

## Westfield Police Detective Alleges Sexual Harassment by Ex-Chief

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD – A Westfield police detective has filed a sexual harassment lawsuit against the town, the Westfield Police Department (WPD) and former police chief Bernard Tracy. The detective, Sandra Chambers of Plainfield, has been employed by the WPD since 1995.

The six-count lawsuit, served on Westfield on December 14, alleges that “during a two-year period, Chief Tracy regularly called Detective Chambers at home, during non-working hours and late into the evening” and that Mr. Tracy invited Detective Chambers “to call him on his personal cell phone.”

Mr. Tracy retired from the department in September 2005 and accepted a job with the Linden Public Schools

as a school security officer.

Detective Chambers admitted that she and Mr. Tracy had been friends, and that then-Chief Tracy invited her to attend a convention in 2003 with him in Washington, D.C., paid for by the police department.

“While at the convention, Detective Chambers worked very hard to make contacts that would benefit the Westfield Police Department,” Detective Chambers alleges in the suit. “While at the convention, Chief Tracy commented to Detective Chambers and others that she was not spending enough time with him, and he felt that she had ‘abandoned’ him.”

The detective alleges that the former chief “intimated that he was hopeful that while they were at the convention, he and Detective Cham-

bers could become even better friends.”

After spurning his advances, Detective Chambers claims the former chief’s “demeanor toward [her] was decidedly cool and distant,” and that he “limited” his contact with the detective after the convention.

The third count of the lawsuit, which alleges sexual harassment, states, “[Detective Chambers] was treated differently because she would not engage in inappropriate sexual conduct with Chief of Police Bernard F. Tracy.”

In March 2005, then-Chief Tracy suspended the detective and attempted to have her terminated following an internal affairs investigation as to whether she reportedly fixed a parking ticket for her son. Detective Chambers, who spent most of the year on paid suspension, was then the subject of a disciplinary hearing.

As reported by *The Westfield Leader*, a hearing officer found her guilty on five of seven charges of the ticket fix and for lying about it during a police department internal investigation. She was suspended for 15 days without pay.

Detective Chambers was found guilty by hearing officer James Damato of official misconduct, neglect of duty, “illegal reduction or deletion of a parking summons for personal gain, conduct unbecoming of a police officer and using her authority to influence or modify the action of another officer.” Two charges of false swearing were dismissed.

She alleges in the lawsuit that the real reason Mr. Tracy had her suspended “was because she would not engage in an inappropriate quid pro quo relationship with Chief Tracy.”

During Detective Chambers’ disciplinary hearing, her attorney, Hassen Abdellah, questioned Mr. Tracy: “There is an allegation that at some point you had a relationship with Detective Chambers and as a result of what she would not do, you began to retaliate against her. And the purpose of bringing this action against her is to retaliate because she wouldn’t do what you wanted her to do.”

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## Councilman Caruana Denounces Recent Nativity Figurine Thefts as Hate Crimes

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD – In its first conference session of 2007, the council discussed the rash of recent thefts and the “confusion” over Christmas tree removal.

First Ward Councilman Sal Caruana addressed the recent thefts of nativity figures from area Roman Catholic churches.

Calling the acts – which occurred at St. Helen’s and Holy Trinity Churches on New Year’s Eve and January 2, respectively – “hate crimes,” he related the incidents to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s insistence on “the importance of respect and tolerance in the fight for equality.”

He added, “Taken together, these acts appear to be premeditated acts of religious hatred. Under state law, any vandalism of a religious institution carries the presumption of bias and automatically becomes punishable as



Benjamin B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

**TREE TROUBLE...**A pile of discarded Christmas trees sits in the parking lot of Tamaques Park in Westfield on Sunday, despite a sign noting that trees should not be dumped there. The conservation center was not open on Sunday, causing residents to dump trees outside. See related notice below.

## Westfield School \$9.4-Mil Bond Referendum Sparks Debate

By NORDETTE N. ADAMS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD –Westfield voters will head back to the polls on Tuesday, January 23, for a special election on a \$9.4-million education bond.

One part of the bond proposal requests \$6 million to renovate Lincoln School at 728 Westfield Avenue so it may serve as an early childhood learning center. The center would house all of the town’s kindergartners and disabled pre-kindergarten students.

In an interview with *The Westfield Leader*, Westfield Public Schools Community Relations Coordinator Lorre Korecky cited a legal mandate to provide educational opportunities for disabled students at the pre-k level and the disadvantage of such students’ present location at Edison Intermediate School.

“Right now, we have young children going to the same school with teenagers. We would like to place those young children in Lincoln,” she said.

Referring to Westfield’s burgeoning school population, bond supporters say centralizing kindergarten classes would free classrooms in el-

ementary schools and enable elementary schools to keep class sizes to no more than 25 students – the size encouraged by Westfield schools policy.

The change would make classroom space available for dedicated art and music rooms at the elementary schools. Currently, most Westfield art and music teachers operate from carts, traveling from classroom to classroom, Ms. Korecky said.

The Lincoln School building most recently housed Hillcrest Academy, an alternative high school for Union County. Ms. Korecky said that while the building was adequate for high-school students, it would be inadequate for the education of pre-k disabled students and kindergartners.

Westfield Schools Superintendent of Schools William Foley told *The Leader*, “If we use it for a kindergarten, it will house five-year-olds. You have to make different types of facilities, including bathrooms, sinks and an elevator. That building, right now, is running an old steam heat system. We will add air conditioning and make it a good facility. We can’t ask (Westfield parents) to put kids in the

school (in its present condition).”

Some bond opponents object specifically to asking Westfield parents to send a kindergartener to a school that may not be in the child’s own neighborhood. They argue that centralizing kindergarten classes is counter to the neighborhood-school model.

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### Thieves Target Nativity Scenes

By SUZETTE F. STALKER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD – Multiple local Roman Catholic churches have reported the theft during the holiday season of nativity figures from outdoor displays on parish grounds.

The Westfield Police Department received a report on December 31 that a three-foot baby Jesus figure, hand-made of synthetic waterproof material, was removed from a crèche in front of St. Helen’s Church on Rahway Avenue in Westfield.

On January 2, the Holy Trinity Church of Westfield reported the theft of its infant Jesus statue from a manger scene on its property. The church is located in the 300 block of First Street.

Authorities confirmed that the Holy Trinity statue later was discovered smashed on the property of the Dooley Colonial Home on Westfield Avenue in Westfield.

In addition to those removed from the Westfield churches, four statues were reported stolen from a crèche on the front lawn of St. Agnes Church on Madison Hill Road in Clark, including the figures of Mary, Joseph, Jesus and one of the wise men.

There are currently no suspects in any of the cases.

The Westfield Town Council Tuesday night, at the suggestion of Third Ward Councilman David Haas, decided to formulate a resolution both honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and denouncing the acts as “hate crimes” after First Ward Councilman Sal Caruana read a statement condemning the thefts.

“As a councilman, my hope is that the individual(s) responsible are apprehended and prosecuted to the full

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Benjamin B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

**GAINING GRANT...**Rep. Mike Ferguson (R-7th, New Providence) presents a \$69,417 check per a federal grant to the Mountaintop Fire Department to replace a backup generator. Pictured, from left to right, are: Mountaintop Mayor Robert Vigilanti, Rep. Ferguson, fire official George McGrath, Fire Chief Neil Williams and Deputy Chief Kenny Lawrence.

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Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader

**NOT ENOUGH...**Blue Devils senior guard Mike Venezia takes a foul shot at Thursday’s game against rival Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders. He scored 19 points, but Westfield fell, 63-57, in double overtime. See story on page 11.

## Officials: UC Not Favored For Pilot BOE Consolidation

By CARALINE KOELLHOFFER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Union County is not slated to be picked as part of a proposed bill for a county-wide school district pilot program, state elected officials revealed at Tuesday night’s board of education meeting.

Senator Tom Kean, Jr. and Assemblyman Jon Brannick of Westfield, and Lynne Strickland, executive director of the Garden State Coalition of Schools, appeared before the BOE to report on the status of this proposed bill.

“The bill is not dead yet, but the possibility of the potential for Union County seems to be far removed,” said Ms. Strickland.

Mr. Kean said, “I have received a response from the senate side that [the bill] would not be amended to include Union County at this time. But all that would need to change is one or two words and Union County could be included.”

He expressed his opposition to the proposed bill, going on to say, “Not once has the public been given the normal opportunity that they would have on any other bill, in any other process, to come before senate committee or assembly committee, to testify about their opinions on these bills. It is the wrong way to make policy.”

Mr. Kean asked the board and the public to get involved in the process. He said, “We have to work on a bipartisan basis. I am urging the residents of Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood to not only e-mail the Gov-

ernor (Jon Corzine), the Senate President (Richard Codey) and the Assembly Speaker (Joe Roberts) about their opinions, but also to e-mail your friends and relatives throughout this state, so that they can contact their representatives to express their dissatisfaction as well. This needs to be a grassroots movement if we are going to save our schools.”

In other business, the board discussed the proposed bond referendum to be voted upon on Tuesday, January 23. Business Administrator Robert Berman presented a review of completed projects under past bonds and noted that the largest job left to be completed under the \$21,495,000 bond passed in 2000 is the renovation of the air-conditioning system in Westfield High School’s auditorium, cafeteria and music room for an estimated price tag of \$950,000.

Superintendent of Schools William Foley said, “It is important to note that all the projects were completed below the cost that was estimated. So we did what we said we were going to do for a little less than we thought it would cost. I think we can say that our track record with bonds has been good.”

The board discussed the possibility of altering the existing schedule by closing schools on election day in November and making changes to the four-hour days used in the fall for curriculum preparation and parent-teacher conferences. The board will discuss the matter further at next week’s meeting and vote on the topic.



Greg Ryan for The Westfield Leader

**LISTENING INTENTLY...**Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage, left, and New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine observe proceedings at Sunday’s Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders reorganization meeting. See story on page 2.





Y2K BABY...Garwood Mayor Dennis McCarthy poses with resident Victoria Napolitano, 7, the first Garwood baby to be born on New Year's Day in 2000.

David Samsky for The Westfield Leader

## Mountainside Schools Rank High in State Test Rankings

By GINA LEVINE-LEVY  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE—Mountainside students rank among the top in the state and county in multiple key categories, according to recently released state testing rankings.

Board of Education President John Perrin announced the results at Tuesday night's board meeting.

Among all "I" district schools in the state, the borough ranked number one in fourth-grade math.

Mountainside also ranked first in Union County in multiple categories, including eighth-grade Language Arts Literacy (LAL), eighth-grade Advanced Proficiency (AP) Math, eighth-grade Science and eighth-grade AP Science.

The district ranked in the top 10 percent of the state in more than half of the tested subject areas.

Chief School Administrator (CSA), Richard O'Malley said the results are a "significant accomplishment," not only in county rankings but statewide.

"We are producing some high achieving students," he said. "We want to continue down that path."

As a follow-up to last week's special BOE meeting regarding the CORE Proposals bills which have been proposed in the state legislature, Mr. Perrin said the representatives of Legislative District 21 (LD-21) informed him that the bills were not revisited when the New Jersey Legislature reconvened on Monday.

One bill (S-10/A-4) proposes a countywide "super" superintendent with local veto powers. A second (S-7/A-8) would introduce a pilot program for a countywide administration.

While Mr. Perrin thanked those residents who attended last week's meeting, attended by Republicans Senator Tom Kean, Jr. and Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (both LD-21), he added, "be advised these things don't just go away."

"Mountainside loves its public education system," Mr. Perrin said later in the meeting. He added, "For that (system) to be stripped away" by the proposed legislation would be negative for the district.

The BOE passed several motions, including one which "opposes any attempt to force school districts to consolidate but would support attempts to consolidate purchasing services."

"There's a multitude of ways that we share costs and services," said BOE Vice President MaryBeth Schaumburg. "We are an efficient district," she said, adding that Mountainside would be "the first ones to get slapped" if countywide districts are implemented through the state legislature.

The BOE also passed a motion recognizing January as "School Board Recognition Month."

The New Jersey School Boards Association and the National School Boards Association designate this time so that "all residents might acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members" who volunteer their time.

Mrs. Schaumburg said a similar motion was passed last year to "acknowledge our existence."

As part of a larger Secure Our Schools grant given by the Department of Justice, the BOE approved the use of \$2,500 towards allowing the Mountainside Police Department (MPD) remote access to cameras inside Beechwood and Deerfield schools.

The MPD obtained the federal grant in 2005 on behalf of the Mountainside school district.

In other business, the BOE appointed a new eighth-grade science teacher, Amy Lefanto, to replace Wendy Milligan, whose termination is effective February 9.

"We look forward to her arriving and getting started," said Mr. O'Malley. He said Ms. Lefanto comes

## Patterson Calls GW Mayor, Borough Council 'Thugs'

By KATHY MARQUES  
Specially written for the Westfield Leader

GARWOOD—A night that ended with a resident calling the mayor and borough council "thugs" and "criminals" concerning the timing of a letter sent about St. Anne's School began with an update on the North Avenue Mews project.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud opened the first council session of the year Tuesday night by stating that he will meet with developers of the Mews next week to go over documents.

"I have been meeting with them bi-monthly, and they have been co-operative in regards to keeping up with needed paperwork," Mr. Renaud said.

In other matters, Councilman Walter Tucker, chairman of the Public Health and Safety Committee, spoke about newly appointed patrolman Officer David Perrotta.

Mr. Tucker noted that the officer is "adjusting well to the department and is on his way to completing his training."

Mr. Tucker spoke about the new Home Safety Inspection Program, which allows residents to have a home-safety evaluation conducted by a member of the police department. The officer would make recommendations on how to make the home safer.

Sergeant Michael Wilson, Police Officer Douglas Stoffer and dispatcher John Drone created the program, Mr. Tucker said. The Garwood PBA (No. 117) also donated high-efficiency light bulbs to seniors in order to alleviate the cost of leaving a conventional light bulb on at night, dispatcher Drone told *The Westfield Leader* Wednesday morning.

"highly recommended."

The BOE said it is waiting to begin negotiations with the Mountainside Education Association (MEA) for a successor contract. The current three-year contract expires June 30.

The MEA negotiates contract terms and conditions on behalf of most district employees.

Mr. Perrin said the BOE is "chomping at the bit" to get started on negotiations, adding that the BOE first notified the MEA in November that discussions should commence.

"We have reached out several times" to the MEA, he said.

He encouraged residents to offer their input on negotiations. Residents can reach Mr. O'Malley at (908) 232-3232 or e-mail romalley@mountainside.schools.org.

The next BOE meeting is Tuesday, January 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Beechwood School Media Center.

## Metal Detectors Considered For Mountainside Court

By JESSICA E. JASKULA  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE—The borough council on Tuesday night will officially appoint Jill Goode as chief finance officer effective January 1 and Dianne Marus as part-time supervisor of accounts effective February 1. Both employees will work in the borough's finance department.

In other news at Tuesday's agenda session, the mayor and council received a request from Recreation Director Frank Masella to honor Mountainside players who received the Inter-County Youth Soccer League's "Keep it Positive" Good Sportsmanship Award. These players include Mountainside residents Nicholas Gordin, Lee Sport, Kimberly Osjeja and non-resident Max Menaker.

Also received was a raffle application for an on premise 50/50 draw raffle from the Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care.

The governing body will renew a contract for health services with the Westfield Regional Board of Health in the amount of \$32,334, an increase of \$708 over last year.

Late 2006 municipal budget transfers were announced in the amount of \$12,878, dating from the last council meeting to December 31, 2006. In an amendment to the 2007 temporary budget, \$900 will go towards the salary of the public defender, \$250 towards zoning and \$8,000 towards other insurance.

As recommended by the State Supreme Court, the mayor and council discussed the need for two metal detectors in the municipal building.

The metal detectors would primarily be used on municipal court days, Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. and the last Wednesday of every month at 5 p.m. Signs would be posted warning those entering that they may be subjected to a full search. Each metal detector would cost \$3,000 and would be the same as machines used in the county courthouse.

## Detective Chambers Lawsuit

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"Are you aware of that?" Mr. Abdellah asked. "She wouldn't comply; she wouldn't submit."

"That's absurd," Mr. Tracy responded at that time.

The detective also charged that another detective, Lisa Perrotta (who testified in Detective Chambers' disciplinary hearing), had a summons improperly voided, but did not face departmental charges as Detective Chambers did. She al-

leged that former parking services director John Morgan and special officer Jonathan Pierce both "failed to follow procedure," but were not disciplined or terminated, respectively.

"In late 2005, in a further attempt to portray Detective Chambers in a negative light, Chief Tracy falsely stated to others that Detective Chambers was a lesbian," the lawsuit alleges.

Detective Chambers seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages, counsel fees and court costs, in addition to a trial by jury.

Town Administrator Jim Gildea said although Detective Chambers had previously "threatened" to file legal action against the town, this is the first lawsuit she has filed in court.

"It's been turned over to our insurance (representative) to determine eligibility for coverage," he said, noting that Westfield is a member of the Suburban Municipal Joint Insurance Fund, which would review the case and assign an attorney.

Detective Chambers deferred all comments to her attorney, Eric Pennington of Newark. Mr. Pennington was unavailable when contacted for comment on Friday and Tuesday.

Resident Bruce Paterson, during public comment, said he had heard from several residents that they were "threatened" by council members if they didn't remove his election sign from their lawns. Mr. Paterson lost to Mayor Dennis McCarthy in November.

Mr. Paterson also said he heard from someone that a butcher shop owner was told by a government official not to circulate his "TREE" newsletter.

While speaking at the podium, Mayor McCarthy's wife, Debbie, addressed Mr. Paterson, saying that she used to go to the butcher shop, but did not any longer. She denied telling anyone not to distribute his newsletter.

"I don't tell anyone who to vote for," she said. "I don't tell anyone where to shop. I chose to stop shopping there for personal reasons; it had nothing to do with politics. It's my personal choice to shop where I want, and had nothing to do with the election."

Mr. Paterson also questioned the mayor on sending a letter out to constituents a few weeks before election time about residents' concerns regarding James Ward and the St. Anne's School proposal.

He said, "You (Mayor McCarthy) sent the letter out on government (council) letterhead, but it read like it was all about you, that you were the one who was going to try to address the concerns of the residents. I am concerned with the timing of the letter—weeks before the election—and don't agree with your tactics."

Mr. Paterson called the mayor and council "thugs" and "criminals," adding, "New Jersey is the laughingstock of the country, and there are problems that need to be fixed that aren't."

The mayor responded that the timing of the letter had nothing to do with the election.

"I would've sent the letter to the residents in September or October," he responded. "I was letting the residents know that I am aware of their concerns. It's not my fault (that) the timing of the Mews development and issues (were) around election time. I had nothing to do with that."

In other news, Mr. Tucker, chairman of the library committee, spoke about Toddler Story Time, which is being held by the Garwood Free Public Library on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. It began yesterday and will run for eight weeks. He also spoke about how circulation increased.

"It was 11,267 for 2006, exceeding the goal of 10,000. This figure was reached with just eight months of actual operation of the library," he said.

Councilman Charles Lombardo, chairman of the streets and roads committee, said the Department of Public Works would collect Christmas trees every Wednesday during the month of January.

Mr. Tucker mentioned that former resident Tom Perotta and his movie *Little Children* has been nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture-Drama.

Mr. Perotta is the author of "Little Children," "Joe College," "Election," "The Wishbones" and "Bad Haircut." The finance committee will meet next month to work on the 2007 budget, said re-appointed Councilwoman Kathleen Villaggio, chairwoman of the finance committee.

In other business, Mr. Paterson, a member of the celebrations committee, mentioned the winners of the Holiday House decorating contest. First place went to 249 Fourth Avenue, second place to 315 Hickory Avenue, third place to 205 Third Avenue and an honorable mention to 231 Spruce Avenue.

## WF Council

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was normally never open in the winter. It would close during January, February and March, and open full time between Thursdays and Sundays in April.

Starting last year, the center remained open for a few days each month to provide an opportunity to dispose of trees. "Last week, with the warm weather and people wanting to get rid of trees, we had a banner day at the conservation center and a banner day with trees around the gate and still trees in Tamaques Park," he said.

Because higher temperatures are expected for this weekend, he said the town would open the conservation center on Saturday, January 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in addition to its scheduled opening for January 20.

The facility will also be open on two Saturdays in both February and March and will open for a full season on April 6.

## Thefts

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extent of the law," he said. "As a Catholic, my prayer is that the individuals involved in this assault on our community of faith come to understand the hurtfulness of these actions, find forgiveness and find the help, grace or path to be at personal peace."

"On the eve of Dr. King's celebration," he added, "we are reminded that each of us is a partner in the fight against prejudice."

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Sunday, December 31, after being arrested on a shoplifting charge at a North Avenue store, Rowland Adeyemo, 22, of Scotch Plains was held on open warrants from Newark, for \$300, and Belmar, for \$800, until he posted bail.

Sunday, December 31, Pete Septynski, 45, of Westfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation at West Broad Street and Rahway Avenue. He later was released to a responsible individual.

Tuesday, January 2, a general contractor renovating a residence on the 60 block of Nomahegan Drive reported the theft of several pieces of equipment from the premises, including a table saw, a hammer drill, a compound miter saw and a circular saw. The total value of the missing property is \$1,077. There were no signs of forced entry into the residence.

Tuesday, January 2, a resident of the 10 block of Tudor Oval reported the theft of two iPods from within her home. The missing property is valued at \$300. There were no signs of forced entry into the residence.

Wednesday, January 3, Daniel Campos, 21, of Roselle was arrested at South Avenue/Crossway Place on two outstanding motor vehicle warrants issued by Watchung. He was released after posting a total of \$380 bail.

Thursday, January 4, a resident of the 400 block of Highland Avenue reported that someone damaged his garage by attempting to set it on fire.

Thursday, January 4, a resident of the 700 block of Austin Street reported the theft of a Nokia camera and a Motorola cellular telephone from the pocket of a jacket left unattended during a school choral concert. The missing property is valued at approximately \$550.

Saturday, January 6, Gary A. Healey, 41, of Westfield was arrested on Mountain Avenue on an outstanding criminal warrant issued by Garwood. He was released after posting \$560 cash bail.

Sunday, January 7, Hagen A. Lewis, 37, of Plainfield posted \$100 bail at Westfield police headquarters on a traffic warrant issued by the Westfield Municipal Court.

### Scotch Plains

Thursday, January 4, a student at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School reported the theft of her iPod from her locker.

Friday, January 5, a resident of Fanwood reported that, while she was at her gym, her cellular telephone was re-

moved from her locker. The value of the telephone was \$235.

Saturday, January 6, a student at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools reported the theft of his book bag from his locker. The bag contained several hundred dollars in cash, police said.

Saturday, January 6, one or more unidentified individuals sprayed graffiti on a building on Route 22. The damage was valued at approximately \$150.

Sunday, January 7, a resident of Country Club Lane reported being the victim of criminal mischief. According to police, the tires on his motor vehicle were slashed while the vehicle was parked in the driveway. The tires were valued at approximately \$200, police said.

### Fanwood

Wednesday, January 3, Erika K. McFarlane, 34, of Cranford was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue, which revealed an outstanding Clifton warrant. She posted bail and was released.

Friday, January 5, Preston I. Fulford, 34, of Stewartsville was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue on outstanding warrants out of Trenton and Stewartsville. While being taken into custody, the suspect allegedly resisted arrest and assaulted two police officers, police said. He subsequently was charged with two counts of assault and resisting arrest. Bail was set at \$40,000.

Friday, January 5, Efrain Mendoza, 32, of Elizabeth was arrested following a field investigation on an outstanding New Brunswick warrant. According to police, the suspect also was linked to a hit-and-run accident. The suspect posted bail and was released.

Tuesday, January 9, Claudia Morales-Morin, 28, of Union was arrested on an outstanding Westfield warrant following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. She posted bail and was released, police said.

Tuesday, January 9, Jose O. Cintron, 24, of Newark was arrested on an outstanding Newark warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue. He also was charged with providing police with false information, authorities said. Cintron posted the \$500 bail and was released, police said.

Wednesday, January 10, Melody C. Mendez, 21, of Linden was taken into police headquarters on suspicion of driving while intoxicated after a motor vehicle stop. She subsequently was charged with careless driving, police said. She was released to a responsible adult.

## Westfield School Bond

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Ms. Korecky said centralizing kindergarten classes is "not a revolutionary idea."

Pointing to other communities that have adopted the early childhood learning center model, she said, "Summit, for example, is in the process of establishing centralized kindergartens to free up space for elementary classrooms and also because it has been found to be a good educational program to have all kindergartens under one roof, with teachers able to collaborate and share resources."

"We visited such a center in Berkeley Heights several weeks ago," she said. She also mentioned Marlboro and Springfield—two other communities that have centralized kindergartens.

Opponents say that redistricting students at Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools could solve the problem of school overcrowding at Roosevelt.

In a letter to *The Leader* published January 4, resident Julie Tarr asks, "Are we making our kindergartners bear the burden and disruption of redistricting instead of taking more practical steps to alleviate overcrowding at Roosevelt Intermediate School by redistricting this age group?"

Ms. Korecky said, "We can't redistrict until we get the kindergartners out of Edison," but added that Westfield public schools already have plans for involuntary redistricting in 2008 if voluntary plans do not work.

Independent of the bond, the Citizens Advisory Committee on Enrollment (CACE) suggested two methods to encourage involuntary redistricting.

The first plan became instituted in September 2006 and affects bussing. Currently, all students between elementary and eighth grades can be bussed to schools if their homes are at least two miles away. At Roosevelt, some students entering sixth grade who fit that eligibility were not offered bussing; however, the district did tender bussing to Edison.

A second plan to take effect in September 2007 would offer Magnet-like classes at Edison, including two sessions of Technology/Robotics. Mandarin Chinese has been dropped because of a lack of interest. "If the magnet program does not work, then redistricting from Roosevelt to Edison will take place regardless of the bond (outcome)," Ms. Korecky said.

Mr. Foley said, "There's a substantial imbalance in enrollment (between the two schools)...Next year, the entering sixth grade for Roosevelt will be 280 kids (average class size of 28). Edison will have 230 (average class size of 23).

In a letter to the editor published on December 21 ("Math In Westfield School Bond Debate; Reader Asks for One Good Reason"), Westfield resident Ken Sumner asked, "Why spend \$3 million to solve the problem the school has now (overcrowding), before it is redistricted (presumably to the correct capacity)?"

"The bond will move pre-school handicapped children out of Edison," Mr. Foley said. "If passed, they will be out of Edison, and that means there's plenty of capacity. That's why we don't need to add classrooms (at Roosevelt). We're proposing renovations for Roosevelt. Under current capacity, there is sufficient space at Edison."

The bond proposal would funnel \$3.2 million to Roosevelt Intermediate School renovations. A presentation posted to the Westfield Public Schools website states that Roosevelt's main building is 80 years old, and the facility needs updated corridors and stairwells, its breezeway enclosed for security's sake and a larger cafeteria.

"A small cafeteria at Roosevelt (700 square feet smaller than Edison) limits lunch to less than 20 minutes," according to the presentation. Furthermore, the presentation says the "small library at Roosevelt (below state standards) can only accommodate one class at a time." Thus, bond money would also be used to expand the school's library.

The smallest expenditure in the bond proposal is \$200,000 to update windows at Edison Intermediate School, which is located on Westfield's south side, to energy-efficient modern windows. The comparatively small expenditure has prompted some bond critics to ask why Westfield's south side parents should support the bond.

According to the school officials, the bond debt would mean that Westfield property taxes would increase approximately \$80 on homes assessed at \$200,000. Mr. Foley said it would cost homeowners about "four cents per \$100 of assessed home value."

Judy Hoffman, who lives on Westfield's south side and who is also president of the Westfield Parent-Teacher Council said, "As a community, we have to stand together and make sure all the schools are well-maintained. It's one community."

Multiple known individuals have submitted concerns about the bond proposal, and though they did not wish to be named for this story, they have allowed their comments to be posted anonymously on *The Leader* website at goleader.com/thebuzz.

Michael Pollack contributed to this story.



NEW TERM...Assemblyman Neil Cohen (LD-20, Roselle) swears in Union County Freeholder Al Mirabella of Fanwood for his fourth term on the county freeholder board at the freeholders' reorganization meeting on Sunday.

Greg Ryan for The Westfield Leader

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Attorney At Law

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## Indictments Dropped Against FW Man; Fed. Case Remains

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD – A five-count indictment by a Middlesex County grand jury against a Fanwood lobbyist, developer, businessman and Marine Corps intelligence specialist was dismissed Monday after the 22-year-old pleaded guilty to a trespassing charge following a plea agreement reached with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office.

Raj Mukherji had initially been indicted on two counts of stalking and one count each of witness tampering, burglary and contempt. Assistant Prosecutor Manuel Sameiro told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood*

*Times* that the burglary charge was reduced to trespassing and "all the other charges were dismissed."

"I think it is a fair resolution in light of the victims' desires. They approved the plea," Mr. Sameiro said.

The assistant prosecutor pointed out that as part of the agreement, Mr. Mukherji is banned from having any contact with the two women he allegedly stalked – a Rutgers University student and a woman he had attended high school with in Union County.

According to published reports, the women said Mr. Mukherji called them on the phone and sent uninvited e-mails and text messages.

Mr. Mukherji claims he was "actually the victim of stalking by the accuser, an obsessed woman whose failed attempt to blackmail [me] resulted in the false charges."

In a written statement released to *The Times* Mr. Mukherji said, "I am frustrated that it took them a year to figure it out, but I commend the prosecutor's office for dismissing the indictment. The stalking and related charges were baseless and could not have been successfully prosecuted."

Mr. Mukherji still faces a two-count federal indictment for impersonating an agent of the United States Defense Intelligence Agency and for lying about it to an FBI agent. *The Times* was unable to reach the U.S. Attorney's Office for comment at press deadline.

Mr. Mukherji said his lawyers expect the federal indictment to be dropped.

"The indictment was in error, plain and simple. Raj could not have impersonated himself. This unique and remarkable young man served in defense intelligence, having joined the Marines at the age of 17 two weeks after September 11, and continues to serve with honor as a reservist," according to a statement released by Lawrence Lustberg of Newark, who represents Mr. Mukherji in the federal criminal matter.

Mr. Mukherji is currently a part-time student at the University of Pennsylvania. In a joint venture with builder Landmark Communities, the Fanwood Borough Council approved him as a downtown redeveloper for a six-acre residential tract in 2005. He said he took a leave of absence from the redevelopment projects and Impact NJ, a Trenton lobbying firm at which he was a partner with former Morris County Prosecutor and gubernatorial candidate Michael Murphy, after he was indicted.

*The Times* previously reported that Landmark became the sole developer of the former Dean Oil site and dropped Mr. Mukherji from the LLC after the initial indictment.



Benjamin B. Corbin for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*  
**TREE TROUBLE...**A pile of discarded Christmas trees sits in the parking lot of Tamakes Park in Westfield on Sunday, despite a sign noting that trees should not be dumped there. The Westfield Conservation Center on Lamberts Mill Road was not open on Sunday, causing residents to dump trees outside. See related notice about Scotch Plains and Westfield tree disposal below.

## FW Council Receives Update On Martine Land-Use Study

By TED RITTER  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD – Mayor Colleen Mahr and the borough council Tuesday night received an update on a recently completed North Martine Avenue land-use study.

Borough Planning Board Chairman Greg Cummings, who presented the briefing during the governing body's regular monthly meeting, said the study began last year in response to "concerns" from a resident of Midway Avenue. Mr. Cummings said the resident contacted the borough after he did research and "found a land-use map that was inaccurate."

Mr. Cummings said the study's key issue is the residential zoning classification for the area, specifically whether residential lots are required to have a 50-foot or 75-foot "frontage."

In some cases, he said, developers were "taking two or three large parcels and then subdividing into small lots [and building] large houses."

Mr. Cummings told the governing body that the study recommends directing the borough's planner to prepare a Master Plan amendment. Such a measure would change the frontage requirement to prevent oversized houses on small lots and also conform to surrounding neighborhoods, he said.

Once the Master Plan amendment is written, it will be presented to the mayor and council, and a public hearing will be scheduled.

In other business, Mayor Mahr – pointing to the state's increasing push for consolidating and sharing services

– said a proposed merger of the Scotch Plains and Fanwood public libraries is still being explored.

The mayor said the borough hopes to receive a grant this year to pay for a consultant who will study the issue "to see if it makes sense." She said the boards of directors of both libraries support the idea.

But, she said, "Residents will be the ones to tell us if this is something we want to do," noting that the issue will come before voters at the polls.

The merger would require the dissolution of both municipal libraries and a formal merger into a new facility.

Mayor Mahr said exploring the library merger "is the responsible thing to do in an age when property taxes are going up."

Councilman Joseph Higgins said he plans to meet on Monday with the Fanwood Business and Professional Association regarding a proposed ordinance requiring all local businesses to register with the borough. The mayor and council plan to consider the measure at a meeting on February 13.

Mr. Higgins also said the contractor remains "behind schedule" on the LaGrande Park ballfields renovation project, but he said that the delay should not affect the start of the spring sports season.

The mayor and council approved a resolution to extend the contract providing engineering services on the project.

The mayor and council honored James Grover as the borough's Vol-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Greg Ryan for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*  
**NEW TERM...**Assemblyman Neil Cohen (LD-20, Roselle) swears in Union County Freeholder Al Mirabella of Fanwood for his fourth term on the county freeholder board at the freeholders' reorganization meeting on Sunday. See story on page 2.

## SP Council Approves Deer Reduction Effort For Ashbrook Reservation

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — A second round of deer reduction efforts in the Ashbrook Reservation is expected to begin later this month as township officials strive to reduce a burgeoning deer population that has led to automobile accidents and increased encroachment on residential properties.

At a special meeting on Tuesday night, the township council accepted a bid from Wildlife Management Services of Mountinside to conduct a deer hunt starting next week and lasting until February 10.

The firm conducted a similar hunt last year, during which more than 70 deer were removed from the reserva-

tion. Officials hope that eventually the herd will be reduced from the present 100 deer per square mile to about 20 per square mile. Wildlife Management Services will charge \$185 per deer, the same rate it charged in 2006.

The special meeting was necessary, according to Township Manager Thomas Atkins, because of an "extremely tight timetable" between now and the end of the hunting season on February 10. The Mountinside firm needs to start preparatory work on the site and also work out certain logistical details with Union County, which owns the reservation.

Last year, the state government balked at approving the township's application for a special deer management permit because Trenton officials favored allowing an extended

period of open hunting in the reservation, much of which abuts residential neighborhoods. County and township officials protested, primarily for reasons of safety, and eventually a bureaucratic way of working with state hunting regulations was found by utilizing a private contractor, Wildlife Management Services, which oversaw qualified professional hunters working during limited hours.

Mr. Atkins said the private contractor option is a more time-consuming method. Each sharpshooter used must remove every two deer they kill and transport the carcasses to an off-site weigh station to be weighed and tagged. If the state's fish, game and wildlife division had approved the township's special permit application, the deer reduction

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## SP Zoning Board Reappoints James Fawcett As Chairman

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — James Fawcett, named chairman of the zoning board of adjustment for another year last Thursday, acknowledged the sharp decline in all types of applications in recent months but expressed confidence that things will pick up once the winter season ends.

At its reorganization meeting, during which no applications were heard, the board reappointed Ken Anderson as vice chairman and Vincent Loughlin as board attorney. Barbara Horev, who was named board secretary and also serves the planning board in a similar capacity, said that the planning board's pending agenda is also light.

Mr. Fawcett remarked that "everything is quiet" in terms of applications in recent months. After its July meeting, the board considered three applications at its next meeting three months later and then one application at its November and December meetings. Ms. Horev said there was only application scheduled for consideration in February.

Board member Chris Abeel won-

dered if the slowdown in applications was a sign of a slowing economy as the once-booming housing sector has cooled. Mr. Fawcett predicted that once the warm weather returns in a few months, the board would see more applications for fences and decks.

Mr. Loughlin told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that oral arguments have not yet been scheduled in the appeal filed by Cumberland Farms regarding the board's rejection last year of its application to expand and upgrade the Gulf gasoline station it owns on Route 22. After its initial application, facing opposition from neighborhood residents, was rejected in June 2005, Cumberland Farms submitted a new application a year ago that it said addressed the concerns residents had risen.

Mr. Loughlin said he had no information regarding a timetable for a hearing on the appeal filed by Elizabethtown Water Co., whose application to subdivide its Jerusalem Road property so that half of that tract of land could be sold was turned down by the board last year.

The zoning board's next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 1.



Benjamin B. Corbin for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*  
**GAINING GRANT...**Rep. Mike Ferguson (R-7th, New Providence) presents a \$69,417 check per a federal grant to the Mountinside Fire Department to replace a backup generator. Pictured, from left to right, are: Mountinside Mayor Robert Vigilanti, Rep. Ferguson, fire official George McGrath, Fire Chief Neil Williams and Deputy Chief Kenny Lawrence.

## SP Planning Bd. to Consider Coffee Shop Application

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township planning board on Monday elected Maria Sartor as chairwoman and Joseph Doyle as vice chairman. In nominating Mrs. Sartor for a third term, Mr. Doyle said she has "taken her job very seriously" and "comes prepared." Mrs. Sartor, who has been a board member for 24 years, called Mr. Doyle "one of the board's most valuable resources" in her remarks nominating him for vice chairman.

At the board's first meeting of the year, Marc Ginsberg was sworn in for a four-year term, while Dominick Bratti was took the oath of office to fill out the remaining three years of an unexpired term. Mayor Martin Marks and Deputy Mayor Paulette Coronato will serve for one year. Susan Judge will serve as an alternate for a two-year term, while Craig Clark will join as an alternate for a one-year

term.

There were no public hearings or applications considered on Monday, but at its January 22 meeting, the board will consider an application by World Entertainment Group to open a coffee and dessert shop at 375 Park Avenue and utilize a liquor license formerly held by the Club Malibu nightclub on Terrill Road, which closed its doors several years ago.

In addition, the board is expected to hold a public hearing on the township's master plan, which has been under review for the past year. No significant changes to the plan are expected to be unveiled, according to board planner Mary Moody.

Among other applications being reviewed but not yet on the agenda, Snuffy's Pantagis restaurant on Park Avenue is seeking approval to build an office building on its property. No details about the application are currently available.



Greg Ryan for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*  
**LISTENING INTENTLY...**Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage, left, and New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine observe proceedings at Sunday's Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders reorganization meeting.

## Christmas Tree Disposal Notice

### Westfield Schedule

WESTFIELD – Town Administrator James Gildea told *The Leader/Times* that "Christmas trees may now be brought to the Conservation Center (on Rahway Avenue) due to the new winter schedule."

All decorations, lights and wiring must be taken off trees prior to dropping them off at the Conservation Center. Accordingly, Christmas trees are not to be deposited in Tamakes Park as in past years. Christmas trees will not be picked up by the Town of Westfield curbside.

The Westfield Conservation Center will be opened every other (alternating) Saturday: January 6 and 20, February 3 and 17, March 3 and 17, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., weather permitting.

For further information, call (908) 789-4100, extension 600 or see the town website: westfieldnj.gov. In addition, regular updates will be broad-

### Scotch Plains Schedule

SCOTCH PLAINS – Township Manager Tom Atkins told *The Leader/Times* that the Department of Public Works will pick up Christmas trees from curbside beginning on January 16, 2007 and should be completed in seven days thereafter.

Mr. Atkins also noted, "Residents can also drop off their tree at the Department (of Public Works) on Plainfield Avenue, if they would like, any time before January 29, 2007. Obviously, we would prefer business hours but we handle the others too. Business hours really keep things more orderly and potentially avoiding the dropping off/dumping of other stuff too. We really only say drop off if they miss the program the week of the 16th."

cast on TV-36.

This is the second year of this new system in Westfield.

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## Mandated Expenses Rise \$1.1 Million for SP Budget

By FRED T. ROSSI

*Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

SCOTCH PLAINS — Township Manager Thomas Atkins said on Tuesday that fixed non-discretionary budget increases for 2007 already add up to \$1.1 million, a level he termed “a little worse than we’ve faced in recent years.”

Mr. Atkins told the township council at its conference meeting that he will submit his executive budget proposals to members by Friday, February 2. He listed nine separate areas subject to “significant” expenditure increases mandated by contracts, state mandates and other means.

Contributions to the police and fire pension system will increase by \$215,509 this year, while payments to the public employees retirement system will be \$75,905 higher than in 2006. Fees paid to the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority will rise \$144,000 this year and will increase “sharply” in the following two or three years before leveling off. State-mandated funding for the township’s library will increase nearly \$150,000.

Health insurance premiums for township employees will go up by \$131,067. Police salaries and wages will increase by \$221,000 under the terms of the existing contract. Gasoline costs are projected to increase

by \$70,000 over last year, while utilities expenses will rise by \$21,000.

Prior to formal introduction of the 2007 municipal spending plan, the council is expected to hold a series of budget meetings in February and March to allow members to review Mr. Atkins’ spending proposals. The \$1.106 million increase in mandated costs detailed by the township manager on Tuesday represents an 11-tax-point increase in appropriations over last year’s \$22.01-million municipal budget, without consideration of township revenues.

Mr. Atkins told the council that “your revenue picture is going to be better than your spending picture,” even though he is assuming that state aid will be flat again this year, he said.

Mr. Atkins said he was not optimistic that lawmakers in Trenton would enact any meaningful property tax reform solutions. He said proposals for tax credits and a cap on municipal property tax increases, and certain caveats related to those two ideas, would if enacted prove to be “damaging” to township residents. He termed action in Trenton as “merely talk,” saying state officials may feel the “need to do something politically this year,” when all 120 members of the Legislature are up for re-election. “They feel they really need to give the appearance of doing something.”

In other business, renovations to the municipal building should be completed by June, according to the project’s architect, who told the council that the \$3.8-million undertaking is so far being done at or under budget. Architect Tom Potter, along with consultant Walter DiNizo, provided an update on the progress so far since work commenced last fall.

Mr. DiNizo said a new steel roof truss will soon be ready for installation and that this will require the building to be closed for two or three days. He mentioned the weekend of February 16 to 19, which is a holiday weekend, as a possible time for the installation of the truss.

The council is expected to approve a \$30,000 change order so that the front porch and steps of the 33-year-old building can be replaced. The \$30,000 expenditure for the front porch and steps will come out of a \$146,000 contingency included in the project’s \$3.8-million budget.

Councilman Kevin Glover asked why this wasn’t part of the original budget and whether future unforeseen cost increases were in the offing. “I am concerned whether there will be other discretionary decisions that we will have to make,” he said.

When Mr. Potter mentioned the sidewalk plaza between the front of the building and Park Avenue as another possible area for improvement, Mr. Glover said, “If there are more things, we should get a value [for them] now rather than later.”

Mr. Potter and Mr. DiNizo agreed to submit to the council frequent written reports updating members on the progress of the project, which entails replacing the building’s roof and the heating and air-conditioning system, adding a second floor above the police station and making improvements to the building’s façade.

a picture’s worth a thousand words  
goleader.com/photos



Fred K. Lecomte for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
NOT ENOUGH...Blue Devils senior guard Mike Venezia takes a foul shot at Thursday’s game against the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders. He scored 19 points, but the Raiders prevailed, 63-57, in double overtime.



Fred K. Lecomte for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
ALL SMILES...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School cheerleaders are all smiles at the Raiders boys’ basketball win over the Westfield Blue Devils, 63-57, in double overtime last Thursday.

## WF Police Detective Alleges Sex. Harassment by Ex-Chief

By PAUL J. PEYTON

*Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

WESTFIELD — A Westfield police detective has filed a sexual harassment lawsuit against the town, the Westfield Police Department (WPD) and former police chief Bernard Tracy. The detective, Sandra Chambers of Plainfield, has been employed by the WPD since 1995.

The six-count lawsuit, served on Westfield on December 14, alleges that “during a two-year period, Chief Tracy regularly called Detective Chambers at home, during non-working hours and late into the evening” and that Mr. Tracy invited Detective Chambers “to call him on his personal cell phone.”

Mr. Tracy retired from the department in September 2005 and accepted a job with the Linden Public Schools as a school security officer.

Detective Chambers admitted that she and Mr. Tracy had been friends, and that then-Chief Tracy invited her to attend a convention in 2003 with him in Washington, D.C., paid for by the police department.

“While at the convention, Detective Chambers worked very hard to make contacts that would benefit the Westfield Police Department,” Detective Chambers alleges in the suit. “While at the convention, Chief Tracy commented to Detective Chambers and others that she was not spending enough time with him, and he felt that she had ‘abandoned’ him.”

The detective alleges that the former chief “intimated that he was hopeful that while they were at the convention, he and Detective Chambers could become even better friends.”

## SP Deer Reduction

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

program would “get done more quickly,” Mr. Atkins told the township council last month. That option allows as many deer to be eliminated as is authorized by a permit, so theoretically a reduction program could be accomplished in as little as a day or two.

The deer problem on the south side of Scotch Plains has increased in recent years as the growing deer population, seeking food and shelter in a more-crowded reservation, has moved into residential areas and, in the process, crossed busy local roads. Council members and southside residents have told of seeing “numerous” deer in their backyards, and there have been a number of incidents where cars have hit and killed deer that were crossing area streets.

Regardless of how the deer herd is reduced, Mr. Atkins earlier expressed his belief that, “if you do it for several more years, you’ll see more tangible, quantifiable reductions in the deer overpopulation.”

## Fanwood Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

unteer of the Month.

Mayor Mahr said Mr. Grover’s many local volunteer activities include maintaining the community sign board on Martine Avenue, playing the part of Santa during the borough’s main holiday celebration and working with the Lions Club.

“You really exemplify everything that it takes to be a good Fanwoodian,” the mayor told Mr. Grover.

“I guess I just do what I’m expected to do,” he responded. “I just do my best.”



## POLICE BLOTTER

Scotch Plains

Thursday, January 4, a student at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School reported the theft of her iPod from her locker.

Friday, January 5, a resident of Fanwood reported that, while she was at her gym, her cellular telephone was removed from her locker. The value of the telephone was \$235.

Saturday, January 6, a student at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools reported the theft of his book bag from his locker. The bag contained several hundred dollars in cash, police said.

Saturday, January 6, one or more unidentified individuals sprayed graffiti on a building on Route 22. The damage was valued at approximately \$150.

Sunday, January 7, a resident of Country Club Lane reported being the victim of criminal mischief. According to police, the tires on his motor vehicle were slashed while the vehicle was parked in the driveway. The tires were valued at approximately \$200, police said.

Fanwood

Wednesday, January 3, Erika K. McFarlane, 34, of Cranford was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue, which revealed an outstanding Clifton warrant. She posted bail and was released.

Friday, January 5, Preston I. Fulford, 34, of Stewartville was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue on outstanding warrants out of Trenton and Stewartville. While being taken into custody, the suspect allegedly resisted arrest and assaulted two police officers, police said. He subsequently was charged with two counts of assault and resisting arrest. Bail was set at \$40,000.

Friday, January 5, Efrain Mendoza, 32, of Elizabeth was arrested following a field investigation on an outstanding New Brunswick warrant. According to police, the suspect also was linked to a hit-and-run accident. The suspect posted bail and was released.

Tuesday, January 9, Claudia Morales-Morin, 28, of Union was arrested on an outstanding Westfield warrant following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. She posted bail and was released, police said.

Tuesday, January 9, Jose O. Cintron, 24, of Newark was arrested on an outstanding Newark warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue. He also was charged with providing police with false information, authorities said. Cintron posted the \$500 bail and was released, police said.

## Paterson Calls GW Mayor, Borough Council ‘Thugs’

By KATHY MARQUES

*Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

GARWOOD — A night that ended with a resident calling the mayor and borough council “thugs” and “criminals” concerning the timing of a letter sent about St. Anne’s school began with an update on the North Avenue Mews project.

Borough attorney Robert Renaud opened the first council session of the year Tuesday night by stating that he will meet with developers of the Mews next week to go over documents.

“I have been meeting with them bi-monthly, and they have been cooperative in regards to keeping up with needed paperwork,” Mr. Renaud said.

In other matters, Councilman Walter Tucker, chairman of the Public Health and Safety Committee, spoke about newly appointed patrolman, Officer David Perrotta.

Mr. Tucker noted that the officer is “adjusting well to the department and is on his way to completing his training.”

Mr. Tucker spoke about the new Home Safety Inspection Program, which allows residents to have a home-safety evaluation conducted by a member of the police department. The officer would make recommendations on how to make the home safer.

Sergeant Michael Wilson, Police Officer Douglas Stoffer and dispatcher John Drone created the program, Mr. Tucker said. The Garwood PBA (No. 117) also donated high-efficiency light bulbs to seniors in order to alleviate the cost of leaving a conventional light bulb on at night, dispatcher Drone told *The Westfield Leader* Wednesday morning.

Resident Bruce Paterson, during public comment, said he had heard from several residents that they were “threatened” by council members if they didn’t remove his election sign from their lawns. Mr. Paterson is the Independent candidate in Garwood who lost the mayoral race to Mayor McCarthy in November.

Mr. Paterson also said he heard from someone that a butcher shop owner was told by a government official to not circulate his “TREE” newsletter.

While speaking at the podium, Mayor McCarthy’s wife, Debbie, addressed Mr. Paterson, saying that she used to go to the butcher shop, but did not any longer. She denied telling anyone not to distribute his newsletter.

“I don’t tell anyone who to vote for,” she said. “I don’t tell anyone where to shop. I chose to stop shopping there for personal reasons; it had nothing to do with politics. It’s my personal choice to shop where I want, and had nothing to do with the election.”

Wednesday, January 10, Melody C. Mendez, 21, of Linden was taken into police headquarters on suspicion of driving while intoxicated after a motor vehicle stop. She subsequently was charged with careless driving, police said. She was released to a responsible adult.

Westfield

Sunday, December 31, after being arrested on a shoplifting charge at a North Avenue store, Rowland Adeyemo, 22, of Scotch Plains was held on open warrants from Newark, for \$300, and Belmar, for \$800, until he posted bail.

Sunday, December 31, Pete Septynski, 45, of Westfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation at West Broad Street and Rahway Avenue. He later was released to a responsible individual.

Tuesday, January 2, a general contractor renovating a residence on the 60 block of Nomahegan Drive reported the theft of several pieces of equipment from the premises, including a table saw, a hammer drill, a compound miter saw and a circular saw. The total value of the missing property is \$1,077. There were no signs of forced entry into the residence.

Tuesday, January 2, a resident of the 10 block of Tudor Oval reported the theft of two iPods from within her home. The missing property is valued at \$300. There were no signs of forced entry into the residence.

Wednesday, January 3, Daniel Campos, 21, of Roselle was arrested at South Avenue/Crossway Place on two outstanding motor vehicle warrants issued by Watchung. He was released after posting a total of \$380 bail.

Thursday, January 4, a resident of the 400 block of Highland Avenue reported that someone damaged his garage by attempting to set it on fire.

Thursday, January 4, a resident of the 700 block of Austin Street reported the theft of a Nokia camera and a Motorola cellular telephone from the pocket of a jacket left unattended during a school choral concert. The missing property is valued at approximately \$550.

Saturday, January 6, Gary A. Healey, 41, of Westfield was arrested on Mountain Avenue on an outstanding criminal warrant issued by Garwood. He was released after posting \$560 cash bail.

Sunday, January 7, Hagen A. Lewis, 37, of Plainfield posted \$100 bail at Westfield police headquarters on a traffic warrant issued by the Westfield Municipal Court.

Mr. Paterson also questioned the mayor on sending a letter out to constituents a few weeks before election time about residents’ concerns of James Ward and the St. Anne’s School proposal.

He said, “You (Mayor McCarthy) sent the letter out on government (council) letterhead, but it read like it was all about you, that you were the one who was going to try to address the concerns of the residents. I am concerned with the timing of the letter — weeks before the election — and don’t agree with your tactics.”

Mr. Paterson called the mayor and council “thugs” and “criminals,” adding, “New Jersey is the laughingstock of the country, and there are problems that need to be fixed that aren’t.”

The mayor responded that the timing of the letter had nothing to do with the election.

“I would’ve sent the letter to the residents in September or October,” he responded. “I was letting the residents know that I am aware of their concerns. It’s not my fault (that) the timing of the Mews development and issues (were) around election time. I had nothing to do with that.”

In other news, Mr. Tucker, chairperson of the library committee, spoke about Toddler Story Time, which will be held by the Garwood Free Public Library, beginning on Wednesday, January 10, at 10:30 a.m. It will run for eight weeks. He also spoke about how circulation increased.

“It was 11,267 for 2006, exceeding the goal of 10,000. This figure was reached with just eight months of actual operation of the library,” he said.

Councilman Charles Lombardo, chairperson of the streets and roads committee, said the Department of Public Works would collect Christmas trees every Wednesday in the month of January.

Mr. Tucker mentioned that former resident Tom Perotta and his movie *Little Children* has been nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture-Drama.

Mr. Perotta is the author of “Little Children,” “Joe College,” “Election,” “The Wishbones” and “Bad Haircut.”

The finance committee will meet next month to work on the 2007 budget, said re-appointed Councilwoman Kathleen Villaggio, chairperson of the finance committee.

In other business, Mr. Paterson, member of the celebrations committee, mentioned the winners of the Holiday House decorating contest. First place went to 249 Fourth Avenue, second place to 315 Hickory Avenue, third place to 205 Third Avenue and an honorable mention to 231 Spruce Avenue.

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### Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of *The Leader/Times*

**Gormley, Corodemus  
Not to Seek Re-Election**

Veteran Republican Senator William Gormley has announced that he will not seek re-election after 30 years in the legislature. He joined the Senate in 1982, after serving as an Atlantic County freeholder and as an state assemblyman. In addition, GOP Assemblyman Steven Corodemus of Monmouth County has decided not to run again after serving eight two-year terms.

**Legislators Propose  
I and R in New Jersey**

Assemblymen Richard Merkt and Joseph Pennacchio, both Republicans, want to give New Jerseyans the power to decide how the state spends money through initiative and referendum.

Under the Initiative and Referendum (I and R) proposal, residents would be able to place questions on the election ballot if they obtain signatures from 25 percent of registered voters in 14 of the state's 21 counties. If passed by voters, a proposal would become law within 60 days. The Legislature would have the power to defeat the proposal if two-thirds of both houses of the Legislature – 120 members – voted to overturn voter approval of a measure.

**Tax Bd. Expansion  
Cost \$1.2 Million**

Legislation passed in 2005 to expand the 21 county tax boards in the state is drawing questions. The law authorized 42 new political patronage positions at \$1.2 million, according to a *Star-Ledger* report. The jobs pay between \$16,000 and \$22,000 annually. Each county's board can be between five and seven members.

**Mayor McCarthy to  
Hold Saturday Hours**

GARWOOD – Garwood Mayor Dennis McCarthy will hold his monthly Mayor's Saturday this Saturday, January 13, from 10 to 11 a.m., in the Municipal Building at 403 South Avenue. Residents are invited to stop by to discuss any concerns they have, or just stop by and say hello and meet Mayor McCarthy. For more information, call (908) 789-0710.

based on population. Union County's board consists of five members. Boards are responsible for certifying tax assessments, as well as hearing tax appeals. James Cafiero, son of former GOP state Senator James Cafiero, was appointed in Cape May County, as was former Morris County Democrat Chairman Thomas Zelante in Morris and Fredric Weinstein, a former chairman of the Camden County Improvement Authority, in Camden.

**Paperwork Lapse  
Costs DEP \$10 million**

The Gannett State Bureau has reported that due to faulty paperwork, the state Department of Environmental Protection has failed to charge \$10 million to polluters responsible for environmental cleanups. The information was based on a state auditor's report, which also found that the DEP lost an unspecified amount of money because its automated billing system does not calculate interest charges on overdue accounts.

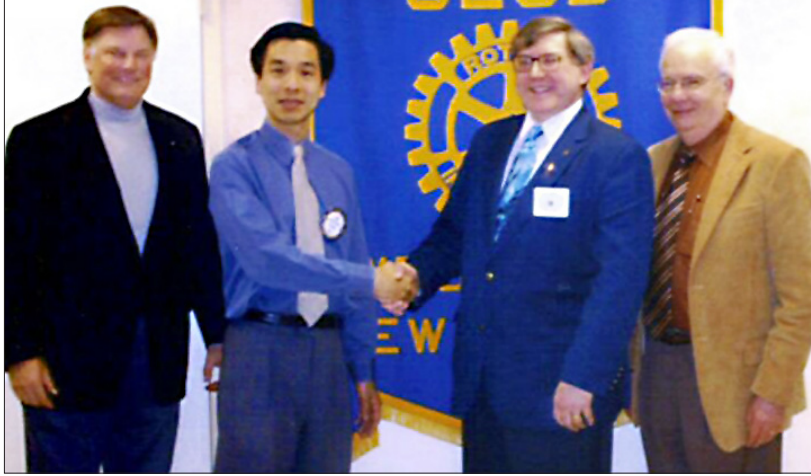
**JC Dep. Mayor Resigns  
After Peddling Bus.**

Jersey City Deputy Mayor Ador Equipado resigned last week, following calls from *The Jersey Journal* inquiring about his alleged demands for cash from a couple he married in October, and using the occasion to peddle his phone service business.

A city manager married at Jersey City Hall on October 6 told the newspaper that Mr. Equipado spent the first 10 minutes with her and her husband-to-be questioning them about their finances and what phone service they used. When they declined to change carriers, he charged them \$50 for officiating the service. The city does not charge a fee other than the \$28 for a marriage license.

**Councilman Told to  
Account for Funds**

A State Superior Court judge in Union County last week ordered sheriff's officers to bring Morristown Councilman Richard Tighe to his courtroom to explain where \$182,000 of an incapacitated woman's money went while he had power-of-attorney control over her finances. Mr. Tighe also was ordered to pay \$100 a day for every day he fails to provide that accounting. The woman, 96-year-old Lenore Johnson, lives in Summit.



**LEADERS MEET...**Westfield Rotary President Edred Shen welcomes district leaders to a club meeting held recently. Pictured, left to right, are: Deputy District Governor Byron Miller, Mr. Shen, Rotary District 7510 Governor Michael Hart and former Rotary International Director David Linett.

**MVC Calls Estrada Report  
A 'Private Personnel Issue'**

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

ELIZABETH – The New Jersey Ethics Commission has released its findings on Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) report on whether Union County Freeholder Angel Estrada broke any rules when he assisted former State Attorney General Zulima Farber's boyfriend Hamlet Goore regain his driving privileges.

When contacted by *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, MVC Director of Communications Mike Horan said MVC Executive Director Sharon Harrington received the ethics commission findings on December 4. He said Mr. Estrada and other MVC employees cited in Special Deputy Attorney General Richard Williams' report to Governor Jon Corzine were also notified of the findings.

"The issue was brought before the (ethics) commission. They reviewed it and contacted [MVC] and explained their findings," Mr. Horan said.

Upon an inquiry for a copy of the report he said, "[I]t cannot be discussed publicly because it is a private personnel issue," Mr. Horan said MVC ethics officer Steve Robertson made that decision. The ethics commission hearing was conducted on November 29 and the letter to Ms. Harrington, executive director of the MVC, was dated November 30, according to Mr. Horan.

The report mentioned Mr. Estrada for his call to the MVC's central office, where an employee in the Court Suspension Unit determined Mr. Gore's driver's license was suspended for an unpaid parking ticket which he had paid to the court, but no one had contacted the suspension unit to acti-

vate his driving privileges. The employee then restored his driver's license.

"The restoration of Mr. Goore's driving privileges, as well as the renewal of the registration of Goore's vehicle, both occurred before he ever arrived at the Elizabeth office of MVC," Mr. Williams said in his report.

"Mr. Estrada's handling of this matter before Hamlet Goore arrived at the MVC agency raises questions about the propriety of his practices and whether they were in compliance with MVC procedures," Mr. Williams reported, noting he had no jurisdiction on Mr. Estrada's involvement in the case.

When reached Monday Mr. Estrada said, "I will be making a future statement" but said he was not prepared to do at this time. He said he wanted to make sure residents understood nothing was done "improper" by his office.

Union County Republican Party Chairman Phil Morin said he would have no comment until the report's findings are made public.

*The Leader/Times* submitted an Open Records Act request for both the MVC report and Ethics Commission findings last Friday.

**County Announces  
OPRA Forms**

COUNTY – To obtain public information from Union County, the manager's office has announced that new forms are to be used to submit the request. The county notes that advisory opinion, "What Constitutes a Valid Open Public Records Request (OPRA)," issued by the New Jersey Government Records Council on February 17, 2006, requires that OPRA requests be submitted on the public agency's official OPRA request forms.

The county instructs the public that completed request forms and correspondence are to be sent to the dedicated e-mail account: [opra@ucnj.org](mailto:opra@ucnj.org). For additional information, contact Marlena Russo, Office of the County Manager, Union County Administration Bldg., 6th Fl., 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, NJ 07207; call (908) 527-4178, fax (908) 558-0915 or e-mail [opra@ucnj.org](mailto:opra@ucnj.org). The forms and instructions can be downloaded at the county website on the following link: [ucnj.org/opra](http://ucnj.org/opra).

**Kowalski Unveils Helpline,  
Upgraded Dog Park at Echo**

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

ELIZABETH – Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski took the gavel Sunday afternoon as the new chairman of the nine-member Union County freeholder board. She is the seventh woman to hold the post in the 150-year history of the county, according to County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi.

Prior to giving her address on 2007 initiatives, Freeholders Al Mirabella of Fanwood, Chester Holmes of Rahway and Deborah Scanlon of Union were sworn into their fourth three-terms. Freeholder Angel Estrada was sworn in as the vice chairman of the board this year after chairing the fiscal affairs committee, which conducts county budget hearings, last year. Mr. Mirabella will chair the fiscal affairs panel this year.

Governor Jon Corzine headlined a guest list during Sunday's ceremony, which was conducted in the chambers of State Superior Court Assignment Judge Walter Barisonok at the Union County Courthouse. Other guests included State Assemblymen Gerry Green of Plainfield and Joe Cryan of Union, Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage and new Scotch Plains Councilman Kevin Glover.

Ms. Kowalski, a Cranford resident serving her third year on the board, unveiled five initiatives highlighted by a \$912,000 upgrade to the Echo Lake Dog Park.

"The renovation will include new fencing, a gazebo, benches and additional recreation space for the pooches to be completed later this year. The plan includes 22 additional parking spaces and water fountains for the enjoyment and recreation of pets and their owners," she said in her address.

Her second initiative will be "to work to identify and build a consensus on creating increased shared services." The county received a state grant to be used for a consultant who will conduct "record management assessments, inventories and plans for 19 municipalities," the freeholder chairman said, noting that the consultant would also create a proposal for a countywide microfilming services bureau.

"The County of Union continues to support statewide property tax reform and the cost saving measures the State Legislature and Governor are pursuing as they pertain to shared services," Ms. Kowalski said. Governor Corzine, who spoke briefly at the start of the meeting, said: "It is hard to imagine a compounding rate of property taxes is 7 percent a year...If it's a \$6,000 medium...you've got over a \$400 increase. It is a remarkable burden for our citizens to have. We have an obligation to deal with this."

Ms. Kowalski's other initiatives include the Union County Economic and Workforce Competitiveness Project at a cost of \$97,000, a Union County Arts and Economic Prosperity Initiative paid for through a \$60,000 state grant and the creation of a Youth Helpline to provide guidance and referrals for youth and teenagers. A toll-free confidential telephone number will be operational seven days a week from 9 a.m. to midnight. The Helpline will be staffed by professionals and trained volunteers, she said.

Through the Economic and Workforce Competitiveness initiative, the county will partner with Rutgers University, the workforce, education and business sectors to "develop a blueprint and plan for sustained economic growth," according to a county press release.

The Arts and Economic Prosperity initiative will utilize a \$60,000 grant "to market the county's historic sites, recreation areas and arts centers for tourism."

"A study conducted in 2001 noted that the arts generated more than \$2.5 million a year in spending in Union County, with more than 200,000 people attending events," Ms. Kowalski said.


The chairman said this year's Playground Initiative will provide matching dollars to towns to create and improve playgrounds and will be funded for up to \$600,000 from the county's Open Space trust fund. She also announced a pilot program to eliminate fees charged to schools visiting the Trailside Nature and Science Center. The county estimated the lost revenue at \$15,000.

During the business portion of the meeting, multiple local residents were appointed to advisory boards. The board named May Furstner and Terry Tainow of Westfield to the Advisory Council on Aging for terms through 2008. Matthew Sontz of Westfield was named to a three-year term on the construction board of appeals. Phyllis Brociner of Mountainside was appointed to the cultural and heritage advisory board for a three-year term, and Jane O'Hara of Westfield was named to a three-year term on the Commission of the Status of Women in Union County.

Paul Santos was named to the Motion Picture and Television Advisory Board for a three-year term and Pamela Boright and Mr. Glover of Scotch Plains were appointed to the Runnells Specialized Hospital Advisory Board for three-year terms. Jerome Feder and Rosemary Millet were reappointed to the Union County Air Traffic Noise Advisory Board through 2008, and Reni Erdos of Scotch Plains was named to the Union County Utilities Authority for a term through the end of 2011.



Bette Jane Kowalski



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## WF Planning Bd. Approves Gourmet Business on Elmer

By STEVEN REILLY

*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

WESTFIELD — The town's planning board heard testimony last Thursday from Annie's Gourmet Kitchen and Daniel Sabatino. Both applied for variances to move forward on construction projects.

John Miller, the owner of Annie's Gourmet Kitchen, a new business slated to open on Elmer Street later this year, testified before the board on multiple issues pertaining to the operation.

He said Annie's Gourmet Kitchen caters to people who do not have the time or facilities to prepare gourmet meals at home. Customers would be able to sign up for a "session" in which they would be taught how to make a gourmet meal for 12 people. "Our business is unique for today's busy lifestyles," he said. "We provide a solution for our customers who want to have a gourmet meal at home but do not have the time to prepare it."

Customers would attend sessions at the Elmer Street shop, which would provide them with all of the ingredients, utensils and instructions they would need to prepare and package a gourmet meal for a dozen people.

One issue that was raised by the board was parking at the Elmer Street location. The business has 11 parking spots on the lot, records show, while employing three people and catering to 12 customers each session.

According to Mr. Miller, the parking would not be an issue based on the nature of the business. He said customers would be encouraged to carpool to the sessions, which would be booked in advance by groups.

"Most of the people coming to our business will be with friends," he said.

The employees would use three spaces in an adjacent parking lot that would be paid for by the business.

There would also be one mid-sized delivery van, which would be parked on the street during business hours.

The board accepted the parking solutions and recommended a change in some of the parking lot's curbing location before passing the application.

"This is a very unique business that has been featured on the Food Network and has been growing in California and the Midwest," Mr. Miller said. "We were very well received here. This is an excellent location for us. It will create a communal atmosphere for our customers."

A number of board members asked when the business would open and if they would deliver the meals. Mr. Miller added that customers could go to their website, anniesgourmetkitchen.net, to get more information.

The other applicant to be heard was a subdivision of a residential lot and the construction of a third home. Daniel Sabatino addressed the board about subdividing a lot on Springfield Avenue to build a third home.

Mr. Sabatino owns the homes at 337 and 345 Springfield Avenue. He plans to demolish a storage shed on one of the lots and build a third home. He said the property was part of an old farm and is currently a residential lot. He resides in one of the existing homes.

The board passed the application pending approval from the county and state for the traffic impact on Springfield Avenue.

In other news, the board postponed to its February meeting a hearing for 200 Canterbury Road in which the owner, Julie Marsella, plans to subdivide a residential lot, known as the "Little Gatehouse" property at the South Gate to Wychwood Road, and build a second home.

Francis Smith was sworn in as an alternate at the start of the meeting.



Maria Woehr for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
IF YOU TURF IT...Leo White, president of the Westfield Baseball League, addresses the Westfield Recreation Commission about ballpark renovations at Tamaques Park and Gumbert Field at the commission's meeting on Monday night.

## WF Board of Adjustment Re-elects Heinbokel Chair

By CASSIE LO

*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

WESTFIELD — The town's board of adjustment re-elected William Heinbokel as chairman during the board's reorganization meeting Monday night. Kathy Nemeth was named vice chairman and Vincent Loughlin was renamed board attorney.

During the business portion of the meeting, Laura Brockway of 127 North Euclid Avenue was granted an extension of 12 months to complete construction of a front porch.

David Barbosa of 400 East Dudley Avenue sought permission to retain a newly paved area that increased the width of the driveway and created a walkway by the garage. The newly paved area allegedly is partially on the neighbor's property, which Mr. Barbosa said was not a problem.

The board requested testimony from town engineer Kenneth Marsh and Mr. Barbosa's surrounding neighbors before voting on the variance.

Joseph Buontempo of 254 Seneca Place was denied permission to park a van with commercial signage on a residential property because of his failure to appear at the meeting.

Alison Stephen of 704 Tamaques Way was approved to construct improvements to an existing screened porch and a second-story addition. Ms. Stephen reduced her original proposed building coverage of 23.5 percent to 21 percent by reworking her plans, resulting in approval by the board.

Paul and Kristin Nicholson of 2165

### St. Pat's Parade Panel To Host Bartender Party

KENILWORTH — The Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee will host its annual Celebrity Bartenders fundraiser on Saturday, February 3, from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Kenilworth Veterans Center, located at 33 South 21st Street.

Entertainment will include the Irish-American pub rock sound of Sullivan's Jack and pipe bands. Tickets cost \$5 each and include coffee, tea, cake and hot dogs. Beer mugs are \$10.

The Celebrity Bartenders party will benefit the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade, which will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 10, on Morris Avenue in Union.

For tickets or more information, contact Karen Cunningham at (908) 241-7710, Amy Cox-Russo at (732) 331-0705 or Debbie Capasso at (908) 413-5253. Tickets are also available at the door.

For more information about the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade, please visit [unioncountystpatricksdaysparade.com/PaddyInfo.html](http://unioncountystpatricksdaysparade.com/PaddyInfo.html).

## WF Rec. Commission Agrees To Tamaques Renovations

By MARIA WOHR

*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Recreation Commission approved a proposal from the Westfield Baseball League (WBL) Monday night to make renovations and transform Tamaques Park field number five into a 50-by-70-foot usable baseball field and to support the WBL's desire to renovate Gumbert fields one, two and three.

"The fields are in dire need of repairs and drainage, and I think it is time we pay some attention to Westfield baseball," said Bob Smith, a member of the recreation commission. "As it is now, Tamaques field five is unusable as a competitive baseball field."

As part of the agreement, the recreation commission will provide \$50,000 for a new backstop and clay and labor if the WBL provides \$15,000 for the rest of the supplies, such as fencing and dugout roofing.

"We would like to band-aid the field as the commission suggested. However, the cost of a backstop is not cheap. It will run \$25,000," said Leo White, WBL president. "We would like the field, which is not playable at the moment, to be ready for April 15, 2007."

Adjustments to the field would include altering the size of the field for safety reasons. "Currently many traveling leagues are pushing back the fields for safety reasons," Mr. Smith said.

WBL's proposed renovations to Gumbert Fields include fixing drainage problems on all of the fields, increasing the size of the fields, turfing at least field one and renovating fields two and three in their natural condition with the hopes of turfing them in

### UC GOP to Honor Senator Tom Kean, Jr.

SUMMIT — The Republican Committee of Union County will honor State Senator Tom Kean Jr. with a cocktail party hosted by Eileen and John Sivoletta on Sunday, January 21, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at their Summit residence.

Mr. Kean has served in the State Senate since 2003 after serving in the General Assembly, representing the 21st Legislative District. In 2004, he was elected Senate Minority Whip.

He has been a proponent of ethics reform in state government, sponsoring legislation banning pay-to-play practices. He has also sponsored legislation to streamline government, promote education, protect the environment and lower property taxes.

Mr. Kean resides in Westfield with his wife Rhonda and two daughters.

For information about the event, contact Union County Republican Headquarters at (908) 789-0200 or Kelly Hatfield at (908) 522-1455 or by e-mail at [kellyhatfield@comcast.net](mailto:kellyhatfield@comcast.net).

## MS Receives \$69,417

### Homeland Security Grant

MOUNTAINSIDE — Rep. Mike Ferguson (R-7th), announced Monday that the Mountainside Fire Department will receive a \$69,417 grant from the Department of Homeland Security to replace a backup generator for the fire house, which also serves as a shelter and evacuation center for seniors and residents during emergencies.

He made the announcement at the fire department with Mayor Robert Vigilanti, Fire Chief Neil Williams, Borough Administrator James Debbie, and fire official George McGrath.

Mr. Williams said the new dual-fuel generator, which can operate on natural gas or propane, would replace an antiquated diesel-fuel generator. He said the funds also would underwrite the purchase of 10 self-contained breathing apparatuses for the department's all-volunteer firefighters.

"Mountainside firefighters volunteer their time and dedicate their lives to serve and protect our community," Mr. Ferguson said. "These important funds will ensure that these brave men and women continue their outstanding service to our community and families."

Mr. McGrath said the federal grant would help the fire department meet its expanding responsibilities.

"This grant will allow the fire department to continue its outstanding job serving our community and also build on the critical services they provide," he said. "We appreciate Congressman Ferguson's long-standing support for Mountainside and his commitment to obtaining important federal funding for our local fire department."

This is the third federal security grant received by Mountainside in recent

years. In 2003, the fire department received \$167,000 to purchase new radios and other communications equipment, and in 2004 the department received \$41,000 to purchase equipment.

According to fire officials, the 45 person all-volunteer force responds to 275 calls each year. In addition to serving 7,100 residents in Mountainside, the department also participates in the Union County Mutual Aid System, in which firefighters respond to emergencies in other nearby communities.

First responders throughout the 7th District, which includes portions of Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties, have received more than \$5.5 million in federal security funding since September 11, 2001. More than \$2 million in security funding have been awarded to Union County first responders since then.

Other federal first-responder grants for Union County towns in the 7th District include: \$190,170 for the Cranford Fire Department; \$103,258 for the Fanwood Volunteer Fire Department; \$75,317 for the Garwood Volunteer Fire Department; \$24,804 for the Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Department; \$781,866 for the Linden Fire Department; \$126,000 for the Mountainside Fire Department; \$70,758 for the New Providence Volunteer Fire Department; \$117,360 for the Scotch Plains Fire Department; \$48,041 for the Springfield Fire Department; \$19,800 for the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad; \$140,850 for the Summit Fire Department; \$60,621 for the Union Township Fire Department, and \$133,920 for the Westfield Fire Department.



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## Will Parents Accept Busing Their Children to Kindergarten?

The Westfield school bond referendum on Tuesday, January 23, 2007, has an interesting twist to it. The Board of Education proposes to use \$6 million of the \$9.4 million requested to convert Lincoln School at 728 Westfield Avenue to a town-wide kindergarten.

Lincoln School is not used by the Westfield Public Schools, but leased to the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) since 1982 for a fee of \$200,000 per year. UCESC operates Hillcrest Academy at that site. The lease is being terminated this year as a result of complaints registered by neighbors over student behavior.

Schools Superintendent William Foley suggested last January that the administration could be moved to Lincoln School. Then, the under-utilized Elm Street Administration Building could be sold with

the funds applied to other capital needs. Money would be generated and operating costs would be reduced.

A citizens' committee was formed to review matters. Instead of consolidating and reducing costs as suggested by Mr. Foley, the committee recommends building the new facility at Lincoln School and busing in the kindergarten children.

The irony of this is that about 100 kindergarten children in Westfield last year were placed in local, private schools by their parents because they refused to have them redistricted to an adjacent neighborhood school for the purpose of optimizing use of classrooms.

Given this, and Westfield's tradition of neighborhood schools, will parents accept having their kids bused to a central, town-wide kindergarten school?

## Leader/Times Announces 2007 Summer Internship Program

The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times invite area college and high school students with an interest in journalism and newspaper operations to apply to the 2007 Leader/Times Summer Internship Program. The longstanding program will be divided into two types of part-time, paid internships: staff intern and correspondent intern.

The staff intern program will accept a limited number of students to work alongside the Leader/Times office staff in a work/study environment with hands-on assignments involving newspaper operations, writing, photography, copyediting, graphic design, layout, communications and the Internet.

The correspondent intern program will accept a limited number of students to undertake reporting

assignments, such as covering local meetings and events for publication. The newspaper staff will guide the interns on journalistic standards, photography and accountability.

The staff intern program will require greater time and schedule commitment, while the correspondent intern program will be more flexible. Applicants may apply to either or both programs. The newspaper advisory committee will complete the selection process by early spring.

Those interested in the internship program must register online at [goleader.com/internship](http://goleader.com/internship). Complete application information (including résumé and writing samples) must be received by Thursday, March 1. Early registration is recommended due to the popularity of this program.

## The 2007 Bernard Heeney Creative Writing Contest

The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times invite entries for the second annual Bernard Heeney Contest For Creative Writing. The contest celebrates reading and writing as exemplified by the late Mr. Heeney, who relished publications, particularly newspapers. The contest is open to anyone and there is no entry fee. There is one essential criteria – have fun.

All entries are to be original, unpublished work and uploaded to [goleader.com](http://goleader.com) no later than March 1, 2007. The winning authors will receive prizes and their entries will be published this spring in the 35th Annual *This Is Westfield*, which will have a printed circulation of approximately 20,000 copies; and it will be published on the Internet at [goleader.com](http://goleader.com) to thousands more.

Entries are to be 700 to 1200 words. A photograph or illustration is welcomed. In the spirit of creative writing, contestants are encouraged to consider past,

present or future; history, commentary, sports, art, humor, science fiction, essay, mystery and illustration — in some fashion, with a tie to Westfield or surrounding communities.

For all details, see [www.goleader.com/tiw/contest](http://www.goleader.com/tiw/contest).

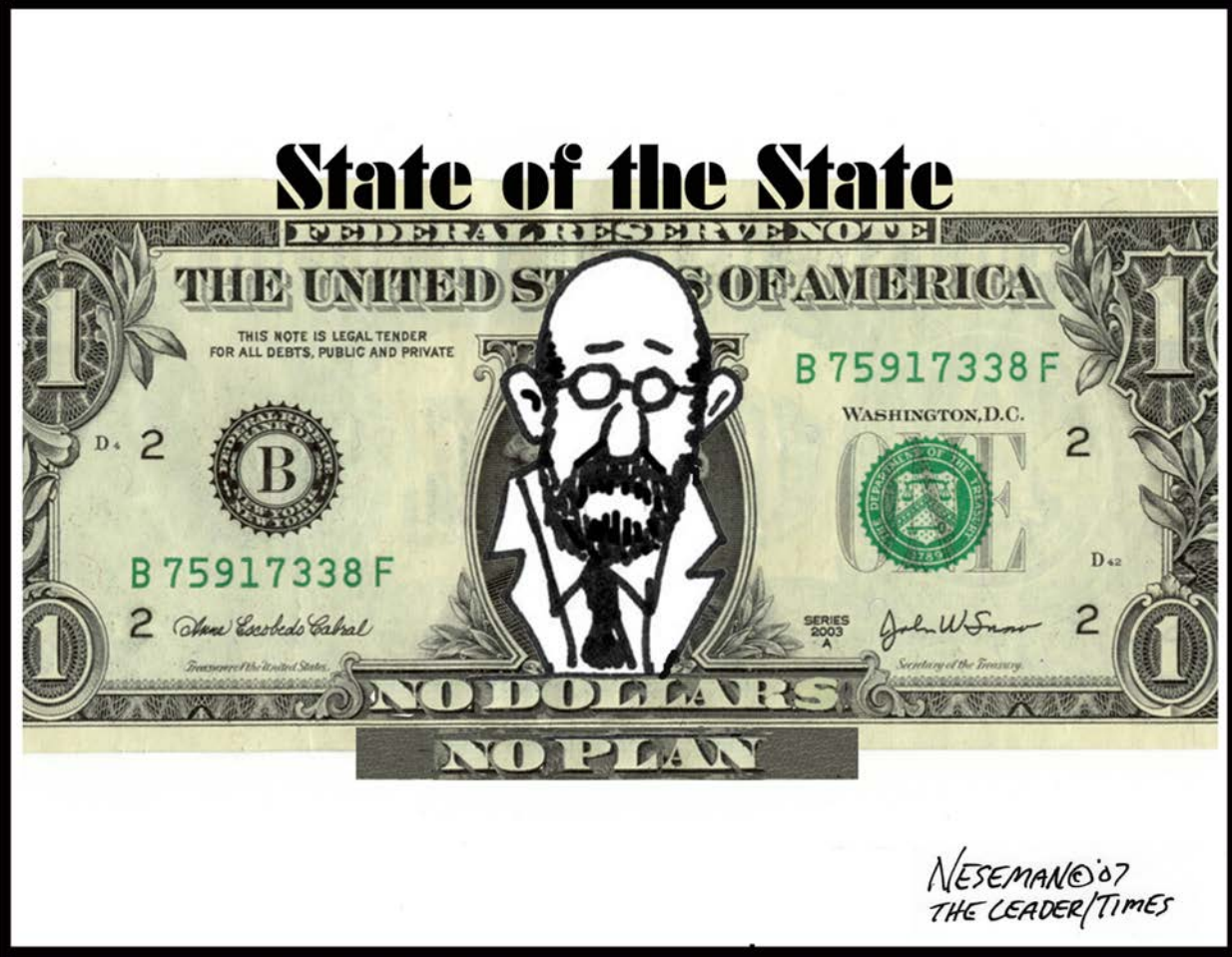
An author may submit up to three entries, which may be tendered early to receive editorial feedback with an opportunity for resubmission.

Former Westfield Town Clerk Bernard Heeney, Jr., who died in 2005 at the age of 56, was a pivotal presence in the town's government for more than a quarter century. He had a friendly, chipper nature and an ability to get things done. Among many

things, he was innovative while making sure everything was done "according to Hoyle." Mr. Heeney read several newspapers each day and was proud that many of his letters were published, including one in *The New York Times*.



Bernard Heeney



## Letters to the Editor

### Taking of Crèche Figures Upsetting To Area Church Communities

Over the Christmas Holidays three local Roman Catholic churches had their crèche sets disrupted by robbers. Holy Trinity, Westfield; St. Helen's, Westfield, had the infant child taken from their manger setting. The Holy Trinity infant was returned after being smashed on the property of Dooley's Funeral Home in Westfield. St. Helen's has heard nothing thus far. The third parish, St. Agnes in Clark, had the child Jesus, Mary, Joseph and one of the wise men removed from their property with no further word.

We live in a world that sings of joy, hope, love and peace and yet so often we experience actions that are contrary to the message of our Christmas season. One

wonders what motivates an individual or individuals to engage in activity that is so destructive and disruptive to so many people in our community. I pray for those who walked off with the crèche figures.

Perhaps they will be inspired to return what they borrowed. The parishioners of the above mentioned parishes are indeed upset over what has transpired. May those responsible for this activity be moved by the grace of God to rectify what has happened by returning as soon as possible the figures taken.

**Rev. Msgr. William Harms  
Saint Helen's Church  
Westfield**

### Thanks to Volunteers for Making First 'Family Night' A Huge Success

The Westfield Recreation Department and the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce would like to take this opportunity to thank the community, the volunteers, and "Top Hat Sponsors" for making our First Annual Family Night a huge and safe success. Over 900 adults and children from the community enjoyed the event. It took the collaboration of the Westfield Recreation Department, the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce and our dedicated volunteers to operate this wonderful event safely and smoothly.

The event was successful thanks to the following "Top Hat" Sponsors: Century 21 Taylor & Love, Inc., CitiBank, The Optimist Club of Westfield, PBA Local 90, Fred Defazio of Creative Sales, and Jeff Brandes of Protuff. Thanks to Abakadoodle Art and Just Babies Daycare for supplying activities throughout the evening for participants. Thanks to Mayor Skibitsky, the Town of

Westfield's Department of Public Works and Paul Rios of the Westfield Armory for their tremendous support in making the event possible.

Special thanks to the following volunteers for their hours of dedication the night of the event: Steve and Loraine Wereley, Kim Caster, Pat Gray, Fred Defazio, Kelly Gray, Bruce Gavumik, Diana Bruder, Matt and Kyle Monaghan, and Denise Morrell. You made this community project a success.

The above organizations, along with the many community members who volunteered, are to be commended for their efforts and dedication toward community-oriented programs. Thank you and wishing everyone a happy and prosperous 2007.

**Naomi McEllynn & Traci Kastner  
Westfield**

### WF School Bond for Centralized Kindergarten is Not a Good Idea

The January 23 school bond referendum (in Westfield) is a lot more than just a vote on a \$9.4 million capital improvements program. It is a vote on changing the entire fundamental structure of the Westfield Public Schools.

With the bond's passage will come the start of a centralized kindergarten program at the former Lincoln School on Westfield Avenue. It will have many impacts on these young students (and their families), not all of them positive.

Children will now have to go through four separate schools from K to 12. Kindergartners will no longer be able to attend school with older siblings.

Their classmates will no longer be their neighbors. Friends they make in kindergarten may not see them again until high school. And many of these little kids will now have to take a bus back and forth to Lincoln each day.

Parents will no longer be able to walk their kids to the local neighborhood school each morning. Those with more than one child will have to get them to and from different schools each day. And many will have the added worry of putting their 5-year-old on a bus each day.

But in the case of my kids, my biggest complaint would be that my child would not be able to attend McKinley School,

which is just an incredible place. The principal, teachers, the rest of the staff, the PTO, and the entire school community have made it such a great experience that I wouldn't want my kids to miss out on that.

I think that most parents in the neighborhood would feel the same way, but may not think about it if their kids are all older. But it's important to consider how you would feel about this plan if you had younger kids. Considering what you would do if you were in that position is the right thing to do for the community and the school district. And if you consider that many homebuyers in town have young children, it's the right thing to do for your property values as well.

The centralized (but still half-day) kindergarten is an interesting and bold experiment. Dr. Foley and the BOE should be commended for proposing new ideas. But I'm not sure that I would want my 5-year-old being the subject of such an experiment, and I suspect others with young children and those couples planning families will feel the same.

But I guess we will see on Jan. 23 just what people think of the idea.

**Cory Mermer  
Westfield**

### Teachers Urge Westfielders to Pass \$10 Million School Bond on Jan. 23

Recently a group representing kindergarten teachers, administration and the Board of Education from the Westfield Public Schools visited the Berkeley Heights Early Childhood Center to observe their facilities and to discuss their educational program.

Based on the success of the Berkeley Heights program, we encourage Westfield residents to consider the development of an Early Childhood Learning Center by voting for the bond referendum on January 23, which would support renovating Lincoln School for this purpose.

An Early Childhood Learning Center in Westfield would create an environment that would encourage joint involvement between the teaching staff, child, and parent community. Currently, at some of our six elementary schools, there is only one kindergarten teacher. If all the kindergarten classes were centrally located in one building, kindergarten teachers could collaborate and share resources and ideas. The special needs children

could be successfully mainstreamed into regular education classes.

Proposing an Early Childhood Learning Center is a viable and practical solution to the space problem, which now exists in the elementary schools. Hopefully, this move will provide space for art and music classrooms. It will also help to maintain small class size at all elementary schools. The move will enable us to maintain the high quality of education we strive to provide at all grade levels.

An Early Childhood Learning Center will encourage shared experiences that will enhance learning for our kindergarten and pre-k disabled students. It will afford children the opportunity to develop skills necessary for success. Establishing an Early Childhood Learning Center at Lincoln School will have a long-term positive impact on Westfield's education system.

**Mary Ann Sepe and Josie Ho,  
Westfield Kindergarten Teachers**

### Perhaps the Residents Should Blame Themselves Over Taxes

For years, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has been taking a "pass the buck" approach to the property tax problem. Though county government is currently in the process of its annual reorganization, it is doubtful that the board will make any notable changes in their "modus operandi." Most likely, they will proceed with business as usual simply because the cast of characters is the same. They will be not be changing anything other than their seating arrangement on the dais.

For those who expect anything new or daring, in the form of a cut in the county portion of their tax bill, I am sad to say that based on past performance you can expect to be disappointed.

Within the next couple of weeks, the county spending plan for 2007 will be released with a vague explanation of why county government needs to generate additional income over last year. It will be noted that costs such as health insurance for county employees are going up and that contractual obligations have made it impossible to change.

It will not be noted that certain individuals received bloated raises just weeks ago, and that about 68 new people were hired during a self-imposed hiring freeze in '06. We will be told that the state is having the same problem. It is predictable that Gov. Jon Corzine will be drawn into the equation, complete with assurances that he will provide the silver bullet that will allow the freeholders to lower county property taxes. You will be asked to be patient.

There is a problem here. We have a governor who two weeks ago on the radio during the teacher's demonstrations in Trenton, referred to the voters of New Jersey who put him in office as "Joe Six-

Pack." This poor choice of words makes one wonder how much respect he actually has for those not as well heeled as himself.

Somewhere along the way, two words have mistakenly become interchangeable — relief and reform. Tax relief can be thought of as a decongestant for cold symptoms — controlling the running nose till the infection runs its course. Tax reform on the other hand is like the vaccine administered for Polio. It is a permanent, life saving measure to eradicate the problem.

So far, no Jonas Salk has burst on the scene in NJ to cure the property tax epidemic — certainly not Jon Corzine. Though, the freeholder board would like us to think otherwise. They put the responsibility of what is going on in Union County on anyone other than themselves.

If the past few years are any indication of what is to come, we will see the continuing blame game being played out. Blame the contractual employees, blame the legislators in Trenton, blame the health insurance companies, blame the municipalities, blame Wal-Mart, blame George Bush, blame the custodian or blame political opponents.

When one looks closely, blame the voters who keep electing them. Perhaps the residents should blame themselves because they are not holding the freeholders' feet to the fire.

We residents are the eternal optimists and want to believe that this year will be different. But it is doubtful that things will change as the Freeholder Board has done an excellent job at pulling the taxpayers into playing their blame game.

**Patricia Quattrocchi  
Garwood  
UC Watchdog.org**



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

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

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

**Answers to last week's sarcane words.**  
1. Cumshaw — A tip or gratuity  
2. Sarcoid — Like or consisting of flesh  
3. Philter — A love potion  
4. Picaroon — A rogue, pirate, or thief

**SCHEELITE**

1. A catfish native to the River Nile  
2. A diagrammatic representation of something; a summary; a scheme; an outline

3. A radical sect of Moslem  
4. Calcium tungstate

**INQUINATION**

1. Of an alien or foreign nature  
2. Bizarre; strange behavior  
3. The act of defiling; corruption  
4. A tendency or leaning

**YAULD**

1. To pull back or retreat suddenly  
2. Active, vigorous  
3. Elderly, worn out  
4. Breaking out in blisters

**TOVARISCH**

1. Unspoken; unthinkable  
2. Comrade in the Soviet Union  
3. A large cape, or short, full cloak worn in the first half of the nineteenth century  
4. A disorderly, unkempt, rough person

### Families Smiled

#### Because of Your Gifts

To our Westfield community, we thank each and everyone of you who participated in "Gifts of Gold" this year.

It was a huge success because of the special volunteers that got involved and bought a gift(s) for families living in the Newark YMCA shelter. We could never make this program work without your participation. We wish you could have seen the smiles on the faces of those families receiving your gifts. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

**Vivian, Jeffrey, Brandon,  
Gabrielle and Jessica Gold  
Westfield**

### Free, Within Limits, To Speak our Mind

I attended the recent organizational meeting of the Scotch Plains Township Council. One has to be impressed with Mayor Martin Marks' ability to use words to support his position that bear no relationship to the truth.

George Orwell called this "double speak." A new definition has been given to the phrase "non partisan" — in supporting a man, Brian Levine for township attorney, who has been a friend of Marty's since they were barely out of diapers, and contributed at least two thousand dollars to local Republican activities — that this man was "non partisan".

There are those of us who would use different words to describe this situation. I would more readily think of cronyism and pay-to-play than "non partisan." That's what makes America a wonderful country. We are free, within certain limits, to speak our mind.

**Phillip Wiener  
Scotch Plains**

### Art Teacher Urges School Bond Passage

Did you know that out of 23 districts polled in our surrounding area, only three districts do not have designated rooms for elementary art and music and Westfield is one of them?

As the Supervisor of Fine Arts for the Westfield Public Schools, I receive many phone calls from prospective buyers inquiring about the arts programs in our school system. Unfortunately, for the first time this year, I have received phone calls from prospective candidates for elementary positions stating that they would rather travel an hour to work, work for less money, or even less hours just to have a room rather than teach on a cart.

I feel it is my duty as supervisor to inform the community of the obstacles our elementary art and music teachers face everyday while traveling on a cart. Can you answer these few questions?

Do you know how hard it is to keep children painting or creating objects out of paper mache' without a sink in the room?

Do you realize how hard it is to implement dance and movement between desks in the everyday classroom not designated for music?

Do you know how many supplies are left off the 24x36 cart because they just won't fit?

In addition to funding a rigorous arts curriculum through the school budget, we have been successful in receiving grants for additional programs, scholarships and equipment from the Westfield Coalition for the Arts, a community supported organization. Although I understand many community members are concerned with tax increases, I feel it is important to look at the bigger issue: a solid, well-rounded education for all.

It is important to understand that the arts develop skills in creativity, cognition, communication and making cultural connections. Students in the arts share qualities such as imagination, the capacity to work hard, commitment and personal vision. What messages are we sending our 20 elementary fine arts staff who touch the lives of 2,865 children through the arts every week?

Please consider this information when you make your decision regarding the bond referendum vote on January 23rd. By renovating Lincoln School to an Early Childhood Learning Center for all our kindergarten and pre-school disabled children, space will be freed up in our elementary schools with the opportunity for fine arts to eventually get off the cart.

**Linda King  
Supervisor of Fine Arts, Westfield  
Board of Education**



**HUNG UP!!****It Has Been a Pleasure Helping People Over the Past 40 Years***By Milt Faith, Executive Director  
Youth and Family Counseling Service*

To My Readers: Next month, I will be celebrating my 40th year writing "Hung Up" on a continuous year-round basis. It has been a pleasure and one of the highlights of my professional career.

My first column appeared on February 13, 1968. I've dealt with mental health questions, often focusing on marital and divorce situations; children and teenage issues involving school, home and peer relationships, and the increased problems of adults (and individuals of all ages): depression and anxiety.

Many parents have written in, concerned about these symptoms, which appear at younger ages in children. Numerous letters also dealt with addictive situations, such as drinking, taking drugs, gambling and sexual involvement. Letters were published as written; some were reworded because of poor grammar and/or inappropriate (foul) language.

The letters which had the greatest impact related to family issues: death, divorce, marriage, in-law problems, parent-child conflicts of power and control concerns, setting limits ("who is in charge").

"Hung-Up" has been one of my greatest rewards. I have also been blessed to work with many national and community issues (counseling with families of the Persian Gulf War and families and widows of the 9/11 disaster). Several letters to "Hung-Up," relating to these personal issues, were addressed privately throughout my 40 years of writing "Hung-Up."

These were the most-asked questions about my column and me:

Question: There is so much stress today in dealing with human problems. How have you survived?

Answer: I use humor in everything, personally and professionally; so often in my columns, too.

Question: Have you ever run out of questions and, if so, what would you do? Make them up?

Answer: Hmm! No and no and, if I did, I would never reveal it publicly. I would probably ask friends and peers to write them in.

Question: You often write about music and entertainment. Ever think that you should have pursued that area professionally?

**Freeholders Fail, Avoid Super-BOE**

While Freeholder Chair Bette Jane Kowalski's nine-page speech at the Union County Freeholders' reorganization meeting promises lots of new spending in 2007, with no promises to cut county government payroll or big contracts to campaign donors, what is most disheartening is her complete avoidance of the school district pilot program that Governor Corzine and the Democratic-controlled State Legislature is forcing down Union County residents and local school boards throats.

Adding a super-superintendent, who reports to the Governor rather than the citizens of Union County, and creating further layers of bureaucracy that will trump local school board decisions, is a threat to home rule and a threat to our school system.

Unfortunately, Ms. Kowalski just flunked her first test as freeholder chair.

**Phil Morin**  
Chair, Union County GOP

**Seven Scent Dog Teams Graduating K9 Academy**

MOUNTAINSIDE — Seven new policedog K9 teams will graduate from the Union County Sheriff's K9 Academy's scent school on Friday, January 12 at 10:30 a.m. at the Trailside Nature and Science Center Auditorium located at 452 New Providence Road, Mountainide.

The seven K9 teams graduating are:

Bergen County Sheriff's Office – Officer Sonya Bekier and K9 Jimmy (narcotics); Officer Thomas Smaldone and K9 Nero (narcotics).

Edison Police Department – Officer Robert A. Ellmyer and K9 Koda (narcotics); Officer Shawn Meade and K9 Lucky (explosives).

Readington Township Police Department – Officer Chris Heycock and K9 Fanto (narcotics).

South Bound Brook Police Department – Officer Frederick Fittin and K9 Niko (narcotics).

United States Park Police Sergeant William Vitolo and K9 Norton (explosives).

Answer: I love what I do, and I am a ham! Love to do "roasts" for several groups with which I'm involved in the community.

Question: Have your children followed in your footsteps?

Answer: My daughter, Brooke, is a teacher and mother and is very much involved in school activities. My son, Myles, is a Ph.D. psychologist who is in research, focusing on childhood obesity. He writes a lot and has been on TV.

Question: Do you still have the first question ever written to you?

Answer: Yes. And here it is, first published on 2/13/68:

A teenager asks: Should an allowance be based on the merit system? My father feels that I should not get an allowance when I have not completed certain tasks at home. At other times, I have to remind him to give me the allowance. Is this fair?

Answer: This is a problem that is frequently expressed in many families where the parents and the child quarrel over chores and responsibilities. The parent may feel that the allowance should be associated with a reward or a punishment.

I find that this is not a useful way of structuring the allowance. An allowance is usually a contract agreed upon between parent and child. It is based on the needs and realities of the child and not upon the goodness or badness of the boy in terms of his every day cooperation.

By substituting the reward-punishment plan instead of the contractual structure, the parent is hurting the lines of communication (by killing off an agreed-upon contract). If a teenager needs to be disciplined there are many other areas – watching TV, etc., that can be used.

To all my readers, thank you so much for writing, reading and listening, and thank you Horace Corbin, publisher: *The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* for continuing to make this possible.

**Westfield Bond Voting: Times and Locations**

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Public School System advises residents when and where to vote on the Westfield school bond referendum.

Vote Tuesday, January 23 – the polls are open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The polling places are where residents vote in local, state and federal elections.

An application form to receive an absentee ballot is available on [westfieldnj12.org/bond](http://westfieldnj12.org/bond) and must be completed and received by the County Board of Elections by January 16. A ballot will be mailed to you and must be received by the county before close of polls on January 23.

Watch the bond information video on TV36: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30, 5:30 and 7 p.m.; Saturdays at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:45 and 5 p.m. (also available on DVD at school offices, Westfield Memorial Library and in the school community relations office at 302 Elm Street).

Read the school district's *Emphasis* newsletter that will be mailed to every household prior to the election.

**Take the Time to Understand the Bond, Then "Yes" Will be Clear to You**

A recent letter to the editor in *The Westfield Leader* encouraged the Westfield Board of Education to "go back to the drawing board" because, in the opinion of the letter writer, the current bond does not adequately address the district's overcrowding issues and thus, is somehow flawed. The bond, in the opinion of the writer, is flawed because it does not solve the problem of overcrowding in our schools.

Well, let's assume the board of education did go back to the "drawing board" — guess what? They'd come up with the same solution and here's why: The bond is an effective means of addressing the pressing issues that face our school district.

The proposed early childhood learning center will remedy the overcrowding problem at the elementary school level. With the kindergarten centralized at the one facility, the pressure on each of the elementary schools is eased. Enrollment is so high at all six elementary schools that only one of the six (Franklin) has art and music rooms.

The importance of both art and music in a child's education is well-established. That we would expect a room in which to teach these two important subjects to our children is not at all excessive but really is quite basic. In addition to remedying overcrowding, the early childhood learning center would house the district's special education preschoolers that are currently located at Edison and need to be in a more age-appropriate environment.

This project is also exciting because it gathers our highly-qualified and capable early childhood teaching professionals and promotes collaboration in a central environment where activities can be targeted to that very important and unique kindergarten year.

The proposed addition and hallway/

stairwell improvements to Roosevelt will partially address the problem of overcrowding at the middle school level. Within the district, Westfield has the capacity to house its current and growing population of middle school students. While there still will be a need to shift some students from Roosevelt to Edison (the BOE has some interesting voluntary options), the bond addresses pressing issues of safety and space that exist regardless of any redistricting.

What the bond will do at Roosevelt is create cafeteria and library space that is reasonable and on a par with Edison given the population of the school. It will also update and repair highly trafficked stairwells and hallways. If you've never set foot in Roosevelt before, look at the pictures in the bond section of the district's website ([westfieldnj12.org](http://westfieldnj12.org)).

The bond is a reasonable and cost-effective solution to the district's overcrowding issue. There is no doubt that the situation the Westfield School District faces relating to enrollment issues is complex. I volunteered my time to attend meetings to hear the rationale for the bond and to help disseminate that information to our community.

It takes a fair amount of time to hear/ask/learn about the issues surrounding this bond and the challenges our district faces. It can be hard to find the time in our busy lives, but I encourage you to review the bond webpage referenced above and you'll see that the compelling information and resources are available to the taxpayers.

I believe that if you take the time to understand the rationale behind the bond, the importance of voting "yes" on January 23 will be clear to you.

**Kristina Bangs**  
Westfield

**A Big 'Thank You' To Westfield Residents**

Thank you for your generosity during the recent United Service Organization (USO) drive. We collected a huge number of white bath towels and blankets. The USO appreciates your donations.

The USO has been the bridge between the American public and the US military. For 65 years, the USO mission has been to support the troops and their families wherever they serve. With its special brand of comfort, morale and recreational services, the American military knows that the USO is there for them.

The USO relies on the generosity of individuals and corporations to support its numerous activities, which include Operation USO Care Package and Operation Phone Home.

Congressman Mike Ferguson, Westfield Mayor Andy Skibitsky, the Junior League, Air & Specialties Sheet Metal, and Westfield Library Director Phil Israel deserve special thanks.

It's so nice to live in a community where people are caring and concerned.

**Dianne Gorbaty**  
Westfield

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**908-322-7000**

**ATTENTION**

ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2007 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9:00 A.M. AND 12:00 P.M., THE VOTING MACHINES TO BE USED IN THE JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.

ANY INTERESTED PARTIES WHO WISH TO INSPECT THE VOTING MACHINES SHOULD APPEAR AT THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS VOTING MACHINE WAREHOUSE, 2345 SOUTH AVENUE, SCOTCH PLAINS.

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

JUNE S. FISCHER,  
MARY ELLEN HARRIS,  
JOHN DeSIMONE,  
TERESA HALE,

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BOARD MEMBER  
BOARD MEMBER

**WWW.UCNJ.ORG/ELECTIONBOARD**

**21st District News****Bramnick Met with Gov. on County School Proposal**

**Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, Westfield**



WESTFIELD — Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (R-21) met with Governor Jon Corzine last week to express his deep concerns with any possible county takeover of area schools. Mr. Bramnick indicated to the Governor that the overwhelming majority of citizens in his district were adamantly opposed to this idea. The Assemblyman said the Governor listened carefully about the concerns of parents.

Asm. Bramnick, along with his colleagues Senator Tom Kean Jr. and Assemblyman Eric Munoz, have been meeting with school boards and residents of the district who join the

legislators in being opposed to any legislation that would take decision making out of local hands.

The Assemblyman requests that residents of New Jersey contact the Governor and leaders of the Legislature to indicate their opposition to Senate Bill 7/Assembly Bill 8. Senate President Richard Codey can be reached at [sencodey@njleg.org](mailto:sencodey@njleg.org) and Speaker Joe Roberts at [asmroberts@njleg.org](mailto:asmroberts@njleg.org). Although the Governor does not have a direct email address, he can be reached through the following link or you may call his office at (609) 292-6000. [state.nj.us/governor/govmail.html](http://state.nj.us/governor/govmail.html).

**Calendar Mailed to Westfield Has Incorrect School Dates**

Worrall Newspapers of Union published town planner advertising calendars, which they sent to residents in several towns of the area. Their version for Westfield, mailed to every household in town, has incorrect dates for the 2007 winter and spring breaks for the Westfield Public Schools.

Lorrie Korecky of the Westfield Public Schools, told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that the correct dates are:

The Westfield Public Schools will be closed Friday, Monday and Tuesday (February 16, 19 and 20) for Presidents' Day and staff in-service.

The Westfield Public Schools will be closed Monday through Friday, (April 2 through 6) for Spring Break.

Mrs. Korecky said that Worrall Publishing informed her that the error resulted as data from the Westfield, Mass. school website was used.

The Westfield, N.J. school system will make a concerted effort to publicize the correct dates to offset the error. Parents are advised not to plan vacations based on the calendar data.

Worrall Marketing Director Joe Renna told *The LeaderTimes* they regret the error and apologize for any inconvenience it may have caused.

**NOW in WESTFIELD! ShopRite Wines & Spirits Marketplace 333 South Ave. East (Formerly Town & Country Liquors)**

**ShopRite**  
Wines & Spirits Marketplace

**Turning Leaf**  
ALL TYPES  
**11.09** 1.5L

**Yellow Tail**  
ALL TYPES  
**10.66** 1.5L

**Jacob's Creek Reserve**  
ALL TYPES  
**10.99** 750 ML

**Brancott**  
•SAUVIGNON BLANC  
•PINOT NOIR  
**9.99** 750 ML

**Georges Duboeuf**  
•BEAUJOLAIS VILLAGES  
•MACON VILLAGES  
**7.99** 750 ML

**Chateau Ste. Michelle**  
•Cabernet  
•Merlot  
**11.99** 750 ML

**Beringer Stone Cellars**  
ALL TYPES  
**9.99** 1.5 L

**Corbett Canyon**  
•CABERNET • MERLOT  
•CHARDONNAY  
•WT. ZINFANDEL  
**5.99** 1.5 L

**PORTS**  
**Quinta do Noval**  
ALL 750 MLS

RUBY OR TAWNY ..... **9.99**

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## Children’s Theater Activity Among Library Highlights

WESTFIELD – Youngsters will have an opportunity to hone their acting skills through the Readers’ Theatre on two Thursdays, January 18 and February 1, at 3:45 p.m. at the Westfield Memorial Library.

Librarians Jill Farrer and Kathy Muhm will coach interested young readers in the program. There is no age requirement, but children must know how to read in order to participate.

“There will be no memorizing, no props and no costumes,” said Ms. Muhm. “The children will practice reading short scripts based on folklore and then will present them that same afternoon.”

Pre-registration is necessary. For more information, please call the library’s Youth Services Department at (908) 789-4090, extension no. 3.

Several other programs also are scheduled. For adults, “TGIF: John Singer Sargent” will be featured tomorrow, Friday, January 12, at 1:30 p.m. Influenced by the impressionist movement, Sargent is known for his portraits and landscapes. The TGIF topics for the following two Fridays, January 19 and 26, will be Lucille Ball and Ellis Island, respectively. Both

also will begin at 1:30 p.m.

The Alzheimer’s Association, Greater New Jersey Chapter will present “Clinical Trials 101: An Introduction for Family Caregivers” from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, January 20. To register, please call the Alzheimer’s Association at (973) 586-4300.

“Business and Investment Resources Online” will be held on Tuesday, January 30, at 10 a.m. Participants must know how to use a mouse and a keyboard. This demonstration hands-on class will cover the basics of ReferenceUSA, NetAdvantage and Hoover’s. Registration is required.

“Preschool Storytime,” for ages three-and-a-half to five, will be held on Wednesdays, January 17, 24 and 31. Participants may attend sessions at 10 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.

“Toddler Group,” for babies and toddlers up to age two-and-a-half and a caregiver, will be available on Thursdays, January 18 and 25, at 10 a.m.

“Tots’ Storytime,” for children ages two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half with a caregiver, will be offered on Fridays, January 19 and 26, at 10 a.m.

“Mammal Mania – Tales of the Wild” will take place on Saturday, January 27, at 10:30 a.m. It is designed for ages four and up. Participants are asked to register by calling the library’s Children’s Department at (908) 789-4090, extension no. 3.

Finally, youngsters are invited to play chess every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at the library.

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are free and open to Westfield Memorial Library and MURAL cardholders. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street in Westfield. For more information, please call (908) 789-4090, visit the library’s website at wmlnj.org or stop by the library for a copy of its quarterly newsletter.



Ms. Alexie Kupka and Michael A. Duels

## Ms. Alexie Kupka To Wed Michael Duels

Mr. and Mrs. John Kupka of Cranford have announced the engagement of their daughter, Ms. Alexie Kupka, to Michael A. Duels. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Duels of Westfield.

A 1997 graduate of Cranford High School, the bride-to-be received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, Pa. in 2001. She is employed as a senior supervisor with Kelly Services in Cranford.

Mr. Duels graduated from Westfield High School in 2001 and from the Union County Fire Academy in Linden in 2003. The future bridegroom is a professional firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician with the Westfield Fire Department.

The couple is planning a spring 2008 wedding.

## Jewish Friends Plan Celebrity Deli Lunch

AREA – The Circle of Single Jewish Friends 49+ will hold a Meet and Eat Lunch on Sunday, January 21, at noon at Jack Cooper’s Celebrity Deli.

The eatery is located at 1199 Amboy Avenue (in the Tano Mall) in Edison. The cost is \$3 plus the price of a meal/tip off the menu. To respond, please call Roberta at (908) 668-8450.

## Westfield PBA to Hold Blood Drive January 19

WESTFIELD – Westfield Policemen’s Benevolent Association Local 90 will hold a blood drive on Friday, January 19, from 2 to 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building, located at 425 East Broad Street.

New Jersey Blood Services (division of New York Blood Services) has issued an urgent appeal for blood donations. NJBS needs to conduct an estimated 250 blood drives per month and needs approximately 120,000 donors annually to supply New Jersey hospitals.

Volunteer donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good general health. The blood donation process takes less than an hour and includes a free mini medical examination (temperature, iron count, pulse rate and blood pressure).

Donors will need a photo or signature identification and knowledge of their Social Security number. For questions about the donation process, please call NJBS at (800) 933-2566.

## Samantha Luscombe Named ‘Point of Light’ For Service

WESTFIELD – Samantha Luscombe, 16, the daughter of Nancy and Peter Luscombe of Westfield and a junior at Westfield High School, was selected as the National Daily Point of Light for December 28, 2006.

This award honors an individual who is making a positive and lasting difference in the lives of others and is given each weekday by the Points of Light Foundation in cooperation with the Corporation for National Service and the Knights of Columbus.

For 11 years, Samantha has been a Girl Scout. She recently completed requirements for her Girl Scout Gold Award by organizing a “Bear Fair.” Local youngsters were invited to stuff plush animals for youngsters in painful or stressful situations.

In all, 155 animals were then donated to the Westfield police and fire departments and the rescue squad, the Hospitality for the Homeless Network through the Church of St. Helen in Westfield and Children’s Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. The animals are being distributed to children present at police calls, home fires and accidents and to those in the hospital and homeless networks.

A three-time recipient of the President’s Volunteer Service Award – Silver Level, Samantha has continued her community service efforts since then. She has collected more than 500 picture postcards with good wishes from all over the world for a child with brain cancer and helped at a Breast Cancer Awareness Day.

Samantha was an invited speaker November 3 at the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ (formerly the National Society of Fundraising Executives) New Jersey Conference on Philanthropy as a youth philanthropist. She spoke about appropriate service for children of all ages; the ease and importance of getting children interested in philanthropy at a young age and actual projects she has done through the years, as well as plans to teach philanthropy to the Brownie troop she co-leads as a Westfield Girl Scout Leader in Training.

In addition to letters from elected officials and a special plaque com-

memorating her being honored as a “Point of Light,” Samantha will have her own permanent page on the Points of Light website describing her community service efforts. The address is: <http://pointsoflight.org/awards/dpol> and Samantha’s permanent page is <http://pointsoflight.org/awards/dpol/3366>.

Samantha has yet more plans for the new year, among them organizing and running a hepatitis C awareness day this spring and helping at a teen/senior dance in summer of 2007.



AN INSPIRATION...Samantha Luscombe of Westfield speaks during the Association of Fundraising Professionals New Jersey Conference on Philanthropy November 3 about ways to inspire children toward philanthropy and her own experiences in helping others over the years.

## Carnival For Families To Take Place at CSH

MOUNTAINSIDE – The Mountainside Twigs, in conjunction with Children’s Specialized Hospital, will sponsor a carnival for the siblings and parents of children with special needs. It will take place on Saturday, January 27, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the CSH facility at 150 New Providence Road in Mountainside.

The Twigs, one of the hospital’s volunteer groups, has been working with the Recreation/Child Life Department to create an event where parents can spend some quality time and have fun with their other children.

Among the planned activities are carnival-type games with prizes; face and hand painting; crafts; a graffiti wall and family photographs. Should parents feel the need for some quiet time, too, they can participate in the parents-only area where there will be light refreshments, aromatherapy and massages.

Information about the Disabilities Awareness Program at CSH and other programs for siblings of special needs children, including ClubSib and Saturday Sibs, also will be available. There is no fee to attend the carnival; however, those interested are asked to call Linda Nordstrom at (908) 301-5488 by Wednesday, January 24. Registration is limited.

See it all on the Web!  
[www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com)

## CIVIL UNIONS ARE NOW THE LAW

Governor Jon Corzine has just signed into law new Legislation establishing CIVIL UNIONS. It is important to know that your rights can be protected by a pre-Civil Union Agreement (similar to the often utilized pre-Marital Agreement) prior to your entering into a Civil Union.

Should you have any questions about what this means to you, the Cranford Law Firm of Dughi & Hewit, P.C. is pleased to announce that *Mario C. Gurrieri, Esq.* Chair of its Family Law Department, *Richard A. Outhwaite, Esq.* and *Lisa Stein-Browning, Esq.*, will provide a free office conference, so that your rights may be explained and your questions answered in connection with Civil Unions and preceding agreements.

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## Man to Share His Vision of Heaven After Devastating Highway Crash

By PASTOR KEVIN BRENNAN

The beginning of a new year is a great time to assess where we've been and where we're going. We know where we've been, but do we know where we are going? What does the future hold for you? Is your life only composed of the events of this world, or is there a world beyond this one?

What if someone had the opportunity to go into a time machine to the future and come back and tell us? Well, someone apparently has, and he will be here in Scotch Plains to talk about it. His name is Don Piper. His book, "90 Minutes In Heaven," was recently listed at No. 9 on *The New York Times* best-seller list.

On Wednesday morning, January 18, 1989, Don Piper loaded up his 1986 Red Ford Escort in the rain and headed home from a conference in Lake Livingston, Tex. At 11:45 a.m., a tractor-trailer weaved across the center lane of I-45 and hit Don Piper's car head on. The wheels of the truck went on top of the Ford Escort, crushing it and Don in the process. The truck then struck two other vehicles, injuring those passengers.

EMTs were on the scene in moments. Blood had seeped out of Don's ears, nose and eyes, indicating severe internal injuries. They checked Don's vital signs...nothing. They pronounced him dead at 11:45 a.m., covered him with a tarp and went to tend to the injuries of others.

Texas state law required that Don be officially pronounced dead before his body could be removed from the scene. Otherwise, he would have to be taken to a hospital. So at 1:15 p.m., 90 minutes later, they came back to Don's body to get ready to extricate it. Before doing so they checked his vitals once again...nothing. They officially pronounced him dead and ar-

### Cookbook Authors To Appear at JCC

SCOTCH PLAINS – Authors Barbara Wasser and Risé Routenberg will discuss their cookbook, "Divine Kosher Cuisine," on Thursday, January 18, at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey.

They will prepare a variety of dishes featured in their cookbook for all attendees to sample. They also will discuss techniques, answer questions and sign books.

This event is open to both JCC members and the community at large. The cost to attend is \$24 for JCC members, \$29 for non-members and \$20 for senior citizens and students. Space is limited and advance registration is strongly recommended.

The JCC is located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. For more details on the workshop or to register, please contact Susan Lemerman at slemerman@jccnj.org or (908) 889-8800, extension no. 205. Information also is available at jccnj.org.

ranged for a car to take his body to a mortuary.

In the meantime, Dick Onerecker, one of the speakers at the conference that Don had just attended, was stuck in the ensuing traffic jam. After sitting in his car for about an hour, he felt a prompting to go to the scene of the accident and pray for whoever was involved.

He asked for permission from the police officer on the scene and was told the man in the red car was dead. The policeman warned him, "You haven't seen anything this bad." The only access Dick had was through the trunk. He had to stretch his body over the back seat and extend his hand to touch Don's right shoulder.

Dick prayed the most passionate, fervent, emotional prayer of his life. As he ended his prayer he sang the old hymn, "What A Friend We Have In Jesus." Suddenly, the song became a duet as Dick Onerecker was joined by Don Piper. Don would later say that in that moment he was aware of two things: he could hear himself singing with someone and he could feel a strong, powerful hand clutch his right hand tightly.

During those 90 minutes, Don had gone to heaven. His life is now committed to telling others of what he experienced there. He will be at the Evangel Church in Scotch Plains on Sunday morning, January 28, at 9 and 11 a.m. to describe it. All are welcome to come and perhaps find the answer to the questions about our destiny.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Pastor Brennan serves as pastor of the Evangel Church, located at 1251 Terrill Road in Scotch Plains.*

### FUSP Series Attendees Invited to Pizza Party

AREA – People who have attended the "Think Globally, Act Locally" lecture series at the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield church and others interested in social justice issues are invited to a community pizza party at 6 p.m. on Friday, January 19. It will be held at the FUSP church at 724 Park Avenue in Plainfield.

FUSP's congregation includes residents of Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood. Since September, the church's Social Justice Committee has hosted four lectures in its series. Topics include oil dependence, education and jobs, urban political organizing and workers' rights.

The "Think Globally, Act Locally" series will resume in February with a lecture on environmental justice by Robert Spiegel, director of the Edison Wetlands Association. Future topics include building peace, racial justice and civil liberties in an age of terrorism.

Another community pizza party in June will wrap up the series. For more details, please call (908) 756-0750. Information on the church and its programs also is available at fusp.org.



**WINNING DESIGN...**Kaavya Krishna Kumar, left, is pictured with Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council Chief Executive Officer Donna Dolce of Fanwood. A member of Brownie Troop 82, Kaavya holds her logo design that will commemorate GSWRC's 50th anniversary. Her design was selected from more than 50 entries.

## Girl Scout Council Unveils Logo For 50th Anniversary

WESTFIELD – The start of 2007 also marked the beginning of the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council's 50th anniversary year. Established in 1957, the Westfield-based GSWRC serves more than 11,000 girls in Union, Middlesex and Somerset counties.

Among the 24 communities within the council's jurisdiction are Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside, Berkeley Heights and Garwood.

In anticipation of the milestone anniversary, GSWRC put a call out to current Girl Scouts interested in designing a logo to commemorate the occasion. The logo contest was held in late 2006, with the design selected in early December.

More than 50 girls of all ages from all across the council's jurisdiction entered logo designs symbolizing GSWRC's 50th anniversary. After considering all the submissions, the 50th anniversary committee, comprised of GSWRC staff members and community volunteers, chose the design submitted by Kaavya Krishna Kumar.

A third-grade Brownie from the Fanwood-Scotch Plains community, Kaavya's design incorporates the traditional Girl Scout hand sign with the key phrases of the national mis-

sion statement in all three fingers – courage, confidence and character. According to the GSWRC, the logo will be reproduced on T-shirts and other apparel and also will be featured on a patch. Kaavya is a member of Troop 82.

For more information on the GSWRC and its programs and services for girls and adults, please visit the council's website at westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.

### Rotary Club to Hold Benefit Wine Tasting

FANWOOD – The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club will hold a wine tasting event on Wednesday, January 17, from 7 to 10 p.m. at Giovanna's Restaurant, located on South Avenue and Terrill Road in Plainfield.

Wine expert Tom Jackson will tell those in attendance about the background of the wines served during the three-course dinner.

The cost is \$65 per person and all proceeds will support the charities of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club. Interested individuals are asked to respond by Monday, January 15. To respond or obtain more information, please call Neil Schembre at (908) 889-9500.

## King Association to Conduct Annual Memorial Service

WESTFIELD – On Monday, January 15, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association will hold its annual memorial service honoring the late civil rights leader at 1 p.m. It will take place at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, located at 140 Mountain Avenue.

A procession to the church will begin at 12:30 p.m. from the Martin Luther King Memorial on the circle near the Westfield train station. All are invited to attend both the procession and the service.

The Reverend Leon Randall, president of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association and pastor emeritus of St. Luke's African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Westfield, will be the featured speaker at the memorial service.

Active in Westfield for years, Reverend Randall led the effort to dedicate a street to the memory of entertainer and activist Paul Robeson as well as establishing a permanent memorial to Dr. King in the town.

He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Westfield and a Westfield Senior Housing trustee and served on the mayor's Planning Commission for a Better Westfield.

During the service, the top high

school essay and poem from the association's annual essay contest for students will be read and certificates presented to all winners.

The theme of this year's essay contest was the power of forgiveness. Children in all grades were invited to submit poetry, essays and artwork illustrating what forgiveness means.

Winning essays and poems will be featured on a supplement to the memorial service program. Prizes for the contest are savings bonds in \$50, \$100, \$200 and \$500 denominations at the various grade levels and categories.

### African Violet Group To Meet Next Week

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Union County Chapter of the African Violet Society will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, January 18, at 1 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Public Library. The library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue.

Jan Riemer will offer a slide presentation on the "Minneapolis Convention Show." Anyone interested in African violets is invited to attend. For further information, please call Joe Kelley at (908) 232-4491.

## Retrospective to Showcase History of Blacks In Film

FANWOOD – A program on the contributions of African-Americans to the film industry is among several upcoming events at the Fanwood Memorial Library. The library is located at North Avenue and Tillotson Road.

Local film/video archivist Russell Scholl will present "Underneath the Harlem Moon: African-Americans in the Early Years of the Cinema" on Wednesday, January 17, at 7:30 p.m. It will showcase the pioneering work of black actors and filmmakers from the first half of the 20th century.

The program includes "all-black cast" shorts plus excerpts from feature films, and incorporates drama, comedy, cartoons and Soundies – short music films made for coin-operated "video jukeboxes" in the 1940s. It is designed to show contemporary viewers how some things have changed over time while others have remained the same.

On Thursday, January 18, the library's Adult Book Club will discuss "The Man In My Basement" by Walter Mosley at 7:30 p.m. All are

welcome but participants are encouraged to read the book before the meeting date. Those needing a copy of the book are asked to call the library.

For children, "Winter Storytimes" are being held on Tuesdays through February 13. Sessions take place at 10:30 a.m. for four- and five-year-olds and at 11:15 a.m. for three-year-olds. Each session includes a story and craft or activity. A parent or other responsible adult must remain in the children's department during this program.

"Nursery Rhyme Time" is being held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays through February 14 for children 18 to 35 months old and a participating parent or other caring adult. Sessions feature songs, rhymes and fingerplays.

Finally, "Brain Games" for both adults and youngsters will take place on Monday, January 22, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Activities for all ages will be featured.

For more information about any of the library programs, please call the library at (908) 322-6400.

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**WHEN: Thursday, January 18th, 2007  
TIME: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
WHERE: The Chelsea at Fanwood  
295 South Avenue  
Fanwood, NJ 07023**

**RSVP: 908-654-5200**

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Worden W. Gentino, 91, Sales Manager; Baseball Coach and Hospice Volunteer

Worden W. Gentino, 91, of Lititz, Pa. died on Monday, January 8, after a brief illness.

Born June 29, 1915 in Hartford, Conn., Ward was the son of Charles and Alice Gentino. He attended the University of Pennsylvania and graduated from its Wharton School of Business. Ward was active in sports throughout high school and college and upon graduation played professional baseball in Canada.

While in the Army and stationed in Pendleton, Ore., he met Wilma Doris Nolan, whom he married in 1943. He was sent overseas to China, where he served as a captain in the Signal Corps. Upon his return, he and Doris moved to the Midwest, where Ward began a career in hardware sales.

In 1962, Ward and his family moved to Westfield, N.J. He took a position with Evans Rule Co. in Elizabeth,

where he served as sales manager until his retirement in 1988.

While in Westfield, he was an active member of the Westfield Boosters Association, a youth baseball coach and a supportive fan at local sporting events. Ward especially enjoyed his work as a hospice volunteer during the first 10 years of his retirement.

He moved to Lititz in 1998 to be close to family. While in Lititz, Ward served on the governing board of his condominium association, enjoyed family and newfound friends and continued to cheer on the New York teams from afar.

His loving wife, Doris, predeceased him in 1983. Surviving are his son, Stephen, and his wife, Linda, of Lititz; his daughters, Catherine and Patricia, both of Seattle, Wash., and four grandchildren.

Relatives and friends are invited to a remembrance service to be held at 11 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, January 12, at the General Sutter Inn (www.generalsutterinn.com) in Lititz.

Those desiring may make memorial contributions to their local hospice program.



Worden W. Gentino

PUBLIC NOTICE

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD**  
Date Adopted: 1/7/07

Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as a Professional Service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i). This contract and the resolution authorizing it are available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

**RESOLUTION NO: 2007-15**  
**AWARDED TO: Rogut & McCarthy, PC, Cranford, New Jersey**

**SERVICES:** to provide specialized counsel services in connection with the issuance of bonds or notes by the County of Union

**PERIOD:** January 1, 2007- December 31, 2007

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T - 1/7/07, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

PUBLIC NOTICE

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD**  
Date Adopted: 1/7/07

Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an extraordinary, unspecified service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(ii). This contract and the resolution authorizing it are available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board

**RESOLUTION NO: 2007-14**  
**AWARDED TO: NW Financial, Jersey City, New Jersey**

**SERVICES:** to provide financial advisory services

**PERIOD:** January 1, 2007- December 31, 2007

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T - 1/7/07, The Leader Fee: \$20.40

Prayer to

The Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail)

Oh most beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me! Show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your power. Show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x).

Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, light all roads so that I may attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life You are with me. I want this short prayer to thank You as I confirm once again that I never want to be separated from You in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. Amen.

Say this prayer on three consecutive days. Publish this prayer after the favor is granted.

V.S.

Novena to St. Jude

Oh holy St. Jude, apostle and martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need; to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great powers to come to my assistance. Help me in my urgent position. In return I promise to make your name known and your cause to be invoked. Amen.

Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys, three Glorias. St. Jude pray for us and for all who invoke your aid! Publication must be promised. This novena (nine consecutive days) has never been known to fail.

V.S.

— Obituaries —  
William McFarlane, 82, Was Salesman; Enjoyed Cards, Pool and All Sports

William “Bill” McFarlane, a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend, passed away on Sunday, November 12, at his home in Santa Cruz, Calif., of a battled illness. He was 82 years old.

Born in New Jersey, he grew up in Westfield and served in the United States Navy from 1942 to 1946 as a Seaman First Class.

In 1973, Bill moved to Sarasota, Fla., where he was a car salesman for 35 years with partner Paul. Five years ago, he moved to Santa Cruz to be closer to family.

Bill loved playing cards and pool with other residents of the Park. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, raccars, baseball and all sports.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Violet McFarlane; three sons,

Bill McFarlane of Garwood, N.J., Philip McFarlane of Branchville, N.J. and Evan McFarlane of Newton, N.J.; his first cousin, Eleanor Butler of Westfield; a stepdaughter, Susie Donaico of Campbell, Calif.; three stepsons, Gerald L. Hooper of Santa Cruz, Calif., Rusty H. Hooper of Yuba City, Calif. and Ron S. Hooper of San Jose, Calif.; his nieces Kathy and Sonia; 13 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and his former wife, Lillian.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry Henderson McFarlane and Mabel Paulison McFarlane, and by a sister, Kathryn Leonardow. His ashes will be scattered out to sea at a later date.

PUBLIC NOTICE  
TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS  
NOTICE OF REGULAR  
SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
(In compliance with the open public meetings act-chapter 231, P.L. 1975)

Notice is hereby given by the Environmental Commission of the Township of Scotch Plains of the following Scheduled Meetings:

January 22, 2007  
February 26, 2007  
March 19, 2007  
April 16, 2007  
May 21, 2007  
June 18, 2007  
July 16, 2007  
August 20, 2007  
September 17, 2007  
October 15, 2007  
November 19, 2007  
December 17, 2007

All meetings are held at 8:00 p.m. on the second floor of the Municipal Building, Room 202, located at 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

Cathy Fluta, Secretary  
Environmental Commission  
1 T - 1/11/07, The Times Fee: \$26.01

PUBLIC NOTICE

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD**  
Date Adopted: 1/7/07

Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as a Professional Service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i). This contract and the resolution authorizing it are available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

**RESOLUTION NO: 2007-20**  
**AWARDED TO: Harbor Associates, Inc., Cranford, New Jersey**

**SERVICES:** to provide Land Surveying Services to the County of Union

**PERIOD:** January 1, 2007- December 31, 2007

**COSTS:** in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T - 1/7/07, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

PUBLIC NOTICE

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD**  
Date Adopted: 1/7/07

Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as a Professional Service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i). This contract and the resolution authorizing it are available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

**RESOLUTION NO: 2007-52**  
amending (Resolution No. 2006-676)

**AWARDED TO: Continuum Voice and Data Systems, Syracuse, New York**

**SERVICES:** to cover maintenance agreements

**PERIOD:** June 30, 2011

**COSTS:** amount by \$35,073.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T - 1/7/07, The Leader Fee: \$20.40

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John L. Dooley

Manager

NJ License # 4100

Jean M. Nye, 93, Avid Bridge Player; Was Longtime Resident of Westfield

Jean M. Nye, 93, of Westfield passed away on Tuesday, January 2, at the Francis E. Parker Memorial Home in New Brunswick.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she lived in Westfield for most of her life, except for a few years during World War II when she and her husband were transferred to Washington D.C.

Mrs. Nye graduated from Westfield High School in 1930 and attended Syracuse University, where she majored in art and was a member of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority. It was at Syracuse where she met her husband, Robert Nye. They were married on September 5, 1935 and were happily married for 56 years until Mr. Nye passed away in 1991.

Mrs. Nye did extensive volunteer work. She was a member of the Westfield Service League, the Westfield Garden Club and the Auxiliary of Children's Specialized Hospital.

An exceptionally good and very enthusiastic bridge player, she spent many happy hours at the bridge table. She had many, many friends as a result. Mrs. Nye also was a bit of a gambler. She enjoyed playing poker and going to the Monmouth Race Track. Mr. and Mrs. Nye also were longtime members of Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield, where they played bridge and enjoyed the many dances there.

Her oldest daughter, Susan Vernon, a physicist, died in 1999.

Surviving are her daughter, Deborah



Jean M. Nye

Nye of New York City; two granddaughters, Terrie McCoy of Seattle, Wash., and Jean Bechtel of Mechanicsburg, Pa.; a son-in-law, Colonel Graham D. Vernon of Carlisle, Pa.; a sister-in-law, Jeanne Meiklejohn of Scotch Plains, and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 13, in the chapel of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

Arrangements are by the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street in Westfield.

January 11, 2007

Gertrude Wolff, 87

Gertrude “Pat” Wolff, 87, of Juno Beach, Fla. died on Wednesday, December 27, at the Jupiter Medical Center in Jupiter, Fla.

Born in Jersey City, she had resided in Westfield for many years before moving to Florida 27 years ago.

A son, William C. Wolff, predeceased her.

Surviving are her husband of 66 years, Harold S. Wolff; a son, Harold S. Wolff, Jr.; a daughter, Leslie Patten Wolff, and three grandchildren.

Visitation will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, January 12, at the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street in Westfield. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 13, at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

January 11, 2007

Pancake Breakfast Set for January 15

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Community Center will hold the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Pancake Breakfast at the center's building, located at 558 West Broad Street (at the corner of Palsted Avenue).

It will be held on Monday, January 15, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door. The Westfield Community Center has been serving the local community for over 70 years and is a United Fund agency.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS PLANNING BOARD**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that at the Planning Board Meeting of the Township of Scotch Plains held on January 8, 2007, the Board adopted the Preliminary and Final Site Plan approval of Dexter Management Company for 1985 Route 22, West, Block 1901, Lots 4 & 7 with the requested Variances.

The file pertaining to this application is in the Office of the Planning Board and available for inspection during business hours.

Barbara Horev  
Secretary to the Planning Board

1 T - 1/11/07, The Times Fee: \$14.79

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD**

**RESOLUTION 07-01-08**

**CONTRACTOR:** DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole & Wisler, LLP; 500 Frank W. Burr Boulevard, Teaneck, New Jersey 07666

**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Redevelopment Counsel

**DURATION:** For a period ending no later than December 31, 2007

**AMOUNT:** Not to exceed \$5,000.00

A Copy of the Resolution and Contract relating to the services are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk.

Eleanor McGovern  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 1/11/07, The Times Fee: \$17.85

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD**

**CONTRACTOR:** Hatch Mott McDonald; 27 Bleeker Street, Millburn, New Jersey 07041

**NATURE OF SERVICES:** Engaged to provide a license for 3 Sewer Operator as required by NJSA 58:11-64 for public sewer collection systems.

**DURATION:** January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007

**AMOUNT:** Amount of \$9,000.

THE RESOLUTION AND CONTRACT FOR SAME ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.

Claire J. Gray  
Town Clerk  
1 T - 1/11/07, The Leader Fee: \$17.34

PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS PLANNING BOARD**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that at the Planning Board Meeting of the township of Scotch Plains held on January 8, 2007, the Board adopted the Preliminary and Final Major Subdivision approval for Ernest Fantini, 1/3 Better View Homes for Pleasant Lane, Block 15601, Lots 16, 18, 01, 22 & 24 in Scotch Plains and Block 7, Lots 56, 58 & 64 in the City of Plainfield for four lots into seven new building lots in the Township of Scotch Plains with bulk variances and a de minimis exception under the Residential Site Improvement Standards.

The file pertaining to this application is in the Office of the Planning Board and available for inspection during business hours.

Barbara Horev  
Planning Board Secretary

1 T - 1/11/07, The Times Fee: \$18.87

PUBLIC NOTICE

**WESTFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY**  
550 East Broad Street  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
(908) 789-4090 www.wmlnj.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TAKE NOTICE that the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Westfield Memorial Library originally scheduled for Thursday, January 25 has been changed to Monday, January 29.

The date for the October 2007 meeting as published in the annual notice of meetings was incorrectly listed as October 27. The correct date is Thursday, October 25.

The agenda for all of the said meetings is not yet known. The aforementioned notice has been prepared and will be posted, mailed and filed in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

1 T - 1/11/07, The Leader Fee: \$19.38

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**James McCabe, 1034 Coolidge Street.**  
Applicant seeking permission to construct a small first floor addition to the kitchen (approximately 10 square feet) and to add a small enclosed front entry (approximately 27 square feet) and a front portico. Applicant proposes to raise the roof on a portion of the existing second floor. Applicant also proposes to erect (retain) a shed (approximately 56 square feet). Applicant is seeking variances from Sections 12.04F1, 11.09E6, and 13.01G1b of the Land Use Ordinance. **Application Approved.**

**Covington RE Holdings, LLC, 597 Westfield Avenue.** Applicant seeking a use variance to use his building in the P-2 Zone for the offices of licensed investment advisors. The P-2 zone permits the offices of specific professionals but licensed investment advisors are not included as a permitted use. Applicant also proposes to construct a wrap around porch and seeks site plan approval for same. Applicant seeks variances from Sections 11.21A, 12.03D, and 11.21E5 of the Land Use Ordinance. **Application Approved.**

**Marsha & Thomas Detrano, 209 Clifton Street.** Applicant seeking permission to construct an addition to an existing family room contrary to Section 11.06E of the Land Use Ordinance. **Application Approved.**

**Mr. & Mrs. John Cooke, 428 Mountain Avenue.** Applicant seeking permission to construct an addition to an existing family room contrary to Section 11.06E of the Land Use Ordinance. **Application Approved.**

Kathleen A. Nemeth  
Secretary, Board of Adjustment  
1 T - 1/11/07, The Leader Fee: \$68.85



# Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Principal Announces First Marking Period Honor Roll

SCOTCH PLAINS—Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) Principal Dr. David Heisey announced the first marking period honor roll from SPFHS.

High honor roll placement is achieved by straight A's if the student is taking four or five subjects, or at least five A's and a maximum of one B.

Regular Honor Roll is achieved by no mark less than a B and at least three A's.

## High Honor Roll Freshmen

Matthew Alfano  
Stephen Allen  
Stephanie Baier  
Stephanie Baliko  
Dina Barry  
Kevin Basso  
Marissa Berlant  
Rebecca Brand  
Amelia Brause  
Karolyn Buckridge  
Jeremy Busch  
Sarah Canfield  
Graceann Caramico  
Sophie Chou  
Victoria Dalessandro  
Alexander Davis  
Diana De Vries  
Natalie Deduck  
Tara Dorilus  
Lyndsey Douglas  
Rebecca Dunn  
Zachary Flanzman  
Geri Flood  
Christopher Fortunato  
Marc Gaglioti  
Kelly Gajdzisz  
Melissa Glasett  
Melissa Goldberg  
Samantha Goldner  
Noorene Helm  
Samantha Henderson  
Michael Henkes  
Lauren Hirschhorn  
Allison Zimmermann

## Freshmen Regular

Aimon Ahmad  
Musa Ali  
Mohammed Alzooabae  
Rebecca Amburg  
Nikki Appezatto  
Keyana Armstead  
Andrea Barone  
Ulises Barros  
Jordan Bayroff  
Lauren Belfer  
Steven Bello  
Remy Bernardo  
Danielle Bernstein  
Taylor Biondi  
Rachel Blom  
Alessandro Bubnov  
Michael Burke  
Colleen Campbell  
Timothy Carroll  
Lauren Cassetly  
Bianca Chaves  
Matthew Ciabattari  
Peter Citera  
Daniel Clarke  
Cyril Collantes  
Zaria Combs  
Charles Cummings  
Devon Daly  
Joseph D'auria  
Brian Dempsey  
Jacqueline Dewep  
Jack Diaz  
Alan Dlugosz  
Marisa Dulan  
Marina Dugan  
Brian Dunn  
Luke Durett  
Robert Evans  
Kathryn Foley  
Joshua Foote  
Robert Frazee  
Katrina Gans  
Toniann Gattozzi  
Jennifer Georgehagan  
Alexander Gonzalez  
Matthew Goor  
Andrew Gorbunoff  
Alexander Graham  
Lauren Harnett  
Michael Harrison  
Sarah Hoffman  
Michelle Jenkelowitz  
Alexandra Joy  
William Kaiserman

## High Honor Roll Sophomore

Jennie Altman  
Anjli Bansal  
Kristyn Berger  
Brian Bonacum  
Emily Carow  
Gerardo Castro  
Elizabeth Chen  
Kathryn Cockrell  
Michelle Conway  
Thomas Cristiani  
Michelle Desantis  
Julie Deutsch  
Jennifer Digiuseppe  
Rebecca Dorilus  
Diana Ferrante  
Michael Ferrara  
Erin Finan  
David Gigiel  
Naomi Goldstein  
Kelly Henderson  
Kaylin Jaichon  
Brian Jascur  
Alexus Jegede  
Rebecca Kaplan  
Emily Katz  
Jeremy Kaufman  
Allison Killen  
Courtney Kolb

Kapri Kreps  
Karthik Krishna Kumar  
Raychel Kruper  
Sahruha Kubie  
Allison Lasher  
Cara Levinson  
Kevin Maroney  
Kayla Mcalindin

## Regular Sophomore

Camilla Bach  
Kerilyn Bartley  
Christopher Bauer  
Nickolas Bonadies  
Ryan Brown  
Michael Bumiller  
Edward Byron  
Christina Camarda  
Caitlin Campbell  
Christina Capoe  
Michelle Carroll  
Katherine Celardo  
Jenna Cepparulo  
Regina Chung Loy  
Kelly Cianciotta  
Adam Clark  
Gillian Clark  
Jillian Coffey  
Katherine Cornacchia  
Colleen Curren  
Lauren D'aloisio  
Sarah Daniele  
Laura Degnan  
Joseph Del Prete  
Tyler Della Badia  
Nicole Desando  
Ashley Deshields  
John Domanski  
Josef Ellis  
Kathleen Flor-Stagnato  
Alexandra Friedman  
Ricky Fumo  
Richard Fung  
Ciera Gano  
Nathan Ghabour  
Amanda Gianni  
Stephanie Glover  
Erica Goldberg  
Susan Gonch  
Matthew Graziano  
Elisabeth Greenberg  
Gabriela Guzzo  
Alison Haggan  
Jacqueline Halpern  
Eric Heine  
Anthony Ingato  
Aysha Iqbal  
William Johnston  
Kristina Kalkstein  
Tiffany Kirkland  
Timothy Kotlerjahn  
Paul Koprowski

Mark Koransky  
Jonathan Kosenick  
Dana Krajcsik  
Evan Lake

## High Honor Roll Junior

Dana Abramson  
Kathryn Albanese-Demair  
Andrea Apuzzio  
Amie Berlant  
Casandra Berwick  
Samantha Bremer  
Ryan Bridge  
Katelyn Cavanagh  
Michael Cornacchia  
Janine Defeo  
Silvano Dimonte  
Patrick Doliber  
Nicholas Fung  
Nicole Fusco  
Helene Gebler  
David Gordon  
Samantha Grecco  
Andrea Guzman  
Christina Halmu  
Catherine Harley  
Wendy Harris  
Lindsay Hauptman  
Thomas Hercl  
Alec Jacobs  
Kate Johnson  
Alyssa Karis  
Rachel Kreyer  
Kristin Lambertsen  
Molly Yergalonis

## Regular Junior

Kalee Aguilar  
James Barker  
Michael Bello  
Courtney Bifani  
Brittany Biondi  
Izabela Blach  
Avery Boettcher  
Jason Boff  
Nathan Brennan  
Keith Bronikowski  
Rebecca Bush  
Liza Campbell  
Trevor Cannon  
Christopher Casserly  
Alina Chabius  
Matthew Chiariello  
Daniel Ciabattari  
Andrew Clark  
Nicole Colineri  
Kristen Conlan  
Bridget Conwell  
Courtney Costa  
Amanda Curcie  
Eugene Cycowski  
Melanie Davis  
Daniel De Cataldo

Noelle De Gregorio  
Ashleyann De Rienzo  
Tylor Delmaro  
Danna Demarsico  
Elizabeth Dillon  
Bryan Dougher  
Zachary Feldman  
Ian Feller  
Alexandra Fragna  
Fausto Garzon  
Stephanie Goines  
Jade Griffiths  
Colleen Hagerty  
Brian Hessemmer  
John Homewink  
Adam Horowitz  
Jessica Impellizzeri  
Adem Kasrati  
Kimberly Kliesch  
Samantha Knerim  
Allison Kodan  
Timothy Leischner  
Randy Lemence

## High Honor Roll Senior

Laurny Adams  
Arley Aguilar  
Samantha Bendik  
Lisa Bloom  
Sarah Boruch  
Allison Brown  
Colin Campbell  
Samantha Carow  
Ana Castillo  
Nikolai Chowdhury  
Alex Cvetovich  
Adam Darwin  
Christina Defeo  
Jessica Estriplet  
Morgan Finkel  
Brittany Fusillo  
Jennifer Gaglioti  
Jennifer Gaskin  
Damian Gibbs  
Matthew Gigiel  
Shamik Gilmore  
Mitchell Gorbunoff  
Andrew Haggan  
Hye Won Han  
Allison Haynes-O'Connor  
Steven Jacobus  
Justin Jaichon  
Austin Jefferson

## Regular Seniors

Jessica Abrantes  
John Acito  
Michael Adamczyk  
Kimberlee Appezatto  
Anne Arasin  
Lauren Aylward  
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## THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

## Spring-like Temps Lead To Baseball Ruminations

By KATE MCGEE

Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

It's January, which only means one thing: football playoffs. Across the nation, Americans regress into couch potato mode to watch hours of football. Yet as the Superbowl quickly approaches, why is the only sport on my mind baseball?

Maybe it was the warm weather of this past weekend, but as I scan the sports section for a glimpse of some baseball news, I can't help but get that rush of excitement for spring training, fresh cut grass and ballpark franks.

This past summer, I became a baseball fan, more specifically, a Mets fan. My father and mother had always been devoted Mets fans, and I always enjoyed going to go the games, but when I saw the chemistry and talent that the 2006 Mets had to offer—specifically between Jose Reyes and David Wright—I was hooked.

I attended my first outing at Shea Stadium when I was two weeks old, so it had always been in my blood. Yet until this summer, it had never infected me.

Previously, I would have never sacrificed an episode of "Law and Order" to catch the latest scores, or fought with my father over the sports section. Yet, this summer was different. I knew how many bases Jose Reyes had stolen, how many home runs Carlos Beltran hit out of the park and constantly compared the Mets' record to other teams in both the National and American leagues.

I argued with Yankee fans about which New York team would make it to the World Series, and taunted them when their team didn't even make it to the American League Championship. I remember watching the Yankees' last game of the season while running on the treadmill at my local gym, as Yankee fans cringed beside me. It was beautiful.

Yet, with the love of the game comes the pain and suffering. The National League Championship series was one of the most stressful weeks of 2006, and when the Mets were unable to clinch in game 7—despite Endy Chavez's amazing catch, I was crushed.

I cried myself to sleep and woke up so distraught that I got into my first fender bender on the way to school (although when I explained my reasoning to my parents, they weren't as accepting). It was the perfect season to become a true Mets fan.

Now, like most Americans, I watch the Superbowl. However, I am more attracted to the event as a whole—the party, the food and the funny commercials—rather than the game itself.

If asked to choose between football and baseball, I would pick baseball in a second. It is a thinking game, where every decision requires deliberation and a distinct thought process.

People who say it is too slow do not understand the game, or its beauty. Non-baseball fans don't realize the precise timing it takes to steal a base, or how hard it is to hit a baseball going 95 miles-per-hour.

As a Mets fan, it's about the rally cap, Mr. Met, the "Meet the Mets" song and the big home run apple that rises out of a top hat after a Met hits a homerun.

Yet, what is most important is the love of the game, that sense of community when you meet another fan of the same team and that joy when your team pulls through for the victory. Author Roger Angell puts it perfectly. He writes in his book, "Once More Around the Park":

"What I do know is that this belonging and caring is what our [baseball] games are all about; this is what we come for...caring deeply and passionately, really *caring*—which is a capacity or an emotion that has almost gone out of our lives.

"Naivete—the infantile and ignoble joy that sends a grown man or woman to dancing and shouting with joy in the middle of the night over the haphazardous flight of a distant ball—seems a small price to pay for such a gift."

And as football fans crowd around their TV to see the one, final game that will decide a four month season, I smile, knowing that come April, I will be enjoying not four, but eight months of total baseball bliss.

Kate, from Cranford, is a senior at Mount Saint Mary's

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## Woman's Club Sponsors Poetry, Short Story Contest

WESTFIELD—The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Woman's Club of Westfield invites all aspiring student poets and authors in first grade through high school to enter the Youth Poetry and Short Story Contest.

Poetry entries can be of any style, with a minimum of eight lines and maximum of 50 lines. The short story must have a 2000 word limit. Entries must be typewritten, double-spaced, with a minimum of one-inch margins, one side only, on 8 1/2" x 11" paper and written within the current year.

The author's name, address, telephone number, title of poem or short story and category entered must be in the top right hand corner of each page.

Material is to be submitted in duplicate to Woman's Club of Westfield, PO Box 2428, Westfield, NJ 07091, postmarked by February 1, and must be original, unpublished works of the author.

Writers must be amateur and earnings from writing must not exceed \$500 annually. Authors are asked to keep a copy of their work, as the entries cannot be returned.

The categories in both Poetry and Short Story are: Category One (Grades 1, 2, 3); Category Two (Grades 4, 5, 6); Category 3 (Grades 7, 8, 9); Category 4 (Grades 10, 11, 12).

The local winning piece in each category will be entered into the New

## Nursery School Posts Open House Dates

WESTFIELD—The Presbyterian Nursery School and Kindergarten will hold visitation sessions on January 17, 18, 24 and 25 for parents interested in enrolling their children for the school year of 2007-2008.

Application materials for the Presbyterian Nursery School, accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, will be available at the nursery school beginning on Wednesday, January 17.

The school is located at 140 Mountain Avenue in Westfield. For more information or to schedule a visitation, please call the nursery school office at (908) 233-0766.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD**

### RESOLUTION 07-01-10

**CONTRACTOR:** Kupper Associates; 15 Stelton Road, Piscataway, New Jersey 08855

**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Engineering Services as Borough Engineer

**DURATION:** For a period ending no later than December 31, 2007

**AMOUNT:** Not to exceed \$48,000.00  
A Copy of the Resolution and Contract relating to the services are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk.

Eleanor McGovern  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 1/11/07, The Times Fee: \$17.85

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### RESOLUTION 07-01-10

**CONTRACTOR:** Allan Roth, Esq.; 150 Morris Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey 07081

**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Legal Counsel for PBA Negotiations

**DURATION:** For a period ending no later than December 31, 2007

**AMOUNT:** Not to exceed \$5,000.00  
A Copy of the Resolution and Contract relating to the services are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk.

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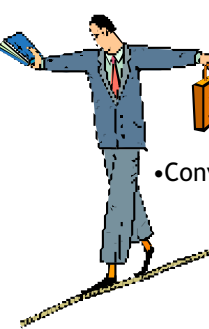


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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
Pages 11-15

**DOUGHER NETS 24, VENEZIA SINKS 19, BONARD 15**

## Raiders Scorch Blue Devils In, 63-57, Double OT Classic

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

Junior guard Bryan Dougher and junior forward Lordly Okarter pretty much did it all to lead the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team to a 63-57, double overtime victory over Westfield before a packed house in Scotch Plains on January 4.

Dougher (12 rebounds, 4 assists) scorched the net with 24 points, including three 3-pointers, and forced the second overtime. Okarter (9 rebounds) bucketed 12 points and was key in the second overtime. Darnell Dortch sank a season-high 12 points and pulled in eight rebounds. Junior

guard Danny DeCataldo scored his 11 points, including a 3-pointer, in the second half. Freshman guard Reggie Solomon and junior forward Rob Zekunde each added two points.

Guard Mike Venezia led the 4-2 Blue Devils with 19 points, including four 3-pointers, and pulled down 10 rebounds. Tom Bonard bucketed 15 points, including four from downtown, hit 3-for-3 from the stripe and had 12 rebounds. Forward Santo Nardi finished with nine points and six boards. Mike Lessner scored seven points, Dan Pritsker had five and Thony DiIorio added two.

"Dougher proved he's one of the best unknown guards in the state.

That shot at the end was great but I think the game was won by our big guys coming off the bench, blocking ten shots. Okarter played a great game. Dortch played a fabulous game and that's where we ended up beating them," said Raider Head Coach Dan Doherty. "This is a game you have to play with energy because it's a rivalry. It's a great crowd. It's a great team with a great player named Venezia and we responded. We re-emphasized what we planned on doing with the zone, rebounding the ball, getting the ball down low offensively and then at the end when you have a great player like Bryan, who

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



ATTEMPTING THE RIGHT STUFF...Blue Devil Casey El Koury, No. 12, attempts to stuff the ball held by Raider Lauren Mains but also grabs her arm and commits a foul. The Blue Devils defeated the Raiders, 70-43.

**MILLER BUCKETS 21 POINTS, ZAZZALI PUMPS IN 12**

## Lady Blue Devil Cagers Rock Raiders in 2nd Q., Win 70-43

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

Free throws littered the air in an emotionally charged basketball game that was won by the Westfield High School girls over archrival Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 70-43, in Westfield on January 4. Interestingly, it was the first time this century (2000) that the Blue Devil girls have defeated the Raiders.

The two teams combined for 62 free throws, with the Blue Devils hitting 19 of 26 (73 percent) and the

Raiders hitting 23 of 36 (63 percent), which translated to an abundance of fouls. Also, there were several fouls recorded in which no players went to the charity line.

Since pre-season, the 5-2 Lady Blue Devils, who lost to the Raiders last year, 33-19 – the game was tied 15-15 entering the fourth quarter – and 51-35, were chomping at the bit to settle the score against their rivals.

The first chink in the 4-3 Raiders' armor appeared in the first quarter when the Blue Devils broke an 11-11 tie with a 10-6 run, which included back-to-back 3-pointers from Tara Hanzda (6 points, 3 steals, 2 assists) and Miller. Raider Allie Zazzali put in eight of her 12 points and, earlier in the quarter, Blue Devil Katie Cronen (2 rebounds) penetrated inside and scored five of her six points.

"That's what our game plan was, try to get Cronen inside because they

were going to be sleeping on her. She's got a good little left hand and she got the job done," said Blue Devil Head Coach Joe Marino.

The Blue Devils inflicted a huge dent with a 23-7 run in the second quarter. Part of the damage, however, may have been self-inflicted because the Raiders were way off in their shooting from the field. Meanwhile, Miller (7 rebounds, 2 steals), who finished with 21 points, hit from all over the court, drove to the basket, drew fouls – hitting 5-for-6 free throws – and netted 14 points in the quarter.

Trailing 44-24 at the half, the Raiders could never recover and remained out of their game. Each team went to the line eight times. The Raiders sank seven but the Blue Devils, who sank

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



WORKING ON AN ARM BAR...Blue Devil Colin MacKay, top, works on an arm bar in an effort to turn Raider Mike Ferrara to his back in the 130-lb bout. MacKay won, 4-0.

**MACKAY, BOYD, CANNON, DESIATO WIN KEY BOUTS**

## Raiders Get Lion's Share, Ice Blue Devil Wrestlers, 58-15

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

Jockeying for a more advantageous position for the Union County and District 11 tournaments, which will take place on January 26 and February 16, respectively, the hosting Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School wrestling team grabbed the lion's share by winning six of the nine face-to-face bouts en route to a 58-15 victory over Westfield on January 5.

The 7-1 Raiders also received five forfeits, which included the first two weight classes of the evening – heavy-weight and 103-lbs. Then Tristan Bundy scored three takedowns and a tilt to claim an 8-0, majority decision

over Blue Devil Nick DeFraitas at 112-lbs to make the team score 16-0.

"Tristan has been pushing himself really hard in practice, going with bigger kids. Wrestling 112, it's going to make it real difficult for others to score on him," said Raider Head Coach John Scholz.

Blue Devil John Barnes came to life, after ceding a takedown and a two-point tilt to Jawan Gaines, to rack up a 12-8 lead before registering a 3:53 fall from the takedown at 119-lbs.

"John is the kind of guy who can make a mistake and he recovers from it very well. The mistakes he's making, he's making because he is aggressive. I have no problem with that,"

said Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz. "He still has a good amount of fine tuning to do but you can't question that kid's heart and intensity."

At 125, Raider Sal Gano used a tight half nelson to pin Joe Panarese in 52 seconds then Blue Devil Colin MacKay scored a takedown and a reversal to win a 4-0 decision over Mike Ferrara at 130-lbs. MacKay attempted some hard-nosed half nelson, arm bar maneuvers but could not turn the mat savvy Ferrara.

"He was staying tough on bottom. I was dominating on top. I just had trouble turning him. I wrestled smart and 4-0 is perfectly fine with me.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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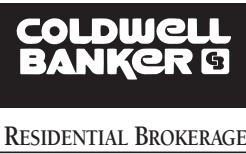
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BOYD, MACKAY RECORD VICTORIES

Brearley Matmen Beat Highlanders, Blue Devils

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

After defeating AL Johnson, 41-28, the Westfield High School wrestling team ran into a buzz saw against 2006 Union County champs and state-ranked powerhouse David Brearley in a quad match in Kenilworth on January 6. The Brearley Bears, who defeated the Blue Devils, 69-12, also defeated Governor Livingston, 47-24. Colin MacKay and Mark Boyd were the only Blue Devils to reach the win column against the 13-1 Bears. MacKay (130-lbs) was defeated earlier in the afternoon by ALJ's state-ranked Anthony Priore, who earned his 100th varsity career victory with that win, but he went into his bout with Bear Jem Vigilante with a fierce determination. After scoring a quick takedown, MacKay stacked Vigilante in 1:33 with a double arm bar, sit-through maneuver.

"There's no way I was going to lose a second match today," commented MacKay.

At 160-lbs, Boyd took Brian Zengewald to the mats and pinned him with a far arm corkscrew and a body press in 1:18.

At 119-lbs, Blue Devil John Barnes learned a new move. Unfortunately, the move was presented to him by Bear John Calderone who pinned him with a spladle – the move was created by Collegiate Hall of Famer Wade Schalles from Hollidaysburg, Pa. – in 53 seconds.

Blue Devil Andy Castrorao dropped a tight, 3-1, bout to Steve Margolin at 152-lbs. After a standing first period,

GL's Rob Coughlin used his leg wrestling proficiency to ride out a 1-0 victory over Margolin at 145-lbs. Mike Mattingly (152-lbs) racked up an escape, a takedown and two nearfall tilts to claim a 9-2 triumph over Bear Tom Mannix. At 160-lbs, Highlander Scott Mack increased his stock quite a bit when he pinned Anthony Evans in 5:42 with a figure four of the head after recording two nearfall tilts, a reversal and a takedown. GL's final win came at 130-lbs when Steve Reedy made the best of a wild bout with Vigilante to grab a fall in 3:36.

At 171-lbs, GL's Matt Fullowan dropped an 8-4 decision to a very tough Umar Tamarov and, at 140-lbs, Erik Midtbo became the recipient a takedown clinic in a 20-7 loss to Bear Joe Mraz.

Margolin slid behind for a takedown then Castrorao escaped. Margolin added an escape in the third period.

The Governor Livingston Highlanders received victories from four of their five big wrestlers against the Bears in addition to receiving a forfeit at 189-lbs.

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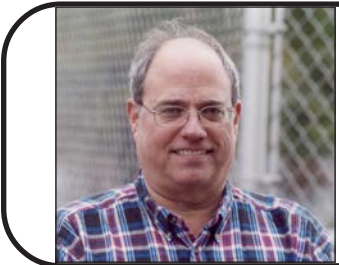
Blue Devil Keglers Whip Linden, MXS, Jefferson

The Westfield High School varsity bowling team extended its record to 12-0 with a 4-3 win over Linden on January 2 and a 7-0 blanking of Shabazz in Watchung Conference (WC) activity. The Blue Devils also defeated Jefferson Township at the Sparta New Year's Eve tournament.

The Blue Devils lead the WC with a 53-3 points advantage over rivals Linden and Elizabeth who both have 45-11 point records. In the Linden match, juniors Jesse Embry and Brett Ettinger led the Blue Devils with series scores of 635 and 602, respectively. Senior Co-Captain Harrison Mercado shot a 596 series.

Against Shabazz, Ettinger had his high game and tied his high series of the year as he shot games of 279 and 247 to finish with a 703 series. Senior Alex Wronski rolled a 641 series with a high game of 256.

Westfield also bowled in the 21st Annual Brick Tournament on January 6 and edged Lacey Township by shooting a 3,529 series to 3,513. Senior Co-Captain Bryan Elsasser rolled games of 278 and 242 and finished with a 710 series.



Devil's Den  
State's Winningest Coach Sails Quietly Into Sunset

By BRUCE JOHNSON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

A tiny little five-paragraph short, stuck in the bottom corner of *The Star-Ledger's* second sports page on Jan. 2. That was all the retirement of legendary Morristown High School baseball coach Harry Shatel earned. You would think the state's all-time winningest coach would have earned a bit more than that. Current high school athletes get bigger stories when they sign to attend some college.

But that's how life goes, isn't it? You devote hours and years to helping kids, and you get a four- or five-paragraph story in the local paper, summing up your accomplishments. And, except in the rare cases, within a couple years, unlike Norm at Cheers, nobody knows your name.

Think that's not true? How many students at WHS, if given a quiz today, would know who Gary Kehler is and what he did to get the football stadium named after him? How many students walking the halls of WHS today would know that English teacher Shaun Cherewich created the school's lacrosse program in the late 1970s and turned it into a state power? Think

anybody in Clark today knows the difference between Arthur L. Johnson and Howard Johnson, the old restaurant/motel next to the Parkway that is now a giant ShopRite?

Coaches do what they do. They move on. Life rolls along. And so it goes.

But when I saw that short on Harry Shatel last week, my mind filled with memories of long-ago spring days. In the late 1960s, WHS had a baseball coach named Norm Koury. In five years at WHS, Captain Nemo's teams won a pair of Union County championships and played a tough, hard-nosed brand of "inside" baseball that has all but disappeared from the face of the earth. Bunts, run-and-hits, steals, double suicide squeeze bunts, and solid defense. If you liked 2-1 games that took 12 innings and saw both teams combine for six hits, it was heaven.

After the 1967 season, Koury left WHS to coach at Morristown, where his first team produced similar results. But when his alma mater, Cranford, came calling for a football/baseball coach in 1969, Koury left Mo'town and was replaced by his assistant ... you guessed it, Harry Shatel, himself a former Colonial star.

That might have been the end of the story but in 1973 I got a job at the *Daily Record* in Parsippany, which covered Morris County, where Morristown is located. Covering and watching Morristown baseball became a highlight, not just for me, but for just about our entire staff. Even on days off, I would drive to Randolph, or Livingston or Roxbury to join my buddies as we watched Shatel *hit infield practice*. You can tell a lot about a team during infield practice and nobody, ever, did it better than Shatel. He was like a magician, using two balls simultaneously in the infield, and hitting the balls to the outfielders both right- and left-handed. Hitting pop-ups to the catcher, never an easy thing to do, was a piece of cake for Shatel. It was like a show. I felt we should have scorecards, like diving judges at the Olympics, and flash "10" or "9.5" after each performance.

The one Morristown game that always stands out for me came in maybe 1974 or '75, a game at "The High" against Livingston, with the conference title on the line. With Rick (Hollywood) Sofield on third base after a game-tying triple in the bottom of the seventh, catcher Walt Bastecki, a four-year cleanup hitter, stepped to the plate. Current thinking would be, a) walk him intentionally, or b) he would step into the batter's box looking to swing.

But this was the '70s and this was Harry Shatel. Bastecki looked for his sign. The pitcher pitched and Bastecki fouled off a *squeeze bunt*. He looked for another sign. The pitcher pitched and Bastecki fouled off *another* squeeze bunt. Two strikes. Protect the plate. Just make contact. No need to look for a sign, right? Bastecki looked for his sign. The pitcher pitched and, as Sofield raced toward home, Bastecki squared around and put down the bunt successfully for a 4-3 victory.

Our reporter asked Bastecki if he was surprised that Shatel had him, a slugging catcher and major RBI man, bunting. "No," was the reply.

Even with two strikes? "No. All I knew was, with two strikes, if I missed getting the bunt down, he would have me out here until midnight tonight bunting. And I didn't want to do that."

Things change over the years. But Morristown baseball remained a power through all the years, winning yet another state title under Shatel this past June. Despite their proximity, WHS and Morristown rarely met in baseball — Shatel was 5-5 against the Blue Devils (0-1 vs. Dave Cilo, 4-1 vs. Pete Lima and 1-3 against Bob Brewster).

(The last meeting, a 5-3 Morristown win in the 1995 North 2 Group 4 final, ended the most glorious baseball season in WHS history at 27-3. That WHS team featured Kris Williams, Steve Cheek, Brian Ciemiecki, Ryan Mann and Jorge Amorim. If WHS had won that game, and two more, it would've been the first state title in school history and that team would've joined the '85 softball team with 30 victories in a season.)

In June 2004, I saw that Morristown was playing Steinert in what I figured would be a great state Group 4 final at Toms River East. And, of course, one more chance to relive my past and watch Shatel put his Colonials through that amazing infield drill. I got down there plenty early. Shatel got off the bus and slowly walked to a seat in the dugout, where he stayed the entire game. The infield drill, while still outstanding and fun to watch, was handled by his assistants.

Time, as it always does, was claiming another coach. Saying he had "lost the passion that the kids deserve," the 62-year-old Shatel hung 'em up last week with a 38-year record of 752 wins, 321 losses, and 10 ties that included 12 Morris County championships and three state titles. He'll spend his retirement in Ormond-by-the-Sea, Fla., with his scrapbooks and old team photos hanging on the walls. And he'll probably never know the joy he gave a

bunch of 30-something sports writers back in the 1970s, guys who were high in the saddle themselves back then and loved watching his team play baseball.

IN PASSING

We received word the other night that Jim Howard, '75, had lost a long battle with cancer. An outstanding middle guard on WHS's unbeaten 1974 football team, Howard went 25-3-1 and finished third in the state at heavy-weight as a senior.

SWIMMING UPDATE

The WHS boys and girls swim teams will be competing at the 28th Pirate Invitational this weekend at West Windsor-Plainsboro South. Both teams will be short-handed, with many of their top swimmers (P.J. Harley, Chris DeLaFuente, Kylie Fraser, Alexi Kuska and Jill Kandigan) competing with the club team at the Burgdorff Invitational at Rutgers. The swimmers will be at Pingry this afternoon at 3:30, and host Hillsborough next Thursday at 2:30.

HALL OF FAME UPDATE

We ran into Scott Eichhorn at the Westfield Y recently, where the former WHS swimmer works out several days a week. In his youth Eichhorn was a pretty good baseball player, a catcher. He noted that as 12-year-olds on the Tigers, he and Steve Lee had been the team's two representatives in the annual All-Star game, which was interesting because another Tiger 12-year-old that year was Steve Tebbetts, who went on to star at WHS, Florida State, played several years of minor league ball and who had just been inducted into the Westfield Athletic Hall of Fame.

Eichhorn went on to be a standout swimmer at both WHS and in college, and Lee was a backup point guard to Steve Reddy on WHS's 1972 state Group 4 champion basketball team.

DEVIL OF THE WEEK

As always, a big game against Scotch Plains is the quickest way to be Devil of the Week and earn a free sub from Al the Owner at Westfield Subs (261 South Avenue East). This week's freebie goes to junior guard Erin Miller, who lit up the Raiders for 21 points last Thursday in a 70-43 win.

Note: Any wrestlers who are named Devil of the Week, like Colin MacKay recently, can pick up their sub after their final weigh-ins of the season.

*The Devil's Den appears Thursday in The Westfield Leader during the scholastic season. Contact us with comments, complaints, story ideas or note-type items at [bj1019@aol.com](mailto:bj1019@aol.com). GO DEVILS!*

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# Brearley/Hackettstown Match Brings Class to Union County

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

Rarely, in recent history, have two, top-20 ranked wrestling teams gone head-to-head in a dual meet in Union County. That rare event took place before a packed house in the David Brearley High School gym in Kenilworth on January 3 with the ninth-ranked Hackettstown Tigers being forced to win the final three bouts to pull out a 33-28 victory over the 14th-ranked Brearley Bears. (Note: Hackettstown is now ranked

5:09 at 160-lbs and state-ranked Zach Ulm had his hands full with Bear Umar Tamarov, but pulled out a 4-3 decision at 171-lbs. Afterwards, the Bears won the next five bouts.

"We knew what kind of a wrestler he (Ulm) was. Umar did a great job. He wrestled well," commented Luciani.

At 189-lbs, Hany El Shiekh muscled Rich Peter to his back with a short lateral in 3:18. State-ranked 215-lb Jessie Boyden amassed six takedowns, four penalty points and

third period to defeat Nick Souders, 5-2. No. 3 ranked 103-lb Kenny Knapp smothered Cory Kozimor in 3:48 with a hammer arm bar and 112-lb Allen Phillips scored a two-point nearfall in the second period to defeat Travis Tjong, 2-0.

Luckson Etienne earned the 2-0 Tigers three team points with a 7-1 decision over Dan Conroy at 119-lbs but Rob Piper got a takedown, an escape and a penalty point to gain a crucial, 4-2 victory over previously 13-0 Keith Morris at 125-lbs to put the Bears ahead 25-18. At 130-lbs, Joe Lospinoso followed with three spin-behind takedowns and an escape to defeat Keith Swanson, 7-2, to set up the drama of the final three bouts.

"All the way up and down the lineup, the young kids stepped up. Allen Phillips did a tremendous job. Rob Piper beat one of their better boys. El Shiekh's pin was huge. Boyden did great on his feet. (Bourland) did a great job of not giving up bonus points. DeBeau battled hard and won a key match," said Luciani. "Overall, the boys wrestled hard. They were number nine in the state. We were five points away from them. Now we want to see what else we want to do."

**WEIGHT SEQUENCE:**  
152: — O. Vernon (H) p Evans, 3:31  
160: — Mitchell (H) p Brian Zengewald, 5:09  
171: — Zach Ulm (H) d Tamarov, 4-3  
189: — El Shiekh (B) p Peter, 3:18  
215: — Boyden (B) md Bourland, 17-7  
Hwt: — DeBeau (B) d Souders, 5-2  
103: — Knapp (B) p Kozimor, 3:48  
112: — Phillips (B) d Tjong, 2-0  
119: — Etienne (H) d Conroy, 7-1  
125: — Piper (B) d Morris, 4-2  
130: — Lospinoso (B) d Swanson, 7-2  
135: — T. Ulm (H) p Mraz, 4:49  
140: — Strathern (H) d Loffa, 3-1  
145: — Cory Vernon (H) won forfeit



TAKING CONTROL...Brearley's Joe Lospinoso, top, works to slip behind Hackettstown's Keith Swanson in the 130-lb bout. Lospinoso won, 7-2.

eighth and Brearley is ranked 12th).

The 9-1 Bears held a 28-18 lead entering those final three bouts – 135, 140 and 145-lbs – and needed to win one by decision to clinch victory. After a very close bout, Tiger Taylor Ulm, with a great counter move on Bear Joe Mraz's takedown attempt, clamped in a cradle to record a fall in 4:49 to tighten the score to 28-24. At 140-lbs, Tiger Billy Strathern got a takedown late in the third period to salvage a 3-1 victory over Matt Loffa, making the score 28-27, then highly ranked Cory Vernon received a forfeit to give Hackettstown the victory.

"Hackettstown did a great job. They won where they were supposed to win. We pulled some matches out that helped us out a bit. The bottom line is we got outwrestled for five points," said Bear Head Coach Brian Luciani. "There are a lot of things coming up that will make us better because of this match."

The Bears, however, fell into a 15-0 hole early on when Tiger Owen Vernon caught Anthony Evans in a cradle in 3:31 at 152-lbs. JJ Mitchell pulled off a barrel roll to a pin via half nelson in

an escape to claim a 17-7, majority decision over a conservative Pat Bourland. Heavyweight Eric DeBeau used two throw-by takedowns in the



Pat Mineo (145) SPF Raiders



Anthony Priore (130) ALJ Crusaders

## High School Wrestling 'Cream of the Crop'

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School senior Pat Mineo and A. L. Johnson senior Anthony Priore broke the 100-career varsity wins mark in wrestling on January 6.

Competing at 145-lbs, Mineo won all three of his bouts at the Patriot Duals at North Warren High School to up his win record to 101. Priore recorded his 100th win with an 11-3 victory over Westfield's Colin MacKay in the 130-lb class at the Brearley Quad meet in Kenilworth. Priore added another victory that day against Governor Livingston.



TIGHTENING UP THE CORK...Blue Devil Mark Boyd, top, tightens his far arm corkscrew pinning combination on Brearley's Brian Zengewald in the 160-lb bout at the Brearley/Westfield/Governor Livingston/Johnson Quad meet.

# Blue Devil Matmen Push Past AL Johnson Crusaders, 41-28

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

Clinging to a 29-24 lead, the Westfield High School wrestling team won three of the final four bouts to claim a 41-28 victory over A.L. Johnson in Kenilworth on January 6.

Beginning at 140-lbs, the Blue Devils rattled off five-straight victories before the Crusaders got on the board with a fall at 189. Sam Reichbach recorded the 5-3 Blue Devils' first bout victory when he scored two takedowns and a back arm bar to command a 9-2 decision over Tony Sansone.

"I was able to take him down, broke him down and tried to load him up with an arm bar. With the score, 2-1, I got on top again, stayed as tough as I could and went into a bar. I had enough gas in the tank to turn him a couple of times and get some backs off of that."

At 152, Andy Castrorao roared to an 8-0 advantage then turned Frank Coler to his back in 3:40. Mark Boyd used an arsenal of moves to grab a 12-0, majority decision over Chris Golias at 160-lbs.

"On my feet, I used my singles a lot. He tried to go upper body, but I'm kind of tall, so I just jacked him up a little," said Boyd. "I saved some energy for the end, managed to get a cradle but was unable to put him away because he kept flipping his hips up. I need to put my bottom knee in right away."

After Westfield received a forfeit at 171, the Crusaders collected a fall at 189 then Willie Johnson put the Blue

Devils in front, 29-6, by grabbing a 9-0, majority decision over Matt Golias. Johnson worked a single leg takedown and a near-fall in the first period, escaped in the second and worked a grapevine in the third period.

At 119 lbs, Blue Devil John Barnes clamped Mark Dimaio to the mat in 3:55. Barnes built a 7-0 lead before using a back arm and a head smother for the fall. Joe Panarese used an ankle pick takedown and an escape to claim a 5-1 decision over 125-lb Crusader John Capinagro.

"Once we make it past the first two periods, we can dominate the third because we are better conditioned," said Panarese. "I looked to take him down, maybe ride him and tire him out going into the last period. I looked for some under-hooks, trying to do high-C' and singles to break him down."

In a battle of two fine 130-lb wrestlers, Crusader Anthony Priore, registered his 100th victory with an 11-3, majority decision over Colin MacKay.

"Recently ranked seventh in the state, I tried not to let that bother me," said MacKay. "The big thing about him is he capitalizes on mistakes and I made many, not detrimental mistakes going to my back but mistakes that cost me the match. I went out there hard, aggressive and that's the best I can ask of myself."

Matt Shaffer finalized the scoring with a 10-4 decision over Mike Newman at 135-lbs. Shaffer scored two takedowns and brought his opponent to his back to build a 7-4 second-period lead.

"He likes to go for funky stuff and I was able to watch out for that," said Shaffer. "When I turned him a couple of times, he tried to roll me through but I was able to control my body lean and hold him down with that. I knew my shots would work on him and halfway through I noticed he started to tire. I then started beating him mentally."

"This was the type of match that we were looking for. They executed perfectly. They showed toughness, heart and conditioning and came together as a team," said Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz. "Coming in, we figured 135 and 140 were toss-ups. We physically beat them up in both of those matches. Matt Shaffer gave Newman a pretty good beating. Matt Reichbach really took it to Sansone and Joe Panarese came through with a gutsy effort. We brought Johnson up who went out there aggressive and smart and did exactly what we asked of him. We know we're a young team. We know we are going to improve and these kids are proving that with their great work ethic. Today they came to wrestle. If they wrestle every match out, we're going to be okay."

**WEIGHT SEQUENCE:**  
140: - Reichbach (W) d. Sansone, 9-2  
145: - John Falzon (W) won forfeit  
152: - Castrorao (W) p Coler, 3:40  
160: - Boyd (W) md C. Golias, 12-0  
171: - Bill Kim (W) won forfeit  
189: - Matt Kohen (J) p Andrew Wentz, 3:49  
215: - Johnson (W) md M. Golias, 9-0  
Hwt: - Erik Kramer (J) won forfeit  
103: - Chris Roberts (J) won forfeit  
112: - Joe Killberg (J) won forfeit  
119: - Barnes (W) p Dimaio, 3:55  
125: - Panarese (W) d Capinagro, 5-1  
130: - Priore (J) md Mackay, 11-3  
135: - Shaffer (W) d Newman, 10-4

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IN A BATTLE FOR BALL CONTROL...Blue Devil forward Santo Nardi, No. 50, looks to rumble past Raider guard Danny DeCataldo, left, after picking up a block from Dan Pritsker, second from right, on Bryan Dougher, No. 21. Despite the physical battle, Scotch Plains-Fanwood won, 63-57, in double OT in Scotch Plains on January 4.

## SPF Raider Hoopsters Scorch Blue Devils In, 63-57, Double Overtime Classic

makes you look pretty good as a coach, making good plays and hitting the foul shots.” Shooting performances were at a minimum in the first half, but the 5-2 Raiders played an effective zone defense to hold Venezia to two points and to take an 18-17 lead into the locker room. The Blue Devils were effective shutting down the dangerous Greg Bayard. Both offenses opened up in the third quarter. DeCataldo hit two from downtown and Dortch sank five points to give the Raiders a 15-14 edge in the quarter. Venezia and Bonard combined for 11-points, including three 3-pointers. The Blue Devils carried a slight 15-13 edge in momentum in the final quarter. Venezia, Bonard and Lessner combined for 12 points, including two from 3-point range. DeCataldo and Dougher combined for 11 points.

With 28 seconds left, Pritsker, off a feed from Bonard, nailed a three-bagger that tied the game at 46-46. The Blue Devils jumped out to a 52-48 lead in the first overtime but Solomon came off the bench and hit a driving lay-up that cut the lead to two. Venezia hit a free throw, extending the lead to three. With time trickling down, Dougher gathered an offensive rebound, raced to the right corner spot and, falling backward looped in a 3-pointer at the buzzer that tied the game, 53-53. In the second overtime, it was all Raider basketball led by Dougher’s and Okarter’s eight points. “They came in with a five-game winning streak so we knew we wanted to break that and keep it close the whole game,” said Dougher. “We ran a bunch of sets and tried to get our big guys involved so it would free up the perimeter, while we tried to get

Venezia and Bonard into foul trouble. On defensive plays, we had to shadow and contain Venezia as much as we could because he can hit three’s when he wants to.” As to Bayard’s lack of scoring, Dougher added, “They were playing tight on him by not giving him open shots. Every shot he took was contested, but he did other things. He played good defense, rebounded and did all the little things to help us win.” “We played that first overtime almost flawlessly. Our defense was good and we made our shots. Everything was perfect until that last play, where we didn’t box out Dougher. Going into that second overtime, we knew that we were going to win and it became a killer. To try as hard as we did and to come up empty is disappointing,” said Bonard.

Westfield	10	7	14	15	7	4	57
Sc. Pl.-Fnwd	9	9	15	13	7	10	63

## Raider Matmen Get Lion’s Share, Ice Westfield Blue Devil Wrestlers, 58-15

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

That’s a district and county seed,” said MacKay who added, “I like to stick to the basics. You get a half nelson and a wrist, and you just get down and get ready to wrestle.” “Colin was in complete control of the match. Ferrara is a good wrestler. We know that. A 4-0 score is a good win for Colin,” said Kurz. Raider Ricky Olsson recorded three takedowns and two nearfalls via single grapevine and Jacob’s hook to claim an 11-0, majority decision over Matt Shaffer at 135-lbs. “I kept the legs in and tried to hip him over to get the Jacob’s. I hit them pretty hard and got him a few times,” said Olsson. “The Seton Hall match was a big wakeup call for me. I have been working a lot harder in practice and I have been wrestling a lot better since then.” “He didn’t get that urgency until his loss at Seton Hall. He did some soul searching and, look what he’s done! He won John Goles. I’m really

proud of him,” said Scholz. Relying on his flexibility, Raider Rob Desiato wiggled out of some perilous situations to pull off a 5:23, tight waist, half nelson pin over Sam Reichbach at 140-lbs. “We call him Happy Hips! He could have been pinned two, three times. He doesn’t give up. A lot of other kids would have given up. He looks for opportunity. Once he gets his hips a little bit over, he makes it worth his while,” said Scholz. Raider Pat Mineo used a sit through headlock to record a 42-second pin at 145-lbs then Trevor Cannon proved that he was quite flexible also with his 8-2 victory over Andy Castorao at 152-lbs. “Castorao is a tough kid. Trevor doesn’t give stuff up,” said Scholz. “He’s tough on top. He’s working legs.” At 160-lbs, the final face-to-face bout featured Raider Dave DeNichilo, who placed second in the district at

152-lbs last year, and Blue Devil Mark Boyd, the returning district champ at 160-lbs. Boyd scored two takedowns and two escapes before pinning DeNichilo in 4:49 with a far-arm corkscrew. “Coming into that match, we thought it was going to be a tossup. You have to respect DeNichilo,” said Kurz. “I have seen two Mark Boyds, the one who is wrestling smart and under control. That is the one who wins matches. The other, I hope we have seen the last of him.” **WEIGHT SEQUENCE:** Hwt: — Joe Blaes (S) won forfeit 103: — Dave Casmas (S) won forfeit 112: — Bundy (S) md DeFraites, 8-0 119: — Barnes (W) p Gaines, 3:53 125: — Gano (S) p Panarese, :52 130: — MacKay (W) d Ferrara, 4-0 135: — Olsson (S) md Shaffer, 11-0 140: — Desiato (S) p Reichbach, 5:23 145: — Mineo (S) p Falzon, :42 152: — Cannon (S) d Castorao, 8-2 160: — Boyd (W) p DeNichilo, 4:49 171: — Mike Zamzam (S) won forfeit 189: — Billy Jacobs (S) won forfeit 215: — Keith Baker (S) won forfeit



ADDING THE FINISHING TOUCHES...Raider Sal Gano wraps a tight half nelson around Blue Devil Joe Panarese’s head and records a 52 second fall in his 125-lb bout.

## Raider Wrestlers Win Two, Drop One at Patriot Duals

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School wrestling team defeated East Stroudsburg North, 66-6, and West Milford, 36-28, and lost to Newton, 33-26, at the Patriot duals at North Warren High School on January 6. Raider senior Pat Mineo won all three of his bouts by fall to increase his varsity career win total to 101. Mineo recorded falls in 46 seconds, 1:15 and 2:58. At 125-lbs, Raider Sal Gano had a clean slate by recording falls in 2:29 and 1:47 and by adding a 16-3, majority decision. At 135-lbs, Ricky Olsson cruised with a 16-5, majority decision and an 8-1 decision but had to go to overtime to claim a 4-2 decision over West Milford’s Clay Vandenberg. Raider freshman Tristan Bundy had a productive afternoon with three victories at 112-lbs, two via fall and one forfeit. Competing at 171-lbs, Dave DeNichilo won both his bouts by fall in 1:18 and 5:45. Billy Jacobs wrestled two bouts at 215-lbs and recorded a fall in 1:32 and another in 3:05. At 160-lbs, Joe Bach won a 4-1 and a 7-2 decision and lost one via

fall. At 189-lbs, Mike ZamZam won a 6-0 and a 5-0 decision and lost an 8-1 decision. Trevor Cannon won by pin in 5:11 in his 152-lb bout but lost an 8-1 decision to Newton’s Austin Alpaugh (state ranked) and a 12-0 decision to West Milford’s Billy Stark, who won his class at the Roselle Park Invitational. **Lady Raiders Fall To Hun Cagers, 73-60** The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team fell to Hun, 73-60, in Scotch plains on January 6. Allie Zazzali netted 17 points for the Raiders and Emily Gratch put up 25 points for 11-2 Hun. **Basketball Raiders Rip Kearny Christian Boys** The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team ripped Kearny Christian, 64-51, in Scotch plains on January 6. Brian Dougher banged in 27 points and Darnell Dortch added nine for the Raiders.

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### UNDER CONTRACT

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### UNDER CONTRACT

### 2457 ALLWOOD ROAD, SCOTCH PLAINS

This charming 4 bedroom, inviting home with a traditional floor plan sits on an oversized property in a quiet “block party” neighborhood in an excellent school district. The neighborhood is rapidly expanding due to its desirable location, making the property a sound investment opportunity. Located close by are public golf courses and local downtown shopping.

Offered for \$525,000



### 955 BOULEVARD, WESTFIELD

Spacious and pristine Colonial home offering ideal location on a tree lined Westfield street. Perfect for entertaining are the sun-filled Dining Room & Living Room with wood burning fireplace. This fine home boasts hardwood floors, new central air & furnace, new windows, master Bedroom with new full bath, fenced yard and deck overlooking manicured grounds.

Offered for \$819,000

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GETTING A LOT OF PRESSURE UNDER THE NET...Raider Kaylin Jaichon, No. 32, draws a lot of pressure from Blue Devils Gabby Jakub, No. 13, and Diana Venezia, No. 15.

## Lady Blue Devil Cagers Rock Raiders in 2nd Q., Win 70-43

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

five, won the quarter 15-9. Free throws also dominated the final quarter with the Blue Devils and Raiders each hitting five of eight.

"The main thing, our shooting was definitely on. All of us made our shots. We took our time on the foul line," said Miller. "Before the game, we said, 'we need to make our foul shots'. We have been missing so many foul shots in past games. Big win!"

"We have been working hard on our foul shots. We were trying to confuse them, which we did. Erin Miller is one of our better players but everybody else brings something special to the table also. The whole team did a great job," said Marino.

Blue Devil point guard Gab O'Leary (3 steals) scored eight points and dished out seven assists. Diana Venezia (6 points,) led in rebounds with 10 and Stephanie Slodyczka (3 points, steal) pulled down nine. Keri Pringle (3 steals, 3 assists, 5 rebounds) scored seven points and Gabby Jakub (5 points) grabbed eight rebounds. Casey El Koury (assist, 2 steals) had four points, Danielle Infantino had two rebounds and Charlotte O'Leary had four points and two rebounds.

Raider Lauren Mains (6 points) hit 4-for-5 from the line. Molly Meehan (4 rebounds) and Laura Degnan each bucketed five points. Kaylin Jaichon (3 points) and Jackie Law (7 points) each pulled down eight rebounds. Emily Meehan (4 rebounds) scored three points and Saxony Neilson had one.

"Our shots weren't falling. Their shots were falling. Next game will be tougher. It was an off game but give a lot of credit to Westfield. They came out here and played a great game," commented Mains. "This gives us more of a fire and more determination to go out there and work hard to beat them. It will be a better game next time."

Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	17	7	9	10	43
Westfield	21	23	15	11	70

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS PLANNING BOARD

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that the Planning Board of the Township of Scotch Plains will hold a Public Hearing on January 22, 2007, Municipal Building, first floor Council Chambers, 430 Park Avenue at 7:45 pm to hear the Waiver of Site Plan application for World Entertainment Group, Inc./B2I Inc for 375 Park Avenue, Block 1601, Lot 6 who propose to open a coffee house/lounge with liquor license. The following Variances are requested:

**Section 23-3.11(d)1-Truck loading and unloading**; Required: Provided on the property; Proposed: None

**Section 23-3.11(3)d-Off-street parking**; Required: 21 spaces; Proposed: 1 space

**Section 23-2.3(j)7-Off-street parking applicable to all zones**; Off-street parking shall be provided on the same lot as intended to serve.....; Required: 20 spaces at \$5,000 per space

All interested persons may be present and be heard. The file pertaining to this application is in the Office of the Planning Board and is available for public inspection during regular office hours.

Barbara Horev  
Secretary to the Planning Board  
1 T - 1/11/07, The Times Fee: \$27.54

## SP's Klimowicz Named Hoops Player of Week

The College of New Jersey sophomore center, Hillary Klimowicz, of Scotch Plains was named ECAC Player of the Week.

Klimowicz averaged 18.5 points, 12.0 rebounds and 3.5 blocks per game during a 1-1 week of play for TCNJ at the Salem State College Tournament. She opened tournament play by posting a double-double 22 points and 11 rebounds while adding six blocks in the Lions' 58-55, victory over host Salem State. She wrapped up the 2006 calendar year by notching a double-double 15 points and 13 rebounds in TCNJ's championship game loss to conference rival Kean. Klimowicz, who was named to the SSC All-Tournament Team, shot 90.5 percent (19-21) from the foul line in the two contests combined.



Hillary Klimowicz

See it all on the Web!  
[www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com)

## Hillsborough Girls Top Blue Devils, 58-46

The Hillsborough High School girls basketball team upped its record to 8-1 with a 58-46 victory over Westfield on January 6 in Hillsborough. Erin Miller and Gab O'Leary scored 19 and 11 points, respectively, for the Blue Devils. Hillsborough's Kelsey Kutch scored 24 points to break 1,000 points for her varsity career.

Westfield	13	18	11	4	46
Hillsborough	19	5	16	18	58

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## Raiders Rossi, Adams Win Shot Put at UC Girls Track

Erin Rossi shoved a personal-best 35'10.5" and teammate Lauryn Adams had a heave of 33'9" to give the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls team a first place in the team shot put with a total distance of 69'7.5" at the Union County Girls Indoor Track Relays at Dunn Center in Elizabeth on January 8.

Summit won the team title with a total of 44 followed by Union with 33 and the Raiders at 30. Westfield finished fifth with 21 points, Union Catholic finished tied for 10th at 10 with Elizabeth and Governor Livingston placed 12th with a total of 9.

Union Catholic Vikings Kaity Eppinger and Tiara Brown combined for a height of 9'6" to win the team high jump. Westfield placed fourth in the event with a height of nine feet. The Blue Devils best effort came in the 4x400 with a second place finish in 4:34.5 behind Summit's Samantha Lee, Paige Boehmcke, Susan Scavone and Kyla McDonald at 4:28.1. The Raiders finished third in the event with a time of 4:36.6.

The Blue Devils finished third in the 4x800 with a time of 10:48.5

followed by the Raiders at 11:06.8. The Raiders placed third in the distance medley relay with a time of 13:58.3 and fourth in the shuttle hurdles at 38.7. The Blue Devils finished fifth in the sprint medley relay with a time of 4:47.8 and sixth in the 4x200 with a time of 2:02.4.

**TEAM TOTALS:**  
1. Summit 44, 2. Union 33, 3. Scotch Plains-Fanwood 30, 4. Cranford 25, 5. Westfield 21, 6. Johnson 20, 7. Rahway 16, 8. Plainfield 12, 9. Kent Place 11, 10. Union Catholic, Elizabeth 10, 12. Governor Livingston 9, 13. Roselle 4, 14. Bearley, Dayton, Linden 1

## Blue Devil Boys Calm Cougar Cagers, 59-46

The Westfield High School boys basketball team improved to 6-2 with a 59-46 victory over rival host Cranford on January 6. Mike Venezia and Dan Pritsker each scored 18 points for Westfield. Tom Bonard sank 14 points and added 11 assists. Andrew Ciencin had 11 points for the Cougars.

Westfield	14	19	9	17	59
Cranford	4	12	11	19	46

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD**

**CONTRACTOR:** Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy, PA, Somerset Hills Corporate Center, 28 Independence Boulevard, Liberty Corner, New Jersey 07338.

**NATURE OF SERVICES:** Retained to provide the professional legal services in conjunction with the services provided by Frederick T. Danser III, Esq. in his capacity as labor counsel to provide legal services to the Town of Westfield for labor, employment, and personnel matters and related litigation.

**DURATION:** January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007

**AMOUNT:** The estimated total fees for the year to be determined upon adoption of the 2007 budget for the Town with this expenditure charged to the Legal Account. THE RESOLUTION AND CONTRACT FOR SAME ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.

Claire J. Gray  
Town Clerk

1 T - 1/11/07, The Leader Fee: \$24.48

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD**

**CONTRACTOR:** Frederick T. Danser III, Esq. 25 Independence Boulevard, Liberty Corner, New Jersey 07338

**NATURE OF SERVICES:** Retained to provide the professional legal services of a consultant and negotiator in connection with collective bargaining between the Town and its employee representation organizations.

**DURATION:** January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007

**AMOUNT:** Amount of \$20,000. THE RESOLUTION AND CONTRACT FOR SAME ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.

Claire J. Gray  
Town Clerk

1 T - 1/11/07, The Leader Fee: \$18.87

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that at the meeting of the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of Scotch Plains held on January 4, 2007, the following decision of the Board was memorialized:

**Denied,** a one-year Temporary Operating Permit for **Jon DeBaro**, 2219 North Avenue, Block 7601, Lot 14 to allow parking of a commercial vehicle in the parking area of Crestwood Commons Condominium Complex.

Barbara Horev  
Secretary to the  
Zoning Board of Adjustment

1 T - 1/11/07, The Times Fee: \$16.32

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD**

**RESOLUTION 07-01-05**

**CONTRACTOR:** Suplee, Clooney & Company, 308 East Vroad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090

**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Auditing services and other financial consultation services.

**DURATION:** For a period ending no later than June 30, 2007

**AMOUNT:** Not to exceed \$23,565.00

A Copy of the Resolution and Contract relating to the services are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk.

Eleanor McGovern  
Borough Clerk

1 T - 1/11/07, The Times Fee: \$18.36

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS PLANNING BOARD**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that the Planning Board of the Township of Scotch Plains will hold a Public Hearing on January 22, 2007, Municipal Building, first floor Council Chambers, 430 Park Avenue at 7:45 pm to hear the minor subdivision/lot line change application of Peter and Maria DiNizo for 2076 & 2080 Westfield Road Circle, Block 2501, Lots 24 & 25 located in the R-3A Zone which proposes to subdivide approximately 9,086 square feet from Lot 25 and add it to the rear of Lot 24.

The following existing variance is requested:

**Section 23-3.4A, Para. H., Col. 7-Front Yard Setback:** Minimum Required: 30 feet; Existing & Proposed: 27.7 feet.

All interested persons may be present and be heard. The file pertaining to this application is in the Office of the Planning Board and is available for public inspection during regular office hours.

Barbara Horev  
Secretary to the Planning Board

1 T - 1/11/07, The Times Fee: \$23.46

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD**

**CONTRACTOR:** Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal LLP, 101 JFK Parkway, Short Hills, New Jersey 07078

**NATURE OF SERVICES:** Retained to provide the professional legal services in furtherance of and in conjunction with the duties of the Town Attorney.

**DURATION:** January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007

**AMOUNT:** The estimated total fees for the year will be determined upon adoption of the 2007 budget for the Town with this expenditure charged to the Legal Account. THE RESOLUTION AND CONTRACT FOR SAME ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.

Claire J. Gray  
Town Clerk

1 T - 1/11/07, The Leader Fee: \$19.89

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD**

**CONTRACTOR:** Suplee, Clooney & Company, 308 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.

**NATURE OF SERVICES:** Engaged to perform the statutory annual audit of the accounts, annual audit of Federal and State Programs, the Review Report on the Town of Westfield Deferred Compensation Plan, and preparation of the Market Disclosure Report.

**DURATION:** January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007

**AMOUNT:** Amount of \$59,600. THE RESOLUTION AND CONTRACT FOR SAME ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.

Claire J. Gray  
Town Clerk

1 T - 1/11/07, The Leader Fee: \$19.89

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD**

**CONTRACTOR:** Amalgamated General Agencies (AGA), 115 Grove Street East, Westfield, New Jersey 07090

**NATURE OF SERVICES:** Engaged to perform risk management consultant services as detailed in the Bylaws if the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund and the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund..

**DURATION:** January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007

**AMOUNT:** 3% of annual assessment THE RESOLUTION AND CONTRACT FOR SAME ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.

Claire J. Gray  
Town Clerk

1 T - 1/11/07, The Leader Fee: \$18.87

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**TOWN OF WESTFIELD PLANNING BOARD**

Notice is hereby given that the Westfield Planning Board at its meeting on Thursday, January 4, 2007 memorialized the following Board action taken on December 4, 2006:

**06-20(v)** DAUNNO DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC, 35 MOHAWK TRAIL, BLOCK 5116, LOT 5, SEEKING MINOR SUBDIVISION WITH VARIANCE. APPLICANT SEEKS TO DEMOLISH EXISTING HOUSE AND SUBDIVIDE PROPERTY INTO TWO CONFORMING LOTS. APPLICANT PROPOSES TO CONSTRUCT TWO NEW SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS. Application approved with conditions.

Kenneth B. Marsh  
Secretary

1 T - 1/11/07, The Leader Fee: \$20.91

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD**

Please take notice that on January 31, 2007 at 7:30 PM at the Fanwood Borough Hall, located at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey, the Planning Board will hold a hearing on the application of the undersigned. The property in question is located at: 39 St. Johns Place, Fanwood, New Jersey, also known as Block 20, Lot 10, as shown on the Fanwood Tax Map, owned by Nicholas and Colleen Nitti.

The applicant requests an addition on house, which is in violation of the following:

Section 184-110 of the Fanwood Land Use Code. Variance Requested: street side yard setback; Permitted: 30 feet; Present: 24.11 feet; Proposed: 11.92 feet.

Section 184-110 of the Fanwood Land Use Code. Variance Requested: rear yard setback; Permitted: 25 feet; Present: 24.21 feet; Proposed: 24.21 feet.

The applicant will also seek such other relief as may be determined necessary at the public hearing based upon review of the application or amendment(s) to the application.


The file pertaining to this application is available for public inspection during normal business hours from the Secretary of the Planning Board at the Administration Office of the Borough of Fanwood at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey.

Any interested party may appear at said hearing and participate therein in accordance with the rules of the Fanwood Planning Board.


Nicholas and Colleen Nitti  
39 St. Johns Place  
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023

1 T - 1/11/07, The Times Fee: \$36.21


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Nestled on a tranquil cul de sac in the charming Brightwood area of Westfield, this Classic Side Hall Colonial boasts 10 rooms, 4/5 Bedrooms, and 3 full baths. Gleaming hardwood floors, a white mantled fireplace, and chair rail enhance a gracious living room and dining room while offering entree to the eat in kitchen, family room, and screen porch. Offered at: \$949,900. WSF0562



This exquisite 11 room, 5 bedroom and 5 and 1/2 bath 2006 center hall colonial boasts a gracious foyer, 3 fireplaces, a "State of the Art" kitchen, open staircase with architectural molding, stereo system, and hardwood floors throughout. Enhancing the exterior is an English garden, stone patio, sprinkler system and blue stone porticos and walks. Offered at: \$ 1,599,000. WSF9636



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Sold by Frank D. Isoldi



560 Lawrence Ave., Westfield  
Listed by Hye-Young Choi  
Sold by Hye-Young Choi



8 Kimball Circle, Westfield  
Listed by Mary McEnerney  
Sold by Mary McEnerney



531 St. Marks Ave., Westfield  
Listed by Kimberley Haley  
Sold by Kimberley Haley



1416 Watchung Ave., Plainfield  
Listed by John Demarco  
Sold by John Demarco



1 Julia Court, Scotch Plains  
Listed by Lola Reed  
Sold by Reva Berger



1 Sylvester St., Cranford  
Listed by Faith Maricic  
Sold by Jill Rome



514 Kimball Ave., Westfield  
Listed by Judith Koeppel  
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**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD**

**RESOLUTION 07-01-09**

**CONTRACTOR:** Rogut, McCarthy, Troy, LLC; 37 Alden Street, Cranford, New Jersey 07016

**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Downtown Economic Development Coordinator Services

**DURATION:** For a period ending no later than December 31, 2007

**AMOUNT:** Not to exceed \$30,000.00

A Copy of the Resolution and Contract relating to the services are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk.

Eleanor McGovern  
Borough Clerk  
Fee: \$18.36

1 T - 1/11/07, The Times

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD**

**RESOLUTION 07-01-09**

**CONTRACTOR:** Beckerman & Company; 430 Lake Avenue, Colonia, New Jersey 07067

**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Insurance Brokerage Services, General Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance

**DURATION:** For a period ending no later than December 31, 2007

**AMOUNT:** Not to exceed \$15,000.00

A Copy of the Resolution and Contract relating to the services are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk.

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1 T - 1/11/07, The Times

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## POPCORN™

### Dreamgirls You Can't Hurry Art

One Popcorn, Poor • Two Popcorns, Fair • Three Popcorns, Good • Four Popcorns, Excellent

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER  
3 popcorns

Somewhere in America, maybe this week, perhaps next, a little girl will experience Jennifer Hudson singing "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going," the signature torch song in *Dreamgirls*. Juilliard might as well send her the application now. The die is cast. A star will be born.

It's that kind of performance. Playing Effie White, the almost homely, practically dowdy member of the title trio, she has just been jilted.

Vibrating every timber in the theater, bringing the house down in that unmistakable blend of music and heartrending catharsis, she invokes the pain and suffering of every gal who ever fell for the wrong guy. You almost feel guilty if you're of the offending gender.

Overwhelming as it is entertaining, and maybe even more so, the exactness of the number is a microcosm of the film's shortcoming. While enjoyable for its music, book and an overall feeling of vibrancy, *Dreamgirls* is more precise than original. Its t's are crossed, its i's dotted. There are no surprises.

But even if a solid iteration of a stereotype, the colorful cliché is nonetheless done with stunning flourish. Director/screenwriter Bill Condon, working from the Broadway show's script and lyrics penned by Tom Eyrn, engraves a virtual template for the genre. Following his lead, practically every principal etches a meticulous characterization.

Though it should be no surprise considering the drama that he has woven into several of his comedic portrayals, Eddie Murphy taps his Pagliacci and contributes the film's most creative depiction. He is James "Thunder" Early, an R&B singer who won't compromise his style in order to appeal to a larger audience (read white).

Jimmy's the ignition, a rambunctious, hard-living entertainer with one foot in the old school, one on the precipice of inventing the new. And one night, when his had-it-up-to-here backup singers skedaddle, the enterprising Curtis Taylor, Jr. (Jamie Foxx) spots his opportunity. All that the three ingénues waiting in the wings need is his managing genius, even if they don't know it.

Effie, then lead singer, is against it. Backup is a dead end. Which is what prompts Mr. Taylor to ply his Svengali-like ways. The glorious tumult is set in motion.

Fast forward, they're one big happy family, so to speak, crisscrossing the country by bus. The expected romances germinate, talent is honed, strategies are executed, and before long no one is very sure just what the initial plan was in the first place.

## NJWA Concert Band To Perform in January

WESTFIELD – Under the direction of Howard Toplansky, the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA) Concert Band will perform on Sunday, January 14, at 2 p.m. at the David Brearley High School located at 401 Monroe Avenue in Kenilworth.

Tickets for the two-hour concert are \$5 per person and the public is cordially invited. Donations are also accepted and will go to assist the Brearley Music Boosters. In addition, the members of the Brearley High School Band, under the direction of band director John Ondrey, will perform several selections with

### Theater Project Presents Readings

CRANFORD – The Theater Project, Union County College's Professional Theater Company, will present a staged reading series of original plays by members of The Theater Project's Playwrights Development Workshop, led by Artistic Director Mark Spina.

These script-in-hand performances offer the excitement and immediacy of actually sitting in on rehearsals with the members of The Theater Project.

The presentation will be followed by a discussion with the playwright, director, actors and audience, in the Union County College Student Commons, located at 1033 Springfield Avenue in Cranford. Admission is free.



**CELEBRITY STATUS QUO...**Candace Wicke rehearses the chorus for the upcoming Washington Elementary School show. Performances of *Stick to the Status Quo* are January 26 and 27. The Westfield production, now in its 59th year, is the school's biggest fundraiser. It is written, directed, produced and performed entirely by Washington School parents, including Ms. Wicke, the conductor-in-residence at Carnegie Hall for MidAmerica Productions. To order tickets or get more information, visit [westfieldnj12.org/washington](http://westfieldnj12.org/washington).

Only one thing is certain. The Dreams are headed for stardom. And feelings are going to be hurt in the process.

Pushing the plot toward its first big complication is Curtis's decision to make Deena Jones (Beyonce Knowles) the lead. She's the real pretty one. By his calculation, the move will help catapult the girls over to the pop charts. That's where the genuine fame resides.

Effie bristles. She's the better singer. But what really adds insult to injury is when Mr. Taylor also switches romantic allegiance to his new diva. Such is his management style. It is at this point that Miss Hudson regales us with the aforementioned barnburner.

Shades of Billie Holiday, the vanquishing hyperbole isn't the sort of thing you'd want to hear over and over. But Effie makes her point. The group goes through yet another transition.

It would be a faux pas to give away too much more of the plot, though fans of popular culture probably know the old saw anyway. Hardly veiled since the original show opened in December 1981, it is generally acknowledged that the musical chronicles the joys and sorrows of Diana Ross and the Supremes. While making for good press, it is only partially accurate.

More correctly, *Dreamgirls* is an amalgam of several stories, mixed, re-mixed and arranged for Broadway consumption, right down to the transmutation of the music. It has that sound, matinees on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. You can practically taste the orange drink.

Of course, it's all a matter of taste. However, while some of the tunes have since gained recognition in their own right, few can compare to the actual girl group hits of the era. These are more like essence of Motown.

Where Mr. Condon's movie version distinguishes itself is in its production values, from seamless segues to time appropriate appurtenances. And while successfully singing a paean to the source material, it is nevertheless cinematic. Nary a board creaks.

What's missing is an edginess. For all the film's perfect execution, we find ourselves wishing for some ragtag nuances to challenge the imagination. Ozymorion notwithstanding, *Dreamgirls* could benefit from a novel flaw or two.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Dreamgirls*, rated PG-13, is a DreamWorks Distribution LLC release directed by Bill Condon and stars Beyonce Knowles, Jennifer Hudson and Jamie Foxx. Running time: 131 minutes

the NJWA Concert Band.

This concert will feature a bassoon piece by Czech composer Julius Ernst Wilhelm Fucik, who spent most of his life as the leader of military brass bands. Sometimes known as the Bohemian Sousa, he was a prolific composer, with more than 300 marches, polkas and waltzes to his name.

The NJWA Concert Band will also introduce its American audience to Matvey Blanter's "John Grey" foxtrot at the upcoming concert. Blanter, born in February 1903 into a family of poor Jewish artisans in the Ukraine, was one of the most important composers of popular and film music in Russia.

Mazurkas, waltzes, marches and ragtime will also be performed at the concert. "Air for Band" by Frank Erickson and "Higher and Higher" by Julius Khait promise to excite the audience. Elliot Del Borgo's "Fire Dance" will add a harmonic and rhythmic beat, while George Gershwin's "Oh, Lady Be Good" will have audience members humming to this classic.

NJWA, now in its 12th year, is already working on upcoming concerts. On February 24, it is scheduled to play a fundraiser at the Union County College for the benefit of the Union County College Foundation.

For further information about the concert, or if interested in becoming a member of this group of performers, call (908) 964-1793 or e-mail [njwaband@att.net](mailto:njwaband@att.net).



Susan M. Dougherty for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**CRAZY FOR YOU...**In the Westfield Community Players' opening night of *Angel Street*, real life husband and wife Mark and Syndi Szabo play Jack and Bella Manningham with chilling realism. The Victorian 1880 setting translates well for 2007 in questioning whether a husband and wife really know each other.

## Comm. Players Continue With Thriller *Angel Street*

WESTFIELD – Patrick Hamilton's Victorian thriller *Angel Street* continues Friday and Saturday evenings January 12, 13, 19 and 20 in the theater at 1000 North Avenue West in Westfield. First produced in London, this play was the basis for the film *Gaslight*.

For the Manninghams who live on *Angel Street* in London, all appears peaceful and serene from the outside. Within, Mr. Manningham is slowly torturing his wife into insanity under the guise of kindness. It takes the tenacious inspector Rough from Scotland Yard to help Mrs. Manningham as he investigates a murder committed 15 years ago in the house on *Angel Street*.

Real-life spouses Mark and Syndi Szabo of Parlin play the Manninghams while Lee Wittenberg is Inspector Rough of Scotland Yard who commands Michael Bieber (Westfield) and Brian Riccobono.

The household is completed with maids Jackie Weiner of Westfield and Valerie Van Hossier of Cranford. Produced by Kay Macrae of Westfield,

Lynn Lampariello is the stage manager, Bill McMeekan of Scotch Plains was construction manager and Bob Murray is technical director.

Call the box office at (908) 232-1221 for reserved seating at \$15 per ticket. Non-members must prepay tickets with reservations. Note that on the benefit performance of January 12, Westfield Community Players' membership cards will not be honored. On those nights, tickets are available from the sponsoring organizations.

### *Angel Street*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Spectacular costumes by WCPs President Naomi Yablonsky and Betty Hetherington are wonderfully authentic (except for Ms. Szabo's contemporary French manicured snow-white tipped gel nails).

The sold out opening night only indicates that WCP has been doing something right since its inception in 1934.

## Visual Arts Center Hosts *Young at ART*

SUMMIT – *Young at ART*, a new exhibition, is on display the month of January at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, located at 68 Elm Street in Summit. The group show, which will run through January 31, represents the work of the art center's junior students.

The exhibition includes work from students in the art center's summer programs, outreach programs (students in programs outside the art center) and Kaleidoscope Program (students who visit the main gallery exhibitions and do a project related to the exhibition.) The work is on view in the strolling galleries on the first and second floors of the center.

This first-ever exhibition encompasses various media, including drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, assemblage and more. The pieces are displayed with the students' names and the instructor of the class in which the work was produced.

The show was assembled with the help of a large committee from the art center, including members of the board, staff and volunteers. Committee members include Lynn Celler, Mari D'Alessandro, Jessica Haverstick, Winifred McNeill, Dannielle Mick, Rasika Reddy, Carletta Schneider and Amy Shaffer, all under the chairperson Bonnie

Jaffe.

For additional information on this exhibit, contact Ms. D'Alessandro, exhibitions manager, at (908) 273-9121 or via e-mail at [mari@artcenternj.org](mailto:mari@artcenternj.org). For more information on the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, visit [artcenternj.org](http://artcenternj.org).

### NJWA Chooses Piano Music Dealer

WESTFIELD – Ted Schlosberg, founder and executive director of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA) Music Studio, has announced that the Freehold Music Center has been chosen as a designated piano music dealer for NJWA piano purchasing and servicing.

The Music Studio has recently replaced its old pianos with Yamaha uprights. Mike Diehl, owner of Freehold Music Center, said, "The value, longevity and reliable performance over time are a few of the reasons we recommend Yamaha pianos for schools and institutions."

For a complete brochure on The Music Studio offerings, or information on any program of the NJWA, visit their studios at 150-152 East Broad Street in Westfield or call (908) 789-9696. Additional information can be found on the web at [njworkshopforthearts.com](http://njworkshopforthearts.com).

## Artist Falotico Exhibits Constructing Heads

SCOTCH PLAINS – Local artist Frank Falotico will demonstrate drawing heads and portraits at the Scotch Plains & Fanwood Arts Association meeting on Thursday, January 18, at 7 p.m. in the Scotch Plains Library at 1927 Bartle Avenue.

Relying on his extensive background in anatomy, Mr. Falotico will show us how to construct faces on top of the underlying structure of the human head.

He has been the director of the DuCret School of Art in Plainfield since 1985. He has taught anatomy for more than 30 years and also teaches life drawing, painting and sculpture. He has a bachelor of arts degree from

Monmouth University and is a graduate of the DuCret School of Art. He also studied at the Art Students League, N.Y. under anatomist Robert Beverly Hale.

Professional experience includes work in animation with both Adventure Cartoons for T.V. and Paramount Studios, N.Y. and design and illustration for the Point-of-Purchase publication display field. He has exhibited in numerous shows in New York and New Jersey and his work is in many private and public collections.

The demonstration is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Tom Yeager at (908) 322-5438.

## Les Malamut Gallery Shows 'Enthusiasm'

AREA – The Les Malamut Art Gallery announced an exhibit of pastel art work by the Shared Enthusiasm Group.

The show will open with a "Meet the Artists" reception on Saturday, January 20, in the gallery from 2 to 4 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The artists exhibiting are Althea Howlett Scheller, Anita McKenna-Murphy, Barbara Uhr and Diane Gallo. All are members of the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, as well as several other art associations.

Their work has been shown in numerous venues in New Jersey. Artist Dannielle Mick, who has an enthusiastic approach in exploring color, light and composition, founded the Shared Enthusiasm Group. They meet regu-

larly to share ideas and techniques.

Ms. Scheller feels that watercolor and pastel impressionist paintings bring her the most pleasure. Ms. Murphy's work is profound and meditative in its representation of the natural world. Ms. Uhr said drawing and painting are the best ways to see and enjoy the wonders of nature, while Ms. Gallo maintains that to work with one's hands to produce something that speaks to one is a joyous thing.

The Les Malamut Art Gallery is located in the Union Public Library, located at 1800 Morris Avenue in Union. It is open during regular library hours and is handicapped accessible. For further information, call (908) 851-5450.



By VICTORIA McCABE

Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

Italian goth-rock sextet Lacuna Coil have done something special. The Milan-based group's April 2006 release "Karmacode" bridges a gap between goth metal and mainstream hard rock, channeling all the unbridled energy of the former into a wildly exciting version of the latter.

On "Karmacode," Lacuna Coil is like Evanescence with a real kick; the music is melodic and accessible, but it doesn't sacrifice its heavier instrumental edge. The album is a pure adrenaline rush from start to finish, and it's hard not to get swept up in the music.

The fantasy that litters goth lyrics doesn't show up; Lacuna Coil serves reality, weaving the kinds of stories and baring the emotions all rock listeners recognize.

And the vocals are the first instantly attractive thing here. Cristina Scabbia's ethereal voice mesmerizes, grounded by the male contributions of backup singer Andrea Ferro. Scabbia carries each melody fluidly over the intense guitar/bass fabric her bandmates lay down, giving the mu-

sic a unique optimism.

"Karmacode" has plenty of highlights. From its very opening guitar riff, "To the Edge" is invigorating. It's a dark arena rocker with a killer hook, the best cut on the album. "Life will be ready to twist up your world," Scabbia and Ferro sing.

"You Create" sounds like a Middle-Eastern chant, Scabbia's vocals wandering like a wordless incantation.

A brighter vocal melody buoys the probing lyrics of "Closer": "looking for a higher ground/searching for this something missed before/from a higher ground/will I fall in a right direction?"

"Within Me" carries the weight of the world, "Fragile" and "Our Truth" kick the Middle-Eastern vocal colorings up a notch.

In Lacuna Coil's hands, ending cut "Enjoy the Silence," a Depeche Mode cover, takes on a distinct flavor. Scabbia's vocal cries layer on top of the instrumental texture, giving the song new breadth.

Lacuna Coil twist up the metal world with "Karmacode" – they rock hard, and their music is an exhilarating rush for anyone who goes along for the ride.



## Vic's Picks

### Lacuna Coil Twists Up Metal World



## Arts Center Hosts

### Alastair Noble Lecture

SUMMIT – The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey (VACNJ), located at 68 Elm Street in Summit, will host a lecture by Professor Alastair Noble on "Contemporary Sculpture." Set for January 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Main Gallery at the center, the full title of the lecture is "Contemporary Sculpture – How do we define sculpture today and is it any different from what it was yesterday?"

Mr. Noble, assistant professor of sculpture in the art department at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, will lend his expertise to the questions that artists and those interested in art are sure how to answer.

According to Professor Noble, "(The art of) sculpture crosses many boundaries and incorporates a wide

variety of mediums...Artists working today in sculpture weave a poetic vision between the arts, humanities and scientific advances to provide a new form of knowledge."

This sculpture lecture will be presented in conjunction with the current show now up in the main gallery at the VACNJ, "Emerging Artists: Spotlight on Emerging Sculptors."

Tickets for the lecture can be purchased at the door or reservations can be made in advance by calling the art center at (908) 273-9121, extension 46. The fee is \$10 and wine and cheese will be served. In case of inclement weather, the lecture will occur the next evening. For additional information on the VACNJ, visit [artcenternj.org](http://artcenternj.org).



**TOOTING THEIR HORNS...**Warming up for their holiday concert on Friday, December 22, local students from The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison polished their trombone techniques for seasonal instrumental performances. Pictured, left to right, are: Matthew Nader of Scotch Plains, Gregory Schwartz of Westfield and Philip Edwards of Westfield.

## WESTFIELD FOOD 4 THOUGHT



By JAYNE SALOMON

Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

### Indeed, Soup for You!

There's nothing more comforting than a delicious bowl of warm soup on a cold January day. Though the weather recently has been more pleasant than usual, the cold days of January are bound to hit, and our luck will be running out any day now.

I am arming my kitchen with the necessary ingredients to fight back when the frigid temperature of January rears its ugly head. The nice thing about these soups is the easiness of preparation. Both soups are similar in nature but yield totally different results. Just wash and peel the vegetables and throw them into a large pot.

I like to put a pot of soup on the stove in the early afternoon and let it simmer all day. This makes the house smell good, and a hearty bowl of soup along with a loaf of warm bread makes a great winter dinner that is healthy and satisfying while keeping the calories in check.

### HEARTY PEA SOUP WITH CORN

This flavorful soup can be simmered for hours before adding the corn and the cinnamon stick.

#### INGREDIENTS

8 cups cold water  
1 pound split green peas (rinsed)  
1 medium carrot, cleaned  
5 cloves fresh garlic, peeled  
1 medium onion, peeled  
3 bay leaves  
1-tablespoon sugar  
3 teaspoons salt  
1 can (15.25 ounces) creamed corn  
1 cinnamon stick (optional)  
Dash of pepper

Garnish: chopped hazelnuts

#### PROCEDURE

Rinse peas in cool water. Boil the water in a large pot. Add the peas, garlic cloves, onion, carrot, bay leaves, salt and sugar to the boiling water.



Hearty Pea Soup with Corn

Turn the heat down to simmer immediately and let simmer for approximately one-and-a-half hours. Add the creamed corn and cook for an additional 30 minutes.

Add the cinnamon stick for the last 15 minutes only. The cinnamon gives a smooth flavor without overpower-

ing the unique flavor of the pea/corn combination.

Add the dash of pepper at the end. Soup may be served hot from the pot or may be cooled and put in the blender, which will give it a smoother consistency. If blended, return to pot to heat. Garnish with chopped hazelnuts if desired.

#### LENTIL SOUP

This hearty soup can be simmered for hours. It is almost impossible to overcook. Should the soup become very thick from simmering, just add more water. The procedure describes the minimal amount of cooking needed for full flavor to be achieved.

#### INGREDIENTS

6 cups water  
1-1/3 cup lentils (rinsed)  
1 pound of beef chunks (any kind of beef)  
5 or 6 medium to large garlic cloves, peeled  
1 cup diced celery (about 3 stalks, cleaned and trimmed)  
1 cup diced parsnips (about 1 parsnip)  
1-teaspoon kosher salt  
10 to 12 stalks of scallions, cleaned and tips cut off (about 1/4 of green part remaining)  
1-teaspoon fresh thyme or ground thyme  
2 teaspoons sugar  
Dash of cinnamon (optional)

Garnish: toasted Italian bread & sliced scallion pieces

#### PROCEDURE

Boil the water in a large pot. Add the lentils and cook for 20 minutes. Add the beef, garlic cloves, celery, parsnips, salt, scallions and cook for one hour. Add the thyme, sugar and cinnamon and cook for 30 additional minutes. Serve hot. Garnish with toasted Italian bread and sliced scallion.



Arts & Entertainment

Westfield Not Far From the Heart Of Now-Texan Zehnder-Hahn

**By MARYLOU MORANO**  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

WESTFIELD – When artist Veronique Zehnder-Hahn relocated from Westfield to San Marcos, Tex. two years ago, the town lost a pillar of the artistic community.

Although she no longer calls Westfield home, her creative influence continues in the downtown gallery of Galeria West, where an exhibit of 12 pieces of her work is currently on display.

on display in New York City, and in San Marcos.

She is also the recipient of numerous recognitions throughout the world, and while a member of WAA, in 2004, Mrs. Zehnder-Hahn received the association's Catherine Barnett and Fred Sitzler Award.

Mrs. Zehnder-Hahn fondly recalls her artistic colleagues in Westfield as "amazing artists."

In addition to art, volunteerism is also important to Mrs. Zehnder-Hahn.

"I love to volunteer because it gives me the opportunity to give back to the community, to learn new things and to meet new people," Mrs. Zehnder-Hahn said.

Mrs. Zehnder-Hahn has easily integrated herself into the artistic community of San Marcos, where she is president of the San Marcos Art League, and also serves on the board of the San Marcos Area Arts Council.

In addition, the artist uses her talent for fundraisers by holding art



Mémoires d'une enfance-within my soul. ( Memories of a childhood-within my soul), charcoal, 2006.

In Texas, the former member of the Westfield Art Association (WAA) divides her time between art and volunteer work, just as she once did in Westfield.

The daughter of a Swiss scientist, Mrs. Zehnder-Hahn was born in Morocco, and lived in several countries as a child because her father's profession took him to various loca-

While living in Westfield, she assisted with publicity at Redeemer Lutheran School, and volunteered at the Westfield YMCA as a preschool teacher assistant. She was an after-school program, as well as a French teacher classroom volunteer at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic School.

"I like working with kids," she said.

In addition, she was a public relations officer for the Westfield Lions Club.

classes for adults and children. The money raised by her classes goes to Blue Santa and other local charities.

The current display of Mrs. Zehnder-Hahn's work will be at Galeria West into February.

Galeria West is located at 121 Central Avenue in Westfield. For hours, call (908) 301-9217.

For more information about Mrs. Zehnder-Hahn and her work, log onto zeha-art.com



TAKE THE STAGE

Bulldog Inspector Pounces In WCP's Angel Street

**By SUSAN M. DOUGHERTY**  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

WESTFIELD – Some people are so passionate about what they do that they are consumed by the job.

Thank goodness for just such a man in the character of Sergeant Rough—the inspector in the Westfield Community Players' (WCP) latest show, *Angel Street* by Patrick Hamilton.

In 1938, English novelist and playwright Hamilton wrote the play, which ran in New York for three years in the mid-forties and was made into the movie classic, *Gaslight* starring Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer.

Set in Victorian London in 1880, the play's exposition quickly spins to psychological intrigue.

Lead character Bella Manningham, like her mother before her, is timid and frail in temperament.

Her supposedly well-meaning husband Jack reminds her repeatedly of the genetic predisposition to her family's insanity.

Through the first act of this three-act drama, the audience is uncertain if Bella is indeed losing her rationality, or if her husband is a cruel, unfeeling manipulator who is trying to make her feel that she is crazy.

When the philandering Jack Manningham leaves the Angel Street residence for the night, enter Inspector Rough who, like a stubborn dog that won't let go of a tasty bone, has

tracked down Jack, whom he suspects of murdering a woman 15 years earlier.

The question arises— whom will unstable Bella believe— her husband of five years or a stranger, who makes her wonder if she truly knows her enigmatic husband?

Real life husband and wife duo Mark and Syndi Szabo play the leading roles of tormentor and victim with ease and credibility. Mr. Szabo's stare can bore a hole through a concrete slab, his shout sends chills and Mrs. Szabo's wilting body language is convincingly appropriate.

Mrs. Szabo deftly plays the wide range of emotions needed to pull off the sensitive Mrs. Manningham.

The retired Inspector Rough, Lee Wittenberg, is a big hit. He can elicit dread with the cold hard facts he presents; yet, he tosses out a laugh line equally well.

Nicely playing the role of Elizabeth, the head maid, Jackie Weiner is deferential to her male and female employers.

The younger maid, Nancy, played by a vivacious Valerie Vaan Hoosier, is referred to as "saucy" and that she is. Her constant smirk shows she is indeed playing with Mrs. M's head.

As usual, the Westfield playhouse boasts an interesting stage with everything necessary for an English drawing room: a winding staircase, sliding door and a half-dozen working "gas" lights thanks to lighting designer Bob Murray and Jessica Foerst. The white moonlight through the lace curtains lends an eerie touch.

A tip of the hat to Gordon Wiener, director and set designer, for creating a fantastic set with the help of Bill McMeekan, Sue Klinker and Home Design/Decorator Kim Macrae Otto.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Home-Based Business Moms Love Being Their Own Boss Too

**By LINDA B. CONDRILLO**  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

MOUNTAINSIDE – Step inside the well-kept homes of Sherri Bolkham, Marianne Jennings, Carolyn Williams, Debbie Steinberg and Madeline Gerris and, to your surprise, you might not be able to see the surface of their dining room tables.

The suburban moms, who are all pursuing careers in the multi-level marketing industry, confess that the conventional use of their dining room tables is now strictly reserved only for the holidays.

Any other time of the year, boxes and bagfuls of products — ranging from cookware, baskets, scrapbook paraphernalia to velvet backdrops for displaying jewelry — get first dibs on what used to be a place where, at the very least, their children could once do their homework.

In an interview with the ladies turned self-employed sales reps, *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* asked about the pros and cons of doing business from home.

As if working full-time and raising three teenage daughters weren't enough, Debbie Steinberg of Mountainside is now also a representative for Spilada Fine Silver Jewelry.

Noting the threefold motivation for starting her own home-based business, Mrs. Steinberg told the newspaper, "It was an opportunity to share the self-employed experience with my teenage daughters; to wear quality, impressive jewelry; and to make an aggressive profit with minimal effort."

Like most home-based businesses, products like Spilada Jewelry are showcased at house parties. And the bigger the party, the bigger the benefits, as hostesses usually earn points towards free merchandise or deep discounts on the product.

Mrs. Steinberg added, "What woman doesn't love jewelry? What woman doesn't like to party and try on jewelry? What woman doesn't like to earn free jewelry while partying with her friends? It was a no-brainer all around."

Depending on sales, prizes for sales representatives can also be impressive. For Madeline Gerris of Westfield, who sells high-end baskets for the Longaberger company, the lure of a Caribbean Cruise was too irresistible to pass up.

Mrs. Gerris told *The Leader* and *The Times*, "Since Longaberger has no sales quotas for consultants, my initial motivation to become a consultant was to get a discount on a product that I loved. I then began to see the potential in it as a business, and later found out you can earn a trip at the branch leader level. I wanted that trip, and earned my first one (a cruise) last year. That will be a definite goal from now on."

And it seems some people just can't get enough of a good thing. Take scrap booking for example. Now a multi-billion dollar industry, it is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the United States.

Marianne Jennings of Mountainside, an avid scrapbooker herself and now a consultant for Creative Memories, one of the major suppliers in the industry, noted, "I also wanted to be my own customer, and that was the real reason I started."

A former customer of Carolyn Williams, also a Creative Memories consultant, Mrs. Jennings noted, "I was spending so much money that I could just supply myself every month. The only problem was that I should have started three years before I did."

Mrs. Jennings was a regular attendee at Mrs. Williams' monthly scrap booking workshops that were held at the borough hall in Mountainside for several years.

Mrs. Williams, who recently had a change in venue to a more convenient location (her newly renovated basement) remarked, "Working from my own home means I no longer have to pack up my expansive inventory of supplies. People can come to my



Linda Condrillo for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**HOME COOKING...**Sherri Bolkham dishes up a fine serving of Pampered Chef cookware and kitchen gadgets at a recent gathering of home-based business consultants.

house, where everything is set up, laid out and all ready to go."

But there are times when it just makes sense to leave home to conduct other home-based business.

Sherri Bolkham, also of Mountainside, is a consultant for Pampered Chef, the maker of an array of kitchen tools and cookware.

Mrs. Bolkham noted, "At the time I started my Pampered Chef business, I had just had my second child and going a little stir crazy being a stay-at-home mom. So this gave me an opportunity to have something that was just mine, and I got a night out once or twice a week."

Because most home-based businesses have web-based interfaces, invitations and tracking orders can be done online at any time day or night, and support is just a click of a mouse away. Mrs. Steinberg remarked, "Spilada's support infrastructure is so remarkable; I never feel I'm doing this business without a team behind me. I'm very self-reliant, but it's good to know there are folks to help you succeed."

And start-up costs? Nominal, for Pampered Chef, at least. Mrs. Bolkham told the newspaper, "Starting a Pampered Chef business is pretty inexpensive. You can buy the starter kit for less than \$100 – a bargain, considering it contains about \$350 worth of products that are yours to keep.

"You can also get the kit for as little as \$50 by hosting a cooking show and using some of your show credit toward the kit." Because the selection of kitchen gadgets and cookware is so voluminous, Mrs. Bolkham doesn't maintain too large a stock of items, and operates more like a mail order business, which helps to keep costs low.

But for Mrs. Jennings, the biggest expense is her inventory of scrapbooks and supplies. She said, "I wouldn't do it any other way. People like to get their items immediately."

Mrs. Steinberg also added, "I opted for the higher priced start-up kit, as I wanted to have a nice portfolio of jewelry to display. I created the portfolio based on both my own personal style and that of my daughters to ensure we would show off the jewelry."

Some consultants are so successful that they've left traditional jobs and have been able to replace their income; for most representatives, it is supplemental.

Mrs. Steinberg added, "In the near future, I hope to take my business to the next level." Mrs. Bolkham and Mrs. Gerris agreed. "I could see myself making a full-time living selling The Pampered Chef when my kids are older and in school full time.

According to Mrs. Bolkham, "The income can be whatever you want it to be." Mrs. Gerris noted, "If I concentrated on doing a couple of home shows a week, the potential to make money would be excellent. The biggest disadvantage is being isolated here at home. You don't have the office politics, which is a plus, but you also miss the socialization.

"The beauty of these businesses is working around our personal lives," Mrs. Steinberg added, "If you believe in your product, enjoy meeting new people and ensure your home-based business supports you at all levels, you'll succeed."

Guess that's good news for those interested in starting a new business from home. And bad news for dining room tables. Just be forewarned, this is not your mother's Tupperware party.

Deadline Approaches for Playwrights Competition

CRANFORD – The Theater Project, Union County College's Professional Theater Company, reminds all New Jersey high school playwrights that the deadline for submission is approaching.

The contest was made possible by a donation from Linden screenwriter and novelist Bill Mesce, Jr. ("The Advocate," Bantam Books). The Theater Project has been called "the best company in the state for finding off Broadway work and premiering it for New Jersey audiences" by Peter Filichia of *The Star Ledger*.

"Theater gives young people a chance to think about what kind of people they want to be," Mr. Mesce said to the packed house at the 2006 awards ceremony, "and we don't give kids in the arts nearly enough recognition or chances to be heard."

"Arts and letters are where the next generation of critical thinkers is being developed," said Theater Project artistic director Mark Spina. "Theater is a language-driven intellectual activity that stimulates us in ways movies and TV do not."

This is the fifth year of the competition.

The Theater Project is also the home of The Student Playwrights Association, a support and peer feedback group for high school writers. Entrants to the competition need not be members of the association.

The contest is open to New Jersey students in grades 9 to 12. Scripts at any stage of completion are eligible. The deadline for submission is January 31 and there is a \$5 entry fee.

Original work only, no adaptations, will only be accepted. All submissions must be at least 10, but no more than 30 pages (excerpts of longer work are acceptable).

Scripts must be typed in play format. Only one entry per author is permitted and all entrants must be New Jersey residents in secondary school. Entries must be post marked by January 31. Mailed entries will be accepted at THEATERPROJECT@aol.com. (Entry fee mailed separately.)

All entries must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, a 50-word biography of the author including contact information and the \$5 entrance fee (check or money order, payable to The Theater Project) and mailed to: The Theater Project, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford NJ, 07016.

Winning scripts will receive script-in-hand performances where authors will receive their prizes and certificates in March. For more information, call (908) 659-5189.

First, second and third prizewinners will receive \$600, \$400 and \$200 U.S. Savings Bonds. The winning scripts will be honored with script in hand performances during Family Week at the Theater (in March), when professional theaters in New Jersey offer free programming for young people. The prizes will be presented at that time. Honorable mentions also receive a certificate.

For further information about the contest, call Mr. Spina at The Theater Project at (908) 659-5189, or visit TheTheaterProject.com.



**THE WINNERS ARE...**Linden novelist, playwright and screenwriter Bill Mesce, Jr. with the winners and Honorable Mentions of last year's competition.

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