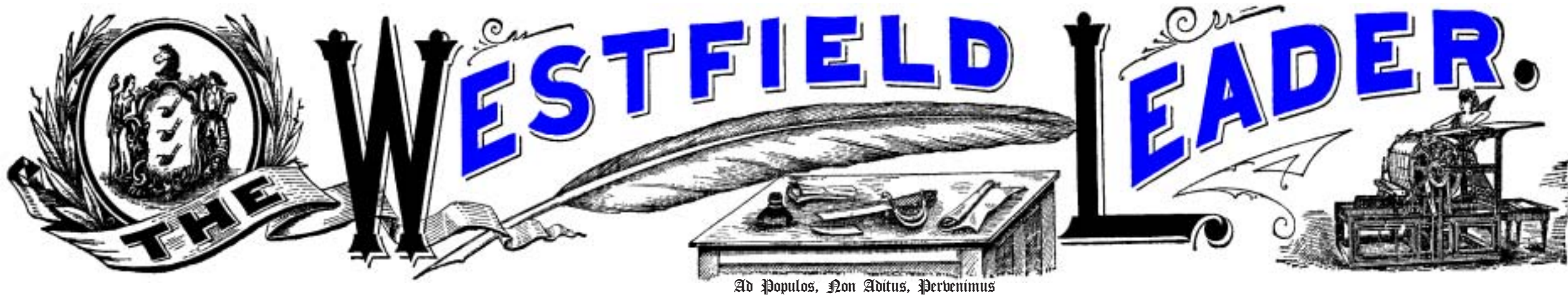


Happy Easter  
Happy Passover



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SIXTY CENTS

## WF Councilwoman Neylan Offers Information on White Paper Report

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD – When the town council introduced the White Paper Report process in the fall of 2005, Town Engineer Ken Marsh said he was “skeptical” of the plan, designed to increase efficiency and better communication at the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Reported on September 29, 2005, when detailing his skepticism, Mr. Marsh said, “A lot of rocks have been thrown at us.”

Public Works Committee Chairwoman Jo Ann Neylan, who visited *The Westfield Leader* offices last week, said DPW “takes the most punches. It’s also the department that most affects people’s quality of life.

So, yes, they need to be more accessible to the public, have better customer service relations. Even though it’s a public department, we’re trying to run it like a corporation where the clients are the residents.”

She added, “Ken and the entire department have been very receptive, and that’s been a really good thing.”

“Any time an outsider group examines another’s operations, “you’re always a little skeptical,” she said.

The consultant group – consisting of Matt Albano, Pam Wiaczek and John Ryan – formulated the ways to increase efficiency and better communication. “Those are the two major areas. It was not in any way a witch-hunt,” Ms. Neylan said.

In the October 2005 debates, sec-

ond ward Democratic candidate Frank Fusaro said, “The DPW is basically broken, and it needs to be fixed. We need accessibility to the town engineer and we need some accountability.”

Ms. Neylan told *The Leader*, “Like anyone who is outside of a situation, it’s easy to look critically within, not realizing that work was being done to attain those goals, to make it better.”

Now implementing the second phase (building and zoning) of recommendations, the town has added a town planner.

In this function, Judith Thornton communicates with the historical and tree preservation commissions, Downtown Westfield Corporation, architectural review board, fire department and police when an application comes in and affects those entities.

Ms. Neylan said, “Judith is looking in the bigger picture, and she’s able to handle the whole growth of Westfield. That’s been a major savings and a major benefit to Westfield.”

The recommendations increase the role of Claude Schaffer, DPW superintendent; the study calls for him to report directly to Town Administrator Jim Gildea.

Mr. Marsh, according to Ms. Neylan, will focus more on building, zoning and engineering. The construction and maintenance layer, which Mr. Schaffer will handle, “will be carved out.”

She said that in the future there would be a full redesign of the DPW building on North Avenue, which has gone out to bid. “That’s coming down the pike. It’s a maze when people walk in,” she said.

She said the DPW-Recreation Department partnership would continue its field-maintenance pilot program, whereby four DPW members assist the recreation department.

The final White Paper report will occur on Tuesday, April 17, culminating the two phases.

Anyone wishing to contact DPW or volunteer can call (908) 789-4100.

## Developer Seeks to Build Six Homes on Fourth Ave.

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
and KATHY MARQUES  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD – About a dozen neighbors showed up at the Garwood Planning Board meeting on Wednesday, March 28, to hear details of a major subdivision application proposed for 484-490 Fourth Avenue by developer Richard Buontempo of Cranford. Garwood residents Mary Hidi and Frank Liquore own the two properties.

The proposal includes combining the two properties into ownership by the developer, upon which the developer would subdivide the property into six parcels for the construction of six homes. Planning Board Chairman Robert Pender announced at the beginning of the meeting that the application had been withdrawn and would be resubmitted due to necessary engineering changes.

All notifications required by law will be made to property owners within 200 feet of the proposal a minimum of 10 days prior to any further meeting scheduled on the matter upon re-submittal of the application, officials acknowledged.

According to resident Bruce Paterson, approximately five years ago a developer came up with a plan for 26 townhouses for the property, a number that was reduced to 24 and later 16. The planning board denied the application.

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SPRING FASHION BEAUTY...Store owners Nicole and Vanessa Esposito receive assistance from their puppy, Diva, while setting up for their fashion show last Saturday at Perla Designer Boutique on North Avenue in Westfield.



Wayne Baker for The Westfield Leader

TRANSLATION: FUN...Workers for Scorby Associates of Ridgefield install new equipment Tuesday at the Mindowaskin Park playground. The new equipment includes plastic and metal slides, a climbing apparatus and transitional pieces. The upgrades come as the result of a state safety mandate effective October of this year.

## Police Investigate Two Incidents Of Theft at WF Victoria’s Secret

By SUZETTE F. STALKER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD – Authorities are continuing to investigate the theft of thousands of dollars worth of merchandise from the Victoria’s Secret store in Westfield within the past two weeks.

Captain Clifford Auchter of the Westfield Police Department confirmed to *The Westfield Leader* yesterday that two incidents had occurred days apart at the Westfield store, located on the 200 block of East Broad Street.

The thefts happened around the same time period that merchandise was reported stolen from two other Victoria’s Secret stores, including one at the Newport Center Mall in Jersey City on March 20 and a second at the Burlington Center Mall in Burlington the following day. Two people have been arrested

in the Burlington case, according to a report in *The Star-Ledger*.

In the first of the two Westfield incidents, Victoria’s Secret reported on March 23 that underwear valued at \$2,875 was taken from a display table at the rear of the store near the back door. It is believed that the theft occurred during business hours the previous day.

The second incident occurred on March 28, but was not reported until last Saturday, Captain Auchter noted.

In this case, about 1,500 pairs of underwear valued at \$13,142 were removed from the premises, again from a rear display.

According to Captain Auchter, both incidents were “un-witnessed” and no suspicious activity had been observed inside the store prior to discovery that the thefts had occurred.

While the cases are similar in nature to the ones in Jersey City and Burlington, the captain said it is un-

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## Freeholders Hire Consultant To Review Jail Overtime Pay

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

ELIZABETH – The Union County freeholders have hired a consulting firm to review operations on the county’s correctional facility in Elizabeth. County Manager George Devanney said the main concern of the county remains overtime paid to correctional officers.

The board hired Trenton-based Paige Plus, LLC, “to provide correctional planning, operations and administration consulting services” commencing April 1 and ending September 30 at a cost of \$25,000, according to the board’s agenda for its March 29 meeting.

Mr. Devanney said Gary Hilton, president of Paige Plus, is “probably one of the top three” correctional facility consultants in the nation. The county manager said the firm would “take a look at overtime and make some recommendations.”

The county manager budgeted \$6.8 million in overtime for corrections – in addition to \$20.3 million budgeted for corrections department salaries – in his executive spending plan released in January. The county’s total proposed budget is \$415.2 million, with \$239.6 million to be raised in county taxes.

“[Paige Plus] will spend some time on-site day and night,” he said. He said Paige Plus would only look at current operations, including current correctional officers’ shifts and posts.

The company has provided correctional consulting services to Mercer, Monmouth, Middlesex, Bergen,

Essex, Gloucester and Hudson Counties. Mr. Hilton, who founded the firm in 2002, was director of corrections and juvenile services for the Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office from 1998 to 2002, and was acting commissioner for the state’s department of corrections in 1998.

The board also approved the introduction of three ordinances paving the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## BOE to Discuss Super. Search Surveys April 10

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Board of Education will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 10, at the administration building at 302 Elm Street at 8 p.m. The agenda will include a report by Hazard, Young and Attea, the national search firm that is assisting the board in replacing Superintendent of Schools William Foley, whose retirement is effective August 31.

The report will summarize the more than 600 surveys completed on-line, as well as comments gleaned from a public meeting and conferences with staff members.

A complete agenda will be available on Monday, April 9, at westfieldnj12.org and in the board office at 302 Elm Street.

Board meetings are taped and televised on TV-36 on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 10 a.m.



Victoria McCabe for The Westfield Leader

NO LOVE...The Westfield Police Department’s detective bureau is investigating two separate incidents of theft at the town’s Victoria’s Secret, pictured above during its Valentine’s Day campaign. Captain Clifford Auchter said that at this time it is unknown whether the thefts are related to each other or to two separate thefts at two other New Jersey Victoria’s Secret locations. Westfield’s store lost more than \$16,000 in merchandise between the two incidents.

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## Residents Discuss Turf Bond At FW GOP Club Meeting

By JOHN SKOWRONSKI  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

FANWOOD—Two dozen residents attended the Fanwood Republican Club-sponsored meeting Monday night at The Provident Bank in Fanwood to hear a discussion of the upcoming \$2-million bond referendum seeking funds to upgrade Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district fields with artificial turf.

Linda Nelson, a member of the SP-F Board of Education, and Anthony Giannaci, president of the Turf-It Foundation, presented their views on the upcoming bond referendum.

Mr. Giannaci fielded questions attendees raised about the turf fields when the discussion touched upon the issue of capital expenditures.

Kevin St. Onge asked about the accountability of past actions and in-actions, and asked when the last time any capital improvements had been made to the existing fields and; in particular, the track.

SP-F Schools Business Administrator Anthony Del Sordi said the last significant maintenance to the 20-year-old track was 10 years ago.

Audience members said large parts of the track are crumbling and becoming a potential liability to the school district should anyone seriously injure himself or herself during an event.

"There has not been enough money to maintain the fields in the budget," Ms. Nelson replied to one inquiry. "There were always other priorities," she added, referring to reasons why the fields were not maintained or expanded as well as they could have been.

"The [grass] fields need to rest," added board member Robert O'Connor. He said the fields are so heavily used for so much of the year that they cannot withstand the strain. Other causes mentioned included the growth of the various recreational programs, overuse of the fields and the lack of enough fields.

"We just can't keep up (with demand)," Mr. Del Sordi said.

The discussion turned to the timing of the referendum and the importance of having the issue on the April ballot. Ms. Nelson said due to the timing of construction and the need to secure bids, this month was the time to let voters decide the bond's fate.

Mr. Giannaci said artificial fields could withstand the rigors of constant use. He said putting electrical conduit in the ground now to support any future lighting projects made sense because doing it later would cost more and might jeopardize the integrity of the fields. Mr. Giannaci described the Turf-It Foundation and its commitment to raise \$250,000 in support of the fields.

Mr. St. Onge questioned the commitment "with all due respect." Others questioned why the BOE seeks public money in lieu of raising funds through donations.

Mr. Giannaci said pursuing public money was the original plan of the foundation and that if it failed, they would seek "Plan B." When called upon to share Plan B, he declined comment.

One woman said an initiative to raise money through a mailing sent to district residents had received "very little response." This prompted comments from multiple individuals asking why, if people who had children in the schools would not contribute, the rest of the residents should be asked to fund the project.

Monica Felsing spoke of research she did about how some neighboring towns had approached a similar situation. She said that per her discussion with John Van, director of buildings and grounds in Millburn for more than 35 years, she learned Millburn voters had rejected a bond referendum for turf fields. She said a group of Millburn citizens raised money from corporations and individuals. She said within 60 days, Millburn raised \$1.6 million. Ms. Felsing asked Mrs. Nelson and Mr. Giannaci why that avenue of raising money was not explored first.

Mr. Giannaci said the Turf-It Foundation had approached "many" possible benefactors, but because Scotch Plains had not committed to the project, they would not commit either.

Mrs. Nelson said the referendum would allow the district to raise money and, if not all of the money were needed, it would only raise needed funds.

Multiple residents said they felt that if the bond referendum was passed, the full amount would be raised and potential donors would not feel the need to contribute.

Michael Ancona, a financial planner, questioned the math being used to justify the "per household cost" calculation and accused the presentations "fudging the project of being 'disingenuous.'" He said his own projections show a much higher "per household cost."

Mr. Del Sordi said the exact duration of the amortization had not been finalized and the calculation was only an estimate given the variables in the equation. He said the cost benefit was in the district's best interest.



Victoria McCabe for The Westfield Leader  
**STRIKE A POSE...**Fourth graders at Westfield's McKinley Elementary School stand as wax statues of notable inventors at Madame McKinley's Wax Museum, an event held last Thursday in the elementary school's auditorium. During a three-month-long unit, each fourth grader studied an individual inventor and invention, wrote a report, prepared a speech, made a prototype of the invention and then dressed up as the inventor for the wax museum. Relatives and other guests attended the afternoon event, dubbed "Celebrating Genius," and had a chance to push the buttons on the "wax statues" and watch the student statues come to life to speak as their respective inventors. See additional photos of Madame McKinley's Wax Museum at [goleader.com/photos](http://goleader.com/photos).

## Union County Freeholders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

way for the county to purchase a building in Elizabeth that houses the Union County Improvement Authority.

One of the ordinances gives the board's consent for the improvement authority to issue tax-exempt bonds for the \$1.3-million purchase of the three-story building at 10 Cherry Street in Elizabeth. Another provides the county's guarantee of the bond; the third executes the agreement.

"It was actually the recommendation of the improvement authority" to purchase the building, Mr. Devanney said. He said the building has been home to the improvement authority for more than five years.

When asked by Elizabeth resident Jerry Goldman what the building would be used for, Mr. Devanney said, "I don't believe it's completely (decided) at this point."

Mr. Devanney confirmed to Mr. Goldman that a resolution the board approved to T&M Associates of Middletown for rehabilitation work on the Lake Surprise dam in Mountainside and Summit is solely for architectural services.

"We don't have (a total project estimate) as of yet," he said.

The board awarded multiple contracts for road improvements. Among them was a \$127,368 contract to The Louis Berger Group for professional engineering services along Central Avenue in Westfield and Clark.

The work will include traffic-signal upgrades, new traffic-signal equipment, countdown pedestrian signal indications, signs, striping and hand-capped-accessible concrete curb ramps with warning devices.

The county installed new traffic signals at Mountainside Avenue, East Broad Street and Central Avenue last year.

The freeholders approved a \$56,000 contract to Pennoni Associates of Cranford for engineering design work for intersection improvements for Springfield Avenue at Orange and North Union Avenues. They approved a \$108,000 contract to The Louis Berger Group for engineering design services for intersection improvements at Chilton Street and West Jersey, West Grand and Orchard Streets and at Orchard and Cherry Streets in Elizabeth.

The board approved a \$40,000 contract to Goose Control Technology of Metuchen for "managing the Canadian Geese population" in the county parks system. The measure passed 6-3, with Freeholders Nancy Ward, Adrian Mapp and Al Mirabella voting against it.

"Is that (resolution) the gassing of the geese?" questioned Cranford resident Tina Renna, president of the Union County Watchdog Association.

Daniel Bernier, with the division of park planning and maintenance, told

The Westfield Leader the \$40,000 contract would involve the removal of geese when they are "flightless" while multiplying. He said the geese would be removed and taken to a "poultry processing plant" and killed along chicken-slaughtering procedures. The processed meat will be given to food banks. The program will be conducted at 20 of the county's 33 parks.

During the public part of the meeting, Fanwood resident John Marquardt questioned why he has not received a response from the county regarding a cost analysis he submitted to the board.

Citing the county's "We're Connected to You" tagline, he said, "I don't have a connection to my representatives but I would expect the courtesy of a response."

He said spending "at all levels government...is out of control." He said he wanted "to use some of my experience (in the purchasing field)...to help reduce cost" in county government.

Freeholder Adrian Mapp said he would like the board to approve a new policy whereby it would address questions raised by the public at meetings regardless of their political affiliation.

"I think we should respond to every question from the floor," Mr. Mapp said.

Freeholder Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski said the board's current policy is "to respond to every serious question from the floor."

The board approved a resolution to become a member of the Somerset County Cooperative Pricing Cooperative Pricing System, which officials have said is similar to bulk purchasing.

The board also awarded a \$44,000, one-year contract to the consulting firm of James Davy, former human services commissioner under Governor Jim McGreevey, to provide "shared consulting services" to the county.

### Man Approaches Middle-School Girl

WESTFIELD — The Westfield school system has reported that a Roosevelt Intermediate School student was approached by an older man in older model, dark blue van who asked her to come over to him, according to an e-mail copied to The Westfield Leader. The man reportedly said he needed help looking for his dog.

The girl ran home and told her mother, who contacted the school, which put her in touch with the Westfield Police, officials said.

Police said the case is under investigation, but due to the fact school officials accidentally released the victim's name, no more details could be provided in order to protect the girl and her family.



Linda Condillo for The Westfield Leader  
**YOU'VE GOT EGGS...**Tommy Hoy of Mountainside, the youngest of Robyn and Joseph Hoy's six children, puts all his eggs in one basket at the borough's Easter egg hunt last Saturday. Mountainside's volunteer rescue squad sponsors the event.

## GW BOE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Special education costs can include in-district services, as well as sending students out of district to specialized schools that could cost as much as \$100,000 per student.

Adele Lewis, BOE president, said the budget allows the district to fund the programs the students need.

"We are able to maintain the programs we have with this budget," Ms. Lewis said. "It was a difficult process due to the lack of guidance from Trenton."

Garwood received \$549,082 in state aid for the 2007-2008 school year, up from \$533,089 last year, officials said. The district plans to apply for additional state aid.

The budget's tax levy falls below the 4-percent-increase cap imposed by the state. The increases in special education and transportation costs are not controlled by the cap and are allowed to increase more than other budget items, officials said.

Other budget increases include salaries, healthcare, administration and support-services costs.

Garwood resident Sandro Villaraud, a candidate for the board of education, said the budget represents a big tax impact for the district but the education the students receive is good.

"I am concerned that the Lincoln School is at full capacity and I would like to see our test scores go up," he said. "But the schools are pretty good (overall)."



## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Saturday, March 24, Andre Y. Brown, 34, of Elizabeth was arrested at Warren police headquarters pursuant to two contempt of court traffic warrants that were issued by the Westfield Municipal Court. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released after posting \$280 total bail.

Saturday, March 24, Jennifer Young, 24, of Kenilworth was arrested on the 200 block of South Avenue, East, for contempt of court on a Westfield traffic warrant. She was released after posting \$99 bail.

Sunday, March 25, Adan Osorio-Beteta, 46, of West New York was arrested at East South and Central Avenues for alleged DWI. He was released on his own recognizance to a responsible individual.

Sunday, March 25, Christine Piperato, 40, of Laurence Harbor, Stanley Backiel, 44, of Elizabeth and Cheryl Conroy, 39, of South Amboy were arrested during a motor vehicle stop at South and Windsor Avenues and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. All three were released with summonses.

Monday, March 26, Todd Aurand, 29, of Cranford was arrested at the Cranford Police Department on an outstanding Westfield criminal warrant with bail set at \$500. Aurand was unable to post bail and was transported to the Union County jail pending a court appearance.

Monday, March 26, Sing Mun Yeow, 20, of Clark was arrested on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant, with bail set at \$99, following a motor vehicle stop at South and Central Avenues. He posted bail and was released.

Tuesday, March 27, Jahmal McNeil, 29, of Irvington was arrested on an outstanding Irvington traffic warrant, with bail set at \$300, following a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and Drake Place. He was released after posting bail.

Wednesday, March 28, Justin Wolf, 18, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant, with bail set at \$150, following a motor vehicle stop at Central Avenue and Virginia Street. He was released after posting bail.

Wednesday, March 28, a resident of the 500 block of Downer Street reported that someone threw a claw hammer through the driver's side front window of his motor vehicle while it was parked in the street in front of his residence. There was no further damage to the vehicle.

Thursday, March 29, Jonathan Tomassi, 26, of Clark was arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia following a motor vehicle stop at Central Avenue and Cacciola Place. He was released on his own recognizance with summonses pending an April 12 court date.

Thursday, March 29, Dominick P. Demieri, 26, of Levittown, NY posted \$120 bail at Westfield police headquarters on a Teaneck traffic warrant.

Thursday, March 29, a Cacciola Place resident reported the theft of a 28-inch "Stahl 038" chainsaw valued at \$700 from a locked garage.

Friday, March 30, Danielle Catone, 21, of Philadelphia was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at Central Avenue and Virginia Street and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana. She was released on her own recognizance with a summons.

Friday, March 30, Lucien Valmyr, Jr., 27, of Montclair was arrested during a motor vehicle stop at Summit Avenue and Temple Place and charged with hindering apprehension. He also was arrested on a no-bail Essex County Sheriff's warrant, plus criminal warrants from East Orange and Bloomfield with bail amounts of \$5,087 and \$1,000, respectively, and a Newark warrant with bail set at \$325. Valmyr was turned over to Essex County authorities.

### Scotch Plains

Tuesday, March 27, a resident of

Spruce Mill Lane reported that someone used his Social Security number to open up a cell phone account. The suspect then made \$700 worth of phone calls, police said.

Wednesday, March 28, Harold Maryland, 51, of Union was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia after a motor vehicle stop.

Thursday, March 29, a resident of Hunter Avenue reported that someone obtained her account number and removed several hundred dollars from her checking account.

Thursday, March 29 a resident of Raritan Road reported that someone attempted to enter her house through a rear window. No items were taken, police said.

Friday, March 30, Paul Boykins, 21, of Scotch Plains was arrested on several outstanding warrants out of Newark following a motor vehicle stop.

Saturday, March 31, Emmanuel Lubin, 24, of Rahway was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana after a motor vehicle stop. According to police, it was also discovered that Lubin had several outstanding warrants from other towns. Lubin was held at the Union County jail for failure to make bail.

### Fanwood

Tuesday, March 27, Alihea S. Jones, 33, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding Westfield warrant after a motor vehicle stop.

Tuesday, March 27, Izabel D. Marques, 39, of Garwood was arrested on an outstanding Plainfield warrant after a field investigation.

Tuesday, March 27, Naomi S. McEllynn, 36, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding Westfield warrant after a motor vehicle stop in the 300 block of South Avenue.

Wednesday, March 28, Peter Cacciottolo, 19, of Fanwood was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

Friday, March 30, Donna Caddigan, 49, of Scotch Plains was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Watchung after a field investigation.

Friday, March 30, Earl R. Scott, 32, of Jersey City was arrested on an outstanding Passaic warrant after a motor vehicle stop.

## Theft

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

known at this time whether there is any connection between those cases and the thefts from the Westfield store.

The local incidents remain under investigation by the Westfield Police Department's detective bureau, Captain Auchter said.

### Contractor Suffers Burns In Fire

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD—A 28-year-old contractor doing work Tuesday on a home in town sustained burns when vapors from a floor-finishing product ignited.

Westfield Fire Chief Dan Kelly said the fire was reported at 1:22 p.m. at 399 Marcellus Drive, located off St. Marks Avenue on the north side of town.

"He (the victim) had burns to his left hand and right leg," Chief Kelly said. The Westfield Rescue Squad treated the man, whose name was not released, and transported him to the burn unit of St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston.

Chief Kelly said the injury was not life-threatening, but he did not know the man's condition. Two other workers were not injured.

"The vapors (from the floor finish) ignited causing a flash fire. There was moderate damage to the entranceway of the single-family dwelling," Chief Kelly said.

He said the fire was quickly extinguished. Westfield police also responded to the scene. The chief said the fire caused "moderate smoke damage" through the home.

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SIXTY CENTS

## SP-F BOE Candidates Answer Questions at Community Forum

By NORDETTE N. ADAMS  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — Five candidates pursuing three seats on the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education faced voters in a candidates' forum at the district administration building last Thursday night. The SP-F Parent Teacher Association Council sponsored the event.

Voters will decide the election on Tuesday, April 17.

Past PTA Council president Barbara Cronenberger-Meyer moderated the forum and started the evening with two questions. She asked, "What have been your contributions to the school district and community, and how have these prepared you to be a board member?"

The second question asked, "What

do you think the priorities are for our district's needs, given the budget constraints?"

Incumbent Rob O'Connor, who is running unopposed for Fanwood's seat this year, said he brings his past board experience and a commitment to teamwork.

John Kubie, who, with fellow candidates Nancy Bauer, Jane Costello and David Gorbunoff, seeks one of two Scotch Plains seats, said he brings his experience as a teacher and scientific researcher and his work with technology to the table. Mr. Kubie holds a doctoral degree in neuroscience and has been a faculty member of Downstate Medical School in Brooklyn for 25 years.

He said he hopes to bring to the

board an "innovation in excellence" and said that better long-range planning is "critical" to addressing budgetary concerns. Mr. Kubie, who ran last year for a board seat, said he has attended most board meetings and "watched very carefully how the board's run." In addition, he said, he has been active in his children's lives as they have matriculated through the SP-F school system.

This year also marks Mr. Gorbunoff's second run for the board. He said seeing his own children through the system, his experience with business contracts and his work providing schools with library science technology would help him should he win a board seat. The candidate has lived in Scotch Plains 14 years and is the director of Schools and Libraries E-Rate Program, a program that "gives \$2.5 billion annually to schools and libraries across the country."

Mr. Gorbunoff has also worked 13 years as a contractor in construction trades and five years as an auditor in the property and casualty insurance industry.

Mrs. Bauer, a 17-year Scotch Plains resident, said, "Nothing is more important than the education of young children." She said her experience in education makes her the right choice for a BOE seat, and pointed to her work as the parent of students in the district, her position as president of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Ice Hockey Association and her work as a Girl Scout leader.

Employed by William Patterson University in Wayne, she helps place student teachers in school districts. Mrs. Bauer holds a master's degree in early childhood education.

Mrs. Costello's professional background is in psychology and education. While she is currently a stay-at-home mom with children in district schools, Mrs. Costello said she worked previously as a special-education teacher. She is the vice president of the McGinn School Parent-Teacher Association.

She said her experience working with the Westfield Welcome Wagon and school cultural-arts programs would help her should she be elected. She said her work with the PTA to raise money for school playgrounds is evidence that she is prepared for budget challenges and new ways to bring funding to the district.

Addressing budgeting and priorities, Mr. Kubie said, in addition to long-range planning, hiring and retaining "great teachers" struck him as a top priority, along with more emphasis on technology in the schools. He said "students should have laptops."

Mr. Gorbunoff said attracting and retaining good teachers is key to dis-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## Freeholders Hire Consultant To Review Jail Overtime Pay

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

**ELIZABETH** — The Union County freeholders have hired a consulting firm to review operations on the county's correctional facility in Elizabeth. County Manager George Devanney said the main concern of the county remains overtime paid to correctional officers.

The board hired Trenton-based Paige Plus, LLC, "to provide correctional planning, operations and administration consulting services" commencing April 1 and ending September 30 at a cost of \$25,000, according to the board's agenda for its March 29 meeting.

Mr. Devanney said Gary Hilton, president of Paige Plus, is "probably one of the top three" correctional facility consultants in the nation. The county manager said the firm would "take a look at overtime and make some recommendations."

The county manager budgeted \$6.8 million in overtime for corrections — in addition to \$20.3 million budgeted for corrections department salaries — in his executive spending plan released in January. The county's total proposed budget is \$415.2 million, with \$239.6 million to be raised in county taxes.

"[Paige Plus] will spend some time on-site day and night," Mr. Devanney said. He said Paige Plus would only look at current operations, including current correctional officers' shifts and posts.



John Skowronski for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

**BUDGETS, BONDS AND TURF...**Citizens meet in Fanwood Monday night at a presentation and discussion meeting sponsored by the Fanwood Republican Club to review pros and cons of the proposed SP-F 2007 school budget details and a \$2-million turf field bond request to be decided by the voters on April 17.

## Residents Discuss Turf Bond Issues at FW GOP Club Forum

By JOHN SKOWRONSKI  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

**FANWOOD** — Two dozen residents attended the Fanwood Republican Club-sponsored meeting Monday night at The Provident Bank in Fanwood to hear a discussion of the upcoming \$2-million school bond referendum seeking funds to upgrade Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district fields with artificial turf.

Linda Nelson, a member of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, and Anthony Giannaci, president of the Turf-It Foundation, presented their views on the upcoming bond referendum.

Mrs. Nelson, a Scotch Plains resident, began the presentation with an overview of the proposed 2007-2008 SP-F school budget, also to be presented to voters on Tuesday, April 17. She detailed the major costs and sources of revenue, and said the BOE has cut its proposed budget by \$1.8 million because the state has capped the school tax increase at 4 percent.

Throughout the presentation, Mrs. Nelson said the board's goal was to "keep the cuts away from the children as much as possible." She discussed how achieving a District Rating Grouping of "I" was an accomplishment, and that maintaining that rating in the face of budget limitations would be a challenge. She said "many" surrounding towns, including Westfield and Summit, had similar "I" ratings that "very few" school districts rated higher.

Mr. Giannaci answered questions attendees raised about the turf fields,

when the discussion touched upon the issue of capital expenditures.

Kevin St. Onge asked generally about the accountability of past actions and inactions, and asked specifically when the last time any capital improvements had been made to the existing fields — in particular, to the track.

SP-F Schools Business Administrator Anthony Del Sordi said the last significant maintenance to the 20-year-old track was 10 years ago.

Audience members said large parts of the track are crumbling and becoming a potential liability to the school district should anyone seriously injure himself or herself during an event.

"There has not been enough money to maintain the fields in the budget," Mrs. Nelson replied to one inquiry. "There were always other priorities,"

she added, referring to reasons why the fields were not maintained or expanded as well as they could have been.

"The [grass] fields need to rest," added board member Robert O'Connor. He said the fields are so heavily used for much of the year that they cannot withstand the strain. Other causes mentioned included the growth of the various recreational programs, overuse of the fields and the lack of enough fields.

"We just can't keep up (with demand)," Mr. Del Sordi said.

The discussion turned to the timing of the referendum and the importance of having the issue on the April ballot. Ms. Nelson said due to the timing of construction and the need to secure bids, this month was the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## Warmer Weather Accelerates Work on SP Municipal Bld.

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

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — With the sub-freezing temperatures of January and February behind, renovation work on the township's municipal building on Park Avenue is expected to accelerate, officials said. The next phase may involve the building's closure, as large segments of the new roof are put into place later this month.

Township Manager Thomas Atkins said last week that welding work is beginning on the main roof and on the second floor of the building, and, by the middle of this month, the trusses that will support the new roof above the main part of the building will be ready for installation. The steel components for the trusses were delivered weeks ago and are "slowly" being assembled in one section of the municipal parking lot. Mr. Atkins said it might be necessary for safety reasons to close the building for one day while the trusses are lifted into place. He mentioned Fridays, April 13 or April 20, as potential dates.

The 33-year-old building's \$3.8-million renovation, which began last fall, will include the replacement of the building's flat roof, which has been increasingly prone to leaks in both summer and winter weather, with a slanted roof, the installation of a new heating and air-conditioning system, the addition of a second floor

above the police station at the rear of the building to provide additional office and storage space and improvements to the building's façade so it blends in better with the colonial décor of other downtown buildings.

Mr. Atkins said the contractor is "a little behind" schedule but is still optimistic that the building could be finished by mid- to late June.

Last week, Mayor Martin Marks announced the receipt of a \$162,900 homeland security grant that will be used by the fire department to purchase self-contained breathing apparatuses for use in fighting fires. The mayor expressed his thanks to Rep. Michael Ferguson (R-7, New Providence) for his assistance in securing the funding.

The township council last week also approved a resolution renewing the township's participation in the Union County Sheriff's S.L.A.P. (Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program) initiative, which makes non-violent offenders available to municipalities to perform jobs such as cutting grass along roads, litter pickup and light stream cleanup. The program, in which Scotch Plains participates in a shared arrangement with Westfield and Clark, will cost the township \$13,280, which will pay for county law-enforcement officers who accompany the individuals working in the program.



Horace Corbin for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

**CONSTRUCTION SCRAMBLE...**A fence surrounds the Scotch Plains Municipal Building on Park Avenue, as a \$3.8-million renovation project continues. Officials said that, with warmer weather on the way, they expect progress to accelerate.



Courtesy of Tom Kranz

**TO THE RESCUE...**Peter Chemidlin of Family Investors in Fanwood, second from right, gives the Fanwood Rescue Squad a donation of \$250 Tuesday night on behalf of his business and the Fanwood Business and Professional Association. Pictured, from left to right, are: squad president John Oatis, Captain Jeffrey Downing, Mr. Chemidlin and squad treasurer Robert Kruthers.

## Town Mgr. Assumes Acting Role as SP DPW Director

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

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — With the retirement next week of Earl Jackson, who has held the number two position in the township's public works department, and the still-unclear status of DPW director Charles Cerami, Township Manager Thomas Atkins said last week that he would act as interim director. Four assistant supervisors will assume most of the day-to-day responsibilities of running the department.

Mr. Jackson retires next week after 37 years of service, and Mr. Atkins told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that in his 34 years of working in municipal government, Mr. Jackson "was one of the top five employees I ever worked with." Calling him "an exemplary employee," Mr. Atkins said Mr. Jackson "was a hard worker, he never said no and, whenever there was an emergency, he was always there."

Mr. Jackson has served as acting director since late last year, when Mr. Cerami was indicted by a Hunterdon County jury for allegedly keeping more than \$200 from scrap-metal sales during his tenure as public works

director in Clinton Township. On March 9, Mr. Cerami, who has been on unpaid leave since December, entered into a plea agreement in which he will plead guilty to a misdemeanor/disorderly persons' offense by admitting that he kept money collected from recyclables instead of turning it over to Clinton Township finance officials. He spent the money on activities and supplies for public works employees.

Mr. Atkins said he does not expect Mr. Jackson's retirement or the continued absence of Mr. Cerami to have any significant effect on the public works department's activities in the coming months.

"I don't think it's going to be perfect," he said, but "we'll get done what we need to get done. We'll determine our priorities," including the upcoming leaf and gumball pickup and the residential spring cleanup in June, which will be handled by a private contractor but overseen by the department.

"With some teamwork, we can keep things going for a few months" without a permanent director, Mr. Atkins said.



Greg Ryan for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

**'LEADER AND PIONEER'...**Former Fanwood Mayor Maryanne Connelly, left, receives an award from the Women's Political Caucus of Union County at the organization's "Notable Women in Politics" reception last Wednesday at L'Affaire in Mountainside. The Political Caucus recognized the former mayor for her "long history of commitment to the community and the political process." See story on page 3.

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## BOE Candidate Forum

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trict success and that technology is important. He said, "We need to come up with as many innovative ways as we can" to get schools to a higher technology level.

He cited improving school facilities as another priority. "We want children to go into a building and be happy," he said.

Mrs. Bauer said her priorities are teachers, materials and technology. She said she would also look at which programs grow and which decline as she tackled budgetary concerns.

Mrs. Costello said keeping class size down and ensuring extracurricular activities would be her priorities. She disagreed with those who thought that funds for capital projects should be removed from the budget. She said, however, that capital projects "should be evaluated."

Mr. O'Connor said co-curricular activities were important, but looking ahead, he said he wanted to see the board and parents "thinking outside the box" while addressing the budget. "We can't expect state and federal funds to come to our aid," he said.

All the candidates supported finding ways to fund the budget beyond property taxes, naming alternatives such as corporate sponsorships and having students "pay to play" for some school activities. Mrs. Costello said she had investigated saving money on utilities through solar panels.

Considering what could be reduced in the budget, Mr. Kubie and Mr. Gorbunoff said the board would have to negotiate better contracts. "For every dollar that we spend, we have to be as efficient as we can," said Mr. Gorbunoff.

Mrs. Bauer said she hoped voters would be more vocal with Trenton and that "education is not a priority" in New Jersey. She said Georgia's use of state lottery monies to fund some of its education programs is an example of making education a priority.

Mrs. Costello said she did not want to comment too much on what programs should be cut from the budget and that the present board had done a commendable job. "No cuts were made lightly...Everyone needs to become more active," she said.

Mr. Kubie said the "community should decide what it wants to spend on our schools...I'm really outraged that the state has taken the choice out of our hands."

He also said, "I don't think taxes are a good way to pay for schools."

Board President Thomas Russo, who is retiring from his Scotch Plains seat, asked which candidates had conflicts of interest that would keep them from participating in staff contract negotiations.

Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Gorbunoff said they have conflicts because their spouses are district teachers. Mrs. Costello, Mr. Kubie and Mrs. Bauer said they did not have conflicts of interest.

One parent asked about the future of the language program. All candidates said they thought the district needed to consider emerging languages that may be more marketable in the new economy, such as Chinese and Arabic.

Mr. Gorbunoff and Mrs. Bauer said the district should consider other ways to teach language without using full-time teachers, such as using language software.

Scotch Plains resident Chris Reilly asked candidates' opinions about teaching intelligent design besides evolution in classrooms. Intelligent design is the teaching that a higher intelligence or God is behind the universe.

Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Gorbunoff said they would defer to the administration on curriculum decisions. Mr. Kubie said, as a scientist, he was against the teaching of intelligent design. "Evolution is science. Intelligent design is not science," he said.

Mrs. Bauer said, "The curriculum we have now is good."

Mrs. Costello said, "Students should have choices...(They) should be presented with everything out there."

Mr. Russo said he wanted clearer answers to Mr. Reilly's question from Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Gorbunoff and Mrs. Costello. He asked the candidates how they would respond if the administration came to the board and asked it to approve the teaching of intelligent design.

Mr. O'Connor said he would vote for whatever the community wanted, but "it's not my job" to decide curriculum. Mr. Gorbunoff said he would vote against it, while Mrs. Costello said, "I think it should be presented, but not as fact. People do believe this."

One parent expressed concern about using more technology and teachers assigning homework that requires the use of a computer. "What about families with multiple children?" she asked.

The candidates agreed the district needs more information about how many homes have access to computers and the Internet. The candidates also said it was time the district investigates reducing costs connected to teachers' benefits.



John Skowronski for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*  
QUESTION AND ANSWER...Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education member Linda Nelson fields a question from the audience during Monday night's Fanwood Republican Club-sponsored forum on the proposed \$2-million school bond referendum to upgrade the school district's athletic fields to turf. BOE member Rob O'Connor stands at left.

## Turf Field Bond Forum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

time to let voters decide the fate of the referendum.

Mr. Giannaci said artificial fields could withstand the rigors of constant use. He said putting electrical conduit in the ground now to support any future lighting projects made sense because doing it later would cost more and might jeopardize the integrity of the fields. Mr. Giannaci described the Turf-It Foundation and

how it has committed to raise \$250,000 in support of the fields.

Mr. St. Onge questioned the commitment "with all due respect." Others questioned why the BOE seeks public money in lieu of raising funds through donations.

Mr. Giannaci said pursuing public money was the original plan of the foundation and that if it failed, they would seek "Plan B." When called upon to share "Plan B," he declined to comment.

One woman said an initiative to raise money through a mailing sent to district residents had received "very little response." This prompted comments from multiple individuals asking why, if people who had children in the schools would not contribute, the rest of the residents should be asked to fund the project.

Monica Felsing spoke of research she did about how some neighboring towns had approached a similar situation. She said that per her discussion with John Van, director of buildings and grounds in Millburn for more than 35 years, she learned Millburn voters had rejected a bond referendum for turf fields. In response, she said, a group of Millburn citizens raised money from corporations and individuals. She said within 60 days, Millburn had raised \$1.6 million. Ms. Felsing asked Mrs. Nelson and Mr. Giannaci why that avenue of raising money was not explored first.

Mr. Giannaci said the Turf-It Foundation had approached "many" possible benefactors, but because Scotch Plains had not committed to the project, they would not commit either.

Mrs. Nelson said the referendum would allow the district to raise the money and, if not all of the money were needed, only what is needed would be raised.

Multiple residents said they felt that if the bond referendum was passed, the full amount would be raised and potential donors would not feel the need to contribute.

During the fields presentation, Michael Ancona, a financial planner, questioned the math being used to justify the "per household cost" calculation and accused the presentations justifying the project of being "disingenuous." He said he computed his own projections that indicated a much higher "per household cost."

Mr. Del Sordi said the exact duration of the amortization had not been finalized and the calculation was only an estimate given the variables in the equation. He said the cost benefit was in the district's best interest.



Victoria McCabe for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*  
NO LOVE...The Westfield Police Department's detective bureau is investigating two separate incidents of theft at the town's Victoria's Secret, pictured above during its Valentine's Day campaign. Captain Clifford Auchter said that at this time, it is unknown whether the thefts are related to each other or to two separate thefts at two other New Jersey Victoria's Secret locations. Westfield's store lost more than \$16,000 in merchandise between the two incidents.

## Developer Seeks to Build Six Homes on Fourth Ave.

By PAUL J. PEYTON and KATHY MARQUES  
Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

GARWOOD—About a dozen neighbors showed up at the Garwood Planning Board meeting on Wednesday, March 28, to hear details of a major subdivision application proposed for 484-490 Fourth Avenue by developer Richard Buontempo of Cranford. Garwood residents Mary Hidi and Frank Liqueore own the two properties.

The proposal includes combining the two properties into ownership by the developer, upon which the developer would subdivide the property into six parcels for the construction of six homes. Planning Board Chairman Robert Pender announced at the beginning of the meeting that the application had been withdrawn and would be resubmitted due to

necessary engineering changes.

All notifications required by law will be made to property owners within 200 feet of the proposal a minimum of 10 days prior to any further meeting scheduled on the matter upon re-submittal of the application, officials acknowledged.

According to resident Bruce Paterson, approximately five years ago, a developer came up with a plan for 26 townhouses for the property, a number that was reduced to 24 and later 16. The application was denied by the planning board.

"The major problem was density still because of the odd shape property. The turnaround at the end of the long narrow driveway for garbage trucks and fire trucks, the building height, the number of stairs from grade to third-floor bedrooms, (and) the fact that the garages were at grade and the house living area actually above the garage (were other problems)," Mr. Paterson said in an e-mail to *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

"The developer has reduced the number of dwellings down drastically to a very reasonable number. Hopefully (he) will adhere to all municipal land use ordinances, respect the wetlands, (and) obey storm-water runoff mandates. The original plans showed change; these show progress."

The borough sent a letter on November 5 to Robert Kraus of Leib, Kraus, Grispin & Roth from Scotch Plains, attorneys for Mr. Buontempo, stating that the submitted application to construct six homes on two properties could not be deemed complete at the time because of, "the height of the principal structure shall be two-and-a-half stories, or 30 feet, and the driveways need to meet the zoning requirements."

On January 16, Mr. Kraus sent a revised application to the borough, along with a letter saying his client was including a check for the \$450 application fee and \$1,687.50 for the escrow fee.

The revised application states that four of the six houses would have a maximum height of about less than 33 feet and that the driveways would be more than 10 feet long and not less than nine feet wide, in compliance with Garwood's zoning requirements. The application, which was for a performance bond, stated that a public water line was available but that the application did not propose a well and septic system and that there were no off-tract improvements requested. The property in question is at the convergence of the borders of Garwood, Westfield and Cranford at the northeast corner of the borough. The proposed development involves wetlands and abuts a seven-acre drainage basin and wildlife area owned and managed by Westfield and Cranford to support runoff from existing residential homes in the area.

Westfield Town Administrator Jim Gildea said Cranford pays Westfield \$7,000 annually for the lease. Westfield owns 2.79 acres of the 9.29-acre basin.

"This is a long-standing lease agreement," he said, noting that a few years ago the town renewed the lease and collected back payments it was owed.

The drainage basin has been the subject of complaints by neighbors in the past, as Cranford was to maintain the basin under a contract with Westfield dating back to 1979. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) had told *The Times* at the time that an engineering study and inspection by the DEP would be required to develop a correction and maintenance plan for the drainage basin.

Adding more stormwater runoff to the drainage basin as proposed by the developer of the subdivision in Garwood requires approval by the NJDEP, Westfield and Cranford.

Westfield Town Engineer Ken Marsh said, "I am not concerned about it (the development) but we will look into it." He said the Westfield planning board has received a "small set" of plans from the developer.

He said the developer would have to follow "strict" new DEP regulations for wetlands, including submittal of a wetlands investigation of the property, verification of wetland limits and a flood plain investigation.

"It essentially tells you where you can build," Mr. Marsh said.

The borough had rejected two major subdivision development proposals for the property in the past five years. At one time, the County of Union had considered incorporating the property into the county's open space initiative, but that proposal did not materialize.

## Police Investigate Thefts At Westfield Victoria's Secret

By SUZETTE F. STALKER  
Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

WESTFIELD—Authorities continue to investigate the theft of thousands of dollars worth of merchandise from the Victoria's Secret store in Westfield within the past two weeks.

Captain Clifford Auchter of the Westfield Police Department confirmed to *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* yesterday that two incidents had occurred days apart at the Westfield store, located on the 200 block of East Broad Street.

The thefts happened around the same time period that merchandise was reported stolen from two other Victoria's Secret stores, including one at the Newport Center Mall in Jersey City on March 20 and a second at the Burlington Center Mall in Burlington the following day. Two people have been arrested in the Burlington case, according to a report in *The Star-Ledger*.

In the first of the two Westfield incidents, Victoria's Secret reported on March 23 that underwear valued at

\$2,875 was taken from a display table at the rear of the store near the back door. It is believed that the theft occurred during business hours the previous day.

The second incident occurred on March 28, but was not reported until last Saturday, Captain Auchter noted. In this case, about 1,500 pairs of underwear valued at \$13,142 were removed from the premises, again from a rear display.

According to Captain Auchter, both incidents were "un-witnessed" and no suspicious activity had been observed inside the store prior to discovery that the thefts had occurred.

While the cases are similar in nature to the ones in Jersey City and Burlington, the captain said it is unknown at this time whether there is any connection between those cases and the thefts from the Westfield store.

The local incidents remain under investigation by the Westfield Police Department's detective bureau, Captain Auchter said.



## POLICE BLOTTER

### Scotch Plains

Tuesday, March 27, a resident of Spruce Mill Lane reported that someone used his Social Security number to open up a cell phone account. The suspect then made \$700 worth of phone calls, police said.

Wednesday, March 28, Harold Maryland, 51, of Union was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia after a motor vehicle stop.

Thursday, March 29, a resident of Hunter Avenue reported that someone obtained her account number and removed several hundred dollars from her checking account.

Thursday, March 29 a resident of Raritan Road reported that someone attempted to enter her house through a rear window. No items were taken, police said.

Friday, March 30, Paul Boykins, 21, of Scotch Plains was arrested on several outstanding warrants out of Newark following a motor vehicle stop.

Saturday, March 31, Emmanuel Lubin, 24, of Rahway was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana after a motor vehicle stop. According to police, it was also discovered that Lubin had several outstanding warrants from other towns. Lubin was held at the Union County jail for failure to make bail.

### Fanwood

Tuesday, March 27, Alihea S. Jones, 33, of Westfield was arrested on outstanding Westfield warrant after a motor vehicle stop.

Tuesday, March 27, Izabel D. Marques, 39, of Garwood was arrested on an outstanding Plainfield warrant after a field investigation.

Tuesday, March 27, Naomi S. McElynn, 36, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding Westfield warrant after a motor vehicle stop on the 300 block of South Avenue.

Wednesday, March 28, Peter Cacciattolo, 19, of Fanwood was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia after a field investigation.

Friday, March 30, Donna Caddigan, 49, of Scotch Plains was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Watchung after a field investigation.

Friday, March 30, Earl R. Scott, 32, of Jersey City was arrested on an outstanding Passaic warrant after a motor vehicle stop.

### Westfield

Saturday, March 24, Andre Y. Brown, 34, of Elizabeth was arrested at Warren police headquarters pursuant to two contempt of court traffic warrants that were issued by the Westfield Municipal Court. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released after posting \$280 total bail.

Saturday, March 24, Jennifer Young, 24, of Kenilworth was arrested on the 200 block of South Avenue, East, for contempt of court on a Westfield traffic warrant. She was released after posting \$99 bail.

Sunday, March 25, Adan Osorio-Beteta, 46, of West New York was arrested at East South and Central Avenues for allegedly driving while intoxicated. He was released on his own recognizance to a responsible individual.

Sunday, March 25, Christine Piperato, 40, of Laurence Harbor, Stanley Backiel, 44, of Elizabeth and Cheryl Conroy, 39, of South Amboy were arrested during a motor vehicle stop at South and Windsor Avenues and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. All three were released with summonses.

Monday, March 26, Todd Aurand, 29, of Cranford was arrested at the

Cranford Police Department on an outstanding Westfield criminal warrant with bail set at \$500. Aurand was unable to post bail and was transported to the Union County jail pending a court appearance.

Monday, March 26, Sing Mun Yeow, 20, of Clark was arrested on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant, with bail set at \$99, following a motor vehicle stop at South and Central Avenues. He was released after posting bail.

Tuesday, March 27, Jahmal McNeil, 29, of Irvington was arrested on an outstanding Irvington traffic warrant, with bail set at \$300, following a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and Drake Place. He was released after posting bail.

Wednesday, March 28, Justin Wolf, 18, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant, with bail set at \$150, following a motor vehicle stop at Central Avenue and Virginia Street. He was released after posting bail.

Wednesday, March 28, a resident of the 500 block of Downer Street reported that someone threw a claw hammer through the driver's side front window of his motor vehicle while it was parked in the street in front of his residence. There was no further damage to the vehicle.

Thursday, March 29, Jonathan Tomassi, 26, of Clark was arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia following a motor vehicle stop at Central Avenue and Cacciola Place. He was released on his own recognizance with summonses pending an April 12 court date.

Thursday, March 29, Dominick P. Demieri, 26, of Levittown, NY posted \$120 bail at Westfield police headquarters on a traffic warrant issued by Teaneck.

Thursday, March 29, a Cacciola Place resident reported the theft of a 28-inch "Stahl 038" chainsaw valued at \$700 from a locked garage.

Friday, March 30, Danielle Catone, 21, of Philadelphia was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at Central Avenue and Virginia Street and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana. She was released on her own recognizance with a summons.

Friday, March 30, Lucien Valmyr, Jr., 27, of Montclair was arrested during a motor vehicle stop at Summit Avenue and Temple Place and charged with hindering apprehension. He also was arrested on a no-bail Essex County Sheriff's warrant, plus criminal warrants from East Orange and Bloomfield with bail amounts of \$5,087 and \$1,000, respectively, and a Newark warrant with bail set at \$325. Valmyr was turned over to Essex County authorities.

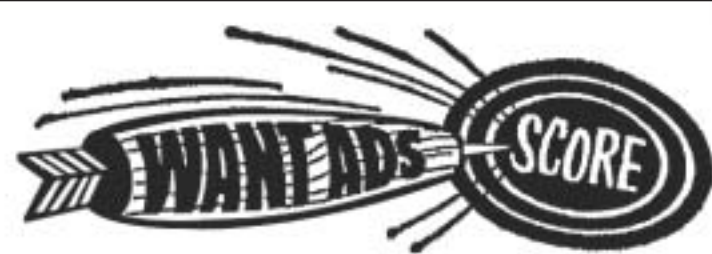
### Man Approaches

### Middle-School Girl

WESTFIELD—The Westfield school system has reported that a Roosevelt Intermediate School student was approached by an older man in older model, dark blue van who asked her to come over to him, according to an e-mail copied to *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*. The man reportedly said he needed help looking for his dog.


The girl ran home and told her mother, who contacted the school, which put her in touch with the Westfield police, officials said.

Police said the case is under investigation, but due to the fact school officials accidentally released the victim's name, no more details could be provided in order to protect the girl and her family.



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**Union County News**  
**FAA Decision To Increase Airplane Noise Over County**  
*Daniel Sullivan*  
*Union County Freeholder*

With its stunning announcement to endorse a flight plan that would dramatically increase airplane noise over the region, the FAA has succeeded in uniting area residents and the Port Authority, which operates the region's airports, in protest against it.

Of several options under consideration, the FAA — in the face of Union County residents — selected the Integrated Airspace Alternative, which has the largest noise impact, and carries an estimated implementation cost of \$2.5 billion.

The Union County freeholder board, area residents and citizen's groups, such as the New Jersey Coalition Against Aircraft Noise, have opposed this plan and the Port Authority, which operates Newark Liberty International Airport, John F. Kennedy International, Teterboro and Philadelphia International, issued a statement condemning it.

"For example, we recommended using routes over the Hudson River and the Long Island Sound that would have further reduced delays and noise impacts, but that was dismissed," the Port Authority said in its statement.

**School Construction in Area Tops \$2.5 Billion**

AREA — U.S. public schools completed over \$20 billion worth of construction in 2006, according to *School Planning and Management* magazine.

School districts in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania completed almost \$2.5 billion of construction including new buildings, additions and upgrading existing buildings, according to the report. They expect to start an additional \$2.3 billion worth of construction in 2007. Additions and upgrades account for the most of the construction spending in this area.

The full report can be accessed at [peteri.com/spm/index/shtm](http://peteri.com/spm/index/shtm).

While all Union County residents can expect more noise, those living closest to the airport will get an even louder dose, since the FAA plans to propose the dropping of noise abatement restrictions at Newark Liberty International Airport.

Among its lowlights, the FAA plan would increase low altitude aircraft traffic over densely populated residential communities, reducing the overall altitudes for arrivals and introducing low altitude holding patterns in the metropolitan area. The net effect would increase aircraft emissions in the metropolitan area.

Whatever small capacity increases that may occur under this plan will be rapidly taken advantage of by the carriers to schedule additional flights during traffic peaks, which will not help to reduce delays.

The FAA should have considered implementing internal solutions such as the increased use of larger aircraft that would move more people, and flight schedule changes, which do not cause interminable delays during peak hours. A more prudent course of action — and one that is most economical — would have been to implement these recommendations with existing flight patterns.

Finally, the FAA expects to schedule public meetings for the Airspace Redesign project in April — one in each state affected by the redesign. The agency expects to publish the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) in June and issue a record of decision (ROD) in August.

Anyone wishing to voice displeasure with the FAA's decision can contact (based off [faa.gov](http://faa.gov)):

Steve Kelley, FAA, c/o Nessa Memberg, 12005 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS C3.02, Reston, VA 20191.

Carmen Marco, FAA Web Management Office of Public Affairs, (202) 267-8859.



ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A THIRD GRADER?...T.J. Rooney, right, speaks with his son, Evan, and third-grade teacher Penny O'Donnell at Westfield's Franklin School "Bring Your Parents to School" Day last Friday.

## County to Begin Road Work On Central Ave. in Westfield

COUNTY — County officials have announced plans to improve traffic intersections in Cranford, Westfield and Clark, Union and Elizabeth.

The design work, which will include the upgrading of traffic signal equipment, striping, and the installation of pedestrian friendly features, will cost a total of \$350,458 and will be paid for from the county's capital budget.

Contracts for engineering design services for the intersections were awarded to the Louis Berger Group of Florham Park, Pennoni Consulting Engineers in Cranford, and Vollmer Engineering of Rochelle Park.

Locally, the intersections scheduled for improvement are:

Central Avenue Corridor, Westfield and Clark. Work will include traffic signal upgrades, new traffic signal equipment, video imaging vehicle detection, LED (light-emitting diode) signals, count-down pedestrian signal indications, signs, and striping. In addition, Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant concrete curb ramps with detectable warning devices will be installed. The total design cost is \$127,386. The project

will be completed by January 2008.

Intersection improvements in Cranford at the intersections of Springfield Avenue and Orange Avenue, and Springfield Avenue and North Union Avenue. Work will include: new traffic signal equipment, video imaging vehicle detection, LED signals, count-down pedestrian signal indications, signs, and striping. ADA compliant concrete curb ramps with detectable warning devices will be installed. The total design cost is \$56,000. Work will be completed by September.

After the design phase is completed, bids for construction will be accepted. Construction could begin in the fall of 2007.

**CBMI Names Ron Nabors Named CEO**

GREENVILLE, S.C. — Ronald Nabors, a former Mountaineer resident, has been named chief executive officer of Christian Blind Mission International — U.S. (CBMI-US), an organization whose American headquarters are located in Greenville, S.C.

Mr. Nabors brings more than 30 years of experience to his new role. He has held executive positions within two software companies — as senior vice president of Sales and chief marketing officer for Isogon Corporation in New York and senior vice president of worldwide sales and chief marketing officer for Tangram Enterprise Solutions in Cary, N.C.


He also was vice president of field operations for Bell and Howell Company at Research Triangle Park, N.C. for 10 years.

In addition, he served as president and chief executive officer of Remington Pitney Bowes LTD based in Sydney, Australia for 16 years. Prior to joining the corporate arena, Mr. Nabors was pastor of four churches in Kentucky.

Mr. Nabors and his wife, Linda, have three children and three grandchildren.

CBMI is the world's largest international non-profit working to improve the quality of life for blind and disabled people living in the world's most disadvantaged societies by providing preventative, medical, rehabilitative and educational services.

A limousine with Anthony Pearyer, his bodyguard and personal assistant,



**Prosecutor's Corner**  
**Deliveryman Robbers Plead Guilty to Crime Spree**  
*From the Office of Theodore Romankov*  
*Union County Prosecutor*

UNION — Two men, Antwan Brown of Omara Drive in Union and Bryant Ford of Newark, both 20, have pled guilty to a string of armed robberies in Union, according to the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

Ford pled guilty on March 27 to two first-degree robberies. Brown pled guilty to two first-degree robberies and one second-degree attempted robbery two weeks earlier, authorities said. The robberies occurred in June 2006.

According to Assistant Prosecutor Patricia Cronin, Brown and Ford, with the assistance of two juveniles, robbed three deliverymen from three different Chinese restaurants in Union in the span of 11 days last June.

Two men confronted the first deliveryman. One had a gun, the other a butcher knife. The assailants took the victim's credit card, driver's license, \$350 in cash and the food he was delivering.

Four days later, the robbers struck again at the same address. Police traced the orders to a prepaid phone card. GPS (Global Positioning System) traced the call to Omara Drive in Union.

Two men robbed another deliveryman at gunpoint on June 13. On June 14, police said a Chinese restaurant took an order from a phone card. Union police observed two suspects matching the descriptions of the robbers sneaking through nearby backyards and into Brown's home.

Police said a search of the residence turned up the Visa card and cell phone stolen in the June 13 robbery, as well as a BB gun, authorities said.

Brown faces up to 15 years in prison, and Ford faces up to nine years. They will be sentenced May 18.

**Brothers Face Jail Time for Stabbing**

PLAINFIELD — After a three-week trial before Superior Court Judge John Triarsi, Keith Pearyer, 31, and his brother, Anthony Pearyer, 33, face prison time for the parts they played in the stabbing death of a Plainfield man in 2005.

A jury deliberated almost five days before convicting Keith Pearyer of reckless manslaughter and weapons charges. Anthony Pearyer was convicted of aggravated assault, authorities said.

The charges stemmed from an incident at Chez Marie nightclub in Plainfield shortly after midnight on March 6, 2005. Anthony, a recording artist for Warner Brothers under the names Tony Huggle and T-Funk, attempted to enter the nightclub with his entourage but was turned away by the bouncer because he was not dressed appropriately, authorities said.

Assistant Prosecutor James Donnelly said 26-year-old Dashawn Goines of Plainfield also planned to spend time at Chez Marie that night. "Goines and the Pearyer brothers ran into each other at the club entrance. Because Goines and Keith had a history of animosity related to a woman they had both dated, words were exchanged and there was a fight. The melee continued with Goines being kicked, punched and stomped by Keith and Anthony," Mr. Goines bled to death from stab wounds in his back by Keith Pearyer.

was stopped by North Plainfield police, who arrested Pearyer on an outstanding traffic warrant, authorities said.

"As he was being processed, officers noticed blood spatter on Anthony's pants. After DNA analysis, the blood was found to be that of Dashawn Goines," Mr. Donnelly said, which he said linked Anthony and Keith Pearyer to the assault on Mr. Goines.

Keith Pearyer faces up to 10 years in state prison and Anthony faces up to five years; their sentencing is scheduled for May 11.

**Jury Convicts Man On Drug Charges**

Gregory Deloach, 41, of Newark faces up to 35 years in jail after a jury found him guilty on March 28 of eluding police, possession of heroin and three counts of aggravated assault. A jury deliberated for four hours after hearing five days of testimony.

Assistant Prosecutor Katherine Butler said Deloach led police on a 25-mile chase that ran through 12 towns in five different counties. A total of 17 police cars were involved in the 35-minute pursuit.

Ms. Butler said that on March 18, 2006, while on patrol at about 7 p.m., South Plainfield Police Officer Michael Hoppe noticed a 1999 green Ford van that had been reported stolen from Montclair. He stopped the car, but the driver, Deloach, took off south on New Brunswick Avenue.

Police followed the car as it entered Plainfield and then Scotch Plains. The van got onto Route 22, hit the U-turn and headed west before exiting at Springfield Avenue. The chase continued through Millburn, Summit, Chatham and Florham Park.

Scotch Plains Police Sergeant Jeffrey Briel trailed the van; Officer Thomas Samecki pulled abreast of the van shortly after it got off the median. Authorities said Deloach veered right and slammed his car into Officer Samecki's police car. Both cars went into a spin. The van then began to flip over and roll down the highway before coming to a stop.

Officer Samecki suffered minor injuries; Deloach was unconscious when police removed him from the van. His passenger, Edward Ward, also suffered minor injuries. Deloach and Ward were treated and released from hospitals.

Ward pled guilty in January to third-degree theft. Deloach, who has prior convictions for eluding, receiving stolen property, burglary and drugs, will be sentenced on May 25.




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**Ron Nabors**

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# THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD TIMES

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And the Township of Scotch Plains

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## No One Should Disrespect the Other for His or Her Views

The public has no way to address community priorities as the budget system (a.k.a., the property tax system) is cleverly divided up between municipal, schools, county, state and authorities. Each taxing entity claims that their budget has no discretionary room. They claim to have been fighting hard to “reduce the rate of increase” – or in another vernacular, they alarm the public about budget cuts when in fact there have never been any budget cuts. Budgets, expenditures and taxes have always risen.

The concept of bonding projects in order to reduce maintenance has never materialized either. Can anyone recall ever hearing that maintenance savings from bond investments has been given back to the taxpayer to reduce the tax bill?

When a popular or necessary community cause arises, such as repairing the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School football field, the only option provided to the public is a referendum to bond more money – for an item that should have been fixed in the first place. Should it be fixed or must it be turfed? That is the question, to borrow a phrase from Hamlet.

As fans of Raider football, we agree that the field has not been properly maintained and that it is not fixed. The track is nothing like Plainfield, Elizabeth or Shabazz high schools. Of course, those are three Abbot school districts where others pay the bills – in essence, we are all us paying their bills.

We agree that Westfield’s turf fields at Kehler Stadium and Sid Fay/Houlihan Fields turned out well despite Westfield – and Summit, which also has turned to turf – not being Abbott districts. Well, Westfield and Summit do have the highest property taxes in the county as a result of this and other factors.

There are many people frightened about ever-rising property taxes, which everyone admits are out of

control. Some homeowners are having trouble paying our bills. The general public and our elected officials at all levels should be concerned with any action being considered. But, instead, no action is being taken – quite the opposite. Only lip service and rhetoric is offered, along with fantasies like leasing the New Jersey Turnpike. Few really believe that Governor Jon Corzine’s property tax rebate is going to happen, or be meaningful to you and me, or fix anything in the long run. It’s a dodge and a delaying tactic until after the November elections. Watch out for next year since as many expenses as possible are being back-loaded until then. This year isn’t going to be good either.

Parents that want smaller class sizes and fast soccer turf, such as in Scotch Plains, need to understand that only 30 percent of the households in the township have children in the school system. The other 70 percent subsidize the costs with their property tax dollars. It would be a financial disaster if a portion of that 70 percent moved out, either because they no longer can afford it or they long for greener, and less-expensive, pastures.

So no one should disrespect the other for his or her views on these matters.

Critical items in the community need to be placed on a priority list. Then, the most important ones need to be selected from the pot of limited resources. Would the community prefer Union County open space, smaller class sizes, turfed soccer fields, miniature golf, a renovated municipal building, enlarged library, concerts in the park, a senior center, other items – or none of the above?

There needs to be a way to use priorities in determining community expenditures. We don’t have that now – and government has us fighting amongst ourselves – while they fiddle with Rome ablaze.

## Letters to the Editor

### Westfield Firefighter’s Questions Need to be Answered with Facts

I read about the presentation made by Lieutenant James Ryan at the last Westfield council meeting in which he indicated that six firemen at a fire violated safety rules – and that the firefighters were cited for insufficient staffing levels during a fire in December.

The response to him was not a contradiction of facts, but was a comment that “manning is a management prerogative.” As a taxpayer, I would be much more satisfied if the administrator used facts to answer Lt. Ryan.

Are there safety rules? Do they set a standard? Was a citation issued last December? Why? These are facts which should be known or are easily discoverable. Why shouldn’t Lt. Ryan tell the

public about these things? Why shouldn’t the administrator use facts to respond?

If we are having firefighters responding to fires in numbers which violate safety rules, then both the public and the firefighters should know the factual basis of such a decision. If “manning is a management prerogative,” then the numbers could be lowered to five or four, etc. At what point is it unreasonable? How does the public judge its reasonableness unless management provides facts?

I would appreciate factual answers to the questions raised by Lt. Ryan as opposed to the imposition of privilege and secrecy.

John Blake  
Westfield

### County Railroad Activation Issues Posed to NJ Commissioner

*Editor’s Note: This letter was sent to Mr. Kris Kolluri, Commissioner, NJ Department of Transportation*

I am writing in reference to the recent report in the *Star Ledger* (by Gabriel Gluck, 3/25/07) in which you are quoted as saying that you wanted “a full accounting of how the state funds were spent on the entire rail project.” You also are reported as saying that your “first priority will be to assess what is needed to have the SIRR up and running between Linden and Cranford.”

May I respectfully suggest that the “review of the costs and benefits” also be expanded to the review of specific safety measures in the Borough of Roselle, the municipality between Linden and Cranford.

Roselle has a population density eight times the New Jersey State average. Roselle must not become a Graniteville or Minot type tragedy waiting to happen, because the density of population would make even a minor accident catastrophic. Safety issues must be a major part of any review that is coming to your desk.

The M&E Railway is, by 10-year contract with only five years remaining, both the lessee of the right-of-way and the restorer of the rails. The \$10.5 million vouchers to M&E for use of their “restoration” services does not include any third party, or even in-house, investigative testing of three major areas: ballasts, vibration, and the environment.

There has been no empirical study with regard to ballast/crosstie stress testing. The

### Archives Are Great Trip Down Memory Lane

I have to say that I love the idea of publishing the achieved newspapers. Having been born (1963) and raised in Scotch Plains and now living in Basking Ridge, it’s a great trip down memory lane.

Being in IT [information technology], I understand that OCR is still not 100 percent, but the 1969 paper is more legible than the 1967’s without OCR. The 1969 could use more clean up, but on the hole it’s great.

Thank You.

Anthony Novello  
Basking Ridge

Richard Lenihan  
Roselle

### Bonds and Debt Service Become On-going Tax Commitment in SP

The proposed municipal budget for Scotch Plains for 2007 has been introduced by the council and is now a public record, which should be available to all citizens in the clerk’s office in our municipal building. This budget should be of interest to all taxpayers and especially those upset with our property taxes. This budget sets the municipal portion of our property tax rate for 2007.

I have heard it said that death and taxes are the only things certain in life. The amount of taxes, however, is capable of being controlled and is a proper subject to discuss and debate. This debated should be based on facts and judgments. The facts should be capable of being known. Different people can, fairly and honestly, make different judgments.

In Scotch Plains, we are at a very early stage of this discussion. Until eight years ago, two-party government was not something we had. For a variety of reasons, which are not relevant here, we now have the beginnings of two-party government. The long dominant party has not yet accepted this as a reality.

Eight years ago they treated by-partisan government as a mistake the voters made. This time they see it as a threat to their monopoly on decisions in Scotch Plains. Each time they have refused to address the issues but rather chose personal attacks and misinformation as their strategy.

Unfortunately, it has been necessary to demonstrate to them that such a strategy does not go without consequences. Hopefully it is time to discuss the issues that are critical to Scotch Plains. If the present power structure does not want to have this discussion, the taxpayers need to have it without them.

It is often said that the town council has very little discretion over the budget. This is not true. What is true is that the town council has only some discretion over the

budget when the budget is prepared. The council has tremendous discretion over the budget when they set the timing and amount of capital projects.

The total debt service, which is listed on sheet 3b in this year’s proposed municipal budget, is \$1,652,652. This number is 6.9 percent of the total general revenues required to fund our municipal budget (see sheet 11, item seven of the proposed budget) and 11.5 percent of the taxes to be raised according to the proposed budget (see sheet 11, item six).

This debt service is an ongoing commitment, which Scotch Plains has taken on, most of which will be a recurring expense in many future budgets. There are, however, plans for additional bonds, which will require additional debt service in future budgets.

As of December 31, 2006, \$9,289,584 of bonds and notes had been authorized by the town council but not yet issued. If these bonds and notes are issued on the same terms and conditions as our present debt, our debt service would be increased by 72 percent – adding over \$1,000,000 of debt service to future budgets (see sheet eight of the Scotch Plains 2006 annual financial statement) This document is a public record. I received my copy by making an OPRA (Open Public Records Act) request but perhaps they can be provided without one.

While no action will be taken at this year’s budget hearing with regard to these bonds and notes, their issuance will affect future budgets. If there is no discussion before such bonds and notes are issued, the debt service on them will be a non-discretionary expense in future budgets.

This is only one important issue that needs to be addressed. The use of surplus and the status of the Open Space Trust Fund are others.

Dick Samuel  
Scotch Plains

### Glover Supporter Praises Councilman, Derides SP-GOP Council Actions

I am a certified municipal financial officer in the State of New Jersey. It was impressive to see that Councilman Kevin Glover, with less than three months of council experience, (coming from a career entirely in the private sector) was able to introduce at the March 27 Council meeting a motion that would save the taxpayers of Scotch Plains three tax points for the 2007 budget.

You would think that an idea like this without any loss in services to the township would be welcomed by the Republican-controlled council seeking to keep taxes as low as possible. What happened next, (without the help of the one certified municipal financial officer on the township payroll, who for some reason was not invited to any of the 2007 public budget meetings), was ridicule because of their lack of understanding of what he was

proposing. This in spite of their combined multi-decade years of experience on the council.

Instead of thanking Councilman Glover for his thoughtful insight, they decided to focus on a diversionary tactic of a misstatement made on the amount of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood BOE tax increase. Which, by the way, had absolutely nothing to do with the municipal budget at hand.

They even had the help of the Republican Chairman Bill McClintock, a former mayor, who chimed in on the telephone. I can assure the citizens of Scotch Plains that Councilman Glover’s proposal is sound and very consistent for a budget with this much surplus.

Please support his proposal in the coming weeks.

Phillip Wiener  
Scotch Plains



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

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

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

**Answers to last week’s arcane words.**  
1. Panegyris – A public meeting or festival

2. Zythum – A malt beverage brewed by the ancient Egyptians  
3. Gnoff – A miser  
4. Crapulence – Sickness caused by overindulgence in food or drink

#### CRACCHE

1. To scratch  
2. A sand crab  
3. Cranky; irritable  
4. A hard, brittle biscuit

#### CRISPATION

1. Crumbling; losing cohesiveness  
2. Performing the work of a shoemaker  
3. Hardening of material, due to dehydration  
4. The act of curling, or state of being curled

#### PERFRICATE

1. To rub thoroughly  
2. Violating faith or allegiance  
3. To puncture; pierce  
4. To enliven; exhilarate

#### SPARTH

1. Scatter; disperse  
2. A battle ax or mace  
3. Agitation; violence  
4. Toss; hurl

## Letters to the Editor

### Ed Fund Gives Thanks For Huge Event Success

On March 3, the Education Fund of Westfield held its third annual Wine Tasting and Auction at Echo Lake Country Club. The event was a huge success, raising more than \$15,000 – which will be used by the Ed Fund to award financial grants to Westfield teachers.

We could not have had such a successful event without the support of the community and the many, many sponsors from downtown Westfield. We wish to thank the various stores and companies that sponsored the event and donated auction items. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Readers can obtain more information about the fund and how to make a donation to the organization by going to our website at westfieldnj.com/edfund.

Gretchen Ohlig  
President, Bd. of Trustees  
Education Fund of Westfield

### Former Mayor Assailed For Turf Bond Position

I was quite disappointed to read Ms. Papen’s thoughts in Thursday’s 3/29 edition of *The Westfield Leader*. Ms. Papen is a former mayor and still an influential member of our community. For her to come out on an issue in such a negative way with so little attention to the facts of the matter is, I feel, irresponsible.

Her statements of the life expectancy of turf field products, and injuries associated with them are completely outdated. Her discounting the level of injuries incurred on the current field is close to callous.

The work performed six years ago, that she refers to, was paid for by a windfall we received from the State of New Jersey. This makeover of the fields was a major improvement at the time – but was at best referred to as a stop-gap measure and not intended to be a long-term solution. The bleachers put in at that time were a great improvement and will be more than adequate for years to come.

Ms. Papen’s objections seem to come from the viewpoint of someone not involved in a direct risk/reward position of the decisions regarding field and play conditions. I hope when I reach Ms. Papen’s station in life, I will not forget about the care and safety of children other than my own.

Tom Meredith  
Scotch Plains

### Councilman Glover is Grandstanding in SP

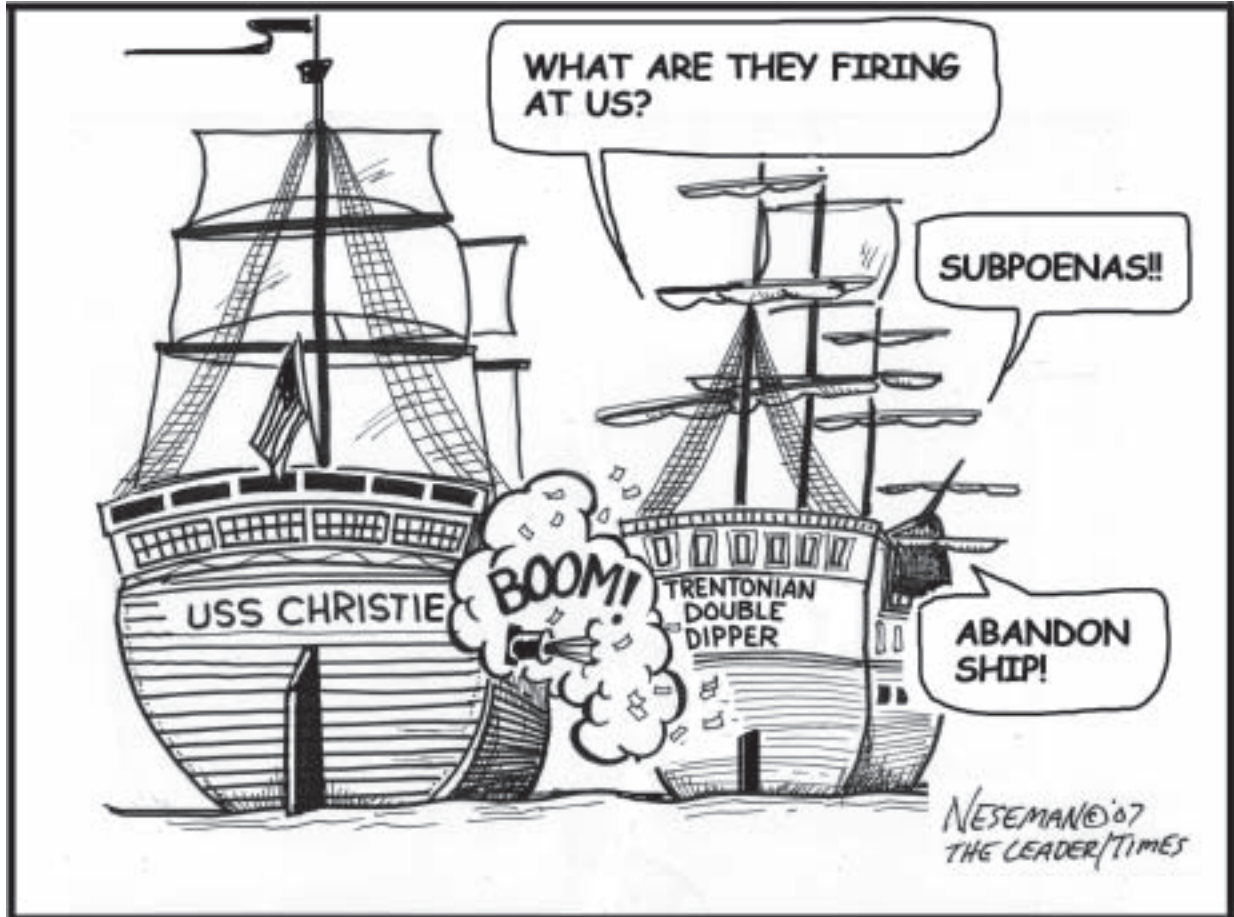
Tom Atkins has been the municipal manager for Scotch Plains for many years and is the one that creates the budget for the town each and every year. Ultimately, it is the township council that makes any changes to Mr. Atkins’ proposed budget, and then the budget is adopted.

Mr. Atkins’ years of experience are well known and respected, especially when it comes to the budget process. In 2007, it is particularly outrageous and revealing that our new Councilman, Kevin Glover, specifically asked Mr. Atkins for his input on the budget and focused especially on where the tax rate should be set.

He then chose to ignore Mr. Atkins’ well-seasoned advice. It has become clear that our new councilman is talking out of both sides of his mouth and his political agenda is crystal clear. This is grandstanding at its worst, and it is the fiscal integrity of our township that is at stake.

Mary Thygesen DePaola  
Scotch Plains

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## Letters to the Editor

### While the Hearse was out Front, Mourners Inside were Ticketed

On Monday of Holy Week, Redeemer Church had a funeral for a lady who had been a member of our church since the 1950s. While her family and friends gathered inside church for the service, a Westfield police officer was outside writing parking tickets for several cars, even though it was obvious that the cars were parked for a funeral. The hearse was out front and all the cars had purple funeral pennants on their hoods.

We understand that Westfield has a parking problem. It's bad enough when our Redeemer School faculty's and visi-

tors' cars are marked and ticketed, but in our estimation, ticketing cars of people attending a funeral is over the top.

Redeemer has been on the corner of Clark and Cowperthwaite Place since 1937 and has been told that we have been good neighbors. We have the greatest respect for the law officers who serve our community. However, the event of April 2 feels like harassment and should never be repeated.

Paul Kritsch, Pastor  
Redeemer Lutheran Church

### Bond Debt will Mean Less In Future SP-F School Budgets

Suppose your household had a drop in income due to a job loss or a salary cut. You would cut back on all your spending, even postponing needed home repairs or other purchases. Now, suppose you picked that time to take out a big loan to buy a vacation home. Illogical? Of course.

Yet, that approximates what the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education is asking voters to approve – borrowing to build a state-of-the-art “turf field” while budget squeezes are forcing cutbacks across the district in academics, administration and building maintenance.

Our tight budget is not caused by a drop in income but by spending limitations imposed by Trenton. The board says these two budget items are “completely unrelated” – yet they are both coming from my

pocket, and both affect my children. These items will be more “related” in future years – if the “turf” bond is approved, future years' school budgets will have to accommodate the debt service (interest) on this bond, meaning even more cuts across other areas while we pay for this bond.

We have all heard about universities where the football team has plasma TVs in the locker rooms but academic departments can't afford books. Let's not start our high school down that path. SPF voters who really want to vote “for the kids” should vote “Yes” on the school budget but “No” on the “turf” referendum.

Julie Murphy  
Fanwood

### Councilman Strauss Has Acted Thoughtfully on SP Budget Process

Sometimes silence can speak volumes. For instance, consider our new [Scotch Plains] Councilman Jeffrey Strauss. At the introduction of the 2007 Scotch Plains budget, Mr. Strauss said absolutely nothing. Yet when it came down to a vote, he sided with the mayor and Councilwomen Coronato and Malool.

The mayor indicated that an attempt was made by the four members of the council to create a compromise agreement allowing Councilman Glover to join his fellow council members. Apparently,

Councilman Glover was not interested in coming to agreement on the budget issue. Councilman Strauss did not dispute the mayor's remarks regarding the process that led to the budget introduction.

Councilman Strauss also declined to support the positions taken by his Democrat running mate. Clearly, Councilman Strauss's thoughtful approach to the budget process has spoken louder than any word could.

Craig Clark  
Scotch Plains

### If not from \$2-Mil. Bond, then Turf Must Come from School Budget

I read with astonishment Mrs. Papen's letter to the editor in last week's [Scotch Plains-Fanwood] Times. She speaks of “erroneous comments” regarding the condition of our high school fields. With all due respect to Mrs. Papen, the only false statements regarding the field turf referendum came from her pen.

One would expect a former mayor to do her homework and use fact instead of fiction — unless of course there is a hidden personal agenda. Here are the real facts:

The condition of our SP-F High School fields and track are deplorable. While it is true, some of our fields (not football or soccer) have been updated in the past decade, these projects were in response to wear and tear and increased usage. We can point fingers at poor planning, poor maintenance, overuse, or a multitude of other issues, but in the end our high school track and fields are unsafe for our children to play or exercise.

Our fields do not drain. All anyone has to do is visit the area 24 hours after a rain and one can clearly see the problem. Countless games and band competitions have been rescheduled because of these issues. Our track team has not had a home meet in two years because the risk of player injury is too great. The track must be replaced. If it is not done via this bond referendum, it will need to come out of the district's operating budget, which is the part that is limited by the state mandates.

The turf bond referendum will benefit a majority of the SPF community. A majority of our students and citizens use the fields for athletic pursuits, band competitions, graduation, youth recreation, Relay for Life and general fitness. Most of our hard earned tax dollars go towards “intangibles” which the average student or citizen do not see. Investing in field turf is investing in the community and a tangible real estate investment adding to our communities draw.

The bond referendum will be for \$2

### The Fact Is: SP-F High School Field Turf Project Is a Necessity

It's amazing to me that people that try to “set the record straight” in the papers continue to have the wrong facts. This letter is in response to Ms. Papen's letter in last week's Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times addressing the priorities in the township and the need for the bond referendum that is on the ballot on April 17.

While I respect anyone's opinion on township initiatives, the fact remains that the high school football field, come October, will become a muddy quagmire if maintained in its current state and will be hazardous when the ground freezes — creating hard mud holes for kids to get injured in. It's been that way for the past seven years that I am aware of.

The fact remains that the current high school track is dangerous in certain parts caused by the upheaval of an inferior (and incorrect) surface. Just ask the track coach, or any BOE member, they believe this to be true. The fact also remains that the installation of an underground drainage system for the high school fields is paramount in correcting the ponding situation that currently exists. There may be a drainpipe that runs under the field, but the current system is inadequate to drain off water the way that is required for a playing surface.

These issues continue to exist despite the money that was previously spent because the money was spent on other items like bleachers and scoreboards (for baseball not football), and a realignment of the baseball field, which has absolutely nothing to do with either the football or the soccer fields.

Here are some more “facts:” The girls' soccer team lost their home field advantage in a county playoff game when rain forced the game to the opposing team's home turf field.

The field scheduling for the township becomes a nightmare when re-scheduling games due to inclement weather needs to be accomplished only to find no available time slots due to the gross over usage of the current fields.

The band had to change their competition due to an unusable field. SPF currently has the worst facilities in the district and the county. That is embarrassing for the kids as well as those of us that have our “Raider Pride.”

Obvious maintenance savings will exist simply by not having to mow, seed, stripe, and fertilize a grass surface. That money will go directly back into the district operating budget.

There are so many more instances of fact that I could cite, but you get the message.

I encourage anyone that has any type of question about this project to contact the Turf-It committee. As I stated earlier, I respect anyone's opinion, and their right to extend that opinion, however, please be informed.

Facts are facts, and when you look at the whole picture, the upgrade of a facility that will be used by every child that attends high school in Scotch Plains or Fanwood for the next 10 to 12 years for approximately \$15 per year on average — that's a bargain.

Anthony Giannaci  
Scotch Plains

### IRS Warns of Phony e-Mails

The IRS does not send out unsolicited e-mails or ask for detailed personal and financial information. The only genuine IRS website is IRS.gov.

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1.75 L

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Samuel and Olga Kuna

## Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Kuna Celebrate 70th Anniversary

Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Kuna of Westfield celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with 60 family members and friends in attendance at the Spanish Tavern in Mountainside on January 20.

Dr. Kuna and the former Miss Olga Lehman were married December 26, 1936 at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Richmond Hill, Queens, N.Y. They have lived in Westfield since 1958.

A native of Velke Lezare in the Slovak Republic, Dr. Kuna holds a Ph.D. in biology from New York University. He has had distinguished careers in science, banking, education and business and is active in the field of theoretical science.

Originally from Paterson, Mrs. Kuna has been and continues to be the coordinator of family activities. She also is a member of the Woman's Club of Westfield, a book discussion

group and the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rahway.

The couple have two sons, Robert Kuna, Ph.D., DABT and his wife, Jessica, of Denville and Samuel T. Kuna, M.D. of Philadelphia, Pa. Their grandchildren and their spouses are Robert Kuna, Jr. and his wife, Linda, of Novi, Mich. and Beth and her husband, Tim O'Connor, of Lawrenceville. The Kunas also have three great-grandchildren, Aeryk, Robbie and Collin, and two on the way.

### Rutgers Visitor to Give Talk to Garden Club

WESTFIELD – Dr. Bruce Crawford, director of Rutgers Gardens, will speak on "Wild Flowers and Native Plants" at the regular meeting of the Garden Club of Westfield at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

This year, the Garden Club is celebrating the memory of Tina Coffey, a member who 50 years ago directed the first "Wildflower Garden" at Rutgers.

In 2003, while serving as president of the Garden Club of New Jersey, Westfield club member Ruth Paul oversaw creation of the "Rutgers Native Plants Garden."

These gardens enhance the outdoor classroom environment at Rutgers and reflect the need to preserve and protect New Jersey's wildflowers and native plants for future generations.

The club welcomes guests to share this milestone. The Garden Club of Westfield is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., the Central Atlantic Region and the Garden Club of New Jersey Inc., District V.

## P.E.O. Installs Officer Slate; Awaits Annual Convention

WESTFIELD – P.E.O. Chapter U of Westfield installed its new officers on March 9 at the home of Lee Mumford of Basking Ridge. A philanthropic and educational organization, P.E.O. is dedicated to promoting educational opportunities for women.

Westfield resident and past chapter president Kathy Storcks named Midge Hogan of Warren as president.

Also installed were Mrs. Mumford, vice president; Marge McCormick of Westfield, treasurer; Cindy McCracken of Warren, recording secretary; Betty Evans of

Mountainside, corresponding secretary; Charlotte Broadwell of Westfield, chaplain, and Sue Miller of Basking Ridge as guard.

The 65th annual convention of the New Jersey State Chapter P.E.O. Sisterhood will take place Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28, at the Sheraton at Woodbridge Place in Iselin. Elizabeth Garrels, second vice president of the international chapter from Mount Pleasant, Iowa, will be the guest of honor. Chapter U delegates to the convention will be Cindy McCracken and Midge Hogan. Betty Evans will be an alternate.

P.E.O. owns and supports Cotey College, a two-year accredited liberal arts college for women in Missouri. The P.E.O. Sisterhood provides International Peace Scholarships for foreign graduate students to study in the United States or Canada, and loans for women who need assistance for education beyond high school.

It also provides grants to women in the United States and Canada who need to resume their educational studies later in life and substantial awards to select women pursuing graduate degrees. For more information, please visit [peointernational.org](http://peointernational.org).

### St. John's Baptist Reveals Services

SCOTCH PLAINS – St. John's Baptist Church will begin its Lenten services tomorrow, April 6, with a Good Friday service at 11 a.m. Seven speakers will present "The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross." This service will conclude with the serving of Holy Communion. All are invited to attend.

The annual sunrise service will begin Easter Sunday, April 8, at 6 a.m. at St. John's Baptist Church. The Reverend Clement Griffin, pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Scotch Plains, will join the service. The Hospitality Ministry will serve the annual breakfast at 7:15 a.m.

The Sunday Church School at St. John's Baptist will present its "Annual Easter Program" at 8:15 a.m. The Reverend Kelmo Porter, Jr., pastor of St. John's Baptist Church, will deliver the special Easter morning sermon at the 10 a.m. service.

St. John's Baptist Church is located at 2387 Morse Avenue in Scotch Plains. The public is invited to each service. For more information, please call (908) 232-6972.



Eugene Robert Melvin, III and Miss Abigail Wodehouse Franks

## Miss Abigail Franks To Wed Eugene Melvin, III

Mrs. Pamela Franks of Watchung and George Franks of Bethesda, Md. have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Abigail Wodehouse Franks, to Eugene Robert Melvin, III. He is the son of Karen and Pat Lello of Dupont, Pa. and the late Eugene Melvin, Jr.

The bride-to-be is the granddaughter of Mrs. Evelyn Waterhouse of Point Pleasant and the late Dick Waterhouse and Mrs. Betty Franks-Robin of Bradenton, Fla. and the late

George Franks.

The future bridegroom is the grandson of Maryann and Bob Marsh of Dupont, Pa. and Mrs. Betty Melvin of Pittston, Pa. and the late Eugene Melvin, Sr.

Miss Franks grew up in Scotch Plains and is a 2001 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications in 2005 from Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pa., where she was a member of the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority. She is employed with North Jersey Media Group in Hackensack as a marketing program coordinator.

Raised in Dupont, Pa., Mr. Melvin is a 2000 graduate of Pittston Area High School in Pittston, Pa. and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History in 2004 from Lycoming College. He also holds a Master of Science degree in Education and is employed at Morris Hills High School in Rockaway as a social studies teacher.

The couple began dating while she was in her junior year at Lycoming College and he was in his senior year. An April 2008 wedding is planned.

### VOTF to Present Program at FUMC


WESTFIELD – The Reverend Pat Connor of the Divine Word Missionaries will speak on "Birth Control, Conscience and Holy Communion" on Thursday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield.

Voice of the Faithful's (VOTF) Union County Affiliate will host this presentation. Reverend Connor will address the formation of conscience, artificial birth control, Catholics who practice artificial birth control and the reception of the Eucharist.


Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted. The church is located at East Broad Street and North Avenue, diagonally across from the Lord & Taylor store.

To access the church parking lot, turn off East Broad Street onto Prospect Street and take the first left onto Ferris Place. The church lot is located on the left, opposite the Westfield Area "Y." For directions, please visit [fumcwestfield.org/about/directions.htm](http://fumcwestfield.org/about/directions.htm).

The mission of VOTF is supporting survivors of abuse as well as priests of integrity and championing structural renewal within the church. For updates, please visit [votfnj.org/](http://votfnj.org/).




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<b>Chester</b> 120 US Hwy. 206 South ...908-879-5352	<b>Freehold</b> 3585 Hwy. 9 & South St. ...732-294-8660	<b>Neptune</b> 2200 Hwy. 66 & Roller Rd. .732-775-8653	<b>Rochelle Park</b> 220 West Passaic St. ....201-843-4946	<b>We Accept:</b>     
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## Calvary Lutheran to Offer Services Leading to Easter

CRANFORD – The Calvary Lutheran Church, located at 108 Eastman Street in Cranford, will conclude the season of Lent and celebrate the arrival of Easter with services this week. All are invited.

The Reverend Carol Lindsay will lead worship and preach at all services. Music will be provided under the leadership of F. Paul Dickey, director of music and organist.

A Maundy Thursday service will be offered at 7:30 p.m. tonight, April 5. Absolution, the symbolic washing of feet and Holy Communion all will be part of the service. This service also will include the stripping of the church altar in preparation for Good Friday. Soprano Mellisa Toddings of Cranford will be featured.

The solemnity of Good Friday will be observed at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow, April 6, with a Tenebrae Service of shadows and darkness. The church's Calvary Choir will provide music.

Easter will be celebrated on Sunday, April 8, with Festival Services of Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Each service will offer a full liturgy with seasonal music and favorite Easter hymns presented by the Calvary Choir and a brass quartet. The quartet will consist of trumpeters Sean Garnhart of Westfield and Christopher Nelson of Scotch Plains, along with trombonists Andrew Maturo and Michael Bither, both of Cranford.

Calvary Lutheran Church, a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has served the Cranford-Westfield area and surrounding communities for 78 years.



REVOLUTIONARY...Eagle Scout Patrick McCabe, a Westfield High School senior, receives a certificate from the West Fields chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution at the organization's annual dinner at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield last Wednesday. The chapter nominated Patrick for the Eagle Scout Scholarship New Jersey state competition. Pictured above, from left to right, are: Patrick, George Gross, chapter liaison to the Boy Scouts, and Warren Fristensky, chapter president.

## Volunteers Invited to Help With Fanwood Cleanup

FANWOOD – Area residents are invited to participate in Fanwood's 18th Annual Clean Communities Day on Saturday, April 21, as part of the community's observance of Earth Day.

Grant money was made available for the event through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Individual volunteers of all ages, as well as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, interested organizations and family groups, are invited to assemble at 8:30 a.m. by the Millennium Clock at the south side parking lot of the Fanwood train station.

Before the work begins, Chairman Clint Dickson, director of Fanwood Public Works, will give a short briefing. Earth Day T-shirts, work gloves, pick-up devices and plastic bags will be distributed.

This year's giveaways include a travel mug for adults and a trimark highlighter for children. Joanne Gemenden, Union County recycling coordinator, will provide participat-

ing youngsters with additional treats.

Each Earth Day participant will receive a coupon for a slice of pizza from the South Street Cafe. The coupon may only be redeemed on April 21.

The approximate 100 expected volunteers, that usually includes Fanwood officials, will be organized into teams with a leader and then transported by the department of public works employees to one of 13 locations designated for cleanup.

These include Forest Road Park, LaGrande Park, the Carriage House Park, Borough Hall, the Fanwood Memorial Library and the municipal parking areas, as well as the area around the railroad tracks. At no cost to the Borough of Fanwood, NJ Transit will provide two flagmen to ensure security for those assigned to this area. In addition, members of the Fanwood Lions Club will pick up litter along Fanwood's stretch of South Avenue as part of the club's involvement in the Adopt-a-Highway program.



BUNNY LOVE...The Reverend Lois Schembs, a member of the Westfield Lions Club, is pictured in a bunny suit with an attendee from last year's Easter Egg Hunt. This year's event will be held on Saturday, April 7, at 1 p.m. at Mindowaskin Park in Westfield. Participants are asked to assemble by 12:45 p.m.

## Lions Easter Egg Hunt Set Saturday at Mindowaskin

WESTFIELD – The Lions Club of Westfield will hold its 72nd annual Easter Egg Hunt in Mindowaskin Park this Saturday, April 7, for children up to age seven. There also will be an area set aside for toddlers to participate.

Participants and their parents are asked to assemble in the park by 12:45 p.m., as the hunt will start precisely at 1 p.m., weather permitting. The park is located on East Broad Street in Westfield.

More than 1,200 plastic eggs will be hidden in the area around the gazebo. Immediately after the hunt, complimentary plastic bags containing gourmet jellybeans will be distributed to the children.

In addition, several of the Easter eggs will be specially marked so that those who find them may receive a small prize from one of the merchants in town. Those who find "prize-winning" eggs are asked to bring them to the designated redemption table after the hunt, in order to receive a coupon good for that prize at the store.

Between noon and 12:45 p.m., and after the hunt, the Easter Bunny will be available for pictures with the children. In exchange for a \$3 donation to Lions charities, each participant will receive a framed photograph.

In the event of poor weather conditions, there will not be a rain date. Instead, the Lions will hand out jellybeans and plastic eggs under the gazebo, as well as having the

Easter Bunny there for photographs.

The Lions Club extends its appreciation to Westfield Police Chief John Parizeau and Town Administrator James Gildea for their assistance with the hunt.

The Westfield Lions Club is part of Lions Clubs International, which primarily is concerned with sight conservation and assistance to the visually and hearing impaired worldwide.

The Westfield Lions Club would like to hear from anyone who has pictures from the early years of the Easter egg hunt, which started in 1936. Individuals may contact the club at P.O. Box 572, Westfield, N.J. 07091.

### Brunch to Acquaint Attendees With JCC

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey will hold a New and Prospective Member Brunch on Sunday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to noon.

This free brunch will offer attendees the opportunity to get acquainted with the JCC's facilities and programs. Both new JCC members and anyone interested in learning more about the JCC are welcome to attend this event.

The JCC early childhood director will be available to discuss Parent and Toddler, Preschool, Full-Day Kindergarten and Enrichment classes. Other JCC board members and staff also will be on hand to provide information on additional JCC programs and departments.

Responses are requested. To respond or for further information, please contact Marla Itzkin, JCC membership director, at (908) 889-8800, extension no. 236, or mitzkin@jccnj.org. The JCC of Central New Jersey is located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. Financial assistance is available for membership and various programs.

### Clarification

An announcement of the engagement of Hanina M. Rawnicki and Colin P. Osborn that appeared in last week's edition of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* omitted that Mr. Osborn is a graduate of Penn State University, University Park campus. We regret the error.

## 'Festival of Weddings' Event To Benefit Scholarship Fund

SCOTCH PLAINS – The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains invites all to attend its fashion show-luncheon entitled "A Festival of Weddings" on Sunday, April 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The event will benefit the club's scholarship fund, which provides scholarships for young women in the local communities. It will take place at the Shackamaxon Country Club on Shackamaxon Drive in Scotch Plains.

Miss New Jersey Georgine DiMaria will model wedding gowns provided by Saks Fifth Avenue in Short Hills. Adorning the banquet hall will be a group of antique bridal gowns on mannequins, all loaned by the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood. The society operates the historic Osborn Cannonball House at 1840 Front Street in Scotch Plains as a museum.

The show itself will feature fashions of today from ceremony to celebration and will reflect four distinctly different wedding styles, from beach to traditional. A classical string quartet, The Ms. Ensemble of the Woodland Quartet, will provide musical accompaniment.

This group includes Luba Schiabe, violin; Debra Biderman, first violin; Mariana Webster, first viola, and Peggy Tristram, cello, and has performed at many weddings in the past.

Other contributions will be bridal bouquets from Apple Blossom Florist in Scotch Plains; bridesmaid and mother of the bride gowns from Mademoiselle of Westfield; tuxedos from Cozy Formalwear, also of Westfield,

and fashions for wedding guests provided by Lord & Taylor of Westfield. Lord & Taylor also will provide makeup services for the models.

Additionally, the fashion show-luncheon will feature a 50/50 drawing, Select-a-Gift baskets and a silent auction. All proceeds from the event will go directly into the scholarship fund. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased by calling Ginger Rachko at (908) 889-4195.

### Egg Hunt and Contests On Tap This Saturday

FANWOOD – The Borough of Fanwood will hold its Annual Egg Hunt this Saturday, April 7, at 10 a.m. at Forest Road Park on Forest Road in Fanwood. All children age 10 and under are invited to meet the Easter Bunny and participate in the festivities.

More than 1,000 eggs filled with goodies will be scattered around the playground area for hunters to find, and hundreds of prizes will be handed out. Children also will have an opportunity to enter various contests to win additional prizes.

Contests will include "guess the number of jellybeans;" "guess the number of chocolate eggs;" an egg-decorating contest in which participants bring their own decorated egg to enter and a bunny-drawing contest in which children enter their own bunny drawing. For more details, please access [visitfanwood.com/recreation](http://visitfanwood.com/recreation) or call the Fanwood Recreation Department at (908) 370-7092.



CREATIVE ARTS...The Woman's Club of Westfield's Arts Creative Department, chaired by Gloria Abitante, met recently at the Masonic Lodge in Westfield to make Easter wreaths, a project led by Marjorie Wiseman. Arts Creative plans a project each month that is created and completed in one session. The projects range from decorative pins to glass candleholders, terrariums and floral creations. Nita McHugh provided this meeting's refreshments.

## Fanwood Recreation Plans Open House This Saturday

FANWOOD – The Fanwood Recreation Department will hold its first ever open house on Saturday, April 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Forest Road Park building immediately after the Fanwood egg hunt to highlight the department's spring and summer programs. Instructors for the spring programs will answer questions on "Travelin' Tumblers," "Taekwondo," "Luv 2 Scrapbook," "Comic Book Illustration," "Tai Chi," "Scrapbook Craze" and "Floral Design."

Coaches and counselors from the also will be there to discuss summer offerings like Fanwood Recreation Summer Park Program; Fanwood Baseball Camp; Raider Basketball Camp; Fanwood Soccer Camp; Fanwood Street Hockey Clinic; Sports Squirts; Multi Sports Camp and iCamp.

A free demonstration class of Taekwondo (for kindergarten to grade 8) will be held from 11 a.m. to noon, while a free Tai Chi class (for adults) will be featured from 1 to 2 p.m. Also, a free adult yoga class will be available on Wednesday, April 11, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Forest Road Park building.

Some instructors, coaches and counselors may not be there for the entire open house. For more information, please e-mail [bob@visitfanwood.com](mailto:bob@visitfanwood.com) or call the Fanwood Recreation Department at (908) 370-7092.

### Furniture Assist Helps Families in Need

WESTFIELD – Furniture Assist, an organization that has helped 75 to 100 families per month for more than a year, accepts donations of furniture and household items that are in good condition and makes these items available free of charge to individuals and families in need.

The brainchild of Jill Brown of Westfield and Dawson Yeomans of Union, Furniture Assist also has helped battered spouses and disaster victims set up new living arrangements. Furniture Assist works with more than 60 area social service organizations and churches that refer people in need.

Furniture Assist looks for items that would be needed in a small apartment, such as beds, couches, chairs, table and chairs, small appliances, area rugs, bedding and towels, kitchen utensils, clothing, medical items (walkers, crutches) and more.

Anyone who has furniture items to donate can drop them off at the self-storage facility used for warehousing items at 404 North 14th Street in Kenilworth. Items may be dropped off on Sundays between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. To find out more, please e-mail [furnitureassist@westfieldpc.org](mailto:furnitureassist@westfieldpc.org). Volunteers are always needed.



The Easter message of "New Life" means more than eggs and spring flowers. Come to church this Easter Sunday, and find out why!

**Calvary Lutheran Church**  
108 Eastman St., Cranford, NJ • (908) 276-2418  
[www.calvarylutherancranford.com](http://www.calvarylutherancranford.com)

<b>Maundy Thursday</b> April 5, 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion	<b>Easter Sunday</b> April 8, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Festival Services of Holy Communion
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**Good Friday**  
April 6, 7:30 p.m.  
Service of Tenebrae

*The Rev. Carol A. Lindsay, Pastor • F. Paul Dickey, Director of Music*

*Celebrate Easter at*  
**First Congregational Church**

**Maundy Thursday**  
April 5, 7:30 p.m.  
Service of Scripture, hymns and Holy Communion

**Good Friday**  
April 6, 7:30 p.m.  
Service of Meditation and Reflection in Patton Auditorium

**Easter Sunday**  
April 8  
Worship Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
Music for organ and brass by Handel, Widor and Mascagni  
Meredith Hoffmann-Thomson, soloist  
One-room schoolhouse and infant care at both services  
Coffee hour at 10 a.m.

Visitors are Always Welcome!

*First Congregational Church*

Member, the United Church of Christ. The sanctuary is accessible by a wheelchair ramp. Infrared listening devices are available for the hearing impaired.

**125 Elmer Street, Westfield, NJ 07090**  
**(908) 233-2494** [www.fccofwestfield.org](http://www.fccofwestfield.org)

*Celebrate Easter*

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
Thursday, April 5  
**Maundy Thursday Service at 8:00 p.m.**  
Choral Eucharist with Foot Washing,  
Stripping of the Altars & Watch

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
Friday, April 6  
**Good Friday Service at 12:00 P.M.**  
with Homily & St. Paul's Parish Choir  
**Children's Good Friday Service at 3:30 P.M.**

**THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER**  
Saturday, April 7  
**Holy Baptism & Holy Eucharist at 8:00 P.M.**

**EASTER DAY**  
Sunday, April 8  
**Holy Eucharist (Rite I) at 7:45 A.M.**  
**Children's Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.**  
with Children's Choirs, Members of The Parish Choir, Brass & Percussion

**Holy Eucharist (Rite II) at 11:15 A.M.**  
with Sermon by the Rector,  
The St. Paul's Parish and Treble Choirs,  
Brass Quintet & Percussion

The Rev'd Andrew C. Hamersley, *rector*  
**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
414 East Broad Street - Westfield, New Jersey  
Information: 908-232-8506, EXT. 10

*at St. Paul's*

**Holy Week**  
**FIRST BAPTIST**  
WESTFIELD

**Maundy Thursday**  
April 5, 7:30 p.m.  
*An intimate service of the Lord's Supper*

**Good Friday**  
April 6, 12:00-3:00 p.m.  
*Sanctuary open for meditation*

**Easter Sunday, April 8**  
*Continental Breakfast 9 a.m.*  
**Celebration of the Resurrection,**  
**with communion 10:15 a.m.**  
*Kids' Easter Egg Hunt 11 a.m.*

(Childcare provided Thurs/Sunday)  
179 Elm St., Westfield  
908-233-2278/[www.fbcwestfield.org](http://www.fbcwestfield.org)



## Harold E. Strohl, 88, Active Mason; Former Manager With Credit Union

Harold E. Strohl, 88, of Westfield died on Sunday, April 1, at his home. Born in Noxen, Pa., he had lived in Noxen before moving to Westfield 60 years ago.

Mr. Strohl had been employed as manager with the East Orange Employees Credit Union prior to retiring. Earlier, he was employed as a production manager with CO2 FyrFyter in Newark.

A member and past deacon of the First Baptist Church of Westfield, Mr. Strohl also was active with the Masons. He was a member of Atlas Pythagoras Lodge No. 10 Free and Accepted Masons in Westfield for more than 50 years, serving as lodge secretary for the past 15 years.

Surviving are his wife, Ruth Leiter Strohl; his daughter, Sharon L. Helsby, and her husband, Keith, of Monroe Township; two sisters, Ruth Young of Denver, Colo., and Nancy Bidwell of Binghamton, N.Y.; two grandsons, Ken Helsby and his wife, Beth, and Kevin Helsby and his wife, Stephanie, and four great-grandchildren, Matthew, Kara, J.C. and Mallorie.

Masonic services were held on Tuesday, April 3, at the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue in Fanwood. A memorial service will be

held at the First Baptist Church of Westfield at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Charity Fund of Atlas Pythagoras Lodge, 1011 Central Avenue, Westfield, N.J. 07090.

April 5, 2007

### Arthur Nordstrom, 74

Arthur Douglas Nordstrom, 74, of Westfield died on Sunday, April 1, at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in Cranford, he moved to Westfield in 1965.

Mr. Nordstrom had been employed with A&R Services of Kenilworth from 1961 until retiring in 1988.

Surviving are his wife, Ruth Nordstrom; four children, Nancy Paterson, Douglas and Michael Lutter and Kathy Vermillion; a brother, Donald Nordstrom; two sisters, Jean Smith and Marion Cymbaluk; 11 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. today, Thursday, April 5, at Hollywood Memorial Park in Union.

Arrangements are by the Dooley Funeral Home, 218 West North Avenue in Cranford.

Memorial donations may be made to Deborah Hospital.

April 5, 2007

## WF Rescue Squad Continues Its Annual Fund Drive

WESTFIELD – As its 2007 fund drive continues, the Westfield Rescue Squad asks all Westfield residents to support the squad with a donation or request.

Reid Edles, rescue squad president, said March kicked off the one time of the year that the squad looks to all Westfielders to donate money to provide for its ongoing operation. The squad receives no tax funds from the Town of Westfield or the state; it relies solely on donations.

Mr. Edles said the squad needed every person's help, either through a

contribution or volunteering their time, for the squad to be able to provide emergency medical services to the town.

He said, "You should make a donation to the Westfield Rescue Squad because the squad provides service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, free of charge to the Town of Westfield. It is expensive to maintain emergency medical services.

"The emergency medical equipment, the three ambulances that cost in excess of \$130,000 each, fully equipped, the squad's building and the extensive training we receive all have become very expensive in recent years. We need the financial support of every person in Westfield in order to continue providing the high level of service that the people of Westfield have come to expect over the past 56 years."

The squad actively seeks volunteers to train as Emergency Medical Technicians or dispatchers. Mr. Edles said, "We are grateful for the many ways the community of Westfield supports the squad, and [we] want to say thank you in advance to the people of Westfield for their generosity."

The Westfield Rescue Squad is an all-volunteer organization, and one of the few resident squads in the state. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to: Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad, 335 Watterson Street, Westfield, N.J. 07090. To learn more about volunteering with the squad, call (908) 233-2500.



**BUILDING HEART...**Rahway Hospital Foundation Chairman Christine Kline and Kirk Tice, RWJUH Rahway president, watch as Helen Pearce, coordinator of Ambulatory Cardiac Services, gets the demolition underway for the new Nicholas Quadrel Healthy Heart and Pulmonary Center, thanks to the generosity of the Nicholas and Catherine Quadrel family.

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## — Obituaries —

### Frank E. Urner, 95, Market Reporter; D-Day Veteran Earned Purple Heart

Frank E. Urner, 95, of Gettysburg, Pa. died on Thursday, March 22, 2007, at the Golden Living Center in Gettysburg.

Born in 1912 in Fanwood, N.J., he was the son of the late Frank A. and Zella Urner. He is survived by Virginia Urner, his wife of 70 years; two daughters, Lynne Baxter of Gettysburg and Robin Whitebay of Highland, N.Y., and one son, Frank A. Urner of Glendora, Calif. A sister, Charlotte Pamplin, predeceased him.

Mr. Urner received a degree in agriculture in 1934 from Rutgers University, where he was a member of Theta Chi fraternity.

He served in the Army during World War II. Private First Class Urner, Company E, 8th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Division, was in the first wave to land on Utah Beach on D-Day. Mr. Urner was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries received during the hedgerow fighting prior to the capture of Cherbourg.

His career was spent as a market reporter for Urner Barry Publications, a family-owned business established

in 1858. Mr. Urner was a highly regarded analyst of the wholesale fruit and vegetable, live poultry and egg markets from 1934 until his retirement in 1974. During this time he resided in Westfield and Mountainside, N.J., where he was a member of the Mountainside Union Chapel.

Following retirement, he resided first in Liberty, Me., where he was a member of the South Liberty Baptist Church, and then in Carlisle, Pa., where he was a member of the Community Baptist Church, before moving to Gettysburg in 1994.

During his retirement years he was a well-respected dealer in early American antiques, doing business under the name of Mole Hill Antiques.

No services are planned. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1700, Chicago, Ill. 60601 or to one's local chapter. For more information, please call (800) 272-3900.

April 5, 2007

### Madeline R. Carty, 61, Underwriter; Was Volunteer Computer Instructor

Madeline R. Carty, 61, of Mountainside died on Sunday, April 1, at her residence.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she lived in Mountainside since 1998, coming from Westfield and Long Island, N.Y.

Mrs. Carty graduated from Kean College cum laude with a business degree.

She worked as an underwriter for CNA Insurance in New York City and as an office manager for Danley Tool & Die in Union.

Mrs. Carty also was a volunteer computer instructor at St. Joseph's in Elizabeth.

Surviving are her husband, Brian Carty; daughters Melissa and Jill Carty and Leslie Checkman (Michael); brothers Brian (Geri),

John (Moon) and Dennis (Mary Jo) Molloy and sisters Noreen Delaney, Patricia Bradley (Herb), Marie Coulter (Paul), Eileen Reardon (Gerard) and Joan McCarthy (Denis). She also is survived by numerous loving nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated yesterday, Wednesday, April 4, at the Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church in Mountainside.

Arrangements were by the Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the National Cancer Institute, Building 31, Room 11A16, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20891 would be appreciated.

April 5, 2007

## Community/Area News

### Home Health Aide Training Program Starts April 30

COUNTY – The Union County Division on Aging, in the Department of Human Services, has announced that the next Home Health Aide Training program will be held from April 30 through May 31. Training will be held at SAGE Eldercare, 290 Broad Street in Summit, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Upon completing the program, students will have the knowledge and skills required by the New Jersey State Board of Nursing to become certified home health aides.

To address the growing need for in-home care for the elderly and disabled, the Union County Home Care Consortium, established in 1986 by the Union County Department of Human Services, Division on Aging, was created to attract, train and retain home health aides to provide in-home services. The consortium is comprised of non-profit and public agencies that are committed to providing high quality home health services and dedicated to providing students with superior training in this important service area.

"Certified home health aides are the backbone of home care services that allow people to live indepen-

dently," said Freeholder Chairwoman Bette Jane Kowalski. "The freeholders support the consortium's highly regarded training program because it allows our elderly and disabled residents to remain in their homes and communities as long as possible."

Applicants must be 18 years of age, United States citizens or legal residents, and have the ability to read, write and speak English proficiently. They must be physically capable of participating in class work such as lifting, getting patients out of bed, giving bed baths, aiding transfers for those with limited mobility and other related patient care.

The \$75 registration fee includes the cost of the textbook and workbook. There also is a \$65 application fee payable to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing. A passport photograph is required to be attached to the application.

Since its establishment, the consortium has successfully trained more than 750 students, many of whom are still working in the healthcare field.

For more information about Home Health Aide training, call Donna Farrell, Union County Division on Aging, at (908) 527-4858.

### Jean Mathiasen, 92, Lifelong Volunteer; Was Especially Devoted to Children

Jean Mathiasen, 92, of Brookline, Mass. died on Sunday, March 25, 2007, after a long illness.

She was born in Westfield, "the day after World War I broke out," as she liked to remind people. Mrs. Mathiasen, the daughter of George and Agnes (Kattenhorn) Tunison, lived in Westfield for over 50 years and attended Westfield schools, graduating from Westfield High School.

In 1938 she married Harvey Mathiasen, also of Westfield. They lived in Westfield until the 1960s and again in the 1970s, eventually retiring to Cocoa Beach, Fla. Harvey Mathiasen died in 1998. In 2003, Mrs. Mathiasen moved to the Boston area to be nearer to her children.

Mrs. Mathiasen was a lifelong volunteer. While raising her own chil-

dren, she volunteered for many years at Westfield's Well Baby Station, among other community groups. During her retirement years in Florida, she volunteered with programs for at-risk girls and in local hospitals.

After her own children were grown, she indulged her lifelong love of children – all children – by becoming a teacher's aide in programs for pre-school youngsters.

She is survived by a son, Peter Mathiasen of Concord, Mass.; a daughter, Karen Mathiasen Schrage of Arlington, Mass.; a grandson, Thomas Mathiasen of Concord, Mass.; a step-grandson, Seth Schrage of Brookline, Mass.; and a niece, Gay DeNike Griffith of Pinhurst, N.C.

Her ashes will be interred at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield, where her husband's ashes rest.

April 5, 2007

### M. James Torta, 59, Was Family Man; Postal Clerk and U.S. Navy Veteran

M. James Torta, 59, of Cranford died on Friday, March 30, in Cranford.

Born in New Brunswick to Armano and Marian Gurel Torta, he had resided in Martinsville for most of his life before moving to Cranford one year ago.

He worked as a postal clerk for the United States Post Office, West Chestnut Street Branch in Union, for 34 years.

Mr. Torta was a United States Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, but lived his whole life in service to his wife and family. He will be most dearly missed.

Surviving are his loving wife of 35 years, Lorraine Torta; a son, James

Torta; two daughters, Kimberly Torta and Christine Cabrales and her husband, Peter; a granddaughter, Caitlin Cabrales; a brother, John Torta, and two sisters, Jean Novak and Marianne Torta.

Funeral services were held yesterday, Wednesday, April 4, at the Higgins Home for Funerals in Watchung. A Mass of Resurrection followed at the Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church in Martinsville. Interment took place at Holy Cross Cemetery in Basking Ridge.

Condolences may be sent to www.higginsfuneralhome.com.

April 5, 2007

### Cyril F. Dadd, 89, Outstanding Athlete; Earned All-State Honors in Three Sports

Cyril F. Dadd, 89, of Mountainside went to be with his Savior and Lord on Wednesday, March 28, 2007. He was married for 66 years to Grace N. Dadd, who also went to be with her Savior and Lord on January 2, 2007. Throughout his life he was devoted to the service of Christ and the gospel.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on February 17, 1918, he was the son of Robert and Ada Dadd. He graduated from Cranford High School in 1936 and was a longtime area resident.

Mr. Dadd was recognized as a Cranford High School Sports Hall of Fame athlete and received All State Honors in football, basketball and baseball. He was considered one of the best all-around athletes of his time.

Surviving are a daughter, Dorothy Henry of Scotland; two sons, Robert Dadd of Green Brook and Cyril N. Dadd of Boston, Mass.; seven grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held yesterday, Wednesday, April 4, at the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street

in Westfield. Burial followed at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

April 5, 2007

### James S. Pantano, 95

James Sebastian Pantano, 95, of Cranford died on Monday, April 2.

Born in Newark, Mr. Pantano had worked at Western Electric in Kearny and was a member of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Cranford.

His wife, Mildred D'Andrea Pantano, predeceased him.

Surviving are a son, Dr. James A. Pantano and his wife, Penny, of Emmaus, Pa.; a daughter, Candy Pantano of Garwood; three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 9:30 a.m. today, Thursday, April 5, at St. Michael's Church. Interment will take place at St. Stephen's Cemetery in Millburn.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Dooley Funeral Home, 218 West North Avenue in Cranford.

April 5, 2007

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**WHO LIVES IN A PINEAPPLE UNDER THE SEA?...Michele Van Allen, center, of Jack Branagan's Earth Matters was assisted by students Caitlyn Williams, left, as well as David and Alaina Jennings at the Deerfield School where they worked the controls during the slide show and presentation of "The Blue Planet." Also assisting Ms. Van Allen was her friend Boris, who, in a former life, had been a couch.**

## Deerfield Students Learn Why Planet Earth is Blue

By LINDA B. CONDRILLO  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

**MOUNTAINSIDE**—It may be hard to fathom, but did you know that some of the brightest lights can be seen at the bottom of the ocean? In the darkest part of the world, spectacular glowing creatures that make their own light, live nearly seven miles from the surface in some of the coldest waters on earth.

And did you also know that the water in the ocean today is the same water that's been on the earth since the ocean was formed close to four billion years ago — and that it covers an astonishing 71 percent of the earth's surface?

Those are just some of the "fun facts" which Michele Van Allen, of *Jack Branagan's Earth Matters*, presented to students at the Deerfield School on Monday evening, March 26.

Paid for by the New Jersey Clean Communities Grant, "The Blue Planet" show was hosted by the Mountainside PTA as part of the Parent Education series, chaired by Mrs. Marianne Jennings.

The environmentally conscious program both educated and entertained the audience on the importance of keeping the planet — and the earth's water supply — clean.

Playing the part of an oceanographer, and with the help of a 25 by 12 feet screen and overhead projectors, Ms. Allen produced an oversized shadow play, creating the illusion of an under-water diving expedition.

Boris, a six-foot long anatomically correct bull shark was pulled from the makeshift ocean to assist Ms. Van Allen. Citing the adage, "reduce, reuse, recycle," she noted that the foam creature was constructed out of discarded sofa cushions.

Ms. Van Allen reminded the children of the importance of recycling and, with the help of Boris, pointed out each of the three features, which distinguish fish from other undersea life. She said, "Technically speaking, a fish can only be called a fish if it has a vertebrate, scales and two sets of paired fins."



**RAFFLE WINNERS...**Tamaques School students shared lunch with children's author Dan Gutman during the school's annual Author Day. Mr. Gutman entertained the student body with stories from his life as an author and taught the students that, even after he had many rejection letters, he never stopped believing in his stories. Also shown, from left to right, are: back row, chairperson Lisa Blich, Tamaques school librarian Susan Locascio and chairpersons Kathie Caminiti, Bonnie Stewart and Kimberly Merz.



## Standardized Tests Cause More Harm Than Good

By ELENA TINFOW  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

This morning, when I checked my e-mail, I decided to look at the College Board website to see when I could check my SAT score, since I took the SAT on March 10.

Only a few days ago, I saw I could check on March 29. However, today it said I could not check until April 4. After I have spent all this time preparing and paying for this exam, I have to wait even longer to hear the results?

Many of my classmates have spent a lot of money and countless hours studying for the SAT, SAT II's, and the ACT, but what have they put in all this effort for?

When students must take standardized tests in order to get into colleges, is there more harm caused than good? With the stress large standardized tests bring to students, perhaps students are better off without them.

Students have enough to worry about without studying for standardized tests. Normal homework and tests for school can take up hours every night.

Additionally, students taking the SAT want to get into college, so they try to have a good amount of after-school activities. With clubs, sports, jobs, and schoolwork, how can students have time to study for hours for a test outside of school?

Also, the sheer number of standardized tests college-bound students

need to take is overwhelming. Harvard, the conventional dream school, requires the SAT or ACT with optional writing section and three SAT II's.

This means that the student must come in on at least three separate occasions to take tests, and this does not take into account that the student may wish to retake any of these exams.

In addition, students who wish to excel are most likely in AP or Advanced Placement classes. These classes can award students with receiving college credits for some classes, but only if they perform well on the AP exams.

These exams are administered in May, and there is a test for each AP class. Students who are ambitious often take these tests. On top of all the other standardized tests, should they have to take AP tests too?

The most industrious students wish to go to a good college. However, in order to go to college they often have to take a ridiculous amount of tests.

These could include the SAT, ACT, and SAT II. After students spend innumerable hours studying and preparing for these exams, is it really worth it? Perhaps if students had fewer tests, they could be less stressed and less tense when heading into the uncertain future of college.

Elena Tinfow, from Westfield, attends the Union County Magnet School.

## Comm. of Women Names Ball a Woman of Excellence

**WESTFIELD** — Barbara Ball, language arts supervisor for kindergarten to grade eight in the Westfield public schools, has been named a Woman of Excellence by the Union County Commission on Women.

She was selected as this year's honoree for education at the dinner held on March 23. Ms. Ball is one of 12 women representing different aspects of Union County life — law, government, business, education, volunteerism, etc.

A lifelong resident of Westfield, she is a product of the Westfield schools (Wilson School, Roosevelt Intermediate School and Westfield High School) and graduated from Rosemont College with a double major in English and French. She received a Master's degree in educational administration from Kean University.

Her professional career has been solely in Westfield, starting at Edison Intermediate School in 1967 as an English and French teacher. She was later promoted to the English department chairwoman. She also held the position of World Language department chairwoman before being named the 6 to 8 Language Arts Supervisor and then kindergarten to grade 8 supervisor.

Ms. Ball has served on numerous search committees in the school district, chairing a number of them. Her experience in educational hiring and that of her husband's in corporate hiring, prompted them to write two books together, "Killer Interviews," released by McGraw Hill in 1996,

and "Impact Hiring," released by Prentice-Hall in 2000.

Their two children, Jay and Katherine, are both graduates of Westfield High School and Brown University.

Ms. Ball said, "I am deeply committed to Westfield and have been pleased to have an active role in the community."

She has served as president of the Junior League of Elizabeth and of the Westfield Symphony Orchestra. She also has served on the boards of the Westfield Foundation and the Westfield United



Courtesy of Dave Rossi

Barbara Ball

Way, and was on the committee that created the Westfield 9-11 Memorial Park.

## MS Teacher Completes ASTRO Training

**MOUNTAINSIDE** — Pat Kobasa, a fourth grade teacher at Deerfield School in Mountainside, recently completed the Project ASTRO training and is currently a Project ASTRO teacher.

Project ASTRO is a program offered by the *New Jersey Astronomy Center for Education*, and is part of a national network of 13 Project ASTRO sites. The goal of Project ASTRO is to utilize the skills, resources and enthusiasm of volunteer astronomers to improve the way astronomy and science in general is taught in schools and to help teachers meet the New Jersey State Science Standards.



Linda B. Condrillo for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**JOINING FORCES...**Safety is number one in Mountainside. Standing in the front, from left to right, are Police Officer Allan Attanasio, Barry Warner from Mack Camera, Police Chief James Debbie, Alvin Lui and Principal Robert Burkhardt. Behind, from left to right, are Officers Andrew Huber, Richard Osieja and Thomas Murphy. The Police Force, Drug Alliance and the school participated in an Internet-Awareness Workshop at Deerfield School, where presenters Mr. Lui and Mr. Warner spoke to parents about keeping children safe online and demonstrated the latest Internet-monitoring product Sentry. Not shown is Corinne Moore of the Mountainside Drug Alliance.

## Mountainside Parents Get Internet-Safety Lesson

By LINDA B. CONDRILLO  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

**MOUNTAINSIDE** —Protecting students from harm has always been top priority in the Mountainside school district. After the tragedy at Columbine, elaborate security systems were installed at the Deerfield and Beechwood Schools, and monthly lockdown drills have become a way of life.

Principal Robert Burkhardt wants 100 percent safety, including in the district's technology department.

He got proof of his success at the Internet-safety workshop for parents last Thursday evening, when Alvin Lui, the invited speaker, was unable to penetrate the computer system's firewall, and was blocked from the popular social networking site, Myspace.com, where he planned to demonstrate how easy it can be for a stranger to enter without an invitation.

Fortunately, PowerPoint is not a prohibited program at the school, and the show was able to go on.

The interactive workshop began with the guest speaker polling the audience on their knowledge of common Internet terms, such as instant messaging, Myspace and buddy lists.

Mr. Lui was impressed with how fluent the parents were, noting most parents he educates aren't as informed.

Throughout the evening, Mr. Lui credited the television series, "To Catch a Predator," and the Internet watchdog group, "Perverter Justice."

The program chronicles the actions of volunteers posing as children under juvenile sounding screen names, as they enter public chat rooms. Invariably they get approached by someone pretending to be someone they're not. When the talk turns to sex, authorities are notified and sting operations go into place.

And that's a good scenario. Too often, children end up arranging a real-life meeting with someone who they consider to be an online friend, but who is, in fact, a predator. Many are raped, kidnapped or even murdered.

Mr. Lui said, "Parents should accept the fact that they (their children) will always be doing something you don't know about," and noted, "They will surpass your knowledge if you don't keep up with the latest trends."

Mr. Lui, who is a systems analyst, is also a partner with SearchHelp, a company that makes the Internet-monitoring software product Sentry. The parental-control product uses advanced technology to block and filter out online sexual predators, pornography and other inappropriate content, and is also capable of blocking and monitoring Myspace accounts.

Sentry allows parents to view everything their children are doing online in real time.

Barry Warner, a member of the New Jersey Juvenile Officer's Association and national sales manager for Mack Camera of Springfield, was also present at the program to demonstrate the product.

Mr. Warner sells the software, which retails for \$49.95, and noted, "All profits from the sale of Sentry go back to the township. In Mountainside, the profit will go back to the Mountainside Drug Alliance. In other towns it has gone to the PTA/PTO."

He also said, "All experts agree, prevention is key, and if we save one life, it makes it all worthwhile."

Both presenters noted that while the product is a helpful tool, it shouldn't be the "end all" to protecting children from the dangers of the Internet. Mr. Warner said, "It's about being informed. Software is only a piece of it." He added, "Don't scare, make aware."

Mr. Lui added, "There will always be a way around technology, and there is no substitute for parents communicating with their children."

Mr. Lui also said taking children's computer privileges away should never be used as punishment, even if someone unfamiliar approaches them to them online.

Mr. Lui noted, "That will only discourage them from being honest with you. What parents don't understand is that the

computer is not just a tool for doing research or sending e-mail. To many pre-teens and teens, the computer world is their life.

"For example, the number of friends that they have in their MySpace account is a sign of social status; the more friends they have, the more popular they are. Parents need to accept the fact that the child's online world and reputation are just as important to them as being pretty, popular or athletic."

"Instant messenger, social networking sites," he added, "and text messaging are just as important to them as the telephone was for parents during their teenage days."

"Taking away their computer at home won't prevent them from logging in from a friend's house, library, Internet café, or a host of wireless devices. The idea isn't to take away their computer time, but to empower them to be smart, cautious, and protect themselves."

Mr. Lui said the most important strategy for parents is that they limit their child's time online, unless it is school related. He said, "If you limit their time, they will spend what little time they have doing things that are important to them: downloading music, e-mailing friends, doing research, etc. They get into trouble when they have unlimited amount of time to linger and let themselves be open to predators."

Mr. Lui added, "There's a grooming process these predators undertake. They're successful because they are experts at relating to children. The grooming process takes time and if the child isn't on there long enough to be 'groomed,' that is another layer of protection."

For older children who may be in high school, monitoring computer activities can be more difficult. Mr. Lui noted, "It's kind of hard to prevent a kid with a laptop from using it in his bedroom."

Mr. Lui cited the book "To Catch a Predator: Protecting Your Kids from Online Enemies Already in Your Home" by Chris Hansen, and retold a chilling story about a teenage boy who started chatting online with a teenage girl, who was actually a predator.

The two met in a regional chat room and exchanged numerous e-mails, shared photos and talked about homework and music.

After a time, they decided to meet at a local mall. When the teen arrived, a man approached him in his 20s, claiming to be the older brother of the girl he had planned to meet.

The older man told the boy he wanted to make sure that the online friend wasn't a predator himself, and told him that his sister — the girl he thought he was meeting — was waiting in the family van for him. The young man followed him into the parking lot, got in the van and was sexually assaulted.

Mr. Lui suggested parents use this scenario to open up the lines of discussion. Ask your child, "What mistakes did the young man make?" While he did agree to meet the online friend in a public place, he made the mistake of going there alone. And a bigger mistake by getting into the car of someone he did not know.

Parents can obtain a complete list of tips and guidelines from the presentation and a modified version of the PowerPoint presentation to go through with their children by e-mailing Mr. Lui at [StoppingOnlinePredators@gmail.com](mailto:StoppingOnlinePredators@gmail.com).

In closing, Mr. Lui said, "There is nothing, absolutely nothing, worse than when a child feels that the parents don't care and/or the child has 100 percent freedom to do as they please. That is when the predators, pedophiles and opportunists have the most power, because the child is left to their own devices."

The bottom line: Caring = Listening. It's a simple formula — smart parents should catch on in real time.

*Suggested reading/additional resources: "To Catch a Predator: Protecting Your Kids from Online Enemies Already in Your Home by Chris Hansen"; "MySpace Unraveled: What it is and how to use it safely" by Larry Magid and Anne Collier; [searchhelp.com](http://searchhelp.com); [pervertedjustice.com/guide/](http://pervertedjustice.com/guide/).*

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## Teachers Invited to Learn About WILD School Sites

MOUNTAINSIDE—Union County offers a workshop about schoolyard habitat enhancement entitled “WILD School Sites” for teachers in kindergarten to grade 12 on Thursday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainide.

Teachers, students and wildlife benefit from habitat improvement. These projects can sensitize students to the needs of wildlife, and enable them to make a small difference right where they live to benefit local species.

Having an outdoor classroom enables teachers to take field trips without leaving school. The stewardship skills that students develop for their outdoor classroom may reflect in greater ownership and care for the entire school.

Participants in the WILD School Sites teacher training workshop will receive six New Jersey Department of Education professional development credits as well as a copy of the book “Homes for Wildlife: A Planning Guide for Habitat Enhancement on School Grounds,” the WILD School Sites booklet, grant information, landscaping information and ideas for curriculum integration.

Pre-registration is required. The fee for this teacher-training workshop is \$20 per person. Light morning refreshments will be provided, but those who attend should bring a lunch.

To register for the April 12 workshop or for information about Trailside’s spring adult workshops and teacher training programs, call (908) 789-3670 or visit ucnj.org/trailside.

## April Musical Club Concert Features Bach, Mendelssohn

WESTFIELD – The April performance of the Musical Club of Westfield will be held on Wednesday, April 11, at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church located at 170 Elm Street in Westfield.

Included on the program will be vocal and instrumental music. Clarinetist George Toenes, accompanied by pianist Beverly Thompson Shea, will perform Fantasia and Rondo by Carl Maria von Weber and Variations

### Library Announces

#### Author Book Signing

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Scotch Plains Public Library, located at 1927 Bartle Avenue, will host a book signing for author Sandra DiBella Donnell on Friday, April 20, at 1 p.m. as part of “April is Author Month.”

A graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and Cumberland University, Ms. Donnell is the author of “Myrtle Goes to the Grand Old Lopy,” a children’s book about a turtle’s desire to make her name as a country music singer.

The book is a selection of Wilson Books From Birth, a program in association with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and the Governor’s Books From Birth Foundation, designed to promote reading. The program provides every child in Wilson County, Tenn. under the age of five with a new, age-appropriate hardcover book each month.

Married with two children and two grandchildren, Ms. Donnell has worked as an executive director on TN Home Health and as a radio show host. She was selected to serve on the Governor of Tennessee’s Board of Parks and Recreation and named a winner of 100 Women of Cumberland University, as well as being listed in “Who’s Who in Politics.” For more details, please call (908) 322-5007.

**More Education  
On Page 22**

## What's Happening? EASTER FLOWER HEADQUARTERS

It's time to bring the family out to the Williams' Great Easter Egg Hunt, this Saturday at 2 pm. There will be over 4000 eggs filled with candy & toys. There is no charge for the Hunt. Special Guest appearance by the Easter Bunny. The Egg Hunt is only for Children 10 and under. Please arrive at least 30 minutes early since the Hunt starts at exactly 2pm.

While your here, why not choose an Easter flower or three? We have hundreds of pots of orchids, stephanotis, freesia, tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, Easter lilies, hydrangea, martha washington geraniums and about 307 other things in bloom.

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ENTOMBED...Children in Monica Gundrum's first-grade class at Tamaques School recently created their own King Tut tombs with burial masks. King Tut is currently on exhibit in Philadelphia.

## Watch. Hills Names FW's Lee Teacher of the Year

FANWOOD – Watchung Hills Regional High School has selected Fanwood resident Wayne Lee as Teacher of the Year for 2006-2007.

The long-time English teacher began teaching at the school in 1969. He has served under six superintendents and taught a wide spectrum of required, as well as, elective courses, including American literature and journalism.

He said one of the highlights of his teaching career was helping develop the visual image course that helps students learn how to “read a film,” view it critically and appreciate it as a medium of communication.



Courtesy of Eleanor Mathews  
Fanwood resident Wayne Lee is Watchung Hills' Teacher of the Year.

### Photos Sought For Book On Borough History

MOUNTAINSIDE – The Mountainide Historic Preservation Committee asks borough citizens to submit pictures for inclusion in a book being written tracking local history since 1945.

“We are looking for pictures on all aspects of life in town, but they must have identification so that appropriate and accurate captions can be prepared,” Committee Chairman Scott Daniels said. He noted an earlier request resulted in a group of photographs coming in with little or no identification.

Author Connie McNamara is part way through the text and is working with a designer on how the book might look when it is published. “Before we make our final layout decisions we want to make sure we’ve explored all illustration options,” she said.

Ms. McNamara cautions that not all the material received may make it into the book, but does not want this to discourage anyone. “If you think we should consider your contributions, by all means let us see them,” she said.

All materials may be forwarded to: Mountainide Historic Preservation Committee, 1385 Route 22, Mountainide, N.J. 07092.



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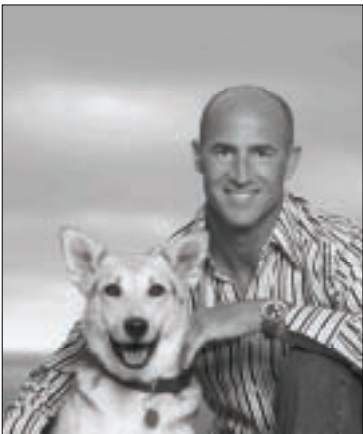
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## Dornfeld of Westfield Named Counsel in Health Law

ROSELAND — Lani Dornfeld of Westfield has been named counsel in WolfBlock’s Health Law practice group in the Roseland office.

Mrs. Dornfeld, who has been with the firm for more than seven years, represents clients in matters involving health law, hospital law and corporate practice. Prior to her legal career, Mrs. Dornfeld devoted 12 years to managing dental practices, where her involvement also included the formation and start-up of new dental offices and sale of dental practices.

Mrs. Dornfeld provides legal counsel to hospitals, home health agencies, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other institutional clients. She also represents individual and group physicians and dentists.

Mrs. Dornfeld writes and lectures on health law legal issues. She is a member of the New Jersey and Florida Bars and holds memberships in the New Jersey State Bar Association, American Bar Association and American Health Lawyers Association.

She is a graduate of Seton Hall University School of Law and earned her undergraduate degree from

Rutgers University.

Ms. Dornfeld and her husband, Dr. Gary Dornfeld, a dentist with practices in East Brunswick and Brick, are long-time Westfield residents. They have two children, Benjamin and Mitchell, who attend Westfield High School.

WolfBlock is a multipractice law firm with offices in Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.



Lani Dornfeld

### Walter Named Sales Vice President

NEW YORK – Steve Walter of Westfield was named Vice President of Sales for Michael C. Fina Co.

In his new position, Mr. Walter is responsible for the management of all sales activities within the company. His responsibilities include the integration of marketing, brand development and market trends.

Mr. Walter graduated from California State University at Northridge with a bachelor’s degree in Communications. He is an active member of WorldatWork and SHRM.

Michael C. Fina, a family owned and operated business since 1935, provides worldwide corporate employee recognition programs.

Edward Ford and Richard Tuck were also promoted.

### Library to Host ‘Tea’ Celebrating Poetry

FANWOOD – The Fanwood Memorial Library will host a Poetry Tea on Thursday, April 26, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Fanwood Room of the library.

Held in celebration of National Poetry Month, the “tea” will be the third annual poetry event that the library has hosted. The library is located at North Avenue and Tillotson Road.

This year’s program will be a “High Tea,” during which local residents and high school students will read an original or favorite poem. Attendees also may come and just listen to the poems. All are welcome.

This program is open to all ages. Seating is limited and interested individuals must reserve a space in advance. For more information, please call the Fanwood Memorial Library at (908) 322-6400.

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ALLEMAN, ROWBOTHAM, TEAM TO DO THEIR PART

SPF Raider Track Boys Add More Depth, More Balance

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

Last year, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys track & field team, as did the Raider girls, won the "Triple Crown" of local events—Watchung Conference (WC), Union County (UC) relays and UC individuals. The Raider boys relied on getting big chunks of points from a handful of athletes, but this season, with added depth, they expect to have a more balanced squad.

Seniors Kyle Rowbotham and Tom

Pennella accounted for huge chunks of points in the hurdles and jumps. Last year, Rowbotham, a Meet of Champions (MOC) qualifier his sophomore year, won three events at the UC individual meet—triple jump with a meet record 46'05", 110 hurdles, 400 hurdles—and took fourth in the long jump. Pennella placed second in the pole vault, fourth in the 110 hurdles and sixth in the high jump.

"We expect a lot from Pennella and Rowbotham to score in four events.

Rowbotham will win a couple. Pennella is a very good hurdler and went over 12 feet in the pole vault, so we are looking to score big in the hurdles, pole vault and high jump," said Raider Head Coach Rich McGriff.

Junior Mike Chervenyak will add depth in the 400 hurdles and be part of the 4x400 meters with Rowbotham and seniors Mike Katz and Kyle Grizzard. Junior Larry Dent (high jump, triple jump), senior Jason

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



MORE DEPTH, MORE BALANCE, MORE TALENT...The Raider boys track & field team looks to repeat as Watchung Conference, Union County Relay and Union County Individual champions.

FIVE FINE SENIORS NAMED AS BLUE DEVIL CAPTAINS

Lady Blue Devils Face Stiff Competition in Track & Field

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

For many years, the Westfield High School girls' track and field teams have been competitive in the Watchung Conference, but the attainment of a championship has eluded them for quite some time. Last year, the Blue Devil girls placed eighth in the Union County Tournament and finished third in the Watchung Conference.

"Last year we had a very large and young team. In terms of performances,

as a team we did not win any titles but had some personal achievements," said Blue Devil Head Coach Nancy Babbitt.

Producing an adequate number of veteran runners, this year's team could be competitive. Seniors Ayn Wisler, Erica Ammermuller, Emily Perry, Colleen Psomas and Marlena Sheredan have been chosen as the team captains. "They have earned that leadership role and represent every segment of our track and field team," noted Babbitt.

The maturation of her junior runners certainly will brighten Babbitt's eyes.

"We're loaded. We return juniors Rose Driscoll, Cat Cognetti, Tessa Schaaf and Christine Obiajulu who runs, jumps and hurdles. These kids all contributed and finished well last year," said Babbitt. "I think our younger kids are going to step up, so it will be interesting to see how cohesive they can become as a team."

"Obiajulu steps up this year to run

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



GOOD CONTROL ON OPENING DAY...Blue Devil junior Evan Shapiro fires the ball as the Cardinal batter fakes a bunt. Shapiro fanned seven Cardinals and allowed only three hits in the Blue Devils' 10-0 victory.

SHAPIRO FANS 7; JOE 'VALL' CRACKS 2-RUN 3B, RBI 1B

Blue Devils Seize Opportunity In 10-0 Win Over Cardinals

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

Junior Evan Shapiro pitched five-and-a-third strong innings, striking out seven, and his teammates seized nearly every opportunity on the base paths to lead the Westfield High School baseball team to a 10-0 shut-out of host Plainfield on April 2. The 1-0 Blue Devils, who finished with 10 hits, put together five hits, including a two-run triple from Joe Vall-Llobera, three walks and crafty base running, especially from speedster Kevin Hennessey, to rock the 0-1 Cardinals for seven runs in the second inning.

Joe "Vall", who finished 2-for-3, added an RBI single in the sixth inning. Leadoff hitter Tom Bonard slapped a pair of RBI singles and scored a run and Hennessey (2-for-3, RBI, stolen base) scored three times. Justin Olsen (RBI, run scored) looped a pair of singles and stole a base. Mike Venezia scored twice and swiped two bases, Mike Cappiello tapped an RBI single and scored a run and Dan Melillo yanked an RBI single.

Blue Devil pitching allowed only four hits and all came from left-handed batters. Cardinal Tyree Mills (3-for-3) got his first two singles off Shapiro and Rashon Rawles beat out a dribbler in the fifth inning.

In the top of the decisive second

inning, Vall-Llobera drew a leadoff walk followed by Shapiro, whose pinch runner was Rick Passananti. Melillo hopped an RBI single and Venezia reached first on a force out. Venezia got a great jump and Bonard scribbled an RBI infield single.

Hennessey plopped an RBI single over second. Olsen walked to load the bases then Cappiello rolled a 12-foot RBI single down the third baseline, scoring Bonard. As Cardinal pitcher Damien Akins fielded the ball,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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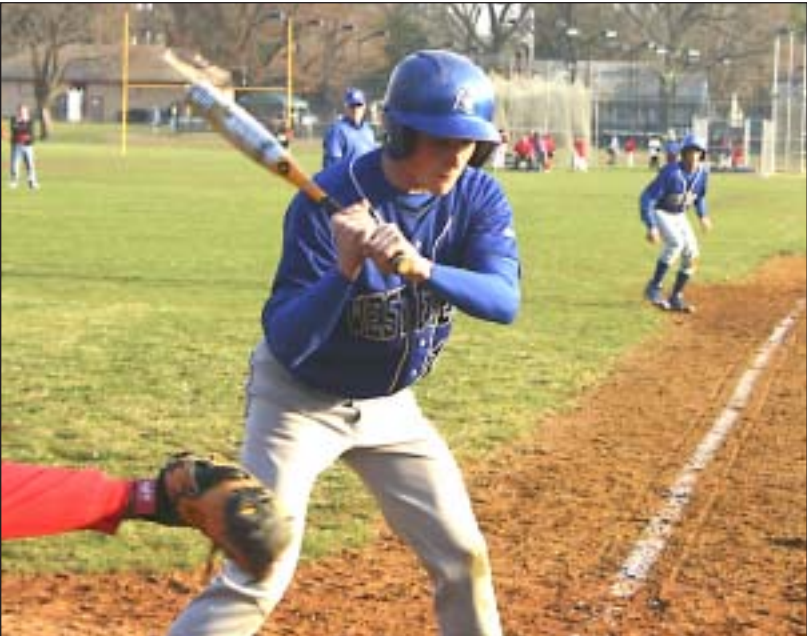
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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
HOPING TO ADD ANOTHER RUN...Blue Devil Dan Melillo wants to get another hit to bring home Rick Passananti on third.

## Blue Devils Seize Opportunity In 10-0 Win Over Cardinals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Hennessey alertly slipped past him to score. Vall-Llobera capped the inning with his two-run triple over right fielder Yuhanna Clark's head.

"We are going to do things differently. We are going to look to steal. We will bunt. We're going to hit-and-run," explained Blue Devil Head Coach Bob Brewster. "Speed is one thing that doesn't go into a slump. We had only three guys with any varsity experience out here. Hennessey! Good heads-up play! Danny Melillo! First varsity at bat! Bing! Got us started in that second inning! I'm very pleased!"

At shortstop, Bonard made several slick plays, especially in the bottom of the second when he grabbed a grounder, stepped on second to force out Mills, who got the Cardinals' first hit, and fired to first to complete a double play.

"Tommy is a special player," expressed Brewster.

The Blue Devils added a run in the fourth when Hennessey singled and sped to third after leftfielder Rashan Roach muffed the ball then Olsen drilled an RBI single past second. In the fifth, Venezia, who was on first, stole second and scored on Bonard's sharp RBI single to right, making the score 9-0.

In the bottom of the inning, Shapiro experienced some control problems and proceeded to hit the first two Cardinal batters. After fanning the next batter, Rawles loaded the bases with his dribbling infield single. Shapiro fanned BJ King then grabbed a grounder and tossed to first to escape the inning.

"The second kid was a two-finger," chuckled Shapiro about his hit bat-

ters. "I was given a certain amount of pitches but my control was pretty good."

Hennessey scored on Vall-Llobera's RBI single over first in the sixth then, after Shapiro retired the first Cardinal batter in the bottom of the inning, Zach Deegan came in to relieve as Mills came to the plate. Mills got his third single but Deegan slammed the door with two strikeouts.

"We had him on a strict pitch count. He was up to 79 and then the lefty who got two hits from him was up," Brewster said of Shapiro. "I'm encouraged. I think we have the potential to do something. We can only go as far as our pitching. If Shapiro throws that well we will be in business."

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### All-Union County Girls Winter Track:

Jen Seniszyn (55-meters) and Kaity Eppinger (high jump) of Union Catholic High School and Lauryn Adams (shot put) of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School were named to the *Star-Ledger* All-Union County (UC) First Team in indoor track. Eppinger was also named to the All-Group 1 Third Team.

Viking Alisa Harris (400 meters) and Raider Brittney Veeck (1,600) were named to the All-UC Second Team and the Viking 4x400 four-some made the All-UC Third Team. Viking Head Coach Mike McCabe was named All-UC Coach of the Year. Eppinger was named Jumper of the Year and Adams was named Thrower of the Year.



## Boys Cagers Ranked No. 35 In N.J. By 'Freeman Ratings'

By BRUCE JOHNSON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

In keeping with the Den's policy of providing its readers with information they either can't get elsewhere or (more likely) have less time to waste tracking it down, we present the 2006-07 "Freeman Ratings" for football, boys basketball and girls basketball. The "Freeman Ratings" are the product of Ned Freeman, who has been compiling these rankings for over 25 years, most recently for calpreps.com.

According to these rankings — which have a computer-calculated number for every team in the country for these sports based on won-loss record, strength of schedule and opponents' won-loss record, among other things — the WHS boys basketball team was ranked No. 35 out of 424 teams in New Jersey, the girls hoopers were No. 72 (of 424) and the football team was No. 102 out of 344 teams. Scotch Plains-Fanwood was ranked Nos. 65, 60 and 158, respectively.

Here are the state rankings of the Watchung Conference teams in each sport, with the total number of teams in the state in parenthesis, and the team's point total:

**BOYS BASKETBALL** (424): 4. Linden 31.7, 6. Plainfield 27.8, 10. Elizabeth 25.5, 12. East Side 22.7, 17. Irvington 21.0, 35. WHS 16.3, 65. SP-F 13.2, 73. Shabazz 12.3, 122. Union 8.3, 230. Kearny 0.6.

The No. 1 team in the country was Artesia of Lakewood, Calif., with a 41.8 rating. No. 1 in New Jersey, and No. 6 nationally, was St. Patrick of Elizabeth at 39.9.

WHS was ranked just behind Trenton and just ahead of Immaculata and Neptune.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL** (424): 1. Shabazz 38.5, 60. SP-F 16.5, 72. WHS 15.0, 103. Linden 11.3, 104. Elizabeth 11.2, 125. Irvington 8.5, 141. Union 7.0, 145. Kearny 6.9, 176. Plainfield 4.0, 331. East Side -10.2.

The No. 1 team in the country was Collins Hill of Suwanee, Ga., with a 54.5 rating. No. 1 in New Jersey, and No. 66 nationally, was Shabazz.

**FOOTBALL** (344): 5. Elizabeth 39.5, 36. Irvington 25.4, 61. Linden 21.0, 65. Union 20.7, 102. WHS 14.3, 143. Cranford 8.0, 158. SP-F 5.7, 221. Plainfield -0.3, 250. Shabazz -5.1, 252. Kearny -5.5, 312. East Side -16.6.

Other Union County teams: 19. Brearley 31.3, 76. A.L. Johnson 18.6, 87. Rahway 16.6, 109. Governor Livingston 13.8, 137. New Providence 9.5, 217. Hillside -0.1, 233. Roselle Park -2.5, 275. Roselle -9.6, 289. Summit -12.0, 339. Dayton -33.6.

Wondering how the Den's two

adopted teams did? The Massillon Tigers were rated No. 44 in Ohio with a 31.0 rating, and the Neshaminy Redskins were No. 73 in Pennsylvania with a 26.8 rating.

The No. 1 team in the country was Southlake Carroll of Texas with a 65.3 rating. No. 1 in New Jersey, and No. 15 nationally, was Don Bosco Prep at 54.4.

For complete lists of every team in the entire country in those sports — baseball, softball and volleyball are to be added during the 2007-08 season — go to [www.calpreps.com](http://www.calpreps.com).

### THIS AND THAT

Picked up "The Ultimate High School B-Ball Mag" the other day, Punks '06-07, or P-2, and if that's how the future looks, I'm glad I'll be missing it. There are 28 portrait shots of some of the "top ballers" in the country, and 27 of them show young men with folded arms, and faces with snarls or sneers; only one, Georgia Tech-bound Gani Lawal, of Norcross, Ga., has a smile. There are five team group shots, and just a handful of smiling faces among the dozens of players. At least nobody was pictured with a sideways baseball cap.

The boys tennis team was scheduled to face J.P. Stevens on Tuesday and Ridge yesterday. If either was rained out, or (less likely) a loss, this morning's 11 o'clock match with Holmdel at Tamaques Park could be when George Kapner earns his 800th coaching victory at WHS.

Two of the biggest games for the April portion of the WHS baseball season will occur in the next 96 hours. It starts Saturday, when Cranford comes to town for an 11 a.m. game, and continues Monday, when the Brew Crew travels to Scotch Plains for a 4 p.m. game.

The boys lacrosse team, which opened yesterday at Vernon, will find out in the next 72 hours just where it stands, after traveling to Bernards Township today to face Pingry at 4 p.m., then hosting usually rugged Montclair Saturday, 11 a.m., at Kehler Stadium.

### IN GOOD COMPANY

Among the famous alumni of Colgate University, the Division I-AA school in Hamilton, N.Y., where WHS basketballer Mike Venezia will be playing the next four years, are:

Charles Addams (WHS, '29), a legendary cartoonist. His most famous cartoon eventually became famous as The Addams Family show on television. You remember Gomez, Morticia, Pugsley, Wednesday, Uncle Fester, Grandmama, their faithful butler, Lurch, along with Thing and Cousin Itt.

Mike Milbury, former NHL defenseman and former coach/GM of the New York Islanders.

Adonal Foyle, NBA basketballer. Mark van Eeghen, former NFL running back with Oakland Raiders.

Ernie Vandeweghe and Carl Braun, former New York Knicks stars of the late 1940s and early '50s.

Adam Clayton Powell, former N.Y. congressman.

Andy Rooney, of "60 Minutes" fame on TV.

### O'BRIEN A GOPHER

Apparently football, basketball and wrestling aren't the only sports that are taken very seriously in the Big Ten Conference. A quick glance at the Top Ten rankings in men's gymnastics shows five of the teams — No. 1 Ohio State, No. 2 Michigan, No. 5 Penn State, No. 6 Minnesota and No. 7 Illinois — are members of the ill-named league. (Why isn't it the Big Eleven Conference?)

And part of Minnesota's terrific freshman class this year is Tom O'Brien, a WHS Class of 2006 graduate. Tom is the older brother of current WHS junior soccer player Greg O'Brien, and the son of Donna Quinn and Dan O'Brien.

Tom placed second in the all-around competition at the New Jersey State Championships in 2004 and '05 and qualified for the Junior Olympic National Championships six times, where he placed ninth on the pommel horse and 11th on the parallel bars as a senior.

A four-year honor roll student and three-time Academic All-America at WHS, the 19-year-old is a pre-med major. O'Brien and his team hosted the Big Ten championships last weekend and will be competing at the NCAA championships, April 12-13, at Penn State.

### MUSICAL MEMORIES

Music, it's been said many times, is the soundtrack of your life. And the most memorable parts of that soundtrack tends to come from your adolescent days, primarily your high school days. For some of us, those high school days were what are now mostly recalled by the old "Happy Days" television show and movies like "American Graffiti" and "Animal House."

But what was the music of my senior year at WHS? Looking it up in Billboard's "Book of Top 40 Hits," here (sometimes sadly) is a chronological list of the No. 1 songs from September 1962 to June 1963:

Sheila, Tommy Roe; Sherry, 4 Seasons; Monster Mash, Bobby (Boris) Pickett; He's a Rebel, Crystals; Big

Girls Don't Cry, 4 Seasons; Telstar, Tornados; Go Away Little Girl, Steve Lawrence; Walk Right In, Rooftop Singers; Hey Paul, Paul and Paula; Walk Like a Man, 4 Seasons; Our Day Will Come, Ruby and the Romantics; He's So Fine, Chiffons; I Will Follow Him, Little Peggy March; If You Wanna Be Happy, Jimmy Soul; It's My Party, Lesley Gore; Sukiyaki, Kyu Sakamoto.

Oh, the final No. 1 song of the year was Dominique by (are you sitting down?) the Singing Nun.

### DRISCOLL HONORED

Former WHS swimmer Chris Driscoll was named Union County Girls Swimming Coach of the Year by *The Star-Ledger* after leading New Providence to a third-place finish at the county championships. A four-year letterman, Driscoll was a key member of the WHS boys team that won the state Public A championship in 2000, his senior year.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Dennis Powers capped an 18-0 senior wrestling season in 1960 with a state championship at 130 pounds. In becoming WHS's first state champion, Powers kept things interesting, winning his six post-season matches (three in districts, three at states) by a combined 17-8 total.

In districts, Powers beat Scotch Plains' Jack Holt 3-0, Columbia's Jerry Zuckerman 5-2, and Union's Pat Catino 2-1 in the final. Then at states, things got even tighter, as he topped Paulsboro's Bob Samuels on a referee's overtime decision after a 3-3 tie, North Hunterdon's Marty McCormack 1-0 in overtime, and Newton's Rich Wilson 3-2 in the final.

### ON THIS DATE

1932: The WHS foursome of Bob Young, Bob Gregory, John Messersmith and Frank Esposito finishes second in the Penn Relays distance medley (7:47) to the Hamilton Institute of Canada.

### AROUND THIS DATE

April 7, 1997: Rachel Brendler, a transfer from Belvidere, hits a grand-slam home run in her first at-bat — and on an 0-2 pitch! — against Cranford.

April 7, 2000: Jay Cook ties the school record with eight RBI in a 22-9 victory over St. Joseph Metuchen.

April 10, 1964: Clark's Frank Spaziani pitches a no-hitter against WHS.

*The Devil's Den appears Thursday in The Westfield Leader during the school year. Contact us with comments, suggestions and complaints at [bj1019@aol.com](mailto:bj1019@aol.com). GO DEVILS!*

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ADAMS, JONES, ROSSI TO REAP POINTS IN SHOT PUT

Lady Raider Tracksters Look To Get Things Together Again

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

Repeating as Watchung Conference (WC), Union County relay and Union County (UC) individual champions is a strong possibility for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls track team this season. The Raider girls, who graduated just one athlete, have added a talented group of freshmen who should blend well with the returning veterans.

“Meaghan Kelly (anchored the

winning UC 4x400 team) was the only one who graduated but we have the core back. We will be strong in a bunch of places,” said Raider Head Coach Jeff Koegel. “We have more people who can win events and place high this year. Last year in the counties, we had to pull out some furious finishes.”

A very strong core comes in the field events, especially the shot put where UC indoor track champ senior Lauryn Adams, along with juniors

Carlaya Jones and Erin Rossi are expected to reap a heap of team points. The same trio, who will also compete in the discus, promise to compile a significant amount of team points. Rossi and junior Alex Fragna will toss the javelin. Rossi, who cleared 8’6” to place third in the pole vault at the North Jersey, Group 3 sectional meet last year, is expected to compete again in the event.

“We won the girls indoor county and Group 3 shot relay. We could



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

ADDING MORE THAN JUST NICKELS AND DIMES...Last year, the Raider girls had to nickel and dime their way to the Union County title but this season they also expect to cash in on some or their new additions.

All-Union County Girls Basketball:

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School senior Allie Zazzali was named All-Union County (UC) First Team and UC Player of the Year in girls basketball by *The Star-Ledger* and Westfield High School junior Erin Miller was also named to the All-UC First Team. Additionally, Zazzali was named to the All-Group 3 Second Team.

The Raiders, winners of the Union County Tournament, were named All-UC Team of the Year. Raider Jackie Law and Union Catholic Viking Aerielle Belk were named to the All-UC Third Team.

www.goleader.com

All-Union County Boys Basketball:

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School junior Bryan Dougher was named to *The Star-Ledger* All-Group 3 First Team and the All-Union County (UC) Second Team and Westfield High School senior Mike Venezia was named to the All-UC Second Team in boys basketball.

Blue Devil Tony Dilorio and Raider Reggie Solomon were named to the UC All-Sophomore Second Team and Blue Devil Mike Lessner was named to the Third Team.

have three girls over 40 feet,” noted Koegel. “The discus will be good too. We should have three girls over 100 feet. Jav(velin), we need to find a third person but we will do well there.”

With the talent of sophomore Alison Acevedo and freshmen Sarah Canfield and Allie Prestridge, the Raiders could be solid in the triple jump. Canfield will also compete in the long jump, hurdles and high jump and Acevedo is expected to compete in the hurdles.

“That (triple jump) is one of Rich’s (boys coach Rich McGriff) things in college. He knows his stuff there,” commented Koegel. “We have a lot of young girls who, I think, will contribute. Canfield is a big one right away. Rich is thinking that she’s probably

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times

GREAT LEADERS, GREAT COMPETITORS...Blue Devil senior Quad-Captains, shown left to right: Erik Andersen, discus and shot put, Alex Forstenhausler, middle distance runner, and Erik Brandman, pole vaulter, expect to have a pretty good season. Not in picture is Brent Souders due to injury.

FOUR SENIORS NAMED AS BLUE DEVIL CAPTAINS

Blue Devil Track Boys Must Adjust to the Varsity Level

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

This season, the Westfield High School boys’ track and field team will look to build and strengthen their overall track and field crews, as there seems to be questions with general varsity experience but not with winning experience.

The Blue Devils graduated several outstanding field and distance athletes, including All-State distance runner Jeff Perrella, long jumper Marcus Graham Allen, hurdler Tyler Maccubbin and Rich Scialabba. Last year the Blue Devils Track/Field team grabbed seventh place at the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 meet in South Plainfield where Perrella took top honors in the 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter races. He earned all of the team’s points by winning the 1,600 and the 3,200 at the Group 4 championships in Egg Harbor and finished third in the 3,200 in the Meet of Champions in a WHS record time of 9:08.16. He was selected second team All-State, First Team All-Group 4 and First Team All-UC in the 3,200.

“We are returning a solid group of juniors, some sophomores who are pretty strong, including junior Mark

Reimlinger, sophomore Andrew Ford plus winter track veteran senior Kevin O’Rourke who is pretty good in the 3,200 meter,” said Blue Devil boys Head Coach Jack Martin. “We always try to build from one year to the next. I don’t like to look backwards. It’s nice to have members like Allen, Maccubbin, Scialabba and Jeffrey who had a great high school career and is looking towards having a great career at William and Mary. They were great leaders and great competitors. The good thing is that we have a lot of young kids, too many to mention, who are coming on.”

This year the Blue Devils feature middle distance runner Alex Forstenhausler, Connor Davis plus sprinter junior Craig Cognetti, who also will compete in the 400-intermediate hurdles and figures to have a standout season. A very welcome addition in the sprints is sophomore football player Riccardo Johnson who is, “pretty fast,” and sophomore Todd Saunders who had some pretty good 55’ times in the wintertime, according to Martin.

“Overall, we’re pretty good. It’s just a question how we mature and come around as the season

progresses.”

Looking at the field crews, the Blue Devils seem to be rather healthy with returning long jumper junior Malcolm Allen, who placed fifth in the Group 4 Track/Field championships, high jumper Adam Bargo, who placed sixth at 5’10” in the Group 4 championships and cleared 6’4” in the wintertime, along with Mike Matthews who also figures to finish strong in the high jump event.

Westfield looks to be competitive in the pole vault, shot put and discus events. Senior Erik Brandman heads up the pole vault contingent. He cleared 12’6” and qualified for the states along with Mike Porch who is a 12’ jumper. All eyes will be on senior Erik Anderson in the shot put and discus events. He hovered around 48 feet in the shot put in the wintertime and should have a good look at 50 feet, according to Martin. In the discus he was around 130’ last spring and will be joined by senior Kyle Gibbons. Junior Brandon Heroux, who placed high in the Watchung Conference, returns to the javelin event.

The Blue Devils open the season against Irvington on April 3 at Kehler Stadium in Westfield.

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GETTING THE RELAY FROM RIGHT CENTERFIELD... Viking third baseman Bobby McGuire scoops the relay as Blue Devil Dan Melillo dives into third with a triple during a scrimmage game.

## D'ANGELO, LARocca EXPECTED ON THE MOUND

# Viking Baseball Boys Believe Bottom Line, Throw Strikes

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

Topping a fine 19-9 season may be a challenge but, with the majority of last year's players still on the roster, this season's Union Catholic High School baseball team should have a good chance to, at least, match that accomplishment.

Last year, the Vikings defeated Elizabeth and Linden in their only meetings and defeated Scotch Plains-Fanwood twice, the second in the Union County Tournament.

"We have a lot of guys back and we are happy with our pitching so far. We

will see how that goes today," said Viking Head Coach Jim Reagan prior to a scrimmage game with the Westfield Blue Devils on March 28.

Veteran seniors Chris Whittemore and Kristian Cortizo return at short-stop and second base, respectively, and junior veteran Jimmy Thornton returns behind the plate. Senior Anthony Marsal is expected to play first and senior Bobby McGuire will vie for third base. Competing for left field, center and right field, respectively, are junior Tony LaRocca and seniors John Ciano and Phil D'Apolito.

"We got up the middle with

Whittemore at short, Cortizo at second and Thornton catching. It's a real nice nucleus," said Reagan. "We had some big wins last year. I think we set the tone for the program. We expect another big year this year."

Junior Steve D'Angelo, who was the Vikings' no. 1 pitcher last year, was Third Team All-Union County. LaRocca was the no. 2 pitcher. The pair has welcomed sophomore pitcher Matt Canales, a transfer from Roselle Catholic, who was the starting pitcher in the scrimmage with the Blue Devils.

"We are looking for some big things from him," Reagan said of Canales whose brother Michael, a third baseman, will be available to play in May.

"He will probably round out the infield for us," said Reagan who added, "The team is a bit different from last year. Last year, we hit the ball hard and put up a lot of runs. This year will be more pitching and defense. Our pitching and defense will be pretty solid. And speed, I don't think we are too fast. We are about average."

Although not carved in stone, D'Apolito and Cortizo could bat 1-2 in the line up. Whittemore, D'Angelo and Thornton could fill the 3-4-5 spots and LaRocca, Marsal, McGuire and Ciano could alternate with juniors Joe Patikowski and Mike Gallo, Matt and Mike Canales and senior Joe Fortunato for the 6-7-8-9 spots.

"The bottom line is you've got to throw strikes. You got to get ahead in the count and take each game as it comes," expressed Reagan.



KEEPING DISCIPLINED...Viking Chris Whittemore lays off a high, inside pitch as Blue Devil catcher Justin Olsen snags the ball.



Welcome home to this stunning, Sterling Chase, Colonial. The grand two story foyer welcomes you into this fine home, featuring formal, step-down Living Room with vaulted ceilings and a beautiful Dining Room. This home is great for entertaining or just gracious living. All of this and more, yet convenient to town, NYC train and schools.



Welcome home to this charming yet contemporary Colonial home. This fine home features a Living Room and Dining Room with beautiful hardwood floors, four bedrooms and two & one half baths all serve to craft a setting that is unsurpassed for beauty and charm. All of this plus much more, yet convenient to town, NYC train and bus as well as schools.

For additional information or a private tour of these homes, please contact:

**Patricia 'Pat' Plante**  
Broker/Sales Associate – Westfield Office  
Direct Dial: (908) 233-2162  
[Pat-Plante@Burgdorff.com](mailto:Pat-Plante@Burgdorff.com)

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### All-UC/All-State Boys Indoor Track:

Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) High School junior Mike Alleman was named to the Star-Ledger First Team All-State, All-Group 3 and All-Union County lists for his accomplishments in the shot put. Alleman, who won the Group 3 meet with a shove of 59'6.75," and the Meet of Champions with a heave of 59'3", had a toss of 59'11.5" – an SPF school record – to win the Eastern States championship and was also named All-UC Thrower of the Year.

Union Catholic Viking Garrett Ellis (400 meters) and the Viking 4x400 foursome made the All-Group 1 First Team and Mike Suarez (55 meters) was named to the Third Team.

**ALL-UC FIRST TEAM (LOCALS):**  
Garrett Ellis (U Cath – 400)  
Brian Guterl (U Cath – 1,600)  
Mike Alleman (SPF – Shot Put)  
Erik Brandman (W – Pole Vault)  
Union Catholic (4x400)

**ALL-UC SECOND TEAM:**  
Mike Suarez (U Cath – 55)  
Alex Tarlow (W – 800)  
Mike Sprague (U Cath – 1,600)  
Pat Doliber (SPF – 3,200)  
Kyle Rowbotham (SPF – Hurdles)  
Adam Bergo (W – High Jump)  
Mike Porch (W – Pole Vault)

**ALL-UC THIRD TEAM:**  
Julian Phillips (U Cath – 400)  
Ryan Kilkenny (U Cath – 800)  
Evan Friedman (W – 1,600)  
Dan Sapienza (SPF – 3,200)



EXPECTING TO REAP A LOT OF POINTS...Raider seniors Kyle Rowbotham, right, and Tom Pennella, center, are expected to reap a lot of points in the hurdles and jumping events.

## SPF Raider Track Boys Add More Depth, More Balance

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Zelesnik (high jump), senior James Sensor (pole vault) and sophomore Ron Fields (triple jump, long jump) will add depth in those events.

An armada of Raiders is expected to sink opposition in the power events, especially the shot put headed by junior Mike Alleman, who tossed a personal-best and SPF record 59'11.5" to win the Eastern States meet this winter to cap his UC, Group 3 and MOC victories. In the UC relays, Alleman teamed with seniors John Badala and Jon Birnbaum to set a meet record with a distance of 146'0.25". Badala has been edging toward the 50-foot mark and Birnbaum has been hovering in the mid-40s. The same threesome will be heaving the discus, along with senior Steve Wensen and junior Jason Boff.

"Most places we go, we are looking at 1-2-3 or three guys placing in the shot. Mike is one of the best in the country, so that helps bring the other guys along. They will be throwing discus. Hopefully, we will have the same results," said McGriff.

Chervenyak and senior Greg Brand will add thrust in the javelin and another reliable point-gathering group is the distance, headed by senior Adam Biner (800, 1,600) and juniors Dan Sapienza (800), Mike Ragan and Pat Doliber (1,600, 3,200) who won the UC two-mile last winter.

"Those guys were really strong. They are very competitive and we expect them to score everywhere we go," commented McGriff.

Katz and sophomore Ken Azard will compete in the 100 and 200 meters. Zelesnik and Grizzard will join Katz in the 400 meters. Several of the underclassmen are expected to work into the mix as the season progresses.

"We have a lot of sophomores who are ready to make that step. We have 80 some boys. It's a team thing here. All the guys know, you just do your part to represent Scotch Plains-Fanwood," stated McGriff.



FORMIDABLE IN THE 800 METERS...Raider junior Bridget Cornwell won the Watchung Conference and Union County 800-meter titles last year.

## Lady Raider Tracksters Look To Get Things Together Again

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

going to break the school record in the long jump and the triple jump this season. A couple of other freshmen, Alanna Salituro and Lauren Rosenthal, who will be working with me (distance), should be able to contribute right away."

As they have been for years, the Raiders have a very strong group of distance runners (1,600 and 3,200 meters) with juniors Cassy Valdes and Cathy Harley, sophomore Brittney Veeck, who placed second in the indoor one-mile event this winter, and senior Julie Meurer. Returning WC and UC 800-meter champ junior Bridget Cornwell will be accompanied in the event with Veeck and senior Kim Appezzato.

"Cassy finished second in the county last spring in the 3,200. Bridget was the county champion and Kim has been running well. We should be strong

there individually," Koegel said.

Last year, the Raider girls also needed to cash in on the UC individual title. Junior Tina Olsson, who placed second in the 200 and fifth in the long jump in the counties last year, and senior Amanda Bobyack, a UC long jump champ her freshman year, along with senior Danielle Vena, a member of the UC winning 4x400 team along with Olsson, and sophomore Whitney Adams, should add their "two cents – minimum" to the team total in the sprints, hurdles and jumps. This year's 4x400 foursome is expected to be Vena, junior Kate Johnson, Appezzato and Veeck.

"We are looking alright. It's just a matter of getting things together," said Koegel. "We don't want to go into a meet thinking that we are not going to score in certain events. We want to be able to score in everything."

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## Westfield Lady Blue Devils Will Face Very Stiff Competition in Track & Field

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

middle distance and she is one of our top half-milers," said Babbitt.

Cognetti, Driscoll and Wisler will add strength and depth in the 800 meters and 1,600 meters as will a pair of sisters, Aileen and Bridget Grogan, and Stephanie and Brittany Cortinhal, and Briana Goncalves. Senior Kim Legones, who ran cross country and winter track, will make her debut in spring track and should enhance their strength in the middle and distance events.

Ammermuller leads a pack of young sprinters and will compete in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter runs and long jump, along with seasoned speedsters sophomore Amanda Garfinkel, Obiajulu, Jackie Snyder, Chrissy Isabella and Shaaf.

The task at hand for the Blue Devils coaching staff, however, will be the need to fill the hurdler and distant events with qualified personnel.

"We have a lot of work to do in the two-miles and we need to build our hurdler team, so scoring is going to be very tough this year," said Blue Devil Assistant Coach Jennifer Buccino. "We have a lot of competi-

tion in the conference but intermediate may be our strength. Sheridan had a very strong indoor season on a personal level. She will be someone to watch in the 100- and 200-meter hurdles and the 200- and 400-meter sprints."

Perry, who heads the hurdler, high jump and sprint team, is joined by Obiajulu, Shaaf and Christa Ricci who bring with them depth and experience.

"They performed their personal bests during the indoor season which would lead you to believe the outdoor season might become even get better for them," Buccino said.

If any segment of the field team requires development, it will be their throwers.

"We return Ariel Burns, a sophomore and Psomas, that's it. They will lead our triple jump, shot putters and javelin contingent. Everyone else is on the learning block," Buccino said.

This year's track and field team may be viewed as somewhat as transitional and workable as the number of participants dropped from 120 to 85.

"We're looking towards develop-

ing the athletes that we have. Our motto has always been, 'out of personal success we get team success,' and that's what we build our program on," concluded Babbitt. "We will be a good team but I don't know if we'll be a great team, however I do think we will be a team to contend with."

The Westfield girls' track and field team has dedicated the 2007 season in memory of captain Crystal Dixon, a former WHS sprinter and jumper who was killed in a traffic accident in August 2006. The Blue Devils open the season against Irvington on April 3 at Kehler Stadium in Westfield.

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Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**BLUE DEVIL LEADERS OFF AND ON THE FIELD...** Blue Devil senior captains, shown left to right: Erica Ammermuller, (sprints and long jumper), Ayn Wisler, (800 meters and miler), Emily Perry, (hurdles, sprints and high jump), Colleen Psomas, (Javelin, triple jump and shot put) and Marlana Sheridan (hurdles, 200 meters and 400 meters) were named to lead this year's competitive team. See picture on page 18.

# COLDWELL BANKER

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**737 Prospect Street, Westfield \$1,599,900**

Wonderful new home built with great attention to detail on deep lot featuring an open front porch; 2 story entry Foyer; formal Living and Dining Rooms; Kitchen w/center island and eating area open to Family Room w/fireplace; Master Bedroom suite with walk in closet and private bathroom; 2nd floor laundry; and multi zone heating and cooling. Great location close to town and across from playground!



**1 Max Place, Westfield \$1,399,900**

Spacious Mahoney Built home on cul-de-sac of new homes featuring an airy Foyer flanked by Formal Living and Dining Rooms; gourmet Kitchen w/center island open to Family Room w/fireplace and sliders to yard; large Master Suite w/full bath, Sitting Room and walk in closet; walk up 3rd floor with full bath; 1st floor Laundry; beautifully landscaped property! Convenient to all schools and Tamaques Park!



**5 Short Hills Lane, Scotch Plains \$1,399,900**

Wonderful Turn of the Century estate nestled on over 2 acres of magnificent rolling grounds with an inground pool including 6 Bedrooms and 3 full baths; a sun-drenched Kitchen with center island; Master Bedroom suite; and a 7+ car Garage. Beautifully maintained and expanded in keeping with it's architectural integrity. Truly a must see!



**1532 Long Meadow, Mountainside \$1,399,900**

Stately Center Hall Georgian Colonial featured on the 2004 Westfield Symphony Home Tour! Grand formal rooms adorned with magnificent architectural details, a gourmet Kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances and fixtures, five spacious bedroom suites with extensive closets, updated luxurious marble bathrooms. Park-like property with circular driveway, two tier deck with pergola overlooking picturesque yard with pond and perennial plantings. Perfect home for entertaining both indoors and outside.



**920 Summit Avenue, Westfield \$699,900**

Picture perfect Colonial in terrific location! Living Room with hardwood floors, bay window and fireplace; Formal Dining Room; updated sunny Kitchen w/beautiful tile work. Flexible floorplan offers two additional first floor rooms to use as Family Room, Office or Playroom. Three generous sized bedrooms; gorgeous re-done main Bath. Nicely finished basement with Recreation Room and full bath. New herringbone patio in private backyard overlooking town owned woods. Many updates thru-out. Move right in!



**17 North Wickom Drive, Westfield \$569,900**

Immaculate 3 Bedroom 2 full bath home on nicely landscaped property featuring a sunny Living Room; extended Formal Dining Room; nice size Eat In Kitchen; large first floor Family Room w/fireplace; Butlers Pantry; first floor Laundry; Recreation Room and 1 car Garage. Great location close to schools and Tamaques Park.



**521 Summit Avenue, Westfield \$549,900**

Excellent opportunity! Two family home on great residential street just a block from the train station. Each floor offers a one bedroom apartment with high ceilings and vintage charm: Kitchen; Living Room; Dining area and full bath. Also, could easily be returned to a one family house with 3 Bedrooms, first floor Family Room. Nestled on a deep lot with 2 car Garage.



**402 Donato Circle, Scotch Plains \$499,900**

Sunny 3 Bedroom 2 1/2 bath End Unit in the Reserve with over \$30k in upgrades featuring a Kitchen w/corrian counters, upgraded cabinets and stainless steal appliances; Living Room and Dining area w/hardwood flooring; Master Bedroom w/walk-in closet and full bathroom; upgraded lighting package and one car attached Garage. Convenient to RT's 22 and 78.



**516 Donato Circle, Scotch Plains \$489,900**

Mint condition 2 Bedroom 2 1/2 bath End Unit in the Reserve with over \$40k in upgrades featuring a Kitchen w/granite counters, upgraded cabinets and stainless steal appliances; Living Room and Dining area w/hardwood flooring; Master Bedroom w/walk-in closet and full bathroom, upgraded tile packages and one car attached Garage. Convenient to RT's 22 and 78.



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David B. Corbin (May 2006 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
STARTING THE SECOND LEG OF THE 4X800...Blue Devil Pat Cognetti receives the baton from Stephanie Cortinhal to begin the second leg of the 4x800 meters. Cognetti and Cortinhal are expected to be strong in the middle distances.

## FSPY ‘B’, ‘C’ Gymnasts Earn Wins in South Mountain Meet

On March 24, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Y (FSPY) “B” and “C” teams earned wins in a meet against South Mountain. The “B” Division gymnasts earned many personal high scores.

Victoria Shack won the all-around with a personal-best. She took first on the floor exercises PB, first on vault and third on uneven bars. Kelsey Herbig tied Shack on vault and took fourth on unevens. Allison Zellertook first on balance beam and second on vault. Kaitlyn Frey took second on floor and unevens, and fourth on beam. Allison Lasher placed third on vault

and beam. Lisa Matrale earned first on unevens.

“B” Division gymnasts Kacie Bumiller and Zoe Stein, competing in separate categories, qualified to compete in the upcoming regional championship.

“C” Division: 9U Paige VanBuskirk took first on vault and third on beam. Danielle Scheu took second on vault, beam and floor. Kelsey Milo tied with Scheu for second on floor.

10-11: Lauren Lockfield took first in all-around, bars, beam and floor, and second on vault. Marissa DiBella took second all-around and unevens, third on vault and floor, and fourth on beam. Briana Lolo took third in all-around and beam, and fourth on vault and floor. Meghan Yessman earned first on vault and fifth on floor. Abigail Fontana took second on floor. Marissa Lamastra grabbed third on beam and fifth on floor. Tessa DeMaria took third on unevens and fifth on vault.

12+: Michelle Rogoff won the all-around and took first on all four events. Leya Quinones took second in all-around, unevens and floor, and third on vault and beam. Joelle Pisauro won the vault and beam, and placed third on unevens. Rachel Butler, Heather Mullen and Danielle Rosenblatt also performed well.

The “C” team’s final regular season competition will be on April 21 at the FSPY.

## WF 5th Boys Cagers Become March Madness Champions

The Westfield fifth grade “A” travel basketball team recently concluded a successful campaign by winning the “March Madness” Tournament in Branchburg. With a final record of 40-5, the team had also captured championships in the Wayne President’s Weekend Tournament, the Clark tournament, and the Garden State Basketball League. The team had second place finishes in the Wayne Thanksgiving Tourna-

ment and the Central Jersey Basketball Leagues, and took home two victories against sixth grade talent in the Readington Holiday Tournament.

Like last year’s fourth grade squad that went 27-3, this team featured balanced scoring, rebounding and ball distribution. Many of the games were characterized by disciplined offense, stifling defense and the excitement of fast-break play.

## Westfield Area Y Presents Healthy Kids Day on April 14

The Westfield Area “Y” will join more than 1,500 “Y”s nationwide in the 16th Annual YMCA Healthy Kids Day promoting safe and healthy kids and families on Saturday, April 14, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Open to the public, this special event offers an afternoon of free, fun, engaging and creative activities promoting healthy eating, healthy habits, family activities and safe and healthy neighborhoods. This is an opportunity for kids and families to “Put Play in Their Day.” YMCA Healthy Kids Day is part of YMCA Activate America, a national initiative designed to help children and adults discover and sustain healthier ways to live.

This year’s event has been spon-

sored by Merck and donations have been given by Modell’s Sporting Goods, First State Bank, Kings, Trader Joes and Kohl’s.

Free activities offered at the main Y Facility at 220 Clark Street, are: obstacle course, moon bounce, rock climbing wall, arts and crafts, face painting, games, Camp Expo, car seat safety check, community representatives, facility tours, and healthy refreshments.

According to the “Y” press release, unhealthy eating and physical inactivity are associated with an increased risk of a number of chronic health conditions including obesity. The percentage of young people who are overweight has tripled over the last 25 years. Studies have shown that children who develop healthy exercise and eating habits, while they are young, are more likely to continue to lead healthy lifestyles through adulthood, according to the release.

[www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

Take notice that application has been made to the Township of Scotch Plains, New Jersey to transfer to World Entertainment Group, Inc. trading as Vienna 60 for premises located at 375 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076 the Plenary Retail Consumption License #2016-33-004-003 heretofore issued to Augustine Caruso as a pocket license.

The person who will hold interest in this license is Augustine Caruso, 20 LaCosta Drive, Annandale, New Jersey 08801.

Objections, if any, should be made immediately in writing to: Barbara Riepe, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076.

A hearing is scheduled before the Scotch Plains Township Council on this matter for May 1, 2007 at 8:00 P.M.

Applicant:  
World Entertainment Group, Inc.  
Augustine Caruso  
375 Park Avenue  
Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076  
2 T - 4/5/07 &  
4/12/07, The Times Fee: \$ 48.96

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TOWN OF WESTFIELD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Kimberly and James Peterson filed an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness on November 28, 2006 to the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission for significant alterations to the property at 257 Kimball Avenue that is a property located in the Kimball Avenue Historic District. The Commission held public hearings on this application on December 18, 2006, January 22, 2007 and February 26, 2007. The Commission determined that the proposed addition would adversely affect the public’s view of the structure within the district from the street. The Commission also found that the proposed renovation would, in various respects, impair distinguishing qualities or characteristics of the house and that the proposed construction failed to satisfy the visual compatibility factors of the Historic Preservation Ordinance, particularly as it related to the scale of the building and the proportion of the structure’s front facade as proposed. For those reasons, a motion to deny the application was made which was duly seconded and which was unanimously approved by the Commission to deny the applicants request for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

The Resolution denying the application is available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk, Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

1 T - 4/5/07, The Leader Fee: \$34.17

### ATHLETIC BID

May 1, 2007 AT 10:00 AM

and will be publicly opened and read immediately thereafter.

Bids must be made on the proposal forms in the manner designated, enclosed in a separate sealed envelope with name and address of bidder and work bid upon noted on the outside, and must be accompanied by a Certified Check, Cashier’s Check or Bid Bond drawn to the order of the Board of Education, or the Board’s designated representative at the above place on or before the hour named. The Board of Education assumes no responsibility for bids mailed or misdirected in delivery.

No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening thereof.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids or waive informality in the bidding if it is in the interest of the Board of Education to do so.

Bidding shall be in conformance with the applicable requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq., pertaining to the “Public School Contracts Law.”

All bidders are placed on notice that they are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, Chapter 127.

Specifications and full information may be obtained upon request at the Business Office of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, Evergreen Avenue & Cedar Street, Scotch Plains, N.J., 07076.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Anthony Del Sordil, Board Secretary  
1 T - 4/5/07, The Times Fee: \$49.98



MARCH MADNESS CHAMPS...The Westfield fifth-grade A basketball team recently won the March Madness Tournament in Branchburg. Pictured, left to right, are: kneeling; Marc Luino, Jack Douglas, Eric Shor, Sanjay Sujjan, Matt Storcks and Chris Callahan; second row, Patrick Decker, Bryon Lessner, David Kane, Dylan Elliott, Matt Smoot and Evan Garfinkel; third row, Assistant Coaches Bill Kane and Tom Decker, and Head Coach Rick Elliott.

## St. Bart’s Men’s Softball Sets April 15 to Begin Practice

Practice for St. Bartholomew’s Men’s Oldtimers Softball League will begin on Sunday, April 15, at 10 a.m. at LaGrande Park in Fanwood. Practice is open to all veterans and rookies. These practices will occur throughout the season.

The league has voted in four new captains for the 2007 season. The new captains are “Dangerous Dave” Rothenberg, Jack “The President” Kennedy, Mike “Jonny on the spot” and “Jersey Joe” DeChairo.

The league would also like to thank and acknowledge the years of service to outgoing captains Tom Sherwin, Tony Perfilio, Mark Romaine and Nick Dinizio.

There are a few more openings for

children or adults who would like to be paid scorekeepers. If interested, please call Dave Rothenberg at (908) 233-3678.

For more information about the league, please visit the league’s website at [www.stbartsoftball.com](http://www.stbartsoftball.com), which was created by all-star Howard Bialos. There is a downloadable application form on the website for those interested in joining the league.

### UCC Foundation Golf, Tennis Tourney Apr. 23

CRANFORD – There are still a few spots open for one of Union County College Foundation’s (UCCF) 15th annual golf and tennis tournament, to be held Monday, April 23, at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield.

The tournament benefits UCC student scholarships and programs.

Robert Hoeffler, a UCC Foundation trustee, executive director of the Cranford Chamber of Commerce, and former Cranford mayor, is serving as the tournament chairman, overseeing a 16-member committee of UCC governing board and foundation members, administrators, faculty, staff, alumni and outside business leaders.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. and is followed by a buffet brunch at 10:30 a.m. The golf tournament will kick off at Echo Lake at noon. The tennis tournament, which will be held at Mountainside Indoor Tennis Center, will start at 1 p.m. It is not necessary to have a partner to participate.

At the conclusion of both tournaments, a cocktail reception will be held beginning at 6 p.m. followed by dinner, the awards ceremony and raffle. Reservations are available for cocktails and dinner only.

For more information, call Diane McCurdy, manager of special Events at (908) 709-7505 or e-mail [mccurdy@ucc.edu](mailto:mccurdy@ucc.edu). The website is [uccfoundation.org](http://uccfoundation.org).

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that the PLANNING BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, after public hearing on December 20, 2006, granted minor subdivision approval for 24 St. Johns Place, Fanwood, New Jersey, being Block 20 and Lot 24.

Documents pertaining to this application are available for public inspection at Borough Hall during normal business hours.

Mr. Bill Lyons  
2394 Waldheim Avenue  
Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076  
1 T - 4/5/07, The Times Fee: \$15.81

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that the PLANNING BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, after public hearing on February 21, 2007, granted approval for a side yard setback variance for property located on Block 43, Lot 4, 22 Oakwood Court, Fanwood, New Jersey, 07023.

Documents pertaining to this application are available for public inspection at Borough Hall during normal business hours.

Ms. Pat Plante  
22 Oakwood Court  
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023  
1 T - 4/5/07, The Times Fee: \$15.81

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION NOTICE OF MEETINGS

(In Compliance with OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT - Chapter 231)  
\*ADDENDUM TO REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS\*

TYPE OF MEETING:	Regular Public Meeting
DATE OF MEETING:	April 12, 2007
LOCATION:	Administration Building Evergreen Avenue & Cedar Street Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076
TIME:	7:00 p.m. (originally scheduled at 7:30 p.m.)
PURPOSE OF MEETING:	The Board will meet in Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. to continue review/discussion of Superintendent’s Evaluation. Public session will begin at 8:00 p.m.
ACTION TO BE TAKEN:	Action will be taken.

1 T - 4/5/07, The Times Fee: \$34.68

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This sunny Westfield Colonial has a dazzling interior with hardwood floors, lots of windows & beautiful moldings. The living room with stone fireplace & formal dining room with corner cabinet radiate charm. The family room has a wall of windows that looks out over the yard. An eat-in kitchen, powder room, & den complete the 1st floor. The 2nd floor offers four bedrooms, a walk-up attic & an updated bath. A deep backyard with patio, towering trees, beautiful foliage & a convenient location, add to this handsome portrait. Presented for \$799,000.



Classic charm abounds in this traditional Westfield Colonial with chestnut trim, high ceilings & hardwood floors. A vestibule with French door opens to the fire lit living room & formal dining room. The den & the eat-in kitchen with powder room welcomes you. Four nice sized bedrooms, and a vintage styled bath are enhanced by a lovely yard & a convenient location. Presented for \$569,000.

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**Factoid – Where is Rahway Prison?**

Many people are confused about the location of Rahway Prison. Google says Rahway Prison is in Rahway. The New Jersey Department of Corrections provides the address as: East Jersey State Prison, Lock Bag R, Rahway, New Jersey 07065, Middlesex County, Tel. (732) 499-5010. The prison population, as of August 1, 2006 is 1,922.

However, Rahway is in Union County, not Middlesex.

Seeking driving directions to the prison on the State website yields the following address: East Jersey State Prison, U.S. Route 1 at Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, New Jersey.

Performing a reverse telephone lookup, one is told that the phone number is in Avenel.

Wikipedia points out that Avenel is an unincorporated area within Woodbridge Township in Middlesex County.

A New Jersey highway map of Middlesex County shows the location of East Jersey State Prison (Rahway Prison) clearly to be in Avenel, Woodbridge, Middlesex County; granted, it is very close to Carteret and to the border of Rahway in Union County. The Rahway River delineates the border between Rahway and Woodbridge. Where is Carteret?



**HUNG UP!!**

**Husband Lacks Sensitivity To Wife's Weight Struggle**

*By Milt Faith, Executive Director  
Youth and Family Counseling Service*

An Angry Wife Writes: Your recent column, concerning a "Freudian slip" made by a daughter to her mother, reminded me of a recent incident with my husband. He has always nagged me about my weight. First, he encouraged me to go on a diet. Then, when I started overeating again, he became angry and told me I was too lazy and didn't look attractive. I've begun to work with a nutritionist, but I'm aware it will take time, and it's not easy.

Last week, he started name calling, and in a fit of rage, he started to say "obese," but, instead, he said I was "obeast." I cried; first he apologized and then admitted I was very unattractive. I'm ready to hit him in the head. I know there are healthier options, right?

Answer: You bet, and one is not physical violence. It appears he went from a supportive role to an emotionally abusive one. He may feel impatient, but he must recognize that losing weight, which has been an ongoing problem for you, is not easy, and is a

difficult process. The worst thing he can do is to make you feel ugly/inadequate. Name-calling is totally unacceptable and is very destructive. Tell him to shut his mouth and say nothing if he cannot say anything supportive. And continue to work with the nutritionist. I know you will feel better, and healthier, when you lose the weight, which has plagued you your entire life.

Overweight issues start early and need to be addressed during the formative years in terms of eating patterns, parental attitudes, conditioning, etc. Pediatric (child) obesity has become one of the major problems in our society. Good luck and stay focused.

A Critical Reader Writes: You frequently comment that you do not watch TV shows because they show too much violence and disrespect in relationships. True? Aren't you too tough on TV?

Answer: Your comment about watching TV is incorrect. My talks about relationships focus on the TV situation comedies (today), in which couples are constantly demeaning, insulting and name calling – all in the name of humor. Family members are displayed as hostile and combative individuals, all involved in power struggles and a need to control.

I felt more comfortable years ago watching couples (and individuals living together) who truly doted on each other. They may have fought verbally and bantered (one such marital show was called "The Bickersons"); today's couples mock each other. Of this, I disapprove.

An Agitated Woman Writes: I am sure that if you were abused as a child, it becomes very difficult to trust most people when you get older. I have had this problem all my life, since my older brothers sexually and emotionally abused me when I was a pre-teen. I've kept at a distance with all men and never wanted to get close to someone or form a relationship.

I met a very nice co-worker who wants to date me. He is very sincere and thoughtful, but I am afraid he will hurt me. I do want to go out on a date with him, but...! Please advise me how to learn to trust someone.

Answer: I am so sorry to hear about your abuse and the defenses you set up to prevent further hurt and pain. I have two bits of advice. First, see a therapist. If you have already, see someone again, who will help you further resolve these issues of abuse and fear. Secondly, try to remember that all men are not like your brothers. This co-worker has to be judged for himself. Gently, go out with him, for dinner or for an afternoon stroll. Get to know him and let him get to know you.

Continue to clarify if he is kind, understanding. Go slowly. Don't do or say anything you don't want to. Therapy will help you better understand your feelings, lower your defenses and support you in this or any new relationship. The process is slow frequently; be patient. The immediate and long-term results will be wonderful and fulfilling, enabling you to function more comfortably. My best wishes to you.

**Another Letter to the Editor**

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4*

**County Watchdog Group Complains About Party Expenses to Mayors**

The Union County Watchdog Association sent the following letter all elected municipal officials in Union County. It was labeled "Something to chew on while you're struggling to manage your budgets."

Dear Honorable Mayor and Council Members: On December 22, 2006, the Friday before Christmas, a staff meeting was held for county juvenile detention center employees. The tax-payers of Union County treated 45 members of the staff to a buffet catered by Costa's Ristorante at a cost of \$930. The staff enjoyed two trays each of flounder francese, stuffed shells, chicken parmesan, sausage and peppers, one tray of lunch meat and cheese, six bottles of soda, and for desert they had 45 mini-pastries.

What is most important to note about this \$930 catering bill is that the voucher wasn't processed until two months after the meeting. It was dated February 28, 2007 and marked in the check registry as "food for meeting" without mentioning the date of the meeting. Gee, I wonder if they were trying to hide the fact that they had a Christmas party at taxpayers expense?

The county caters meetings all the time. A typical voucher in the check registry will read "Hershey's Subs and Deli "Food provided to Employees" \$283.93." No date, no explanation. A citizen would have to place an Open Public Records Act request to get details. Given this two-month-old catering bill, can the public believe that this was the only taxpayer-funded Christmas party?

Why would the detention center employees get a Christmas party and not the guards? How about the prosecutor's office, sheriff's office, county police, county clerk, county manager, parks and recreation, etc.? Other vouchers must be cleverly hidden throughout the check registry. And then there's that petty cash that I can't seem to get an accounting of.

One Christmas party is bad enough, but we assume that there are dozens more. To note other interesting food vouchers that turned up in 2006: Freeholder Proctor's \$49-room service breakfast while staying at the Hyatt Regency in Virginia; a staff meeting at a restaurant in Berkeley Heights before a press conference to lure the Jets to the county manager's wife's employer for \$286.63; Dara's Catering of \$1,715 for 100 for breakfast, snack and lunch for the employee golf tournament on May 13, 2006; and catering of freeholder meetings. In 2006, taxpayers picked up a \$10,510.83 tab for 27 freeholder meeting refreshments.

There were 35 freeholder meetings scheduled for 2006. Seven bills are unaccounted for. There is not one payment to a food bank in the check registry, but there was a voucher on February 28, 2007 for Napoli Deli "Food for Homeless Clients" of \$210. The juveniles in detention were also treated to a Christmas party of sorts on December 20, 2006 with \$375.85 worth of pizza.

It's comforting to know that the county does throw the poor and imprisoned a slice of pizza once in a while. The catering bill for the MusicFest, where over 300 people attended the freeholders' VIP tent, was never provided, despite an OPRA (Open Public Records Act) request and inquiries made during public comment at freeholder meetings.

The bill for the VIP tent alcohol hasn't been provided to date either. For anyone who thinks this is trivial, imagine your own town council doing the same thing. It is long past due for all good elected men and women, no matter what your party affiliation, to come to the aid of their beleaguered tax-burdened residents and demand accountability from a county government that is clearly out of control.

**Tina Renna, President  
UC Watchdog Assoc.**

**What A Gal!**

*Victoria just listed this wonderful Colonial in Mountainside.*



*Four bedrooms, two and a half baths, sunken family room with fireplace and French doors to a sun room with vaulted ceiling accent the interior. Everything has been remodeled or upgraded. Newer kitchen, new master bath, new furnace, new windows & doors plus a finished basement. Tiered Trex deck and a park-like yard. What more could you ask for...*



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**Offered for \$879,000**



**EXTENSIVELY RENOVATED ENGLISH COLONIAL**

This impeccable home that exudes quality is nestled in a quiet Westfield neighborhood. This fine home offers a formal Dining Room & Living Room w/fireplace, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Office & Family Room, new gourmet eat-in Kitchen, patio, hardwood floors, arched doorways, leaded glass windows, central air, master bedroom with private bath, all new windows, new baths, new roof & more.  
**Offered for \$879,000**



**PRISTINE COLONIAL ON THE BOULEVARD**

Spacious Colonial home on a tree lined Westfield street. Perfect for entertaining are the sun-filled Dining Room & Living Room w/gas fireplace. This fine home boasts hardwood floors, new central air & furnace, new windows, master Bedroom w/new full bath & a spacious deck overlooking fenced and manicured grounds.  
**Offered for \$799,000**



**SPRAWLING HENRY WEST WYCHWOOD GEM**

Elegant & spacious 10 room Henry West Colonial. The charm is abundant as this fine home graciously sprawls across its property located in one of Westfield's most desirable neighborhoods. Displaying quality craftsmanship & classic décor, this Wychwood gem is close to Echo Lake. The two fireplaces, plentiful living space, hardwood floors and sunlit rooms are only a few of the captivating features that this premier residence has to offer.  
**Offered for \$1,250,000**



**SPACIOUS SPLIT WITH FIRST FLOOR FAMILY ROOM**

Spacious and pristine home offering ideal floor plan on a quiet tree lined street. Perfect for entertaining are the sun-filled first floor Family Room with built-ins, new Kitchen with granite, Dining Room and Living Room with wood burning fireplace. This fine home boasts hardwood floors, central air, new bathrooms, new windows and a new patio.  
**Offered for \$575,000**

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**SLATE SIDEWALK WANTED**  
Replacing your slate or bluestone sidewalk with concrete? I will buy your large unbroken pieces and pick them up. Best prices paid.  
**(908) 608-0828**

**BLUESTONE SIDEWALK**  
In need of old bluestone sidewalks. Please call if you are redoing your walks to concrete. In need of slabs to replace broken ones. Will come to take. **(201) 390-0766**

**HOUSE FOR SALE**  
WESTFIELD - Charming Northside 3 bdrm, 1.5 bth, 7 room, CH Colonial w/walk up attic. Walk to school and town. Asking \$999,900. Call **(908) 232-3733** [www.minterweb.com](http://www.minterweb.com)

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Westfield - Professional 1st Floor office space available for rent near town. Approximately 1000 sq. ft. Off-street parking available. For more info. call **(908) 654-8000**.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD**  
Notice is hereby given that the PLANNING BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, after public hearing on February 21, 2007, granted approval for a side yard setback variance and a parking variance for property located on Block 55, Lot 7, 43 South Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey 07023  
Documents pertaining to this application are available for public inspection at Borough Hall during normal business hours.  
Mr. Stanley A. Fink, Esq.  
Fink Rosner Ershov-Levenberg, LLC  
1093 Raritan Road  
P.O. Box 858  
Clark, New Jersey 07066  
For  
Parker & Parker, LLC  
43 South Avenue  
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023  
1 T - 4/5/07, The Times Fee: \$21.42

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**BABYSITTER NEEDED**  
After-school babysitter needed M-F, 2:30-5:30 PM in my Scotch Plains home. Non-smoker, driver's license req.  
**Call (908) 322-2278**

**CHILDCARE NEEDED**  
Childcare in my Westfield home. 2 young boys and another on the way. FT, Lt. housekeeping, drivers Lic., ref's req. Please call Samantha (201) 248-2726

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**TOWN OF WESTFIELD ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**  
Take notice that CoolVines, Westfield LLC trading as CoolVines has applied to the Mayor and Council of the Town of Westfield for a Place to Place transfer of license, to be situated at 23 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey, the Plenary Retail Distribution License 2020-44-010-006.  
The person who will hold interest in this license is Ouida E. Consits of 91 Moore Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.  
Objections, if any, should be made immediately in writing to: Claire J. Gray, Municipal Clerk of the Town of Westfield, at the Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.  
Submitted by:  
CoolVines, Westfield LLC  
247 Nassau Street, Suite 201  
Princeton, New Jersey 08542  
2 T - 4/5/07 & 4/12/07, The Leader Fee: \$40.80

**HELP WANTED**  
Established Northern NJ Limo Service needs experienced owner/operators in Union County. Black Lincoln Town Car, 2004 or newer. Call Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm **(973) 812-2981**

**TENNIS INSTRUCTOR**  
Nomahegan Swim & Tennis Club has a position available for a Tennis Instructor to run our well-attended tennis program on our 6 newly renovated courts from June 18 until August 11. The qualified person must be able to teach individuals from age 4 to adult. Class schedules include morning and afternoon classes Mon. thru Fri. and Sat. morning, adult clinic from 9 to 11. Please contact Terry Macri at **Noma@WestfieldNJ.com**

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**PARTY COORDINATOR WANTED**  
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**RETAIL SALES HELP WANTED**  
Immediate, FT/PT sales openings for Downtown WF retail active wear shop. Responsible and outgoing saleswomen needed. Customer service and selling skills a must. Leave voicemail w/ contact info - **(908) 803-4247**.

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER**  
Linden, NJ - Design & inspect foundations, reinforced concrete, steel, masonry, & timber structures using knowledge of advanced structural analysis. Perform 3-D modeling, structural analysis, final reports, plans & specifications for structural design projects. Req.: MS in Civil Structural Engg w/1 yr of exp. Familiar w/ structural software (RAM & ETABS). Send resume to LMW Engineering Group, LLC., 2539 Brunswick Ave., Linden, NJ 07036

**HELP WANTED**  
Prudential NJ Properties' Westfield Office is hiring full-time agents, both new and experienced. Corporate training program/in-house training. Call Margie for confidential interview at **(908) 232-5664, ext. 103**.

**HELP WANTED**  
Flexible P/T & F/T positions available for new meal planning service opening in Westfield, NJ. Log on to **www.anniesgourmetkitchen.net** and go to "about us" and "Join the Team" then follow instructions.

**FREELANCERS WANTED**  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD  
OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD

Date Adopted: 3/29/07  
Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an extraordinary, unspecifiable 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. 2007-358**  
**AWARDED TO: Paige Plus, LLC, Tren-**  
**ton, New Jersey**

**SERVICES:** to provide Correctional Planning, Operations and Administration Consulting Services in the County of Union  
**PERIOD:** April 1, 2007-September 30, 2007  
**COSTS:** in an amount not to exceed of \$25,000.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T – 4/5/07, The Leader Fee: \$22.95

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-347**  
amending (Resolution No. 2006-296)  
**AWARDED TO: McElroy Deutsch,**  
**Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP, Newark**  
**New Jersey**

**SERVICES:** special counsel in the matter entitled **Juan C. Espinosa v. UC, et als.**  
**COSTS:** for an additional sum of \$2,000 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$92,000.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T – 4/5/07, The Leader Fee: \$23.97

## PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD

Date Adopted: 3/29/07  
Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an extraordinary, unspecifiable 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. 2007-321**  
**AWARDED TO:**  
Tri-County American Red Cross \$35,025  
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark \$35,000  
Central Jersey Legal Services \$19,250  
Heard AME Church \$75,075  
Homefirst Interfaith Council \$32,375  
The Lennard Clinic \$225,400  
Meals on Wheels Inc \$29,900  
Northeast Holistic Center \$30,000  
Overlook Hospital, Vauxhall Clinic \$59,400  
Plainfield Health Center \$144,250  
P.R.O.C.E.E.D, Inc. \$143,600  
Trinitas Hospital Behavioral Health Dep. \$75,000  
Trinitas Hospital Kinship Connection Program \$79,500  
Trinitas Hospital Early Intervention Program \$375,380  
UMDNJ Dental School, Special Services Clinic \$50,000  
**SERVICES:** to provide primary medical and support services to people with HIV/AIDS  
**PERIOD:** March 1, 2007-February 29, 2008  
Nicole L. DiRado, Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T – 4/5/07, The Leader Fee: \$48.96

## PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
ORDINANCE 647-2007  
INTRO: 3/29/2007

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the following proposed Ordinance was introduced and passed on the first reading at a REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union, New Jersey held on the **29th day of March, 2007**, and that said Ordinance will be taken up for further consideration for final passage at a meeting of said Board to be held at its meeting room in the Administration Building, Elizabeth, New Jersey, on the **19th day of April, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be reached, at which time and place all persons who may be interested therein will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning same.

A copy of this Ordinance has been posted on the Bulletin Board upon which public notices are customarily posted in the Union County Administration Building of the County of Union and a copy is available up to and including the time of such meeting to the members of the general public of the County who shall request such copies, at the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders in said Administration Building, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

**Nicole L. DiRado, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders**  
**GUARANTY ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY**  
**REGARDING THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON**  
**CERTAIN REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2007 (ACQUISITION OF 10 CHERRY**  
**STREET) OF THE UNION COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY IN AN**  
**AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$1,275,000 FOR**  
**THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL SECURITY IN CONNEC-**  
**TION WITH THE AUTHORITY'S PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Union County Improvement Authority (the "Authority") has been duly created by an ordinance of the Board of Chosen Freeholders (the "Board of Freeholders") of the County of Union, New Jersey (the "County"), as a public body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey, and the "State") pursuant to and in accordance with the County Improvement Authorities Law, constituting Chapter 183 of the Pamphlet Laws of 1960 of the State, as amended and supplemented from time to time (the "Act"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority is authorized under the provisions of the Act to acquire real estate within the County by lease or purchase and to construct, reconstruct and rehabilitate improvements thereon; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority had previously authorized ARD Appraisal Company to undertake an appraisal of 10 Cherry Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey (the "Property") in order to ascertain the market value of said Property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has received a copy of the appraisal for the Property and determined that it is in the best interest of the Authority to acquire the Property (the "Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has determined that in order to acquire the Property the Authority will issue not to exceed \$1,275,000 of its "Revenue Bonds, Series 2007" (Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street) (the "2007 Bonds"), and to induce the prospective purchasers of the 2007 Bonds of the Authority issued for the Project to purchase the same, it will be necessary that payment of the principal of (including sinking fund installments, if any) and interest on the herein defined 2007 Bonds be secured by a full faith and credit, unconditional and irrevocable guaranty of the County in accordance with a guaranty ordinance to be finally adopted by the governing body of the County and a guaranty certificate executed on the face of each Bond upon the issuance thereof by an authorized officer of the County (the "Guaranty"), all in accordance with Section 37 ("Section 37") of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80) and other applicable law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority will issue its "Revenue Bonds, Series 2007" (Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street) "to provide financing for the acquisition and improvement of the Property; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2007 Bonds have such other terms as shall be set forth in that certain Resolution authorizing the issuance of the "Union County Improvement Authority Revenue Bonds, Series 2007 (Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street) of the Union County Improvement Authority and any Additional Bonds or Notes of the Union County Improvement Authority" adopted by the Authority prior to the issuance of the Bond (the "Initial Bond Resolution" and any amendments or supplements thereto in accordance with the terms thereof may be collectively referred to as the "Bond Resolution"); and

**WHEREAS**, the payment of the principal of and interests on the 2007 Bonds are secured by a Deficiency Agreement by and among the County, the Trustee for the 2007 Bonds and the Authority ( the "Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street Deficiency Agreement, Series 2007 Bonds"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has made application, on behalf of the County, to the Local Finance Board in the Division of Local Government Services of the Department of Community Affairs of the State (the "Local Finance Board") for the Local Finance Board's review of the financing, including, *inter alia*, the Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street Deficiency Agreement and the Guaranty; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the terms of Section 37 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80) and the Guaranty, the County shall be obligated, if necessary, to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable property within the County without limitation as to rate or amount to make the timely payment of the principal of (including mandatory sinking fund installments, if any) and interest on the 2007 Bonds; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to market and sell the 2007 Bonds, (i) the Authority shall issue a Preliminary Official Statement (the "POS") and a final Official Statement (the "OS"), (ii) the Authority shall enter into a negotiated sale of the 2007 Bonds, with one or more underwriters (collectively, the "Underwriter") pursuant to the terms of a bond purchase agreement (the "BPA"), (iii) the Authority, the County, and the trustee for the 2007 Bonds, or any successor thereto in accordance with the terms of the Bond Resolution (the "Trustee") shall enter into a Continuing Disclosure Agreement (the "Continuing Disclosure Agreement") upon the issuance of the 2007 Bonds if necessary, convenient, useful or desirable in connection with Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission Act of 1934, as amended, or any successor rule or regulation thereto ("Rule 15c2-12"), and (iv) the County and the Authority shall take such actions and shall authorize, execute or acknowledge, as the case may be, and deliver such other documents, instruments or certificates as Bond Counsel to the Authority and to the County deem necessary, convenient, useful or desirable in order to issue the 2007 Bonds (collectively, the "Certificate"); and

**WHEREAS**, in order to induce the prospective purchasers of the 2007 Bonds to purchase same, the 2007 Bonds shall otherwise be secured by this ordinance unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteeing the principal of and interest on the 2007 Bonds, all pursuant to Section 37 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80); and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has made application to the Local Finance Board in the Division of Local Government Services of the Department of Community Affairs of the State (the "Local Finance Board") for the Local Finance Board's review of the Project; and

## PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD  
OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD

Date Adopted: 3/29/07  
Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an extraordinary, unspecifiable 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. 2007-329**  
**AWARDED TO: Intervention Strate-**  
**gies International, Inc., Secaucus New**  
**Jersey**

**SERVICES:** to provide Employee Assistance services to Union County Employees and their families  
**PERIOD:** January 1, 2007-December 31, 2007  
**COSTS:** in an amount not to exceed \$57,120.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T – 4/5/07, The Leader Fee: \$23.97

## PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD  
OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD

Date Adopted: 3/29/07  
Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an extraordinary, unspecifiable 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. 2007-350**  
amending (Resolution No. 2007-114)  
**AWARDED TO: Palumbo & Renaud,**  
**Cranford, New Jersey**

**SERVICES:** special counsel in the matter entitled **Estate of Edward Sinclair v. UC, et als.**  
**COSTS:** for an additional sum of \$10,000 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$60,000.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T – 4/5/07, The Leader Fee: \$22.95

## PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD

Date Adopted: 3/29/07  
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**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-321**  
**AWARDED TO:**  
Tri-County American Red Cross \$35,025  
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark \$35,000  
Central Jersey Legal Services \$19,250  
Heard AME Church \$75,075  
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The Lennard Clinic \$225,400  
Meals on Wheels Inc \$29,900  
Northeast Holistic Center \$30,000  
Overlook Hospital, Vauxhall Clinic \$59,400  
Plainfield Health Center \$144,250  
P.R.O.C.E.E.D, Inc. \$143,600  
Trinitas Hospital Behavioral Health Dep. \$75,000  
Trinitas Hospital Kinship Connection Program \$79,500  
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UMDNJ Dental School, Special Services Clinic \$50,000  
**SERVICES:** to provide primary medical and support services to people with HIV/AIDS  
**PERIOD:** March 1, 2007-February 29, 2008  
Nicole L. DiRado, Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T – 4/5/07, The Leader Fee: \$48.96

## PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
ORDINANCE 647-2007  
INTRO: 3/29/2007

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the following proposed Ordinance was introduced and passed on the first reading at a REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union, New Jersey held on the **29th day of March, 2007**, and that said Ordinance will be taken up for further consideration for final passage at a meeting of said Board to be held at its meeting room in the Administration Building, Elizabeth, New Jersey, on the **19th day of April, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be reached, at which time and place all persons who may be interested therein will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning same.

A copy of this Ordinance has been posted on the Bulletin Board upon which public notices are customarily posted in the Union County Administration Building of the County of Union and a copy is available up to and including the time of such meeting to the members of the general public of the County who shall request such copies, at the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders in said Administration Building, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

**Nicole L. DiRado, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders**  
**GUARANTY ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY**  
**REGARDING THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON**  
**CERTAIN REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2007 (ACQUISITION OF 10 CHERRY**  
**STREET) OF THE UNION COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY IN AN**  
**AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$1,275,000 FOR**  
**THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL SECURITY IN CONNEC-**  
**TION WITH THE AUTHORITY'S PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Union County Improvement Authority (the "Authority") has been duly created by an ordinance of the Board of Chosen Freeholders (the "Board of Freeholders") of the County of Union, New Jersey (the "County"), as a public body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey, and the "State") pursuant to and in accordance with the County Improvement Authorities Law, constituting Chapter 183 of the Pamphlet Laws of 1960 of the State, as amended and supplemented from time to time (the "Act"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority is authorized under the provisions of the Act to acquire real estate within the County by lease or purchase and to construct, reconstruct and rehabilitate improvements thereon; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority had previously authorized ARD Appraisal Company to undertake an appraisal of 10 Cherry Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey (the "Property") in order to ascertain the market value of said Property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has received a copy of the appraisal for the Property and determined that it is in the best interest of the Authority to acquire the Property (the "Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has determined that in order to acquire the Property the Authority will issue not to exceed \$1,275,000 of its "Revenue Bonds, Series 2007" (Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street) (the "2007 Bonds"), and to induce the prospective purchasers of the 2007 Bonds of the Authority issued for the Project to purchase the same, it will be necessary that payment of the principal of (including sinking fund installments, if any) and interest on the herein defined 2007 Bonds be secured by a full faith and credit, unconditional and irrevocable guaranty of the County in accordance with a guaranty ordinance to be finally adopted by the governing body of the County and a guaranty certificate executed on the face of each Bond upon the issuance thereof by an authorized officer of the County (the "Guaranty"), all in accordance with Section 37 ("Section 37") of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80) and other applicable law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority will issue its "Revenue Bonds, Series 2007" (Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street) "to provide financing for the acquisition and improvement of the Property; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2007 Bonds have such other terms as shall be set forth in that certain Resolution authorizing the issuance of the "Union County Improvement Authority Revenue Bonds, Series 2007 (Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street) of the Union County Improvement Authority and any Additional Bonds or Notes of the Union County Improvement Authority" adopted by the Authority prior to the issuance of the Bond (the "Initial Bond Resolution" and any amendments or supplements thereto in accordance with the terms thereof may be collectively referred to as the "Bond Resolution"); and

**WHEREAS**, the payment of the principal of and interests on the 2007 Bonds are secured by a Deficiency Agreement by and among the County, the Trustee for the 2007 Bonds and the Authority ( the "Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street Deficiency Agreement, Series 2007 Bonds"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has made application, on behalf of the County, to the Local Finance Board in the Division of Local Government Services of the Department of Community Affairs of the State (the "Local Finance Board") for the Local Finance Board's review of the financing, including, *inter alia*, the Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street Deficiency Agreement and the Guaranty; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the terms of Section 37 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80) and the Guaranty, the County shall be obligated, if necessary, to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable property within the County without limitation as to rate or amount to make the timely payment of the principal of (including mandatory sinking fund installments, if any) and interest on the 2007 Bonds; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to market and sell the 2007 Bonds, (i) the Authority shall issue a Preliminary Official Statement (the "POS") and a final Official Statement (the "OS"), (ii) the Authority shall enter into a negotiated sale of the 2007 Bonds, with one or more underwriters (collectively, the "Underwriter") pursuant to the terms of a bond purchase agreement (the "BPA"), (iii) the Authority, the County, and the trustee for the 2007 Bonds, or any successor thereto in accordance with the terms of the Bond Resolution (the "Trustee") shall enter into a Continuing Disclosure Agreement (the "Continuing Disclosure Agreement") upon the issuance of the 2007 Bonds if necessary, convenient, useful or desirable in connection with Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission Act of 1934, as amended, or any successor rule or regulation thereto ("Rule 15c2-12"), and (iv) the County and the Authority shall take such actions and shall authorize, execute or acknowledge, as the case may be, and deliver such other documents, instruments or certificates as Bond Counsel to the Authority and to the County deem necessary, convenient, useful or desirable in order to issue the 2007 Bonds (collectively, the "Certificate"); and

**WHEREAS**, in order to induce the prospective purchasers of the 2007 Bonds to purchase same, the 2007 Bonds shall otherwise be secured by this ordinance unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteeing the principal of and interest on the 2007 Bonds, all pursuant to Section 37 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80); and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has made application to the Local Finance Board in the Division of Local Government Services of the Department of Community Affairs of the State (the "Local Finance Board") for the Local Finance Board's review of the Project; and

## PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD  
OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD

Date Adopted: 3/29/07  
Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an extraordinary, unspecifiable 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. 2007-349**  
amending (Resolution No. 2006-1149)  
**AWARDED TO: Palumbo & Renaud,**  
**Cranford, New Jersey**

**SERVICES:** special counsel in the matter entitled **Eduardo C. Tapari v. UC, et als.**  
**COSTS:** for an additional sum of \$5,000 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$15,000.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T – 4/5/07, The Leader Fee: \$22.95

## PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD  
OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD

Date Adopted: 3/29/07  
Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an extraordinary, unspecifiable 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. 2007-342**  
**AWARDED TO: Russell Reid Waste**  
**Hauling & Disposal Services Co., Inc.,**  
**d/b/a Mr. John Portable Sanitation Units,**  
**Inc., Keasbey, New Jersey**

**SERVICES:** for the provision of portable toilets  
**PERIOD:** March 22, 2008  
**COSTS:** for a total amount of \$42,901.50. This is the second and final twelve (12) Month extension

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T – 4/5/07, The Leader Fee: \$23.97

## PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD  
OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD

Date Adopted: 3/29/07  
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. 2007-327**  
**AWARDED TO: Consolidated Con-**  
**struction Management Services**  
**Corporation, (CCMS) Colts Neck, New**  
**Jersey,**

**SERVICES:** for professional consulting services related to the Security System upgrade at the Union County Courthouse, New Annex Complex, Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, New Jersey  
**COSTS:** in an amount not to exceed \$70,500.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T – 4/5/07, The Leader Fee: \$23.97

## PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
ORDINANCE 647-2007  
INTRO: 3/29/2007

**WHEREAS**, the Authority believes: (i) it is in the public interest to accomplish such purpose; (ii) said purpose is for the health, wealth, convenience or betterment of the inhabitants of the County; (iii) the amounts to be expended for said purpose are not unreasonable or exorbitant; and (iv) the proposal is an efficient and feasible means of providing services for the needs of the inhabitants of the County and will not create an undue financial burden to be placed upon the Authority or the Participants.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY** (not less than two-thirds of the full membership thereof affirmatively concurring) as follows:

Section 1. Revenue Bonds, Series 2007 (Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street) are sometimes collectively referred to herein as the "2007 Bonds".

Section 2. This guaranty ordinance shall be adopted by the governing body of the County in the manner provided for adoption of a bond ordinance as provided in the Local Bond Law, constituting Chapter 169 of the Pamphlet Laws of 1960 of the State, as amended (the "Local Bond Law"), codified as N.J.S.A. 40A:2-1, et seq.

Section 3. Pursuant to and in accordance with the terms of the Act, specifically Section 37 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80), the County is hereby authorized to and hereby shall unconditionally and irrevocably guarantee the punctual payment of the principal of (including sinking fund installments, if any) and interest on the Bond in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$1,275,000, which Series 2007 Bonds are to be issued to finance the Project as described in the preamble hereof, on such terms and conditions as may be agreed to by and between the County and the Authority. Upon the endorsement of the 2007 Bonds referred to in Section 3 below, the County shall be unconditionally and irrevocably obligated to pay the principal of (including sinking fund installments, if any) and interest on the 2007 Bonds, when due, in the same manner and to the same extent as in the case of bond issued by the County and accordingly, the County shall be unconditionally and irrevocably obligated to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable property within the County for the payment thereof without limitation as to rate or amount when required under the provisions of applicable law.

Section 4. An authorized representative of the Board of Chosen Freeholders ("Authorized Officer") of the County shall, by manual or facsimile signature, execute an endorsement on each of the 2007 Bonds evidencing this guaranty by the County as to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest thereon. The endorsement on each 2007 Bond shall be in substantially the following form, and absent the fully executed endorsement in such following form on any such 2007 Bond, such 2007 Bond shall not be entitled to the benefits of this guaranty ordinance:

**GUARANTY OF THE COUNTY OF UNION OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

The payment of the principal of and interest on the within Bond is hereby fully, unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed by the County of Union of the State of New Jersey (the "County"), and the County shall be unconditionally and irrevocably obligated to pay the principal of (including sinking fund installments, if any) and interest on this Bond, when due, in the same manner and to the same extent as in the case of bond issued by the County and accordingly, the County shall be unconditionally and irrevocably obligated to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable property within the County for the payment hereof without limitation as to rate or amount when required under the provisions of applicable law.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the County of Union of the State of New Jersey, has caused this Guaranty to be executed by the manual or facsimile signature of an Authorized Officer

COUNTY OF UNION  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Section 5. It is hereby found, determined and declared by the governing body of the County that:

(a) This guaranty ordinance may be adopted notwithstanding any statutory debt or other limitations, including particularly any limitation or requirement under or pursuant to the Local Bond Law, but the aggregate principal amount of the Bond which shall be entitled to the benefits of this guaranty ordinance, being an amount not to exceed \$1,275,000, shall, after their issuance, be included in the gross debt of the County for the purpose of determining the indebtedness of the County under or pursuant to the Local Bond Law.

(b) The principal amount of the 2007 Bond entitled to the benefits of this guaranty ordinance and included in the gross debt of the County shall be deducted and is hereby declared to be and to constitute a deduction from such gross debt under and for all the purposes of the Local Bond Law (i) from and after the time of issuance of the 2007 Bonds until the end of the fiscal year beginning next after the completion of the Project, and (ii) in any annual debt statement filed pursuant to the Local Bond Law as of the end of said fiscal year or any subsequent fiscal year if the revenues or other receipts or moneys of the Authority in such year are sufficient to pay its expenses of operation and maintenance in such year and all amounts payable in such year on account of the principal of and interest on all such guaranteed 2007 Bonds, all bonds of the County issued as provided in Section 36 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-79) and all bond of the Authority issued under the Act.

Section 6. The following matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated: (a) The maximum principal amount of 2007 Bond of the Authority which are hereby and hereunder guaranteed as to the punctual payment of the principal thereof and interest thereon is and the maximum estimated cost of the Project to be financed in accordance with the transaction contemplated hereby is \$1,275,000.

(b) The purpose described in this guaranty ordinance is not a current expense of the County and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be assessed on property specially benefited thereby.

(c) A supplemental debt statement of the County has been duly made and filed in the office of the Board of Chosen Freeholders and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State, and such debt statement shows that while the gross debt of the County, as defined in the Local Bond Law, is increased by this guaranty ordinance by \$1,275,000 in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the net debt of the County is not increased, and the obligation of the County authorized by or incurred pursuant to the terms of this guaranty ordinance is permitted by an exception to the debt limitations of the Local Bond Law which exception is contained in the Act.

(d) All other items to be contained in a bond ordinance adopted pursuant to the Local Bond Law are hereby determined to be inapplicable to the County's guaranty of the 2007 Bonds hereby.

Section 7. This guaranty ordinance shall take effect at the time and in the manner provided by law, but in any event no later than upon the issuance of the 2007 Bond.

Section 8. Upon the adoption hereof, the Clerk of the Board of Freeholders shall forward certified copies of this ordinance to the County Manager, County Counsel, Executive Director of the Authority, and the Law Office of John G. Hudak, Esq., LLC, Bond Counsel to the Authority.

1 T - 4/5/07 The Leader Fee: \$319.26

## PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD  
OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD

Date Adopted: 3/29/07  
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**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-349**  
amending (Resolution No. 2006-1149)  
**AWARDED TO: Palumbo & Renaud,**  
**Cranford, New Jersey**

**SERVICES:** special counsel in the matter entitled **Eduardo C. Tapari v. UC, et als.**  
**COSTS:** for an additional sum of \$5,000 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$15,000.



## Interm. Teacher Award Nominations Due April 20

WESTFIELD – The Optimist Club of Westfield has announced that the deadline for receipt of nominations for the 10th annual Intermediate School Outstanding Teacher Award is Friday, April 20.

Two intermediate school teachers – one from Edison and one from Roosevelt Intermediate Schools – will be chosen to receive the award on May 9 at an Optimist dinner and will be honored at a board of education meeting on Tuesday, May 22.

Nominations should specify ways in which the teacher has demonstrated outstanding teaching, interest in children and continued pursuit of professional growth. The nominee must be a full-time teacher in the Westfield Public Schools in grades 6 to 8 for a minimum of five years.

Students, parents and staff are encouraged to submit nomination letters to: Outstanding Teacher Award Committee of the Optimist Club of

Westfield, c/o Office of the Superintendent, Westfield Public Schools, 302 Elm Street, Westfield, NJ 07090.

Letters can also be e-mailed to: optiaward@westfieldnj.k12.org.

According to Superintendent of Schools William Foley, “The Outstanding Teacher Award gives deserving credit to our intermediate school teachers who are dedicated to providing an educationally stimulating and supporting environment during the critical stage of adolescence.”

Previous winners of the award from Edison include: Robert Sanders, Walter Buda, David Shapiro, Nancy Rygiel, Gloria White-James, Robert Hild, Janice Sheridan, Kathleen Zippler and Teresa Squillace.

Roosevelt teachers who have been honored with the Optimist award include: Frank Nolde, Walter Buda, Thomas Reynolds, Wendy Masteller, Jack Martin, Karen Lust, Linda Vail, Elizabeth Scheuerer and Glen Kurz.

## Szot of Holy Trinity School To be Honored in June

WESTFIELD — A dinner honoring Dorothy Szot, principal of Holy Trinity Interparochial School in Westfield is being planned for June 14 at the Pines Manor in Edison. Ms. Szot, who will be leaving at the end of this year, has been associated with Holy Trinity for 39 years.



Dorothy Szot

The theme of the dinner is “Celebrating Five Decades in Catholic Education.” Ms. Szot, a native of Jersey City, is a graduate of Fordham University. She taught at St. Peter’s Elementary School in Jersey City, earned a tenured position in the Scotch Plains public system, and joined the staff of Holy Trinity as the eighth-grade teacher in 1968. She planned and implemented the co-sponsorship of Holy Trinity Interparochial by the parishes of Holy Trinity, St. Helen, and Our Lady of Lourdes.

Ms. Szot also obtained Middle States Accreditation for Holy Trinity and several years ago established a second campus for the school in Mountainside. In 2004, she was awarded the Archdiocesan Sesqui-

centennial Cathedral Golden Jubilee Medal by Archbishop John Myers. This medal was given to her in recognition of her dedication to Holy Trinity Interparochial School as well as

her contributions to Catholic education both in the Archdiocese of Newark and in neighboring dioceses.

Joseph Cecala, a former Holy Trinity parent and benefactor of the school, will co-chair the testimonial dinner. The emcee will be Joe Nolan of *Eye-witness News*, *Good Morning America*, and *WPLJ*. Mr. Nolan is a graduate of Holy Trinity whom Ms. Szot taught in the seventh and eighth grades.

Mr. Nolan said: “Any success I have achieved is due in large part to my Catholic education and Mrs. Szot is a big part of that for me. I am thrilled to be part of a dinner honoring this wonderful woman.”

Tim McLoone and his band will provide entertainment at the dinner. For further information regarding the dinner, or to receive an invitation, visit the website at [www.htisnj/dsdinner.com](http://www.htisnj/dsdinner.com) or call the school at (908) 233-0484.

## More Education News

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11



MAKING THE GRADE...State Farm Youth Advisory Board members Jennifer Bauer from Scotch Plains and Christopher Tassone from Pittsfield, Mass. signing grant documents.

## Jennifer Bauer Selected For Youth Advisory Bd.

SCOTCH PLAINS – It is not too often, that a freshman student majoring in political science becomes involved in management decisions of corporate America. But it is a reality for Jennifer Bauer of Scotch Plains, a 2006 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, now studying at William Paterson University’s Honor College.

The 19-year-old was selected from a nationwide pool of almost 650 candidates as a member of the inaugural youth advisory board of State Farm Insurance. The appointment spans a two-year period and centers on the State Farm intention to develop and implement a \$5 million per year signature service learning initiative.

State Farm chairman Edward Rust said, “The youth advisory board, of which Jennifer Bauer is one of two representatives covering the U.S. Northeast including Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, consists of the community leaders of tomorrow. We needed to add the passion and expertise of our younger generation to enhance our own vision.”

The board reviewed more than 350 funding requests by non-profit organizations and schools throughout the country and Canada. Ms. Bauer and her colleague representing the Northeast selected four projects to receive financial grants from State Farm – among them New Jersey’s Community Development Corporation in Paterson, which qualified for \$75,000. Almost \$290,000 was provided

by State Farm to the northeastern region.

Ms. Bauer made the dean’s list earning a 4.0 GPA during her first semester and was elected secretary of the freshman class. She will be doing a summer internship at State Farm corporate headquarters in Bloomingdale, Ill, beginning on May 21.



TO THE RESCUE...The Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA School Age Child Care program recently paid a visit to the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad to give students some insight into the role this volunteer organization plays in the community. Youngsters in the after-care program at Coles Elementary School were offered hands-on experience in several stations manned by rescue squad members, ranging from back boards and neck braces to stretchers and oxygen masks.

## SP-F Scholarship Found Conducts Annual Canvass

SCOTCH PLAINS –The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation will conduct its 40th annual residential canvass, “Dollars For Students,” on Saturday, April 14, and Sunday, April 15. The foundation seeks contributions to provide financial assistance to deserving Scotch Plains and Fanwood student residents in their post high school education.

Approximately 100 local high school students will make door-to-door solicitations and man stationary locations throughout Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

In addition to its own fund-raising efforts, the foundation also administers scholarships sponsored by 20 local individuals and organizations as well as administering the capital of 24 established scholarship funds. Since it was founded in 1966, the foundation has administered \$1,502,830 in scholarships for the

benefit of 1,793 local students.

Last year, \$117,325 of financial aid was administered by the foundation to 88 of the students who applied. This year the screening committee is in the process of evaluating 131 applications from local high school and college students. With community donations to enhance the foundation’s “Dollars for Students” awards, which will total \$25,500, a total of more than \$129,000 should be given for the 2007 – 2008 academic year.

The house-to-house canvass and a direct-mail effort are the foundation’s only fund-raising efforts for its “Dollars For Students” Scholarships. Residents who are not contacted in person by a student or who do not find an envelope by their door may send donations to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 123, Fanwood, N.J. 07023.

## Destination ImagiNation Team Wins Second Place

WESTFIELD – The Westfield High School (WHS) Destination ImagiNation Team, captained by Junior Sam Johnson, won second place at the New Jersey finals on Saturday, March 24, at Ridge High School in Basking Ridge, earning them a place at the 2007 Global Finals from May 23 to 26, in Knoxville, Tenn.

Destination ImagiNation is designed to help young people build lifelong skills in creative and critical thinking, teamwork, time management and problem solving. The team, made up of six sophomores and juniors from WHS, worked together for 12 weeks to create its solution to a Team Challenge, which was based on showing their understanding of the properties of light.

Their challenge had a focus that was theatrical, structural, improvisational, scientific and technical, with their main prop being a seven-foot tall rocket with special effects lighting, designed and built by the teens from various household items.

They also learned and practiced creative quick-thinking skills for the

Instant Challenge portion of the program, where they were given unrelated items, and assigned the task of building something from these items and creating a theatrical presentation to explain what they built, all within a seven-minute time limit.

Destination ImagiNation provided two scholarships at the event, which were open to all of the high school junior and senior participants. Students applied for the scholarship in early March by submitting an individual creative presentation of their own design via CD, DVD or VHS tape.

This year, WHS students won both 1,000 scholarships. Junior Sam Johnson won one scholarship for his presentation of a story that he wrote entitled “Fox’s Big Day.” Junior Samantha Luscombe won the other scholarship for her computer presentation, entitled “Creativity Only Comes with an Open Mind,” where she displayed her computer, photographic, artistic and writing skills, as well as her creative philanthropic efforts.

## More Community News

### Rabbi to Lead Program For Grandparents

WESTFIELD – Rabbi Douglas Sagal will present “Grandparenting Interfaith Grandchildren” on Sunday, April 15, at 11:15 a.m. at Temple Emanu-El of Westfield.

This class is designed to assist grandparents in dealing with the etiquette of being a Jewish role model while maintaining respect for the parent’s wishes regarding religion.

Admission is free. Temple Emanu-El is located at 756 East Broad Street. For further information, contact Carolyn Shane, executive director, at (908) 232-6770 or [cschane@tewnj.org](mailto:cschane@tewnj.org) or visit the temple’s website, [tewnj.org](http://tewnj.org).

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD

Date Adopted: 3/29/07

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. 2007-341**  
**AWARDED TO: Camelot Auctions, Cranbury, New Jersey**  
**SERVICES:** for the purchase of horses for the Watchung Stables Troop Program  
**COSTS:** in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T – 4/5/07, The Leader Fee: \$19.89

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-340**  
**AWARDED TO: Goose Control Technology, Metuchen, New Jersey**  
**SERVICES:** for the purpose of managing the Canadian Geese population which inhabiting the Union County Park system.  
**COSTS:** in an amount not to exceed of \$40,000.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T – 4/5/07, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-336**  
**AWARDED TO: T & M Associates, Middletown, New Jersey**  
**SERVICES:** for design services for Lake Surprise Dam Rehabilitation, Borough of Mountainside and City of Summit.  
**COSTS:** in an amount not to exceed \$187,812.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T – 4/5/07, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

### Hiking Club Activities Are Available to All

COUNTY – The Union County Hiking Club offers a regular schedule of hiking and bicycling activities designed to provide wholesome recreation while contributing to physical fitness. Most events take place in central and northern New Jersey. Membership dues are \$10 per year. Guests are invited to participate in several outings. For a complimentary schedule, call (908) 527-4900.

### Rotary Club Grants Deadline is April 15

WESTFIELD — Non-profit organizations requesting a 2007 Rotary Club of Westfield community grant must complete and submit the official application by Sunday, April 15 in order to be considered.

The Rotary Club, in accordance with its goal of community service, is interested in providing grants for programs and projects that directly serve people in the community. No applications for capital improvements or operating funds will be considered.

Non-profit organizations may receive a copy of the official application from the Rotary website, [westfieldrotary.com](http://westfieldrotary.com), e-mail at [rotary@westfieldnj.com](mailto:rotary@westfieldnj.com), or contacting Danielle Walsh, Rotary Club vice president and chairwoman of the club’s grants committee, at (908) 612-7374.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD

TAKE NOTICE that on the 16th day of April, 2007 at 7:30 p.m., a hearing will be held before the Planning Board of the Borough of Fanwood at Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey, for the purpose of considering the addition of the Development Transfer Rights Element to the 1998 Master Plan.

A copy of the Draft Development Transfer Rights Element is available for inspection in the office of the Planning Board Secretary at Borough Hall during normal business hours.

Any interested party may appear in person or through an agent or attorney to be heard at such hearing and may participate therein in accordance with the rules of the Planning Board.

Pat Hoynes  
Planning Board Secretary  
1 T – 4/5/07, The Times Fee: \$20.40

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-335**  
**AWARDED TO: Louis Berger Group, Florham Park, New Jersey**  
**SERVICES:** for design services for Four Intersections Improvement, City of Elizabethtown.  
**COSTS:** in an amount not to exceed \$107,989.58.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T – 4/5/07, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS ORDINANCE 646-2007

INTRO: 3/29/2007

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the following proposed Ordinance was introduced and passed on the first reading at a REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union, New Jersey held on the **29th day of March, 2007**, and that said Ordinance will be taken up for further consideration for final passage at a meeting of said Board to be held at its meeting room in the Administration Building, Elizabeth, New Jersey, on the **19th day of April, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be reached, at which time and place all persons who may be interested therein will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning same.

A copy of this Ordinance has been posted on the Bulletin Board upon which public notices are customarily posted in the Union County Administration Building of the County of Union and a copy is available up to and including the time of such meeting to the members of the general public of the County who shall request such copies, at the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders in said Administration Building, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Nicole L. DiRado, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders

### ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OR ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND DELIVERY BY THE COUNTY OF UNION OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE UNION COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY’S REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2007 (ACQUISITION OF 10 CHERRY STREET) IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$1,275,000.

**WHEREAS**, the Union County Improvement Authority (the “Authority”) has been duly created by an ordinance of the Board of Chosen Freeholders (the “Board of Freeholders”) of the County of Union, New Jersey (the “County”), as a public body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey (the “State”) pursuant to and in accordance with the County Improvement Authorities Law, constituting Chapter 183 of the Pamphlet Laws of 1960 of the State, as amended and supplemented from time to time (the “Act”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority is authorized under the provisions of the Act to acquire real estate within the County by lease or purchase and to construct, reconstruct and rehabilitate improvements thereon; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority had previously authorized ARD Appraisal Company to undertake an appraisal of 10 Cherry Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey (the “Property”) in order to ascertain the market value of said property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has received a copy of the appraisal for the Property and determined that it is in the best interest of the Authority to acquire the Property (the “Project”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has determined that in order to acquire the Property the Authority will issue not to exceed \$1,275,000 of its “Revenue Bonds, Series 2007” (Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street) (the “2007 Bonds”), and to induce the prospective purchasers of the 2007 Bonds of the Authority issued for the Project to purchase the same, it will be necessary that payment of the principal of (including sinking fund installments, if any) and interest on the herein defined 2007 Bonds be secured by a full faith and credit, unconditional and irrevocable guaranty of the County in accordance with a guaranty ordinance to be finally adopted by the governing body of the County and a guaranty certificate executed on the face of each Bond upon the issuance thereof by an authorized officer of the County (the “Guaranty”), all in accordance with Section 37 (“Section 37”) of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80) and other applicable law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority will issue its “Revenue Bonds, Series 2007” (Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street”) to provide financing for the acquisition and improvement of the Property; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2007 Bonds have such other terms as shall be set forth in that certain Resolution authorizing the issuance of the “Union County Improvement Authority Revenue Bonds, Series 2007 (Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street) of the Union County Improvement Authority and any Additional Bonds or Notes of the Union County Improvement Authority” adopted by the Authority prior to the issuance of the Bond (the “Initial Bond Resolution”) and any amendments or supplements thereto in accordance with the terms thereof may be collectively referred to as the “Bond Resolution”); and

**WHEREAS**, the payment of the principal of and interests on the 2007 Bonds are secured by a Deficiency Agreement by and among the County, the Trustee for the 2007 Bonds and the Authority (the “Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street Deficiency Agreement, Series 2007 Bonds”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has made application, on behalf of the County, to the Local Finance Board in the Division of Local Government Services of the Department of Community Affairs of the State (the “Local Finance Board”) for the Local Finance Board’s review of the financing, including, *inter alia*, the Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street Deficiency Agreement and the Guaranty; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the terms of Section 37 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80) and the Guaranty, the County shall be obligated, if necessary, to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable property within the County without limitation as to rate or amount to make the timely payment of the principal of (including mandatory sinking fund installments, if any) and interest on the 2007 Bonds; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to market and sell the 2007 Bonds, (i) the Authority shall issue a Preliminary Official Statement (the “POS”) and a final Official Statement (the “OS”), (ii) the Authority shall enter into a negotiated sale of the 2007 Bonds with one or more underwriters (collectively, the “Underwriter”) pursuant to the terms of a bond purchase agreement (the “BPA”), (iii) the Authority, the County and the trustee for the 2007 Bonds, or any successor thereto in accordance with the terms of the Bond Resolution (the “Trustee”) shall enter into a Continuing Disclosure Agreement (the “Continuing Disclosure Agreement”) upon the issuance of the 2007 Bonds if necessary, convenient, useful or desirable in connection with Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission Act of 1934, as amended, or any successor rule or regulation thereto (“Rule 15c2-12”), and (iv) the County and the Authority shall take such actions and shall authorize, execute or acknowledge, as the case may be, and deliver such other documents, instruments or certificates as Bond Counsel to the Authority and to the County deem necessary, convenient, useful or desirable in order to issue the 2007 Bonds (collectively, the “Certificate”); and

**WHEREAS**, in order to induce the prospective purchasers of the 2007 Bonds to purchase same, the 2007 Bonds shall otherwise be secured by a guaranty ordinance of the County, unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteeing the principal of and interest on the 2007 Bonds, all pursuant to Section 37 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-80); and

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has made application to the Local Finance Board in the Division of Local Government Services of the Department of Community Affairs of the State (the “Local Finance Board”) for the Local Finance Board’s review of the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority believes: (i) it is in the public interest to accomplish such purpose; (ii) said purpose is for the health, wealth, convenience or betterment of the inhabitants of the County; (iii) the amounts to be expended for said purpose are not unreasonable or exorbitant; and (iv) the proposal is an efficient and feasible means of providing services for the needs of the inhabitants of the County and will not create an undue financial burden to be placed upon the Authority or the Participants.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY** (not less than two-thirds of the full membership thereof affirmatively concurring) as follows:

**Section 1.** The Project and the financing of the Project through the Financing Documents (hereinafter defined) is hereby approved.

**Section 2.** The County Manager, Chief Financial Officer, County Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer or such other authorized officer of the County (each an “Authorized Officer”) are hereby each severally authorized and directed, upon the satisfaction of all the legal conditions precedent to the execution or acknowledgment and delivery by the County, of the Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street Deficiency Agreement, Series 2007 Bonds, the County Guaranty and the Continuing Disclosure Agreement and all other financing documents (collectively the “Financing Documents”) to be so executed or acknowledged by the County, to execute or acknowledge and deliver such documents in substantially the forms presented hereto, with such changes thereto as the Authorized Officer, after consultation with counsel to the County, and other professional advisors to the County and the Authority (the “Consultants”), deems their sole discretion to be necessary, desirable or convenient for the execution thereof and to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby, which execution thereof shall conclusively evidence the Authorized Officer’s approval of any changes to the forms thereof that will result from the sale of the Bonds, which financing terms shall be limited only by those financing terms parameters set forth in the application of the Authority filed with the State Local Finance Board relating to the Bonds and the parameters set forth herein.

**Section 3.** The Clerk of the Freeholder Board (the “Clerk of the Board”) is hereby authorized and directed, upon the execution or acknowledgment of the documents set forth in Section 2 hereof in accordance with the terms of Section 2 hereof, to attest to the Authorized Officer’s execution or acknowledgment of such documents and is hereby further authorized and directed to thereupon affix the seal of the County to such documents.

**Section 4.** Upon the execution or acknowledgment and attestation of and, if required, the affixing of the seal on the documents set forth in Section 2 hereof as contemplated by Sections 2 and 3 hereof, the Authorized Officer is hereby authorized and directed to (i) deliver the fully executed or acknowledged, attested and sealed documents to the other parties thereto and (ii) perform such other actions as the Authorized Officer deems necessary, desirable or convenient in relation to the execution and delivery thereof.

**Section 5.** The Freeholder Board hereby authorizes the preparation and the distribution of financial statements and demographic and other information concerning the County, the Project, the Financing Documents and the transactions contemplated thereby contained in the Preliminary Official Statement and the Official Statement to be issued in connection with the marketing of the Bonds. In furtherance of such authorization, the Freeholder Board hereby directs the Authorized Officer to take such action and execute such certificates, documents or instruments as the Authorized Officer, after consultation with the Consultants deems in their discretion to be necessary, desirable or convenient in connection with the preparation and distribution of the Preliminary Official Statement and the Official Statement to market the Bonds at the most efficient economical cost to the County, including without limitation, the execution and delivery of the County Letter in such form as is required by the Authority, the Underwriter and the Consultants to market the Bonds.

**Section 6.** The Freeholder Board hereby authorizes the performance of any act, the execution or acknowledgment and delivery of any other document, instrument or closing certificate, including without limitation, bring down certificates concerning the County Letter, which the Authorized Officer, after consultation with the Consultants, deems necessary, desirable or convenient in connection with this contemplated transaction, and the Board of Freeholders hereby directs the Authorized Officer to execute or acknowledge, attest and affix the seal to any such documents, instruments or closing certificates, the authorization of which actions shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution or acknowledgment, attestation, affixation and delivery, as the case may be, thereof by such persons. Such closing certificates shall include, without limitation, (a) a determination that any information provided by the County in connection with the preparation and distribution of the (i) Preliminary Official Statement is “deemed final” for the purposes and within the meaning of Rule 15c2-12 and (ii) Official Statement constitutes a final Official Statement for the purposes and within the meaning of Rule 15c2-12, (b) a determination that the Continuing Disclosure Agreement complies with Rule 15c2-12, (c) a determination that any information provided by or on behalf of the County or relating to the County, the Project, the Financing Documents or the transactions contemplated thereby in connection with the preparation and distribution of the Preliminary Official Statement and the Official Statement complies with Section 10 and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and (d) any representations, warranties, covenants, certificates or instruments required by any issuer of a municipal bond insurance policy or any other form of credit enhancement securing all or a portion of the Bonds or the issuer of a rating on all or a portion thereof.

**Section 7.** Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, it is expressly agreed and understood that the Authority may issue the Bonds in one or several series, in accordance with one or more Preliminary Official Statement(s) and Official Statement(s), Continuing Disclosure Agreement(s), Guaranty(s), County Letter(s), Acquisition of 10 Cherry Street Deficiency Agreement, Series 2007 Bonds and Financing Document(s) and in accordance with one or more plans of financing.

**Section 8.** This ordinance shall take effect at the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

**Section 9.** A public hearing shall be held on this ordinance on April 19, 2007, at 7 P.M. at the Administration Building, 6th Floor, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

**Section 10.** The Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to publish and post notice of this ordinance as required by law.

**Section 11.** Upon the adoption hereof, the Clerk of the Board of Freeholders shall forward certified copies of this ordinance to the County Manager, County Council, Executive Director of the Authority, and the Law Office of John G. Hudak, Esq., LLC, Bond Counsel to the Authority.

1 T – 4/5/07, The Leader Fee: \$309.06





**STELLAR PERFORMANCE IN RIVER CITY...**Matthew Forman's portrayal of Harold Hill in the spring musical production of *The Music Man* at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison gave audiences something to rave about. The Scotch Plains senior, who captured the lead role in the show, is also the editor of the school newspaper, *The Beacon*, as well as the founder and president of the school's choral art society. Matthew is the son of Bruce and Donna Forman of Scotch Plains.

## ‘Art for a Cause’ to Benefit Leukemia, Lymphoma Soc.

WESTFIELD – “Art for a Cause” will be held on April 14 from 8 to 11 p.m. at 17 Mountaintop Drive in Mountainside. Proceeds will benefit The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS).

Jill Naughton and Karen Fishman, Hike for Discovery participants who together have committed to raising \$10,000 to help LLS fund the search for a cure, will co-host the event.

“Art for a Cause” offers attendees a night of live music, art, wine, cheese and desserts. This evening is made possible by a number of local businesses. The event will take place in a home provided by Ralph Rapuano of Elegant Homes through the assistance of Jayne Bernstein of Coldwell Banker.

Both The Evalyn Dunne and Juxtapose Galleries will provide artwork for sale. Pete Hogan and Friends of Scotch Plains will perform live music. Rock’n Joe, Robert Treat Deli, The Chocolate Bar, Così Restaurant, ShopRite Wines and Spirits and John Devin of Empire Merchants will contribute food and beverages.

The suggested donation for the event is \$25 per person in advance or \$35 at the door. All proceeds, as well as 10 percent of the evening’s art sales, will go to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Also, for any custom framing order placed by party attendees prior to May 14, the Evalyn Dunne Gallery will donate an additional 10 percent to LLS. To make an advance donation, do so at [active.com/donate/hfdnonj/jnaughtongifters](http://active.com/donate/hfdnonj/jnaughtongifters).

## Art Show at Dunn Gallery To Benefit Education Fund

WESTFIELD — Evalyn Dunn’s Gallery, located in Westfield, will be debuting “The Essence of Light,” a new exhibit of oil paintings by Canadian seascape and landscape artist Ron Hedrick at a reception with the artist in attendance on Saturday, April 21, from 4 to 8 p.m. A preview to benefit the Westfield Education Fund will be held on Friday, April 20, from 4 to 8 p.m.

A native of Vancouver, British Columbia, Hedrick began studying painting at the age of 24 under the direction of noted Canadian-landscape painter Karl Wood. He attended the Ron Lukas School of Art in Ballard, Washington, where he learned to incorporate the elements of contrast into his art by painting in black and white.

His current work is infused with light – primarily sunlight – which reflects the color that is an integral component of his oils. Primarily a

painter of beach scenes, Mr. Hedrick’s seascapes, landscapes and still-life’s are influenced by French and Russian Impressionist painters, and typically include women and children poised against sea, sand, and surf. He prefers to paint from life.

Evalyn Dunn’s Gallery will also be showing the work of Mr. Hedrick’s daughter, Jessica. Ms. Hedrick has studied under the distinguished Canadian artist, Gordon Applebee Smith, Bruce Paschak and Paul Chizik. Her work is inspired by the French, Russian, and American Impressionists.

Ms. Civins spent five days at The National Conference of the West Coast Art and Frame Show to learn what is happening in the art market and framing industry. She attended workshops devoted to color choices and upscale framing design. “It was great to see what is happening in the industry. The National Conference allows me to keep up with what is new and to improve my framing skills,” she said.

Ms. Civins has brought all of her expertise back to Westfield, where she will use what she has learned to help her clientele select the best frame designs for their custom framing needs.

Evalyn Dunn’s Gallery is located at 549 South Avenue West. For more information, contact them at (908) 232-0412 or e-mail [Info@EvalynDunnsGallery.com](mailto:Info@EvalynDunnsGallery.com)

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## WESTFIELD FOOD 4 THOUGHT

### Egg-citing Leftovers

The answer to the question – Which came first, the chicken or the egg? – doesn’t really matter once Easter Sunday is over. What does matter is what do you do with all those leftover eggs?

When the project of coloring the eggs with the kids is over and the Easter egg hunt is also over, the question remains: How do you put those dozens of hard-boiled eggs to good use?

You could skip the whole thing and just take your children, ages 7 and younger, over to Mindowaskin Park on Saturday at 1 p.m. for the Lion’s Club-sponsored annual egg hunt, where they will also have an opportunity to meet with the Easter Bunny and have their picture taken with him.

But most parents will probably opt to still host their own family hunt on Sunday, and thus be left looking at lots of eggs on Monday.



Deviled Eggs

One way to use up the eggs is to add a hard-boiled egg to tuna fish salad or salmon salad. Just mash in one egg per can. Slice eggs into mixed green salads before adding the dressing. These ideas won’t make much of a dent in your egg collection, but the following recipes should help alleviate the problem of disposing of the excess eggs in an acceptable and an enjoyable way.

### DEVILED EGGS

#### INGREDIENTS

1 dozen hard-boiled eggs  
5 to 6 tablespoons mayonnaise  
¼ teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoon Dijon mustard  
Garnish: fresh chopped chives or freeze-dried chives

#### PROCEDURE

Slice the eggs in half, lengthwise and scoop out the yolks. Put the yolks in a bowl and finely mash them with a food chopper. Add the mayonnaise, salt and mustard. Blend until smooth. Spoon into the cup of the eggs and sprinkle with chives.



One Popcorn, Poor • Two Popcorns, Fair • Three Popcorns, Good • Four Popcorns, Excellent

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER

3 popcorns

If you’ve been longing for a movie that’s ‘about something, for gosh sakes,’ and aren’t a card-carrying Adam Sandler detractor, then *Reign Over Me* just may be for you. Albeit flawed, just like its engaging characters, director Mike Binder’s delve into a friendship revived, post 9-11, is two hours spent among honest emotions.

While ostensibly warmhearted and anxious to cuddle you in the fold of people who need people, all the same Binder won’t give with the warm fuzzies if it means compromising his script. Just as in real life, there’s an occasional jagged end, an inconveniently delivered truth, an awkward segue...some for effect, some unintentional.

Happily, what filmic polish *Reign Over Me* lacks is often compensated for by recurring good will. There are unabashed values here, neatly stitched into the story’s intelligently woven tapestry.

Presenting them as cases in point are Adam Sandler’s Dr. Charlie Fineman and Don Cheadle’s Dr. Alan Johnson, dental school roommates who haven’t seen each other since back in the day. In the interim, life happened, and in the process managed to inflict some damage.

Dr. Fineman’s tragedy made the news. His wife, three little daughters and even the family dog were aboard one of the planes the terrorists crashed into the World Trade Center. In layman’s terms, he hasn’t been right since.

He’s given up his practice and cruises New York City on his scooter through the night, disconnected from practically all the mores and folkways he once knew. He buries himself in the music of his youth and is obsessed with one specific video game. We’d like to think he’s in there somewhere.

Dramatically counterpoised to reflect the severity of Charlie’s pathology, as well as point out that his own, less cataclysmic troubles are distressing just the same, is Don Cheadle’s Park Avenue dentist. Oh yeah, he’s got all the trappings: a pretty wife (Jada Pinkett Smith), the expensive apartment, and two nice children who want for none of the Upper East Side amenities.

So then why is it that he continually stalks the office lobby in order to accidentally on purpose run into psychiatrist Dr. Angela Oakhurst (Liv Tyler), to tangentially, noncommittally seek advice? I.e.—“Uh, Doc, I have this friend.”

Maybe it would have gone on that way. But then, spotting Charlie shooshing the streets one evening serves as a catalyst, an entrée to his



Egg Salad Club Sandwich

### EGG SALAD CLUB SANDWICH

#### INGREDIENTS

3 slices thick sliced bread, lightly toasted  
1 teaspoon mustard  
1 leaf of leafy lettuce such as bib lettuce or romaine  
6 to 8 slices salami  
2 tablespoons egg salad

#### PROCEDURE

Assemble sandwich by spreading mustard on a piece of the lightly toasted bread. Lay on the lettuce and salami and top with the second piece of lightly toasted bread. Spread with egg salad and top with the remaining slice of toast.

### EGG SALAD

*\*Note: The key to making delicious egg salad is to finely chop the egg as fine as possible. Do this with*



Egg Salad

*a hand-held food chopper. Food choppers are generally sold at kitchen stores. Adding the right amount of salt and finely dicing the onion also contribute to the wonderful outcome of this dish*

#### INGREDIENTS

1 dozen hard-boiled eggs  
6 to 7 tablespoons mayonnaise  
2 tablespoons onion, finely diced  
½ teaspoon salt  
Dash of pepper

#### PROCEDURE

Finely mash the eggs with a chopper. Add the mayonnaise and blend until smooth. Mix in the onion, salt and pepper and blend.

## POPCORN™

### Reign Over Me:

### Benevolent, as a Rule

own blues.

It takes a while to lasso his old friend, sequestered from reality by the kaleidoscopic rush of the passing cityscape and life-muffling earphones, no doubt pumping sounds from “Quaprophenia.” Yet when he does, and he sees how deep in dysfunction and illusion Charlie has buried himself, an epiphany slowly evolves.

That is, it’s OK to be imperfect, to be sad, to be disappointed, or even to be overwhelmed by personal disaster. The thing is, after a while, for the love of Mike, you’ve got to brush yourself off and do something about it. In the words of Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) from *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994), “Get busy living, or get busy dying.”

Not to say any of this is going to be simple. Though they’ll soon have us rooting for them, it will require perseverance if Alan is to break through to Charlie. Just as it will take fortitude and gumption for Charlie to confront his horrible evils.

Metaphorically ironic or not, even depicting such mental crusades isn’t easy. Practically an art unto itself, there’s the Hollywood factor to consider when measuring the incremental improvement of scratched and dented souls.

It has to be done within inherently absurd time constraints, and yet somehow exacted with reasonable verisimilitude. Otherwise, it’s just so much wishful thinking.

Good examples are Dustin Hoffman’s Oscar turn as the title character in *Rain Man* (1988) and Cliff Robertson’s equally rewarded traverse across the prism of human intelligence in *Charly* (1968).

Adam Sandler’s unwavering performance hardly approaches those pinnacle-reaching portrayals. But then it’s not chopped liver, either.

Doubtless, his image as a 1980s reincarnation of Jerry Lewis will color how some perceive this third plunge into serious drama. Truth is, if he were a virtual unknown his portrayal of Dr. Charlie Fineman would be receiving the sort of buzz it deserves.

Cheadle is no slouch as well. In a role just as difficult by virtue of its subtleties, he supplies the coup de grace part of the one-two punch their stellar teaming delivers.

The result is a thinking man’s version of the buddy movie, replete with guys actually talking to guys about their problems. All of which makes *Reign Over Me* a royally rare treat.

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*Reign Over Me*, rated R, is a Sony Pictures Entertainment release directed by Mike Binder and stars Adam Sandler, Don Cheadle and Jada Pinkett Smith: Running time: 124 minutes.



**THE FLEXIBLE WRITER...**Kean University English Professor Susanna Rich appeared as the guest poet at the Carriage House Poetry Series March poetry reading.

## Poet Susanna Rich Reads At Fanwood Carriage House

### ‘I find writing to Be a Momentary Stay Against Confusion and Loss’

By MARYLOU MORANO

*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

FANWOOD — Susanna Rich, an esteemed professor of English at Kean University and the founder, producer and host of Kean’s online radio program, “Poets on Air,” was the guest poet at the Carriage House Poetry Series (CHPS) March poetry reading.

The daughter of Hungarian immigrants, she was born just a year after they arrived in the United States. Ms. Rich became aware of language at an early age. Her father’s profession as a news editor fueled her love of expression.

“I wrote my first poem when I was 9 years old and a student at St. Nicholas School in Passaic,” said the poet, who now lives in Blairstown.

Her artistry was also influenced in large part by her grandmother, whom she called Mamcsi, and who helped raise her.

“She self-published from memory a book of Hungarian songs complete with music and words,” explained Ms. Rich. “Not only was she an influence, she was an inspiration to me.”

Memories of Mamcsi echoed throughout the poems she read at CHPS. “The Buck,” spoke of Mamcsi’s perpetual presence, while “Grandmother’s Sausages” recollects kitchen conversations Ms. Rich shared with her grandmother.

Two of the many poems read by Ms. Rich, “Signaling No One in the Dark,” and “Walking Holly Down a Wooded Lane” speak to self-realization and the opening of oneself to possibilities.

“I find writing to be a momentary stay against confusion and loss,” she explained.

## HOME & GARDEN TRENDS

### A Tisket, a Tasket,

### So Many Uses for Baskets

By CHRISTIE STORMS

*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Remember when you were a kid and the word “basket” was synonymous with Easter chocolates and jellybeans instead of empty carbs and calories? Back then, the toughest decision was whether to nibble a marshmallow chick first or go straight for the bunny ears...

Nowadays, I’m much more enthralled with the non-holiday variety of baskets and deciding where else in my home to employ these attractive and functional accessories next. The best news is that compared to their Easter counterparts, these baskets are a completely fat-free, healthy alternative.

This time of year, stores are chockfull of baskets in as many shapes, sizes, colors and configurations as there are uses for them.

You can choose ones that have dividers that sort, lids that conceal, and fabric liners that can be integrated into your décor. Some manufacturers also make plastic protective trays that can be removed for cleaning.

“My motto is, if I feel there’s an area of the house that needs organization, I put a basket there,” says Madeline Gerris of Westfield. Ms. Gerris is an Independent Longaberger Basket Branch Leader who has sold baskets since 1999.

Beginning in the entryway, Ms. Gerris recommends keeping a small basket for keys and sunglasses. If you choose one with a handle, you can hang it right on the doorknob.

She says a nearby basket for winter gloves and hats can alternately house flip-flops and baseball caps in summer. Also handy are baskets to sort school papers and mail. A basket at the bottom of the stairs can hold items that have made their way down before you have time to bring them back up to their respective places.

In the kitchen, baskets can help control countertop clutter, file recipe cards, and organize drawers and cabinets. You can keep a big basket handy to store newspapers that pile up for recycling.

Ms. Gerris advises using baskets for entertaining.

“Most of the serving pieces you receive as gifts when you get married are too dressy looking,” she says. “Baskets look so much better for casual serving.”

One of my personal favorites is a breadbasket, which has a separate brick that can be heated in the oven and safely tucked under a special liner to keep breads and rolls warm. Also indispensable are my baskets that have a center bowl for dips and space for crackers, veggies or chips to surround it.

Ms. Rich’s writing crosses the spectrum genre. In addition to writing poetry, she is the author of many short stories and essays.

She was awarded the first joint Fulbright and Collegium Budapest Fellowships in Creative Writing to complete “Still Hungry: A Memoir,” and her essay, “Lullaby: A Cradle Song,” was awarded first prize by *Fugue*, a literary journal published by the University of Idaho. It is listed as a Notable Essay in “Best American Essays: 2004.”

Ms. Rich is also the author of a textbook, “The Flexible Writer,” now in its fourth edition from Longman/Allyn and Bacon.

“My writing is constantly bridging genres,” she continued.

Her poetry has appeared in *English Journal*, *The Evansville Review*, *Feminist Studies*, *The Journal of New Jersey Poets*, *Kaliopo*, *Nimrod*, *The Paterson Literary Review*, *Phoebe*, *Porcupine*, *Rio Grande Review*, *Tiferet*, *Willow Review* and *Zone 3*.

With more than 50 publication acceptances, Ms. Rich finds readings to be mutually energizing for both the reader and the audience.

“CHPS is an extraordinarily exciting venue. It was a very profound experience to be invited to do a reading,” she reflected afterwards.

“I am very grateful to Adele Kenny [the founder of CHPS] for her extraordinary poetry, and for her support of me and other poets. She truly is an inspiration and a blessing to our community.”

For more information about Ms. Rich’s program, “Poets on Air,” log onto [kean.edu/~kuradio/poetsonair.html](http://kean.edu/~kuradio/poetsonair.html)

During warm weather, Ms. Gerris additionally utilizes baskets to tote tableware, napkins and utensils outside.

She recommends baskets in the bathroom to hold tissue boxes, guest soaps, spare rolls of toilet tissue or to keep air fresheners and wipes out of sight.

In the family room, I utilize baskets for remote controls, coasters, CDs, toys, catalogs, magazines and small children’s books. I keep one by the fireplace for kindling or displaying seasonal items such as pinecones or gourds.

Some manufacturers make coffee tables, racks or wall units that are specifically designed to fit baskets. Try aligning rows of identical baskets on an existing bookshelf or along a wall for a unified look.

Ms. Gerris suggests a large basket beside the couch for blankets and throws.

“When it comes to my office, I’d be lost without my baskets,” Ms. Gerris says. “I use a file basket for hanging file folders instead of an ugly metal cabinet and a desktop organizer basket with wood dividers for other office supplies.”

In a baby’s room, a divided basket can organize diaper-changing supplies. I even let my infant nap in her own special basket.... the “Moses” kind complete with a safety-approved mattress. I love that I can move it from room to room to keep her close by.

For older children, baskets are invaluable for the myriad of toys and sports gear that seem to breed and multiply around the house.

“I use large ones in place of toy boxes and small ones with dividers to keep little pieces organized,” Ms. Gerris says. “My kids use baskets to hold their collections.”

Basket trays are great for little girls’ hair accessories and can be kept on display or tucked into a drawer.

And you’re much more likely to have children help put belongings away if all they have to do is toss them in an open basket. Opening and closing toy boxes or clothes hamper lids apparently takes too much effort.

Which reminds me.... It’s time to put my least favorite yet most often-used basket to work again. If only they could invent a laundry basket that brought itself up and down the stairs five times a day...

For more information on Longaberger baskets, protectors, dividers or liners, Ms. Gerris can be reached at [longaberger.com/madelinegerris](http://longaberger.com/madelinegerris).

*Do you have a home or garden question or topic you’d like to see covered in this column? Send your inquiries to [cstorms@goleader.com](mailto:cstorms@goleader.com).*



