education. The three entities will each pay \$3,000 for JPM's services, which Councilman Frank Rossi said have been provided for the past several years.

It was announced that Police Chief Marshall Nelson and Captain John Shebey will both be retiring on Friday, April 30. Mayor Martin Marks said the township was "losing two very capable gentlemen."

No announcements on successors have yet been made.

Mayor Marks also said it is likely that the 2004 municipal budget will be formally introduced at the council's next meeting, meaning that a public hearing will be held at its Tuesday, April 27 meeting. The council has been spending the past month examining the \$19.5 million spending plan submitted at the end of January by Township Manager Thomas Atkins. A five-point hike in the municipal portion of local property taxes will finance the proposed 4.9 percent increase in expenditures, although it's possible that the spend-

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Scotch Plains-Fanwood BOE Passes Budget; Addresses NJASK, GEPA Test Score Queries

By MICHELLE SCHACKMAN
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education adopted its tentative 2004-2005 school budget, which will be passed on to the Union County Superintendent for approval in order for the board to hold a public hearing on the budget on Tuesday, March 30.

The board approved the 2004-2005 tax levy at \$55,338,242 which breaks down to a 7.5 percent tax increase for Scotch Plains households and a 5.1 percent increase for Fanwood homes.

In other business, the board addressed recently published newspaper articles concerning standardized testing results at its Thursday night meeting, and discussed the district's own perspectives and expectations.

Assistant Superintendent Margaret Hayes explained to the public and board members that the test results presented in the fall to the community by the district may look slightly different than the results printed in the newspapers.

The discrepancy is because the district does not include the results of special education students or limited English speaking students in its data if the number is less than 20 students in a category, while the state does include these "sub" categories in its printed data, Dr. Hayes said.

The state of New Jersey does not require the district to print the "sub" categories when they include under 20 students because this information has the potential to expose the privacy of those individuals when there is a small number of students, according to Dr. Hayes.

As tests such as the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) for third and fourth graders and Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA) are rapidly approaching this spring, the administration wanted to assure the public that "we try to ensure all of our students do as well as possible on the tests," said Dr. Hayes. She added test preparation "is embedded into daily instruction."

The results are heavily analyzed each year to find the areas where perhaps the curriculum or method of instruction needs to be altered. The goal, according to Dr. Hayes, is to be consistent in each grade throughout the schools in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district.

Vice President Linda Nelson said that the district is very confident in the students, and especially thanked the teachers who work hard to prepare students for these tests.

The board also heard a presentation by Park Middle School Principal Lisa Rebimbas and Assistant Principal Kevin Holloway about the Perfect 7 Program that was held on February 26 at Park Middle School.

"It was a day of team building, acceptance, community and respect," Ms. Rebimbas said about the event, which featured encouraging games, building bridges with straws and the expression of feelings through writing poems, singing songs and painting murals.

The board applauded the efforts of the Park Middle School administration for fostering such community based programs at the school.

During the public portion of the meeting, a concerned parent asked the board if the district provided class lists and student addresses to various types of marketers who in turn send students advertisements in the mail.

The board responded that it did not give out that kind of information to the public, but tried to think of other

ways businesses might be receiving this information.

The board will hold its regular public meeting and the budget hearing on Tuesday, March 30.

School board elections are rapidly approaching and will be held on Tuesday, April 20.

Board President Lance Porter added in a final note that he hoped that although three BOE members are running for re-election unopposed, taxpayers will still come out to vote for the budget.

Debate Continues Over State Aid Application In Fanwood; Residents Expressed Concern

By ELIZABETH CORRELL
Specially Written for The Times

Discord continued among the mayor and council regarding the issue of an application for state aid to reduce property taxes. Heated words were exchanged at Tuesday's regular meeting of the governing body, including those from residents during the portion of the meeting where the public can address elected officials.

The subject was raised when Democrat Councilwoman Donna Dolce gave her Administration and Finance report, and a resolution went up for a vote to authorize the application.

Democrat Mayor Colleen Mahr stated, "The exact amount of the aid is still to be determined by our auditors. I met with them late last week, and they are taking the lead with the application. The deadline has been extended from March 12 to March 23. The amount of the aid that has been discussed is \$400,000."

Republican Councilman Stuart Kline stated that he has not seen the application itself and cannot vote on it "sight unseen." He also asked why it is taking so long to complete a three-page application. Mr. Kline said that the \$400,000 figure is higher than the original estimate he was told, and asked if the amount would be higher by the time the application is completed.

It had been discussed previously that the figures in the current budget would most likely be reduced by the time the final spending plan is approved. The reason given is that the application demanded a budget be shown by the deadline, but that between now and the final budget, as always, discussion and reductions will be done.

With regard to the current budget that is being included in the application, Councilman Kline stated, "I believe our application is intellectually and morally dishonest," adding he would abstain from a vote on the resolution regarding the application.

Republican Councilman Andrew Calamaras felt the council needs to pare down the budget further, and stated, "It is a challenge to my integrity to vote for (the application), but I don't want to be seen as voting against it, so I am going to abstain."

In response, Mayor Mahr pointed out that the budget was introduced and passed by all governing body members. She said she believes "it was not dishonest" and that it was "open to the public." She maintained it is in Fanwood's best interest to get money that is available.

Democrat Councilman Jack Molenaar said, "I do not believe we have been intellectually and morally dishonest. I think we have worked very hard on this budget."

Councilman Kline also questioned the accounting firm handling the application.

Councilwoman Dolce responded, "This resolution is saying that there are capable people reviewing the application." She explained that this is the normal process, to "delegate" and "authorize" the firm to go over the form for the borough.

Democrat Council President Katherine Mitchell expressed confidence in the borough's long history of working with the accounting firm, and stated, "As a taxpayer myself, I'd like to see something coming back to Fanwood as tax relief for us."

Seven residents took the opportunity to ask questions and voice opinions during the open microphone period of the meeting. Each speaker from the audience is allowed a maximum of five minutes. Afterwards, Mayor Mahr responded to their statements.

One resident expressed concern over the 11 percent increase in the budget, and stated that the Democrats had used the term "stacked the deck" about the total budget amount that would be included in the aid application sent to the state.

Mayor Mahr responded that the 11 percent increase was "alarming" and was the reason why the aid was being requested.

"We are not over inflating the budget," stated Mayor Mahr. "We met together as a team, we came up with

those numbers as a group. Other department heads are giving us the figures, and we base the preliminary budget on that information."

The resident also asked if there would be any repercussions from the state if the borough changed the budget after the award was given.

Mayor Mahr stated, "We will be going back and working on the budget. Trenton expects that to happen, especially for towns that are on a calendar year. It is fine to make changes. The money received (from

the state aid) must go to the reduction of taxes. We are not allowed to adopt a budget until we hear the award total."

Several residents spoke in support of Councilman Kline's and Councilman Calamaras' decision to abstain from voting on the application, while several others in the audience expressed support of the mayor and council members who are in favor of the aid application.

There was one heated exchange

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NEW CONSTRUCTION...Construction of condominiums by K. Hovnanian is underway in Scotch Plains between Route 22 and Diamond Hill Road. Inset is a photo of the house that previously stood on the property. Residents had objected to the construction, citing drainage problems in the area.

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FLAG DONATIONS...The American Flag Donation Program is well underway in Scotch Plains. The flag sets, as pictured above, will be mounted on the newly-installed pedestrian light poles throughout the downtown area. The cost is \$125, which includes a decorative band around the light pole to be inscribed either with the donor's name or a memorial chosen by the donor. A number of residents and business people have already donated flags, and they are going quickly. For more information, please contact Jo Ford at (908) 322-6700, extension no. 306.

Residents Raise Safety, Cell Concerns With New Tower

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

detention basin. One ornamental tree will need to be relocated for the building of the tower.

Councilman Stuart Kline asked Mr. Gatanis to review the possible locations for the tower and explain why this site was chosen. The new tower cannot be built on the old tower's current space at the front of Borough Hall because the base of the new tower is larger and there is not enough room for it. The detention basin itself was ruled out due to water drainage issues.

Mr. Gatanis stated that the chosen spot was considered the "best location" also because it is "nestled between trees and is set back from property lines."

When asked if the tower could be built closer to the building itself, Mr. Gatanis explained that it would be a problem because the moorings for the tower go 16 to 20 feet into the ground, and "would encroach on the integrity of the building foundation."

Before opening the meeting to the public, the mayor and council expressed their opinions on the project.

Councilman Andrew Calamaras felt that "a lot of thought has gone into this" and that the tower "potentially could someday save lives."

Council President Katherine Mitchell agreed, saying that, "the primary purpose of the tower is to improve communication."

Mayor Colleen Mahr emphasized that the current tower has "outlived its usefulness," is "structurally unsafe," and that the new tower is an "investment in the first responders' future here."

Six residents came to the micro-

phone to ask questions and to voice their concerns regarding the tower.

Several residents questioned the mayor and council as to the possibility of a cellular provider wanting to use the tower in the future.

Mayor Mahr responded, "We have not been approached nor are we searching for" a cellular service to pay for lease of the tower.

Residents felt that the cell companies "will automatically come once the tower is up" and to believe otherwise is "naive."

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the option of a "mono pole" type tower, referred to as "a flagpole on steroids."

This type of tower was considered during the selection process, but concluded that it was not the best choice for Fanwood's needs.

The four main concerns among residents were the view of the large tower from their homes, the possible effect on the resale value of their properties, the continued availability for children to use the detention basin for play, and the safety of children near the tower.

The mayor and council assured residents that, although it is not an official function of the detention basin, children will continue to be allowed to play in the basin. With regards to safety issues, a large fence will be built surrounding the base of the tower, to prevent anyone from climbing onto the tower.

At the conclusion of the meeting, it was decided that shrubbery will be planted along the outer edge of the detention basin, to reduce the view of the tower for surrounding houses.



THEY GAVE IT THEIR ALL...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School basketball team beat three top ranked teams before losing to a fine Shabazz team in the NJSIAA final on March 8. The Lady Raiders enjoyed a successful season by winning the County tournament.

Evergreen Elementary Pupils Mark 'Read Across America'

SCOTCH PLAINS - Evergreen Elementary School students enjoyed visits from officials and other guests on March 2, who came to celebrate "Read Across America Day" and the 100th birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss.

Evergreen School Media Specialist Kathy Herrmann coordinated the event, which included special reading and arts and crafts activities.

Carol Senff, the school district's Language Arts Supervisor for Grades 6 to 12, organized visits by Scotch Plains Police Officer Al Sellinger and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students, who read their favorite books to the pupils.

The students created hats, crafts and enjoyed treats provided by the Parent-Teacher Association. In addition, the "Cat in the Hat" visited and posed for a picture with students Connor Cheney and Stefanie Lopardo.

SP Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing side of the budget will be cut prior to the budget's introduction.

At the start of the meeting, Mayor Marks issued a proclamation declaring the week of March 1-6 to be DECA Free Enterprise Week. DECA is an association of marketing students based at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Jahn Rosarito Garners Accolades from Felician

SCOTCH PLAINS - Jahn Rosarito of Scotch Plains has been placed on the Dean's List for the fall 2003 semester at Felician College in Lodi. According to the college, Jahn earned a 3.89 grade point average out of a possible 4.0.

www.goleader.com/

FW Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

where a resident directed comments specifically at Councilman Kline, stating that his "objections (to the application) seem patently political."

Councilman Kline asked Mayor Mahr's permission to speak, as is required by the rules of the governing body, and Mayor Mahr said "yes." He reiterated the positions he had stated earlier in the meeting.

In other business, Mayor Mahr and Council President Mitchell read a resolution acknowledging the work of the Fanwood emergency response team, including the police, fire and rescue squad units, during a February 16 fire at the Smith residence on North Avenue. The resolution praised the "faithful dedication of its members," who are "on call 24 hours a day" and "put their lives in jeopardy."

Douglas M. Fasciale

Certified Civil Trial Attorney
by the Supreme Court of New Jersey

Concentrating in personal injury
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Emmet's Irish Cream	750 ml.	\$10.99

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Killians Irish Red	2-12 nr	\$17.99
Harp Lager	2-12 nr	\$20.99
Guinness Pub Draft	2-12 nr	\$21.99
Guinness Pub Draft	14.8oz Cans	\$31.99
Kinsale Irish Lager	12 oz nr	\$28.99
Murphy's Irish Red	12 oz nr	\$22.99
Murphy's Stout	12 oz nr	\$29.99
Wexford Irish Cream Ale	500 ml Cans	\$45.99
McSorley's Ale	12 oz nr	\$15.99
McSorley's Black and Tan	12 oz nr	\$15.99
Kaliber N/A	12 oz nr	\$21.99

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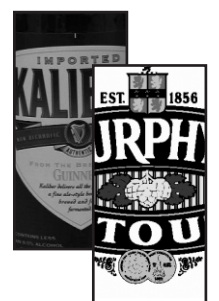
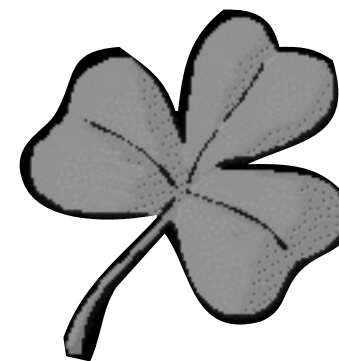
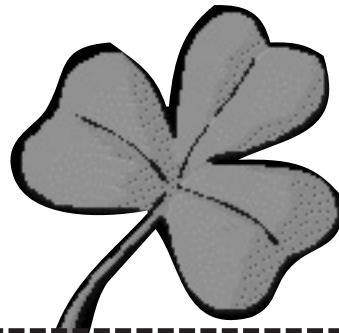
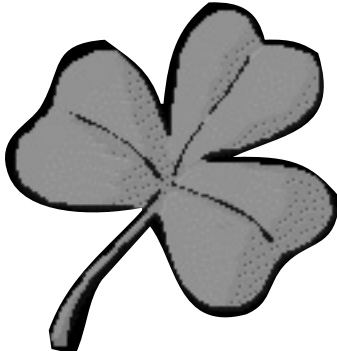
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D.C. Law Firm Names Morrisey as Partner

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP announced that Patrick Morrisey, currently the Deputy Staff Director and Chief Health Counsel of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, will join the firm as a partner in the Health Care Group.



Patrick Morrisey

Morrisey, one of the principal staff authors of the recently enacted Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act, will focus on health care regulatory and legislative matters at the firm.

In 2000, Mr. Morrisey ran unsuccessfully for Congress in the seventh Congressional District — campaigning in the GOP primary with his headquarters based in Westfield.

The former Westfield resident grew up in Edison, where he graduated from Bishop Ahr/St. Thomas Aquinas High School. He graduated from Rutgers College and Rutgers Law School.

Active in politics for many years, Mr. Morrisey worked on George Bush's Presidential campaign in 1988, Cary Edwards' gubernatorial campaign in 1989, and was press secretary of Christine Todd Whitman's U.S. Senate campaign in

the 1990's. "We are pleased that Patrick has decided to join Sidley," said Carter Phillips, managing partner of the firm's Washington office and a member of the firm's Management Committee. "Patrick has unique knowledge of the new Medicare law and will bring significant legislative and additional regulatory expertise and insight to our well respected Health Care Group."

During his tenure at the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. Morrisey directly participated in the development of health care policy in wide

-ranging areas, including Medicare, Medicaid, food and drug matters, public health and private insurance. Mr. Morrisey served as former Chairman Billy Tauzin's and the Committee's principal health care counsel and helped shepherd major Medicare, bioterrorism, pharmaceutical and medical device bills into law.

Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP (www.sidley.com) is one of the world's largest full-service law firms, with approximately 1,550 lawyers practicing in North America, Europe and Asia.



TALKING OF TUNES...Westfield Adult School presents discuss their Music Appreciation series to be held Monday evenings at Westfield High this spring. Paul Somers is Director of the Classical N.J. Society, a composer, and harpist who will discuss "Everything You Wanted to Know about Classical Music." Dr. Barbara Thonson, Music Director of the Congregational Church, prepares for her topic of "How to Listen to Music." Maestro David Wroe, Director of the Westfield Symphony, plans "A Concert Goes Glimpse Inside the Orchestra". Pictured above, from the left, are: Mr. Wroe, Mrs. Thonson, Mr. Somers and Adult School President Gail Boothe. The classes are open to all. Please call (908) 232-4050 to register.

Scotch Plains Recreation Events

Babysitting Training (11-16): This program is being held on Saturday, May 1, at the Towne House in Green Forest Park from 9 to 3 p.m. Register from March 22-April 16 (maximum of 20 students). Fee is \$45 per person.

The Smartest Weasel in the World Science Workshop (1st-5th grade): Weasel Robots- The weasel has two motors, a 3-speed gear box & 2 photo sensors. It's all yours to make and keep. Learn about gears, sensors, electronic components, circuit boards and more. Design and program your own robot. Please bring a lunch. Held at the Towne House, Green Forest Park on Monday & Tuesday April 5 & 6, 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration will be March 10-March 26. The fee is \$110 per person.

Beginner Bridge Lessons: Will be held at the Scotch Hills Country Club on Fridays, April 16-June 18 (10 classes), from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The fee is \$75 per person. Registration is March 22-April 2.

Intermediate/Advanced Bridge Lessons: Will also be held at the Scotch Hills Country Club on Fridays April 16-May 14 (5 classes) from 12:45-2:45 p.m. The fee is \$45. Registration is March 22-April 2.

Feng Shui Class: This program is being held at the Scotch Hills Country Club on Thursdays April 8, 15 &

22 from 7 to 9 p.m. The fee is \$85 per person (Need at least 8 people). Registration is March 15-26.

Sweet Gatherings: What's Your Specialty!? Cookies, brownies, pies? Bake your best creations each week, bring copies of the recipes and share your secrets with friends. Taste other delicacies, swap ideas and enjoy your dessert! Program held at the Scotch Hills Country Club on Mondays, April 19 & 26 and May 3 & 10 from 12 to 2 p.m. The fee \$5 per person. Recreation Dept. will supply coffee & paper products. Registration is March 23-April 9.

Sports Auction-May 21: Come to this Silent/Live Sports Auction and bid on your favorite sports memorabilia. From boxing to baseball, hockey to golf, football to basketball. Come join us for an evening of delicious hors d'oeuvres and good friends. BYOB. Doors at Scotch Hills Country Club will open at 7:30 p.m. The first portion of the event will be a silent auction, followed by a live auction. Walk away with top-notch items that evening. May use checks, cash or credit cards for purchase. Proceeds raised from this program will benefit the Scotch Plains Welfare Department. No fee to attend. Must call ahead to RSVP with the Recreation Department at (908) 322-6700, extension no. 222.

Westfield Recreation Events

Sesame Street Live: Come see Elmo, the Count, Cookie Monster, Big Bird, Bert & Ernie and their friends on stage Monday, April 12. Bus departs at 9:30 a.m. Cost: \$20.

Soccer Squirts: This course will introduce children ages three to five to group experiences and basic motor skills through soccer related activities. Dates: Tuesdays starting 4/13 and ending 5/25. Hours: 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. Cost: \$89.

Golf Clinic: This six hour course is offered to children ages eight to 13. Instructor for the course is PGA Head Professional, Bill McCluney. Classes are two hours in length and are held on the following dates: 4/6, 4/13, 4/27, & 5/4. Fee: \$80.

Yoga: Come experience HATA Yoga, a unique mix of stretching to release tension, eliminate stress, and increase tone. Held Tuesdays, February 3 to March 23 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Fee: \$52. Community Room. Bring your own mat. Additional days/times will be offered.

Daddy-Daughter Dance: Our Annual Dance will be held on Friday, April 30 at The Westwood from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. for grades Kindergarten through sixth grade. The evening will consist of 5x7 father/daughter photograph, hot buffet dinner & dessert, disc jockey to play the hottest tunes, and an entire evening of dancing and fun! Cost: \$36/per person.

Teen Center: The Teen Center will be open on select Friday evenings during the school year from 7 to 11

p.m. for all high school students. The teen center is a safe and enjoyable alternative and we hope all high school students come check it out! Located in the municipal building.

The "Night Place": This popular program is offered to all resident intermediate school youths. Held at Edison Intermediate School from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Activities include a Disc Jockey, food, games, movies and dancing. The cost is \$2 in advance and \$3 at the door. The dates left for the coming school year are as follows: 3/19, & 5/7.

Winter Consignment Ski Lift Tickets: Think Snow! Discount lift tickets are available for Camelback, Shawnee Mountain, Jack Frost/Big Boulder, Mountain Creek, & Montage Mountain.

Memorial Pool News: Registrations are now being accepted from last year's pool members.

On Thursday, April 15, at 7 a.m.: In person registration begins for Westfield residents who were not members last year.

Summer Camps: The Recreation Department offers a variety of summer camps. A complete listing will be distributed through the schools the last week in March.

Please register for the above programs in person at: The Westfield Recreation Department-425 East Broad St. Westfield. Office: (908) 789-4080. Visit us online at: westfieldnj.net/townhall/recreation and at westfieldtoday.com/ParksRecreation.

The Westfield Stamp Club To Host Annual Stamp Show

WESTFIELD -- The Westfield Stamp Club will hold its annual stamp show Saturday, March 13, in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Center, located at 425 East Broad Street. The show will be open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Admission is free.

The show will feature seven stamp dealers from around the state who will have a wide range of philatelic items for sale in every price range. The show will also host the annual exhibit competition among club members who will be exhibiting stamps and postal history items from around the world. The exhibits will feature the work of those who are new to the field as well as those who have shown their work at the international competitive level.

The theme of this year's show is

"Stamp Collecting - A Family Activity". Two special introductory sessions are being held at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. for youngsters in grades three to five who are accompanied by a parent. Noted stamp collector and author Steven Rod will conduct each 45-minute session. At the conclusion of each demonstration, participants will receive over 100 stamps and related items as a gift from the Westfield Stamp Club to help them get started in this wonderful hobby, which can last a lifetime. There is no charge to attend but space is limited. Reservations must be received by Friday, March 12, by sending an email to SeeWSCAuction@aol.com. Each person who signs up will receive an admission ticket via return email. For additional information, please call (908) 232-0539.

Westfield Rotary Club Makes Grant Applications Available to Non-Profits

WESTFIELD -- Douglas Fasciale, Esq., Vice President of the Rotary Club of Westfield, who chairs the club's Grants Committee, has announced that Rotary Grant Applications are now available to meet this year's Thursday, April 15 deadline.

In an effort to award grants that will truly serve the greatest number of people in the community, according to Mr. Fasciale, Rotary's newly adopted guidelines provide for a generous grant to the United Fund at the Pillar level. Other organizations, requesting a 2004 Rotary grant must complete the official application in order to be considered.

He states that no applications for capital improvements or operating funds will be accepted and explains,

"The Rotary Club, in accordance with its Avenue of Club Service, is most interested in providing grants for programs and projects that directly serve people."

Mr. Fasciale assures organizations that the application form consists of only one page with questions that are very simple and direct thereby presenting no obstacle for those with limited resources.

"As part of the decision process the Grants Committee merely seeks to receive a clear understanding of the way in which its funds might be used," Mr. Fasciale said.

Non-profit organizations may receive a copy of the official application from the Rotary website, rotary@westfieldnj.com, or by calling Mr. Fasciale at his office at (908) 232-9944.



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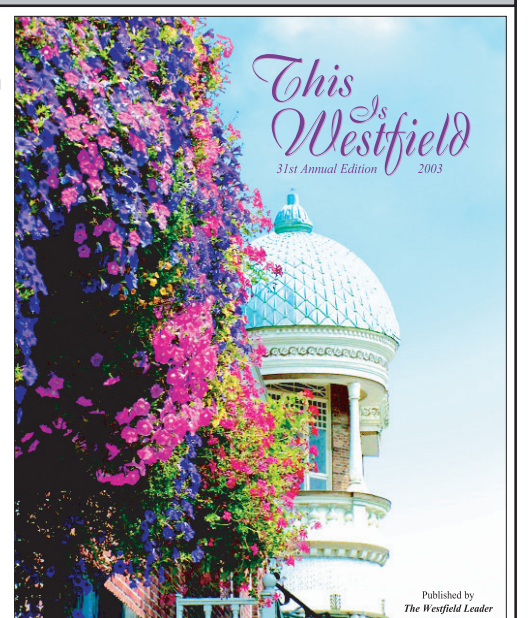
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Note to organizations: Update your contact information now by filling out the form at www.goleader.com/04tiw.



Scotch Plains Planning Board Discusses Commerce Bank's 'Flagrant' Violation

By FRED ROSSI

Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Members of the Scotch Plains Planning Board expect to hear from representatives of Commerce Bank why the bank, during construction last year of its branch on Park Avenue, decided to go forward with installing brick pavers after being informed by township officials that the pavers were not in compliance with local standards.

Members of the board, at its meeting on Monday evening, discussed why the bank would, in the words of board member Alice Agran, "flagrantly" violate terms of the approved site plan by installing the nonconforming pavers. "They basically said, 'We're going to do what we prefer to do,'" Mrs. Agran said, as she wondered how to avoid similar situations in the future.

Representatives from the bank are expected to appear before the board to request relief from having to put in new pavers. Mrs. Agran wondered why the bank hadn't come to the board earlier to ask for a waiver or a modification to its site plan.

Apparently, when township officials told bank representatives last year that its pavers weren't in compliance, bank officials said they wanted to open the branch office and would, perhaps, replace them at a later date if required.

In other business, the board approved a minor subdivision application by Rau Development LLC to split a lot at 2118 Meadowview Road into two conforming lots. The home at the site will be demolished and two new homes will be built.

The side yard setbacks of the two new homes will be wider on the sides facing neighboring homes, said engineer Herbert Lauterwald, who explained that he wanted to preserve some of the "openness" of the side yards that presently exists. As a result, the two new homes will both be more oriented toward the middle of the two new properties.

Before the board approved the application, several neighbors spoke about flooding and drainage problems in the Meadowview Road-Hetfield Avenue-Cheyenne Way neighborhood, and worried that construction of the new homes would exacerbate the situation.

Mr. Lauterwald assured the board that water runoff levels in the vicinity of the subdivided property would be the same after the development as it is at present. He also said that underground dry wells would be placed on each of the new lots to further improve drainage.

Mayor Martin Marks suggested that the township engineer file a re-

port on the neighborhood's water runoff problems so that the Township Council and township officials can decide what, if anything, can be done to rectify the situation.

The board also approved an application initially considered last month but delayed until this week because one aspect of the original application required that a formal public hearing be held so neighbors could attend and offer input.

At its March 23 meeting, the board seemed ready to approve a site plan application submitted by A. DeLuca Paving LLC to construct a 2,300-square-foot storage garage for its paving and masonry business at its Lindsey Avenue site. Plans also included new fencing and buffering between the DeLuca property and neighboring residential properties.

With Lindsey Avenue presently being gravel road leading from Plainfield Avenue, the application also called for DeLuca to pave Lindsey Avenue, making it a 12-foot-wide roadway. Originally, the plan was to make Lindsey Avenue 20 feet wide, but an existing utility pole and a berm made that option unworkable. To receive permission for the 12-foot roadway DeLuca required a variance and last month, the board concluded a formal public hearing would be appropriate.

At this week's hearing, the board

did not object when engineer John DuPont said there was no need for a roadway wider than 12 feet at the site. There were also no objections from nearby neighbors.

There was also an extended discussion about one aspect of the site plan before the board gave its approval to the application. The original plans submitted two weeks earlier showed an area where two large storage bins would be placed at the rear of the property and within sight of a Concord Road residence situated behind the DeLuca property.

After the resident raised concerns in February, a revised plan submitted showed that the bins would be replaced by two parking spaces for vehicles. When questioned by board members, Mr. DeLuca said the new area would serve as parking spaces for either passenger vehicles or larger construction equipment.

When the Concord Road resident objected to this, saying it would negatively affect the backyard view from his home, Jay Bohn, the attorney for DeLuca, maintained that the planned berm and buffering trees planned for the rear of the property would adequately block any view of the vehicles.

Mr. DeLuca protested when some board members broached the possibility of restricting the parking in that area to passenger cars only, say-

ing he needed to have "flexibility" in how he operates his business.

The board, along with Mr. DeLuca, his attorney and engineer, then embarked on a circuitous route to resolving the impasse, with board member Robert LaCosta first suggesting that the rear wall of the new building be extended so that it blocked the at-issue parking area from the Concord Road property. He then said the new building's roof could also be altered so that it extended over the new parking area, creating a carport, of sorts, for the vehicles to be parked there. Other options included raising the height of the berm on which the buffering trees would be planted or reverting to the original plan that called for storage bins to be placed in that area.

Finally, the board agreed to grant a variance to increase the height of the fence along the rear of the property to eight feet, something that all parties, including the Concord Road resident, said was a suitable solution.

Malpractice Reform Bill Clears Assembly Hurdles

TRENTON - Three Assembly committees gave their approval to medical malpractice reform legislation that would authorize a series of tort reforms, provide premium-rate relief to doctors, and curb runaway increases in medical malpractice insurance.

The measure would eliminate unfair court system advantages that lawyers enjoy when suing doctors for malpractice. These reforms include tighter requirements for expert witnesses in lawsuits against doctors and shorter time frames for filing malpractice lawsuits.

The measure would also authorize a three-year \$90 million fund to provide immediate, direct premium relief to doctors and hospitals experiencing financial stress caused by escalating medical malpractice insurance rates. Part of the fund also would be used to encourage new medical school graduates to enter into the high-risk field of obstetrics.

The Democratic plan has won

strong support from the leading consumer groups, like the AARP and Citizen Action, and the Medical Society of New Jersey. The tort-reform/subsidy approach also has been endorsed by an overwhelming majority of the state's major newspapers.

The action represents the latest attempt by assembly Democrats to help New Jersey doctors weather a national medical malpractice insurance crisis caused in large part by an erosion of insurance company cash reserves during the continuing economic downturn. Assembly Democrats have sought to provide rate relief for doctors while also protecting the right of patients to seek just compensation when harmed by egregious medical errors.

The bill would lower lawsuit defense expenses, weed out frivolous malpractice claims against doctors, and ensure continuity and stability in the state's health-care delivery system.

SP Zoning Board Approves Garages at Two Properties

By FRED ROSSI

Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The Scotch Plains Zoning Board of Adjustment approved two applications at its meeting last week and was also informed that a rejected applicant is appealing a board denial last year.

Vera Relkin of 1198 Maple Hill Road received board approval to convert an existing one-car garage into a bedroom and then to construct a new non-conforming one-car garage.

Mrs. Relkin explained that the new first-floor bedroom would ease mobility for her husband and herself. The existing garage, which is 11 by 18-feet, is attached to the house and situated at the rear of the structure. The new garage, which would be about the same size, would be built in front of the new bedroom and would extend one foot beyond the front of the rest of the home.

Mrs. Relkin said the new garage would be sufficient for her car and also said financial considerations were part of her decision to build a

smaller garage.

Board Chairman James Fawcett warned her that the smaller-size garage might affect any future sale of her home. Board member Chris Abeel agreed, but said it wasn't the board's role to determine an owner's needs.

Dr. Nicholas Melillo of 1375 Railway Road received approval to construct a detached three-car garage on his four-acre property. He told the board he needed storage space and that his existing attached two-car garage was insufficient for this purpose. The board included conditions in its approval that there would be no living space available or business activities conducted in the new garage.

Dr. Melillo was granted permission to have plumbing lines extended to the new garage so that a sink could be included in the new structure.

Calling the new garage, which will be 18 feet tall, "essentially a barn," Chairman Fawcett said "this kind of thing also helps buttress against potential subdivisions."

At the start of its monthly meeting, the board was informed that Nextmedia Outdoor, which had applied to replace a billboard located in a lot at the corner of eastbound Route 22 and Union Avenue, has filed an appeal of the board's November 6, 2003 rejection.

Residents living in the neighborhood had expressed concerns about the size of the new 14-by 48-foot billboard, which would have been larger than the existing one, as well as the level of lighting and potential safety issues regarding children possibly climbing up on the billboard structure.

Nextmedia representatives had said the new billboard would be larger in terms of square footage but would not stand as high. They also said last fall the new structure would be angled more towards Route 22 and away from nearby homes, thus lessening any impact from the lighting, which they said would be turned off late each evening.

Board attorney Vincent Loughlin said he expects a hearing on the appeal to be held during the summer.



MAYOR IN THE HAT...On March 2, Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks joined students in Mrs. Dubroski-Passuth's second grade class at the J. Ackerman Coles School in Scotch Plains, to honor Dr. Seuss' 100th Birthday. The day was also part of a larger celebration known as Read Across America, which is a day designed to promote the importance of reading.

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UNITED FUND OF WESTFIELD

**Needs of Today's Society:
Mobile Meals of Westfield**

Submitted by **Lorrie Korecky**
Board Trustee

This continues a series of articles featuring the 22 community service agencies that are part of the United Fund of Westfield. The 22 agencies reflect the needs of today's society. Those who seek help are provided with people-oriented services that are partially funded through contributions to the United Fund of Westfield.

The "drivers" arrive around 10:40, pick up their bags and deliver their route. There are eight routes altogether, half of them in Westfield to homebound residents. Most of the drivers are young mothers or retired people. Very often, the young mothers bring their children along on the route, which is a source of satisfaction for the Mobile Meal recipient.

Begun more than 30 years ago, Mobile Meals of Westfield is a non-profit program of home-delivered meals serving those who are unable to shop and prepare their own meals on either a temporary or permanent basis. The program serves residents of Westfield and surrounding communities including Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Clark, Cranford and Garwood.

"Elderly clients look forward to the deliveries, which provide a service beyond the food," noted Ms. Goldner. "Often, our clients only see the mail carrier and our delivery people all day long."

Five days per week, Monday through Friday, volunteers deliver a hot dinner or cold supper at noon or one hot meal each day. The menus are well balanced and change daily. They are planned by a nutritionist and prepared by a trained cook in the First Baptist Church in Westfield.

The drivers acknowledged that the children benefit as well, by experiencing an important lesson in community service.

Sharon Goldner, Executive Director of Mobile Meals, is one of three part-time employees that also include a cook and a kitchen helper.

Another note was received from adult children who live out of state, who said, "We don't know what we'd do without all of you. Thank you so much for the wonderful service you provide our mother."

Three groups of volunteers help Mobile Meals running. The Board of Directors is the planning component of Mobile Meals, working to address the resources needed by the organization.

In addition to the volunteers who help on a day-to-day basis and the financial support from the United Fund of Westfield, Mobile Meals receives gifts from time to time to brighten up a client's day. School groups, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, for example, will work on art projects and cards for Mobile Meals' clients or bring in favors around the holidays.

The everyday volunteers include two groups of "packers" who assemble the hot meals, make sandwiches, dish out desserts, prepare salads and pack food in large thermal bags. Generally, volunteers come in once a week, from 8:30 - 11 a.m.

One client sent a thank you note to be forwarded to all the "organizations that lift our spirits with gifts."

Ms. Blanchard claims "They (geese) have many admirable traits similar to human beings, and we are killing them for being social beings because they find our parks as attractive as we do."

Twp. Council Should Take The Next Step To Form a Special Improvement District

It's no secret that traditional downtown business districts have been under pressure. First from big malls offering shoppers everything under one roof and, more recently, from big discount chains like Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowe's and Target. Not too long ago, the Main Streets of Norman Rockwell paintings were thought to be dying relics from a different era, one of the casualties of a changing world.

steering committee likes every aspect contained in the final report. In any group effort of this kind, no one is going to get everything they desire. Some wanted a more expansive SID encompassing every commercial property possible; instead, it will start small and hopefully grow with time and visible success. Some committee members favored charging all downtown business properties at the same rate while others backed a multi-tiered assessment system in which certain types of properties would pay different amounts. A six-tiered flat rate formula, in which property owners will pay between \$250 and \$2,000 annually based on the property's assessed value, was ultimately adopted. The composition of the SID's board of directors was also the subject of some debate as was the wording of the some parts of the final report.

Over the past decade or so, however, we've seen the impressive rebirth of downtowns in a number of New Jersey towns. No one can deny that downtown Westfield is one of the most vibrant in the state. Cranford's business district is similarly bustling. Several years ago, downtown Red Bank was struggling; today, it's a vastly different story. These communities, along with about 60 others in New Jersey, revived their business districts by designating them as Special Improvement Districts (SID). And last week, Scotch Plains took a big and necessary step toward a similar designation for its own struggling downtown area.

We would have liked the committee to assess all the commercial properties in the SID from the start instead of having those on Front Street and Terrill Road exempt for the first year. But the lack of adequate notice and other concerns, some valid, made this impractical. We also wished that more members of the business community had participated in the steering committee's discussion on a more regular basis rather than raising objections and concerns at the eleventh hour and necessitating repeated and time-consuming explanations by committee members of how various agreements on boundaries and assessment had earlier been reached.

For the past six months, a 10-member committee has been meeting weekly to hash out the details of how a SID will help revive downtown Scotch Plains, how it will be structured, what its goals will be, who will be included, how much property owners will pay to finance the SID and how it will be operated.

The 10 members of the steering committee, whose discussions were facilitated by consultant Seth Grossman, did an admirable job in formulating a blueprint for the future of downtown Scotch Plains. They devoted their own time to an effort that will hopefully benefit not only downtown businesses but also township residents, who, down the road, could have more reasons to spend time in the central business district rather than driving past it on their way elsewhere. We hope the township council, which has expressed its support of the SID concept, will act positively on the steering committee's recommendations.

Getting a group of people to agree on where to eat dinner can be a test of wills. Getting the SID steering committee to come to a consensus on how best to revitalize the downtown business district could easily have ended up being an exercise in futility leading to a stalemate and a continuation of the status quo.

While Mr. Cockren should feel more than welcome to offer his highly qualified LEGAL opinions and interpretations on LEGAL issues, I just don't see how his proclamation regarding the redevelopment design is in any way legally related.

As Steve Goldberg, who served as chairman of the committee, noted, the group had a diverse make-up including property owners, retail proprietors, owners of non-retail properties, a representative from a bank, a resident, a former mayor, a member of the township council and the heads of the local business and professional association and the local historical society. They brought with them varied priorities, goals and thoughts on how best to improve the downtown area.

But I'll give Mr. Cockren the benefit of the doubt that he obtained the above information from some qualified professional. However, if this is the case, he should step down from the podium and make his comments as a regular Westfield citizen and not in his official position as the town attorney.

To its credit, though, the steering committee, through 21 meetings, argued and debated its way to compromises on the important aspects of the proposed Special Improvement District and last week voted to approve its final report. It is being sent to the township council, which will review it and, it's hoped, eventually pass an ordinance formally creating the SID.

The bottom line is that it is inappropriate for an "appointed" official to respond to comments made by duly elected officials (Ciarrocca and Neylan) concerning legitimate aspects of the redevelopment projects. In this case they seem to have been bringing up the very valid point that perhaps we should not be

After a number of studies over the years and some aesthetic improvements more recently, the establishment of a SID is the logical next step for reviving downtown Scotch Plains, which faces fierce competition from Westfield and Summit, the malls that are a stone's throw away and, most recently, the granddaddy killer of mom-and-pop retailers, Wal-Mart, which has just opened an outlet a mile down Route 22.

In her presentation, Councilwoman Dolce gave an overview of borough expenses. She explained everything except why taxes are going up 11 percent. This year, we had several favorable budget developments such as increased local revenues (in fact, revenues were down 17 percent in 2003) and a \$75,000 savings in sewer billing.

Compromises had to be made and personal preferences sometimes had to be set aside for the greater overall good. It's a good bet that no one on the

My other concern was that we did not do our homework. Contrary to Councilwoman Dolce's suggestion, last year's council did not introduce a budget with a 10 percent increase. We faced a 10

Letters to the Editor

Town Attorney Should Not Be Commenting on Engineering

The following quote is from Lauren Pass's Westfield Leader article on the February 24 town council meeting: "Town Attorney Robert Cockren said that reliable financials cannot be worked up until a final design is completed."

allocating more funds for the projects without first looking deeper into the financial viability of them.

In regards to this statement, does the mayor and council sanction its appointed professionals to render unsolicited opinions for which they may not be qualified and for which they most certainly have not been hired to provide? Since when has engineering design and financial modeling become the Town Attorney's area of expertise?

Furthermore, I seriously doubt that a design engineer or financial expert would make a statement such as the one made by the town attorney. If every project needed to proceed to final design before a financial analysis was performed, then we would need a heck of a lot more engineers in the world!

While Mr. Cockren should feel more than welcome to offer his highly qualified LEGAL opinions and interpretations on LEGAL issues, I just don't see how his proclamation regarding the redevelopment design is in any way legally related.

That's just not the way things work. Sensible organizations don't fully design projects before analyzing if they are economically feasible. In fact, a preliminary design is often the primary vehicle that many organizations (governmental and private), use to determine whether a project is economically feasible.

But I'll give Mr. Cockren the benefit of the doubt that he obtained the above information from some qualified professional. However, if this is the case, he should step down from the podium and make his comments as a regular Westfield citizen and not in his official position as the town attorney.

Certainly the developer (Nassau HKT) has done substantive financial modeling of the project. They would not be involved in the project at this point without financial models showing significant profitability. The same should be true of the town. If we don't have similar financials at this stage, we should not be proceeding any further until we do.

The bottom line is that it is inappropriate for an "appointed" official to respond to comments made by duly elected officials (Ciarrocca and Neylan) concerning legitimate aspects of the redevelopment projects. In this case they seem to have been bringing up the very valid point that perhaps we should not be

If the town has such financial models, then they should share them with the public. If the town doesn't have them yet, now is the time to do so. In addition, Nassau HKT should share their financial models with the town as well.

Fanwood Council Member Responds To Accusations of Grandstanding

In a recent letter, Fanwood resident Peter Sayles accused me of "grandstanding" when I voted against the Democrat majority's 11 percent tax increase in Fanwood taxes. Let me clear up a number of erroneous statements by Mr. Sayles. First, I did not pretend outrage; it was real. During my seven plus years on council, I have never introduced, approved, or voted for a double-digit tax increase. I don't intend to start now.

Thank you for your time.
Cory Mermer
Westfield

Furthermore, I do not object to the application for extraordinary aid. In fact, I commend the mayor for seeking alternative sources of revenue. However, I do object to making this application without first understanding all the strings or potential problems from accepting such aid. The mayor and my Democratic colleagues did not fully explain to Fanwood residents that the statute gives Trenton the power to reduce our expenses it deems excessive. Maybe Trenton thinks we have one or two many police officers or too many leaf pickups. The positives may certainly outweigh the negatives. But I like to make important decisions having as much information as possible.

Partisan grandstanding? In fact, if Mr. Sayles is correct, that such aid is the salvation of Fanwood, then my comments would be politically inept. Mr. Sayles is right in one respect: tax relief is one of the principal duties of council, but I believe that we can achieve longer term stability by revitalizing and developing our downtown, increasing our tax revenues every year by \$300,000 to \$500,000 (according to estimates last year by our planner) than by cooking the books to make Fanwood's finances appear worse than they are.

My other concern was that we did not do our homework. Contrary to Councilwoman Dolce's suggestion, last year's council did not introduce a budget with a 10 percent increase. We faced a 10

Stuart Kline
Fanwood Borough Council

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ABCDICTIONOFQRSTDECEPTIONUNWVXYZ

Diction Deception

Below are four arcane words, each with four definitions — only one is correct. The others are made up. Are you sharp enough to discern this deception of diction?

If you can guess one correctly — good guess. If you get two — well-read individual. If you get three — word expert. If you get all four — You must have a lot of free time!

All words and correct definitions come from the board game Diction Deception.

Answers to last week's arcane words.
1. Ptarmic — Causing to sneeze
2. Dawpate — A simpleton; a fool
3. Tellural — Pertaining to the earth
4. Gobbet — A chunk of raw flesh

BURKING
1. Murdering persons in order to sell their bodies for dissection
2. Pointing out with the finger
3. Causing extreme fear, trembling or quivering
4. Causing a person or persons to get enraged; a taunting

SIMAGRE
1. Stern; rigid
2. A grimace
3. A grouchy old man; curmudgeon
4. An early stage or beginning

BUCCAL
1. Full of life; very lively
2. Living the life of a hermit
3. Pertaining to the cheek or mouth
4. Desolate; barren

BLOTTO
1. Widespread epidemic of catastrophic proportions
2. Very pale or faded
3. Mixed or jumbled
4. Very drunk; unconscious because of drinking too much

Westfielder Supports Goose Reduction

Congratulations to County Manager George Devanney for proposing a way to reduce the Canadian Goose population. Netting the geese and using them to help feed the homeless will help reduce the goose population while providing a good source of food for those who need it most.

Ms. Blanchard claims "They (geese) have many admirable traits similar to human beings, and we are killing them for being social beings because they find our parks as attractive as we do."

I have never seen geese playing in the parks, they do not play ball or play on the swings, they simply use the parks as a food source and leave nothing but goose droppings that create a hazard for those people playing on the fields. Canada Geese are not an endangered species and have virtually taken over our parks. Using dogs and other means to chase the geese doesn't solve the problem, it only moves it somewhere else.

Mr. Devanney is correct in saying that population control is the only viable alternative to control the geese that have grossly overpopulated our parks.

Thomas Lienhard
Westfield

Township Should Buy Park Place Diner Property for Fields

A few months ago, I seem to remember that the council said that whenever a parcel of land suitable for recreation purposes was made for sale the town would look at it for its own use. Isn't that why money is set aside?

The Park Place Diner property, adjacent to land you wanted to use in the reservation, and across the street from a similar sized field, seems to be available. Why not condemn this property, and/or swap them the Terry Lou Zoo property?

Large, relatively flat, parcels of land are very hard to come by. Let's act on this before building starts.

The buyers intended use of the property is irrelevant.

Robert Cummo
Scotch Plains

Admin. Salaries Need To be Examined Before SPF Budget is Passed

As the board of education considers its spending plan in anticipation of the upcoming opportunity for the public to vote the school budget up or down, it should consider that this school district exceeds the county average for median administrative salary by 6 percent (\$102,330 versus \$96,394).

In contrast, the district's median faculty salary is within approximately one percent of the county average (\$49,300 versus \$48,708).

Are we paying our administrators too much, or our teachers too little?
David Harris
Fanwood

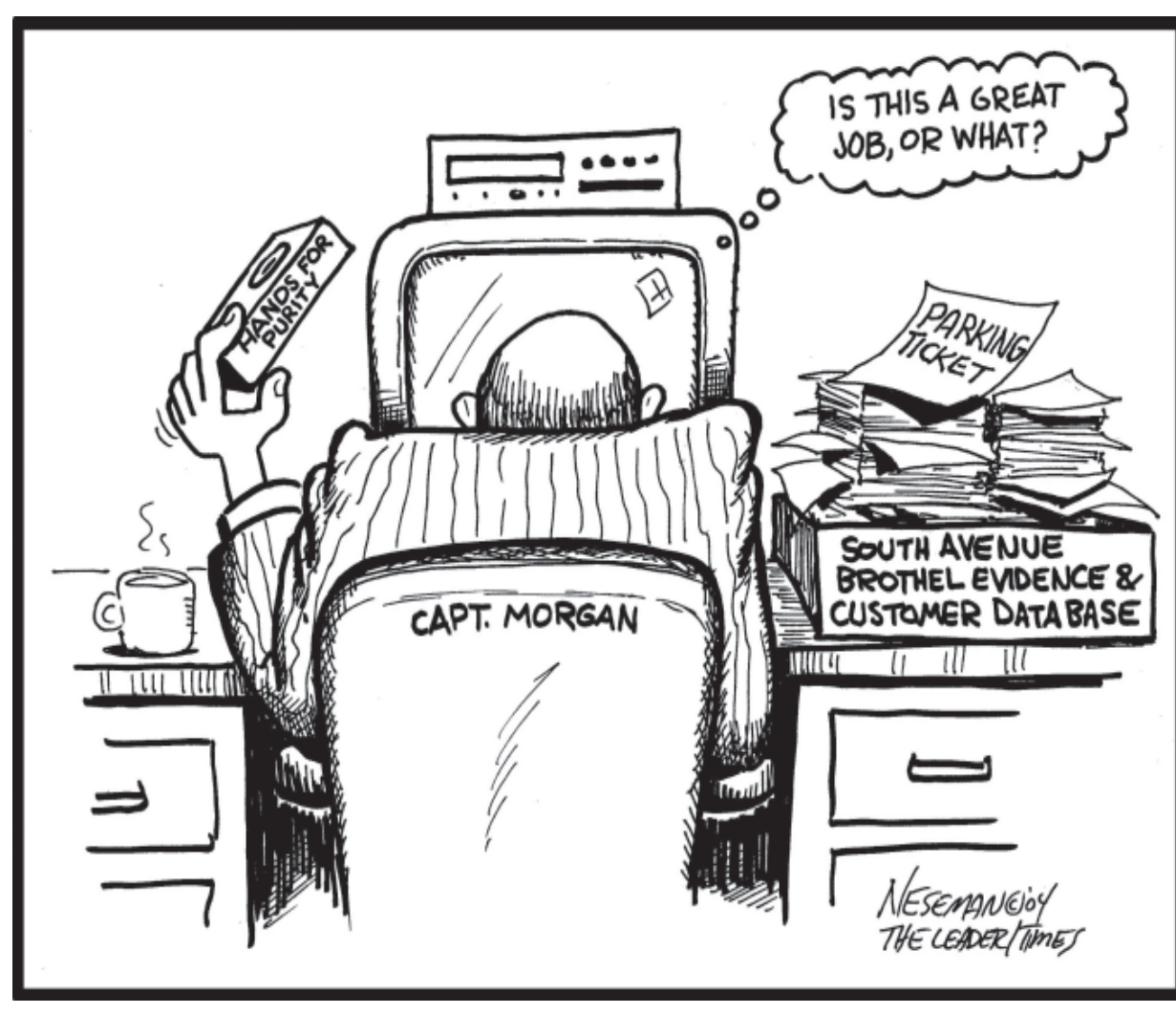
More Letters to The Editor on Page 5

Government Checks Gas Price Gouging

WASHINGTON -- Motorists who think they've been charged unfairly high prices can report to the government at (800) 244-3301 or gaswatch.energy.gov. The Federal Trade Commission investigates complaints of price-gouging.

Westfield Schools Closed March 15

WESTFIELD -- All nine Westfield Public Schools will be closed on Monday, March 15, for staff in-service. Classes for students will not be held, although school offices and the administration building will be operational.



Letters to the Editor

Why Do Candidates Have Answers But Elected Officials Do Not?

I was disappointed to read recent comments offered by our elected officials on both the board of education and town council. Before I offer my criticism, I do acknowledge that these officials are volunteers and should be commended for volunteering time away from their families and other activities. The position is truly a thankless job.

However, once you decide to serve there are responsibilities that come with elected office. Perhaps the most important responsibility is the budget. The process of budget review is time consuming and difficult decisions have to be made. I speak from experience having served as a councilman for three years in a borough similar to Westfield.

Every single candidate who has run for local public office be they Republican or Democrat for the town council, or candidates for the board of education, have emphasized fiscal responsibility while campaigning and have promised to treat the tax dollars as if the money was their own.

Recently, both the school board and town announced its budget. Once again we will see increases. If the newspaper reports are accurate, the town budget will increase by seven percent and the board of education, with a budget that dwarfs the town budget, will increase by six percent. The county budget will also, no doubt, increase.

If my experience is typical I have grown numb to the inevitable, yearly tax increases, however the comments of our elected officials when announcing these increases add insult to injury. I am assuming that the quotes reported in the paper last week are accurate. The vice president of the board of education, after announcing a six percent increase or a \$342 increase for an "average homeowner" stated "It's a small amount of money for homeowners." Really?

First of all the mythical average homeowner who will be receiving this "small" increase has a property as-

essed at \$180,000. Most people reading this letter have homes assessed well in excess of \$180,000. This increase is also tacked onto the already existing substantial tax bill, which is \$6,390 for the "average homeowner", and this amount is only for the school portion of the budget and doesn't include the town taxes or county taxes. I am not advocating voting against the budget and I generally believe the school board does an excellent job, however if the statement was made, as reported, I find it troubling. Many can afford the yearly increases, however there are people in this town, especially seniors, who are having difficulty paying taxes. They are house rich but do not have a steady flow of income.

Quotes from councilmen regarding the town budget were equally troubling. Third Ward Councilman Andrew Skibitsky was quoted as saying he is "troubled by the increase...I don't have the answers." Well if he doesn't have the answers who does? We depend on the mayor and council to find the answers. I don't recall any of the candidates telling us they didn't have the answers before we elected them.

The other Third Ward Councilman Mark Ciarrocca was quoted as saying "I don't know where else we could have cut." These sentiments don't bode well for the future since there comes a point that the inevitable yearly tax increases reach a breaking point.

Keep in mind that we also pay for some services above and beyond our tax dollars. Most significant is our waste removal bill. We also pay to use the town pool, pay to recycle, pay various recreation fees, pay for sidewalk repair, new curbs etc. All in addition to our taxes!

I understand that living in this town means high taxes. Maybe if the quotes, when announcing the increases, were a tad more encouraging I wouldn't mind dipping into my pocket as much.

William Bren
Westfield

Cellular Antennae Placement At Schools Could be Health Risk

I was dismayed to read that the Westfield School Board is considering a proposal from T Mobile to install a cell phone antennae at two district schools - Wilson Elementary and Edison Intermediate - in return for \$100,000 each year.

While the board is to be commended for exploring alternative funding sources, the benefits generated from the antennae option are far outweighed by the potential harm the radiation emitted by the antennae could cause the children who attend these two schools and the surrounding neighbors.

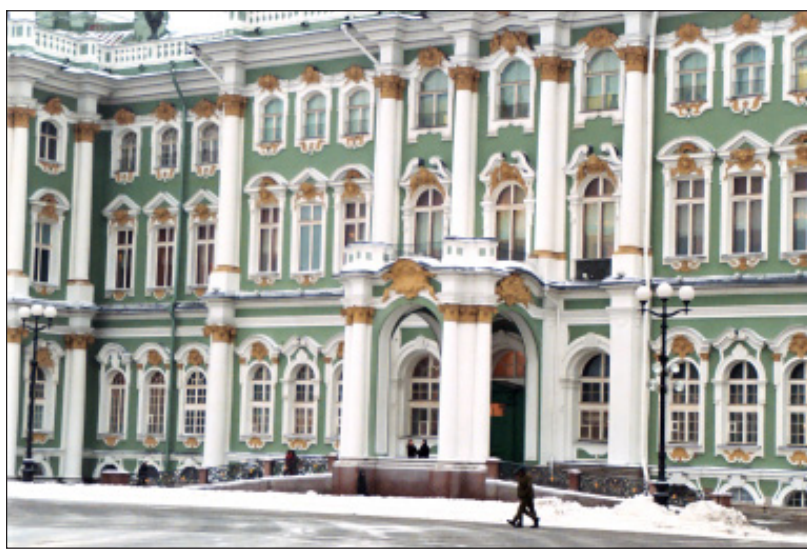
Granted, there is conjecture about the effects of exposure to the EMF radiation emitted by cell phone antennae. On one hand, cell phone companies dismiss it outright and say the exposure is harmless. On the other hand there are many in the scientific community who believe the biological effects from low intensity radiation exposures are very real and include long-term effects on DNA, chromosome aberrations, gene transcription, damage to the immune system, neurological effects, depletion of serotonin, and numerous cancers. Interestingly, payment by cell phone companies in return for placing antennae on schools and other public buildings is not a new phenomenon. Across the USA there are at least 300 communities that have moratoriums on cell phone tower placement.

Bd. of Education Does Budget Backwards

You quoted Ms. Anne Riegel, Vice-President of the Westfield Board of Education. As related to the BOE budget increase and concurrent tax levy increase, she said, "It's a small amount of money for homeowners." How dare she look into residents' pocketbooks and vote to spend their money. Doesn't the BOE realize that they are doing the budget backwards; first spending the money and then going into residents' pocketbooks to obtain the funds? Help!

Dr. Jay Slomovitz
Westfield

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THE CZAR'S PALACE...Brian and Patricia Mueller visited Russia on January 14 to bring their newly adopted daughter to her new home in Westfield. Arrangements for the adoption were made in St. Petersburg. During the trip, Mr. Mueller took several photographs including the one shown above in St. Petersburg of the Czar's spectacular Winter Palace, now known as the Hermitage Museum.

Mahr Didn't Say Answer to Property Taxes Was State Aid During Campaign

I watched the televised meeting of the Fanwood Mayor and Council to discuss the budget and was appalled. I know our tax situation has gotten out of hand, but I was surprised to hear the mayor sacrifice the integrity of Fanwood for something she referred to as "Extraordinary Aid."

When Mayor Colleen Mahr ran for the honor of serving as the Mayor of Fanwood, she ran on the platform of controlling and lowering taxes. She spoke as though she knew how to do something clever and unique.

On television, to all the citizens of Fanwood watching, she tried to explain why an 11 percent tax hike would put Fanwood in a position to ask Trenton for this program called "Extraordinary Aid." Is this her idea of tax relief - begging Trenton for money along with communities like Hillside, Roselle and Elizabeth, which truly need this type of program?

I commend Councilman Stuart Kline for taking a courageous stand at that meeting to articulate to the public that

the mayor and council could have done a better job in preparing the budget. Although Mr. Kline explained that he, too, wouldn't turn down money, he explained how this process was a one-time situation and, if granted, would come with some "strings attached." He also stated that even if these aid monies were totally granted, our tax increase would still be more than last year! Apparently, Ms. Mahr thought it better to rush through the budget process in order to meet a March 12 deadline to apply for an "extraordinary" means of lowering taxes.

While campaigning, Ms. Mahr never explained that aid was her idea of tax relief.

The previous administration had the answer of tax relief through redevelopment rates. Now we will be known as a community in desperate need, rather than a forward thinking and upward moving community.

Evelyn Nelson
Fanwood

Loss of Raider Logo is Unfortunate For 2004 SPF Graduating Class

For twelve years the senior class members of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School have proudly represented their school and communities as the Blue Raiders. The football and soccer teams as well as other school activities such as DECA and the Model U.N. all made us proud with their success in this, their final year as Raiders.

How unfortunate it is that the members of the senior class are being told by the school system that they can not purchase graduation tee shirts displaying the Indian head logo they have worn so proudly for all of their twelve years as Raiders.

The Indian head logo, which has been displayed with such reverence is, we are now being told, an insult to someone, somewhere and if we display it we are

racists. We are being told that the Raider flags we display on the fronts of our homes apparently only indicates that a bigot lives there, not a proud SPF Raider. I guess I should be ashamed that I walk our streets wearing my Raider logo hat, scarf, t-shirt and jacket. Ashamed of the emotional feeling I get when I approach the football field and see all of the bright blue Raider flags flying in the wind, each one insulting an Indian somewhere.

If anyone is insulted by this new policy it is the people of our community. The logo belongs to us, not the school system. Leave it alone and let the Class of 2004 graduate as the strong, proud Raiders they have always been.

Brian Bantz
Fanwood

Fanwoodian Responds to Budget Story; Tells GOP to "Get Over It"

As a resident of Fanwood, I read last week's front page article, "FW Political Lines Drawn Over Budget Increase, Aid Application," with great dismay. Apparently, Former Mayor Louis Jung and Councilman Stuart Kline are trying to inject the same fractious, vicious partisanship that has infected our national and state politics to the local level.

The is a sad state of affairs for Fanwood, but so be it.

Jung: You're no longer mayor. Show the same grace that former Mayor Connolly showed upon losing to you. You should withdraw from politics and give your successor time to settle in. You're just a private citizen now, and your opinion counts no more than any other resident of Fanwood.

Kline: I used to respect your work on the town council. No longer. Now it sounds like you're just like any other politician maneuvering for ad-

vantage. The same 11 percent increase you are objecting to so fiercely is probably the exact same increase you would be recommending were Republicans still in charge. (We both know that the actual discretionary part of the budget is very small.)

Republicans on town council: The last local election represented a plebiscite on downtown development. You lost. Get over it. It's time for you to move on. A majority of residents who voted told you that we prefer Fanwood's small town environment and want to keep it. Westfield and Scotch Plains have significant downtown shopping areas. We don't need one in Fanwood. The small, intimate local businesses that exist are just right for most of us. Ratables aren't everything. Lifestyle can be more important.

Lon Levy
Fanwood

I've Had Enough of Robert Ratner's Rantings, Says Westfield Reader

For several years now, beginning even before R. Ratner was a Westfield resident, *The Leader* has subjected its readers to this man's incessant tirades. As a 21 year resident, I appreciate *The Leader's* letters section as an opportunity to learn about diverse viewpoints on matters of local concern. Surely there is no dearth of letters as to need continually give space to Ratner's ravings. It is refreshing to finally see a letter speaking about his approach.

As with too many Americans today, Ratner has no concept of civility or respect, nor does he understand that his right to free speech has responsibility as a corollary. In one recent letter, Ratner admitted looking for causes to hone his writing skills. If he propounded his causes in a rational, respectful manner, he might be listened to.

One recent writer commented that Ratner needed an anger management course. I suggest that his personal, demeaning attack-dog approach on anyone he disagrees with (especially the Bush administration) hides a more troubling problem.

The amount of space devoted to this demagogue, and responding letters, is way out of proportion. Please devote space to local issues voiced in a responsible manner.

If other readers are also tired of Ratner's ramblings, perhaps they will take the time to let *The Leader* know.

If Ratner has cogent thoughts of concern to Westfield and expresses them in a coherent, non-emotional and most civil manner, then by all means, share them with your readers. If not, please spare us further Ratner rantings.

Joe Boscia
Westfield

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Miss Cecilia Bocanegra and Nicholas Eichenseer

Miss Cecilia Bocanegra To Wed Nicholas Eichenseer

Dr. and Mrs. Tomás Bocanegra of Westfield have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Cecilia Bocanegra of Chicago, Ill., formerly of Westfield, to Nicholas John Eichenseer of Madison, Wis. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Eichenseer of West Bend, Wis.

A 1995 graduate of Tampa Preparatory School in Tampa, Fla., the bride-to-be earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Psychological Services from Northwestern University in

Evanston, Ill. in 1999. She will graduate from Northwestern University in June with a Master of Arts degree in Counseling Psychology.

Her fiancé, a 1996 graduate of West Bend High School in West Bend, Wis., received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Northwestern University in 2000. He is a law student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Madison, Wis.

The couple plans to be married in December in Lima, Peru.

Westfield Library Friends To Hold Annual Book Sale

WESTFIELD - The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library's Annual Book Sale will be held from Tuesday through Saturday, March 30 to April 3, at the library.

Hours for the sale will be 2 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday; 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street.

Current members of the Friends will have an opportunity to purchase books on March 30 from 9 a.m. to

noon.

Proceeds from the annual sale benefit the Westfield Memorial Library. Funds support activities ranging from children's and adult programs and computers to additions to the book, audio, DVD and reference collections at the library.

Some \$350,000 has been given to the library from the Book Sale since the Friends inception in 1972. Membership in the Friends organization is available for an annual fee beginning at \$10.

Miller-Cory to Spotlight 'Colonial Kitchen Gadgets'

WESTFIELD - This Sunday, March 14, Westfield's Miller-Cory House Museum will feature "Salamanders, Spiders and Other Colonial Kitchen Gadgets," from 2 to 5 p.m.

Joan Barna, Co-Chairwoman of the museum's Cooking Committee, will present the program. The museum is located at 614 Mountain Avenue.

Costumed docents will be on hand to guide visitors through the 1740 fully furnished farmhouse. The last tour will begin at 4 p.m.

Seasonal foods will be prepared over the open hearth by Allison Clancy of Westfield, and taste treats will be available for visitors to sample.

Individuals are also invited to visit the museum's gift shop, which offers a variety of Colonial reproductions, cookbooks and educational items.

On Sunday, March 21, the Reverend John Mills will present "Find Your Ancestors - How to do a Genealogy Search!"

Admission to the museum is \$2 for

adults, 50 cents for students and free for children under age six. For more information about upcoming spring events or volunteer opportunities, please call the museum office at (908) 232-1776.

African Violet Chapter Slated to Meet Today

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Union County Chapter of the African Violet Society will meet at 1 p.m. today, Thursday, March 11, at the Scotch Plains Public Library.

Faith Perrin, Chairwoman of the annual African Violet Show, will moderate a discussion entitled "Almost Show Time."

She will lead a hands-on workshop dealing with preparation for the show, which will take place later this month in Scotch Plains.

The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue. Anyone interested in African violets is invited to attend.

Annual 'Ladies Nite Out' Scheduled For March 30

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, together with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Municipal Alliance Committee (MAC), has invited women of Scotch Plains and Fanwood to the Fourth Annual "Ladies Nite Out." It will take place from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 30, at Terrill Middle School in Scotch Plains.

This community outreach event emphasizes healthy options to stress and life chaos without the use of drugs and alcohol. MAC is a community organization for the prevention of substance abuse.

Area merchants and organizations volunteer their time to provide information, services and materials suitable for women of all ages.

Besides demonstrations, the event

will feature activities such as massage, yoga and other therapies, as well as health and nutrition tips. Healthy refreshments will also be available, along with door prizes and giveaways. Terrill Middle School is located on Terrill Road.

Hypertension Clinic Postponed Until April

SCOTCH PLAINS - Area residents are advised that there will not be a Scotch Plains Monthly Hypertension (high blood pressure) Clinic scheduled during March.

The next clinic will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Monday, April 12, in the Community Room of the Scotch Plains Public Library, located at 1927 Bartle Avenue.



MR. AND MRS. DOMINICK T. LUCIANO (She is the former Miss Allison Hansen)

Miss Allison Hansen Weds Dominick T. Luciano

Miss Allison Hansen, the daughter of Mrs. Roseanne Hansen of West Caldwell and the late Robert Hansen, was married on Saturday, November 15, to Dominick T. Luciano. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Dominick T. Luciano of Scotch Plains.

The afternoon nuptials took place at St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church in Caldwell, with the Reverend John Laferrera officiating. A reception followed at the Highlawn Pavilion in West Orange.

Given in marriage by her mother and her brother, Christopher Hansen of West Caldwell, the bride had her friend, Ms. JoAnn Hansen of Eatontown, as her maid of honor.

Ms. Amanda Crosby of Reisterstown, Md., Ms. Justine Dang of Baltimore, Md., Ms. Brooke Heidenfelder of Chapel Hill, N.C. and Ms. Claire Matias of Old Bridge, all friends of the bride, served as bridal attendants.

John Luciano of Scotch Plains was the best man for his brother.

The ushers included the bride's

brother, Christopher Hansen, along with Jason Casale of Newark, Giuliano Di Nizo, Anthony LaRosa and Dominic LaRosa, all of Scotch Plains, friends of the bridegroom.

The bride graduated from James Caldwell High School in West Caldwell and the University of Delaware, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. She is employed as a development chemist at the National Starch and Chemical Company in Bridgewater.

A graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, the bridegroom earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology from Pennsylvania State University. He is a police officer with the Scotch Plains Police Department.

The rehearsal dinner was hosted by the parents of the bridegroom at Bella Giardino in Caldwell. A bridal shower was given by the bridal attendants on August 16.

Following a wedding trip to Mexico, the couple resides in Scotch Plains.

SAR Chapter Annual Dinner To Feature Former Mayor

WESTFIELD - The annual dinner meeting of the West Fields Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) will be held on Wednesday, March 31, at the Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield. Dinner will be at 7 p.m.

Garland "Bud" Boothe, Jr., former Mayor of Westfield, will be the featured speaker. Mr. Boothe's talk is expected to take place at 8 p.m. and is open to the public.


The meeting will also include election of chapter officers for 2004-

2005, awarding of the SAR Certificate of Distinguished Service and recognition of new members.

For dinner, individuals are asked to send \$30 to C. Marlin White, 109 Ryder Way, New Providence 07974, to arrive by Thursday, March 25. Cocktail service will begin at 6 p.m.

The West Fields chapter, one of the largest in the state, originated in 1921. Membership in the SAR is open to any man who can trace his ancestry to the Revolutionary War.

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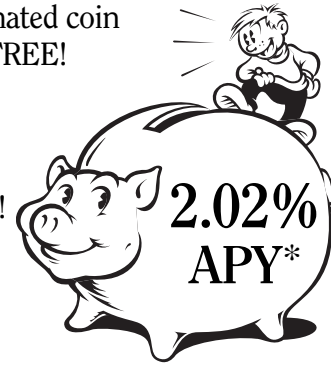


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Knights Honor Police, Fire, Rescue Units For Service

SCOTCH PLAINS - Local clergy and elected officials joined Father John S. Nelligan Council No. 5730 Knights of Columbus February 19 for the council's 28th Annual Awards Night.

More than 120 people attended the ceremony at St. Bartholomew the Apostle School in Scotch Plains, where police, fire and rescue squad personnel from Scotch Plains and Fanwood were honored for outstanding service to their communities. Winners of the council's basketball free-throw championship were also recognized.

The evening's celebration kicked off with remarks by the Reverend Donald Hummel, Pastor of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, who recounted some of his experiences on calls with the Fanwood Police SWAT Team.

Mayor Colleen Mahr of Fanwood and Mayor Martin Marks of Scotch Plains each spoke highly of their local uniformed and emergency service representatives, and both expressed appreciation for the community ser-

vice of the Knights of Columbus.

The following are a list of the presenters and award recipients for 2004.

For Scotch Plains, Police Chief Marshall Nelson, himself the first award recipient in 1978, presented awards to Patrolmen Shawn Johnson and Joseph Cossolini.

Fire Captain Michael Cuccurullo presented firefighter Andrew Miller with his award.

Rescue Squad Deacon Robert Gurske presented an award to squad member Kim Rivera.

For Fanwood, Police Chief Donald Domanoski and Captain Edward White presented awards to Sergeant Thomas Jedic and to Patrolmen Brian Bartiromo and Kevin Stomber.

Fire Chief Richard Regenthal gave an award to firefighters Herbert Goines, Jason Lowrey, David Ziegler and Steve Szanto.

Rescue Squad President Thomas Kranz presented an award to squad member James Drewes.

The following individuals were named the winners of the free-throw awards.

Boys: Francis Degnan, Ben Velarde, Zachary Flanzman, Michael Kebbekus and James Trollo. Girls: Bridget Ryan, Colleen Cassidy, Christina Camarda and Michelle Spinella.

Scrapbooking Night To Benefit Ill Child

FANWOOD - A scrapbooking night to benefit Robert Cleary of Fanwood will be held on Saturday, March 20, from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Woodside Chapel, located at 5 Morse Avenue in Fanwood.

Robert, who is five years old, suffers from adrenoleukodystrophy, a life-threatening genetic disease.

The cost is \$5 for those who pre-register and \$7 at the door. Interested persons are asked to contact Alesia Porter at (908) 301-1148 or via email at njporters@comcast.net.

Presbyterian Church To Hold Blood Drive

WESTFIELD - The Presbyterian Church in Westfield will host a blood drive for New Jersey Blood Services on Sunday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. No appointments are necessary.

Donors must be between 18 and 75 years old. Individuals over 75 may give blood providing they have a doctor's note. Persons must weigh over 110 pounds and not have donated blood within the last 56 days.

Most medications will not disqualify a donor from giving blood. Proof of identification, such as a driver's license, is required.

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield is located on the corner of East Broad Street and Mountain Avenue, and the drive will take place in Lower Westminster Hall.

Professor of Theology to Give Talk on Religion and Science

SCOTCH PLAINS - The All Saints' Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains will welcome the Reverend Dr. W. Mark Richardson, Professor of Theology at General Theological Seminary in New York City, on Thursday, March 25.

He will discuss the question "Religion and Science: Compatible or Incompatible?"

A light supper at 6:30 p.m. will precede Dr. Richardson's presentation, which will take place at 7:45 p.m. All Saints' Church is located at

559 Park Avenue.

An Episcopal priest, author and editor, Dr. Richardson conceived and directed the "Science and Spiritual Quest" project that brought together 60 top scientists to talk about the relationship between their scientific work and their respective spiritual traditions.

Admission is free, but reservations are requested. Interested individuals are asked to call the church at (908) 322-8047.



FEEDING THE HUNGRY...Cub Scout Den No. 4 from Washington Elementary School in Westfield recently served meals at Grace's Soup Kitchen in Plainfield. In addition to earning service hours, the boys are working towards their Webelos badge. Pictured, from left to right, are: Patrick Reilly, Peter Wanfried, Brendan Seery, Brian Doles and Michael Woods.

Greek Orthodox Church Sets Annual Lenten Quilt-A-Thon

WESTFIELD - The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church will hold its 11th annual AIDS Babies Quilt-A-Thon on Saturday, March 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the church, located at 250 Gallows Hill Road in Westfield.

Chaired by Sophie Stappas of Mountainside, the event is free and open to the public. All ages are invited to participate. Last year, more than 200 volunteers made over 300 quilts for at-risk babies.

The quilts will be blessed on Sunday, March 28, by the Reverend Dimitrios Antokas, Pastor of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

The church hosts the Quilt-A-Thon as a one-day Lenten project. It is coordinated through ABC Quilts, a national, non-profit organization. Materials are provided for free, but

volunteers may contribute baby items such as baby food, diapers and the like. These will be given to St. Clare's Home in Elizabeth and Project B.A.B.I.E.S. in Newark.

There are eight steps to making a quilt. Volunteers assemble the quilt - iron, cut, measure and knot - and a team of sewers sew them on sewing machines.

The quilts will be distributed to infants in 10 hospitals and transitional homes, including University Hospital and Beth Israel Hospital, both of Newark; the Children's Hospital AIDS Program of Newark; Project DEARS of Newark; Project B.A.B.I.E.S.; St. Clare's Home; Trinity Hospital in Elizabeth, and Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

For further information, please call Sophie Stappas at (908) 233-0420.

Actress to Tell Seniors About 'Doughnuts For Doughboys'

SCOTCH PLAINS - The 12 O'Clock Club, a group open to all senior citizens, will hold its regular luncheon and program at noon on Tuesday, March 16, at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains.

Laurie MacDonnell-Gaulke, an actress and storyteller from Gillette, will present a program entitled "Doughnuts for Doughboys: A Salvation Army Lassic in Neuvilley."

Mrs. MacDonnell-Gaulke will recall the experiences of Salvation Army volunteers, many of them young women, who served with the American Army in France during World War I.

Using their own words as recorded in diaries, letters and interviews, she will share true stories of frying up doughnuts and writing letters for soldiers, mending uniforms and ministering to souls on the ravaged battlefields of France in 1918. She will even make fresh doughnuts for attendees of the 12 O'Clock program.

The lunch will serve as a main meal and will cost \$3.50. New attendees

are always welcome. Individuals are asked to make their luncheon reservations no later than Sunday, March 14, by calling the church office at (908) 232-5678 and leaving a message.

The Willow Grove Church is located at 1961 Raritan Road, across the street from the Southside Firehouse, and is handicapped-accessible.

Surrogate to Discuss Wills, Estate Planning

SCOTCH PLAINS - Union County Surrogate James S. LaCorte will speak on Sunday, March 21, at 2 p.m. at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, located at 2032 Westfield Avenue in Scotch Plains.

Mr. LaCorte will provide information on the importance of wills and estate planning, as well as free brochures.

All are welcome. Interested individuals are asked to call Mike D'Antuono at (908) 889-1735 or Jim Cassidy at (908) 322-4667 to confirm plans to attend.

Golden Agers Reveal Trip Next Week to Tropicana

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Trip Committee of the Golden Agers of Scotch Plains has announced that openings are still available for the organization's overnight trip to the Tropicana in Atlantic City on Thursday and Friday, March 18 and 19.

The package, which costs \$80, includes two \$10 bonus cash vouchers, as well as a brunch and show.

Several other trips are also scheduled, including Carms Academy of Culinary Arts in Mays Landing on Thursday, April 8, with a stop at Delicious Apple Orchards, for \$32.

There will also be trips on Thursday, May 20, to The Brownstone in Paterson for lunch and the show "Viva Las Vegas," for \$48.75, and to Woodloch Pines in Hawley, Pa. on Thursday, June 3, for a prime rib-and-shrimp dinner, followed by dessert, for \$51.25.

Additionally, the group has planned a spring luncheon for its members for Thursday, April 15.

The Golden Agers meets every Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club, located on

Jerusalem Road in Scotch Plains, for fellowship, lunch, bingo and cards. For more information on any of the group's activities, please call Jean at (908) 889-4121 or Mary at (908) 654-4512.

Temple Reveals Date For Kids Carnival

WESTFIELD - Temple Emanuel-El's annual Kids Carnival is scheduled for Sunday, March 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the temple, located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield.

Open to the public, the carnival is described as ideal for families with children between the ages of two and 10.

Games, arts and crafts, a "moon walk," prizes and food will be among the highlights of the event. For adults, a silent auction and "50/50" raffle will be available.

Admission is free. Tickets purchased at the carnival will allow access to games, entertainment and other activities. Proceeds from the event will benefit Temple Emanuel-El's Early Childhood Education Program.

First Baptist Seeks Volunteers For Projects This Saturday

WESTFIELD - The First Baptist Church of Westfield, located at 170 Elm Street, has revealed several activities that are taking place at the church.

The Christian Education Committee has extended an invitation for volunteers to help organize Sunday School rooms and closets, make repairs and improvements, and take inventory of supplies this Saturday, March 13, starting at 10 a.m. Lunch will be provided at noon.

Individuals are also welcome to learn about Christianity through First

Baptist's ALPHA Group, which meets at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings at the church. The free, 10-week program began on March 7.

This Sunday, March 14, the group will explore the "who" posed in the question "Who Is Jesus?" Each session includes supper, a lecture and discussion.

Finally, First Baptist is in the process of producing a pictorial directory of members and special friends, in the hope that people will become better acquainted. For more information on any of these activities, please call the church at (908) 233-2278.

Methodist Church Sets Vacation Bible School

WESTFIELD - The First United Methodist Church of Westfield will offer a week-long Vacation Bible School from Monday through Friday, July 12 to 16. Sessions will take place from 9 a.m. to noon, with a culminating dinner program planned for all participating families on Friday evening.

The theme for this year's session, "Hero Quest," will spotlight Biblical heroes of faith (with Jesus as the ultimate hero).

Participants will be encouraged to identify heroes in their daily lives, experience the power of faith in God, and discover the faith heroes inside themselves.

Vacation Bible School will be available to children from age three through sixth grade. The cost will be \$25 per student, although scholarship help is available if needed.

The First United Methodist Church is located at 1 East Broad Street. For more information, please call the church office at (908) 233-4211.

Weight Loss Surprises Researchers

WASHINGTON - Researchers were surprised when Japanese scientists found that natural ingredients in a new formula could cause weight loss without dieting.

Studies published in the *International Journal of Obesity* found that ingredients in Oleostat™ target dietary fat, one of the leading causes of weight gain. Scientists say that Oleostat works in the intestines and blocks absorption of the fat in food.

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Technical information and research studies can be found on the internet at www.key2health.com. Oleostat is available at health and nutrition stores or call 1-800-339-3301. ©2002K2H

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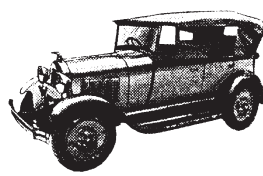
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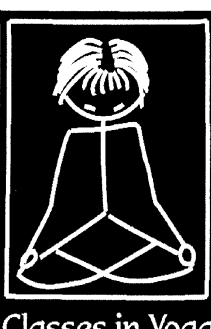
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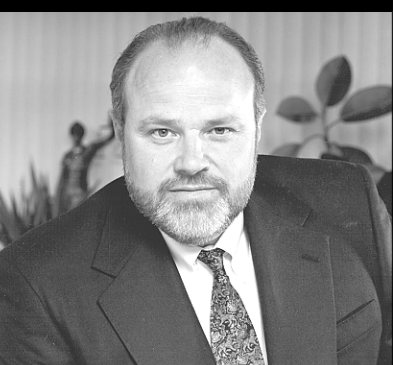
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Louie Randall Stachel, 98, Volunteer At Hospital and For Meals-on-Wheels

Louie Randall Stachel, 98, formerly of Westfield, died on Friday, February 27, at The White Sands of La Jolla, Calif.

Born in Brighton, Mass. on December 14, 1905, she was the youngest child of Samuel and Katherine Randall. She had lived in Westfield from 1936 until 1993, when she moved to Reading, Mass. She relocated to California in 1996.

Mrs. Stachel graduated from Reading High School and from Chandler's Secretarial School in Boston, Mass.

She was a member of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, where she sang in the choir, and was an active volunteer at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in

Berkeley Heights and with Meals on Wheels.

She was predeceased by two husbands, Walter George Scharmann, in 1949, and Edward Stachel, in 1970; a son, William Scharmann, in 1988, and by her sister, Katherine, and half-brother, James A. Russell.

Surviving are two daughters, Kathryn Mower of La Jolla, Calif., and Pamela Stewart of Cranston, R.I.; eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Services will be private. Memorial donations may be made to Vitas Hospice Care, 9655 Granite Ridge Suite 300, San Diego, Calif. 92123.

March 11, 2004

Rev. Wendy Thode, 46, Was Director Of Christian Education, Assoc. Pastor

The Reverend Wendy W. Thode, 46, of Westfield died on Tuesday, March 2, at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in Syracuse, N.Y., she had lived in Cranbury, Tucson, Ariz., Columbus, Ohio and Philadelphia, Pa. before moving to Westfield in 1999.

Reverend Thode was Director of Christian Education for the Lamington Presbyterian Church in Lamington since August. Prior to that, she had been an Associate Pastor with The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

She had also been Director of Christian Education at the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, Pa. and was a Parish Associate for the First Presbyterian Church of

Donald H. Jones

Donald H. Jones of Cranford died on Thursday, March 4, at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in Roselle, he was a Cranford resident for most of his life.

Mr. Jones had worked for Bell Atlantic for 36 years prior to retiring in 1991.

He was a member of the Cranford United Methodist Church and Past Master of Masonic Lodge No. 33 in Elizabeth.

Surviving are his wife, Marjorie Taylor Jones; two sons, Rob Jones of Maryland and Rich Jones of Freehold; a daughter, Donna Jones of Bedminster; a sister, Barbara Morris of Cranford, and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 6, at the Gray Memorial Funeral Home in Cranford. Interment followed at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

March 11, 2004

Stephen Feld, 77, Survived the Holocaust; Was Businessman and Longtime Cantor

Stephen Feld, 77, of Scotch Plains died on Monday, February 23, in Nassau, the Bahamas.

Born in Borek, Poland, he emigrated to the United States in 1947. He had lived in Clark prior to moving to Scotch Plains many years ago.

He and his brother Melvin, along with a sister, Estelle Nadel, were the only three among a family of seven to survive the Holocaust.

Before retiring, Mr. Feld and his brother had been partners at Mel's Children's Dress Co. in Perth Amboy

for 30 years.

Mr. Feld, a prominent cantor in New Jersey and New York, began his cantorial singing career in Valley Stream, N.Y. For many years he served as cantor at Temple Beth Or in Clark.

He is also survived by his wife of 54 years, Adele Feld; two sons, Norman Feld and Irwin Feld, and four grandchildren.

A service was held on Friday, February 27, at the Park-West Riverside Chapel in New York.

March 11, 2004

Obituaries

Florence Harley, 80, Registered Nurse; Member of Several Churches and Clubs

Florence Mae Carlson Harley, 80, of Ephrata, Pa. died on Wednesday, March 3, in the Brethren Village, Manheim Township, Pa.

Born in Northfield, daughter of the late Harry O. and Amelia Jane Barclay Carlson, she had lived in Royersford, Pa., Westfield and Winston-Salem, N.C. before moving to Ephrata in 1997.

A homemaker, Mrs. Harley also was a registered nurse, having graduated from the Jefferson School of Nursing in Philadelphia in 1945. She had also worked as a surgical nurse and assisted her husband, Dr. Wilbur J. Harley, in his family medical practice in Royersford for many years.

A member of the Ephrata Church of the Brethren, she had also belonged to the First Congregational Church and the Echo Lake Country

Club, both in Westfield. While living in Winston-Salem, Mrs. Harley was a member of the Parkway Presbyterian Church and the Pinebrook Country Club.

She was predeceased by a daughter, Susan E. Davis, in June of 2003.

In addition to her husband of 54 years, she is survived by three sons, Thomas A. Harley of Cranford, Robert C. Harley and John "Jack" Harley, both of Ephrata; two sisters, Marie Smith and Emily Crane, both also of Ephrata, and five grandchildren.

A celebration of her life was held on Sunday, March 7, at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren. Private interment will take place at a time to be arranged by the family.

Arrangements were by the Stradling Funeral Home Inc. in Ephrata.

March 11, 2004

Donald L. Prior, 89, Retired Executive; Congregant at Fanwood Presbyterian

Donald Lawrence Prior, 89, of North Plainfield, a former Fanwood resident for more than 60 years, died on Thursday, March 4.

Born July 30, 1914, he grew up in Brooklyn and Scarsdale, N.Y.

A graduate of Scarsdale High School and Pratt Institute, Mr. Prior retired in 1990 as President of the Prior Chemical Corporation in New York City, where he had begun working as an office boy in the late 1920s.

He was a member of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church and the Plainfield Country Club.

Surviving are his wife of 69 years, Kathryn Lytle Prior of Fanwood and Scottsdale, Ariz.; four children, Patricia Becker of Fanwood and Scottsdale, Ariz., Audrey Mike Parker

of Lexington, N.C., Peggy Wolfe Dunn of Berwick, Me. and Thomas Prior of St. Augustine, Fla.; his sister, Audrey Prior Keir of Alexandria, Va.; four brothers, Richard, James, Robert and John Prior; 22 grandchildren and 41 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Friday, March 5, at the McCutchen Friends Home in North Plainfield. Burial will take place in the summer at Greenwood Cemetery in Brielle.

Arrangements were by the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue in Fanwood.

Memorial donations may be made to the McCutchen Friends Home, the National Psoriasis Foundation or the Fanwood Presbyterian Church.

March 11, 2004

Vi McCourt, Worked as Administrator; Was Active In Civic Groups and Politics

Vi McCourt of Scotch Plains died on Tuesday, March 2, at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she resided in Scotch Plains for 15 years. She had previously lived in Newark and Springfield.

Mrs. McCourt had been an administrator and secretary prior to retiring from Tramontano Wholesale Foods in Union.

She participated during World War II in entertaining the troops. She volunteered with the Immacu-

late Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains, the Literacy Volunteers, the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, the Springfield Ambulance Corps, the Springfield schools and Rahway Hospital.

Mrs. McCourt also was Past President of the Springfield Women's Club and program chairwoman of the Plainfield Women's Club.

Active with the Springfield Democratic Committee, she was a candidate in 1978 for the Springfield Township Committee.

She was predeceased by two husbands, Frank McCourt, in 1975, and Tony Pallitto, in 1985.

Surviving are three sons, Michael McCourt, Frank McCourt and Mark McCourt; a stepdaughter, Lucille Hirlama; a stepson, Tony Pallitto, and eight grandchildren.

A Mass was offered on Saturday, March 6, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Interment followed at Hollywood Memorial Park in Union.

Arrangements were by the Bradley, Smith and Smith Funeral Home in Springfield.

March 11, 2004

Prayer to St. Jude

O Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor for all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return, I promise to make your name known and cause it to be invoked. Three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys, three Glorias. St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Publication must be promised. This novena has never been known to fail. K.M.

Prayer to St. Jude

Oh Holy St. Jude, apostle and martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my urgent position. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys, three Glorias. St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Publication must be promised. This novena has never been known to fail. G.C.

Arthur A. Zande, 97, Was Pharmacist; Lived In Westfield For Over 50 Years

Arthur A. Zande, 97, of Northborough, Mass. died on Monday, March 1, in the Coleman House in Northborough.

Born in Guilford, Me., he had lived in Westfield for 58 years before relocating to Northborough three and a half years ago.

A pharmacist for 42 years, Mr. Zande had worked at various drug stores in the Union County area. He retired in 1971.

He graduated from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in Boston, Mass. in 1929.

He was predeceased by his wife, Catherine F. Zande, in 1988.

Surviving are a daughter, Carol Harrington; two sons, Arthur L. Zande and John F. Zande; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Monday, March 8, at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. Burial took place at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield.

March 11, 2004

Rose Schaffernoth, 85, IHM Rosarian; Worked at Farm Stand Over 30 Years

Rose Beyer Schaffernoth, 85, of Scotch Plains died on Monday, March 8, at the Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Scotch Plains.

Born in Irvington, she grew up in Ringoes and moved to Scotch Plains in 1944.

From the late 1930s to the mid 1940s, Mrs. Schaffernoth had worked in the Hunterdon County Court House and was secretary to the Principal of Flemington High School. She also served with the Civil Air Patrol during World War II.

She was a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains for many years and was active in its Rosary Altar Society.

Mrs. Schaffernoth worked at the Schaffernoth Farm road stand on Raritan Road for over 30 years.

She was predeceased by a sister,

Nellie Manfra, 96

Nellie Manfra, 96, of Scotch Plains died on Sunday, March 7, at the Westfield Center-Genesis ElderCare in Westfield.

Born in Bondsville, Mass., she lived in the Westfield-Scotch Plains area since 1930.

She was predeceased by her husband, Edward Manfra, in 1990.

Surviving are two sons, Edward Manfra, Jr. of Flowery Branch, Ga. and Raymond Manfra of Scotch Plains; a daughter, Pamela Jones of North Plainfield; eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be held at 9 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, March 12, from the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue in Fanwood. A Mass will follow at 10 a.m. at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains. Interment will take place at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Visitation will be from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. today, Thursday, March 11, at the funeral home.

March 11, 2004

Community News

Temple Seminar to Address Holistic Health Care Topics

SPRINGFIELD — Congregation Israel, Temple Beth Ahm and Temple Shalome Shalom in Springfield will present a free holistic health care seminar through their jointly sponsored Congregational Nurse Health Care Initiative program.

"The Energetics of Medicine" will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. at Temple Beth Ahm, located at 60 Temple Drive. It is open to the public and refreshments will be served.

Speakers will include Herb Marvin of the Family Chiropractic Life Cen-

ter in Springfield and Ross Rosen and Ann Rosen of the Center for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine in Westfield.

Topics will include Acupuncture, Chinese Herbal Medicine, Eastern Nutrition, Chiropractic Adjustments and Kinesiology. For more information, please call Jaclyn Herzlinger at (973) 379-5387 or visit www.shaarev.org.

Watchung Stable Offers Adult Riding Lessons

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Union County Watchung Stable will begin adult horseback riding lessons the week of March 23. Weekly lessons for beginners through advanced riders are for people age 18 and older.

Classes are available on Sundays at 12:45 p.m., Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$200 for Union County residents and \$248 for non-residents for an eight-week session. Classes meet once a week.

All registrations and fees must be submitted in person at the Watchung Stable, located at 1160 Summit Lane in Mountainside. Office hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. daily. For further information and to obtain registration materials, please call (908) 789-3665.

Spend-A-Day Slated to Renew 'The Gathering' on March 26

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — SAGE Spend-A-Day will present the second session of its series entitled "The Gathering," a free support group for those in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and dementia, beginning Friday, March 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The eight weekly seminars will be held at Spend-A-Day, located at 550 Springfield Avenue in Berkeley Heights. A light lunch will be served. An adult day program, Spend-A-Day is a division of SAGE, a private, not-for-profit eldercare organization.

The intent of this program is to provide participants with information, emotional support and practical assistance while giving them a forum to share feelings and receive support from others in a similar situation.

Facilitated by a licensed social worker, each meeting features an expert guest speaker and focuses on an issue relevant to participants, such as understanding the nature of Alzheimer's disease, adjusting to changing roles and relationships, developing coping strategies, using community resources and planning for the future.

Participants are encouraged to attend all sessions and pre-registration is required.

This program is supported through grants from the Overlook Hospital Foundation, Pfizer, Inc. and the Wallerstein Foundation for Geriatric Life Improvement. For more information, please call Jennifer Comfort, Director of Spend-A-Day, at (908) 464-8217.

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Honor Roll Pupils Reported At Edison Intermediate School

WESTFIELD — Cheryl O'Brien, Principal of Edison Intermediate School in Westfield, has revealed the names of seventh and eighth grade students placed on the Distinguished Honor Roll and Regular Honor Roll for the Second Marking Period of the 2003-2004 academic year.

DISTINGUISHED HONOR ROLL

GRADE 7 - 55 STUDENTS
 Caroline Albanese
 Stephanie Albright
 Yaniv Brenner
 Alexa Cassaro
 Alexander Chartrain
 Nicholas Chartrain
 David Chen
 James Chu
 Alexis Constantine
 Adria De Vita
 Natalie DiFrancesco
 Anthony Dilorio
 Jennifer Dilzell
 Christine Feldbauer
 Zachary Friss
 Dan Fussman
 Daryl Garfinkel
 Sophia Geskin
 Danielle Gillyard
 Aileen Grogan
 Bridget Grogan
 Jessica Harris
 James Hughes
 Michael Irving
 Matthew Isabella
 Jennifer Jean-Louis
 Melinda Jimenez
 Kathryn Kiefer
 Rachel Kreutzer
 Christopher Latimer
 Jenna Leopold
 Alice Li
 Jason Lipshultz
 Justin Lo
 Amanda Lojo
 Ezra Margolin
 Joseph Martoglio
 Matthew Morgan
 Alyson Moskowitz
 Devlin Murphy
 Katherine Nguyen
 Katherine Payne
 Carla Ralston
 Abigail Ryan
 Jeannette Sharpless
 Colleen Smith
 Moira Smith
 Marisa Stotter
 Dean Thompson
 Kimberly Townsend
 Keegan Wallace
 Jennifer Weidman
 Amy Weiss
 Andrew Weiss
 Daniella Zamarrelli

REGULAR HONOR ROLL

GRADE 7 - 73 STUDENTS
 Jennifer Ames
 Paul Bai
 John Barnes
 Jonathan Berman
 Stephan Binetti
 Mallory Boesch
 Sally Bregman
 Jackson Browning
 Elizabeth Buchanan
 Mark Caffero
 Charles Cary
 Frank Lewis
 Kathleen Lynes
 Diana Maligi
 Matthew Marcus
 Andrew Marra
 Cyndil Matthew
 Elizabeth McCarthy
 Thomas McManus
 Natalie Morrison
 Brian Muller
 Julia Murphy

Matthew Catenacci
 Christine Clark
 Colleen Cleary
 Benjamin Colvin
 Julia Conroy
 Anna Dallendorfer
 Nicholas DeFreitas
 Anthony DePaolo
 Anthony DeMasi
 Nicholas Dougert
 Joshua Einbinder
 Dennis Elwell
 Eric Fahrenthold
 Joshua Firestone
 Mark Fischetti
 Alyssa Frank
 Patrick Fringer
 Dominique Gillyard
 Nina Godbee
 Alexandra Goldin
 Nina Helfman
 Allison Jakobovic
 Ross Kettleison
 Julia Knaus
 Jacob Lang
 Dana Newman
 Robert O'Rourke
 David Ortuso
 Evan Paulan
 Andrea Petrarca
 Ross Pohlring
 David Puser
 Elizabeth Riordan
 Samantha Ritter
 Brandon Rolnick
 Chiara Sabino
 Harrison Sacks
 Todd Saunders
 Matthew Scharpf
 Christopher Sheehan
 Elyssa Solomon
 Christian Stiles
 Ellen Straus
 Emily Tebbetts
 Jay Tieman
 Gemma Urban
 Douglas Velasco
 Sarah Vincett
 Corey Wisler
 Timothy Woods
 Kevin Yang

DISTINGUISHED HONOR ROLL

GRADE 8 - 45 STUDENTS
 Rebecca Bieber
 Kelsi Browning
 Nina Brownstone
 Emma Byer
 Alex Chaves
 Samantha Chu
 Catherine Cognetti
 Christina Cognetti
 Julie Daurio
 Alison Donohue
 Katherine Douglas
 Evan Einstein
 John Falzon
 Renee Ferio
 Lauren Frankfort
 Evan Friedman
 Kathryn Galasso
 Brian Gibbons
 Eamon Hartnett
 Neil Huskey
 Angela Kerins
 Jaelyn Kirna
 Kathryn Winchester
 Kristen Koepfler
 Kaitlin Kominsky
 Alison Lambert
 Toni Ma
 Michael Melillo
 Holly Messina
 So Miwa
 Ravi Netravali
 Anne O'Neil
 Marissa Perch
 Roshni Shah
 Jessica Sheft-Ason
 Rachel St. Lifer
 Patrick Stanley
 Jacqueline Sull
 Kelli Sullivan
 Liane Sullivan
 Christine Tollas
 Julia Valentin
 Dylan Wallace
 Arielle Wegbreit
 John Wilt

REGULAR HONOR ROLL

GRADE 8 - 82 STUDENTS
 Jessica Anderson
 Samantha Avis
 Ben Baron
 Jeremy Bender
 Danielle Boercovicz
 Kristen Boersig
 Lauren Brachman
 Kelly Braun
 Jennifer Canello
 Andrew Calvaruso
 Scott Camuto
 Patrick Clancy
 Brittany Clemenko
 Elise Colasanti
 Marlena Cortese
 Melvin Diep
 Kerrriann Dooley
 Connor Doyle
 John Dugan
 Danielle Evans
 Ashley Freudenheim
 Olympia Gaglioti
 Lynne Ganley
 Matthew Gelmetti
 William Geltzeiler
 Katie Goellner
 Allison Grasso
 Joshua Gribbin
 Allen Gurdus
 Elizabeth Harbaugh
 Claire Hartz
 Agustina Healy
 Salonia Henry
 Jonathan Holt
 Elizabeth Hurr
 Danielle Infantino
 Henry Kaye
 Stephen Koepfler
 Alexander Kopp
 Stephanie Korunow
 Katherine Lee
 Jeffrey Manders
 Pami Marks
 Michael Mathews
 Gillian McGovern
 Julia Medzhitova
 Christopher Miller
 Emma Molloy
 Robert Molson
 Ariel Mone
 Scott Newman
 Christina Obajulu
 Ellen O'Brien
 Mia Pafumi
 Aditi Parekh
 Stephanie Pinheiro
 Evan Porch
 Carolyn Raphael
 Michael Rediker
 Meredith Rivera
 Austin Rolnick
 Krista Ruschmann
 Antonio Santonastasio
 Daniel Selert
 Danielle Sgalardi
 Elizabeth Shannon
 Stephanie Slodyczka
 Anna Smith
 Vincent Spinelli
 Anthony Szwarc
 Charles Tripp
 Joseph Vall-Llobera
 Brittany Van Sickle
 Nicole Venezia
 Roshan Vijayakumar
 Paul Waksman
 Lauren Weiner
 Kristian Wendel
 Caitlin Whitlock
 Christina Wichoski
 Matthew Wolksi
 Tianyou Xu



GUEST READER...To mark the national "Read Across America" program, the Most Reverend John Myers, Archbishop of Newark, read one of his favorite children's books, "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein to some 80 Pre-Kindergartners and Kindergartners during his March 2 visit to the Mountainside campus of Holy Trinity Interparochial School.

Holy Trinity School Visited By Archbishop John Myers

WESTFIELD — As part of the "Read Across America" program, the Most Reverend John Myers, Archbishop of Newark, visited the children of Holy Trinity Interparochial School's Mountainside campus on March 2.

"Reading is so important in our lives and opens up our imaginations," Archbishop Myers told the students.

The Reverend John McCrone, Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church and School in Mountainside, joined Holy Trinity Principal Dorothy Szot and Director of the Mountainside campus Leslie Lewis in greeting the archbishop and expressing gratitude for his visit.

"Catholic schools excel at giving students a 'basics education' so the archbishop's visit and his encouragement to the children about the importance of reading fit in very well with our mission," said Mrs. Lewis.

Archbishop Myers read one of his favorite children's books, "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein. As he read to some 80 Pre-Kindergartners and Kindergartners, he embellished on the story and made sure the children understood the message.

"The story in this book reminds us of God, who gives us everything," Archbishop Myers told them. When he invited the pupils to detail those individuals who "give" to them, the pupils mentioned their own families, teachers, and the priests and parishioners of the three cosponsoring parishes of Holy Trinity School.

The archbishop told the students how much he loved them and how pleased

he is to have them attending Holy Trinity. In particular, he complimented the administration and the teachers on the success of the Mountainside campus, which marks its second year of operation.

Billy Fitzpatrick, Josh Cucuzzella and Emma Maloney presented Archbishop Myers with gifts from the children, including a "Cat in the Hat" Dr. Seuss hat, which he promptly donned to the delight of the students. The archbishop's secretary, the Reverend Jim Sheehan, also wore his hat.

The reading was held in the school's Library/Computer Center, and Archbishop Myers presented some Dr. Seuss books to Mrs. Lewis as his gift to the library.

Ann Marie Christie, the mother of Aidan Haggerty, recounted how her son, a kindergartener, repeated the entire story as told by the archbishop for his family that evening.

Holy Trinity Interparochial School is "an excellent example of a school model which works very well for students," said Jim Goodness, a spokesman for the Archdiocese of Newark, who was present for the visit.

The school, which is supported by the parishes of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield and Our Lady of Lourdes, has two campuses.

The Westfield campus houses students in grades 1 to 8, and the Mountainside campus currently includes 3- and 4-year-old students, Kindergarten, and will also offer a program for 2 1/2-year-old pupils beginning in September.

CONCEPTS & THOUGHT

SP-F BOE to Detail Budget At Neighborhood Meetings

SCOTCH PLAINS — The members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education have announced plans to hold a series of budget presentations in various neighborhood locations in Scotch Plains and Fanwood, beginning on Wednesday, March 17.

These gatherings, planned in conjunction with the local school Parent-Teacher Associations and the municipal libraries, are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, March 17 — Brunner Elementary School, Westfield Road, Scotch Plains;
- Monday, March 22 — Coles Elementary School, Kevin Road, Scotch Plains and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Westfield Road, Scotch Plains;
- Tuesday, March 23 — Terrill Middle School, Terrill Road, Scotch Plains;
- Wednesday, March 24 — McGinn Elementary School, Trenton Avenue, Scotch Plains and School One Elementary, Willow Avenue, Scotch Plains;
- Thursday, March 25 — Park Middle School, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains; and
- Wednesday, March 31 — Ever-

green Elementary School, Evergreen Avenue, Scotch Plains.

All meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The additional library meetings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, March 31, 9:30 a.m., Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Avenue, Scotch Plains; and
- Wednesday, April 14, 10 a.m., Fanwood Memorial Library, North Avenue and Tillotson Road, Fanwood.

Invitations have been sent to all registered voters in the communities of Fanwood and Scotch Plains who voted in the 2003 school election, but the board hopes that all interested citizens will attend the meetings.

The school board also reminds residents that Monday, March 22, is the last day to register to vote in the annual school board election, and that Tuesday, April 13, is the last day to apply by mail for an absentee ballot.

Registration materials and absentee ballot applications may be downloaded from the school district's website at www.spfk12.org.

The annual school election will be held on Tuesday, April 20, with polls open from 2 to 9 p.m.

Erratum

Some of the names of Terrill Middle School seventh grade students were omitted from the High Honor Roll, which was published in the March 4 edition of *The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

The newspaper did not receive the full list of names from the school due to a computer error.

We reprint the names below:

HIGH HONOR ROLL
GRADE 7 - 40 STUDENTS
 Jennie Altman
 Anjali Bansal
 Dorian Bogdanovski
 Brian Bonacum
 James Burke
 Emily Carow
 Nicole Cicchetti
 Kathryn Cockrell
 Michelle De Santis
 Julie Deusch
 Christina Dokopoulos
 Kelly Dyckman
 Diana Ferrante
 Elizabeth Ferraro
 Erin Finan
 Daniel Gilman
 Brian Jascur
 Eileen Jiang
 William Johnston
 Jeremy Kaufman
 Faraz Kahn
 Kapri Kreps
 Sahrula Kubie
 Allison Lasher
 Kevin Maroney
 Kelly Monroy
 Austin Pfundheller
 Tyler Pfundheller
 Michael Postolovich
 Maxim Rabinovich
 Kaitlin Rau
 Alyssa Riesenberg
 Michael Roth
 Kristen Spirko
 Marissa Squeri
 Martin Sweeney
 Linda Timko
 Ulisses Velasquez
 Peter Weigel
 Jennifer Yang

SP-F Public Schools Mails Annual Report to Community

SCOTCH PLAINS — The annual report of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools for the 2002-2003 school year has just been completed and will be sent to all local homes within the next several days.

Publication of the local report was planned to coincide with the publication of the New Jersey School Report Card so information about the district's priorities, curriculum highlights, and staff and student accomplishments could be viewed in conjunction with the state's statistical data.

Publication was delayed, however, due to the repeated postponement of the release of the state's test data and other report card information, according to the district's Public Information Officer Kathleen Meyer.

To receive additional copies of the

local report, please call the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools Public Information Office at (908) 232-6161, extension no. 42.

The report will also be posted on the district's website at www.spfk12.org in the near future.

Sarah Bhagat Earns Academic Honors

WESTFIELD — Sarah Bhagat, a first-year student at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., received academic honors for the fall 2003 semester. A 2003 graduate of Westfield High School, she is also the daughter of Drs. Phiroz and Patricia Bhagat of Westfield.



VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME...Westfield High School students discuss volunteer opportunities with representatives from the Cranford Dramatic Club (CDC) during the Parent/Teacher/Student Organization's Community Service Fair. Pictured, left to right, are: Scott Warner, John Martoglio, and Shane Strano, speaking with Roger Hayden and Kevin Kessler from CDC.

Westfield High School Holds Annual Volunteer Service Fair

WESTFIELD — The Westfield High School (WHS) Parent/Teacher/Student Organization (PTSO) recently held its second annual WHS Community Service Fair, with 27 organizations representing their missions during the two-hour event.

Students had the opportunity to speak with representatives about ways to volunteer their services.

Parent organizers Janice Siegel and Meg Hayden were pleased with the outcome of the event, noting the large turnout of students and groups. Representatives of the organizations commented favorably on the high level of interest and enthusiasm exhibited by the WHS pupils.

"Students learn so much from volunteer work," commented Ms. Siegel. "They learn about the needs of their community. Often it's their first work experience and, as such, it provides them with many life lessons. They learn that they can make worthwhile contributions to the world around them, which is very empowering."

"Students who participate at this stage in their lives are likely to continue to help their communities throughout their lives," she added. Organizations will be following

up the event by contacting the interested students. The PTSO will also maintain contact with the groups to help facilitate volunteer efforts.

Participating organizations included: Literacy Volunteers of America, Union County Office of Volunteer Services, Community FoodBank of New Jersey, Cranford Dramatic Club, Friends of Linden Animal Shelter, THE BRAKES (Bikers, Runners and Kids are Entitled to Safety) Group, Downtown Westfield Corporation, Catherine's Closet, Habitat for Humanity, Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Russell's Specialized Hospital, Trailside Nature & Science Center, For CHILDREN, and Junior Optimist Club.

Other participating groups include: Reeves-Reed Arboretum, United Way of Westfield, Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad, People for Animals, Union County Parks & Recreation Department, Westfield Baseball League, Westfield Democratic Committee, Westfield Republican Committee, New Jersey Assembly District 21 Legislative Office, Westfield Y Leaders Club, Haven Hospice, Drake House Museum, CONTACT We Care, and Cerebral Palsy League.

Local Fairleigh Dickinson Students Receive Honors

MADISON — Fairleigh Dickinson University's College at Florham in Madison has released the names of students who qualified for the fall 2003 semester Dean's List and Honors List.

Lipika Goyal Receives Grant for New Americans

SCOTCH PLAINS — Lipika Goyal of Scotch Plains is one of 30 finalists in a seventh annual competition to receive the two-year Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans.

Lipika was born in the United States to parents from India. She is an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania, Rhodes Scholar at Oxford. She is studying at Harvard Medical School.

The Soros program was established in 1997 as a charitable trust of \$50 million to support graduate study by New Americans — immigrants and children of immigrants.

Lipika was tapped from almost 1,000 applications, representing 141 national origins and 360 colleges and universities.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must maintain a 3.2 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0. Students must receive a 3.5 grade point average or better to earn Honors List status.

Honors List students include Kristen Leonardis and Caitlin MacDonald of Westfield, Robert Cardinale, Kelly Gayara, Gina Giordano, and Lisa Wagner of Scotch Plains, Myriam Brezavscek of Mountainside, Nicholas Buteas of Fanwood and Berkeley Heights resident Kelly Pantone.

Dean's List students include John Hatfield of Westfield, Patrick Barrett of Mountainside, Anthony Blasi of Fanwood, and Berkeley Heights residents Linda Ardito and Katherine Neavill.

Rachel Kurtter Named To Fall Dean's List

SCOTCH PLAINS — Rachel Kurtter of Scotch Plains has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2003 semester at the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vt. She is a first-year student psychology major in the College of Arts & Sciences.



SPECIAL VISITOR...Poet and illustrator Douglas Florian visited Washington Elementary School in Westfield to kick off Read Across America Week on March 1. Pictured, left to right, are: Mae Devin, Kristie Elbert, Jenny Bagger, Nick Partenope, Sabrina Van Ness, Emily Sickles, Jennifer Mandelblatt, Sarah Chalabi, Michael Fitzhenry, Allie Rothenberg, Carolyn Maguire, Sarah Chandler, Natalie Materk, Georgia Gleason, Alex Luzzi, Librarian Sally Susan Heyder and Mr. Florian.

Poet, Illustrator Douglas Florian Visits Washington Elementary

WESTFIELD — To begin "Read Across America" week, Washington Elementary School students welcomed a visit from children's poet and illustrator Douglas Florian on March 1.

Mr. Florian is the author and illustrator of numerous children's books, including "Insectopedia" and "Bow Wow Meow Meow: It's Rhyming Cats and Dogs," which just earned the Gryphon Award.

All Washington Elementary students attended the assembly, where Mr. Florian read his poetry and talked about how he became an illustrator and writer of poetry.

Additionally, Washington Elementary held an essay contest on the topic, "Why I want to meet Douglas Florian" and a winner was selected from each class in grades 1 to 5.

The 15 winners were treated to a private luncheon with Mr. Florian and school librarian Sally Susan Heyder.

See it all in color at!
www.goleader.com

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 11-14

CONNOLLY TAKES 2ND, TOMASSO GETS 3RD, ROB MENCH GETS ROBBED

Francavilla, Steve Mineo Claim Crowns At Region 3 Wrestling Championships

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Surprises, misfortune and revenge took place at the Region 3 Wrestling Championships in Union on March 6, and all involved local competitors. One of the surprises occurred when a top-seeded wrestler was bounced out of the tournament. The misfortune involved a Westfield (W) High School wrestler and the revenge involved both a Westfield wrestler and a Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) matman.

To no surprise, the Raiders claimed two champions, one second place and a third place to advance four to the state tournament to be held tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City (AC). With a third-place finisher, the Blue Devils advanced one to AC. Also no surprise to wrestling experts was the selection of Raider Head Coach John Scholz as the Region 3 Coach of the Year.

Ed McCray in the District 11 finals, Raider senior Derek Francavilla got sweet revenge when he manhandled McCray, 9-3, to seize the 127-lb region crown. After receiving a forfeit, Francavilla let it be known that he was not fooling around when he crushed South Plainfield's (SoP) Nick

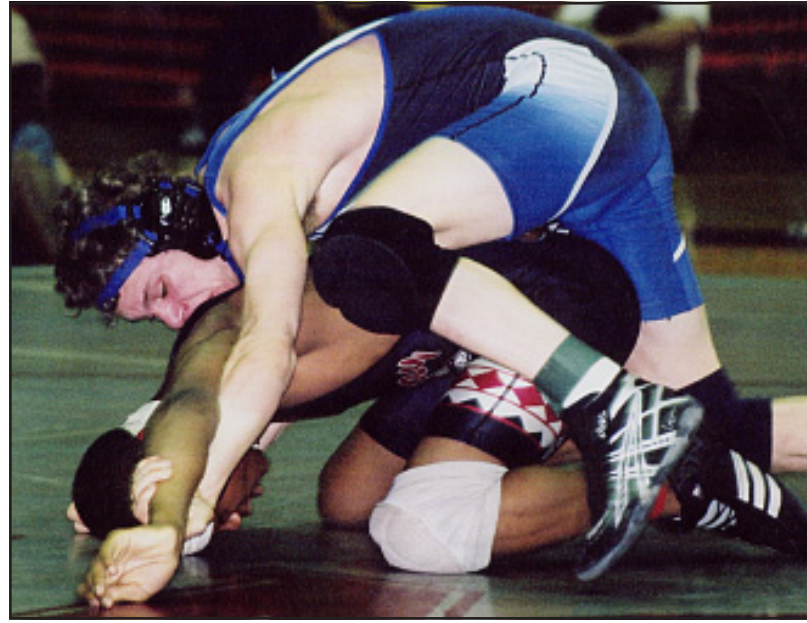
Dorey, 12-0, in the quarterfinals and punished Jon Reedy of New Providence (NPr) in the semifinals with a few guillotines before severing relations with him in 3:01.

"I think that I had been wrestling too passively with not enough intensity. I was really pumped up today,"

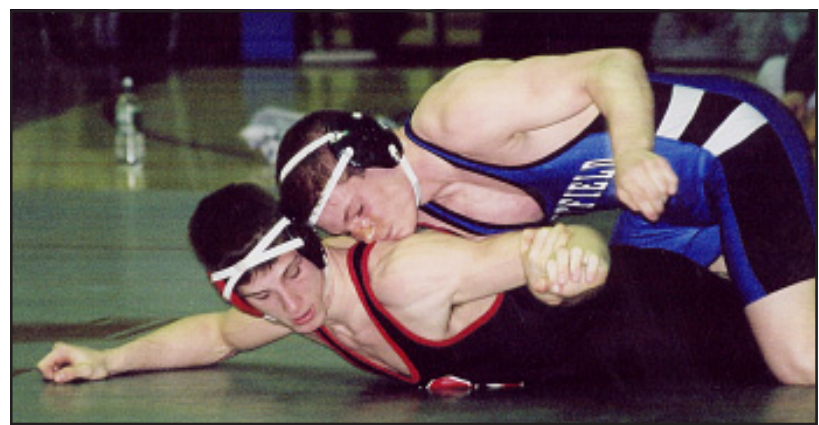
commented Francavilla.

In the rematch with McCray, Francavilla scored a front trip takedown to a three-point nearfall in the first period and added another takedown and a nearfall.

"Four days ago, I was feeling real frustrated. I wasn't so much worried. Things were just not working out for me. I needed to change some things. Mainly, I needed to pump myself up more and go all out on the mat. I thought I was holding back before. This tournament I thought I pulled



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
WRESTLING ON A MISSION...Raider Derek Francavilla, top, gets ready to slip a leg in for a cross body ride on Rahway's Ed McCray in the 127-lb final. Francavilla defeated McCray, 9-3, for the crown.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
HEADING TO ATLANTIC CITY...Blue Devil Lee Tomasso, top, controls Matt Rathbun of Boonton in the 154-lb consolation bout for third and wins, 6-2.

Disappointed with his double overtime, rideout loss to Rahway's (Ra)

COCOZZIELLO, BLACKMON NET 12, HAYES SINKS 10

Minutemen Strike Early, Top Blue Devil Hoopmen, 60-50

By FRED LECOMTE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Turnovers and the inability to find the mark in the first half by the Westfield High School boys basketball team set the stage for host Elizabeth to roll to a, 60-50, victory in the second round of the NJSIAA/ShopRite North Jersey, Section 2,

Group 4 Tournament on March 4.

"Elizabeth is a very athletic team. They're quick and they're a very good defensive team; one of the best in the state," said Blue Devil Head Coach Kevin Everly. "When you turn the ball over against them, it's tough. They managed to get a lot of the offensive rebounds and turnovers,

which turned into too many easy baskets. That's basically what it all came down to today."

Seniors Jan Cocozziello and Tyshon Blackmon paced the Blue Devils offensively with 12 points each and junior Eric Hayes fired in 10 points. Junior Bryan Power banged in nine points while Terrence Bryant netted four and Joe Korfmacher scored three points. Minutemen Chris Severe led all scorers with 19 points and Cory Williams added 18.

"They came out fired up, shot better and ran their plays better and we didn't come to play tonight," explained Cocozziello. "Williams, their point guard, was tough to stop. He was penetrating all day, getting good dishes, good lay-ups and he was finishing. He broke us down physically."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

KLIMOWICZ ROLLS IN 20 PTS., GILLOOLY SINKS 10

Shabazz Lady Cagers Rumble Past Raiders, 64-49, in Finals

By FRED LECOMTE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

enjoyed tremendous success this season, but the No. 1 ranked Shabazz Lady Bulldogs rumbled to a, 64-49, victory to claim the NJSIAA/

ShopRite North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 title at East Orange on March 8. Center Hillary Klimowicz led the 22-6 Raiders' charge with 20 points, 11 rebounds along and four blocks while teammate Maura Gillooly pumped in 10 points, including two from beyond 3-point range.

Point guard Jenny Burke played magnificently and banged in nine points. Liz DeCataldo dropped in eight and Mareika Freiss netted two.

Reflecting on the difference between the two teams, Raider Head Coach Brian Homm, who has recently resigned from coaching both girls basketball and baseball, said, "Unfortunately, we couldn't buy a basket and they dropped in everything, so we got off to a rather rough start. Not taking anything away from Shabazz, they're quick and athletic, but our girls were not intimidated. They never gave up and kept on fighting to the final whistle. They played their hearts out. It was a season where we came on very strong at the end. We played tougher competition and I think that helped us in the end to win the County tournament."



Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
QUICK AND ATHLETIC...Raider point guard Jenny Burke, left, had a magnificent game against the Shabazz Bulldogs and finished with nine points.



Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SPIN AROUND AND SWICH...Blue Devil Terrence Bryant makes a physical statement with a lay-up. Elizabeth rolled past Westfield with a, 60-50 victory in the second round of the NJSIAA sectional championship.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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BANGING IN TWO...Raider forward Martese Gilliam, No. 3, came to play in a big way. The senior dropped in six points, pulled down three rebounds and took off with two basketballs. Scotch Plains-Fanwood soared past Voorhees, 65-36 for a first round sectional victory.

THOMAS SINKS 20, CHARACTER GRABS 15 REBOUNDS Raider Hoop Boys Soar Past Voorhees, 65-36, in Sections

By FRED LECOMTE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School basketball coach Dan Doherty had his team ready to play, and play they did as they delivered Voorhees a, 65-36, spanking in the opening round of the NJSIAA/ShopRite North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 tournament on March 2 in Scotch Plains. The physically dominating 15-9 Raiders led by the dynamic sophomore duo of Lance Thomas and Derrick Character; amassed an amazing 32-17 advantage on the boards and forced the Vikings into committing 18 turnovers.

Thomas had the hot hand and led all scorers with 20 points while hitting 4-for-4 from the charity line. He also pulled down five rebounds and swiped two steals. Character grabbed a game-high 15 rebounds and pumped in 17 points. Point guard Mike Johnson netted eight points, had three assists and helped control the boards with five rebounds. Martese Gilliam, who banged in six points, pulled down three rebounds and snatched two steals.

The biggest thief was Lakiem Lockery who managed to take off with three basketballs and, along with Sean Fuller, netted four points each. Mike Walker and Sean Young scored two points each. Dave Van Arsdale led the Vikings with 10 points, including two 3-pointers, and guard Spencer Richardson connected for six points.

"We knew coming out that we were going to play our type of basketball by jumping on it from the start," said Thomas. "We were the more physical, taller and more athletic team and we set a blistering pace early on that confused and intimidated them. Our defense was in everyone's face the whole night resulting in fast breaks and turnovers that turned into points. We just had a lot of fun."

Thomas added, "At the half way mark we built up a big lead and it gave our bench an opportunity to join in and enjoy some of the action. With the season coming to a rapid end, we gave some of our people a chance to play and they got to enjoy that feeling of winning and fun."

The Vikings got the message early and the Raiders were not shy when they opened up with a 6-0 attack before the Vikings countered with five points in the first quarter. The Raiders' man-to-man blitzed the Vikings into eight turnovers, resulting in 11 unanswered points—Nine came from Thomas, including three from the paint. Character totaled four points and Johnson, Gilliam and Lockery added two-pointers to build a 19-7 lead.

Character's dominance was especially apparent in the second quarter when he jammed in the first six points. Thomas and Johnson fired in four points each while Gilliam added another two-pointer, giving the Raiders a 35-17 lead going into the locker room.

Nothing changed in the third quarter when the Raiders uncorked 18 points. Character and Thomas executed with five points each while Johnson went airborne and dropped in a 3-pointer from down town. Gilliam hit two-for-two free throws and Fuller scored two points to push the Raiders' margin to 53-27.

In the final quarter, Thomas got some good looks and scored four points. Character added two. Kyle Gates and Sean Young made a bucket each. Jeff Marable and Gavin Ford saw action as the Raiders glided to take a 12-9 advantage.

"Every day we get to the gym after class and work very hard on our

game because we all realize that this is the time to get serious big time and all of that hard work paid off to-night," said Character. "We came out and wanted to limit their point total early in the game and we reached that goal after the first period. Everyone on the team came out and gave it their all; we executed, we set the pace and played Raider type of basketball."

Voorhees	7	10	10	9	36
Sc.Pl-Fanwood	19	16	18	12	65

Lady Raiders Peel Orange in Hoops

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team had a big scoring surge in the final quarter to overcome ninth-ranked Orange, 69-64, in the quarterfinals of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 tournament in Orange on March 4. Junior Jenny Burke, who finished with 16 points, nailed two key free throws in the final minute to give the 21-5 Raiders a controlling edge.

Raider Maura Gillooly sank 19 points, including three 3-pointers and Hillary Klimowicz laid in 17 points and pulled 10 rebounds while Elizabeth DeCataldo netted 11 points. Tiffany Hill put up 26 points and Danyel Crutcher scored 20 for 23-3 Orange.

Sc.Pl-Fanwood	18	15	12	24	69
Orange	16	13	17	18	64

Shabazz Lady Cagers Rumble Past Raiders, 64-49, in Finals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

We continued on and won three state games on the road against top ranked teams, so yes, we're happy with our accomplishments."

Shabazz went on a 15-4 tear in the opening quarter and led, 20-10 at the buzzer. Klimowicz smoked the net with eight points while Burke converted for two.

The 27-1 Bulldogs built up a sizable, 38-22, lead by halftime. In the quarter, Gillooly swished in five points, including a 3-pointer, DeCataldo put in five and Burke added two.

Shabazz appeared to blow the game wide open when it went on an 8-0 run, building a 16-point bulge in the third quarter, but the Lady Raiders countered to match the Bulldogs, 12-12, by quarter's end.

Gillooly looped in a shot from

long distance for three points to open the final quarter. Burke hit a jumper and Klimowicz knocked in two lay-ups to trim the deficit to nine. Shabazz called time out and responded with a stall offense in the final minutes to retard the pace. The Raiders had no choice but to foul, but the dogs converted seven of eight from the stripe.

"It's great that we came this far and we thought we really had a chance, but we gave it our all," said Burke. "I believe we should be happy and proud that we came back from a mediocre season by beating three ranked teams, but I'm still disappointed."

Outgoing senior Jen Russell who grabbed six rebounds and blocked two shots, added, "It's over! I didn't want this day to come. This is one of the best years, one of the best teams I played for. These girls have a lot to shoot for. I wish them the best of luck next year. Keep working hard and shoot for the stars. I'm going to miss them."

Sc.Pl-Fanwood	10	12	14	13	49
Shabazz	20	18	12	14	64

Lady Raiders Flatten Voorhees in Semis

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team knocked its third top-20 ranked team out of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 playoffs by flattening No. 10 Voorhees in the semifinals, 76-54, in Glen Gardner on March 6. Raider Hillary Klimowicz sank 26 points, pulled in 15 rebounds, had six steals and made six blocked shots.

Maura Gillooly confused the 25-2 Vikings' defense by sinking 16 points, including four 3-pointers and Jenny Burke bucketed 12 points and had five assists. Jenn Russell also netted 12 points and grabbed six rebounds while Elizabeth DeCataldo scored eight points.

Sc.Pl-Fanwood	18	15	19	24	76
Voorhees	16	9	15	14	54

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTICE OF MEETINGS
(In Compliance with OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT - Chapter 231)
ADDENDUM TO REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

TYPE OF MEETING: Executive Session Meeting
DATE OF MEETING: March 18, 2004
LOCATION: Administration Building
Evergreen Avenue & Cedar Street
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
PURPOSE OF MEETING: The Board will meet in executive session to review and discuss the Superintendent Evaluation.
ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Action will not be taken.

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Raider Hoopmen Rap West Morris, 58-53

Sophomores Derrick Character and Lance Thomas got the proper feeds in overtime to catapult the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team past No. 9 West Morris in the quarterfinals of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 tournament in Long Valley on March 4. With the score tied, 45-45, in regulation, Character put in eight points and Thomas bucketed five as the 16-9 Raiders outscored the Vikings, 13-8, to advance to the semifinals against No. 13 Raritan.

Character, who finished with 28 points, and Thomas, who totaled 25, guided the Raiders to a 40-31 lead by the end of the third quarter, but the 20-3 Vikings put the squeeze on them in the fourth quarter and rumbled on a 14-5 run to send the game into overtime.

Raiders Sean Fuller contributed a 3-pointer and Lakiem Lockery contributed a 2-pointer. Rich Hunt and Drew Burton scored 24 and 16 points, respectively, for West Morris.

Sc.Pl-Fnw	14	16	10	5	13	58
West Morris	14	9	8	14	8	53

Raider Cagers Rapped By Raritan, 78-59

The 16-10 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball season came to an end in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 semifinals at the hands of No. 13, 22-5 Raritan, 78-59, in Hazlet on March 6. Lance Thomas led the 16-10 Raiders with 21 points and 10 rebounds while Marques Johnson led Raritan with 22 points.

Raider Derrick Character put up 14 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and made three blocks. Mike Johnson netted 10 points and Martese Gilliam sank six points.

Sc.Pl-Fanwood	12	8	17	22	59
Raritan	11	18	15	34	78

Viking Cagers Lick St. Dominic Girls

The Union Catholic High School girls basketball team jolted St. Dominic, 45-31, in the first round of the North Jersey, Parochial A tournament in Jersey City on March 2. Senior Lauren Huber pumped in 14 points to lead the 18-9 Vikings. Ashley Whittemore sank 11 points, Leslie Hendricks put in seven and Ali Farawell scored six.

Union Catholic	15	8	11	11	45
St. Dominic	12	5	2	12	31



ENJOYING THE MOC...Girls from Westfield High School, Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and Union Catholic High School relax in the water at the girls swimming Meet of Champions. See another picture on page 14.

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Raiders Derek Francavilla, Steve Mineo Claim Crowns, Tomasso Gets 3rd at Region 3 Wrestling Championships

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

the trigger more and went after the guys," said Francavilla.

After literally knocking himself out with a miscalculated move in a 154-lb quarterfinal loss to Hanover Park's (HP) McPaul Ogbonna, Blue Devil senior Lee Tomasso defeated Mark Czarny of Seton Hall Prep (SHP) then wrestled the two smartest bouts of his career to finish third.

and, seemingly insuring a trip to AC. Thirty minutes later, after an appeal, Mench was ruled loser by disqualification due to a locking hands penalty coupled with stalling penalty points that warrant automatic disqualification. After being tossed back into the wrestlebacks, he won his first bout, 8-3, but lost his bid for AC when he dropped a 5-3 decision McNeil.

a lot of confidence going into the match. I thought I could have wrestled better on my feet. I guess it was a good win but sloppy."

In the finals, Connolly, trailing 1-0 in the second period, was taken to the mat by Jack Decker (SHP) who claimed a 3-0 victory.

"I was wrestling a lot of defense. I should have taken more shots," explained Connolly. "But I'm going to Atlantic City."

Raider senior Andrew Silber earned his second trip to AC by placing third at 173-lbs. With three of the top-eight 173-pounders in the state in his region, including himself, Silber advanced to the semis with a 12-6 decision but was edged, 4-2, when Mike Whalen of Parsippany (Par) - the eventual winner - reversed him with 10 seconds remaining. In the wrestlebacks, Silber decked Union's (U) Jesse VonLinden in 1:32 then grabbed third with a 7-3 decision over Mark Kearsing of Watchung Hills (WH).

"I had a slow start against Whalen. I didn't feel confident in my stuff. I don't know why. After my loss, I refocused myself. There was no way I wasn't going to Atlantic City. I put too much pressure on myself to win here. I'm going to go out there free. All the pressure is off," said Silber.

Blue Devil Tom DeDuca made it to the 147-lb semis with a 9-5 decision over Brearley's Joe Rodriguez then, although wrestling well, was defeated, 6-3, by top-seeded Alex Caruso (WH) and edged, 3-2, by Paul Richey (SoP) in the wrestleback.

Raider freshman Pat Mineo advanced to the 137-lb semis by defeating Chris Taglia (C), 10-5 (real score), dropped a 7-3, overtime decision to Ryan Pincus (Madison - Md) before being caught in a spladle in 3:05 by Steve Hompesch (Middlesex - Mx) in the wrestleback.

Raider heavyweight Andrew Loomis made quick work of Steve Reif (WH) with a 36-second fall, fell to Mike D'Amico (SHP) in the quarters and decisioned Vladimir Cesar (Columbia - Co), 4-2, before being stopped by Chris Johnson (Par).

At 114-lbs, Blue Devil Sam Kramer pinned Kevin Fredison (NPr) in 44 seconds before losing his bid to AC and 121-lb Raider Ronnie Ferrara settled C.J. Engleberger of Whippany Park in 1:31 before being eliminated. Raiders Charlie Bachi (191-lbs) and

Yoav Nudell (162-lbs) were stopped in the wrestlebacks. Blue Devils Andrew Shaffer (162-lbs) and Colin Willard (173-lbs) along with Raider A.J. Watson (147-lbs) were eliminated in the preliminaries.

CHAMPIONSHIPS:

- 103: — Jim Conroy (SoP) p. Priore (J), 1:33
- 112: — Mike Grey (Delbarton) tf. Ryan Wilson (Ra), 17-2, 4:25
- 119: — Darrion Caldwell (Ra) p. Ross Baldwin (NPr), 2:55
- 125: — Francavilla (SPF) d. McCray (Ra), 9-3
- 130: — S. Mineo (SPF) d. Troise (HP), 5-0
- 135: — Zach Tanelli (Millburn) tf. Pincus (Md), 24-7, 4:34
- 140: — Decker (SHP) d. Connolly (SPF), 3-0
- 145: — Caruso (WH) d. Mike Torsiello (HP), 5-0
- 152: — Pat Hogan (C) d. Ogbonna (HP), 6-0
- 160: — Mike Gatti (WH) p. Angelo Dileo (SHP), 3:16
- 171: — Whalen (Par) d. Jon Latona (Bo), 8-3
- 189: — Shane Mallory (NPr) d. Dave Nichols (HP), 9-0
- 215: — Bill Beiermeister (Bo) d. Steve Carbone (C), 8-3
- Hwt: — Ryan Elliot (SoP) d. D'Amico (SHP), 3-0

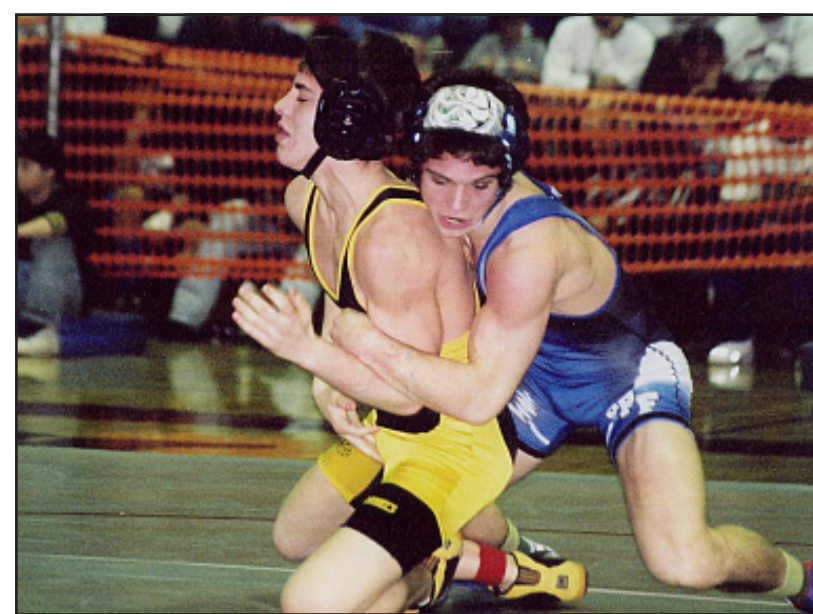
THIRD PLACE:

- 103: — McNeil (PH) d. Mench (W), 5-3
- 112: — Greg Schvey (Millburn) p. Bill Asnault (SoP), 5:50
- 119: — Dario Marcelli (HP) d. Ton Duffy (U), 4-3
- 125: — Paul Galipeau (PH) p. Reedy (NPr), 4:22
- 130: — Riccio (WH) d. Pete Jacangelo (U), 5-3
- 135: — Hopesch (Mx) d. Nick Dimeo (HP), 1-0
- 140: — Seth Podhoretz (Millburn) d. DeAndrea (SoP), 5-3
- 145: — Richey (SoP) d. Chuck Mueller (U), 4-3
- 152: — Tomasso (W) d. Rathbun (Bo), 6-2
- 160: — Zaki Johnson (Irvington) d. Savino Figliuolo (HP), 7-3
- 171: — Silber (SPF) d. Kearsing (WH), 7-3
- 189: — Bill Colgan (Delbarton) d. Anthony Greene (Col), 11-8
- 215: — Nico Somers (Md) d. Andre Neblett (Ra), 11-10
- Hwt: — Johnson (Bo) d. Ronell Orr (Linden), 5-3

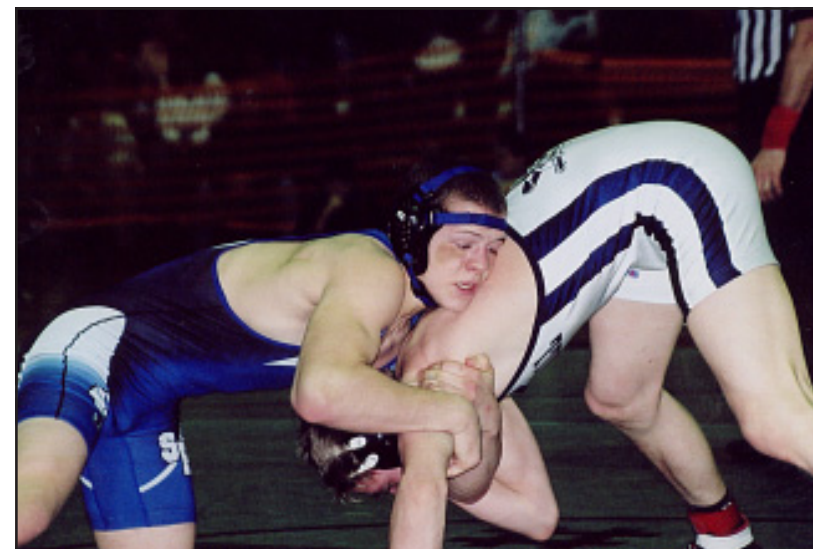
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IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE...Raider Steve Mineo, top right, blanked Joe Troise of Hanover Park, 5-0, to claim the 132-lb crown. Raider Eric Connolly, center left, considers how to spin behind Jack Decker of Seton Hall Prep in the 142-lb final. Blue Devil Rob Mench, lower right, shoots a double leg takedown on Jack McNeil of Parsippany Hills in the 105-lb quarterfinals. See Region 3 Wrestling Coach of the Year recipient on page 14.



BATTLE OF TOP DOGS...Raider Andrew Silber, top, works on Parsippany's Mike Whalen in the 173-lb semifinals.

After his bout with Czarny, he said, "I hit my head yesterday and had to go to the hospital, but I'm happy with that win. It's tough to bounce back but my coaches have been keeping my head in the match."

Tomasso bounced top-seeded Guy Severini (SoP) out of the tournament with a 3-1 decision, scoring a takedown in the final 12 seconds for the win. With the same determination, he then got sweet revenge on Boonton's (Bo) Matt Rathbun, who defeated him in last year's wrestlebacks, by scoring a takedown and two two-point nearfalls to claim a 6-2, decision and third place.

"I'm starting to wrestle smart matches rather than just relying on my athletic ability. My coaches have been awesome. Everything they told me to do worked," said Tomasso.

Unexpected misfortune befell Blue Devil Rob Mench. After defeating a very tough Jack McNeil of Parsippany Hills (PH) in the quarterfinals, he defeated Johnson's (J) Anthony Priore, 7-6, to advance to the finals

Raider junior Steve Mineo won his second straight Region 3 crown by blanking HP's Joe Troise, 5-0, in the 132-lb finals. Last year, he pinned Troise in the 121-lb finals. Mineo pinned Anthony Crecca of Cranford (C) in 56 seconds then advanced to the finals with a 4-1 decision over Shane Riccio (WH) but not without some difficulty from the bottom position. In the finals, he scored a first-period takedown, a bear hug takedown in the second period and a late escape in the third.

Taking his second trip to AC, Mineo said, "I know the environment. I feel comfortable. Last year, I went down to make an impression. This year, the difference is I'm going down believing that I can win it."

Raider senior Eric Connolly, seeded second at 142-lbs began his march toward the finals with a 6-4 decision over Omar Carter of Plainfield (P) and a 2-1 decision in the semis over Pete DeAndrea (SoP).

Rarely happy with his performance, Connolly commented, "I had

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
REGION 3 COACH OF THE YEAR...Raider Head Coach John Scholz, left, receives the Region 3 Coach of the Year award from Raider Assistant Coach Ken Hernandez.

SPF Raider Hoop Girls Crack Oak Knoll for UC JV Crown

The Lady Raiders girl's JV basketball team completed its most successful season ever by winning the Union County JV Tournament on February 26 at the Dunn Center in Elizabeth, beating Oak Knoll, 52-41. It was the 15-1 Raiders' very first trip to the finals.

The Raiders jumped to an early lead but still trailed 11-10 after one quarter. The Raiders rolled with a 15-6 run in the second quarter to take a 25-17 halftime lead. They increased their lead to 16 in the fourth before Oak Knoll made a late run.

Sophomore point-guard Loni Kaye finished with a game-high 18 points. Freshmen forward Lauren Mains was a force on the boards and scored 14 points. Sophomore Lauren Benovengo came up with key defensive plays and rebounds and scored 10 points. Freshmen Allie Hambleton was a constant nuisance on defense, deflecting passes and running the break, while chipping in nine points. Despite early foul trouble, freshmen Tiffany Smith

came up big when needed and scored four points.

Freshmen Hailey Mroczek and Casey Makely pitched in with valuable minutes off the bench when Smith and Benovengo got in foul trouble. Reserves Catherine Jahn and Liz Halpin added floor time and helping their teammates with their spirit. Freshmen Allie Zazzalli and junior Megan Makely played for the Varsity. Junior Christine DeLuca was on the mend from a recent illness. Freshmen Colleen LaForge, recovering from knee surgery, became the team's scorekeeper.

Coach Bruce Davis said the key was the team's effort and heart. "This team plays hard, from the tip off to the buzzer!" he said. "They're in your face, scrapping and diving and generally making life miserable for the other team. We play up-tempo pressure defense and run the floor. It's exciting basketball." He also added, "They're a great bunch of kids. I couldn't be more proud of them and what they've accomplished."

Oak Knoll was led by Allie Hubschmann with 13 points, Darcy Newell with 10 and Carla Garguilo with eight.

See it all on the Web!
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Minutemen Strike Early, Top Blue Devil Hoopmen, 60-50

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

but he's a good ball player."

A dismal and sloppy performance by the Blue Devils in the opening quarter allowed Elizabeth to build a 13-8 advantage. Blackmon sank four points, Bryant made a spin around lay-up and Coccoziello added two.

The Blue Devils scored the first four points of the second quarter on buckets by Coccoziello and Power to close within one, 13-12, but the Minutemen countered with a 10-point run. Power drilled back-to-back buckets, including a swish from down town. Bryant hit an easy lay-up to cut the deficit to three. Unfortunately, sloppy play and turnovers leading to easy baskets carried the Minutemen to a 33-19 lead at the half.

Westfield picked up the tempo in the third quarter and bounced back with a persistent and aggressive, 14-point attack led by Hayes' two steals and six points. Coccoziello's contributed with five, including a swish from 3-point range while Korfmacher scored three. The Minutemen, however, also put in 14 points.

Westfield resorted to an inside game in the final quarter. Blackmon penetrated for six points and Coccoziello cut the deficit to nine with a 3-point play, but the margin was too wide to close.

"It was tough to end it like this because we could've played better, but I guess we gave it our all and

that's all you can ask for," said Blackmon who is heading to the University of Hartford. "They came out ready to play and were more aggressive and hungry than we were. We had the best record since 1977 and I guess we accomplished a lot. For the future, I wish them good luck and I hope they'll continue the Westfield tradition."

Commenting on the seniors, Coccoziello, Korfmacher, Blackmon and Bryant, Everly said, "They're great kids. A lot of them have been with me since they were sophomores and they were part of the team that went 16-9 a couple of years ago. They worked hard at it, they put the time in and they wanted it bad. We went, 16-8. One more win or one less loss would have brought them that. Hopefully, a lot of the young kids who were here saw that and will continue doing what these fellows did."

Coccoziello, perhaps one of the finest young men to wear a Westfield basketball uniform said, "I had a great career, I didn't crack a 1,000 and I didn't break any records. My sophomore year, I learned from Dan DiSario and I just carried that on and I wanted to hand that over to the younger guys next year. It was great, it was fun and I'm going to miss the camaraderie."

Westfield	8	11	14	17	50
Elizabeth	13	20	14	13	60

UC Rugby Club Set to Kick Off High School Inaugural Season

COUNTY - The Union County Rugby Football Club Mudturtles will begin its high school program, kicking off its inaugural season, on March 20 with a home game against Doylestown Colts Rugby from Pennsylvania. The team is comprised of 30 high school age players from Middlesex and Union Counties.

This team has been practicing since January, braving the cold and learning the fundamentals of the game. The players have been taught proper ball handling, tackling, passing and game rules. Emphasis is also being placed on sportsmanship, teamwork, safety and dedication, all aspects of the sport of rugby. By building on those ingredients, the Mudturtles believe they can field a competitive team and will have a successful season.

The coaches are Chris Clark, Lex

Maccubbin and Simon Hooks who each bring a wealth of rugby knowledge and experience. Coach Hooks is a seasoned rugby player from England.

Mudturtle High School Rugby was established to introduce the game to a new generation and to strengthen the men's squad by building a farm system. Mudturtle Rugby has the infrastructure in place that will allow the players to continue to participate in the sport with the men's squad. The program is open to all high school boys aged 18 and younger.

Mudturtle Rugby also runs a men's team and a youth flag rugby program. For more information, please call Chris Clark, Recruitment Director, at (201) 213-1952, e-mail at rugby0366@yahoo.com or visit www.mudturlerugby.com.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
 Shackamaxon Golf Pro Michael Kierner

Golf Professional Discusses Improving Putting Game

Spring is around the corner and all golfers are anticipating a better golfing season. The goal of taking a player's game to next level is always in the minds of all golfers. A good start to try to achieve this goal would be to work on your putting. The short game is the first aspect of your game to leave and the last to come back after a long lay off. Putting is the most important part of the short game and all professionals will admit that the best putter will win the tournament.

First, let us talk about the set up. Set up to the ball so you are comfortable but also, at the same time, the set up should allow you to have your eyes directly over the ball. Stand so your ankles are positioned under your shoulders. Now bend at your waist so your hips move back and your arms will hang naturally from your shoulders.

Next, where should you place the ball in relation to your stance? This is easy. Place the putter in the middle of your two feet and the ball will be placed in front of the putter. - Notice that the ball will be slightly forward

of center. This is easy to see and repeat because you have placed the putter in the middle of your stance. You can practice your set up at home in front of a mirror so you are ready when you hit the practice green.

When you do get out to the practice green, work on your distance control. This is much more important than the line of the putt. An easy way to practice your distance control is to hit putts to the edge of the green. Make the ball come to rest at the edge of the green where it meets the fringe.

Another drill is to place a club behind the hole about 18 inches. Hit the putt and make sure you reach the hole. If you miss, the ball should come to rest behind the hole but it should not hit the club.

Try both of these drills from all different distances. After all this work and preparation, your putting should be in mid-season form.

Michael Kierner is the Head Teaching Professional at Shackamaxon Golf & Country Club. For more information about lessons, please call (908) 233-3989.



NJ Sport Pics (Jim O'Connor) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
 GLIDING THROUGH THE WATER AT THE MOC...Union Catholic Viking Erin O'Connor glides through the water at the Meet of Champions at the Gloucester Institute of Technology in Deptford on March 7.

St. Helen's 7/8 Girls Capture Metuchen CYO Hoop Crown

The St. Helen's 7/8-grade girls basketball team improved its record to 30-1 by capturing the Metuchen CYO championship on March 6. St. Helen's, the Middlesex County champs, defeated St. Ann's of Raritan, the Somerset County champs, to win the overall championship.

Erin Miller and Gabrielle O'Leary led St. Helen's with 15 points each and shared the game MVP award. Stephanie Slodyzcka had eight points and 10 rebounds, Diana Venizia put in seven points and pulled down six rebounds. Rose Driscoll had four points and eight assists. Alli MacDonald had three points and 10 rebounds. Claire Bennett netted three points and 16 rebounds. Danielle Infantino had three points and five steals to round out the scoring.

On March 7, St. Helen's captured the Union County CYO regular-season championship, finishing with a perfect 12-0 mark. Miller led the way with 22 points. O'Leary bucketed 12, Bennett sank 10 and MacDonald scored seven, while Infantino and Slodyzcka had four points each. Driscoll had nine assists and three steals.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION
 NOTICE OF MEETINGS
 (In Compliance with OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT - Chapter 231)
 ADDENDUM TO REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS
TYPE OF MEETING:
 Open Agenda Meeting
DATE OF MEETING:
 April 8, 2004
REASON FOR NOTICE:
 MEETING CANCELLED
 1 T - 3/11/04, The Times Fee: \$14.28

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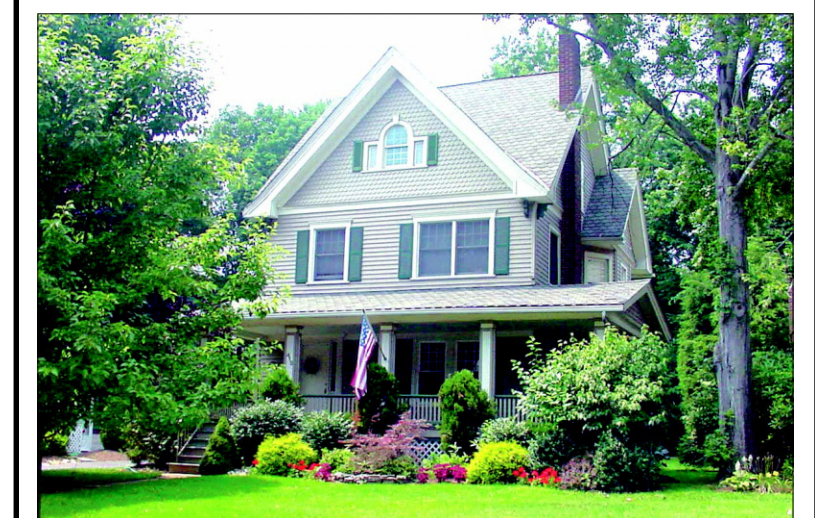
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Westfield



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New Providence Office: 908/464-5200
1260 Springfield Avenue

Summit Office: 908/273-0400
428 Springfield Avenue

Westfield Office: 908/232-5664
215 North Avenue West



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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the meeting of the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of Scotch Plains held on March 4, 2004, the following decisions of the Board were memorialized:
Granted front- and side-yard setback Variances with conditions to Jennifer DiLollo for the construction of a garage and other additions at the property located at 410 Union Avenue (Block 1502, Lot 11), Scotch Plains.
Granted front-yard setback Variances with conditions to David and Elizabeth Strong for the construction of additions at the property located at 4 Heritage Lane (Block 14901, Lot 3), Scotch Plains.
Linda M. Lies Secretary to the Zoning Board of Adjustment Township of Scotch Plains
1 T - 3/11/04, The Times Fee: \$19.89

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD
NOTICE TO BIDDERS
NOTICE is hereby given that sealed bids will be received on Thursday, April 1, 2004, at 10:00 A.M. by the Borough of Fanwood, at the Borough Hall Council Chambers, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, Union County, New Jersey for the following:
BIDDING WILL BE FOR MINOR STORM WATER PIPING SYSTEM RECONSTRUCTION, MILLING AND RESURFACING OF NORTH AVENUE BETWEEN FOREST ROAD & MARTINE AVENUE, INCLUDING MILLING AND RESURFACING OF FOREST ROAD (BETWEEN NORTH AVENUE, & TILLOTSON ROAD), AND TILLOTSON ROAD (BETWEEN NORTH AVENUE, & FOREST ROAD.)
The work includes furnishing all labor, materials and equipment, and hauling and incidental expenses necessary or required to complete all work shown on the reconstruction plans and as set forth in the specifications. The principal items of construction are summarized as follows:
Roadway Excavation, Unclassified 758 Cubic Yards
Milling (Various Depth) 3544 Square Yards
Dense Graded Aggregate (6 inches thick) 974 Square Yards
Hot Mix Asp. Stab. Base - Mix 1-5 (5 inches thick) 797 TONS
Hot Mix Asp. Surf. Course - Mix 1-5 (2 inches thick) 526 TONS
15 inches (222 linear feet), 18 inches (84 linear feet),
24 inches (81 linear feet) RCP 387 Linear Feet
19 inches x 30 inches (89 linear feet), 29 inches
x 45 inches (110 linear feet) ELRCP 189 Linear Feet
42 inches RCP Culvert Pipe 380 Linear Feet
Special Storm Water Outlet Channel Lump Sum
Granite Block Curb 214 Linear Feet
This project also contains other related and incidental miscellaneous work.
The successful bidder is to begin work on week of July 5, 2004, unless otherwise ordered by the Borough. All work is to be substantially completed within sixty (60) working days after signing of the Contract and authorization to commence work by the Borough.
Plans and specifications may be obtained from the Borough Clerk on Thursday, March 15, 2004, between 9AM and 4PM at the Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey, 07023. (908) 322-8236. Bidding documents consisting of a proposal form, and a set of plans containing site locations, plan details, and detour plans. The Bid Documents and Specifications booklet may be obtained upon payment of eighty (\$80.00) dollars by cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bank money order ONLY. Additional copies of the plans and specifications may be obtained upon payment of eighty (\$80.00) dollars per set. The Bidder shall phone twenty-four (24) hours in advance to reserve bidding documents.
The Proposal must be accompanied by all documents required by the Bidding Specifications. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of N.J.P.C. 1975, C. 127. Bidders must not submit Bids with qualifying conditions or provisions. Bidders are to double check bids submitted, both as to all requirements being submitted, and as to the accuracy of the amounts bid.
Eleanor McGovern Borough Clerk
Fee: \$81.60
1 T - 3/11/04, The Times

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91 Buick Skylark - GREAT commuter car! Working AC, PS, PW, PD, AM/FM Cassette, NEW Brakes, NEW Muffler/Pipes, NEW Inspection good for TWO years!!!
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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS
NOTICE is hereby given that at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, held in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building of said Township on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, there was introduced, read for the first time, and passed on such first reading, the following ordinance:
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER VII OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS ENTITLED "TRAFFIC"
Purpose: Establishing right turn only for the driveway from 567 Park Avenue at Park Avenue from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. School Days.
A public hearing for same will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2004 at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, or any time and place to which a meeting for the further consideration of such ordinance shall from time to time be adjourned, and all persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance.
A copy of same may be obtained from the office of the Township Clerk, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday by any member of the general public who wants a copy of same without cost.
BARBARA RIEPE Township Clerk
Fee: \$32.64
1 T - 3/11/04, The Times

HELP WANTED

PARAPROFESSIONAL
Union County Educational Services Commission. 10 month position - to assist classroom teacher in therapeutic H.S. for emotionally disturbed students. Annual salary \$12,360. plus excellent benefits. Please fax resume or letter of interest to: (908) 233-3269 or mail to: Mary Ann Distefano, Principal, Beadleston H.S., 1571 Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090

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Nominations Sought For Best of the Best

MOUNTAINSIDE - The Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County will give the "Best of the Best" 2004 Awards on Thursday, May 6 at L'Affaire restaurant in Mountainside.

These annual honors will be given to those community organizations, foundations and corporations who have made a difference in the lives of the youth of Union County.

Nominations are still being accepted from non-profit organizations and are welcome as well from the general public.

An independent panel of judges will be making their decision on March 22 and a formal, public announcement will be made at that time. The "Best of the Best" awards are the opportunity to say "Thank You" to those who have made a significant impact on the lives of youth.

To make a nomination or for more information, contact Felicia Bober at (908) 687-7976, ext. 104 or email her at fbober@bgcuc.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD
BOARD OF HEALTH
Public notice is hereby given that an Ordinance of which the following is a copy was introduced, read and passed on first reading by the Westfield Board of Health at a meeting held on March 8, 2004. The Board of Health will further consider the same for final passage on April 12, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Council Conference Room of the Westfield Municipal Building located at 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey at which time and place members of the public will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.
Marylou Fashano-Solis Board Secretary

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 87

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 86 OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY"
Be it ordained by the Board of Health of the Town of Westfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that General Ordinance No. 86 entitled as above be amended as follows:
Section 1
The following annual salaries are hereby fixed for officers and employees of the Board of Health and shall be retroactively payable from January 1, 2004.
Regional Health Officer: R. Sherr \$70,697.00 (base pay - Westfield)
R. Sherr \$34,107.00 (base pay - Health Contracts)
\$9,432.00 (longevity)
Public Health Nurse \$25,448.00 (base pay - Westfield)
N. Melcher \$36,196.00 (base pay - Health Contracts)

Section 2
This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage and publication according to law.
1 T - 3/11/04, The Leader Fee: \$59.16



STAMP HISTORY...The annual Westfield Stamp Show to be held Saturday, March 13, in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building will include many exhibit pieces of interest to history buffs. In 1888, letters flowed within southern Hungary, via Serbia and by Ottoman Empire post. In this confused political period under the provisions of the Congress of Berlin in July of 1878, Austria was granted the right to govern Bosnia and Herzegovina. Separate negotiations between Austria and the Ottomans also resulted in Austrian occupation of three extra towns in the Novi Pazar Sanjak. Pictured above is an example of post records from that time that will be on display at the stamp show. For information on the stamp show, please call (908) 232-0539.

Free Alcohol Screening Day To Be Offered on April 8

CLARK - Trying to figure out the risks and benefits associated with alcohol use is not easy. To help residents get the facts on alcohol, Prevention Links is participating in National Alcohol Screening Day on Thursday, April 8.

National Alcohol Screening Day, held in April as part of Alcohol Awareness Month, is a national one-day outreach, education, and screening event designed to educate the public about alcohol and allow individuals to seek help in a non-threatening, easily accessible manner.

As part of the screening, attendees will be able to complete a written questionnaire, watch a video, take educational materials, and talk one-on-one with a health professional for free. A certified counselor will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. or otherwise, by appointment. Referral resources for local treatment facilities and support services will be provided to those who seek further assistance.

Heavy drinking raises the risk for high blood pressure, heart disease, certain cancers, car crashes, unintentional injuries, violence, suicides, birth defects, and overall mortality.

More than 150 medications interact harmfully with alcohol. These interac-

tions may result in increased risk of illness, injury and even death.

Alcohol can alter blood sugar levels and exacerbate diabetes, impair reproductive functions, and interfere with calcium metabolism and bone structure, thereby, increasing the risk of osteoporosis.

Researchers have identified no safe threshold for drinking during pregnancy.

For more information about the April 8 screening, please contact Prevention Links at (732) 381-4100 or email info@preventionlinks.org.

Prevention Links, an agency dedicated to prevention and early intervention for alcoholism, tobacco, drug abuse, and other related problems, serves all of Union County. The agency provides educational programs, speakers, training, videos, and free reference materials related to substance use issues to law enforcement, schools, special population groups, communities/civic organizations, municipal alliances, faith communities, legislators, and the general public.

For more information about the Prevention Links, its programs, or for volunteer opportunities, call (732) 381-4100.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD
PLANNING BOARD
Notice is hereby given that on March 24, 2004 at 8:00 P.M. in the Borough Hall of the Borough of Fanwood at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey the Planning Board will hold a public hearing for a site plan/communications tower at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey also known as Block 32, Lot 4 as shown on the Fanwood Tax Map.
Sec. 184-55; Site plan: 120 feet high lattice tower; Zone District: R-150
The application will also seek such other relief as may be determined necessary at the public hearing based upon review of the application or amendment(s) to the application.
All interested persons may be present and heard.
The file pertaining to this application is available for public inspection during normal business hours from the Secretary of the Board at the Administration Offices of the Borough of Fanwood at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey.
Eleanor McGovern Borough Clerk
Borough of Fanwood
75 North Martine Avenue
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023
1 T - 3/11/04, The Times Fee: \$27.54

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Westfield \$749,900
Beautiful stone front Colonial featuring a Living Room w/stone fplc; Dining Room; large first floor Family Room; first floor Laundry and Master Bedroom w/full bath. Recent updates including: newer roof; windows; kitchen w/granite counters; 2 1/2 baths; furnace; central air conditioning and landscaping. WSF0187



Westfield \$929,900
Fabulous new home to be built by Michael Mahoney with open front porch featuring a Living Room open to Study; formal Dining Room; Kitchen w/island; Family Room; Master Suite w/ full bath and his and hers walk in closets; 2nd floor Laundry and more. Quality craftsmanship and beautifully appointed thru-out. WSF0194



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Westfield New listing! Enter this pristine 7 room colonial into an elegant living room with a wood-burning fireplace and classic built-ins. This lovely home boasts a formal dining room with French doors leading to a sunny enclosed porch and the eat-in kitchen has been tastefully updated. Upstairs are 3 ample bedrooms and 1 bath. High ceilings and glistening hardwood floors make a tasteful statement throughout. **Offered at \$399,000**



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DERBY WINNERS... On February 21, the St Bartholomew Cub Scout Pack 103 held its annual Pinewood Derby Race in the school gym. The top winners in each category were: Pack/Overall: First Place, Kieth Montiero; Second Place, Ryan Piliego; Third Place, John Boyle. Tigers: First Place, Ryan Piliego; Second Place, Joseph Ponterdolph; Third Place, Brian Howard. Wolves: First Place, John Boyle; Second Place, Alton Lutz; Third Place, Sean Ryan. Bears: First Place, Sloan Ibarra; Second Place, Kenny Brid; Third Place, Andrew Kocot. Webelos I: First Place, Kieth Montiero; Second Place, Quade Ibarra. Webelos II: First Place, William Piliego; Second Place, Ryan Haggerty; Third Place, Justin McMahon. Sibling: First Place, Joseph Mayers; Second Place, Shaina Gordon; Third Place Chris Kocot.

State Assembly to Vote on Pedestrian Safety Initiatives

TRENTON - Today, Thursday, March 11, the New Jersey General Assembly will consider a new pedestrian initiative, proposed by Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (R-21), which would require motorists to fully stop for pedestrians in crosswalks and for those waiting to enter crosswalks. Current law only requires that motorists yield to pedestrians already crossing the street. Assembly Bill A619 revises this statute to clarify that vehicles must come to a full stop for all pedestrians and that pedestrians waiting to enter crosswalks regulated by a traffic light or police officer. A619 was unanimously approved by the Assembly Transportation Committee on March 4.

Assemblyman Bramnick says that A619 will lead to reduced accident rates and safer streets for the citizens of New Jersey.

"This new legislation will strengthen and clarify New Jersey's current traffic laws, squarely placing the responsibility for pedestrian safety on motor vehicle operators," explained Assemblyman Bramnick. "There should be no question that a driver must fully and completely stop to allow any pedestrian to safely cross the street at a designated crosswalk."

Assemblyman Bramnick believes that this legislation will especially benefit downtown districts across the state.

"Thriving downtown areas across the state depend on pedestrian traffic for their success," said Assembly-

man Bramnick. "This legislation will ensure that downtown districts can continue to grow and serve as financial, recreational and spiritual centers for the surrounding communities."

In Westfield, Assemblyman Bramnick's home community, he has enlisted bi-partisan support from current and past council members, law enforcement officials and local organizations.

Assemblyman Bramnick has also been able to gain bi-partisan support in the Assembly for A619.

"I am pleased that Assemblywoman Linda Stender (D-22) has signed on as co-prime sponsor of this legislation," said Assemblyman Bramnick. "I would also like to thank my Republican and Democratic colleagues on the Assembly Transportation Committee who unanimously supported A619."

"In order to make New Jersey's roads safer for our citizens, especially our children, there must be a fundamental shift in driver attitudes," said Assemblyman Bramnick. "This legislation provides the impetus for this shift, ensuring that pedestrians in our communities can safely cross the street at crosswalks without fear or confusion."

The New Jersey General Assembly will vote on A619 during its voting session today, March 11 at 1 p.m. in the General Assembly Chambers at the New Jersey State House. For more information contact Assemblyman Bramnick at (908) 591-9245.

Westfield Toastmasters to Meet At Sunrise Assisted Living

WESTFIELD - Toastmasters of Westfield will meet on Thursdays, March 11 and March 25 from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. at Sunrise Assisted Living of Westfield, 240 Springfield Avenue, Westfield.

The club meets three times a month on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings. The group is open to the public. There is no charge to visit the club and attend the meeting as a guest observer.

Toastmasters of Westfield is part of Toastmasters International, aimed to enhance communication and leadership skills through practice and progression of speeches. The Toastmasters International Communication and Leadership Program, along with three meetings per month, provide an opportunity for members to enhance both their prepared speech and extemporaneous speaking skills. Toast-

masters International is the leading movement devoted to making effective oral communication a worldwide reality. Through its member clubs, Toastmasters International helps men and women learn the arts of speaking, listening and thinking - vital skills that promote self-actualization, enhance leadership, foster human understanding, and contribute to the betterment of mankind.

Toastmasters of Westfield provides a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

For more information about Toastmasters of Westfield membership, or any of its programs, attend the next meeting as a guest observer. For more information about Toastmasters of Westfield membership, or any of its programs, please contact Mark Spencer, President, Toastmasters of Westfield at: (908) 497-0213 or send an e-mail message to: toast@westfieldnj.com.

For more information about Toastmasters International and the Communication and Leadership Program, visit the website at: www.toastmasters.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
CHANCERY DIVISION
UNION COUNTY
DOCKET NO. F-19468-03
File No. 6463-02R

NOTICE TO REDEEM

IRONWOOD ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION, PLAINTIFF/ MORTGAGEE VS. SAMUEL BOONE, HIS HEIRS DEVEISEES AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR OR ANY OF THEIR SUCCESSORS IN RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST; ET AL'S

TO: SAMUEL BOONE, HIS HEIRS DEVEISEES AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR OR ANY OF THEIR SUCCESSORS IN RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST;

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an order made on February 27, 2004, the Superior Court Fixed April 16, 2004, between the hours of nine o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon, prevailing time, at the office of the Tax Collector of the CITY OF ELIZABETH, located at 50 Winfield Scott Plaza, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201, as the time and place when and where you may pay to the plaintiff the amount so found due for principal and interest on its certificate of tax sale as follows:

LOT 118 BLOCK 7 on the tax duplicate of the CITY OF ELIZABETH. Total amount required to redeem is \$13,026.23, together with interest from January 14, 2004 and costs.

And that unless, at the same time and place, you or one of you redeem by paying the aforesaid sum so found due to plaintiff, then you, and each of you shall be debarred and foreclosed of and from all right and equity of redemption of, in and to the lands and premises above set out and described in the complaint and every part thereof, and that the plaintiff be vested with an absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in fee simple in said lands and premises.

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, redemption shall be permitted up until the entry of final judgement including the whole of the last date upon which judgement is entered.

MICHAEL G. PELLEGRINO, ESQ.
Attorney for Plaintiff
CASALE & PELLEGRINO, L.L.C.
One Gatehall Drive
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054
1T - 3/11/04, The Leader Fee: \$49.98



TEAM EFFORT... Volunteer "packers" prepare meals to be home delivered to Mobile Meals clients who are unable to shop or prepare meals themselves. Others serve as drivers for the program, sometimes bringing their children along, while a Board of Directors assesses resources needed to keep the organization running.

Westfield Library to Offer Evening of Chamber Music

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Memorial Library will host the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) on Tuesday, March 23 at 7 p.m.

This intimate evening of music will feature NJSO's female stars: violinist Kelly Hall-Tompkins, violinist Alexandra Gorokhovskiy, violist Lucy Corwin and cellist Carole Whitney as they present Women in Music featuring work by Maddalena Laura Lombardini Sirmen, an 18th century Italian composer who lived at the same time as Mozart and Haydn. The musicians will discuss their roles in the current music industry as well as the history of women in music.

The program spotlights some of the instruments from the Golden Age Collection, a collection of rare Ital-

ian instruments made in the 17th and 18th centuries, and recently acquired by the NJSO.

This program is free to Westfield Library cardholders. Advance registration is required by calling the Circulation Desk at (908) 789-4090 or dropping by in-person at the Library's Circulation Desk on the first floor.

Founded in 1879, the Westfield Memorial Library strives to provide the Westfield community an environment that promotes a love of reading and ensures free access to ideas and information. For more information, please call (908) 789-4090, visit the Library's website at www.wmlnj.org or drop by in-person at 550 East Broad Street for a copy of the library's quarterly newsletter.

See it all on the Web!
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Quality and attention to detail radiate throughout this lovely home, located in the Golf Edge Section of Westfield. The open floorplan is ideal for casual family living and gracious entertaining. Enjoy the bright and airy living room, formal dining room, updated eat-in kitchen and wonderful main level family room with raised hearth Georgian marble fireplace. Three bedrooms and two full baths, plus an additional bedroom, powder room and recreation room on the lower level. All this and more on a .35 acre property, just moments from shops, schools, parks and New York City transportation. Offered for: \$689,000.

Call Joyce Taylor for details: (908) 233-6417

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR A PRIVATE TOUR, PLEASE CONTACT:



Joyce Taylor
Sales Associate

600 North Avenue West Westfield, NJ 07090
Direct Line: (908) 233-6417 Office: (908) 233-0065

Joyce-Taylor@Burgdorff.com
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Deep South Cuisine Savored At Crossroads in Garwood

By BENJAMIN B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

GARWOOD — When you think of The Crossroads in Garwood, you think of good music and hanging out with friends into the late hours, but you are not thinking of enjoying a good meal before the show.

Lauren Gruman and I had the opportunity to experience dinner at The Crossroads for the first time last weekend.

We felt like we were in the Deep South with all the southern entrée choices. Before we could make our minds up on what to get for a main course, we enjoyed some of their very tasty appetizers.

The first appetizer we tried was the smoked and spicy Andouille sausage, which is sautéed, crispy, spicy sausage over garlic bread. Next, came delicious spring rolls, which we highly recommend. The hardest part with dealing with the appetizers is trying to save room for the main course, because their appetizers are huge.

Along with being big portions there is a good selection of appetizers, such as grilled alligator tail, shrimp and crawfish étouffée, and fried calamari.

After enjoying the appetizers, we

happily awaited the main course, although we both were a little full. When the food came out, the presentation was impressive. The mashed potatoes were sculpted, the catfish was cooked to perfection and the vegetables looked delicious.

Chef Michael Mongillo did a great job with the food, which was no surprise since he had worked at Windows on the World, the United Nations, Brass Moon in Tribeca N.Y.C., and he opened Raferty's in New Brunswick.

We had an enjoyable experience at The Crossroads, from the quiet dinner setting to the good food. And if that isn't enough for you, you can stay for a show.

Depending on the night, you may get to see some top class performers like Richie Havens, Jimmy Smith, Stanley Jordan — the list goes on.

It is refreshing to have such variety so close to home.

For booking information, please call Lee Frankel at (908) 518-0323.

For information on the restaurant's cuisine, please call Chef Mongillo at (908) 232-5711. For club information, please call (908) 232-5666 or Manager/Sound Engineer Alex Taner at (908) 232-4507, visit www.xxroads.com or e-mail info@xxroads.com.



SOUTHERN FLAVOR... While this alligator doesn't bite, the delicious flavor of the cuisine served up at The Crossroads in Garwood will certainly nip at the tastebuds.

Pvt. Malpera Completes Marine Basic Training

SCOTCH PLAINS — United States Marine Corps Private Erica Malpera, the daughter of Margarita Malpera of Scotch Plains, recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, S.C. The training is designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

Pvt. Malpera and fellow recruits began their training at 5 a.m. by running three miles and performing calisthenics. In addition to the physi-

cal conditioning program, they spent numerous hours in classroom and field assignments that included learning first aid, uniform regulations, combat water survival, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and assorted weapons training.

Recruits also performed close order drill and operated as a small infantry unit during field training.

Pvt. Malpera and other recruits also received instruction on the Marine Corps' core values — honor, courage and commitment — and what the words mean in guiding personal and professional conduct.

The recruits ended their training phase with The Crucible, a 54-hour, team evolution culminating in an emotional ceremony during which they were presented with the Marine Corps Emblem and addressed as "Marines" for the first time in their careers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION UNION COUNTY DOCKET NO. F-14225-03 File No. 7444-03

NOTICE TO REDEEM

FUNB CUST/TEE PLY-MOUTH SPV 2, INC. PLAIN-TIFF/MORTGAGEE VS. WALTER PYLES, JR; ET ALS.

TO: MRS. WALTER PYLES, JR., WIFE OF WALTER PYLES, JR.; LINDA L. PYLES;

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an order made on February 27, 2004, the Superior Court Fixed April 12, 2004, between the hours of nine o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon, prevailing time, at the office of the Tax Collector of the CITY OF PLAINFIELD, located at 515 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07061, as the time and place when and where you may pay to the plaintiff the amount so found due for principal and interest on its certificate of tax sale as follows:

LOT 8 BLOCK 824 on the tax duplicate of the CITY OF PLAINFIELD. Total amount required to redeem is \$26,565.51, together with interest from February 19, 2004 and costs.

And that unless, at the same time and place, you or one of you redeem by paying the aforesaid sum so found due to plaintiff, then you, and each of you shall be debarred and foreclosed of and from all right and equity of redemption of, in and to the lands and premises above set out and described in the complaint and every part thereof, and that the plaintiff be vested with an absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in fee simple in said lands and premises.

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, redemption shall be permitted up until the entry of final judgement including the whole of the last date upon which judgement is entered.

MICHAEL G. PELLEGRINO, ESQ. Attorney for Plaintiff

CASALE & PELLEGRINO, L.L.C. One Gatehall Drive Parsippany, New Jersey 07054 1 T - 3/11/04, The Leader Fee: \$44.37

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

NOTICE is hereby given that at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, held in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building of said Township on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, there was introduced, read for the first time, and passed on such first reading, the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER VII OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS ENTITLED "TRAFFIC"

Purpose: Establishing time limit parking on both sides of Concord Road - 2 hours from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. School Days only from a point 100 feet south of Old Farm Road to a point 230 feet south thereof.

A public hearing for same will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2004 at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, or any time and place to which a meeting for the further consideration of such ordinance shall from time to time be adjourned, and all persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance.

A copy of same may be obtained from the office of the Township Clerk, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday by any member of the general public who wants a copy of same without cost.

BARBARA RIEPE Township Clerk 1 T - 3/11/04, The Times Fee: \$33.15

Governor McGreevey Outlines Program Funding

TRENTON — Governor James McGreevey asked the State Legislature to require insurance companies to cover mammograms for those women under forty, with a history of breast cancer and a recommendation from their doctor.

As part of his upcoming budget, Governor McGreevey is proposing to double the funding for breast and cervical cancer screenings. This increased funding will enable 15,000 uninsured women to receive mammography screenings.

On a second item, the Governor proposes to help deserving New Jersey high school students who want to go to college. In his release, the governor states that over the last decade, the cost of going to college has risen dramatically - with tuition rising at more than twice the rate of inflation. For many in New Jersey, this has meant smart, deserving students must choose between taking out thousands of dollars in loans or forgoing a college education altogether.

To address the problem, the Governor is calling on the legislature to ensure that New Jersey's best and brightest have the access to a college education. Under the New Jersey Stars program, all students that graduate in the top 20 percent of their high school class will have their tuition and fees covered at any one of the State's community colleges.

"You do the work, you make the grades and our New Jersey Stars will cover the cost," McGreevey said during his 2004 Budget Address.

His proposal opens up the possibility of a college education to approximately 9,000 high school students across the State.

Thirdly, the Governor calls for *New Jersey After 3* and expanded Pre-K programs — providing new opportunities for children. He recently announced two new initiatives to better educate children and support New Jersey's working families.

Governor McGreevey's *New Jersey After 3* program would keep schools open for students from 3 to 6 in the afternoon, allowing them a safe and productive after school environment. Similar programs across the nation have been shown to improve students' academic perfor-

mance and help them do better in school.

The Governor is also working to set the highest standards for giving children excellent pre-school education. He stated that too many children now are in low quality care, and parents are having a difficulty both finding and paying for good educational experiences for their young children.

He said, "That means too many of our children are missing out on early learning experiences that can influence the rest of their lives."

The Governor seeks to expand New Jersey's pre-school program, providing New Jerseyans of all situations and income levels access to a quality education. In the first year alone, the plan would provide pre-school education to an additional 20,000 children.

The Governor calls for improving emergency response with *Help is on the Way* program. He relates that too often, wireless 9-1-1 callers cannot explain to dispatchers where to locate them. That was the case for Jason Learn, who tried to get help after the car he was in ran off a steep embankment. Despite the help of dedicated 9-1-1 dispatchers and a rescue squad that included a New Jersey State Police helicopter search unit, a six-hour search was unsuccessful. Jason was forced to climb the 400-foot embankment, after having sustaining a concussion and broken arm, eventually flagging down a motorist for assistance.

"It does not have to happen this way," Governor McGreevey said earlier this month, as he outlined the critical need of updating the State's 9-1-1 emergency response system. "With the current system in place, those who dial 9-1-1 from cell phones in remote areas may not get the immediate attention needed in an emergency," Mr. McGreevey said. "Improving technology will enable 9-1-1 dispatchers to locate a call made from a cell phone within 150 feet."

The system's first upgrade will begin later this month. Once the network upgrade is complete this fall, each of the six nationwide wireless carriers will begin to connect their location equipment to the statewide 9-1-1 networks.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE is hereby given that on March 24, 2004 at 8:00 P.M. in the Borough Hall of the Borough of Fanwood at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey the Planning Board will hold a public hearing for a free standing sign at 88 South Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey also known as Block 56, Lot 10 as shown on the Fanwood Tax Map. The following variance is requested from the Land Use Ordinance of the Borough of Fanwood:

Sec. 184-110E5, Variance Requested: Side Yard Setback; Permitted: 8.0 feet; Present: 5.2 feet; Proposed: 5.2 feet (5.7)

Sec. 184-110E9, Variance Requested: Structural Coverage; Permitted: 25%; Present: 19%; Proposed: 29%

The application will also seek such other relief as may be determined necessary at the public hearing based upon review of the application or amendment(s) to the application.

All interested persons may be present and heard.

The file pertaining to this application is available for public inspection during normal business hours from the Secretary of the Board at the Administration Office of the Borough of Fanwood at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey.

Ann Marie & Eric Erickson 186 Farley Avenue Fanwood, New Jersey 07023 1 T - 3/11/04, The Times Fee: \$31.11

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

NOTICE is hereby given that Westfield Board of Adjustment adopted Resolutions at its March 8, 2004 meeting for the following applications heard at its February 9, 2004 meeting:

Peter and Caroline Cordeiro, 837 Kimball Avenue seeking permission to erect second and third floor additions contrary to Section 11.07 E6 of the Land Use Ordinance. Approved with conditions.

Daniel and Carolyn Driscoll Swartz, 541 Elm Street seeking permission to construct a detached garage; addition to front porch, a dormer addition, and A/C units contrary to the requirements of Section 13.01 G1C, 13.02 H6, 11.07 E6 and 12.03 D of the Land Use Ordinance. Approved with conditions.

Thomas and Lisa DiGiorgio, 28 Burrington Gorge, seeking permission to erect a second story addition contrary to the requirements of Section 11.07 E.6 of the Land Use Ordinance. Approved with conditions.

Dan and Linda Rubineti, 909 Irving Avenue, seeking permission to erect a set of stairs with platform located off rear of house contrary to the requirements of Section 12.04 F1 of the Land Use Ordinance. Approved with conditions.

Jean Genievich, 3 Hiawatha Drive seeking permission to erect a one story addition contrary to the requirements of Section 11.05 E7 of the Land Use Ordinance. Approved with conditions.

Presidential Pen, LLC, 112 Central Avenue seeking permission to erect a flat mounted sign contrary to the requirements of Section 16.04 E1 and 16.04 C2 of the Land Use Ordinance. Approved with conditions.

Lyle Karlin, 551 Washington Street seeking permission to erect a dormer to the rear corner of home contrary to the requirements of Section 11.09 E6 of the Land Use Ordinance. Approved with conditions.

Michael and Lynn Fernandez, 12 Sandra Circle seeking permission to erect an addition to an existing side porch contrary to the requirements of Section 11.06 E6 of the Land Use Ordinance. Approved with conditions.

John and Anika Yanushka, 923 Union Street, seeking permission to erect second story addition, two-car garage and deck contrary to Sections 11.07 E.6, 12.04 F1, 12.04 F2 and 12.03 D of the Land Use Ordinance. Approved with conditions.

Phillip and Nora Merola, 19 Woodbrook Circle, seeking permission to erect an addition to an existing side porch contrary to the requirements of Section 12.04 F1 and 12.04 F2 of the Land Use Ordinance. Approved with conditions.

Roseanne Peer, Secretary Board of Adjustment 1 T - 3/11/04, The Leader Fee: \$55.59

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE is hereby given that on March 24, 2004 at 8:00 P.M. in the Borough Hall of the Borough of Fanwood at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey the Planning Board will hold a public hearing for a free standing sign at 88 South Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey also known as Block 56, Lot 10 as shown on the Fanwood Tax Map. The following variance is requested from the Land Use Ordinance of the Borough of Fanwood:

Sec. 184-1157 (c) (1) Variance Requested: Free standing sign instead of all mounted sign; Permitted: 5.2 feet (5.7)

Proposed: Free standing sign closer than 10 feet to property line

The application will also seek such other relief as may be determined necessary at the public hearing based upon review of the application or amendment(s) to the application.

All interested persons may be present and heard.

The file pertaining to this application is available for public inspection during normal business hours from the Secretary of the Board at the Administration Offices of the Borough of Fanwood at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey.

Mr. John Kitts International Freight Transport 88 South Avenue Fanwood, New Jersey 07023 1 T - 3/11/04, The Times Fee: \$34.17

PUBLIC NOTICE

WESTFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals will be received by the Board of Education of the Westfield School District, Union County, New Jersey, at the Board of Education, 302 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey, for the following supplies, equipment or services:

BID FOR: B05-04 PHYSICAL EDUCATION SUPPLIES FOR THE 2004-2005 SCHOOL YEAR

BIDS DUE: APRIL 5, 2004 AT 1:00 PM

The bids will be received at the Administration Building, 302 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090, on the date and at the time indicated, and then publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids must be in strict compliance with specifications. Specifications may be secured from, Purchasing Office 302 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090 (908) 789-4407. Bids must be made on the proposal forms in the manner designated. Proposals must be endorsed on the outside of the sealed envelope, with the name of the bidder, the bidder's address and the name of the supplies, equipment, or services for which the bid is submitted. It is understood and agreed that proposals may be delivered before the time or at the place specified for opening. The Board of Education assumes no responsibility for bids mailed or misdirected in delivery.

The Board of Education of the Town of Westfield, in Union County, New Jersey, reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids for the whole or any part and waive any informalities in the interest of the Board of Education. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening thereof.

Bidding shall be in conformance with the applicable requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et. seq., pertaining to the "Public School Contracts Law".

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127, (NJAC 17:27).

BIDDERS NOTE: Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond, cashier's check or certified check made payable to the Westfield Board of Education for 10 percent (10%) of the amount of the total bid, however, not to exceed \$20,000.00.

By order of the Town of Westfield Board of Education, Union County, New Jersey. Robert A. Berman Board Secretary 1 T - 3/11/04, The Leader Fee: \$54.06

Two Decades Of Excellence

For the tenth consecutive year, Hye-Young Choi of the Westfield Coldwell Banker Office has been recognized as the NUMBER ONE ASSOCIATE in the Company's Premier Office. Hye-Young's achievements in 2003 are remarkable, even when compared to her other distinguished accomplishments.



Hye-Young Choi

2003 NJAR Circle of Excellence- Platinum Level

(One of three in Greater Union County Association of Realtors)

2003 Coldwell Banker President's Premier Agent

(Ranked fourth among over three thousand agents.)

2003 Top Associate Award- Westfield Office

(Total Production, Highest Volume, Most Listings Sold.)

The list goes on. "Rarely has any one individual been able to maintain such high standards, but rarely has someone like Hye-Young Choi come into our lives," stated Michael Scott, Office Manager. "Her grace and style set the tone for her business. There is a deep respect for her among her peers," he continued.

Hye-Young's entry into the real estate business is well chronicled. Shortly upon leaving a very successful Broadway career, Hye-Young joined the Westfield Office in 1984. She quickly joined the ranks of the most productive associates - winning numerous awards for sales and service. In 1994, she was recognized as the Top Associate in the Office. She has retained that position for the following decade!

As you might expect, the majority of Hye-Young's business comes from personal referrals. Past clients routinely recommend her to friends and family. You can reach her Direct at (908) 301-2015 or email her at hye-young@att.net.

Paid Bulletin Board

Nancy Priest, David Rogers To be Honored at WSO Gala

WESTFIELD — "Some Enchanted Evening" will be the theme when the Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) honors Nancy Priest and David Rogers at its Annual Gala on Saturday, April 3, at Shackamaxon Golf and Country Club, Scotch Plains, according to Dr. Norman Luka, President of the WSO Board of Trustees.

"The Westfield Symphony is pleased to recognize the incredible contributions that Nancy and David have made to the symphony and to the Town of Westfield by naming them Honorary Chairs of this year's Gala," Dr. Luka commented.

"Nancy has been a supporter of the symphony since its earliest days. The contributions that they have made to the symphony — and that both Nancy and David have made to our town — are incalculable," he added.

Currently, Rogers owns Spring Valley Monument Corporation. He is an inventor holding 19 patents and worked for Singer Sewing Machine for 25 years, mostly internationally in Engineering, Research & Development, Manufacturing and Marketing.

The black tie gala is the major fundraiser for the WSO, now in its 21st season.

"We invite the entire community to attend the gala to support the symphony and recognize the contributions of Nancy and David," Dr. Luka observed. "The Symphony brings cultural life to our town and the surrounding area and the gala is our largest fundraiser of the year. Few communities of our size in the country have local access to a fully professional symphony orchestra — or to a world-class conductor such as Maestro David Wroe."



Photo Courtesy of Nicole DiNegro, Westfield Symphony Orchestra
HONORED GUESTS...Nancy Priest and David Rogers will be honored by the Westfield Symphony Orchestra during this year's gala.

Priest is a Past President of the WSO and is a driving force in a variety of Westfield and national organizations. She is the current President of the Friends of Mindowaskin Park where she was instrumental in the recent restorations of the Overlook. She is a Trustee of the Westfield Historical Society, recent past President of the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission, recent past Westfield Town Historian and a member of the choir at the Presbyterian Church of Westfield.

She is also a Trustee at Drew University and a tour guide at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In addition to supporting the WSO, Rogers is Chairman of the Cemetery Committee and the Office and Property Commission at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, where he joins his wife as a member of the church choir. He was also an integral part of the Mindowaskin Park restoration.

"Some Enchanted Evening" will include a cocktail reception, gourmet dinner and dancing to an orchestra. A highlight of the evening will be the live auction conducted by acclaimed charity auctioneer and New Jersey Assemblyman Jon Bramnick.

A silent auction of items donated by well over 50 local retailers, restaurants and businesses will also run throughout the evening, which will culminate in the drawing of a winner for the 50/50 Raffle (winner need not be present to claim the prize).

In his statement Dr. Luka also acknowledged the generosity of Gala Sponsor Merck & Co., Inc. and Gala Corporate Sponsor PNC Financial Services, Inc.

Invitations have been mailed to WSO subscribers and supporters but attendance, which is capped at 300 due to space constraints, is open to the public and invitations may be obtained on a first-come, first-served basis, by calling the WSO office at (908) 232-9400.

Arts & Entertainment

WHS Rock Musical *Evita* to Open Tonight; Entered as Paper Mill Rising Star Candidate

WESTFIELD — *Evita*, the spring musical presented by Westfield High School (WHS) will open this evening, March 11, at 7 p.m. and run Friday and Saturday, March 12 and 13, beginning at 8 p.m.

The rock musical about the life of Eva Duarte Peron, first lady of Argentina during the late 1940s, is told entirely through music and dance. Created by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, the story follows Eva's political rise from poverty to power.

WHS has also entered the Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards competition, and, with over 100 schools vying for this theater award competition for high school performances, it is the only school performing *Evita*.

Since January, this ensemble has been rehearsing. WHS teachers Joe Nierle and Bill Mathews are serving as director and musical director, respectively, of this play.

Evita features a musical score filled with a mixture of jazz, Latin and rock influences. Songs include "Don't Cry For Me Argentina," the signature song of the play, and Eva's epitaph, as well as "High, Flying Adored," "Buenos Aires," "Rainbow Tour," and "I'd Be Surprisingly Good For You."

Several veteran actors lead this 36-member ensemble, including Samantha Hooper-Hamersley in the title role of *Evita*, with Jason Mesches as Juan Peron and Ryan Leonard as the play's narrator, Che Guevara. Other actors include Zal Spialter as the tango singer Eva used to begin her social climb, and Chloe Zeitounian as Peron's mistress.

The remaining actors perform in several groups: Townspeople — Kristen Aguero, Caitlin Costello, Jana Goldfarb, Andrea Gordon, Emily Greenberg, Jennifer Kujawski, and Rachel Lazar; Army Officers — Maurice Blackmon, Chris Hild, Mike Noblett and Mike Sherry; and Soldiers — Connor Davis, Dan Foltz-Morrison, Jeff Hogan, Elliott Johnson, Nathan



EVITA BEGINS TONIGHT... The Westfield High School spring musical, *Evita*, follows the life of Eva Duarte Peron from poverty up the ladder to wealth and power. This popular rock opera features 36 talented students, including Chloe Zeitounian as Peron's mistress, Jason Mesches as Juan Peron, Zal Spialter as Agustin Magaldi, the tango singer first used by Eva on her way to fame and Samantha Hooper-Hamersley as *Evita*. Ryan Leonard, center, plays the narrator, Che Guevara. Tickets for the three-day performance can be obtained from cast members or by calling (908) 789-4549. All seats are reserved.

Margolin and Steve Markowski.

Kim Lam and Nick Williams are the tango dancers, while Aaron Eisenberg, Jeff Greenlaw, Kristina Luccarelli, Rachel Gordon, Tim Mathews, Katherine Nicol and Allison Siko are the English Aristocrats in Argentina.

The Children's Chorus is composed of Patricia Caruana, Jana Goldfarb, Rachel Leopold, Rachael Louie, Diana Spiradiglozzi, and Suzanne Toriello. Erica Cenci, a 2002 WHS graduate,

is the choreographer, along with Joe Nierle. Set design and construction is led by Roy Chambers, with Alexandra De John in charge of costumes and Laura Freire handling props. Greg Ryan is stage manager.

WHS musicians will play along with professionals in the pit band for the first time. Those involved are: flutists Kathleen Ferio and Lauren Nolan, string bassist Don Williams, trumpet player Dave Reinhardt, French horn player Chris Velderman, clarinetist Jeff Bayne, percussionist Jon Maimon, cellist Yuchen Zhang, and violinists Jenna Vandervort, Kayla Vandervort, Jennifer Zhu, Matt Leong and Alex Jenkins.

The performances will be held at WHS, 550 Dorian Road, Westfield. All tickets are reserved and may be purchased from cast members or by calling (908) 789-4549 or at the door. Tickets are \$8 for the Thursday performance and \$10 for the Friday and Saturday shows.

Mid-Day Musicales to Include Organist Barbara Thomson

WESTFIELD — The First Congregational Church of Westfield, 125 Elmer Street, will present organist Barbara Thomson in a free, half-hour program at noon on Wednesday, March 17, as part of their ongoing Mid-Day Musicales series.

A \$5 soup and sandwich luncheon will be available in the church social hall following the concert.

Barbara Thomson has concertized extensively in the United States and Europe, and has been critically acclaimed for her technique, musicianship, and ability to communicate.

She has performed across the United States and in Austria, Germany, Holland, France, Italy, and Yugoslavia. Her performances have included recitals at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, the Riverside Church and Trinity Church Wall Street in New York, the National Presbyterian Church and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Sacred Heart Cathedral Basilica in Newark, and the Methuen Memorial Music Hall in Methuen, Mass.

She has been a guest soloist for National Convention of the Association of

University Composers in Memphis, the Festival Maria Schutz, Austria, and the Evangelische Friedenskirche in Vienna. She was a finalist in the prestigious International Congress of Organists Organ Playing Competition and has recorded for Spectrum Records, Voice of America, Radio Bremen (Germany), and Vermont Public Television.

Dr. Thomson graduated Phi Beta Kappa with High Honors from the Pennsylvania State University, received a Master's degree from the Eastman School of Music, a doctorate from Peabody Conservatory, and did further study at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna.

She has been Organist and Director of Music at the First Congregational Church of Westfield for 19 years, and is also Organist and Director of Music at Temple B'nai Abraham in Livingston.

Funding for these concerts has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.



Dr. Barbara Thomson

Uncle Mike Irons Out Wrinkles

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

venture, which disregarded the stern cautions of his doctor and vegetarian chef/girlfriend that he should stop the McDonald's feeding frenzy.

Does Jackman, a man who has met everyone from Al Pacino to Jim Carrey, ever find himself star struck?

"While I was working on *Gangs of New York* with Marty, I got a call on my cell phone and it was Bono from U2, because, you know, we were doing the theme song for the movie, and he's telling me all of these important details, a guitar riff that Edge wanted to add, and other things. And, I'm telling myself, 'Mike, this is Bono, but listen, listen carefully.'"

Bill Murray, who starred in Allen's *Quick Change* (1990), also had Jackman a tad tongue-tied. Achieving his dream of working with Rob Reiner, Ron Howard or Steven Spielberg might also overwhelm him with joy.

"In this business, the saying goes, 'Hurry up and wait. Everything's a fire drill,'" he shared, noting that an idyllic work schedule would involve producing one film, from start to finish, or taking smaller bites out of big projects at less frenzied paces.

Jackman, who tried out a series of commutes before deciding to settle in Westfield, said, "I fell in love with the town." He said he was drawn to the economic and ethnic diversity, the academic excellence for which Westfield is known, and how all students eventually gather to study at one high school.

If his family remained in L.A., his

children would eventually have to attend private schools with the children of movie people.

"I didn't want them to go to private schools," he said. "I wanted them to have a well-rounded world view that was expanded, not contracted."

Loyal to the East Coast, he wanted to experience a change in seasons and became jaded in L.A., where 297 days



SUPER-SIZED BLOOD PRESSURE...Filmmaker Morgan Spunlock visits with his doctor after feasting on McDonald's.

out of the year, the sun was always shining and nothing around him changed with the seasons.

"The ocean should be to the East, not to the West," he joked.

Next up, Jackman will focus on an exploratory project with a friend in L.A., bringing six to eight Spanish-language films to Mexico.

But, top on his list is appreciating his wife, Lisa, who he calls "amazingly supportive," spending time with his 22-month-old son, Sam, and 4 1/2-year-old daughter, Alexandra — and keeping them all out of McDonald's.

Printmakers of NJCVA

Set Through April 30

SUMMIT — "Printmakers of NJCVA", an exhibition featuring the best of etchings, monoprints, collagraphs, photo transfers and relief prints, will be open at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts through Friday, April 30.

Artists include Barbara Zietchick of Westfield, Debra Livingston of Scotch Plains, Helen Frank of Springfield, Katherine Barboza, Joan Fine, Tricia Goginsky, Gwen Hanlon Howard, Lynn Keffer, Carol Masi, Lenore Moomjy, Francesca Mucciolo, Debbie Nelson, Sonia Hassin-Papo, Johanna Shannon, Maria Sibilla, Claire Simon, Vera Souverov, Michelle Tomasso and Gerry Wall.

The artwork included in the NJCVA exhibit represents diversity in subject matter and technique, with a cross-section of style, vision and originality. For more information, please visit www.njcva.org or call (908) 273-9121.



Barbara Zietchick

Photo Contest Set By Junior Optimist

WESTFIELD — The Junior Optimist Club of Westfield has announced the start of its annual Photography Contest for children and teens in grades kindergarten through 12. The theme is "Westfield in Action: Sports and Other Activities."

Gift certificates and other prizes will be awarded to the first and second place finishers in each age group. The three age groups will be Kindergarten through third grade, fourth to seventh grade, and eighth to 12th grade.

Children interested in participating must submit a color photo of their favorite Westfield action shot, no smaller than 4 inches by 6 inches, the child's name, age, grade, address and phone number should be printed on the back of the photograph.

Entries must be received no later than Friday, April 30, and should be forwarded to the Junior Optimist Club, c/o Dana Zichlin, 515 Mountain Avenue, Westfield, 07090.

The Junior Optimist Club was formed eight years ago by the Optimist Club of Westfield and consists of Westfield High School students.

The organization is involved in community service projects such as the Recreation Commission's Haunted House and Tamaques Elementary School Fun Run, PANDA Drug Awareness Week, and Holiday Toy Drive.

Park Middle School Musicians Succeed at Recent Auditions

SCOTCH PLAINS — Several choral and instrumental music students from Park Middle School in Scotch Plains have been successful in recent auditions for various select musical groups in the region and state, according to an announcement from the school's music staff.

After Park Middle School pupils auditioned in November for places on the Central Jersey Region II Intermediate Chorus, seventh graders Kate Barker (soprano I), Mary Kate O'Connell (soprano I) and Nathan Ghabour (alto) and eighth grader Rebecca Salman (soprano I) were selected for the group.

The Park pupils joined with others in the region for a series of five Saturday rehearsals in preparation for a choral concert in February, under the direction of Sally Albrecht, an established composer and guest conductor.

Park students were also successful in January auditions for All-State Honors Chorus. Sixth graders Matt Harris, Maggie Murad, and Victoria Spuler were chosen for treble I and Vangelis Dimopoulos, Stephanie Leon, and Lauren Hartnett were

tapped for treble II in the Elementary Choir. Matt had the distinction of ranking 21 out of 110 auditioning students, and Vangelis placed 11 out of 165 auditioning musicians in their groups.

Seventh grader Kate Barker successfully auditioned as a soprano I in the All-State Junior High Honor Choir. Both the Elementary and Junior High Honor Choirs will perform at the concert festival on Saturday, May 8.

Park instrumental musicians also excelled in auditions for the Central Jersey Region II Band and Orchestra, a group comprised of outstanding musicians from Monmouth, Middlesex, Union, Mercer, Somerset, and Hunterdon counties.

Josef Ellis was named First Chair snare in the orchestra, and Roger Liu will perform on the tuba in the band. The Region II Band and Orchestra will perform in concert on Sunday, March 14, at Kean University at 3 p.m.

The students' music instructors at Park are vocal music teacher Jennifer Sellman and instrumental instructors Joe Bencivenga and John Gillick, Jr.



Queen of Arts

Craft Projects, Books, and Patterns For All the Year 'Round

New Embellishments and Tools Flood Scrapbooking Industry

By MICHELLE Le POIDEVIN
Specialty Writer for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Editor's Note: The following "Queen of the Arts" column continues a discussion of the latest products available to avid scrapbookers, which was published in the March 4 edition.

Special Ingredients:

Making Memories does not halt its enterprise at paper and tool products, but extends its creativity to rare embellishments such as colored staples, ribbons stamped with words ("Ribbon Words"), exquisite charms to thread through ribbon, aluminum sheets, Metal Mesh in different textures, Shaped Clips, Photo Flips, "Washer Words" in six themes, colored safety pins "Simply Stated" rub-on sentiments, and oodles more.

Not to be outdone Scrapworks vends studs, frames, funky clips, and Alphadots (punch-out words in circles and squares printed in reverse type) and Hugz (ringlets) to encapsulate the Alphadots. Not to mention a super line of vibrant papers with simple doodles. Available through online scrapbooking shops, the products were designed by upstarts Denise Hoogland and Sarah Goodman.

"Scrapworks believes that scrapbooking and paper crafting should be fun and simple enough that anyone can achieve a polished look when crafting their projects," said the company's Marketing and PR head, Rozanne Paxman.

All That Glitters:

The family-owned and operated *Creative Beginnings*, a manufacturer of glitters, beads, embossing ink collections, embossing powders and papers, has changed with the trends. Packaged and priced modestly, the products add the extra sparkle and impression sought by crafters for their most eye-catching pages. All products can be purchased at www.creativebeginnings.com.

Scrappers seeking a stand-out layout that twinkles from every angle will choose *New Dimensions*' paper — the only printed holographic paper in the craft industry. From \$1.25 to \$1.50 per 12x12 sheet, these papers are themed and die-cut tags are offered. All products, and an idea gallery, are available at www.sparklepaper.com.

Stamps & Stencils:

Stickers and fibers are not the only way to adorn a page. *The Gazdina's Art Stamps and Frog's Whiskers Ink* stamps join intricate brass stencils from *Highland Crafts & Interiors*

in presenting a myriad of alternatives. "Unlike many photorealistic stamps, scrapbookers don't need special papers or techniques to use most of The Gazdina's images — and the stamps work especially well with the archival inks knowledgeable scrapbookers prefer," offered Sherry Watson, owner. To buy these stamps, which are deeply etched in fine red rubber, visit www.gazdina.com.

Shannon Mills, Co-Owner of *Highland Crafts & Interiors*, explained, "Our stencils are low in price. Stencils are so versatile they can be used in anything from cake decorating, papercrafts and beyond.

Their uses are only limited by your imagination." The stencils are sold at www.highlandcraftsandinteriors.com.

Frog's Ink Whiskers produces stamps which "entice the imagination" with appealing, elaborate designs, which make them perfect for creating backgrounds on plain papers. To buy these stamps, visit www.FrogsWhiskersInk.com.

Quotable Quotes:

Through its line of COMPLETE overlays, *Memories Complete* provides scrapbookers with a clever way of adding sentiments to a layout, using elegant and modern fonts to spell thought-provoking quotes on shiny, durable transparent plastic-like paper. COMPLETE quotes accomplishes the same feat, with vellum.

Top Tool of the Trade

CROPYcats solved the scrapper's age-old quandary about balancing concept and creativity, while executing a design with planned perfection. Crafters will never run out of ideas while perusing the "recipe cards for scrapbooking," which contain detailed instructions, material lists, color photos of the finished page, and the website offers free paper-piercing patterns. The cards, which come in seasonal/themed sets, are kept and carried in a translucent plastic tabletop tent fold binder.

CROPYcats Owner Paula Siebers said, "These ideas make it so easy to make a great page without getting frustrated." To get a peek or purchase, visit www.cropycats.com.

Clever Kits:

Finally, kits assembled by *Embellish It* are like "having a scrapbooking class in a bag." They are ideal for beginners because they contain the necessary ingredients — 12x12 background paper, photomats, journal blocks and matching embellishments. The www.embellishonline.com site has all purchasing details.

Arts & Entertainment

Uncle Michael Jackman Irons Out Wrinkles In Industry, Life as Producer, Dad, Husband

By MICHELLE H. LE POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — When Westfield film producer Michael Jackman was having lunch on the set with actor Jason Alexander of "Seinfeld" fame one afternoon, his niece, who was visiting, posed the magic question.

"What do you do, Uncle Mike?" she asked.

Trying to put his job description into words, Jackman, a 17-year veteran in the industry, ceded the answer to Alexander, who pointed out the surrounding cast and crew to the young girl.

"Do you see all these people around us? All of these people create problems. Your Uncle Mike solves all of these problems," he said.

Jackman, who has worked with blockbuster producers like Oliver Stone and Martin Scorsese, or "Marty," was on the brink of flying out to Los Angeles to tie up some loose ends as Post Production Supervisor with Leonardo DiCaprio for *The Aviator*, where he would also attend the premieres of *Agent Cody Banks: Destination London* (he is Executive Producer and he wrote the screenplay) and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (he is Associate Producer).

A week after his interview with *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, he would be producing a public service announcement with former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani for the History Channel's "Save Our History" campaign.

But, first thing was first — moving his Soho office, where he works on projects for Focus Features and Miramax, toward the downtown, and turning 41.

When he met with *The Leader/The Times* last Wednesday, Jackman was glowing with stories about a career which details more accomplishments in his young four decades than most can claim in 80 years.

"I like making order out of insanity," said Jackman. "Things are going well if I can at least look one day ahead. But, if I find myself having to be reactive instead, then something is going wrong."

"I've always wanted to be an actor," recalled Jackman, who was born in The Bronx and raised in Boston. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia as a Psychology major and Computer Science Engineering minor, he moved back to Beantown, waited for

films, he was called upon for his computer knowledge as an assistant accountant at Woody Allen's company, Untitled Productions. A little over three years and five of Allen's movies under his belt, Jackman produced his first movie in 1994, *Sex & The Other Man* with Stanley Tucci. He also met his wife, Lisa, at the same time.

Realizing that most of the film industry and work originates in L.A., Jackman packed his bags for the West Coast, a place which, he admitted, made him long for the East Coast because "that's where the ocean is." For 5 and 1/2 years, he worked for Turner Pictures before it merged with Time Warner. All of the films he developed still came out, including *Michael* (1996) with John Travolta, which he oversaw as production executive.

Jackman admitted that, while his next project did not gain as much audience attention as it deserved, those who have seen *Just Looking* (1999), a coming-of-age story based in 1950s New York with Jason Alexander, have showered the film with accolades.

After serving as the film's production manager, Jackman followed Alexander to FOX Television to co-produce his sitcom, "Bob Patterson." While only 5 out of the 10 episodes aired, the experience taught him some lessons about the differences between episodic television and filmmaking.

Jackman's résumé, which reads like every film student's fantasy wish list, flourished when he signed on as producer of a "mockumentary" about young female figure skaters called *On Edge* (2001). The piece, which reunited Jackman with Alexander, also included scenes with Tai Babilonia and Kristi Yamaguchi.

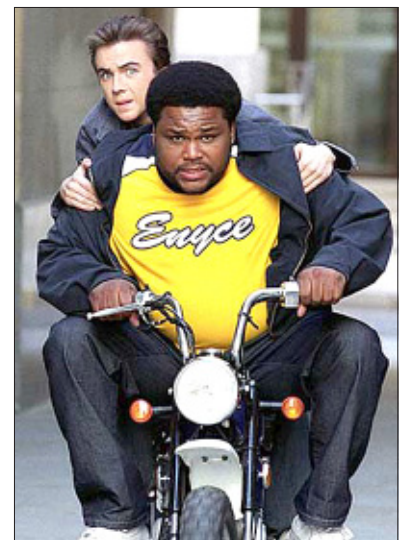
Before his work as post-production supervisor, line producer and provider of additional photography for *Gangs of New York*, Jackman encountered and appreciated Oliver Stone's style as a perfectionist during his stint as post-production supervisor for *Any Given Sunday* (1999) with Al Pacino and Cameron Diaz.

"He was constantly challenging me as a producer and made me think outside of the box," he recalled.

Jackman served as executive producer for the original *Agent Cody Banks* (2003), which follows the adventures of a teenage CIA agent, played by Frankie Muniz, and he filled the same role for the sequel, *Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London*, which is due out tomorrow, March 12.

Exactly one week later, Jackman will see the official release of his next film, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* with Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet, for which he oversaw post-production editing, visual effects, sound and budget.

For that project, Jackman worked with the film's writer, Charlie Kaufman, who



FILM TICKET TO RIDE... As Executive Producer of *Agent Cody Banks: Destination London*, which will be in theaters tomorrow, March 12, Jackman has met folks like Frankie Muniz and Anthony Anderson, pictured, above.

penned *Being John Malkovich*, and the film's director Michel Gondry, who earned accolades for his direction of the Lego-inspired music video for The White Stripes



MEMORIES... Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet fight to keep the memories of their relationship intact in *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. Jackman served as Associate Producer of the film, which is due out next Friday, March 19.

"Fell in Love with a Girl."

Gondry introduced him to the music video business, providing tips for Jackman's first foray into the genre as director of "The Polyphonic Spree" video for *Eternal Sunshine*.

However, Jackman appears to glow the most when discussing a film due out in May, which had everybody buzzing at the Sundance Film Festival, eventually earning the event's "Best Documentary" honor.

In fact, *Super Size Me: A film of epic proportions* has motivated McDonald's to fade out its "super size" menu, although Jackman said they deny any such association.

To create *Super Size Me*, filmmaker Morgan Spurlock spent one month eating only McDonald's fare for three meals per day, gaining nearly 30 pounds, a 65-point cholesterol hike, and a liver that Spurlock's doctor said resembled one of an alcoholic — all while maintaining the average exercise regime.

As the film's post-production supervisor, Jackman followed Spurlock's ad-

Continued on Page 21



ROOMMATE RUCKUS... When Florence Unger, played by Linda Correll, gets a neck rub by new roommate Olive Madison, portrayed by Betty Restaino, the Ben Gay supposedly being used turns out to be toothpaste.

Take the Stage

With Susan M. Dougherty



Familiar Note Struck During Female Version Of WCP's Odd Couple

By SUSAN M. DOUGHERTY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Iflemon Pledge is one of your favorite scents, you might be a Felix Unger, or in the Westfield Community Players' (WCP) rendition, a Florence Unger type of personality who will see himself or herself mirrored on the stage of Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*.

The female version of the classic will run weekends through Saturday, March 27.

This show is just one more production in a string of hits that is the reason WCP has been in business for 30 years. The showbiz slogan, "Let us entertain you" must be WCP's unwritten policy.

As the old television show's familiar theme music comes up, the talkative packed house of March 6 settles down. If you think that men are

— her making allergy-induced "moose call" noises, and other annoying idiosyncrasies — that start the tension to rise.

The scene with these two friends juxtaposes their differences; Olive, dressed in workman's jeans, an untucked blouse, and Reeboks is the antithesis of Florence with her Martha Stewart perfection of platinum, teased hair à la 1984, and color-coordinated outfits. Restaino and Correll are terrifically cast. The pacing in this scene is especially good, cemented by talented actors who build on a firm foundation of clever jokes.

After a short 40-minute Act I, the audience goes out to sip a cool drink while the stagehands transform the apartment. In a supposed two-week time lapse, Florence's touch, like that of Midas, has

changed the mood of the rooms drastically with the addition of lace curtains, tablecloth, tasteful artwork, and a sense of order.

In Act II, the leads start to sound like an old married couple as Flo's persnickety ways continue to grate on Olive's nerves. Olive has invited the two "Spanish guys" from an upstairs apartment to join them for dinner.

When she herself is late for the special night, the miffed Florence grills her while wielding a lethal gravy ladle. The audience laughs at seeing people they recognize in those characters, or maybe it's seeing a part of themselves arguing and bickering with a spouse.

Jesus, played by Anthony Marotta and Manolo, portrayed by David Neal, have a ball playing two men who have difficulty with the English language. The fine directing of John Correll (husband of Linda), and nice timing with over the top characterization of the men make them favorites with the audience. Their facial contortions, and ill-fitting clothes render them comical without even saying much. Add to those directorial and acting choices vocal gymnastics, and every one has a great time with these "two wild and crazy guys."

On the night I saw the show, the last set change seemed interminable, perhaps because the theater itself became uncomfortably warm, or because of the long costume change, but that was the only minor detracting note.

As the curtain call music, "Big Girls Don't Cry" blasts, the cast comes out dancing and moving to the tune. It sets the audience on its way with a smile, having been able to laugh at someone else's domestic tension for a change.



GIRLS NIGHT IN... Friday night Trivial Pursuit players Joyce Porter, Moira Quinn, Toni Lynn Downey and Maureen Bentley, are amazed at the transformation of Florence Unger, right, played convincingly by Linda J. Correll. In WCP's "Odd Couple," zaniness and fun prevail each weekend throughout March.

bigger slob than women, one look at Olive Madison's apartment and that myth might be shattered. The set of the living room/dining room area of Olive, played by Betty Restaino is, to put it politely, a pigsty where even a pig might turn up his nose.

There is no familiar poker game of the old show at the top of this play, but a rousing game of Trivial Pursuit. The opening weekend Saturday night crowd was not afraid to laugh, giggle, and guffaw at the antics of the actors who deliver Simon's lines with great timing and know-how.

The big news at their Friday night game is delivered through a phone call that friend Florence Unger is missing. Her husband of 14 years has just reported her AWOL after hurling a bombshell that he wants a divorce.

Linda Correll perfectly underplays the hilariously distraught gal in a red Chanel suit, matching pumps, and pearls. When she arrives, exposition stops and the fun begins.

However, just before the door opens for Florence to join the group, the women agree to pretend to be ignorant of the break up, and that Florence has threatened to kill herself. Despite the clever banter among Sylvie (Joyce Potter), Vera (Toni Lynn Downey), Mickey (Maureen Bentley) and Renee (Moira Quinn), their plan backfires.

"Are you going to the bathroom? Alone? By yourself?" asks Olive, who thinks Florence will find a way to kill herself in there. A Key Stone Cops chase ensues with the ladies trying to tackle the forlorn Florence.

After everyone calms down and the other women leave, Olive invites Florence to become roommates. Out pops the quirkiness of Florence

County Art Pupils Showcase Work To Mark YAM

By CAROL F. DAVIS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The First Congregational Church of Westfield, 125 Elmer Street, will present Metropolitan Opera tenor Ronald Naldi, known not only for the beauty of his voice but also for the refinement of the art of *bel canto* that he brings to his performances. He will be accompanied by Michel Prezman, noted for his work as a pianist, composer, arranger, and vocal coach. This free, half-hour program will be held at noon on Wednesday, March 10, as part of the ongoing *Mid-Day Musicals* series. A \$5 soup and sandwich luncheon will be available in the church social hall following the concert.

County Art Pupils Showcase Work To Mark YAM

COUNTY — Artwork from various Union County schools is being showcased for Youth Art Month (YAM), an annual observance each March in the state of New Jersey to emphasize the value of art education for all children and to encourage support for quality school art programs.

Union County's YAM exhibition will be held at the Les Malamut Art Gallery on Morris Avenue in Union



ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE... A piece by sixth grader Allison Ricardo of Edison Intermediate in Westfield has been chosen to represent the county at the State Exhibit in Trenton, marking March as National Youth Art Month.

from Saturday, March 13, through Wednesday, March 24. A reception is also planned on Saturday, March 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for all participating artists, their families and friends, and their art teachers.

Artwork from students in grades K through 12 will be on display.

Visitors to the Les Malamut Art Gallery will see a variety of media used by the artists, such as pastels, acrylic paints, and pencil. Three-dimensional projects, drawings, paintings, prints, and photographs will be exhibited to showcase the county's art programs.

Five Union County students, including sixth grader Allison Ricardo of Edison Intermediate School in Westfield, will also exhibit their artwork at the state YAM exhibit in Trenton.

Allison will be joined by fellow artists Christine Jordan, a senior at Roselle Park High School, Aleksandra Starzak, a seventh grader at Roselle Park Middle School, Melissa Pereira, a fourth grader at Ernest J. Finizio, Jr. — Aldene School in Roselle Park, and Ben Carlick, a first grader at Hamilton Terrace in Berkeley Heights.

The state YAM exhibit will open on Monday, March 22, in the State House Annex with a night reception at 6 p.m.

Other participating schools in Union County include: Hamilton Terrace, Mountain Park, Thomas P. Hughes, and Woodruff Elementary Schools in Berkeley Heights; Deerfield School in Mountainside; and Wilson Elementary in Westfield; Winfield School in Winfield Park.



STAR PRODUCER... Westfield resident and film producer Michael Jackman is pictured, above, during his visit to the office of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

his "big break" and found it once he was hired as a production assistant.

"I got coffee for everyone," he joked, "I mean, no matter who you were, I got the coffee for them."

Next, he nabbed a job with Peter Yates, working on *The House on Carroll Street* (1988) as the production assistant and then *Suspect* (1987) with Cherand Dennis Quaid in the same capacity. Then, he was hired back as the picture car coordinator for *Mississippi Burning* (1988).

Yet, while Jackman longed to produce



Get Outta The House

By CAROL F. DAVIS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

New Jersey native Heather Mulvey will present a special St. Patrick's Day concert on March 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mountainside Public Library. *A Celtic Music Journey* will feature familiar folk songs celebrating Ireland and Irish heritage including "Danny Boy," "Wild Mountain Thyme" and "The Fields of Athney." An accomplished singer and acoustic guitar player, Ms. Mulvey performs music ranging from traditional bluegrass to contemporary folk. It's free and refreshments will be served following the program. To reserve a seat, call (908) 233-0115 or visit the Library during regular hours.

Budding Playwrights, Ages 13 and Up, are Invited to a Free Workshop by The Theatre Project at Union County College in Cranford on Sunday, March 14, at 1 p.m.

Speaking up and Writing it Down/Writing the One-Act will be a dynamic experience in which participants will be guided in the use of conflict, character, and structure, and the last 15 minutes will be reserved for participants to read from their scenes. It will be followed by refreshments, and at 3 p.m., the New Artist Showcase will present the **2nd Annual Young Playwright's Competition** awards. Call (908) 659-5189.

The Coffee With Conscience Concert Series of Springfield

will present host rockin' blues pianist Bob Malone, with guests, keyboard player and vocalist Kristy Jackson and songwriter/guitarist Carla Ulbrich, on Saturday, March 13, at the Emanuel United Methodist Church of Springfield, 40 Church Mall. The concert will begin at 8 p.m., and admission is \$12.

Westfield's own Qiaoze Yang, the 16-year-old pianist who is the winner of the 2004 Suburban Music Study Club's Scholarship Award, will perform on Sunday, March 14, at 2:30 p.m. at the Madison Library. Senator Keam will present the \$1,000 award to "Kathy," who will perform works by Liszt, Scarlatti, Chopin, and Faure. The library is located at 39 Keep Street. For information call (973) 635-1435. Suggested admission is \$10.

Sumi Ink Artist King Must Outpace Medium To Create Drawings

By MARYLOU MORANO
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WESTFIELD — If one looks closely at Westfield Art Association (WAA) member Maxine King's Sumi ink drawings, one can almost sense a psychological interaction between the human figures.

A practicing artist with almost 15 years experience, King enjoys the "unforgiving" aspect of ink on paper. "Ink drawing forces you to make instantaneous decisions," King explained. "If you make a serious mistake, you may not be able to complete the work."

While many artists like to draw with pen, King prefers to use a brush and black Chinese Sumi ink. Next, she adds watercolor emphasis to enhance the psychological tension between her figures. King, who resides in Woodbridge,

Born in Adams, Mass., King took an interest in art as a child. Her mother, who had some training in drawing, supported her efforts. King spent 30 years teaching art at the elementary school level in New Jersey and Massachusetts.

She has traveled to France and Spain to visit art museums exhibiting expressionist painting. Locally, her favorites are The Museum of Modern Art and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, both of which she visits often.

"I like to catch the important exhibits," she said.

In addition to the WAA, King is a member of the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts (NJCVAA) and the Somerset Art Association (SAA), where for several years she has monitored the life drawing sessions at the SAA.

Twice, King has received accolades and honors from the NJCVAA. In 2003, she won an Honorable Mention for "Apogee," a Sumi ink and watercolor of two female figures. In 2002, she earned the Curtis Hillyer Memorial Award for the painting, "Modeling for Posterity."

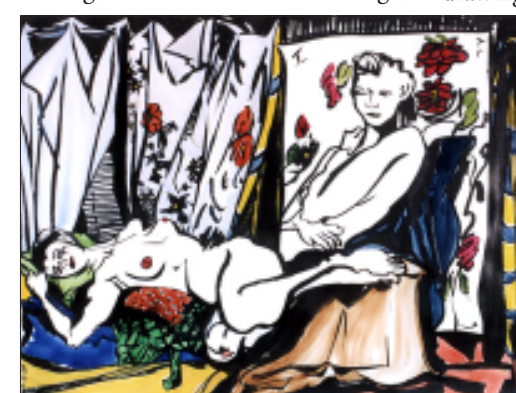
King's art has also received awards from the American Artists' Professional League, Art Alliance, SAA and WAA. In addition, she has had three one-person shows.

This May and June, King will exhibit at the Ocean County Artist's Guild in Island Heights.

For more information about King's upcoming exhibit, please call (732) 270-3111.



Maxine King



by Maxine King

holds a Master of Arts degree from Rutgers University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Iowa. She also holds numerous credits in creative arts at the doctoral level, also from Rutgers.