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Gretchen Bowman for The Westfield Leader

GETTING OUT OF THE HEAT...Westfield youngsters and their parents had a chance to cool off this past week at the Westfield Memorial Pool. The town's Recreation Commission has reported that pool membership is continuing its record setting pace.

Planning Board Approves Three-Story Brick Building For Former Excellent Diner Site On North Avenue

By KIMBERLY S. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

An eyesore in the center of Westfield's business district is about to become a thing of the past, with the Westfield Planning Board's unanimous approval Monday night of variance requests for a three-story building to be constructed on the former Excellent Diner property.

The lot at 222 North Avenue, where the old fashioned diner car was once a familiar site, is now marked by a hole in the ground surrounded by a wooden fence.

But a year from now, the property is expected to see a new brick office

building following the board's approval of variance requests for Stella Lekas, the owner of the property.

Mrs. Lekas seeks to remove the remaining part of the existing building (the diner car was sold and moved to Germany) and erect the proposed three-story building. The building, according to plans, will include a basement for retail and office use.

Following approval of the building proposal, Mayor Thomas C. Jardim announced the creation of an ad hoc committee to study how best to apply \$200,000 in town and Union County funds for improvements to town parks, playgrounds and athletic

fields. The town had originally designated the money for construction of a park on the diner site as part of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders' one-year "Project Pocket Park Program." (See related story on this page.)

The site has remained vacant for two years, since the diner was moved, and according to Planning Board members, "has been an eyesore to the downtown area for a long time."

Four variances were granted, including a reduction in the side yard set back and a reduction in the rear yard set back; elimination of the park-

ing requirement, and the elimination of a loading and unloading area. Originally, there were six variances, which also included the location of exterior signs and a reduction in window areas.

Lee Honecker, an attorney and grandson of Mrs. Lekas, told the Planning Board that he was not looking for approval of exterior signs at this time because it was not yet known who would be leasing the building.

He proposed that those who rented out space for their stores and businesses could apply for the needed variance to hang their signs. Also,

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COUNCIL OPTS TO MAINTAIN WESTFIELD AVE. AS ONE-WAY STREET

Mayor Appoints Ad Hoc Committee To Review How to Spend Park Funds

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Mayor Thomas C. Jardim announced Tuesday night that he has formed an ad hoc committee to search for the best use of Union County and municipal funds now that the former Excellent Diner site on North Avenue, which had been eyed as the potential location for a pocket park, will be developed as an office building instead.

The Planning Board on Monday approved the application for the building as presented by Stella Lekas, the

owner of the property. Mayor Jardim, who sits on the Planning Board along with Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr., said the council needs to act quickly in order to redirect the \$200,000 that was earmarked for the acquisition of the lot and creation of the park.

The county had approved Westfield's application for a \$100,000 matching dollar grant as part of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders one-year "Project Pocket Park" program.

The council has received \$17,500

from the county as part of the same program to make improvements to the playground at the former Lincoln School. The school — but not the playground area — is leased as a high school for emotionally disturbed students by the Union County Educational Services Commission.

Since the Town Council and the Recreation Commission will not meet until September, Mayor Jardim said he felt the ad hoc committee was the best way to ensure a "rapid" response so that Westfield does not get locked out of the county program.

Serving on the committee are Fourth Ward Councilman and Chairman of the Public Works Committee John J. Walsh, First Ward Councilman Gregory S. McDermott, Recreation Department Director Glenn Burrell and Vice Chairman of the Recreation Commission Sal Antonelli.

First Ward Councilwoman Gail S. Vernick disagreed with Mayor Jardim's view of an ad hoc committee, noting that, in her opinion, "an ad hoc committee slows the process"

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Michael P. Babik for The Westfield Leader

GOLDEN ROTARIAN...Bob Maxwell, center, poses with Rotary President Stan Kaslusky, right, and Rotary Assistant District Governor Dr. D. Michael Hart, left, at a weekly Rotary Club meeting. Mr. Maxwell has not missed a meeting in 50 years. Please see Page 3 for a story on area Rotary Clubs.

Bikers Want To Preserve Dirt Mounds

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

A group of Westfield teenagers pleaded with the Town Council Tuesday night not to demolish dirt mounds located off Dunham Avenue which are being used as an obstacle course by adventurous bicyclists.

Town officials said their chief concern has to be the legal liability Westfield could face if a serious injury occurs on the town-owned site.

The trails are located behind Summit Avenue on the south side of town.

Andrew Borchin of Cowperthwaite Place said he and other bicyclists have spent "many, many hours there, not only riding but working on these trails," which for years have provided a means of recreation for youths.

"It seems that the issue is a safety issue. Many riders come in not only from Westfield but from neighboring towns to ride there," he stated.

"We know the risks that's involved with biking there and we choose to ride anyway," he said.

"We need Dunham. We need that in order to be off the streets, out of trouble, so to speak," he told the council. "It's a place we can go any time and just get a release from the pressures of the world."

Colin Osborn, 18, of Summit Avenue said "there has never been a problem" with the bike trails before. "By taking away these trails they (the town) are taking away our freedom and that is messed up."

Heather Marks, 15, of Fanwood, said she has been hurt more riding her bike on the streets in town than at the Dunham site.

One of the biggest opponents of the dirt mounds, described as over five feet in height, was former Councilman Kenneth L. MacRitchie of Trinity Place.

"The faster we get rid of them, the better," he emphasized, noting that the area has been designated as a bird sanctuary by the town.

Town Administrator Edward A. Gottko said a representative of the Surburban Joint Insurance Fund, which Westfield joined several years ago to cut its insurance costs including liability coverage, found the dirt mounds to be constructed in a "haphazard way" which would present an insurance risk to the town.

Upon a suggestion from Andrew Borchin that the town install "ride at your own risk" signs, Town Attorney Charles H. Brandt stated "legally,

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New Mountainside Police Chief Shares Highlights of Long Career

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Since June, there's been a new Police Chief in town or, more accurately, in the borough. Slightly less than two months ago, James Debbie, Jr., a member of the Mountainside force for 27 years, was sworn in as Chief before the Borough Council.

The new commander, who previously served as Acting Chief based on his seniority, replaced erstwhile Chief William Alder, who retired in March of this year.

"To become Chief, I had to complete an interview process with the Borough Council and undergo psychological testing," Chief Debbie said.

Chief Debbie started serving the borough as a patrolman after graduating from the Essex County Police Academy in December of 1971. In July of 1981, he was promoted to Sergeant and, in July of 1992, was sworn in as a Lieutenant.

The Chief explained that the position of Corporal was added to the department's ranks in 1985 — with the order now including the titles of Patrolman, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain and then Chief.

He added that the "position of Captain has not been filled in a long time and it is something that I wish to fill."

Chief Debbie also pointed out that there have been three recent promotions on the force. Patrolmen Andrew Sullivan, Richard Latargia and Thomas Murphy were all sworn in as Corporals at the July council meeting.

"Also, there are four Sergeants who are applying for the open position of Lieutenant," said Chief Debbie.



Gretchen Bowman for The Westfield Leader

HEADING THE FORCE...New Mountainside Police Chief James Debbie, Jr. stands next to one of the borough police cruisers. The Chief, a member of the police force for 27 years, is well-known in the community where his family owns the local delicatessen.

He stated that the four candidates include Detective Sergeant Richard Osieja, Detective Sergeant Todd Turner, Sergeant Richard Weigele and Sergeant Scot Worswick.

"The new Lieutenant will probably be sworn in at the September council meeting," Chief Debbie added.

When asked about some memorable experiences while on the force, the Chief noted two incidents that stuck out in his memory. The first stemmed from an arrest made in

1981 in which he and his partner, Alan Kennedy, now retired, apprehended a cat burglar after a short car chase.

According to Chief Debbie, the cat burglar was wanted in many cities in Essex County, which had set up a task

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Bd. of Adjustment Rejects Menu Boards, Side Sign For Downtown Businesses

By BOBBIE TURSI BALDASSARI
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Westfield Board of Adjustment met in the sweltering Town Council chambers Monday evening to hear and consider a number of appeals for variances from the requirements of the Westfield Land Use Ordinance. Of the appeals, three major downtown businesses were affected.

Williams-Sonoma of 127 Central Avenue, an upscale retail cooking utensil store which also features cooking lessons as well as celebrity and local chef demonstrations, sought permission to erect signs, menu boards, medallions and vinyl-backed lettering contrary to town zoning restrictions.

Skip Podover, the Director of Construction who oversees the building from beginning to end of the new Williams-Sonoma stores, described the store's concept thoroughly during a "question-and-answer" type dialogue with his attorney, Jeffrey Lehrer, before the board prior to requesting a number of sign variances.

Mr. Podover stated "these signs

are absolutely essential to the design concept of the store."

He was passionate in promoting the store's concept and purpose. Mr. Podover said Williams-Sonoma operates 150 stores nationwide, from Soho to Beverly Hills, which have the same type sign, menu boards, logos and medallions as is being requested for the Westfield store.

Mr. Podover further stated that he understood a small town's resistance to large chain stores, but said he thinks the sign requests are "so architecturally appealing, subtle and tasteful" that they would blend into the town "beautifully" to promote the historic character of downtown Westfield.

In response, board member Henry K. Kelly stated, "you say it's architecturally appealing, but to me it is clutter. But that is just my opinion." In addition, board member William Heinbockel expressed concern and reluctance over granting additional signs.

"We have to apply the same standards across the board. Inconsistency

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Council Considers Lifting Clause To Enable SID to Live Past 2000

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Westfield's special improvement district (SID) will become extinct as of the year 2000 unless a so-called "sunset" provision is removed in the town ordinance which created the entity.

Reportedly, the sunset clause was part of a plan to force a review of the effectiveness of the SID within three years.

Created by the Town Council in 1996, Westfield's special improvement district was formed to promote economic growth and employment within the district. It is funded through a special tax assessment on properties included within the boundaries of the district.

The SID's governing board — the

Downtown Westfield Corporation — has an annual budget of a quarter of a million dollars, which, again, is aimed at promotion of the downtown to stimulate economic development.

Among the powers of the SID are to fund the improvement and rehabilitation of the exterior appearance of properties in the district through grants or loans, and to provide security, sanitation and other services to the district supplemental to those provided normally by the municipal government.

Also within its powers are the undertaking of improvements "designed to increase the safety or attractiveness of the district," the organization of special events in the district, and

the recruitment of new businesses to fill vacancies and balance the mix of businesses in the downtown.

DWC Executive Director Michael La Place said it is important that the district has the opportunity to continue its current mission of developing a Downtown Improvement Plan. The plan, which will include a list of everything from identifying potential sites for development in the downtown to placement of trash receptacles, is expected to be adopted by the end of this year.

DWC Board Chairman Joseph Spector said Westfield's SID has spent its funding on promotional events, economic development and design to increase pedestrian traffic in the downtown.

"The whole community benefits from a well-lit downtown and a vibrant downtown," said Mr. Spector.

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Michael P. Babik for The Westfield Leader

THESE ROADS WERE MADE FOR STRIPING...Quimby Street is marked for traffic last Thursday by the Lombardi Striping Company of South Plainfield. This machine heats up the rubbery road paint and mixes it with a reflective powder before it is set on the road.

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Bikers Plead to Council To Preserve Dirt Mounds

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that would have no effect at all. You can't disguise negligence."

First Ward Councilwoman Gail S. Vernick suggested that, perhaps, parents of the riders could write letters removing the town from legal responsibility in case of a serious accident.

Mr. Brandt said while this suggestion would be acceptable on a legal basis, it would be impossible for the town to fully regulate who uses the site.

"I don't think that (the letters) would be a practical solution," he explained.

Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence A. Goldman recommended that the Recreation Commission look into the matter to see if some organized activity could be created for the bikers.

In other business, the council narrowly approved a resolution waiving all but \$200 of the annual \$2,000 liquor license for Chez Catherine, an upscale French cuisine restaurant located next to the Westfield Inn on North Avenue.

Mayor Thomas C. Jardim, Councilman Goldman and Second Ward Councilman Matthew P. Albano all voted against the resolution, stating

they feared the town was setting a legal precedent for establishments claiming hardships in the future.

Catherine Gitter, the owner of the restaurant, was not able to utilize the liquor license due to back state taxes in the amount of \$30,000 that the previous tenant, La Petite Rose, had failed to pay.

In order to preserve the liquor license, Ms. Gitter paid the \$2,000 license fee last year to the town. But, due to the state tax lien on the license, it was not utilized in 1997.

In supporting the reduction in the fee, Mrs. Vernick called Chez Catherine a "premier restaurant in New Jersey and an asset in Westfield." She said had Ms. Gitter not taken action to repossess the restaurant, "it would have otherwise been left empty" following the bankruptcy filing by La Petite Rose.

Although noting Ms. Gitter's efforts, Mr. Goldman said "sometimes we have to play the tough guy," in terms of what precedent the council might be setting for similar requests in the future.

Council Looks to Give Life to SID Beyond 2000

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While Town Council members gave their support last week to continue the special improvement district, the governing body could not agree on whether a hearing should be held to give members of the community and the DWC an opportunity to comment on the ordinance which created the SID, and its purpose, goals and duties.

The ordinance, recommended by an advisory committee under then-Mayor Bud C. Boothe in April of 1995, was redrafted by Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr. when he served as Chairman of the Laws and Rules Committee.

In the new draft, the SID Board of Directors was reduced from 11 to seven members, along with a number of other changes.

The ordinance specified the creation of an advisory board of between 15 and 20 members. Mr. La Place noted that the current panel is a list of persons in town with certain expertise which is available to the DWC.

Councilman Sullivan disagreed with that description of the advisory board, noting that it was initially seen as an extension of the SID's Board of Directors.

He said the panel was intended as a means of addressing the concerns of businesses in the district, rather than maintaining a large Board of Directors. Mr. Sullivan said the panel should "feed information from the community" and serve as an "out-reach" for merchants and residents.

He said he envisioned the advisory group as formal in scope, and that members should meet quarterly or semi-annually.

Mayor Thomas C. Jardim said he is "comfortable" with the current setup of the Board of Directors, noting that the SID board is "no different than any other non-profit corporation" where an executive director answers to a Board of Directors. "I think it is a good board right now. I think it is well constituted," he added.

The SID was not officially put into operation until its first budget of \$184,000 was approved in the spring of 1997. The spending plan this year is \$265,500.

Mr. La Place noted that an audit of the DWC's books, accounts and financial transactions would soon be conducted by the same auditor used by the town.

The ordinance states that the SID financial audit must be conducted within four months after the close of the year — which would be in April. Mr. La Place said Town Administrator Edward A. Gottko recommended that the SID have its audit done by the same firm that reviews municipal records.

Mr. Gottko, in verifying these comments, noted that there are no legal requirements in the state for when SID audits are to be conducted. He did note, though, that the board has yet to present an annual report, which was due last December, to the Town Council.

Reportedly, the town's audit has just been completed and the DWC financial records review is expected to begin shortly.

Councilman Sullivan said he anticipated receiving a copy of the DWC budget when reports on town government and the municipal court were submitted to the council.

"There has to be an audit. There has to be a financial reporting period," he said.

Mayor Jardim claimed he was not concerned over the lateness of the audit, noting he supports Mr. Gottko's direction in ensuring the audit is completed.

Getting back to the annual report, the corporation is required to have a report "of its activities for the preceding fiscal year" to the council within 30 days after the close of the DWC's fiscal year.

Mr. La Place said that given the SID's

eight-month year in 1997, in lieu of an annual report, the DWC submitted minutes of its meetings and a newsletter to the council. He expects to make a presentation before the council this year on the DWC's operations to date.

Mr. Sullivan noted that an annual report tends to allow more "latitude" in the way it is written than an audit — which is more detailed.

This report should include "what was done, what was spent and (describe) a view for the future," he said.

In terms of the sunset provision, Councilman and current Laws and Rules Committee Chairman Lawrence A. Goldman said last week that he does not believe the council is required under the ordinance to conduct "re-analysis" or "reconsideration" of the program.

"It seems somewhat contradictory to be working on a long-term downtown improvement plan at the same time that we don't know whether the entity is going to exist beyond a year," Councilman Goldman stated.

He said the council should act on the sunset provision this year.

Councilman Sullivan said he believes it would be "appropriate" that the council "takes a look at the way the board was constituted."

He said the number of directors and the mechanism of an advisory board — along with the setup of the SID — should be discussed in an open forum.

"I know there are things that the SID board itself has severely criticized in terms of the constitution of the ordinance. I don't think it would be appropriate to just wipe out a line (in the ordinance for the sunset provision)" in the ordinance without giving the community an opportunity to say "here's how we can make it better," said Councilman Sullivan.

Councilman Goldman said he was concerned that a reexamination of the SID ordinance might "open up some old wounds" when some merchants would be critical of having an SID in the first place.

He said anyone who wishes to comment on the SID could do so when a public hearing is conducted on the ordinance.

"I think the mere fact of amending the ordinance to lift the sunset would facilitate any discussion," Councilman Goldman explained.

Last week, Mayor Jardim said he was concerned that a long, drawn out process of investigating the SID could "tie up" the Laws and Rules Committee. The Mayor said removal of the sunset provision would show the council's "commitment" to the DWC's efforts thus far.

He said he was concerned some merchants might have a "short-term prospective" on the DWC.

However, when reached for comment Tuesday, the Mayor said he supports having an open forum on the SID, so long as the revised ordinance does not put further restrictions on the DWC. He said a provision requiring council approval on all budget items should be removed, claiming that it is unconstitutional based on state laws.

First Ward Councilwoman Gail S. Vernick said an open discussion might generate some "very positive results" and ideas that the DWC "might not have otherwise been thinking about."

In addition to the improvement plan, Mr. La Place said the DWC has ordered New Jersey State, American and Westfield flags to accompany the DWC banners in the downtown.

He added the DWC will continue to work with the town on areas such as pedestrian safety and parking and downtown cleanliness.

New Police Chief Shares Highlights of His Career

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force to catch him. One evening, he recalled, after coming across a suspicious car that had a doctor's bag with six wallets sitting on the seat, Chief Debbie and his partner saw a man on the top of Juniper Way with a mask on his head.

Chief Debbie said that after a short chase, the burglar was apprehended on Highwood Road, which is a dead end street. This incident, the Chief noted, earned him the title of Policeman of the Year for 1981.

The second incident happened in May of 1992, when he arrested a man who had kidnapped two young girls from New York. He said he spotted a suspicious car in Plainfield, with New York plates, with two girls inside who fit a rough description of those who were abducted.

The girls were kidnapped from their mother by a man who was hired by their father. It was the intent of the father to take the girls out of the country, never to see their mother again, the Chief recounted.

For this action, Chief Debbie, who was a Lieutenant at the time, was given an award on the Honorary Policemen's Benevolent Association for his heroic efforts. Chief Debbie concluded the story by noting that the men were indicted for this offense and sent to prison for kidnapping.

Other important accomplishments in Chief Debbie's police career include starting a Driving While Intoxicated Task Force in 1984; getting all the department's vehicles (there are seven in all) equipped with radar detectors instead of transferring one radar device from car to car; designing the security system for the new building; installing the new computer system for the police force, and helping to attain the very high technology radio system which can connect telephone com-

munication into the radio.

Chief Debbie has a strong history of law enforcement in his family. His grandfather, Fred Roeder, was a Mountside police officer who rose to the rank of Lieutenant before he retired in the 1940s due to illness.

Also, Chief Debbie's would-be father-in-law, Joseph Walter, was a State Trooper until 1952, when he was killed in the line-of-duty. Chief Debbie noted that Mr. Walter's name was inscribed on the wall in Washington D.C. memorializing fallen officers.

Chief Debbie's oldest son, Christopher, is a Union County Patrolman who was recently appointed to the Essex/Union County Auto Theft Task Force. Chief Debbie noted that the members of this task force are highly trained by the FBI and are formed to look for and recover stolen cars.

Chief Debbie also revealed that the Fox television network will be featuring the task force this evening, Thursday, August 13, at 9 p.m., and that the ABC news program "20/20" was also sending a camera crew to follow members of this task force for a story.

Chief Debbie's other children include Jeffrey Michael, James, 3rd, and Michael Patrick. He is also the grandfather of a 2-year-old grandson named Tyler. His wife, Patricia, has been very active in the borough as the Recreation Commissioner, and has served as President of the Booster Club at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield.

She currently serves as Booster Club President at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights. Chief Debbie's parents have lived in the borough for over 40 years, and his sister and brother-in-law own the Mountside Deli on Mountain Avenue.

MCGEE-DALY 2X2



WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

• An Edison resident reported that someone made an unauthorized withdrawal of \$2,000 from his account at an East Broad Street bank. Police said there presently are no suspects in the case.

• A Barchester Way resident reported that someone smeared butter on his car while it was parked in his driveway. A similar incident involving the victim's car occurred the following day, authorities said.

• Juan Concepcion, 24, of Newark was arrested and charged with shoplifting at an East Broad Street clothing store and with possession of a hypodermic needle, according to police. The suspect was transported to the Union County Jail.

• A Hillside woman reported that she was harassed by an unidentified man while she was eating lunch in her parked car on Elm Street.

• Sean Carroll, 19, of Westfield was arrested on South Avenue and charged with simple assault, aggravated assault, burglary and criminal mischief, according to police.

Authorities said Carroll allegedly forced his way into a residence on North Avenue, West, and assaulted a man and a woman inside. The suspect

reportedly had an altercation with the victims earlier over a motor vehicle infraction.

Carroll was transported to the Union County Jail, where he was being held in lieu of \$25,000 bail.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5
• A resident of Barchester Way reported that someone snapped off the antenna, bent both windshield wipers and smeared butter on the windows of his car while it was parked in his driveway.

• A potted plant was uprooted from in front of an East Broad Street convenience store, according to police.

• A Westfield woman reported the theft of a cellular telephone valued at \$200, which she believes was stolen from her residence, authorities said.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6
• James Lawson, 21, of Westfield was arrested on South Avenue and charged with receiving stolen property in connection with the theft of a bicycle in April from Roosevelt Intermediate School in Westfield. Lawson was held in lieu of \$500 bail.

• A resident of South Avenue, West, reported that her bicycle valued at \$120 was stolen from outside a South Avenue convenience store.

Ad Hoc Committee Named To Look at Park Funding

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

since they would still have to report back to the full governing body.

Town Administrator Edward A. Gottko explained that the town must send back the agreement for the site with a letter detailing where the funds will be spent. He said as long as the funds are for parks and recreational services he has been told the county would approve the town's revised application.

Councilwoman Vernick said she believes the council's Public Works Committee, of which she is a member, would be best suited to make recommendations concerning what projects to expend the funds on, noting that this was the process that was originally planned.

"I think we all have ideas and have expressed those ideas where we think the money should go and should have been earmarked from the beginning," she said, adding that as a Public Works Committee member, she would like to have input on where the funds should be spent.

"I think it is much more organized if it (the process to earmark the "Pocket Park" funds) is kept in Public Works," explained Councilwoman Vernick.

Councilman Sullivan said he would have liked to see the issue presented to the full council first for input. Mayor Jardim said he wants to speed up the process since the county is set to begin distributing the "Pocket Park" funds as of this Wednesday, August 19.

"Therefore, we should act as quickly as possible to ensure that these parks are available for the safety and enjoyment of our children," the Mayor stated through a press release issued Tuesday night.

Mrs. Vernick said she would like the improvements to the concrete overlook at Mindowaskin Park to be at the top of the list of projects to receive the funding. She said leftover funds could be used to upgrade other parks and fields in the town.

Mayor Jardim said he would like to see the funds used for Mindowaskin as well as for improvements for Memorial Field, Sycamore Field, Brightwood Park, Tamaques Park, Gumbert Field and Houlihan Field.

He said he would like to see the town create a park commemorating Paul Robeson, a performing artist and human rights activist who resided in Westfield from 1907 to 1910 during his youth.

He said the park could include benches and a plaque in honor of Robeson. The park would be located near Rahway Avenue at Watterson Street, on the south

side of town.

Mayor Jardim said he was "certainly not in any way looking to exclude somebody from the process," but rather to have a public forum as set by the ad hoc group to field suggestions from residents and the council, in order "to get as much input as possible" on how to spend the funds.

Councilwoman Vernick said the construction of a building on the diner site "was the right thing to do." She said construction can now "move forward in a timely basis," thus giving the town a "much needed" tax rateable while still enabling the town to receive funds to upgrade its parks.

Mr. Gottko noted that upon a conversation with county officials, "what we decided to do with the money as a community, they would have no problem with," providing that the town details where the funds will be spent as part of an agreement with the county.

The administrator noted that the council has "almost reached agreement" with the Board of Education to lease the Lincoln School playground. Once that agreement is finalized, the town can move forward with plans to upgrade the playground, including the purchasing of new equipment.

In other business, the council acted to defeat an ordinance which would have converted Westfield Avenue to a two-way street. The decision follows a meeting between Westfield Avenue residents and Westfield Police Chief Anthony J. Scutti. Thus, the thoroughfare will remain as a one-way street.

Chief Scutti said the original reason for converting the road was based on a plan by county officials to synchronize the traffic lights on South Avenue prior to any change in the traffic pattern.

Since the county has not provided any time frame for when it will change the timing on the signal and the state Department of Transportation has yet to report back on the re-design of the South Avenue intersection, Chief Scutti recommended that Westfield Avenue remain a one-way street.

Area residents told the Chief that the light at Westfield Avenue and South Avenue, which would have to be adjusted for traffic traveling south, would back up traffic in the traffic circle, resulting in "major traffic jams."

Chief Scutti said if the county and state move forward with their proposals, the town should "re-evaluate the situation."

Office Building Gains Nod For Excellent Diner Site

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during testimony given by the proposed building's architect, Richard Potter of Potter Associates in Union, it was noted that Mrs. Lekas did not need a variance for the building's windows because it met the town's requirements.

Mr. Potter also testified that the first floor would contain small stores with big picture windows, and that there would be a clock outside the building. He said the second and third floors would be for business use and contain a lobby and elevators.

The architect also stated that the third floor would be part of the roof structure, as opposed to having three stories with an additional roof. He assured members of the board that the basement would be used as a utility basement and would not be used for storage.

Mr. Potter explained that the basement would be used as a place to collect garbage because there is no yard for trash collection. He went on to say that the garbage would be stored in a sealed compactor system and would be picked up privately.

He also testified that many inner city businesses were using this means of trash collection because of the lack of outdoor space to hold trash, and that it has been approved by the State Health Department.

Mr. Potter told the board that the building would be a Colonial-style structure and "would architecturally portray what Westfield wanted. Westfield is a very Colonial-oriented town."

Testimony was also heard from John DuPont, an Engineer from EKA Associates in Scotch Plains, who stated that the new building would not increase water run-off because the roof leaders would guide water out to the curb, where it would then fall on the street.

Board Attorney William S. Jeremiah, 2nd, told Mr. Honecker to check his witness's testimony with Town Engineer Kenneth B. Marsh, because the latter was not present at the meeting.

The last witness to testify before the

board was planner Michael Kauler of Kauler & Associates in Butler.

Mr. Kauler said the board should waive the variances for required parking because of his findings in Westfield's Master Plan, which was last updated in 1991.

According to Mr. Kauler, the plan states that, in order to encourage businesses to build in the central business district, parking waivers should be given if there is ample municipal parking close by.

Mr. Kauler pointed out that there is a municipal lot right next door to the site which contains 76 spaces — far exceeding the 32 spaces needed by Mrs. Lekas. He also reminded the board that the Excellent Diner, which operated from 1935 to 1995, had no parking spaces.

Speaking during the public portion of the meeting was Michael La Place, Executive Director of the Downtown Westfield Corporation, which operates the town's special improvement district, who asked if the proposed clock in front of the building would be a working clock. He was assured that it would be.

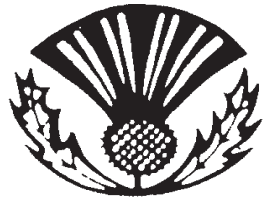
The four variances were approved by the board under three conditions. The first condition mandated that the Town Engineer approve the drainage of the building. The second restricts the unloading of retail, specifically restricting tenants from receiving merchandise from the North Avenue lobby.

Lastly, the board asked Mrs. Lekas to show good faith in an effort to have the site at least cleaned up and ready for construction within 120 days.

Before adjournment, all board members told Mr. Honecker that the presentation of his witness was done "very professionally." Third Ward Councilman and board member Neil F. Sullivan, Jr. added that he thought the Williamsburg architectural style of the building would enhance the flavor and character of the town.

Mayor Jardim added that, "the presentation of this building far exceeded all of my expectations."

VALLEY FURNITURE 2X7½



SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES

of



FANWOOD

Scotch Plains – Fanwood

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COMMITTEE REVIEWING PROPOSALS

Fanwood Council Set to OK Pact For Park Funds

By SUZETTE F. STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Borough Council members are expected to approve an agreement with Union County during their regular meeting tonight, Thursday, August 13, which will pave the way for development of a pocket park on Watson Road in Fanwood.

The county, through its Project Pocket Park Program, recently awarded Fanwood a \$125,000 grant for the project, which the community will match via combined funds and in-kind services. Similar grants have been approved for Union County's 20 other municipalities.

The pocket park concept has sparked frequent debate among local officials and residents, some of whom have argued in favor of locating the park elsewhere and reserving the Watson Road property for tax ratables. Various other prospects for developing the property, however, failed to gain support from elected officials or the public during the past decade.

Concerns have also been raised over the costs involved in creating and maintaining the park, and whether any of the grant money will be available for continued upgrades at existing Fanwood parks.

A Pocket Park Committee was recently appointed by the governing body to oversee development of the project. Chaired by Councilwoman Karen M. Schurtz, it includes Councilman Stuart S. Kline, Borough Engineer Richard Marsden, Director of Public Works Raymond Manfra, and Sergeant Howard Drewes of the Fanwood Police Department.

The committee has held two meetings so far to discuss proposals for the park, which is earmarked for slightly less than an acre of property across from the historic Carriage House.

The presently vacant site, which has become overgrown in recent years, was once home to Fanwood's administrative offices and fire company headquarters.

Committee members are reviewing design proposals for the park and ways to attract visitors, as well as parking provisions at the site. Approximately 24 parking spaces are planned next to the park entrance, which would supplement existing parking at the Carriage House.

Councilwoman Schurtz, who gave an update on the pocket park project at the governing body's August 5 agenda session, said the park site, like the Carriage House, falls within an area surrounding the Fanwood train station which officials hope to have designated as a historic district.

She proposed that programs such as poetry readings, family and senior offerings could be held at the park, in conjunction with activities at the Carriage House, which she envisions as becoming a "true cultural arts center" in Fanwood. Mrs.

Schurtz said linking the neighboring sites represented a "logical partnership, historically."

She told *The Times* the two dozen parking spaces next to the park would not only accommodate park visitors, but also handle overflow traffic from heavily-attended Carriage House functions or municipal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



THE PLACE TO BE... These youngsters take a break after cooling off from last week's sweltering heat at the Highland Park Swim Club in Scotch Plains. The pool has been a favorite destination for kids and adults throughout the summer.



BEATING THE HEAT... Danielle Gibbons, left, Paula Bavosa, center, and Carolyn Keeton beat the heat by enjoying the cool water of the Highland Swim Club pool in Scotch Plains.

Township Democratic Candidates Challenge GOP Council Over Accountability and Taxes During Public Meeting

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Times

During a televised Scotch Plains Township Council meeting on Tuesday, Democratic council candidate Tarquin Jay Bromley seized the opportunity to address the all-Republican governing body from the floor.

He charged the council with "grossly negligent" handling of a three-month-old incident, involving the discharge of a gun belonging to township Police Chief Thomas O'Brien. No one was injured.

Councilwoman Irene T. Schmidt responded that Mr. Bromley was attacking the council over the incident in order to kick off his own run for one of three available council seats in November.

Councilwoman Schmidt and Mayor Joan Papen will not seek reelection to the governing body, while incumbent GOP Councilman Robert Johnston is looking for another four-year term. Mr. Johnston did not attend the meeting.

Mr. Bromley was citing a well-publicized mishap that occurred in a Watching department store after another shopper apparently fired a weapon which Chief O'Brien had left behind in a fitting room. The adult customer handling the gun, according to Chief O'Brien, was accompanied by a child.

Mayor Papen defended the investigation and disciplinary action meted out to Chief O'Brien as a result of the incident, for which he was docked a week's pay by Township Manager

Thomas E. Atkins. Chief O'Brien confirmed later that the disciplinary action was in line with department regulations. He explained he did alert Mr. Atkins to police department policy over the incident, and that Mr. Atkins chose to adhere to it.

"Mr. Atkins knew within one hour of the incident what had happened. I did everything required," Chief O'Brien responded afterward.

Mr. Bromley insisted at the meeting that it is "unheard of" that a

municipal department head, such as the Chief of Police, can determine his own penalty.

"I think the council has additional responsibility, and the record will speak for itself," he said.

Chief O'Brien later pointed out that, "I did not commit a deliberate act; it was not a crime. I did not deny anything."

Since the incident, Chief O'Brien has often remarked publicly how thankful he is that no one was hurt in the mishap.

Councilwoman Schmidt explained to Mr. Bromley during the public address portion of the council meeting that Chief O'Brien had met with council members and expressed "enormous remorse over this."

Councilman Martin Marks added, "All of the things that should have been done, were done."

Mayor Papen further explained that following the incident, the local police department was notified, as was Mr. Atkins, the council and the

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Local Libraries Prepare for Age of Automation To Enhance Resources for Patrons and Staff

Scotch Plains Library Plans New Technology by October

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Free Public Library will fully embrace the computer age by Thursday, October 1, when a \$125,000 automation system goes into effect.

According to Library Director Norbert Bernstein, the system "will provide much easier access to the collection. It will be much faster — instantaneous information. It's a process that will be a benefit to the person who uses the library."

The automation will add 17 computer terminals to the library where visitors and staff can search the 70,000 volume book collection. The familiar card catalog that sits in a big wooden cabinet marked with A through Z, will disappear, in order to make room for the PAC — the Personal Automated Catalog on computers.

In other words, every book will now carry a bar-coded version of its name and will be registered in the computer. Books will still be found under authors, titles and subjects.

All current library cardholders will be asked to re-register for new plastic library cards that are also bar-coded, replacing the old card that carries a metal plate. Reportedly, some residents have their original cards from 1968, when the library opened. There are now a total of about 1,000 cardholders.

Under the automated system, books and cards will be tracked by computers for check-in and check-out. Patrons may also reserve books themselves using the system and staff can

readily track when books are due back.

The township library is one of the last three municipal libraries in Union County to convert to computers. The Fanwood Council is expected to okay a resolution tonight that would fund automation of the borough's library. (See accompanying story.) Westfield, Mountainside and Berkeley Heights have the identical Dynix system, according to Mr. Bernstein.

Over the past several years, the Scotch Plains library has been putting bar codes on all new acquisitions — totaling about one-third of the collection — in anticipation of the changeover to automation. Four computer stations supplying Internet connections, a national telephone directory and state Department of Labor job listings have been up and running for the past two years.

The new computers will add Internet access in the children's room with a safeguard filtering system for certain subject matter. Children 12 years old or younger will need written permission from parents every time they go online with Internet service, according to Mr. Bernstein.

Additionally, a recent state library grant worth \$5,700 will buy two CD ROM towers for the system that will allow users to access additional data like encyclopedias and many other programs. Encyclopedias will continue to be available in book form, too.

Residents with online computers at home, will be able to call up the library's PAC, to search for books.

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Sidewalk Sales Begin Today In Township

Summer sidewalk sales will be held in Scotch Plains Towne Centre for three days beginning today, Thursday, August 13, and continuing tomorrow and Saturday, August 14 and 15.

The sales will be held in stores along East Second Street, Westfield and Park Avenues. The Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association (SPBPA) is encouraging shoppers to visit the township and take advantage of special promotions being offered by many of the boutiques, gift and antique shops, as well as other local businesses.

Shoppers are also invited to have lunch at one of the township's many restaurants and food establishments, or to get a sandwich and enjoy lunch on the Village Green.

Tonight, the summer concert series on the Village Green, starting at 7:30 p.m., will feature Southern Rock. The Farmers Market on Park Avenue will also be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.



Fanwood Memorial Library

Fanwood Library Looks To Join Area Consortium

By SUZETTE F. STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Fanwood Memorial Library Director Daniel Weiss unveiled a proposal last week for automation of the library through membership in a Middlesex County consortium, which he said would also assist with library functions and enhance services to patrons.

A resolution is expected to be voted on by the Borough Council during its regular meeting tonight, Thursday, August 13, concerning the library Board of Trustees' endorsement in June of a proposed agreement between the library and the Libraries of Middlesex Automation Consortium (LMxAC).

Addressing officials during the governing body's August 5 agenda meeting, Mr. Weiss offered an overview of the services offered by LMxAC. Headquartered in Avenel, the consortium was established in 1986 and has been in actual operation for a decade.

It currently includes 23 mostly public libraries in Middlesex County, according to Mr. Weiss, who was joined at the council meeting by LMxAC Executive Director Ellen Parravano. He said there currently are no library consortiums in Union County.

Mr. Weiss said he had been exploring options for automating the library since taking the helm as Direc-

tor 10 months ago, noting that earlier prospects for automation through partnerships with Scotch Plains and other neighboring libraries had not panned out.

The library Director also said a "stand-alone system," whereby the Fanwood library would introduce new technology on its own, would not only cost more to initiate than with the consortium, but would likely take too much time away from his other responsibilities, and interfere with existing library services.

He told governing body members that the start-up cost for a "stand-alone" program would exceed \$120,000, adding that the initial fee would only be \$85,000 through the consortium, followed by a flat annual maintenance fee of \$18,500.

Mr. Weiss said that while the annual maintenance tab for a stand-alone system would be \$11,500, this figure was expected to rise by 5 percent each year, and would eventually equal the amount paid by consortium members.

According to the library Director, the \$85,000 start-up cost would be covered through appropriations of \$25,000 and \$30,000 which were made by the governing body in 1996 and 1998, respectively, plus another \$30,000 from a bequest to the library.

He said he has additionally applied

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CHANGING OF THE GUARD... Carol Wood, a Fanwood resident, right, poses with Rotary Vice President Andy Calamaras, left, and former Rotary President Lori DeMilt, center, at her June 24 installation as President of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club. Please see Page 3 for a story on area Rotary Clubs.

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Scotch Plains Public Library

Scotch Plains Lions Install Club Officers for 1998-99

The Scotch Plains Lions Club recently held its installation of officers for 1998-1999 at a poolside in the home of member Ronald Kelly.

At a combination business and social meeting, Past Vice District Governor Norman Bendel was returned to office as President.

Other officers installed included Vice Presidents Edna Kirshenbaum, Lawrence Thompson and Patricia Wierick, Secretary Arthur Fowler, Treasurer Donald Wussler, Lion Tamer Linda Hanes, and Tail Twister Rocco Cornacchia.

Directors are all Past Presidents and Pete Terry for one year. President Bendel thanked members for the Lions' past year of successful projects. He said their help would also be needed for future projects such as the flea market on Scotch Plains Day, an Antique Car and Craft Show and pancake breakfasts.

The Scotch Plains Lions Club and the Plainfield Lions Club will jointly entertain the Union County Association for the Blind at their October meeting at Snuffy's Pantagis Renaissance restaurant in Scotch Plains.

Democratic Candidates Challenge GOP Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Somerset County and Union County prosecutors.

Chief O'Brien noted that Mr. Bromley was told of the incident during a meeting with municipal government department heads, as part of a township program to meet with all council candidates.

On a separate matter, township residents of the Kramer Manor neighborhood reportedly submitted a petition to the council, asking for the return of the name Cliffwood Street to Shalom Way. The petition carried over 50 resident signatures.

The street name was changed in June by the council to Shalom Way per a request by Temple Congregation Beth Israel members. The temple is the only address on the former Cliffwood Street. The street number also changed to 18 from 1920.

At the time of the public hearing on the name change, residents protested the measure, but the council voted 4 to 1 to approve it.

In June, resident Alice Eldridge testified that she objected to the proposed street name, saying, among other things, "This is not Israel. Everybody's not Jewish."

In response, Councilman Marks, who said he was a member of the temple, questioned whether the reasoning for such an objection was "bigoted."

At the time of the council vote, Dr. Robert Spellman, a resident, encouraged the council to delay a vote on the name change.

Councilwoman Schmidt agreed, saying, "There is a great deal to have a dialogue about."

The petition was on the letterhead stationary of Samuel M. Manigault, an attorney residing on Washington Street in the township. He could not be reached immediately for comment.

In other matters, a second Democratic candidate for township council, Geri Morgan Samuel, queried the council from the floor about the former Scotch Plains Zoo property, which the township recently condemned and plans to turn into a park.

Councilman William F. McClintock, Jr., responded that the township would forfeit about \$1,600-a-year from an estimated \$10,000 tax bill by owning the property. He noted that the majority of the tax funds go to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education and Union County government.

According to Councilman McClintock, the township and former owners of the six-and-a-half-acre zoo property have turned to the courts for a decision on a purchase price after they could not agree. Reportedly, Sunrise Assisted Living — the most recent owners — bought the property for at least \$800,000, while the township hopes to keep the price under \$600,000.

Councilman McClintock claimed there was no threat of a lawsuit from Sunrise over the seizure of the site, adding "We hope to get a lot of benefits from it, as a park."

In a related move, the council voted to accept \$100,000 from the Union County Pocket Park program to put towards the cost of the former zoo property. Another \$25,000 from the pocket park program will be spent to enlarge the parking lot, among other things, at Green Forest Park.

One township resident complained to council members during the telephone call-in period of the meeting about a reported 29 trees that were recently removed from Green Forest Park as part of the project.

Mayor Papen explained that a number of the trees removed were dead or near-dead. Others were cut down for the parking lot expansion.

The council also voted to award a low bid of \$32,000 from a field of 10 submitted for the parking lot work.

Another council candidate, Frank J. Festa, Jr., running on the New Jersey Conservative ticket, also addressed the council, noting that Union County grants for the park purchase are taxpayer money.

Another resident who lives near the Scotch Hills golf course pleaded with the council to install a net along the edge of the course, to prevent balls from entering their property.

Norma Harrington said she was the mother of 15-month-old triplet girls and that she feared for their safety on the property. Golf balls land in the yard and have also broken through the windows of her house, she testified. She said she asked the council for help 18 months ago regarding the problem, and had seen no action on the request.

Mayor Papen promised to consider purchasing the net, saying she saw the use of one in Flemington.

Scotch Plains Side Walk Sales August 13, 14 15

VALLEY FURNITURE 2X7½



EMPLOYER HONORED...Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA student Kamran Ahmed presents an Outstanding Marketing Education Employer of the Year Award to Joyce Mazzaferro, Manager of CVS Pharmacy in Scotch Plains. In addition to Kamran, Ms. Mazzaferro employed four other marketing students. The students in the marketing program receive school credit for their part-time jobs.

Fanwood Library Looks To Join Area Consortium

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for \$50,000 in federal funds available through a grant administered by the New Jersey State Library, though he will likely not learn until September whether or not the library would receive all or part of this funding.

Outlining the benefits of becoming a consortium member, Mr. Weiss said Fanwood Library patrons will now have access via the new computers to more than 500,000 materials available through LMXAC's member libraries. He said this access would also facilitate easy inter-library loans.

Mr. Weiss stated that participating libraries have an equal voice on matters concerning the consortium. In addition, the organization provides members with round-the-clock technical support related to hardware and software materials; database management, cataloging services and processing of overdue mailers, plus high-level staff training.

He said once complete automation is achieved, the library will house 14 computers networked together, nine of which will serve as public access terminals with Internet capabilities. Two of these will be located in the adult section of the library, while another two will be stationed in the Children's Department.

Another three terminals in the adult section and two more in the children's area will be dedicated to CD-ROMs and On-Line services, along with Internet access, and will also be available for word processing, he revealed.

The remaining five computers, he said, will be utilized by the staff for administrative duties. Pending approval of the governing body resolution, Mr. Weiss said the agreement between the board of trustees and the LMXAC is expected to be signed by September, adding that the library should be completely automated

within a year.

During his presentation to elected officials last week, the library Director said the proposed agreement with the consortium would be automatically renewed each year, but that each side would have the option to bow out of the arrangement, provided they give notice within a certain period of time.

Councilwoman Karen M. Schurtz, who served on the library board several years ago, commended the efforts of Mr. Weiss and the trustees by observing that they "very deliberately investigated" various channels for automating the library.

She remarked that it is "essential for a small library to remain competitive and viable in our community."

Parenting Pathways Accepting Donations Of Children's Clothing

Parenting Pathways is now accepting donations of gently-used children's fall and winter clothing (sizes newborn through 14), maternity clothing, toys, games, books, and baby equipment.

All items will be sold at the organization's fall and winter consignment sale in September. Parenting Pathways has several drop-off points and will be taking donations through Friday, September 4.

The income from this sale is used to offset Parenting Pathways' operating expenses, so the organization can continue to provide discussion groups and workshops for parents at a nominal cost.

Parenting Pathways is a nonprofit organization, so donations are tax deductible. All unsold items are donated to families and organizations in the immediate area.

Anyone wishing to donate items, or who would like more information, may call (908) 889-5954 or (908) 756-7521.



MEDIAeval TIMES...Students in Cathy Mattfield's eighth-grade English classes ended their research project on the middle ages with a feast at Terrill Middle School. Students presented the results of their research by writing scripts to explain to their class what they learned. Students arrived at the feast as entertainers, guildswomen, balladeers, knights, Friar Tuck, Robin Hood, doctors, castle cooks, lords and ladies. Getting ready for their Medieval presentations, left to right, are: Patrick Romeo, Pam Fischbein and Gel D'Annunzio.

2x5

SCOTCH PLAINS POLICE BLOTTER

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

• A Terrill Road resident reported the theft of a bicycle left in the front yard.

• A Clydesdale Road resident reported the theft of two bicycles from a garage.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

• Nikisha Mayers, 18, of Scotch Plains, was arrested on a warrant signed by Detective Donnell Joyce for conspiring to commit aggravated assault on July 21 in the 300 block of Willow Avenue.

On July 21st police responded to a report of a disturbance and a shot fired by an unknown assailant. Mayers was released on bail set at \$10,000 by Scotch Plains Municipal Court Judge Joseph Perfilio.

• A theft of a bicycle was reported at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

• A theft of a cellular phone was reported by a patron at a Route 22 amusement park.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

• Gerard Blanc, 22, of Elizabeth, was arrested and charged on warrants signed by Detective Donnell Joyce relating to the July 21 incident described above in the 300 block of Willow Avenue.

Mr. Blanc was identified as the suspect responsible for the assault committed on a Scotch Plains resident. Charges included two counts of aggravated assault, conspiracy to commit aggravated assault and two charges related to illegal weapons possession.

Blanc was booked and transported to the Union County Jail in lieu of \$25,000 cash bail.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

• The theft of approximately \$700 bank deposit was reported from a business in the 2200 block of South Avenue.

• Chester Brown Jr., 38, of Plainfield, was arrested and charged with obstruction for physically interfering in a police officer's investigation during a motor vehicle stop. He was also charged for resisting arrest in the incident, which

occurred on Route 22, West.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

• A resident of Clydesdale Road reported damage to a glass table in their yard.

FANWOOD POLICE BLOTTER

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

• A Martine Avenue resident reported the theft of several plants, according to police.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

• Sarenthia Bailey, 23, of Elizabeth was arrested and charged with shoplifting \$39 worth of meat from a South Avenue supermarket, authorities said. She was released on her own recognizance.

• A 9-year-old Plainfield resident was charged with criminal mischief for allegedly throwing a rock at a car traveling down Terrill Road, police said. He was released to the custody of his parents. Three other juveniles, aged 9 to 12, were also present but were not charged.

Recent Home Sales

SCOTCH PLAINS

Virginia Ann Glick to John E. Feely and Jennifer Staggard, 2063 Nicholl Avenue, \$170,000.

Gus Rotella to Timothy and Constance Sensor, 2284 Old Farm Road, \$320,000.

Philip Green to Ernestine Suchin, 14 Clydesdale Road, \$435,000.

Elliot Saltzman to Marion Mazza, 13 Burnham Court, \$172,000.

FANWOOD

David Davis to Kevin Hackett, 156 Marion Avenue, \$210,000.

Relocation Assistance Coop. to Paul Shedd and Jo Ann Bittura, 253 Midway Avenue, \$265,500.

New Medicare Benefits Help To Guard Against Illnesses

Several new Medicare benefits became available as of July 1, according to Dennis Mass, Manager of the Elizabeth Social Security office. Medicare will now provide diabetes glucose monitoring and diabetes education to beneficiaries. Bone mass measurement also became available as of July 1.

The new benefits are part of a package of services that became available this year to promote early detection of and education about certain life-threatening diseases common among older beneficiaries.

Effective January 1 of this year, women are able to get yearly mammograms, pap smears, and pel-

vic and breast examinations, without paying the Part B deductible. Colorectal cancer screening also became available on January 1. In addition, Medicare will now pay the full charge of flu and pneumococcal shots.

Interested Medicare beneficiaries are advised to call their doctor or health care provider for more information on the availability of the new benefits. A Medicare hot line is also available at (800) 638-6833.

Medicare covers Social Security beneficiaries age 65 or older or who have been receiving Social Security disability benefits for two years or more.

Scotch Plains Library Plans New Technology by October

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Indexes for magazine and newspapers, will not be on the system.

Approval for automation came about after the library's Board of Trustees approached the council for funding. Director Bernstein pointed out that a portion of the cost of the system was paid for through a library endowment.

Mr. Bernstein explained that the computers will be used in ordering new books. He said that decisions on titles are through requests by patrons, staff recommendations and a reading of book reviews. Some authors are so popular, the library simply orders the latest work sight-unseen.

Library staff members trained on the automated system for two-and-a-half days with the Dynix company, based in Utah. "It's a new world. It's a challenge," Mr. Bernstein said. He pointed out that volunteers were welcome for the sizable job of putting bar code stickers on the remaining 40,000

books. He estimated that a team of two people could do 120 books in an hour.

Director Bernstein said his journey to the township library began with a part-time job at the New York City Public Library's main branch in 1950. He has served 25 years in the township.

"What does a library director do?" It is to serve the reading needs of the public," Mr. Bernstein said. "I love to read, and I want to share my love of reading with other people."

Fanwood Council Set to OK Pact

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

meetings. The supplemental lot, she observed, would also eliminate on-street parking in that area, which could interfere with emergency vehicles.

During last week's agenda meeting, Councilman Kline reiterated some financial concerns related to the pocket park which he had expressed during the governing body's July 9 regular meeting.

He recommended officials be "fiscally prudent" in their use of the county's grant money for the pocket park, adding that leftover funds could possibly be used at other borough parks.

Fanwood Republicans Plan Pot Luck Picnic

An Old Fashioned Fanwood Family Pot Luck Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 23, from 2:30 to 7 p.m. at the home of Karen Paardecamp, 310 North Avenue, Fanwood.

This annual event is sponsored by the Fanwood Republican Club and gives neighbors a chance to get together for an afternoon of family fun, according to a club spokeswoman.

There will be traditional picnic games including badminton, volleyball and croquet, as well as horseshoes and bocci ball.

David Trumpp and Will Coronato, the Republican candidates for Borough Council, have planned to be in attendance. Also expected are Congressman Bob Franks and all the Republican candidates for Freeholder, including former Fanwood Councilman Andrew J. MacDonald.

Since it is a pot luck picnic, people are requested to either bring a dish or donate \$5. Responses, information and food coordination are being handled by Pat Lindsey at (908) 322-8801.

MCGEE-DALY 2X2

Patient Advocate Offers Help With Managed Care Problems

Union County's Patient Advocate helps residents get health care from the sometime confusing maze of managed care and insurance, according to the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The program was created a year ago by the Freeholder Board. The Patient Advocate is an area physician. The Patient Advocate line can be reached at (908) 654-6623 and is free to Union County residents.

"Patients who have been denied care by their insurance carrier, people with questions about billing, and anyone with questions or concerns about the quality and availability of health care can reach out to the Patient Advocate," said Freeholder Mary P. Ruotolo.

Union County's Patient Advocate is Dr. Erika Fried of Westfield. A recently retired radiologist, Dr. Fried worked at Rahway Hospital for more than 22 years, and ran a private radiology practice with partners.

Questions about billing and managed care are some of the key issues

faced by the Patient Advocate's office, according to Dr. Fried. Some patients have had their health maintenance organization (HMO) deny coverage for a procedure, others have questions about bills they have received, or are not sure how to pay their medical bills, she said.

The office does not usually handle Medicare and Medicaid questions for senior citizens, she explained, because the county's Division on Aging provides a toll-free hotline for seniors, staffed by Medicare experts, although Dr. Fried answers questions on other aspects of health care.

"When they are working with an HMO, people have to act as advocates for themselves," said Dr. Fried. "If a doctor says that a procedure is necessary and the HMO initially refuses to cover it, patients need to appeal the organization's decision. Each of the HMOs has procedures for appeals like this," she continued.

"Of course," she added, "they can always contact the Patient Advocate's office for assistance."

Dr. Fried offered advice to people dealing with these organizations. "First, follow the recommendations of the HMO, but if you are having trouble getting the care you need, don't take 'no' for an answer," she said. "Be persistent and follow up with letters or telephone calls when necessary."

"Secondly, follow the insurance company's rules. If an HMO says that you have to call within 24 hours of an emergency room visit, make the call," she said. "Many billing problems can be avoided by just following the rules."

The Patient Advocate's office was formed in 1997 by former Freeholder Carol I. Cohen, who now serves as County Counsel. Dr. Fried has been the county's Patient Advocate since that time.

She serves in a volunteer capacity, and has a staff of 10 volunteers who assist her in making calls, writing letters, and answering questions. Catholic Community Services of Union County provides office space and telephone support for the office.

"This is a remarkable program because it helps so many people and incurs virtually no cost to taxpayers," said Freeholder Chairman Daniel P. Sullivan.

All calls to the Patient Advocate's office are confidential. An answering machine is used to take calls when staff is not available, and Dr. Fried and her staff respond to most questions and calls within 24 hours.

For more information, or to contact Union County's Patient Advocate, please call (908) 654-6623.



TRUE COMPANIONS... Kevin Martin and his wife, Joanna, are pictured with Kerwin, one of several dogs which they have raised as part of the Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) program. Mr. Martin's mother, Eileen, who still lives in Westfield, is also involved in CCI. Program volunteers raise puppies for about 18 months to eventually serve as companions for handicapped and disabled people.

Mother and Son Raise Canine Companions To Assist the Disabled

By ALEXANDRA JELKES
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Westfield resident Eileen Martin and her son, Kevin, are a mother-and-son team who serve as part of a volunteer organization which raises puppies as companions for the handicapped and disabled.

Mr. Martin, who now lives in North Carolina, has participated for seven years in the Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) program, which was founded in July of 1975 in Santa Rosa, California.

The process is simple: once an individual expresses interest in raising a puppy, they visit the organization's northeast facility, located on Long Island, where registration takes place.

Volunteers take home a puppy who is typically about eight weeks old, and rears the animal for approximately 1½ years. The procedure involves training the puppy to help disabled and handicapped individuals manage their daily lives.

CCI pays for the animals' food and shelter while the volunteer takes care of the dog. A volunteer can also enroll his or her charge in obedience school, but that expense is paid out of his or her pocket.

Mr. Martin has raised five dogs so far, and this fall is planning to acquire his sixth. His mother noted that since her son moved down south with his family, "it's harder for him to get up here as often as he would like to."

Mrs. Martin is involved in the fundraising and donation arm of the Canine Companions program. As she puts it, "We all can contribute to this great cause in one way or another."

She said she likes to accompany her son to Long Island when he goes to pick up a new dog, adding that "each experience is unique."

Once the puppy has been fully raised to take on the responsibilities as a companion, it is brought back to the CCI facility for its final training.

"They actually stay at the facility for another two weeks, where they are matched with their new owner, and finally they attend a graduation ceremony," Mrs. Martin explained.

Volunteers may choose from among four different pedigrees, including labradors, golden retrievers, corgis, and border collies.

Other CCI facilities are located in California, Ohio, New York and Florida. There are currently about 150 canine companions, 23 breeders, 240 candidates, 520 active puppy raisers, and 3,589 active volunteers. This organization is funded exclusively by charitable donations.

"There is always a need for volunteers for good causes; the graduation ceremony is a very meaningful experience, and the dogs save lives," stated Mrs. Martin.

Anyone interested in learning more about raising a puppy through the CCI program may call (973) 786-5656.

'Four Centuries' of History To be Featured in October

A heritage festival entitled "Four Centuries in a Weekend... A Journey Through Union County's History," will take place on Saturday, October 24, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, October 25, from noon to 5 p.m.

Throughout the weekend, 20 historic sites across the county will be open to the public. Since several of these locations are opened infrequently, this is the only chance during the year to see them all in a single weekend, according to the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

"Children and adults will find these historic sites educational and interesting," said Freeholder Chairman Daniel P. Sullivan. "This is a great opportunity to tour some of the county's most important historic sites, some dating back to the 1600s."

Mary P. Ruotolo, the board's Liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board, added, "Period rooms in these historic sites open their doors to reveal workshops, kitchen and food pantries, charming children's nurseries, as well as collections of tools, farming implements, vintage clothing wardrobes and other articles of everyday living."

Planned stops include the Littell-Lord Farmstead and The Deserted Village of Feltville-Glenside in Berkeley Heights, the Dr. William Robinson Plantation in Clark, the Crane-Philips House in Cranford, the Belcher-Ogden Mansion and Box-

wood Hall in Elizabeth, Evergreen Cemetery and the Woodruff House/Eaton Store Museum in Hillside, and the Deacon Andrew Heffield House in Mountainside.

Other sites are The Saltbox Museum in New Providence, the Drake House Museum in Plainfield, the Merchants and Drovers Tavern in Rahway, the Abraham Clark House in Roselle, the Roselle Park Museum, the Osborn Cannonball House in Scotch Plains, the Cannon Ball House in Springfield, the Carter House and Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit, the Caldwell Parsonage in Union, and the Miller-Cory House Museum in Westfield.

Most Union County towns offer at least one stop on this self-guided tour. Illustrated brochures with maps describe the sites.

"Four Centuries in a Weekend" is sponsored by the Union County Freeholders, the Department of Economic Development, Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, and the participating historic and cultural sites. Additional support is provided by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission.

For a copy of the heritage festival brochure or to inquire about assistive services and other activities, please contact the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, 07202, at (908) 558-2550. Relay users may call 1-800-852-7899 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Ms. Rajoppi Named Again As Heart Walk Chairwoman

For the second consecutive year, Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi has been named Chairwoman of the 1998 American Heart Association's Union County American Heart Walk, presented by Aetna US Healthcare.

As Chairwoman of the American Heart Walk taking place on Saturday, October 3, at Echo Lake Park in Westfield, Ms. Rajoppi will oversee the recruitment and organizational activities.

"American Heart Walk this year is focusing a great deal on women and the American Heart Association's Take Wellness To Heart women's campaign," Ms. Rajoppi explained.

She added that by participating in the Heart Walk, "companies, clubs, schools and citizens can learn more about women and heart disease while helping us raise money to fund American Heart Association research that will some day lead to more answers and save more Union County lives."

Last year, the Union County American Heart Walk raised more than \$52,000 for the American Heart Association, according to Peter C. Cary, Director of Communications for the association.

For more information about the Union County American Heart Walk, or to register, individuals may call their local American Heart Association or (800) AHA-USA1 (242-8721).

Women interested in receiving a free women's heart health information packet and a free calling card may call the American Heart Association's fulfillment center at (888) MY-HEART.

Neighborhood Council Plans Card-Game Party

The Westfield Neighborhood Council will hold a Card and Game Party on Saturday, August 22, from 1 to 6 p.m. at 127 Cacciola Place in Westfield.

Beginner, intermediate and advanced players are invited to participate in games such as bingo, bridge, bid whist, pinocle, Mah Jongg and other popular games.

A \$5 donation is requested, which covers five hours of activities, refreshments and prizes.

This fundraiser is sponsored by the Westfield Neighborhood Council Bridge Club. For additional information, please call (908) 233-2772 or (908) 654-3813.

Rotary Clubs Offer Their Members A Real Sense of Commitment

By MICHAEL P. BABIK
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

On a typical Tuesday afternoon in August, members of the Westfield Rotary Club gather in a second floor banquet room at the Westfield "Y." Some have been coming here for more than a half century and others apprehensively await their first meeting.

As 12:15 p.m. approaches, the pianist warms up and Stan Kaslusky, the Director of the Westfield "Y" and newly elected President of Rotary, rings a bell to start the meeting. First, they recite the pledge of allegiance before the whole ensemble breaks into the "Star Spangled Banner." With luck, you might get a Rotary rendition of "Under the Silvery Moon," but not today.

After the singing, some of the Rotarians announce recent events in their lives or things for which they are thankful. Since self promotion is frowned upon in Rotary, members are fined one dollar for every such announcement they make. Members pay in advance, dropping bills into a bucket labeled "Happy Bucks."

Each meeting has a special presentation with either a Rotarian or guest speaker on issues that range from the Internet to personal fitness. Westfield Symphony Orchestra Music Director and Conductor, David Wroe was a recent guest speaker.

Standing there in the room, one may be swept away to a different era, a time when life was more simple. The Rotary represents true Americana and with the Star Spangled Banner playing in the background, it's not hard to conjure up images of the county fair, barn dances, or one-room schoolhouses.

It is a place where area professionals take refuge from the hustle and bustle of the 1990s, and gather together to celebrate a sense of community.

"I was attracted to Rotary because of the community service it has provided and the sharing, fellowships and caring among the members," explained Carol Wood, the new President of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains club and a real estate broker in Westfield.

From doctors and lawyers to florists and funeral directors, over 100 men and women make up the Westfield and Fanwood-Scotch Plains clubs. Both luncheon clubs meet weekly.

The Westfield club has awarded \$99,435 in grants and scholarships, over the last year, according to Dr. D. Michael Hart, former President and current Assistant District Governor. Of that amount, over \$80,000 is awarded in scholarships to Westfield college and high school students.

"I'm very excited by the tremendous scholarship and feel like I am making a contribution," said Mr. Kaslusky, Chairman of the committee that interviews the local students.

Mr. Kaslusky, who became Westfield's Rotary President last month, joined the group nearly 30 years ago. He believes that as Executive Director of the local "Y," the Rotary is a great way for him to learn about the

community.

He plans to hold an event to honor those Westfielders who volunteer to serve on town councils and commissions, feeling that these people provide a tremendous service for the town that is perhaps overlooked or not fully appreciated.

The Westfield club also funds a vocational school in Thailand to teach young girls to sew, thus providing them with a marketable skill in a country that sees many young girls led into prostitution. The Singer Sewing Company donated nearly 30 sewing machines through the Rotary project.

used in worldwide projects. "The hallmark of Rotary," according to Dr. Hart, is in the Polio Plus program which plans to eradicate Polio from the world by the year 2005. The Rotary has spent close to \$400 million for the project.

According to a Rotary publication, 118 nations have benefited from Polio Plus and one billion children received a Polio vaccine due to the efforts of this program.

Both clubs are also involved in the international Peddles for Progress event which collects old bikes from local residents, repairs them, and ships them to 16 developing countries in Latin America, Africa, and the Pacific Islands. The national organization has shipped over 23,000 bicycles to date.

Members of the Rotary are just as diverse as the programs themselves. Bob Maxwell, of Mountain-side, lives on the same property where he was born. A retired member of Don Maxwell Furniture Restoration, Mr. Maxwell has been in the Westfield Rotary for 50 years.

He has served as Secretary and President, and has never missed a weekly meeting. Bill Henderson, fluent in Chinese — with his native Scottish accent — was President of the Taiwan Rotary Club when he lived there for 20 years. He currently serves as Publicity Director of the Westfield club.

Participation and attendance at meetings are key to being a Rotarian. Members must attend over 60 percent of the meetings to stay in the club, according to Dr. Hart. If a member misses a meeting while traveling, it must be made up within two weeks at another Rotary club. When members are out of town, they often exchange small banners with the local Rotary clubs they visit.

The Westfield club displays banners from Scotland to India. (see photo)

The Rotary organization was founded in 1905 and has 1.2 million members and 27,000 clubs worldwide. The club has four avenues of service, according to Dr. Hart: club service — which deals with the administration of the club, community service — dealing with community affairs, vocational service — honoring business and community leaders, and international service — focusing on global issues.

"I like to be in touch with the community," commented Dr. Hart. "Successful business (members) like to give things back to the community. Rotary is a wonderful social club which can help the community at the same time."



Michael P. Babik for The Westfield Leader and The Times
INTERNATIONAL FLAGS... Pictured above are banners collected from Rotary Clubs around the United States and the world. As part of Rotary tradition, members exchange these banners when visiting other clubs. Banners from Bombay, India, to Cape Cod, Massachusetts, are part of the Westfield club's collection and the Fanwood-Scotch Plains club also collects them.

The Westfield club also supports the Interact Club, a high school Rotary service club where students help supply diapers for babies with AIDS and toys for children in Ukraine.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains club, about half the size of the Westfield club, hopes to become just as involved with local youth. The group already has a Project Literacy program at Coles Elementary Schools, where Rotarians read to students so as to interest children in books and reading at an early age.

The club is also involved with high school students through a Linking Leaders program. On specific days, high school students attend work with Rotary members and learn about the professions.

"We want to increase awareness and knowledge of the community and world for children and prepare them for a leadership role," stated Ms. Wood.

Additionally, the group built a new barbecue grill at the Scotch Plains Senior Citizen Complex which is an example of how Rotary touches all members of the community, young and old, said Ms. Wood.

In addition to local humanitarian efforts, each club makes contributions to the national Rotary organization to be

Mountainside Rescue Squad Faces Total Depletion of its Volunteers

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The Mountainside Council met on Tuesday evening to discuss the lack of volunteers to properly man emergency services within the borough. According to Mayor Robert F. Vigilanti, those presently serving on the volunteer rescue squad include one teacher and a couple of college students — all of whom will be returning to school in September.

In order to remedy the situation, the Mayor has asked that a special emergency meeting be convened of all borough emergency personnel within the police department, fire department and rescue squad, as well as members of the council, to discuss options for the future of these services.

The meeting is currently set for Monday, August 31, at 8 p.m. "As of the day school starts, we literally will not have a rescue squad," Mayor Vigilanti said. "This puts our borough in a dangerous situation and, unfortunately, our fire department is not far behind."

Council President Keith C. Turner suggested that a letter be sent to all borough residents alerting them to the urgency of the problem. He also suggested that something be put on Channel 35.

Mountainside Police Chief James Debbie, Jr. reported that during a very serious car accident about two weeks ago, there was no response from the Mountainside Rescue Squad. "The rescue teams that did respond were Westfield and Springfield," Chief Debbie stated.

"Also, about four weeks ago, there was no response from the fire department to a fire call, which, incidentally, was a false alarm," he continued. "This is something I have never seen in my 27 years of working for the borough," Chief Debbie added.

Council members discussed the prospect of having to contract an outside ambulance service, which, according to the Mayor, involves a response time of 20 minutes. Other alternatives which were discussed included having a paid squad for the borough, or seeing if neighboring municipalities would be interested in creating some type of regional rescue system.

According to the Mayor, all of these solutions would raise taxes in the borough.

Mayor Vigilanti also reported that Springfield has just started a program of having an outside ambulance company respond to calls. "It is not just a problem in our borough," the Mayor stated.

Borough Administrator Gregory Bonin, who said he used to work for a paid paramedic group, confirmed that he would have all the costs and specifics of each of the council's ideas ready for the special meeting.

In other business, the Mayor re-

ported that Mr. Bonin's three-month probationary period as the Borough's Administrator was completed and that he felt Mr. Bonin was "doing a fantastic job."

Mr. Bonin started to work for the borough in May. Prior to this, he had worked as an Assistant Administrator and Municipal Clerk in Hillsborough.

Under other matters, the council has approved an ice skating rink for Mountainside residents. The four- or five-inch deep rink will be

located adjacent to Borough Hall on the baseball field. According to Sue Winans, Recreation Director, the cost to the borough to start this rink is \$2,500.

The Mayor stated that the rink will give residents a nice family winter recreational activity.

Lastly, the council has authorized the sale of two surplus police vehicles. Chief Debbie reported that both vehicles are 1995 Chevrolet Caprices and have in excess of 80,000 in mileage.

Westfield Company Set To Challenge Nielsen For TV Ratings System

By ANDREW FISHKOFF
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

A local survey research company is giving a venerable industry leader a scare, as it makes plans to stand toe to toe with the industry giant.

Statistical Research Incorporated, located on Prospect Street in Westfield, announced earlier this month that it will challenge the current television ratings system, as it is run by the industry leader, Nielsen Media Research.

CBS, NBC, ABC, and Fox networks have all issued letters of intent to provide the \$60 million necessary for Statistical Research to take their new method of measuring television viewership into the national arena. In addition, six advertising agencies have also agreed to ante up in support of Statistical Research's efforts.

Statistical Research spent the last four years trying to develop a more effective system of measuring the audience of television programs than is currently provided by Nielsen Media Research, but its initial involvement in the television field goes back even farther, said company spokesman George Hooper.

In 1989, inconsistency in the data reported by Nielsen Media Research prompted the three major television networks to commission Statistical Research to investigate the system. As a result of the review by Statistical Research, a number of recommendations were put forth, though Nielsen ignored most of them.

Unhappy with Nielsen's actions, the three networks then asked Statistical Research if it could provide a more effective and efficient service, according to Mr. Hooper.

The system created by Statistical Research, called Systems for Measuring and Reporting Television, differs from the system provided by Nielsen in two major aspects, said Mr. Hooper.

Regarding audience measurement,

Statistical Research's method is more reliable in the long run, according to Mr. Hooper. The new method also differs in reporting, as Statistical Research's data is more user-friendly, easily accessible online.

"You don't get the same detail of information we supply," said Mr. Hooper, adding that it is "more convenient" for networks and advertisers.

Currently, Statistical Research is using Philadelphia as a test market, as the company is waiting for more cable networks to join in the venture. As soon as they agree to back Statistical Research, the company will begin its journey into the national market, which could take place by the end of this year, according to Mr. Hooper.

He said that the support of both the networks and the advertising agencies are necessary because the networks sell time using the information provided by the company and the advertising agencies buy time using the same information.

"You have to play on the same field," said Mr. Hooper. "It doesn't work if only one segment of the market agrees on what system to use."

For now, Mr. Hooper said that he believes it is feasible for the two television measurement services to coexist in the same market. "However, whether they can coexist in the long run is a question," he added.

Statistical Research will continue to use Philadelphia as a lab, even after it enters the national arena. The company's spokesman said the survey research company has plans to use Philadelphia to "test new hardware and new recruitment techniques, to keep the system improving."

Since its creation 28 years ago, Statistical Research has grown to employ 100 full-time and 250 part-time workers. When Statistical Research begins its national venture, the number of employees will "certainly grow," said Mr. Hooper.

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POPCORN The Negotiator: It Takes One To Know One

By Michael S. Goldberger



2 popcorns Well, this is attractive. A suspense yarn focusing on deranged psychos who take hostages and the silver-tongued cops who, in the film's romanticized vernacular, try to "talk them down." Just in time for career day at school.

The trailers for The Negotiator would lead you to believe that you're in for a twisty-turny, cat-and-mouse confrontation of superior minds. Not hardly.

One-quarter of the way into this relatively familiar, good cop-bad cop action thriller, you realize that not all fluently persuasive devils take jobs as hostage negotiators. Some opt instead to pitch movies that don't deliver on their promise.

Long on potential but short on substance, at least director F. Gary Gray's glossy fizzle starts off with a legitimate bang. Samuel L. Jackson as heroic Danny Roman, hostage negotiator extraordinaire, faces off against a distraught ex-marine holding his helpless daughter hostage. Eventually "talking him down" after several very harrowing moments, Roman carries the day. The television news runs the death-defying story that enters the evening....all Chicago is buzzing with talk of the hero policeman. But, oh, how fleeting is fame, especially in contrived cop stories.

But whether the script by James DeMonaco and Kevin Fox is purposely meant to be cynical, or director Gray simply needs to get on with the strained tale, barely a full day passes before Roman is being framed for murdering his partner and embezzling the pension fund. Lucky he wasn't accused of killing Cock Robin. Of course, we're led to believe that it's those slimy informants at Internal Affairs, led by a convincingly cold J.T. Walsh (in his swan song performance) as Inspector Terence Niebaum, who are squeezing Danny to take the fall.

So, what's a hero cop-turned-goat to do? His dismal lawyer suggests he makes a deal with the D.A. Danny will have none of it. Hence, in that nothing-to-lose spirit that propels falsely accused movie leads to do illegal things for the sake of plot development, Danny storms Niebaum's 20th-floor office and performs a twist on what he knows best: he takes the inspector hostage, along with his former pal and boss, Commander Frost (Ron Rifkin), sharp-tongued assistant Maggie (Siobahn Fallon), and a splendidly humorous Paul Giamatti as Rudy Timmons, the hapless stoolie, who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Naturally, when a great hostage negotiator goes off his banana and joins the other side, you don't just get any hostage negotiator to "talk him down" — the insult alone could cause wreck and ruin. In fact, Danny Roman's first demand is to hand-pick his own antagonist. Certain he won't get a fair shake from any member of his corruption-ridden precinct, he stipulates Chris Sabian (Kevin Spacey), a world class hostage negotiator who just happens to work in a precinct on the west side of Chicago.

Thus, the stage is set for witty repartee and ingenious brinkmanship. And that's just how it stays. Too bad someone like David Mamet didn't write the dialogue. Instead of a provocative symphony of

battling words, a la Alan Squier (Leslie Howard) and Duke Mantee (Humphrey Bogart) in The Petrified Forest (1936), Director Gray's dueling hostage negotiators offer few real notes of cerebral delectation. Taking the scenic route, rather than choosing a more intellectual path, the director dilutes the doings by making certain that talks break down every so often, giving him reason to invoke the usual gunplay and pyrotechnics.

Both title characters exchange hostage negotiation recipes, swap theories, execute a modicum of deception and one-upmanship, and, all too predictably, evolve into their own mutual admiration society. The thing is — will Sabian ultimately believe in Danny's innocence? And, hey — how do we know he's not in cahoots with the rest of the rats? That would be novel. But don't give the film's helm and scribes quite that much credit.

Director Gray's style of applying suspense is modest at best; an equal opportunity incriminator, he makes virtually everyone a suspect. And in the movie's most far-fetched shortcoming, just 24 hours ago the bulk of these denouncers were Danny's admiring friends. Now they just can't wait to kill him. This includes David Morse as a gung-ho S.W.A.T. leader, Ron Rifkin as Commander Frost, and John Spencer as Chief Travis.

None of this is to say you can't enjoy The Negotiator for what it is — tasty, but unsophisticated — a big summer serving of cinema junk food. Just don't let it talk you down to its level.

The Negotiator, rated R, is a Warner Bros. release directed by F. Gary Gray and stars Samuel L. Jackson, Kevin Spacey and J.T. Walsh. Running time: 138 minutes.

Now That Scientists Say Salt Is Healthy, Can Red Meat Be Far Behind on Safe List?

By Louis H. Clark

The walls are falling down. For more than 20 years of feeling delicious guilt when you used salt, the boys in the white coats and \$100,000 electronic microscopes have come to the conclusion that sodium, which is the scientific name for salt, is actually good for you.

What are they going to do with all those tasteless items on the grocery shelves that self-righteously proclaiming themselves "low sodium?" They should add the word "yuck."

I was one of the rebels on this one. Without salt most things are tasteless. And how can it be bad for you when elk and deer sneak up to a pond just to lick a salt stone to get the life back into their bodies, even though they know the ponds where the salt stone lies is usually full of predators just waiting for them to appear.

There is even an ancient city named after it and I'm not talking about Salt Lake City. I'm talking about Salzburg in Austria whose name translated means Salt City. The Romans discovered the salt and people have been mining it there

THE word SLEUTHS

BY JO & JOHN JACOBSON

The John

Why do English-speaking people use the euphemism, john, when referring to the room in which toilets are housed? The source of John, the Hebrew word Yehohanen, meaning "God has been gracious," provides no clues whatsoever. We are reasonably certain, however, that the John sobriquet was a French import — and as it is often said, "Fifty million Frenchmen can't be wrong," although we do not have any idea why this is so.

One of the folk (false) etymologies surrounding the use of the word john as a synonym for toilet goes back to the time of Queen Elizabeth I in the 16th century. A favorite courtier, Sir John Harrington, is said to have invented and installed an automatic flushing system in the Queen's private (privy) chambers. It has been assumed, therefore, that the john was so-named for its inventor, Sir John. This is unattested.

During Sir John's time, the john was commonly referred to by the English as the "jakes." Jakes was a corruption of the French word for John, Jacques. The French use of the word Jacques for a toilet was probably introduced to England by William the Conqueror's army in 1066. The English finally got around to anglicizing jakes to jokes, while also rendering jakes to john, the English version of Jacques.

When we flush out the reason why the French called the toilet a jacques, we shall "pipe" the information to you in a whoosh.

Clarification on Provisions That Created Westfield SID Need to Be Forthcoming

Members of the Westfield Town Council are mixed on the procedure needed to lift a sunset provision which, if the council fails to take action, will see the downtown special improvement district (SID) come to an end at the conclusion of 1999. While council members have given their support to continuing the SID, it is quite clear that in some areas, it needs course corrections and clarifications.

The SID was created in 1996, following the recommendation of a special advisory board set up by former Mayor Bud Boothe. In supporting the creation of a SID, the advisory panel noted a number of areas where the entity would be responsible, including: improvements to the downtown aimed at creating a "stable and healthy regional shopping and entertainment center," improving the streetscape to create a "comfortable, convenient and attractive" downtown by adding amenities such as benches, planters, improved lighting, landscaping for municipal parking lots, and new trash receptacles.

Also, the SID Board of Directors and Executive Director were given authority to conduct an analysis of the current makeup or mix of stores in the downtown. The SID was also given free range to continue the facade grant program started by Westfield MainStreet. A parking management program and intensive promotions including direct mailing and other advertising were part of the SID's tasks.

After the first year, promotion events seem to have dominated the SID agenda — the summer jazz festivals and last fall's "Fall Into Westfield" fashion show. Improving streetscapes is said to be part of a Downtown Improvement Plan to be presented to the Planning Board by year's end. Building facade renovations are off to a slow start with only one \$200 grant approved for last year and a few more expected to be made later this year. Up to \$2,000 is available per application for merchants or property owners in the district. The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC), which runs the SID, has \$10,000 geared for this line item in its budget.

The need for a clean downtown is right up there

with the need for convenient parking. Criticism over pedestrian safety is often heard from shoppers and merchants. Now that the Town Council is finally slated to take action on parking (with help from DWC officials) the board should do what it promised: increase trash collection in the business district, purchase more trash receptacles, benches and planters. We hope these initiatives — along with parking improvements — are in place by the end of the year, in order to foster a prosperous holiday season for Westfield merchants.

Also, let's make sure that parking meters are bagged this year (free parking) during the peak holiday shopping season.

The DWC itself, needs to nail down the duties and responsibilities of the board. Firstly, the SID financial report is now four months late. The audit is reportedly being done by the same firm that recently completed the town audit. The delay may be due to scheduling, but it is still overdue.

When the SID was created, the advisory panel's recommendation for an 11-member board of directors was downsized to seven — with the addition of a 15- to 20-member advisory board. The advisory board would more fully represent and facilitate the wide range of downtown interests. That panel was to have been a formal body with full advisory powers — not a list of persons called on as needed to provide say, legal or architectural services.

While we remain supportive of the SID, we are anxious to see more "bang" for the quarter of a million bucks earmarked for the SID's first two annual budgets. Thus, better trash service, the use of the "Green Machine" — whenever it arrives — to cleanup sidewalks and parking lots — and improved downtown lighting are all areas where we believe minimal effort will produce solid results.

With the vacancy rate down and a revitalized Rialto Theatre in full operation, we look for the SID to pick up steam this fall and begin putting into place improvements and plans that will make our downtown a better place for generations to come.

Take a Walk On The Wild Side When Downtowns Founder; Hometowns Lose

It is no secret that over the years, thriving downtown business districts in many regions of the United States have been on the endangered species list, as more and more families own numerous automobiles — and fewer and fewer rely solely on public transportation and walking, to earn a living and maintain a household. In other words, the thought of "why walk when you can drive" generally takes consumers to spacious parking lots and businesses that are farther and farther from home.

So, what about downtowns? Recently, in Scotch Plains, an organization of merchants, professionals, residents and local government, brought the results of a planning and marketing study to the Scotch Plains Township Council. They were eager to enhance the Park Avenue and East Second Street business district.

However, after window-dressing initiatives — such as street banners, welcoming signs and even the addition of a gazebo — a symbolic gathering spot of Victorian vintage — the group's activities ground to a halt. Some Westfield Avenue residents refused to support adding the name "Centre Boulevard" to a series of three streets that run through the township. Others refused to consider developing, for commercial use, a strip of Park Avenue property next to the Municipal Building parking lot. Other proposals from the downtown development study were ignored.

Is creating a shopper-friendly downtown district a bad thing? Many towns that once had lively business districts mourn the loss of retail activity in the centers and some spend thousands of dollars to sustain them. Westfield, for example, in a reaction to storefront vacancies, sought "special improvement district" designation and now taxes downtown property owners to support downtown planning.

Do Scotch Plains residents care to consider the notion of community, as represented through a vibrant downtown center? Or do we take a more direct route to a vision of the future and simply bypass a struggle to maintain the downtown district? Must we speculate that the township is actually on the cutting edge for the next millennium, where central business districts are an anachronism — a thing of the past?

With this in mind, catalogs, cable television home shopping channels and computer Internet websites are what will remain of "hometown" shopping. Neglected downtowns will be a drive-by casualty of the future.

Letters to the Editor

Scotch Plains Board of Adjustment Is Criticized for Caving In' to JCC

At the July 30 Scotch Plains Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting, the board mysteriously did a complete about face and sided with the Jewish Community Center (JCC). They ignored many of the objections from the taxing neighbors in the immediate vicinity of the large overly-lit building that houses the JCC.

A recent letter to the editor described the eagerness with which "the JCC has demonstrated a consistent commitment to addressing concerns raised by our neighbors." If that were the case, there would be no "rioted neighbors," or a need for a letter to the editor.

From the early stages of construction, individual neighbors have tried to work directly with the JCC to resolve their differences. They were met with an arrogant attitude which led to the formation of a "Taxpayers Alliance," made up of over 30 surrounding property owners. That became necessary in order to make our voices heard by the JCC and the Board of Adjustment.

On January 15, the alliance made a detailed presentation to the board along

with supporting photographic evidence. At that time, the board recognized that there were indeed legitimate concerns to be resolved before the latest applications would be approved.

All that changed on July 30, when the board did a 180-degree flip-flop in their attitude. Several of the members reversed the opinions they had expressed publicly at earlier meetings. On the night of July 9, when the JCC made a last minute personal postponement, we were assured by the board that we would have the opportunity to be heard on July 30. We were consistently shut down when we attempted to present our side. It makes one wonder what kind of pressure has been applied to intimidate our township representatives.

The major concerns have been the excessive amount of light beaming out to the neighbors, the undue amount of noise, and the fact that the JCC has not complied with many of the resolutions already imposed by the board. The township has the responsibility to monitor and enforce their own resolutions.

The bottom line is this: The neighbors

Patriotism Means More Than Displaying Flags

I was very disappointed to read your letter from a Fanwood resident who has lived here only one year and is upset by the scarcity of American flags on July 4. To this man, this was a sign of unpatriotic, uncaring citizens.

There is so much more to patriotism than hanging out a flag on July 4, and I think that if he got to know some other Fanwood residents, he would find some very compassionate, patriotic people.

I lived in Fanwood for seven years and have found caring neighbors, teachers and shop owners who understand patriotism means more than waving a flag. It means reaching out to all the diverse races and religions, helping out children in need, and accepting those that are different than us.

It also means honoring our war heroes who fought for these values, which we take time to do every year at our Memorial Day Parade.

There are many patriotic residents in Fanwood, some of whom are Jewish, Muslim, homosexual or handicapped, but all of whom teach us that what makes this country great is that we are all different, and express our patriotism differently.

I say to this man: open your eyes and open your ears, and don't define people by their flags (or lack thereof).

Pamela Staudle Scotch Plains

Letters to the Editor

DWC Board Chairman Tells SID's Mission for Downtown Westfield

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) to clarify the role of the DWC as depicted in recent articles and letters.

First, some background. The DWC is the descendant of the Westfield Downtown Committee, which was formed in the early 1990s by then Mayor (now state Assemblyman) Richard H. Bagger in response to the general deterioration and an alarming vacancy rate in the central business district.

The DWC's mission is the revitalization of downtown Westfield by fostering a climate that is attractive to shoppers and businesses alike. It continues many of the successful programs begun by the former Westfield MainStreet organization, including the annual "Welcome Home to Westfield" holiday promotion and the facade grants that spawned the restoration of several storefronts throughout downtown.

The creation of the special improvement district in 1996 ensured a steady funding source that will help initiate much-needed, long-term projects. The Downtown Improvement Plan, currently being drafted, will provide a vision and set the course for the future of our town center.

Second, the DWC does not recruit or broker tenant agreements in the downtown. While DWC exists to foster a downtown that is attractive and business friendly, we cannot claim — for better or worse — to be responsible for the opening of any single store in downtown Westfield.

Through its Economic Development committee, the DWC makes demographic data and other recruiting materials available to every business or real estate broker who requests it. At the same time, DWC works to help existing businesses remain and thrive in the downtown. However, during our initial public meetings last year we were specifically requested by the downtown business community not to interfere with the landlord/tenant relationship.

Third, we would like to shed some light on the impression that Westfield is becoming an "open-air mall." While national retailers are, by nature, highly visible, the fact is that Westfield remains an overwhelmingly independently run downtown.

Statistics show that of the over 400 businesses in the central business district — approximately 230 of which are retail — fewer than two dozen are chain stores.

This includes long-time Westfield institutions such as Lord & Taylor, Sealtons' Young World, and various food establishments. Within the past several months alone, "1 to eye," an independent optical shop, opened on East Broad Street; Village Curtains and McEwen's Florist have relocated in town, and Poppyfields, a newly opened children's store, is already planning expansion.

This is an admirable record considering the enormous personal investment and initiative required to start a business in the current era of mega-retailing. As a result, Westfield has an enviable mix of national and local businesses that attracts both residents and destination shoppers.

In fact, DWC's programs overwhelmingly focus on the small business owner. The promotions program, which is the largest single program area in our budget, is administered by the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce and a committee made up largely of local retailers.

It includes direct mail, advertising and events such as the recent "Sweet Sounds Downtown" jazz festival designed to benefit the downtown merchants.

In addition, Michael La Place, Executive Director of the DWC, has spent considerable time offering support and guidance to all independent retailers seeking to start up or relocate in the central business district.

This board is made up of a balance of individuals appointed by the Town Council with a long-term, vested interest in the success of our downtown — property owners, business operators, residents and representatives of town government.

In addition, well over 100 volunteers offer their time and expertise to make our programs a reality and, as always, we welcome the input of anyone who wishes to become involved. The recent promotional alliance of the DWC and Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce has strengthened the effectiveness of both bodies and generated new enthusiasm and interest in the business district.

Residents have commented favorably on the reinvigorated atmosphere. We hope to continue this momentum by promoting the best interests of everyone — merchant, property owner and consumer — and ultimately ensure a downtown where the entire community benefits.

Joseph Spector Board of Directors Downtown Westfield Corp. Westfield

Letters to the Editor

English Visitors Enjoy Vacation in Westfield

I would like to take the opportunity, via the Editorial page of your newspaper, to express our appreciation for your town and its residents.

My wife and I recently spent 10 days in Westfield on vacation. As we wandered around town, we both commented on what a nice town you have; we were most impressed with how neat and tidy and well-kept the town was. The residents and the Town Council must be congratulated for keeping the town looking nice.

We would also like to express our appreciation for the kindness and hospitality we were shown during our visit, especially by John and Carolyn Runta of Westfield, whose hospitality was first class. We made many new friends during our first visit to your fine town, and we hope to return some day to renew our friendship with your town.

Angus and Christine McDonald Tyne and Wear England

Deadlines General News - Friday 4pm Weekend Sports - Monday 12pm Classifieds - Tuesday 2pm

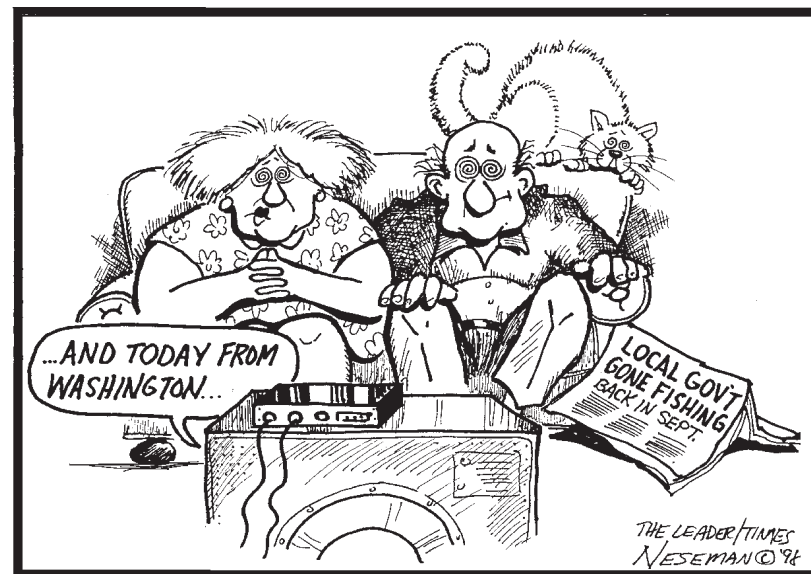
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More Letters On Page 5

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SUPPORTERS RECOGNIZED...First Ward Councilwoman Gail S. Vernick held a kick-off barbecue on August 2 for more than 50 volunteers who have committed to work on her mayoral election run in November.

Letters to the Editor

Permanent Home Schools are Vital To Education of Autistic Students

I wish to thank (*Westfield Leader* and *Times* reporter) Kimberly Broadwell for mentioning Jeanne Shanker's and my comments in her report of the July 30 meeting of the Westfield Board of Education. However, an important clarification is needed.

Scotch Plains Board of Adjustment Is Criticized for 'Caving In' to JCC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4
are only asking that the JCC complex be insulated from the adjoining properties by sufficient buffering and screening. That doesn't mean the few short trees and fences already in place. It means enough foliage to make the building and camp ground invisible to the neighbors on all sides.

There has never been a question about the value such an organization offers the public at large. As we stated in our presentation, "The neighbors welcome the JCC to the neighborhood and applaud the services they will provide to the community."

It is interesting to note that of the many JCC supporters who showed up at the last meeting, none live within viewing distance of the complex. We guess that means out of sight, out of mind.

We will be filing an appeal and exploring legal representation. The township officials must consider the property values and quality of life which the taxpaying homeowners deserve. The new slogan, "Enjoy the Home Towne Feeling," is being displayed on banners around town. Let the Scotch Plains residents be warned: That hometown feeling may not be here for long.

Herb Gardener,
for Concerned Scotch Plains Residents

More Letters On Page 6



PARTNERSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS ENCOURAGED...Westfield Public Schools' Action Plan Committee recently recommended effective family, community, business and school partnerships as part of the district's Strategic Plan, and received recognition from Superintendent of Schools Dr. William J. Foley and the Board of Education for its efforts. Committee members who attended the end-of-the-school-year "thank you" reception sponsored by the Westfield school board included, pictured left to right: Tom Hornish, Barbara Ball, Tom Morabito, Linda Maggio, Kim Rhodes, Karrie Hanson, and Liz Wolff.

Committee Urges Partnerships To Achieve Education Goals

Editor's Note: The following is the sixth of a seven-part series outlining the initiatives of the committees which worked on the Strategic Plan for the Westfield Public Schools District.

Increased involvement in the Westfield public schools by family, community and business sectors will help promote student learning and citizenship, according to a recent report submitted by one of the district's Action Plan Committees.

The report was compiled by more than 20 volunteers who met for several months to examine the potential of increased participation by the community in the Westfield public school system.

Led by Chairwoman Barbara Ball, who is also the district's Language Arts Supervisor for grades 6 through 8, the committee made the following recommendations to the Board of Education for inclusion in the district's Strategic Plan:

- Strengthen the teacher/family partnership by providing e-mail and/or voice mail for all teachers.
- Implement team teaching across

sixth and seventh grades in both middle schools.

- Increase teacher conferences to two times per year at the elementary schools.
- Provide formal seminars for families.
- Develop a formal volunteer program.
- Create a partnership with the Westfield Memorial Library.
- Establish a formal outreach program for families not currently involved.
- Create and empower a new organization — Westfield Inter-Community Service Partnership (WISP) — to develop a workable method to match Westfield schools' needs to resources all across the Westfield community.

Joined by Ms. Ball on the Action Plan Committee were: Kristina Bangs, Peter Birle, John Cioffi, Rick Coltrera, Horace Corbin, Joanne Ellis, June Gleason, Karrie Hanson, Tom Hornish, Judy Hutchinson, Linda Maggio, Thomas Morabito, Eugenia Pankow, Kimberly Rhodes, Robert Roth, Joanne Saladino, Dr. Theodore Schlosberg, Merv Turner, Margaret Walker, Ellen Waksman, and Elizabeth Wolf.

The committee members consisted of parents of school age and pre-school children, teachers, administrators, and citizens, as well as representatives of business and community organizations.

Ms. Ball noted that all the committee members agreed to volunteer their services once again in the event a steering committee was formed to make "WISP" a reality.

"It's no surprise, given Westfield's hands-on commitment to superior education for our children, that so many committee members have volunteered to continue to help bring the committee's ideas into reality," remarked Ms. Ball.

"The involvement and commitment of the community reflects what makes Westfield extraordinary," she added. "People worked together to find innovative ways to form partnerships between our schools and the corporate community, between teachers and parents."

Lou Thomas to Head Campaign Committee Of Mountainside Dems

Michael Krasner and Steve Brociner, the Democrat candidates seeking election to the Mountainside Borough Council, have named Lou Thomas as Chairman of their campaign committee.

Mr. Krasner and Mr. Brociner urged eligible residents to vote in the Tuesday, November 3, General Elections.

"Mountainsiders' views too often are neglected in decisions that affect their pocketbooks and the quality of community life," stated Mr. Thomas.

The candidates and Mr. Thomas said they welcome comments from residents that will "highlight and clarify the local issues" which they feel is important. They said these issues will be part of the "vigorous campaign" they are planning this year.

Karen MacQueen is Treasurer of the Committee to Elect Michael Krasner and Steve Brociner. Joining them on the committee's planning body are Phyllis Brociner and Scott Schmedel.

Mr. Bagger's Bill Would Make College Savings Tax Exempt

Calling taxes on education savings accounts an impediment to higher education, Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger recently introduced legislation, Assembly Bill No. 2367, that would exempt all education savings accounts from New Jersey state income taxes.

"In New Jersey, we created a program last year called NJBEST (New Jersey Better Education Savings Trust) in which funds can earn interest for qualified education expenses without being subject to the state income tax," said Assemblyman Bagger, who serves as Chairman of the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

"In other words, families and students can invest money tax-free to help pay for college education," he continued.

"This year, we want to take that good idea and extend it to other college savings plans that are similar to NJBEST, but are not currently tax-exempt in New Jersey," stated Assemblyman Bagger, a Republican from Westfield.

"There are Federal education IRAs and individual qualified state tuition

program accounts which allow families and students to put money away for future college costs with no federal income tax liability," he said. "It is an unfair burden on New Jersey families to impose state income taxes on these saving accounts," he added.

Under Assemblyman Bagger's bill, earnings in a qualified state tuition program or education individual retirement account would be exempt from New Jersey gross income tax, provided the proceeds are used to pay the costs of higher education.

While NJBEST proceeds are exempt from state taxation, Assemblyman Bagger's bill would extend the exemption to qualified tuition plans in other states and Federal education IRAs.

Assemblyman Bagger said he hoped the tax break would encourage more people to start saving for college. "By providing this tax break, we will be giving more people an incentive to make room in their family budgets for college savings," he remarked.

"Ultimately, our goal is to make sure that every New Jersey high school student can afford to go to college," Assemblyman Bagger concluded.



Ms. Christine M. Nelson and Travis A. Rebok

Ms. Christine Nelson Engaged to Travis Rebok

Mrs. Evelyn Pierce of Fanwood and David Nelson of Orlando, Florida have announced the engagement of their daughter, Ms. Christine M. Nelson of Herndon, Virginia, formerly of Scotch Plains, to Travis A.

Martin Edward Welcomed by Wiaczek Family

Marty and Pam Wiaczek of Westfield have announced that a son, Martin Edward Wiaczek, Jr., joined their family on Tuesday, June 2. Marty, Jr. was born on Saturday, January 17.

Marty's maternal grandparents are John and Margaret Paxton of Greenville, South Carolina.

His paternal grandparents are Martin and Joyce Wiaczek of Manahawkin and the late Mrs. Joyce Hillborn Wiaczek.

Rebok of Reston, Virginia, formerly of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Rebok of Chambersburg.

The bride-elect graduated from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School in 1989 and received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Management and Computer Science from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1993. She is employed as a senior consultant with Andersen Consulting.

Her fiancé, who graduated from Chambersburg High School in 1987, was awarded his Bachelor of Science Degree in Management Information Systems from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1992. He is employed as a systems developer for AT&T's Business Markets Division.

The couple plan to be married in May of next year at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield. The reception will be held at Mayfair Farms in West Orange.

Rutgers Cooperative Reveals Schedule of Classes for Fall

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County will offer free classes in the fall dealing with lawns and houseplants, to be held at the Westfield Administration Building, 300 North Avenue, East, in Westfield.

All classes begin at 7:30 p.m. and run approximately one or one-and-a-half hours. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions. The class topics are as follows:

"Ticks," on Thursday, September 24, with speaker Ed Petz. Attendees will learn how to identify different types of ticks and how to protect themselves and their families from bites.

"Composting," on Monday, September 28, with speaker Walter Pommnitz. Attendees will learn how to recycle their leaves, lawn and garden, and how to turn kitchen leftovers into a valuable soil amendment.

"African Violets," on Wednesday, October 28, with speaker Jules Stang. Instruction will be offered on how to cultivate beautiful, happy and healthy blooms from African Violets.

"Making the Most of What You've Got," on Thursday, November 5, with speaker Ellie Gural. This class will focus on some of the best plants for the growing conditions in one's yard. Special emphasis is given to the shady spots.

"Houseplants," on Monday, November 30, with speaker Wes Philo. Participants will learn how to care for their favorite houseplants and multiply their collection.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension provides information and educational services to all people without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, disability or handicap, or age.

To register for the classes, please call Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County at (908) 654-9854.

Melissa Kuchar Helps Callers Talk Through Their Problems

Melissa Kuchar of Scotch Plains always thought she wanted to be a nurse. She even took emergency medical technician training at the age of 17 in order to volunteer for her local Rescue Squad.

But one day, while tending to a patient's medical needs, Ms. Kuchar realized she wanted to make a difference in another way — easing the emotional pain and stress of others.

The compassionate young woman, who will begin her graduate studies in social work next month at Columbia University in New York City, has been volunteering for nearly a year at CONTACT We Care, the Union County-based telephone hot line and crisis intervention service, as a means to broaden her experience in the mental health field.

"The more ways I can learn and the more experiences I have working in the field, the better," said Ms. Kuchar. "It's so satisfying to be a CONTACT volunteer and help the callers put things into perspective. I'm there to listen to them," she added.

Ms. Kuchar, who is engaged to a Scotch Plains police officer, recently



Melissa Kuchar

completed her studies toward a Bachelor of Social Work Degree at Kean University in Union.

"It's the best of both," said Ms. Kuchar about her ability to help people medically and emotionally through her work on the rescue squad and CONTACT's hot line. "I get to put together my two interests."

"The most satisfying part of working as a telephone volunteer is when a caller says they feel better after talking with you," Ms. Kuchar continued. "I don't expect to resolve the callers' issues, but it certainly makes you feel good when you are thanked."

Describing herself as the one her friends have always turned to for advice, Ms. Kuchar said it makes her feel good to be there for people. "I haven't known anyone in life who hasn't needed to talk to someone," she remarked.

"I've been fortunate enough to have people to talk to. Some people aren't so fortunate. They need to reach out for help," she observed.

Anyone interested in becoming a CONTACT We Care volunteer may call the organization at (908) 889-4140. The next volunteer training program runs Monday evenings, September 28 through December 14, at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church.

Audas Welcome Matthew Evan

Christopher and Anne Auda of Scotch Plains have announced the birth of their son, Matthew Evan Auda, on Monday, July 13, at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Matthew weighed 8 pounds and 3 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches in length at birth.

He joins his brother, Michael Stephen Auda.

Matthew's maternal grandparents are Lyn and Marie Walford of Scotch Plains.

His paternal grandparents are Richard and Barbara Auda of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, formerly of Westfield.



OUTSTANDING MUSICIANS...Terrill Middle School, in Scotch Plains, seventh-grade students Elizabeth Pilkington, second from left, and Sarah Konzelman, third from left, hold up plaques of the David Ferrero Music Scholarships they were recently awarded. The award is given annually by the school's Music Booster Association to two outstanding student musicians in memory of a Terrill student who died unexpectedly. Elizabeth plays flute, and Sarah plays alto saxophone. Music Booster Association Co-Presidents John Vilas, left, and Susan Vilas are shown presenting the awards at the school's recent spring concert.

Letters to the Editor

Resident Commends Tony Schilling

On 'Revitalization Success' of Downtown

There finally is a positive upbeat atmosphere in downtown Westfield! That momentum and invigorated business environment is the product of much volunteer effort, the cooperation and positive involvement of landlords, tenants, municipal government and support of our residential community.

Westfield's business district was a "basket case" just a short time ago. Empty stores, empty parking spaces, facades of buildings in disrepair, dirty streets. Even our movie house was running away! The cry was loud and clear for more than four years. "FILL THOSE EMPTY STORES!"

Thank you're overdue to the Downtown Westfield Corporation (the SID) and the former MainStreet program that have helped focus and channel energy into the revitalization of our important Central Business District. Most of the properties on East Broad Street between North and Central have been repainted, facades and brick cleaned up. New tenants, both smaller "Mom and Pops," as well as larger national and regional retailers, thank goodness have moved into most of those formerly ugly, empty storefronts. This rejuvenation has taken place throughout our downtown district, even the South Avenue corridor.

Special credit goes to Tony Schilling of Relocation Realty, who has to be the hardest working commercial real estate broker in the region. To his credit, and the benefit of our community, Mr. Schilling is the agent who has assisted, or brought together over 40 commercial deals for ground floor retail space in our downtown district. He has assisted, working with both the local small merchants as well as larger commercial tenants, making "marriages" between landlords and tenants. Unfortunately he has been unfairly maligned in previous letters and articles published in this paper. Here an individual has done his job, done it effectively, while working in the interest of his clients, and the community.

To his credit Mr. Schilling has assisted long established businesses by assisting their move within Westfield's business district when changes within businesses or real estate arrangements necessitated change. Several examples include the move of Mademoiselle Shop to East Broad from Quimby. He was an instrumental person in the fight and movement to keep our Rialto Theatre alive and here in downtown Westfield. Another local favorite, The American Shoe Repair, under the management of M. Sa relocated from its former spot near the old John Franks to larger and more economical space on East Broad between Prospect and Elm. Mr. Schilling likewise assisted Moto Photo, in moving to larger accommodations on North Avenue near the train station this year.

Mr. Schilling has assisted over 20 other smaller businesses by finding space or helping maintain their business presence in the Central Business district. Some of those include Ahree's Coffee, Hunan Wok II, Little Treasures, Oscar's Hair Cutters, Cellular Signal Plus, Bandstand, Merle Norman Cosmetics, Doris Amster, Roy Lighting, Sir Puff's Café, Windmill Restaurant, J&M Café, Poppyfields, National

Beauty Supply, Precious People Day Care Center, Station Nail Salon, The Dry Cleaner, Kaplan Score, Village Curtains, and China King. To his credit Mr. Schilling has also been able to assist half a dozen larger firms to successful leasing terms with local landlords as well. This list of successes does not begin to include the dozens of office tenants, and residential folks that Mr. Schilling has assisted in leasing or finding space in the often forgotten but important second and third stories above Westfield's retail base.

Mr. Schilling has played a large role in the revitalization success that has taken place in our downtown. Our community has much to thank him for. He has been the local commercial broker that has spent the time and effort required, networking and working successfully on a daily basis filling Westfield's vacant space, assisting landlords, and helping retailers big and small find economically viable space in Westfield's downtown.

The Downtown Westfield Corporation (the SID) and the whole community have much to be proud of. Cooperation, planning, a good balanced downtown program based on promotion, economic development, design initiatives, organization, and plain old hard work have helped to turn our business district into the upbeat business center that Westfield has become. We the citizens and taxpayers of Westfield look forward and expect more hard work to keep Westfield's forward momentum going!

Mayor and Council, where is our parking deck? How many years more do we have to wait?

Debra Nardi
Westfield

Permanent Home Schools Are Vital to Education Of Autistic Students

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

maintaining interpersonal relationships. They represent four different home schools.

Before the creation of this class, they required out-of-district education to have their special needs met, which meant separating them from typical students, at a cost of approximately \$30,000 plus each to the community.

To be able to appropriately educate them in the district is a benefit for both the taxpayer and the children if it affords these children the opportunity to mainstream and grow up with their age peers.

Frankly, we need your help. I have been told that we just don't make enough noise, no matter how justified we may be. So we ask you: Please write and/or call your school board members, anyone you know on the task force commission, and Dr. Choye to let them know that it is wrong to move these children.

Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, religious leaders, health care and educational professionals, neighbors—we're asking you, please help give these children a home school.

Deborah Craffox, Scotch Plains
Kim O'Neill, Scotch Plains
Jeanne Shanker, Fanwood

**DUDICK
2X3**

**LANCASTER
2X8**

**LITTLE TREASURES
2X2**

**GREAT GIFTS
2X3**

**PAINE WEBBER
2X2**

**MOTO PHOTO
2X5**

**TOWN BOOK
2X3**

Mountainside Lifeguards Rescue Young Swimmers; Honored in Proclamation

By MICHAEL P. BABIK
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Two potentially dangerous situations were kept under control at the Mountainside Community Pool, thanks in part to the heroic efforts of two area lifeguards.

April Bobenchik, 19, of Rahway, and Ariel Wagner, 16, of Mountainside were responsible for two lifesaving efforts over the last month at a pool that rarely sees this sort of thing, according to pool manager Paul Brown.

For her heroism, Ariel was honored in a proclamation issued by Mountainside Mayor Robert F. Vigilanti on July 21, at the Borough

called paramedics. The girl was taken to Overlook Hospital in Summit.

April is a third-year lifeguard at Mountainside and said she believed that her experience helped in the situation.

"I'm very thankful that the girl was fine, but the necessary precautions had to be taken," she explained.

April, a sophomore at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, is a graduate of Rahway High School.

Earlier, on July 6, at 12:35 p.m., Ariel was on duty at the three-foot deep section of the main pool and noticed a five-year-old boy, struggling to stay on top of the water.

"It was so crowded, I wouldn't have heard him, but I saw him," she said.

The child, who should have been wearing a flotation device according to pool regulations, was immediately rescued by Ariel and returned to his mother.



April Bobenchik

Council meeting. April will receive a similar proclamation at the meeting on August 18.

When April was on duty at the diving tank on July 17, an eight-year-old girl attempting to do a backflip off the diving board, landed on her head on the diving board, and fell into the pool.

"I blew my whistle to start the emergency action plan and jumped in the pool to stabilize her," April said.

"I blew my whistle to start the emergency action plan and jumped in the pool to stabilize her," April said.

The girl, still conscious, swam up to the surface after the accident. Whenever a potential neck or head injury occurs, the lifeguard must stabilize the victim in the water to prevent any further injury.

While April was tending to the girl, other lifeguards and pool staff prepared "the board," she said, which is a wooden plank with neck and body straps to restrict the victims' movement. April, with assistance from several other lifeguards, helped strap the victim on the board and



Ariel Wagner

After the incident, Ariel reported the boy as "not injured, only crying."

"I'm glad I did everything right and did not panic," she said. "I'm happy everything went well."

Ariel is home-schooled and will be a junior next year.

"It will go down in history," she said, observing that the proclamation is recorded in town records.

In order to be a lifeguard at Mountainside, one must be at least 15 years old, pass a lifeguarding test, and be certified in First Aid and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). The program takes about 35 hours, according to Mr. Brown. Additionally, the lifeguards do regular drills and practice lifesaving techniques during the summer.



LEADING THE SYMPHONY...Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) Music Director and Conductor, David Wroe, will lecture on WSO programs and classical music at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Springfield on Wednesday, August 19, at 7:30 p.m.

WSO Conductor to Present Lecture at Barnes & Noble

Following a whirlwind summer of traveling and conducting around the world, Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) Music Director and Conductor, David Wroe, returns to New Jersey on Wednesday, August 19, to speak at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Springfield.

Mr. Wroe will speak about the symphony's 1998-1999 season, entitled "The Power of Music," and will discuss programming for the upcoming season that will include works by contemporary American composers, and the symphony's soloists.

The WSO season will see guest host, New Jersey's own, Richard Nanes, the WSO Composer-in-Residence for 1998-1999.

The WSO will also serve as host for soloists, including fusion jazz violinist Didier Lockwood of France, and 9-year-old violinist Ryu Goto, younger brother of Midori.

Mr. Wroe will answer questions from the audience about classical music and the WSO and its offerings. For more information, please call Barnes & Noble at (973) 376-8544, or the WSO office, at (908) 232-9400.



KIDS WHO CARE...Students from the Kids Care Club at McGinn Elementary School in Scotch Plains recently donated food collected during the month of June to the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation in Scotch Plains. Pictured, left to right, are: Mabel Ginsberg, Principal Marianna Cassidy and Kelly Deegan in back row, with McGinn students seated in front.

Township Parks Wind Up Summer Programs for Year

Despite the extremely hot summer, children attending Green Forest, Brookside, and Farley Parks in Scotch Plains enjoyed a wide variety of activities, including trips for bowling, movies (*Mulan* and *Dr. Doolittle* were favorites), paddle boating and the annual "Pepsi Hot Shot."

The Pepsi Hot Shot contest tests the skills of individuals between the ages of 9 and 18. Five "hot spots" are marked on the basketball court, and participants must attempt to shoot from each at least once to earn five bonus points. Go around twice, they would qualify for 10 bonus points.

In addition, the difficulty of attempting, then making, the shot had different point values from two to five.

An outstanding performance by Janee Easley in the 9 to 12 age category earned her a first place ranking, with 90 points for her effort. Derrick Guyton, in the 16-to-18-year-old category, earned a total of 114 points.

In the boys' 9 to 12 age group,

Domenique Price earned the first place ribbon for his effort, with an excellent score of 88.

The Scotch Plains Recreation Commission expressed appreciation to the local YMCA for allowing the use of their pool for free swims on Wednesdays. Special thanks was also extended to all park staff members, especially Summer Park Director Suzanne Dixon, for chaperoning all the children on trips outside the township.

In addition, the commission thanked the Watchung Stables personnel for their assistance with the pre-school children's visit to the stables. Gail Iozzi, Erin Firetto, Jennifer Davis and Marie Losavio conducted the weekly program for four and five year olds at Kramer.

Rita Bokert has reminded all members of the Youth Tennis Team that practices will continue and matches will be played until the State Finals, which will be announced by Donald Van Blake of the Plainfield Tennis Council at the Plainfield Tennis Courts.



PATRIOTIC QUARTET...These "All-American" youngsters display their love for their country even while rollerblading during July 4 festivities at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains. The township parks recently wrapped up their annual summer program after another successful season.

Westfield Chamber to Hold Third Car Show on Aug. 20

The Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, will sponsor its third of four 1998 Westfield Classic Car Shows next Thursday, August 20, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Quimby Street in downtown Westfield.

"We have a strong following of classic car owners who enjoy bringing their cars to Westfield for our shows," commented Darryl Walker, Chamber Vice-Chairman. Mr. Walker's 1965 Red Mustang, the "Pony Car," is always on display, as well as cars from the 1920s through the 1970s.

The Westfield Classic Car Show, which is free and open to the public, will offer family fun and entertainment, according to Chamber Executive Director Debbie Schmidt.

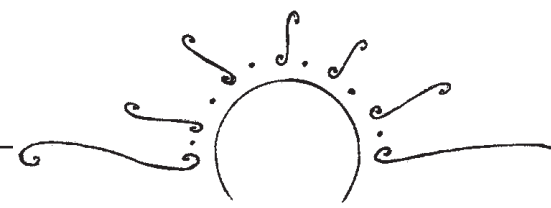
Visitors will also have an opportunity to enjoy dinner and do some shopping, with many stores open until 9

p.m. "DJ Stickshift Eddie" will provide musical entertainment, and six trophies will be awarded to the cars in various categories, including "Oldest" and "People's Choice," the trophy that is decided by attendee votes.

The last Classic Car Show will be held on Thursday, September 17, Quimby Street will be closed to traffic from 5 to 9 p.m. for the events, and there is limited space for 60 cars to be displayed. For information or to enter a car, please call (908) 654-4100.

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Southern Rock Concert

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WOODPLAY 3X4

Clarence Winans, 84, Active in Rotary; Chaired Mountainside Planning Board

Clarence Hatfield Winans, 84, of Sanford, North Carolina, formerly of Mountainside, died on Saturday, August 1, at the Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

Born in Linden, the son of the late Raymond Wood Winans and Cora Spillinger Winans, he had lived in Mountainside from 1952 to 1986, when he moved to Sanford.

He was President of Winans Contracting Company in Linden for 40 years.

Mr. Winans earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

He was a member and Chairman of the Business Management Commission of the Westfield United Methodist Church, and a member of the Jonesboro United Methodist Church in Jonesboro, North Carolina.

Mr. Winans was a member and Past President of the Linden Rotary Club and an honorary member of the Jonesboro Rotary Club in North Carolina.

He also was a member and former Chairman of the Mountainside Planning Board, and a member of the Board of Trustees of Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside.

He also belonged to the West Fields Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and served on the Board of Trustees of the First National Bank of Central Jersey.

He was a member and trustee of the Associated General Contractors of New Jersey.

Surviving are his wife, Lorraine Eyer Winans; three daughters, Janice

Chirchirillo of Chicago; Susan Winans of Mountainside, and Christine McDonald of Colorado Springs, Colorado; a sister, Elizabeth Chance of Trenton, and a granddaughter.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home in Sanford, North Carolina.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Jonesboro United Methodist Church, 407 West Main Street, Sanford, North Carolina 27330.

August 13, 1998

Gus R. Stukes, 79

Gus R. Stukes, 79, of Scotch Plains died on Sunday, August 9, at home.

Born in Newark, he had lived in Kearny before moving to Scotch Plains in 1986.

Mr. Stukes had been a checker in the shipping department for the Van Wagenen & Schickhaus Company in Kearny for 30 years before retiring in 1977.

He was a member of the United Packinghouse Workers Union and the Knights of Lithuania Organization in Kearny.

Mr. Stukes served in the United States Army during World War II with the infantry corps of engineers in North Africa and Italy.

Surviving are his wife, Rita Stukes; a daughter, Patricia Babko; a brother, Louis Stukes, and two grandchildren.

A Mass was offered yesterday, Wednesday, August 12, in Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Kearny, following the funeral from the Rossi Funeral Home in Scotch Plains.

August 13, 1998

Arthur C. Colley, 79, Army Veteran; Owned Tailor and Dry Cleaning Shop

Arthur C. Colley, 79, of Summit died on Friday, August 7, at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in Ludowica, Georgia, he had moved to Summit 60 years ago.

Mr. Colley operated a tailor and dry cleaning shop in New Providence.

James R. Lee

James R. Lee of Scotch Plains died on Tuesday, August 4, at home.

Born in Washington, D.C., Mr. Lee had lived in Scotch Plains since 1963.

A retired Essex County juvenile corrections officer, he had been assigned to the Essex County Youth House in Newark for several years before retiring in 1996.

Mr. Lee served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict.

Funeral services will be held in Washington, D.C. Arrangements are by the Bragg Funeral Home in Paterson.

August 13, 1998

He was a member of the Wallace Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and of Linsey-Street Post No. 322 American Legion, both in Summit.

He served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II.

Surviving are his wife, Martha Colley; a son, Edward Ross of Greensboro, South Carolina; a daughter, Sondra Clark of Scotch Plains; three brothers, Herbert Colley and George Colley, both of Union, and Walter Colley of Scotch Plains; three sisters, Edith Bymun and Juanita Neal, both of Savannah, Georgia, and Ruth Byrd of Summit; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Monday, August 10, at the Wallace Church, along with memorial services conducted by the Linsey-Street Post 322 American Legion.

Arrangements were handled by the Judkins Colonial Home in Plainfield.

August 13, 1998

— Obituaries —

Leela Kanter, Active in Women's Rights Involved in Red Cross, Arts, UN Programs



Leela Kanter

Leela Kanter of Westfield, an influential member of many civic, religious and cultural organizations locally as well as internationally, died on Monday, July 27, at her home.

Born and raised in Colombo, Sri Lanka, she came to the United States in 1974, and had lived in Westfield for the past 14 years.

She graduated from Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in communications.

Mrs. Kanter served on the Executive Board of the Westfield chapter of the American Red Cross, and held the position of secretary since 1993. She had begun her volunteer work with the International Red Cross in Sri Lanka in the 1970s.

Mrs. Kanter was on the Board of Directors of the Westfield Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). Within the organization, she also served as President and Founder of the International Women's Club, a group of Americans who assisted recent immigrants in conversational English.

This group also helped women from around the world share their cultures and languages not only with each other but also with the community, through presentations and cultural events at schools and other groups.

Mrs. Kanter also helped to organize the Japanese Women's Club, and was integral in the initiation and production of the long-running Japan Day, one of the group's many efforts toward educating the community about the culture of Japan.

She became a member of the Young Men's Christian Association's (YMCA) Board of Directors when the Westfield YWCA and the YMCA merged.

There, she continued in the role of Chairwoman of the International Committee. Throughout her service at both "Ys," she organized numerous field trips for teens to the United Nations in New York City.

She served on the Executive Board of The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, based in Westfield, where she was influential in developing the organization's Scholarship Fund by locating potential donors.

She volunteered with the Friends of Mindowaskin Park, often coordi-

nating the volunteer efforts at the group's annual "Party in the Park." She had been a member of the Board of the Westfield Adult School Association, and was an associate member of the Musical Club of Westfield.

Mrs. Kanter worked for several years as a substitute teacher in Westfield, Scotch Plains, Garwood, Roselle Park, and Plainfield.

She volunteered with Church Women United, holding the position of Global Concerns, where she principally organized group trips to the United Nations. She was a member of United Methodist Women, and often attended the First United Methodist Church's Women's Circle 2.

She also had ties to the Religious Society of Friends, and was on both the board and the International Student Committee of Pendle Hill, a Quaker center for study and contemplation in Wallingford, Pennsylvania, since 1989.

Mrs. Kanter served in various volunteer roles with the American Friends Service Committee, beginning with youth leadership conferences in Sri Lanka and India in 1973. She was also a member of the Plainfield-Rahway Monthly Quaker Meeting.

Mrs. Kanter had also been on the National Board of the YWCA of New York, planning programs on international issues. She was on the World Mutual Service Committee with Mary Rockefeller, promoting and raising funds for the World YWCA's projects around the globe.

She also volunteered with many non-governmental organizations affiliated with the United Nations, and was particularly involved in issues affecting women's rights.

She worked with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Global Alliance for Women's Health, and the United States Committee for UNIFEM.

Mrs. Kanter additionally volunteered with the non-governmental organization Forum on Women, in association with the 1995 Beijing Conference. She served on the Executive Committee of the National Council of the Women of the United States, and also volunteered with UNICEF. She was a former member of the Quaker United Nations Organization.

Surviving are her husband, David P. Kanter; a daughter, Elizabeth Lakshmi Kanter of Westfield; three brothers, P. Nagendran and R. Parayerawar of Colombo, Sri Lanka, and Kamala Kandasamy of Montreal, Canada; three nephews, four nieces, and four grand-nephews.

A Hindu funeral service was held on Wednesday, July 29, at the Rosehill Crematory in Linden.

Memorial contributions may be made to the New Jersey Breast Cancer Research Fund, 28 West State Street, P.O. Box 260, Trenton, 08625-0630, or to the New Jersey Breast Cancer Coalition, 303 George Street, Suite 502, New Brunswick, 08901.

August 13, 1998

John Scheuerman, 3rd, LaSalle Graduate; Was Aerospace Engineer and Executive

John Scheuerman 3rd, of Pompano Beach, Florida, formerly of Mountainside, died on Monday, August 3.

He had been an aerospace engineer and executive for Curtiss-Wright Aviation in Wood Ridge for many years before retiring. Prior to that, he had worked for Bendix Aviation.

Janet Wowchuck, 73

Janet Wowchuck, 73, of Raritan Township died on Friday, August 7, at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Newark, she had lived in Scotch Plains for 44 years before moving to Raritan Township in 1994.

She was a computer assembler at QUI Corporation in Springfield.

Surviving are her mother, Rose Zalesky of Three Bridges; two sons, Nicholas Wowchuck of Raritan Township and Harry Wowchuck of New Jersey; a daughter, Kathie Friesen of Raritan Township; a brother, Michael Zalesky of Manasquan; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, August 11, at the Robert L. Ford Funeral Home in Flemington.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bridgeway Convalescent Center, Route 22, Bridgewater, 08807.

August 13, 1998

Michael Patanella, 88

Michael Patanella, 88, of Westfield died on Thursday, August 6, in Rahway Hospital.

Born in Italy, Mr. Patanella had lived in Newark, Toms River and Bayville before moving to Westfield last year.

He had been a chocolate maker for many years with Hooten's Chocolate Company in Newark before retiring in the 1970s.

Surviving is a brother, Pasquale Patanella.

A Mass was offered on Monday, August 10, at St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church in Clark. The funeral was from the Union Funeral Home-Lytwyn & Lytwyn in Union.

August 13, 1998

Nancy McElroy, CSH Auxiliary Member; Youth and Family Counseling President

Nancy M. McElroy of Westfield died on Friday, July 31, in the Ashbrook Nursing Home in Scotch Plains.

Born in New Brunswick, she had lived in Westfield for 38 years. She was a graduate of Immaculata College in Washington, D.C.

Mrs. McElroy was a communicant of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.

Roberta Lee Marks, 56

Roberta Lee Margolin Marks, 56, of Westfield died on Saturday, August 8, at home.

Born in Brooklyn, she had lived in Short Hills before moving to Westfield in 1993.

Mrs. Marks was a member of Temple Emanu-El of Westfield. Surviving are her husband, Sheldon Marks; a daughter, Jessica Marks of Scotch Plains; a son, Gregg Marks of Hoboken, and a brother, Ely Margolin of Coral Springs, Florida.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, August 9, at Temple Emanu-El. Burial followed at Cedar Park Cemetery in Westwood.

Arrangements were under the direction of Kreitzman's Memorial Home in Union.

August 13, 1998

Nancy Polizzi, 84, Owned Hair Salon; Had Worked at Margie's Cake Box

Nancy Battiato Polizzi, 84, a lifelong resident of Westfield, died on Thursday, August 6, at Morristown Memorial Hospital in Morristown.

Mrs. Polizzi had been employed by Margie's Cake Box in Plainfield for 15 years before retiring in 1984. She had previously been a hairdresser for five years at Andrew's Hairstyling in Westfield, and prior to that, had owned Angelo's Barber and Beauty Shop in Westfield for 20 years.

She was a communicant of the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield and a member of the Rosary Altar Society and the Holy Trinity Senior Citizens Club at the church.

Mrs. Polizzi was also a member of the Catholic Daughters of America, Court Trinity No. 337 of Westfield. She was a long-time member of the Scotch Plains Senior Citizens Club.

Surviving are her husband, Albert Polizzi; a son, Albert Polizzi, Jr. of Hillsborough; a daughter, Lillian Capone of Flemington; three brothers, Ray Battiato of Florida, Phil Battiato of Bricktown and Adolph Battiato of Toms River; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A Funeral Liturgy was offered on

Monday, August 10, at the Holy Trinity Church. Interment took place at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

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

Surviving are her husband of 46 years, Joseph L. McElroy; a daughter, Kathryn McElroy of Westfield; three sons, Gregory McElroy of Potomac, Maryland, James McElroy of Harrisonburg, Virginia and John McElroy of Ridgewood, and nine grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass was held on Monday, August 3, in St. Helen's Church. Interment took place in Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Center for Hope Hospice, 176 Husa Street, Linden, 07036.

August 13, 1998

Silveria P. Urriza, 78

Silveria P. Urriza, 78, of Fanwood died on Friday, August 7, at Orange Memorial Hospital.

Born in the Philippines, she had moved to Fanwood 11 years ago.

Mrs. Urriza was a member of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains.

Her husband, Ramon Urriza, died in 1988.

Surviving are four sons, Tony Urriza, Percival Urriza, Emmanuel Urriza and Robert Urriza, all of the Philippines; three daughters, Nila Urriza and Elizabeth Arjona of Piscataway, and Ariel Urriza of the Philippines; a brother Epipanio Pullan of Canada; nine grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Funeral services will be held in the Philippines. The Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue in Fanwood, was in charge of the arrangements.

August 13, 1998

Florence Lisowski, 80

Florence C. Lisowski, 80, of Toms River died on Saturday, August 8, in the Community Medical Center in Toms River.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Lisowski had lived in Westfield before moving to Toms River in 1986.

Surviving are her husband, Joseph A. Lisowski; two sons, Joseph Lisowski, Jr. and Michael Maderia; a daughter, Judith O'Keefe; seven sisters, Loretta Anderson, Edna Jackson, Mary Jankowski, Marnett Geoghagan, Myrtle Sparitto, Lorraine Powell and Rita Burdette; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A Mass was offered on Tuesday, August 11, in the Visitation Church of Bricktown, following the funeral from the Silverton Memorial Funeral Home in Toms River.

August 13, 1998

Alvah H. Wickes, 80, Worked in Sales; Army Veteran Received Purple Heart

Alvah H. Wickes, 80, of Westfield died on Wednesday, August 5, at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania on June 25, 1918, he was the son of the late Richard and Rizpah Kraus Wickes. He had moved to Westfield 46 years ago.

Mr. Wickes had been employed as a salesman of automotive supplies for The Whitemarsh Corporation in Edison for 40 years before retiring in 1983.

He served as a Sergeant in the United States Army during World War II and received the Purple

Heart.

Surviving are his wife, Mary E. Quinlin Wickes; a daughter, Betsy McKeever of Denville; a son, James R. Wickes of Scottsdale, Arizona; a brother, Richard W. Wickes of Fallbrook, California, and four grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were private. Interment took place at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Memorial donations may be made to the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad, 335 Watterson Street, Westfield, 07090.

August 13, 1998

St. Paul's Church Donates Money to Community Center

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield recently donated \$2,000 to the Westfield Community Center (WCC) to fund four field trips for summer camp participants.

"Typically, we take four or five daily excursions, to such places as Shea Stadium or the New York Aquarium, over the course of the 10-week summer camp," explained Zaid Mohammed, Program Director of the center's summer camp for elementary school age Westfield children.

"But this year, with government budget cuts, we were able to plan for only one trip," he revealed.

"Our camp has about 40 kids, so we usually need approximately \$500 per trip to cover the transportation and additional staffing expenses," Mr. Mohammed continued. "Saint Paul's gift allowed us to take the additional trips."

Vestry member Fred Anthony ex-

plained how Saint Paul's came to be involved.

"A parishioner brought to our Vestry's attention this particular community need," he recalled. "We have been involved with the WCC for a number of years, sending our Confirmation candidates to volunteer as part of their service requirement, and assisting in their after-school program, so it was a natural project for us to initiate," Mr. Anthony stated.

Interim Rector Richard Reid said, "When I proposed this idea to our Vestry, they enthusiastically endorsed the project, and allocated the first \$500. Our parishioners contributed the remaining \$1500."

So far, the WCC summer camp children have been to the Crayola Crayon Factory and the Turtle Back Zoo. Remaining trips will include Dorney Park and Sesame Place.



SPECIAL PRESENTATION...Interim Rector Richard Reid from Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield, left, and Vestry member Fred Anthony, center, present a \$2,000 check to Zaid Mohammed, Program Director of the Westfield Community Center summer camp, to be used for field trips throughout the summer.

Social Security Asks Workers To Update Earnings Estimates

If you're one of the nearly one million people who work, collect Social Security benefits and earn over the annual exempt amount, you may soon get a notice from Social Security. You'll be asked to update your earnings estimate for this year and estimate how much you expect to earn in 1999.

Sometimes work plans or other conditions affecting expected earnings change during the year. Because working beneficiaries under age 70 are subject to an annual earnings test, their benefit amounts may need adjusting if their earnings estimate has changed.

Beneficiaries who are age 65 or older, but not yet 70, can earn \$14,500 in 1998 without a reduction in benefits. If, however, they earn more than that amount, \$1 is withheld from their Social Security benefits for every \$3 they earn. Beneficiaries under age 65 can earn \$9,120

without a reduction of \$1 for every \$2 in benefits. There is no reduction in benefits for beneficiaries who are age 70 or older regardless of how much they earn.

Social Security uses estimated earnings during the year to withhold benefits as required by the earnings test so that it can avoid making incorrect payments. At the end of the year, when Social Security learns exactly how much you earned (based on the earnings amounts reported on your W-2 or your self-employment tax return), it can determine whether you were paid the correct benefit amount. If you were paid too little, you'll receive an additional payment. If you were paid too much, you will be notified and asked to return the overpayment.

Social Security sends these mid-year notices only to beneficiaries whose earnings are likely to change during the year. If you don't get a notice from Social Security and you need to update your earnings estimate, you may call (800) 772-1213 or contact your local Social Security office to provide the information.

St. Bart's School Tells Of Program Offering Low Cost Milk to Kids

St. Bartholomew the Apostle School, located on Westfield Avenue in Scotch Plains, has announced that low cost milk will be available to all children enrolled in the school.

"In the operation of child nutrition programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age or disability in accordance with Federal regulations as set by the Department of Agriculture," read a statement confirming St. Bartholomew's participation in the program.

Anyone who believes their child may have been discriminated against may write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Parents may call Sister Louise Lauretti at (908) 322-4265 for further information on the St. Bartholomew School program.

Torah Center to Begin 'Torah Tots Playgroup'

The Union County Torah Center in Westfield has announced the opening of "Torah Tots Playgroup." The program, for children ages 2 1/2 through 4, will begin on Monday, September 14, and run Mondays through Thursdays from 9:30 p.m. to noon.

The cost is \$80 per month for the two-day program, and \$150 per month for the four-day program.

The playgroup will feature a variety of fun and educational toys, group play activities, arts and crafts, activities related to Jewish holidays, story time and Jewish music and song.

For more information, please call the Union County Torah Center at (908) 789-5252.



HELPING HANDS...Members of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield are pictured with other volunteers working on a Habitat for Humanity house in Plainfield. While some put on the roofing, others helped enclose the framing.

Church Volunteers Experience Rewards in Building Homes

Compassion. Camaraderie. Educational. Fun. Words such as these are used by volunteers who help to build a house for someone in need of a home.

No matter what they do for a living the rest of the week, they spend a part of their weekends giving of themselves. And they say they get back much more than they give.

On a recent Saturday, more than two dozen workers lent their collective muscle, energy and expertise to a Habitat for Humanity project in Plainfield. Almost half of them were members of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

That day, they completed the roof and made progress enclosing the framing for the one-story, four-bedroom house. When finished, the structure will become home to a single mother and her two daughters, ages 8 and 12 years old.

"It's all about helping somebody else," said Bill Cook, who, with Ethan Harris, coordinated the church workers. Mr. Cook is an attorney in the process of changing careers; Mr. Harris is an economist with a brokerage firm.

Both are members of a social group at the church who are using this project as one of its community service efforts.

"In addition to doing something for somebody else, it's fun," said Gregg Amonette, a member of the same church social group. He said his 10-year-old son, Jake, who accompanied him, also learned a lot about what goes into building a house.

Jerry Robinson, another church volunteer, said that in addition to the camaraderie, he appreciates the contribution he feels he is making to a good cause. "I get more back than I put into it," he noted.

"What this accomplishes a lot of times is Christian fellowship," said Betty McDermid, Associate for Mission as staff Liaison for the church's Mission Commission. "People working together, hands-on, get to know each other," she observed.

Other volunteers from the church included the husband-and-wife team of Gus and Nancy Gordon, Dodie Jackson, Jim Marino, Alice Ousterman and Jeff Stirrat.

Joe Barrett, Chairman of construction organization on this Habitat for Humanity dwelling, praised volunteers such as these from The Presbyterian Church in Westfield and others for making these projects successful.

He said "regulars" — people who come weekend after weekend — also are vital. Mr. Barrett praised those working on the Plainfield house, including site supervisor Marv Chosek, Jack Daly, Barbara Durant, Tom Fogarty and Randy Miller.

On this Saturday, other volunteers included Westfield High School juniors Jen Woodbury and Robin Early, who were working on their requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award;

former Westfield Mayor Bud C. Boothe, Denise Baskerville, and Felicia Jenkins.

This is the 14th house built by the Greater Plainfield chapter of Habitat for Humanity since 1989, Mr. Barrett said. All are three- and four-bedroom houses, either one-story or two depending on the size of the lots.

"The houses we build are of better quality than some commercially built ones," he remarked.

This is because once architectural drawings are approved, city inspections are conducted throughout the construction to make sure the foundation, electrical and plumbing specifications are met, Mr. Barrett said. And a final city inspection is required before a certificate of occupancy is approved, he revealed.

"No shortcuts are taken on any of our houses," stated Mr. Barrett, who retired in 1991 after 30 years as an electrical engineer. "We have supervisors who know what they're doing," he confirmed.

He said Habitat for Humanity, a private, non-profit organization which gets no government money, is grateful for donations of time and money by businesses, organizations, foundations, churches and individuals.

Money also comes from mortgages granted to the homeowners, he added.

Habitat for Humanity buys the land and the construction materials. All labor is done by volunteers on Fridays and Saturdays.

Once a family is approved for one of the Habitat for Humanity homes, he said, it must pay an occupancy fee plus monthly mortgage payments for two years. Adult family members also are required to put in 250 to 500 "sweat hours" working either on their house or another under construction.

At the end of two years, if the family is deemed to have fulfilled proper maintenance of the house, it is given the opportunity to buy it with an interest-free, 18-year mortgage, Mr. Barrett said.

Once the home is completed and the family is ready to move in, there is an Open House ceremony. Neighbors are invited and a minister is asked to bless the house.

New Group Is Planned For Single Parents

A new group is being formed for single parents in Essex and Union Counties, that is affiliated with the national Single Parents Association.

Single Parents of Essex and Union will give participants an opportunity to meet other single parents, develop coping skills, cultivate a network of support and friendship, acquire new skills or insights, and have fun together.

Planned activities include regular meetings featuring guest speakers, Parents Night Out, workshops and seminars, family activities and socials.

Anyone interested in information may call (973) 313-0481.



EVERYONE IS A HELPER...Gregg Amonette and his son, Jake, 10, pictured on the scaffolding, are among members of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield who recently joined other volunteers on construction of a Habitat for Humanity house in Plainfield. Working on the lower part, pictured left to right, are site supervisor Marv Chosek and fellow church volunteers Ann Gordon and Alice Ousterman.

Directory to Houses of Worship

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH 559 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains (908) 322-8047 Reverend Robert Griffiths	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY RC CHURCH 1571 South Martine Avenue, Westfield (908) 889-2100 Reverend John F. Kennedy
BETH EL BAPTIST CHURCH 539 Trinity Place, Westfield (908) 232-4250 Reverend Kevin Clark	METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH 823 Jerusalem Road (908) 233-2855 Reverend Clement Griffin
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1781 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains (908) 889-5556 Bishop Kirk Bristol	MOUNTAINSIDE CHAPEL 1180 Spruce Drive, Mountainside (908) 232-3456 Reverend Dr. Gregory Hagg
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Deer Path & Meeting House Lane, Mountainside (908) 232-9490 Reverend Christopher R. Belden	OUR LADY OF LOURDES RC CHURCH 300 Central Avenue, Mountainside (908) 232-1162 Reverend Patrick J. Leonard
CONGREGATION ARI YEHUDA 1251 Terrill Road, Scotch Plains (732) 541-4849 (Re-entrance of Assembly of God Church)	THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN WESTFIELD 140 Mountain Avenue (908) 233-0301 Reverend Dr. William Ross Forbes
CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL 1920 Cliffwood Street, Scotch Plains (908) 889-1830 Rabbi George Nudell	REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH 229 Cowperthwaite Place, Westfield (908) 232-5177 Reverend Paul E. Kritch
ECHO LAKE CHURCH OF CHRIST 419 Springfield Avenue, Westfield (908) 233-4946 Dr. Ellis Long	ST. BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 2032 Westfield Avenue, Scotch Plains (908) 322-5192 Reverend Michael A. Merucci
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FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST 257 Midway Avenue, Fanwood (908) 322-8461	ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 414 East Broad Street, Westfield (908) 232-8506 Reverend Richard W. Reid
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HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Westfield Avenue & First Street, Westfield (908) 232-8137 Reverend Joseph Masiello	WOODSIDE CHAPEL 5 Morse Avenue, Fanwood (908) 889-2375



FUN IN THE SUN... Beth Brotherton, a pre-kindergarten teacher at Holy Trinity Interparochial School in Westfield, enjoys a picnic with her afternoon class. Pictured, left to right, are: top row, Mrs. Brotherton, Maggie Fitzpatrick, Megan Carven, Katie Waxtel, Mary Beth Fiedler, Matthew Schmicker and Mara Pantano, and, bottom row, Anthony Mastrocola, Mirjana Coccia, Kristy McMahon, Leslie Grignon, John Serzan, Peter Granstrand, and Bernadette Calderone.

Union County College Lists Schedule of Fitness Classes

Union County College (UCC) has announced that individuals may enroll in a program tailored to their needs at the college's Fitness Center, located in the Campus Center Pavilion of the Cranford campus.

Beginning on Monday, August 24, the Fitness Center will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

One-, three-, and six-month programs are available. Additionally, participants may choose from eight non-credit fitness courses which can be taken individually, or in combination with a personalized Fitness Center program.

"Body Tone," beginner classes will be offered from 7 to 8 p.m. on Mondays, September 14 through October 26, and from November 2 through December 14.

"Weight Training" beginner classes will be offered from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from September 22 through October 8, and from October 13 through 29.

Additionally, senior citizens can take a beginner course, designed specially for them, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The course will be offered from September 22 through October 8, and from October 13 through 29.

"Tae Kwon Do Karate" will be held from 8:10 to 9:40 p.m. on Wednesdays, September 30 through November 18.

Beginner level courses in "Tai Chi Ch'uan" will be offered from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and from 7:45 to 9:15 p.m. on Tuesdays, October 6 through November 24.

"Yoga" beginner classes will be offered from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and from 7:45 to 9:15 p.m. on Wednesdays, September 23 through October 28, and from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, November 4 through December 9.

The college will also conduct an intermediate "Yoga" class from 7:45 to 9:15 p.m. on Wednesdays, November 4 through December 9.

"Self Defense Class for Women" will be conducted from 8:10 to 9:40 p.m. on Thursdays, September 24 through November 12.

"Country Western Line Dancing" beginner classes will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays, September 24 through October 29, and from November 5 through December 17. No class will be held on Thanksgiving Day, November 26. Intermediate sessions will be held from 8:05 to 9:05 p.m. on the same Thursday evenings.

"Ballroom and Social Dancing" will be offered from 7 to 8 p.m. on Fridays, September 25 through November 13.

For further information, please call the college's Division of Continuing Education and Community Services at (908) 709-7600, or Anita Thomas, Fitness Center coordinator, at (908) 709-7599.

Cadet Philip Marcketta Among the Graduates At Military Academy

Cadet Philip J. Marcketta, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Marcketta of Scotch Plains, is one of 152 cadets who recently graduated from Valley Forge Military Academy located in Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Cadet Marcketta participated in formal graduation exercises May 31 and became an official member of the Valley Forge Military Academy Continental Line of Alumni.

The school enrolls young men from grade 7 through the second year of college from 36 states and territories and 42 foreign countries.

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

MALFETTI MASHES 3-RUN HOMER, LEHMAN ADDS 3 RBI

Comcast Cablevision Staggers Antone's Pub & Grill, 17-2

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

Comcast Cablevision was tuned in perfectly and seized a 17-2 victory when it came to a showdown for first place in the Union County Senior 50+ Softball League with Antone's Pub & Grill at Memorial Field in Westfield on August 3. Jim Malfetti crushed a two-run homer and Charlie Lehman added three hits and three RBI to slam the door on Antone's. The win would give Comcast the upper hand in the

upcoming playoffs. Many spectators gathered and positioned themselves on the grassy hills along each baseline and saw Antone's jump out to an early 1-0 lead in the first inning. Bob Matten looped a single down the first baseline and Joe Tarulli followed with a single to right-center. Vic Gorman stepped to the plate and chopped a single to left to drive in Matten. With total focus, Comcast answered dogmatically with five runs in the

bottom of the first. Dom Deo drew a walk, Ron Virgilio poked a single to left, then Lehman lashed an RBI single past third. Malfetti sacrificed Virgilio home, Bill Reichle walked and Fred DiMartino drilled an RBI single to right. Matt Spanier spanked an RBI single to left and Norm Stumpf stomped an RBI single to right.

Antone's was brewing over the Comcast outburst and responded with a mild threat in the second. Pete Barnes bashed a leadoff single off the third baseman's foot. With two outs, John Patricco wiggled a 10-foot infield single, but Mike Pender grounded out to Deo, the Comcast pitcher to end the inning.

The next clamor came in the bottom of the third when Comcast added two more runs to take a 7-1 lead. Deo reached base safely on an error, Virgilio hooked a single over third and Lehman banged a two-RBI single to left.

Gorman singled and Steve Fatula reached base on an error; however, Antone's failed to score in the fourth. Comcast was also quieted in the fourth, but Antone's uttered slightly in the fifth. John Lyp and Al Dadio both singled, Patricco walked to load the bases with no outs; however, Comcast center fielder Malfetti snagged a fly ball, then relayed the throw to the pitcher who then tossed the ball to the catcher in time to nail

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SAFE AT THIRD... Dom Deo of Comcast slides into third base as John Lyp of Antone's prepares to catch the throw. Comcast defeated Antone's, 17-2, at Memorial Field in Westfield on August 3 and took first place.

FISHER NETS 3 HITS; GILLMORE, TORSIELLO TRIPLE

Fired up PEPCO Flushes Out The Hideaway in Semis, 9-5

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

PEPCO evened out its semifinal series, 1-1, with The Hideaway using outstanding fielding plays and timely hitting to win, 9-5, in a Scotch Plains Softball League playoff game at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on August 4. Doug Fisher netted three hits with two RBI and Butch Torsiello and Curtis Gillmore had back-to-back triples to expose The Hideaway. Coming off an earlier 23-7 trouncing on PEPCO, The Hideaway was looking to wrap up the series. Nick Piscopo powered a ground-rule double which one-hopped over the right field fence. Danny DiDario drilled a double past third to put The Hideaway in the lead, 1-0.

PEPCO roared back to take a 3-1 lead. Torsiello squibbled a single up the middle and Jim Hellwig captured first on an error. Dave Legg lashed an RBI single to right-center, Walt Fluhr walked, then Fisher skipped a two-run single past short.

Dave Serido opened the second inning for The Hideaway with a single to center, moved to second on an error, then scored on Dan Serido's sacrifice fly to shallow left to make the score, 3-2.

Despite singles by Butch Hellwig and Pat Peterpaul in the second and singles from Jim Hellwig and Legg in the third, PEPCO lacked sufficient energy to score in either inning. In the meantime, PEPCO pitcher Joe

Lameira retired all three Hideaway batters in the third.

Rob Tumolo tapped a single to left for The Hideaway in the fourth, then tied the score, 3-3, on Mike Peterson's single to right. Fisher and Mike DeRosa both singled, but PEPCO failed to score in its half of the inning.

Dan Serido began the fifth with a single but became the victim of a well-executed second-to-first double play initiated by PEPCO shortstop Legg. Greg McComb popped up to left and the PEPCO offense returned to the plate full of steam in the bottom

of the fifth.

Greg Peterpaul pounded a single to center and pilfered second when the ball got by the fielder, then Gillmore hammered an RBI triple to the fence in center field. Torsiello thumped a triple off the left field fence to drive home Gillmore and Jim Hellwig hit a sacrifice fly as Torsiello tagged up and scored to give PEPCO a 6-3 lead.

PEPCO added two more runs in the sixth. Tim Kaufman curled a single to left and Fisher yanked a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
TRIPLE TO THE FENCE... Butch Torsiello of PEPCO slams a triple to the left field fence in the fifth inning against The Hideaway.

KERSTEIN, BAUMGARTNER BLAST 2-RUN HOMERS

Old Stars Radiate in Seventh; Burn Down Club 40, 17-15

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

Experience, wisdom and patience prevailed as the Old Stars persevered through a Club 40 battering in the fourth inning and radiated with seven runs in the top of the seventh to seize a 17-15 victory in Jewish Community Center Softball League action at Tamaques Park in Westfield on August 9. Jim Kerstein crushed a two-run homer to give the Old Stars the cushion they direly needed.

The first three innings offered an inkling of a pitchers' duel as the Old Stars held a 2-1 lead. Old Star Ron Brachman singled, then scored on Lowell Weiner's triple in the first and Bob Rosen singled and scored off Rich Eisenberg's grounder in the second. Club 40 scored its run in the bottom of the second when Al Kaufman singled and scored on a single by Steve Weinberg. During the second inning, Old Star third baseman Darren Drapkin made a

marvelous diving, rolling catch and, in the third inning, Old Star left fielder Jim Baumgartner made a great running catch.

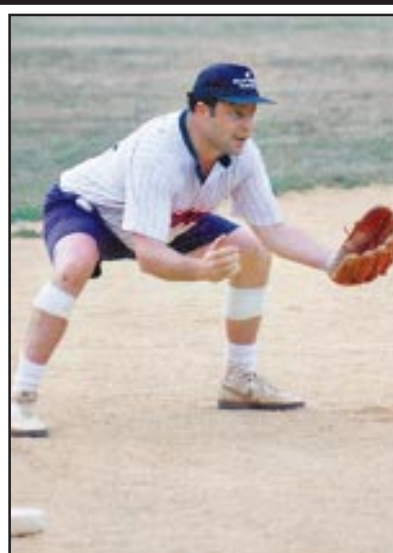
The Old Stars began to glitter more intensely in the fourth. Weiner whacked a double to right, Baumgartner bounced an RBI single past first and Rosen doubled to right. Jim St. Lifer stepped to the plate and lashed a two-RBI single to center to give the Old Stars a 5-1 lead.

Club 40 was hopping with determined energy in the bottom of the fourth and ransacked the Old Stars' dominion a 12-run riddling. Dave Deutsch hacked a single to left, Weinberg wobbled a single past short, then Steve Rosenberg loaded the bases with a single to left. Owen Drapkin drilled a two-run double to center and Doug Gincek knocked an RBI

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SINGLE TO CENTER FIELD... Bob Simon of Club 40 observes his single to center in the fourth inning against the Old Stars at Tamaques Park in Westfield on August 9. The Old Stars won, 17-15.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
READY FOR ACTION... Bill Harcourt of Chaos gets prepared for any ball hit his way.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
WILD THROW TO THIRD... Bill Harcourt of Chaos slides into third base as Mattress Factory third baseman Kevin Zippler leaps for a wild throw which sails out of play. Harcourt was awarded home.

BILL HARCOURT, SHOVLIN SLAM TWO-RUN HOMERS

Chaos Springs Ahead to Beat The Mattress Factory, 6-4

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

Chaos took control early and held on to defeat the Mattress Factory, 6-4, in the third game of the Westfield Men's Softball League Championship series at Tamaques Park in Westfield on August 7. The victory gave Chaos a 2-1 edge in the best of five series. Bill Harcourt smashed a crucial two-run homer to give Chaos a cushion and, later, Ron Shovlin hammered a two-run homer to give

the Mattress Factory some hope. When two cream-of-the-crop teams face in a showdown for all the marbles, sensational defensive plays will be in abundance. Both teams exhibited their superb defensive skills to the delight of the many fans who had observed the game.

After Tim Walsh of the Mattress Factory beat out an infield single with two men out in the top of the first, Chaos right fielder Mike Paradise made a fantastic catch of a very

long foul ball hit by Scott Johnson. Factory right fielder Tom Perotta returned the favor by snagging a shot hit by Chuck Harcourt in the bottom of the first. Matt Costello had the sole single for Chaos.

Chaos second baseman Scott Rossi began the second inning with a brilliant diving snare of a ground ball hit by Gene Mirabella, then threw him out at first. After Chris Masterson ripped a single down the third baseline, Chaos first baseman Costello threw Shovlin out as he attempted to score.

Chaos cleared the air and scored the first run of the game in the bottom of the second. Paradise led off with a walk and Bill Harcourt reached base on an error. Ron Greenberg stepped up and slashed a single to right to bring home Paradise.

Chaos pitcher Dave Kervick was effective and retired every Factory batter in the third and fourth innings. Walsh, the Mattress Factory pitcher, yielded only a single to Chuck Harcourt in the third and was the recipient of good fortune when shortstop Kevin Lombardi made a significant running catch in shallow left field.

Clinging to a slim 1-0 lead, Chaos improved its grasp with two runs in the bottom of the fourth. Steve

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
FEELING THE INTENSITY... Many of the fans are sensing the intensity of the championship series between Chaos and the Mattress Factory.

STRANIERO SLAMS 3 DOUBLES AND SCORES 3 RUNS

Defense Rules as St. Joseph Renders St. Louis Blue, 5-4

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

Defense ruled as St. Joseph came from behind and held on to defeat St. Louis, 5-4, in St. Bart's Oldtimers Softball League action at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on August 6. Tom Straniero provided offensive clout for St. Joseph as he drilled three doubles and scored three runs.

Straniero wasted no time as he led off the first inning with a double down the left field line. Dave Rothenberg ripped a single to left to score Straniero and give St. Joseph a 1-0 lead. The St. Louis defense buckled down and got the next three batters out.

The St. Louis bats were not blue in the bottom of the first. Tom Ulichny opened with a walk and Chris Reimers followed with another walk. Bill Mirto tapped an RBI single to right and Bob Veech yanked an RBI single to left. Joe Metzger walked to load the bases, then Art Hobble wobbled an RBI single to left to make the score 3-1.

St. Louis pitcher Pete Vanderheyden dazzled all three St. Joseph batters in the top of the second and St. Joseph pitcher Harry Semple allowed a single only to Gary Cardinale in the lower half of the inning.

The first sensational defensive play occurred in the top of the third. Rich Varsolona of St. Joseph ripped a single to left and Ken Hoelzel flied out to left. Don Stauder sizzled a grounder

toward short. St. Louis shortstop Mirto charged the ball, scooped it up, fired the ball to second for the force play, then the second baseman tossed the ball to first for the third out.

The St. Joseph defense prevailed in the bottom of the third, allowing only a double to Bob Veech; however, St. Joseph responded to tie the game, 3-3, in the top of the fourth. Chuck Krajcsik drew a walk and Straniero whacked his second double to drive in Krajcsik.

St. Louis Captain Marty Lillis played a little cat-and-mouse game and decided to intentionally walk Semple to face the powerful Karl Grossman. Grossman took a mighty swing and spun a squibbler toward the pitcher. The ball took a right-hand English turn out of the reach of Vanderheyden and Grossman had successfully collected an RBI single.

Semple simply seemed to get

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
ST. GOLIATH SEIZING THIRD... Big Bob Veech of St. Louis tramples into third with a stand-up triple in the third inning against St. Joseph. St. Joseph third baseman Rich Varsolona receives the throw to third. St. Joseph rallied to

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ALL CORBIN TEAM

There will be a special "All Corbin" Softball Team section in the August 27 issue. The selections will be based on interesting photos only and will be dedicated to all the men who participated.



SAFE AT HOME...Matt Costello of Chaos slides safely into home with the sixth run as Chris Masterson of the Mattress Factory received the throw.

Chaos Springs Ahead to Beat The Mattress Factory, 6-4

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Kamins lined a single over third, then Bill Harcourt sailed his two-run homer over the head of the left fielder. Mirabella hopped a single past second to start the fifth and Shovlin sizzled a single over the bag at second. Both base runners advanced a base when Masterson flied out to left. Kevin Zippler drove both Mirabella and Shovlin home with a single to left and the Mattress Factory had narrowed the score to 3-2. Things appeared to be working smoothly for the Factory in the bottom fifth as the first two Chaos batters were retired; however, a sea of woes would soon engulf the Factory defense. Chuck Harcourt sliced a double to left and Frank Seculic followed with a slicing RBI single to left. Costello skid a single past short and Kamins bopped a single to left to load the bases. Paradise punched a single over short and both Seculic and Costello would score to put

Chaos in control, 6-2. Kervick remained deceptive with his pitching and confused all three Mattress Factory batters in the top of the sixth. Chaos threatened but failed to score in its half of the sixth. Al Rabinowitz and Jim McKeon collected singles but were left stranded. Being of championship caliber and having been the defending champions, the Mattress Factory wasn't about to lie down. Johnson led off with a single to right, Mirabella popped up to third and Shovlin launched his two-run homer to remote center field. With the score now 6-4, the Factory sensed revitalization; however, the tenacious Chaos defense held on to get the next two Factory batters out and preserved the victory.

Game 3: Mattress Factory 000 020 2 04 Chaos 010 230 x 06

Factory Defeats Chaos; Forces Final Showdown

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Tim Walsh ripped a single to left in the bottom of the eighth to drive in Mike Cheety with the winning run as the Mattress Factory defeated Chaos, 4-3, in the championship series of the Westfield Men's Softball League at Tamaques Park in Westfield on August 9. The defending champion Mattress Factory knotted the series at two games apiece and forced a final showdown which was contested on August 10.

Factory pitcher Tim Walsh controlled Chaos in the top of the first and the Mattress Factory rolled with three runs in the bottom of the first. Chuck Mueller rapped a single to right, Walsh drew a walk, then Clint Factor drilled an RBI single to left. Ron Shovlin drove Walsh home with a sacrifice fly to center, then Chris Masterson whacked an RBI single to left. Chaos outfielder Al Rabinowitz prevented any further scoring in the first by making one of his several fine running catches.

Chaos scored its first run in the top of the third when Frank Seculic drove in Jim McKeon with a sacrifice fly. Shovlin, the Mattress Factory first baseman, made one of his several fine stretching plays to record the third out of the inning.

The Factory threatened with runners on second and third and two outs in the bottom of the fourth; however, Rabinowitz saved the inning for Chaos with another great catch.

With one out in the top of the fifth, Rabinowitz and McKeon both singled, then Dave Kervick walked to load the bases. On the next play, shortstop, Kevin Lombardi initiated a great, saving second-to-first double play to allow the Mattress Factory to escape the inning.

The Mattress Factory got a bad break in the sixth when Mueller, who

had doubled to right, tagged up on a fly ball to center, but was called out for leaving too soon.

Chaos created some confusion in the seventh when Bill Harcourt slid into third but was awarded home on an overthrow. An umpire's interesting call of safe at second created another big controversy which resulted in another run for Chaos, tying the score.

The Factory failed to score in the bottom of the seventh and Chaos was kept in check in the eighth. With Factory runner Mike Cheety on third, Walsh whacked a single to left to drive in Cheety with the winning run, forcing a fifth and final game.

Chaos 001 000 20 03 Mattress Factory 300 000 01 04



David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times WINNING RUN...Mike Cheety scores the winning run for the Mattress Factory in the eighth inning of game four against Chaos.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY, CHANCERY DIVISION, UNION COUNTY, DOCKET NO. F-000208-97. COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC., PLAINTIFF vs. DORIS MIRANDA, ET AL., DEFENDANT. CIVIL ACTION, WRIT OF EXECUTION, DATED OCTOBER 14, 1997 FOR SALE OF MORTGAGED PREMISES. By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public vendue, on the 6th Floor of the Union County Court House (Tower) 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey on WEDNESDAY THE 2ND DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D., 1998 at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales. The judgment amount is \$162,465.71. MUNICIPALITY: Elizabeth. COUNTY: Union, STATE OF NEW JERSEY. STREET AND STREET NO.: 438 Franklin Street a/k/a 438-440 Franklin Street. TAX BLOCK NO. AND LOT NO.: BLOCK NO.: 21, LOT NO. 26 and p/o 24. DIMENSIONS OF LOT: 33.20 feet x 100 feet. NEAREST CROSS STREET: 291.80 feet from the intersection of 5th Street. There is due approximately the sum of \$167,277.93 together with lawful interest and costs. There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale.

RALPH FROELICH SHERIFF WILLIAM M.E. POWERS, JR., Attorney 737 Stokes Road P.O. Box 1088 Medford, New Jersey 08055-9962 CH-753460 (WL) 4 T - 8/6, 8/13, 8/20 & 8/27/98 Fee: \$161.16

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY, CHANCERY DIVISION, UNION COUNTY, DOCKET NO. F-5083-96. BLUE BONNET SAVINGS BANK, FSB, PLAINTIFF vs. ISIDRO RODRIGUES, ET AL., DEFENDANT. CIVIL ACTION, WRIT OF EXECUTION, DATED JUNE 12, 1998 FOR SALE OF MORTGAGED PREMISES. By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public vendue, on the 6th Floor of the Union County Court House (Tower) 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey on WEDNESDAY THE 2ND DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D., 1998 at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales. The judgment amount is \$179,375.96. Property to be sold is located in the City of Elizabeth, County of Union, State of New Jersey. Premises commonly known as 254 Insee Place, Elizabeth, New Jersey. BEING KNOWN as Lot No. 274, Block No. 1 on the official Tax Map of the City of Elizabeth. Dimensions: (approximately) 100.00 feet x 25.00 feet. Nearest Cross Street: 3rd Street. There is due approximately the sum of \$184,072.19 together with lawful interest and costs. There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale.

RALPH FROELICH SHERIFF FEDERMAN AND PHELAN, Attorneys Suite 505 Sentry Office Plaza 216 Haddon Avenue Westmont, New Jersey 08108 CH-753933 (WL) 4 T - 8/6, 8/13, 8/20 & 8/27/98 Fee: \$161.16

St. Bartholomew's Mens Softball League Results

St. Bart's Oldtimers Softball League: (As of August 7)

Angels Division: TEAM W-L-T Percentage St. Jude 18-1-0 .947 St. Joseph 12-5-0 .706 St. Thomas 10-7-0 .588 St. Paul 6-11-0 .353 St. Blaise 4-12-0 .250

Saints Division: TEAM W-L Percentage St. Michael 10-7-0 .588 St. Louis 7-9-0 .438 St. James 7-10-0 .412 St. Patrick 6-12-0 .333 St. Anne 6-12-0 .333

St. Jude 12, St. James 3 Marty Bernstein, Tom Engelman and Tom Rutkowski (2 doubles & 3 RBI) helped the cause with three hits each and Rich Worth and Randy Grizzard chipped in with two hits each for St. Jude. Stan Grasso, Tom Maher and Jack Quinn each had two hits for St. James.

St. Blaise 17, St. Paul 6 Captain Tom Sherwin had his St. Blaise Bandits operating like a piece of fine tuned machinery. The offense was powered by Brian Williams with five hits, including three doubles and a home run. Other contributors were Tony Giannaci with four hits, Tom Fautoute, Bob Brennan and Rory Ruhl with three hits apiece and Bob



A MIGHTY SWING...Bob Veeck of St. Louis takes a mighty swing and crushes a triple to deep left field during a game with St. Joseph at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on August 6. St. Joseph pulled out a dramatic, 5-4, come-from-behind victory.

Cummo, Captain Tom Sherwin, Bob Reick, Mike Michaelisn and Tom McGall (4 RBI) with two hits each. For the St. Paul squad, Larry Szeni had three hits and Matt Hoelzel, John Wilkinson, Emmitt O'Hara and Rich Chaplin each had two hits.

St. Joseph 14, St. Anne 5 St. Joseph scored nine in the bottom of the sixth inning and held on for the win. Aiding in the game were Dave Rothenberg with three hits, including a grand slam and Rich Varsolona (3 RBI), pitcher Bill Wolff and Tom Straniero with two hits each. Steve Pirrella and Wally Bradshaw each had two hits for St. Anne.

St. Michael 26, St. Patrick 11 St. Michael's offense erupted. Leading the onslaught were Joe "Shea stadium" (2 HR & 7 RBI), Tony Williams (1 HR), pitcher Nick Barattucci and Fred Holm (1 HR) with four hits apiece, Floyd Roberts, Steve Pietrucha, Paul Morello (1 double & 1 triple) and Joe Borowski with three hits each and Tom Reade (1 HR), Ben Loblance, Bob Johnston and Gerry Vadas each with two hits. For St. Patrick, Steve Magnotta had four hits, Charlie Laskowski had three hits and four RBI and Kelly Larson, John Esposito, Mark DiFrancesco (1 HR & 4 RBI), Dom Valanzano and pitcher "Joltin Joe"

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD Notice is hereby given that on August 26, 1998 at 8:00 P.M. in the Borough Hall of the Borough of Fanwood at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey the Fanwood Planning Board will hold a public hearing to consider the appeal of Exxon Corp. for a use (D) variance for an additional sign and from the requirements of Chapter 93 of the Code of the Borough of Fanwood and from provision of subparagraphs 93-15K(4) (b) (free standing sign) on the property at 2 South Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey also known as Block No. 56 Lot No. 1 on the Fanwood Tax Map. 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. Exon Corp. 1900 East Linden Avenue Linden, New Jersey 07036 1 T - 8/13/98, The Times Fee: \$24.48

Murano each had two hits. St. Jude 8, St. Thomas 4 For St. Jude, Tom Engleman had three hits, including 1 HR and 4 RBI and Bob Elmi, Jeff Friedlander and Rich Worth each had two hits apiece. Lee DiDonato, Frank Pepe, Ed Belford, Tony Blasi and Stan Lesniewski had two hits apiece for St. Thomas.

St. Anne 8, St. James 6 Wayne Morse and Wally Bradshaw (1 double & 1 triple) each had two hits for St. Anne. For St. James, Pete DeCristofaro had four hits and Captain Jim Hoelzel, Lou Bialestiere, Bill Canata, Bob Pielhau and Jack Quinn each had two hits.

St. Joseph 5, St. Louis 4 St. Joseph scored two in the top of the seventh inning for the win. Leading the way for St. Joseph was a fine pitching performance by Harry Semple, three doubles from Tom Straniero and two hits by Karl Grossman. For St. Louis, Bill Mirto, Bob Veeck and pitcher Pete Vanderheyden each had two hits.

St. Blaise 7, St. Patrick 2 For St. Blaise, Gerry Riepe pitched a great game and Charlie "the Town Kreyer", Tom Fautoute, Bob Brennan and Mike Michaelisn each had two hits. Dom Valanzano had three hits for St. Patrick.



HAMMERING A SINGLE TO LEFT...Butch Hellwig of PEPCO hammers a single to left in the second inning against The Hideaway. PEPCO beat The Hideaway, 9-5, at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains to even the series.

Fired up PEPCO Flushes Out The Hideaway in Semis, 9-5

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

double down the right field line. DeRosa ricocheted an RBI single off the shortstop and Butch Hellwig sacrificed Fisher home.

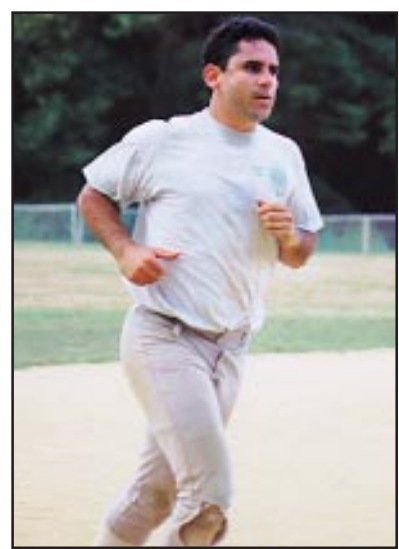
The Hideaway threatened in the seventh. With one out, Paul O'Sullivan walked and Mike Whalen whacked a single to center; however, PEPCO pulled off another second-to-first double play also initiated by Legg to quiet the threat.

PEPCO was still sizzling and scored another run in the seventh to take a 9-3 lead. Gillmore hacked a single past second and Torsiello snaked a single past short. Lameira stepped to the plate and banged an RBI single to center.

The Hideaway wanted to break out of its seclusion and scored two runs in the top of the eighth. Bob Darby looped a single to left, Greg McCombe lined out to left, then PEPCO first baseman Pat Peterpaul pounced on a grounder near the first baseline and made a magnificent throw to second to force out the runner. With Piscopo on base, DiDario launched a two-run homer over the left field fence to make the score, 9-5.

O'Sullivan and Dan Serido both singled in the ninth, but The Hideaway was halted and PEPCO had successfully forced third and deciding game.

The Hideaway 110 100 020 05 PEPCO 300 032 10x 09



David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times HOME RUN TROT...Danny DiDario of the Hideaway rounds the bases and trots toward home plate after crushing a two-run homer over the left field fence in the eighth inning during the playoff game with PEPCO.

ALL CORBIN TEAM In the August 27 issue, there will be a special "All Corbin Softball Team". The selections will be based on interesting photos only and are dedicated to all the men who participated in softball this season!

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS CONTRACTOR: Brian McCormack, Esq., 289 Boulevard, Kenilworth, New Jersey 07033. NATURE OF SERVICE: Back-up for Public Defender Douglas Hansen. DURATION: Until completion of service. AMOUNT: \$450. THE RESOLUTION AND CONTRACT FOR SAME ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWNSHIP CLERK. Barbara Riepe Township Clerk 1 T - 8/13/98, The Times Fee: \$15.81

PUBLIC NOTICE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD Notice is hereby given that the PLANNING BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD after public hearing granted approval to Mr. and Mrs. David LaShell to erect a deck on the property at 117 Tillotson Road, Fanwood, New Jersey being Block No. 38 Lot No. 8. Documents pertaining to this application are available for public inspection at the Borough Hall during normal business hours. Mr. and Mrs. David LaShell 117 Tillotson Road, Fanwood, New Jersey 07023 1 T - 8/13/98, The Times Fee: \$14.79

INMAN Sports Club 12 Month Membership \$399.00 PLUS save \$50 with this ad! Fully Equipped Work-Out Room Beautiful Outdoor Pool Basketball & Volleyball Outdoor Tennis Toning Beds Table Tennis Jumbo Basket of Golf Balls 1/2 Price at the driving range every Monday Showers Locker Rooms Sauna Call today for information on this exciting program! (908) 756-8100 990 Inman Avenue • North Join us at our family oriented facility, in a relaxed atmosphere

Quitting Business! EVERY ITEM MUST GO! 70% OFF ALL Clothing & Athletic Footwear FINAL WEEKS - HURRY IN FOR BEST SELECTION! SALE TERMS: CASH • MASTERCARD • VISA • AMERICAN EXPRESS • ALL SALES FINAL Dreier's SPORTING GOODS Family Owned & Operated Since 1869 To Serve You Better Blue Star Shopping Center • Route 22 • Watchung (908) 322-7788

WTA Men's Singles Tennis Ladder Noted

August 9 marked the end of the seventh reporting period for the WTA Men's Singles ladder. A two-tier play-off round will be held after the September 7 reporting period ends, for 1-16 in the standings and 17-32. Please report match results to Frank DeSantis at (908) 654-9331, extension no. 1. The next reporting period ends on Sunday, August 23.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Robert Errazo | 22. Gary Yee |
| 2. Vince Camuto | 23. Charles Carl |
| 3. Gary Wasserman | 24. Hike McGlynn |
| 4. Don Rosenthal | 25. Bill Wilhelm |
| 5. Elvin Hoel | 26. Mike Sanaman |
| 6. Jeff Pollack | 27. Alan Chou |
| 7. Peter Sharpe | 28. Hugh Coleman |
| 8. Jason Sprung | 29. Mike Weingarten |
| 9. Mark Daaleman | 30. Alan Lo |
| 10. Steve Parker | 31. Quaid Kapadia |
| 11. Len Resnikoff | 32. Neils Jenson |
| 12. Russ Finestein | 33. Thomas Schaves |
| 13. Roger Lowenstein | 34. Mike Panagos |
| 14. Simon Lee | 35. Mike Walters |
| 15. Arvin Adler | * Donald Dohm |
| 16. Frank DeSantis | * Joseph Bobak |
| 17. Jim Osislo | * Ken Arida |
| 18. Dave Leiz | * Achim Buecklers |
| 19. Steve Satkin | * George F. Sincow |
| 20. Dewey Rainville | * Steve Goodman |
| 21. Simon Lack | * Juan Antonio Perez |

WTA Mixed Doubles Tennis Ladder Listed

Below are the standings of the Westfield Tennis Association's mixed doubles ladder reflecting the matches played through August 9. The number of matches played to date are indicated next to each team. The top eight teams completing a minimum of eight matches will qualify for the post season tournament.

Teams yet to play a match have been dropped from the standings but will be reinstated upon playing a match. The next reporting period will end on Sunday, August 23. Match scores and questions pertaining to the mixed doubles ladder should be reported to Alan Shineman at (908) 654-2788. The latest mixed doubles results and other WTA information are now available via the Internet at the new WTA Web site: <http://westfieldnj.com/wta>.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 01) Boyle/Karp (6) | 09) DeSantis/DeSantis (4) |
| 02) Britu/Britu (7) | 10) Hudelston/Gazdak (6) |
| 03) Robins/Robins (7) | 11) Bender/Bender (6) |
| 04) Karmish/Aliche (10) | 12) Thompson/Kingstoffer (4) |
| 05) Shineman/Shineman (12) | 13) Mitchell/Mitchell (2) |
| 06) Fechter/Fechter (8) | 14) Clevenger/Clevenger (1) |
| 07) Myers/Darmanin (10) | 15) Barber/Barber (1) |
| 08) Bernstein/Bernstein (8) | 16) Ridings/Ridings (1) |

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY, CHANCERY DIVISION, UNION COUNTY, DOCKET NO. F-21177-97.
MELLON MORTGAGE COMPANY, PLAINTIFF vs. LUIS F. FERNANDES, ET AL., DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION, WRIT OF EXECUTION, DATED AUGUST 26, 1997 FOR SALE OF MORTGAGED PREMISES.
By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public vendue, on the 6th Floor of the Union County Court House (Tower) 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey on WEDNESDAY THE 2ND DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D., 1998 at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.

The judgment amount is \$127,882.38.
THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD IS LOCATED IN THE CITY OF ELIZABETH, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

TAX LOT NO. 5 IN BLOCK NO. 765. DIMENSIONS OF LOT (APPROXIMATELY): 25 X 100. NEAREST CROSS STREET: SIXTH STREET.
PREMISES COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 550 FRANKLIN STREET, ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY.

There is due approximately the sum of \$131,926.69 together with lawful interest and costs.

There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff's Office.
The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale.

RALPH FROELICH SHERIFF
ZUCKER, GOLDBERG, BECKER & ACKERMAN, Attorneys
1139 Spruce Drive
P.O. Box 1024
Mountainside, New Jersey 07092-0024
File No. XWH 36834
1-908-233-8500
CH-753936 (WL)
4 T - 8/6, 8/13,
8/20 & 8/27/98 Fee: \$169.32



DIVISION CHAMPION METS... The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Major Division Champion Mets defeated the Tigers in two games to claim the crown. Pictured, left to right, are: front row; Coach Rich Varsolona, Sean Varsolona, Dan Kaiserman, Matt Powers, James Knechtel and Stephen Mince; middle row, Samm Jones, Josh Kay, Ted Sensor, Kyle Baker, Sam Gordon and James Scalfaro; back row, Manager Jerry Baker, Coach Jerry Powers and Coach Jim Scalfaro.

Irwin Bernstein Wins National Track Title

Irwin Bernstein of Westfield won his first national title at the National Masters Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Orono Maine on August 2. Representing the East Region in 4 x 100 Meter Relay for Ages 60-69.

Bernstein's team recorded a time of 55.85 to earn the gold medals. Later that day, he was a member of the Second Place East Region Team in the 4 x 400 Meter Relay. Bernstein ran his leg in a season's best 1:09.3 as part of a 4:45.83 team effort. Earlier in the meet, Bernstein placed fifth in the 400 Meter Run for Ages 65-69 in a time of 1:09.61 and fourth in the 800 Meter Run in 2:52.80.

Scotch Hills Women Tell Golf Results

A spokeswoman for the Scotch Hills Women's Golf Association of Scotch Plains announced the winning team of the "Best 2 Balls of 4" tournament held (August 4)

FIRST:
Olga Rose, Margaret Hickey, Linnea Rhodes, Laura Botto, net 55

SECOND:
Nancy Pharis, Martha Bergghan, Martha McKuskie, Doris Molowa, net 56

THIRD:
Sophia Hildabrand, Dolores Veghte, June McCarthy, net 56

Low putts, Alice Kehler 14
Chip-ins, Pat Kelk #5, Joanne Voci #4, McKuskie #4, Pat Rastelli #3, Lucille Allen #8

Westfield PAL U-14 Girls Cap Fantastic, 8-2, Softball Season

The Westfield PAL U-14 girls' softball team capped a fantastic season in the Parkway Invitational League by defeating Berkley Heights 7-5 in the National League championship game. Westfield completed the regular season with an 8-2 record. The win was especially sweet as the two losses in the regular season came at the hands of Berkley Heights.

Some fine defensive plays were supplied by Tara Dowling at first base, Nicole DiFabio at second base and Jenny Hayes at shortstop. Timely hitting was provided by Erin Corbett, Caitlin MacDonald and Rachel Wagner. MacDonald's home run was one of the game's highlights. Casey Benson and Dana Passananti provided great outfield support. Sara Bobertz pitched a great game, giving up few walks and getting important strikeouts when in a bind.

The weekend prior to the League championship game, Westfield participated in the Union Girls Softball Tournament held at Bierumpfel Park in Union. Playing six games, Westfield brought home third place by beating Montclair in the consolation game. The three losses came at the hands of the eventual finalists, Union and River Vale.

Six games in two days was a true test of the players' stamina and ability. Bobertz pitching four of the games and MacDonald pitching the other two, re-

ceived great support from the entire team. There were plenty of super defensive plays and good hitting.

Taking over for Sarah Heitner, who played a couple of strong games before leaving on a trip, Lisa Venezia played a very sharp second base getting, at one point, six chances in a row without an error. Ali Bennet provided timely hitting and outfield support. Caroline Page-Katz played a steady outfield.

The Westfield roster was filled out for the tournament with the addition of three players from Scotch Plains. Aimee Antoine, Kelly Lusk and Julia Sheffield, who played their positions well and helped offensively. Their help was needed, in part, due to the absence of Katie McCrea who played very well during the regular season at the difficult catcher position.

In addition to the Union, River Vale and Montclair teams, Westfield also played teams from Toms River and Livingston.

The Westfield PAL team was coached by Trish MacDonald with very able assistance by her husband Don, and Barbara Piatkowski, who also coaches the Edison Intermediate School's eighth grade team. The Westfield PAL sponsors girl's softball teams in the U-12, U-14 and U-17 age groups. Tryouts are usually held in June and the regular season is played primarily during the month of July.

Stay Tuned for the First Annual All-Corbin Men's Softball Team

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School days are just around the corner and McKinley School is just down the street from well maintained 3 Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bath Colonial with newer Eat-In Kitchen with sliders to deck at \$216,900.

\$216,900

WESTFIELD

PRICE REDUCED
Manor Park Colonial offers immediate occupancy. Tree lined street provides convenient setting for 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Colonial with natural wood accents throughout. Affordably priced at \$219,900.

\$219,900

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INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Westfield Office
153 Mountain Ave.
232-5664

Matthew Barbosa Appointed Principal in Highland Park

The Highland Park Board of Education has appointed former Scotch Plains resident Matthew Barbosa as the new Principal at Irving Elementary School in Highland Park.

Mr. Barbosa, a former Assistant Principal at Hillsborough Elementary School in Hillsborough, was selected from among 25 applicants to be the new Principal at Irving. He has worked extensively with elementary school pupils and is finishing a Doctoral Degree in Education at Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

The new Principal received his bachelor's degree from Kean College (now

Kean University) in Union, where he graduated summa cum laude, and his master's degree from Rutgers University.

In addition to working in Hillsborough, Mr. Barbosa served as a teacher in kindergarten, first and third grades in Bridgewater and Union.

Mr. Barbosa underwent an intensive screening process that consisted of a board interview, four essay questions, interviews with co-workers and supervisors, and visits to Irving Elementary School, according to Highland Park Superintendent of Schools Marylu Simon.

"He was an outstanding and personable candidate," said Highland Park school board Vice President Vickie White. "With Mr. Barbosa, we have the opportunity to reshape a district."

Mr. Barbosa is the son of Matthew and Adele Barbosa of Scotch Plains. He is married to the former Patricia Fardice of Hillsborough and is the father of twin sons, Matthew and Timothy. The family resides in Bridgewater.

School of Dance Begins Eighth Year

The Westfield School of Dance will begin its eighth season of dance education on Tuesday, September 8. The school was founded in 1991.

Since 1991, the school, located at 402 Boulevard in Westfield, has brought the art of dance to a new high in the Union County area. The school offers adult programs in ballet, tap, jazz, fitness and ballroom classes; children's programs in ballet, tap, jazz, modern, pointe and acrobatic classes.

Also offered are adult and children's acting, voice and musical theater classes. The school houses the Westfield Young Artists Cooperative Theater (WYACT).

The Westfield Dance Company, a young people's dance company, giving dancers an opportunity to perform, attend dance competitions and workshops and work with noted choreographers.

Fall registration for the school will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 1, 2, and 3, from noon to 8 p.m.

For further information, please call (908) 789-3011.

Suburban Music Center Announces Fall Offerings

The Suburban Community Music Center, based in Murray Hill, is now registering students for fall classes and lessons. The center is a member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts.

With a broad range of offerings designed to meet the needs of individual students, the Music Center has programs geared for all ages, abilities and backgrounds, from infants to senior citizens.

New this fall is "Family Music for Babies," a weekly half-hour class for infants from birth to 17 months and their parent/caregiver. This class teaches parents how to play musically with their babies to stimulate aural development and a love of music.

Children 18 months to first grade can take Kindermusik, a program which fosters the development of the whole child through music. Activities which are musically and developmentally age-appropriate are offered at each level of this program.

A class for preschoolers with special needs is taught by a music therapist on the faculty.

Classes in Musicianship Training, based on the pedagogy of the Hungarian composer and teacher Carl Orff, are available for children in grades 1 through 6 with or without previous musical experience.

Musical skills and concepts are learned through participation in music-making activities which encourage creative expression, development of rhythmic competency, improvisation, and ensemble skills, according to Suburban Community Music Center spokeswoman Marlene Lippman.

For students studying an instrument privately, these classes provide a supplemental learning experience, she said.

Instruction in Suzuki violin, viola and guitar are offered to children age 4 and up, and Group Piano may be taken in first or second grade. Aspiring singers in grades 1 through 8 may take Fundamentals of Singing.

Private lessons for older children and adults are available in most orchestral instruments, as well as piano (classical and jazz), voice, recorder, saxophone

and guitar.

Classes for teens and adults include Musicianship Training (which includes theory, ear training, and sight-singing), Recorder Ensemble, and Chamber Music Workshop.

Suzuki violin and some other private instrumental lessons will be offered in Madison as well as in Murray Hill. All other classes will be held only at Murray Hill.

The Suburban Community Music Center is a private, non-profit music educational institution which serves 750 students from 69 towns in nine counties in north and central New Jersey. For further information or to receive a brochure and registration form, please call (908) 790-0700.

Free Consultations Offered to Celebrate Horizons' 15th Year

For 15 years Career and Leisure Horizons of Westfield has been helping people use their strengths to find career success. Cora Specht, who established this career counseling and résumé service, is recognizing this 15th anniversary with a special offer.

A free, one-hour consultation is being offered through Saturday, November 21, to anyone mentioning this article when calling for an appointment.

A number of assessment tools are available to assist clients in developing a list of occupations based upon personal interests, skills, personality and values, said Ms. Specht.

Also, extensive occupational information is provided which, with the assistance of a career counselor, can be used to match personal characteristics with occupational requirements and rewards.

Once a career decision is reached, a plan can then be developed to achieve career goals. This may include further education or training, organizing a job campaign, or preparing a résumé.

For further information or for an appointment, please call Ms. Specht at (908) 232-0389.

Summer Playgrounds Wind Up '98 Season With All Parks Picnic

The Westfield Recreation Commission wrapped up its Summer Playgrounds program for the year with an All Parks Picnic for playground members yesterday at Tamaques Park.

Events at the picnic included contests between the playgrounds in basketball, soccer, tetherball and Nok Hockey. A highlight of the day was the annual water balloon toss.

Last week marked a busy week for all the playgrounds. Youngsters cooled off during a Monday Morning Swim at the Memorial Pool. Many playground participants returned to Memorial on Wednesday for the fifth annual soccer cup when the schools played one another.

The final game was between Franklin and Wilson Elementary Schools. Although Franklin was favored to win, Wilson won on a goal by Ethan Powell. The final score of the match was 1-0. Dan Sullivan and Sam Kramer were key contributors to the Wilson team. Brother and sister duo Scott and Kim Legones played well, and their efforts helped keep Franklin from scoring.

On Thursday, the final game in the softball tournament was held at Gumbert Field. Wilson School faced defending champion McKinley. McKinley was able to hold on to its title and beat Wilson. Wilson's pitcher, Beth Carr, tried hard, but her team seemed tired from the soccer cup the day before.

McKinley was on fire, with Elliot Johnson and Marc Dowling as pitchers. McKinley's coach, Amy Gottko, was pleased with the team's performance.



Stories of Jersey Shore To Come Alive During Book Discussion Aug. 29

R.C. Ringer and other contributors will be available to discuss their new book, "Shore Stories: An Anthology of The Jersey Shore," on Saturday, August 29, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at The Town Book Store, located at 255 East Broad Street in Westfield.

"Shore Stories" — the first anthology of short fiction, essays and poems about the New Jersey Shore — takes the reader on a literary journey from Sandy Hook to Cape May, said Grace Roth of The Town Book Store.

Stories include the coastline in all its many aspects — from the crowded beaches and boardwalks of summer to winter's barren dunes and abandoned bays. For more information, please call The Town Book Store at (908) 233-3535.

EDDIE'S READY... People for Animals, a non-profit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, will sponsor a pet adoption event on Saturday, August 22, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the PetsMart store, 1022 Route No. 22, East, at West End Avenue in North Plainfield. Many dogs, kittens and cats will be available for adoption, including Eddie, a friendly 10-month-old who is neutered and current with his vaccinations. Discovered at a roadside starving and infested with parasites, Eddie received immediate medical attention and is now in good health. He prefers to be the only pet. To adopt Eddie or for information about other cats and dogs available for adoption, individuals may visit the People for Animals Internet Web site at www.petfinder.org/shelters/pfa.html, or call (908) 688-1073. For low cost spay/neuter information, please call The People for Animals Clinic at (908) 964-6887.

DIRECTORY
2X12½

CLASSIFIED

HELP WANTED
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
 Westfield Rescue Squad seeks trainees for Emergency Medical Technicians. Valid NJ Driver's Lic. req. Min. 4 hrs./wk.
 * * * * *
 Seeks trainees as Dispatchers. Min. 2 hrs./wk. All training provided.
Call Miki Leitner (908) 233-2501

HELP WANTED
RETAIL SALES
THE ELM TREE GALLERY, an upscale art gallery, seeks responsible, outgoing and mature sales help.
Call Robin at (908) 233-6118

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE
Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Prepaid - Call 232-4407

PUBLIC NOTICE
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education
 Union County, New Jersey

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Board of Education of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District, Union County, New Jersey, for Computer Furniture.
 Bids for the above will be received at the Office of the Board of Education, Evergreen Avenue and Cedar Street, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076, at 11:00 A.M. (prevailing time), on August 27, 1998 and will be publicly opened and read immediately thereafter.

Bids must be made on the proposal forms in the manner designated, enclosed in a separate sealed envelope with name and address of bidder and work bid upon noted on the outside and must be accompanied by a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond drawn to the order of the Board of Education for not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid, but in no case in excess of \$20,000.00 and must be delivered to the Secretary of the Board of Education on or before the hour named. The Board of Education assumes no responsibility for bids mailed or misdirected in delivery.

No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening thereof.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids or to waive informality in the bidding if it is in the interest of the Board of Education to do so.

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, Chapter 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27).

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
 Mr. Matthew Clarke
 Business Administrator/Board Secretary
 1 T - 8/13/98, The Times Fee: \$44.88

HELP WANTED
CHILD CARE
 Looking for someone to watch two boys ages 12 & 13 in my Westfield home during the school week. Start in Sept. Use of a car & valid D.L. a must. Tentative hours: After school to approx. 5 or 6 p.m. Salary to be discussed.
Call Merry Work - (201) 612-5271 Home - (973) 509-8899 eves.

HELP WANTED
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT
 Part-time position available in busy legislative office. Strong word processing skills and ability to handle public telephone inquiries necessary. Please mail resumes to: Legislative Office, 203 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.

HELP WANTED
 General Office - \$20m sales/marketing company calling on Fortune 500 accounts is seeking self-starter, general office type. Comp. skills-Cust. Svc-A/R a +. P/T with F/T option. Excel. benefit pkg. Fax resumé in confidence to (908) 233-5932 Attn: Rita.

HELP WANTED
 Friendly dental assistant, 2/3 days per week.
Please Call (908) 232-2203

HELP WANTED
 Cashier needed for local market - Perfect for moms with children in school or college student - Flexible hours.
Call Ray or Charlie (908) 232-0402

HELP WANTED
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATOR
 The Scotch Plains Police Department is seeking a person to work in the Communications Dispatch Center. Duties include radio and telephone communications, computer data entry, telecommunication of emergency medical information and 911 emergency dispatch. Computer and/or First Responder medical background a benefit. Only evening hours are available at this time. Salary range is \$16,000 - \$34,000. Position open to Scotch Plains residents. Applications available at the Office of the Township Clerk, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains. (908) 322-6700, ext. 212.

HELP WANTED
HAIRSTYLIST
 Thursday, Friday and Saturday hours. A following desirable, but not a must.
(908) 709-1179

HELP WANTED
HAIRDRESSER
 Positions available. Full time Shampoo Assistant. Manicurist for Sunday only. Busy Westfield Salon.
Call (908) 232-8843

HELP WANTED
 Full time/part time experienced medical receptionist for busy Westfield Urology practice. Excellent phone manner and insurance knowledge required.
Please Call Chris at (908) 232-8416

HELP WANTED
 P/T 3 Day/wk. Flex. hours. Retail/ Receptionist/Data Entry in Wfld. area. Fax resumé to (908) 232-2382.

EMPLOYMENT WANTED
Housecleaning — \$75+
 "Your Own Personal Maid — Me!" Move-in/move-out. Empty/occupied house/apt./condo/office, etc. Gen. or complete house prep from windows to baseboards and special projects.
(908) 241-6757 (7 Days/24 Hrs.)

BOOKKEEPING
 Is bookkeeping last on your list? It's first on ours! Call BestBooks - bookkeeping, billing and payroll. Business and personal accounts.
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Marc Kelley Realtors, 2 Alden Street, Cranford, has announced the sale of this updated split-level at 396 Walnut Avenue in Cranford. Heidi-Ann listed and marketed this property in just two days. She then handled all matters pertinent to this sale until it closed.



Heidi-Ann

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GOOD NEWS
 MOUNTAINSIDE - Enter this immaculate 5 Bedroom, 2 Bath Colonial Cape and relax in the Living Room with fireplace or the Family Room with skylight. New windows, newer roof, siding, furnace, hot water heater. Beautiful property on a quiet street. \$339,000. WSF-7595



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