



BLUES TRAVELS FAST...The Chuck Lambert Band performs a variety of powerhouse-blues songs to an enthusiastic audience at the North Ave. train station parking lot on Tuesday night during Westfield's Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival.

WF Bd. of Adjustment Hears 4 Appeals, Denies Myrtle Application

By **KELSI BROWNING**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Board of Adjustment heard four appeals in four hours at its meeting on Monday night.

The most debated appeal of the night was that of Jeffrey Scotti, who sought to prove the constitution of a pre-existing, non-conforming agreement for the use of the property he owns at 125 Myrtle Avenue.

The debate that took place on Monday was an extension of one that began in 2005 and continued in March of 2006, when the town council heard Virginia Consenza testify on Central Avenue's commercial zoning and how it affects her neighborhood on Myrtle, which is perpendicular to Central.

The land had previously been used as a contractor's storage facility. Mr. Scotti claimed that the property has

continued to be used in that manner from 1932 to the present time, with various other businesses using the facility in between.

However, since 125 Myrtle Avenue is situated in a residential area, neighbors have come to complain about the escalation of noise over the years, claiming that the site is being used as an operational facility and not a storage one.

Board Attorney Vince Loughlin pointed out that in order to maintain a non-conforming, pre-existing use agreement, the intensity of the work done at the named location must not increase.

On that premise, the board denied the application on the basis that the intensity of work done on-site has augmented over the years, changing its primary use from solely storage to operational as well.

Another debated appeal was that of Andrew and Patricia Ertman of 622 Embree Crescent, who went before the board again. Their architect, who had created additional plans for a water-seepage basin to control runoff and prevent flooding in the neighborhood, accompanied them.

Neighbors of the Ertmans raised concerns with regard to the effectiveness of the basin. They said they had seen an increase in flooding recently, which they attributed to the Ertmans' tennis court and pool.

The board passed a motion to hear the case at its next meeting with additional, more in-depth plans for flood

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Police Chief Debbie to Vandals: 'We Will Come and Get You'

By **EBONY MCQUEEN**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE – During Tuesday night's work session, MountainSide council members addressed recent vandalism in the borough.

Defacement has occurred on multiple borough-owned properties, including the community pool and Deerfield Elementary School's bathroom.

"If you're caught, you or your family will pay for it," said Mayor Robert Vigilanti. "We are not going to put up with it."

Mayor Vigilanti said the borough would start a "no-toler policy and ask police to heavily enforce it."

"We have spent money on [repairing damages] that could have been spent on other programs," he said.

The council reiterated that no person is allowed on board-of-education property after dark unless he or she is attending a meeting or event.

Authorities have found suspects climbing roofs, moving security cameras and leaving human waste in the bathroom units and jamming them shut.

"This is not to be done in this town," Mayor Vigilanti said.

The total cost of the vandalism damages is estimated between \$1,000 and \$1,500.

According to Police Chief James Debbie, the borough hopes to arrest a juvenile suspected in the acts by the end of this week. "We have [spoken] with two juveniles who dined out another one involved in the acts," he said.

Cameras have been installed at the community pool and on school grounds. "Turn around and smile for the camera," said Chief Debbie. "We will come and get you."

In addition to the vandalism problem, council members discussed the wording on a referendum for the proposed community center. "We want to actually get a pulse of what the community is saying about it," said Mayor Vigilanti. "The community center is an extension to our quality of life."

The mayor said he wants to see how the public feels about the community center before all the work is put in.

Keith Turner, council president, questioned the referendum and the long-term effects it might have on the borough. "I just don't want every time we do something with the borough's

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QUIET ON SET!...A teenage actress gets in position for the next take, left, last Thursday during a filming at 658 Boulevard for a Verizon commercial, set to air in a month, that features a family who discover that their dog has eaten the mother's cell phone. Members of the New York City-based production company responsible for the project, Believe Media, right, were on location from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., shooting both inside and outside the house and continued to film for a different commercial that involves a family using a GPS system on vacation on Monday at The Treasure Cove on South Avenue.

Arirang Steakhouse Seeks to Use Basement For Banquet Facility

By **WAYNE BAKER**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — After approving one set of home modifications to accommodate disabilities, the rest of last Thursday's borough planning board meeting was spent discussing Arirang Hibachi Steakhouse and Sushi Bar's proposal to use its basement as a banquet facility. Three other hearings were delayed until the board's September meeting.

Arirang's attorney, Bradford Bury, questioned the applicant's engineer, Robert Freud, about his conceptual drawing of a restaurant parking plan. The plan showed that valets would use a double-stacked parking scheme, which Mr. Freud claimed would add 32 spaces to the 88 spaces currently lined onto the office building lot. These 120 spaces would supplement the 104 on the Arirang property.

Questioning by Harold Maltz and John Chadwick, experts the board hired, raised concerns about safety issues and half of the spaces the plan "added."

Mr. Bury lent a historical twist to the case when he called Audrey Rice, who was the banquet manager at the Mountainside Inn from 1969 to 1978, when Laura and Ned Massa owned it.

He called Ms. Rice as a witness to verify prior use of the basement space. She recounted how the spaces were used during that period and peppered her testimony with historical asides, saying Ms. Massa's father had built the Mountainside Inn as a bowling alley on what was then Route 29.

Ms. Rice tied the history of the restaurant's ownership to her testimony. Ownership passed from the Massa family to the Dasti family in 1978, then to the Alexis steakhouse in 1993.

Ms. Rice said that basement usage was abandoned when the Dasti family sold the property. She said that during her tenure it was possible for more than 500 people to be at the facility and that the restaurant's parking lot rarely exceeded its capacity.

A member of the public, Todd Evans, identified himself as the owner of the office building next door, whose parking lot Arirang uses to handle overflow situations. Mr. Evans said his attorney was unable to attend the hearing.

Board attorney Vincent Loughlin asked him, "Are you taking the position this should not proceed?"

"Yes," Mr. Evans responded.

Arirang seeks variances for two additional signs: an announcement sign, which will be placed beneath the current Arirang sign, and another small sign for the professional office to be placed in the house behind the restaurant.

The board postponed the hearing of the proposed C.F.G.R., LLC subdivision at 151 Wild Hedge Lane, which may involve a connection to Westfield's Orenda Circle, until its September meeting.

The board also delayed hearings for Betsy Naulty for an addition at 1406 Orchard Road and Mary and Norm Grunberg for an addition at 1563 Coles Avenue. The expansion of the Leigh Walters home at 1064 Saddle Brook Road had already been postponed.

The September meeting is scheduled for September 13; one resident noted that that date coincides with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.



RACCOON HUNTING WE WILL GO...Workers from BOWCO remove a trap with a dead rabbit in it from the abandoned house at 121 Cacciola Place last Thursday. The workers set traps to catch raccoons that have been living in the structure. The proximity of the house to the neighboring home is shown at right.

Court Hears Cacciola Place Violations Case on August 8

By **KATIE NEWINGHAM**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD – Judge Brenda Coppola Cuba bumped up to last Wednesday, August 8, the court date originally set for August 29 regarding health code and property maintenance code violations at 121 Cacciola Place.

Judge Cuba said she called everyone in earlier because she wanted to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. "Everyone I wanted here today is here, and the court thanks you," she said.

Present in court were the owner of the property, Joseph Penyak, and his attorney, James Flynn; Town Attorney Robert Cockren, accompanied by registered environmental specialist Tanya Moon and Public Works Project Engineer George Dauber. Neighbors Arlene Green and Patricia Lee also were in attendance.

On July 25, Mr. Flynn entered a "not-guilty" plea on behalf of Mr. Penyak to a property maintenance code violation and a health code violation. On that date, Mr. Flynn requested adjournment due to scheduling conflicts, which the court granted until August 29.

Since the plea was entered, Mr. Penyak has received six additional summonses, which may be combined into one fine at the next court hearing on Wednesday, September 12, if Mr. Penyak fully cooperates. Otherwise, if found guilty, he could face fines of anywhere from \$5 to \$500 per day since the charges were issued.

Judge Cuba agreed to make the focal point of the case the recent charges and to listen to each independent of each other and independent of past events.

Before adjourning to chambers, Mr. Cockren said the town wants to see this resolved and that a mechanism was needed to make the property owner act.

Court remained in adjournment for an hour. Upon return, Judge Cuba stated that a lengthy discussion took place in chambers to resolve this matter and that an agreement had been reached by both parties.

The court ordered that by Thursday morning, August 9, traps be placed both inside and outside of the house at 121 Cacciola Place for raccoons that have infested the building.

The court ordered Ms. Moon to inspect the property once a week until the next court date.

Additionally, Mr. Penyak was ordered to have the entire house boarded up by Friday, August 10, at 3 p.m., and Mr. Dauber was to inspect the premises late Friday afternoon or early Monday morning to ensure that it met town standards.

Judge Cuba also ordered that Mr. Penyak complete his board-of-adjustment application by Wednesday, August 22.

The judge said she hoped not to see anyone until the case-management meeting on September 12.

Before concluding the hearing, Judge Cuba said, "I do want to caution that I want full cooperation [from] your client, Mr. Flynn."

On Thursday, a bees' nest located near the back entrance prohibited the placement of the cages. Ms. Moon contacted Mr. Cockren and they deemed it necessary to wait to go

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HOW'S IT GOING DOWN THERE?...Paul Peyton, *Westfield Leader* assignment editor, and intern Kelsi Browning speak with Congressman Michael Ferguson (R-7) to talk about goings-ons in Washington and discuss local issues relevant to the upcoming November elections in the *Leader* offices on Monday.

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MEN AT WORK...Contracted workers power-wash the masonry on Westfield's Roosevelt Intermediate School building as Matthew Bolton, RIS assistant principal, watches from below. The restoration project in progress will also replace portions of cracked parapet walls at the front of the school and replace parts of the brickwork for safety reasons.

Congressman Ferguson

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important issue because we have so much infrastructure. We're the most densely populated state. Our infrastructure is crucial for the state's transportation of our citizens. Our infrastructure is crucial for our economy in our state," he said.

"This [bridge collapse] highlights how important it is that we maintain the structural integrity of our infrastructure. Because if we don't, tragedy can strike," Mr. Ferguson said.

He said in the future the federal government may need "to set our priorities a little bit better" by transferring funding from non-crucial transportation projects to more important areas, such as structural integrity for bridges.

Concerning the recent execution-style murders of three college students from Newark, Mr. Ferguson said the murders were a "terrible tragedy" not just for Newark but also for the nation. "It really reached a chord in every human being to see the senseless, awful deaths of these young people," he said.

"What this really seems to highlight is a real breakdown in our justice system and a breakdown in our immigration system," Mr. Ferguson said.

The main suspect who has been arrested is an illegal immigrant who had a criminal record including two prior arrests and was released on bail.

"Many are asking 'why wasn't he deported?'" the Congressman asked.

"We are going to have to do a better job of making sure that the prosecutors, law enforcement - both local and state - are working more closely and cooperating more closely with immigration officials to make sure these type of tragedies don't happen again," he said.

On gang violence, he said federal, state and local authorities will need "to try and figure out a new and better way to overcome the challenges that we are facing in our communities as they relate to gang violence."

Mr. Ferguson also touched on the battle that occurred in Washington earlier this month on a procedural vote when GOP members attempted to pass an amendment on an agricultural bill to prevent some programs, such as food stamps, from being available to illegal immigrants.

"We had actually won the vote on the floor of the House, and when the Democratic leadership of the House realized we had won the vote, they cancelled the vote and decided to revoke it."

"I've been in Congress six years and I've never seen that happen. There are other members who have been there 30 years who have never seen that sort of thing happen," Mr. Ferguson said. "People just felt the Democratic leadership wasn't playing fairly by the rules. They were

MS Council

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money, the public says 'why didn't you didn't put it in a referendum like the community center?'"

In other council business, the borough has only received one bid for snow removal. The premium has increased to \$220 an hour for each removal truck. The minimum deposit has also increased to \$40,000.

The council also brought up Mountainside's annual Fall Festival. Although the borough has not sponsored Fall Festival for the past few years, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) will spearhead the event for 2007. In previous years, the borough has made a donation of \$300 each year, and council members propose that it continue to do so.

The council also discussed a contract with TelVue Virtual Television. The borough never signed an agreement with the network, which manages the borough's public-access channel. The network wants the borough to enter into an agreement with them.

The borough also wants to renew its membership in the Suburban Municipal Joint Insurance Fund for another year.

The meeting concluded with the resolution of the authorization to apply for the Department of Transportation state-aid grant. The grant would cover improvements on Blazo Terrace and Iris Drive.

breaking the rules to try and give Welfare benefits to illegal immigrants."

He said a special investigative committee has been formed to investigate how the vote was cancelled.

On the subject of the earlier Presidential primaries next year, Mr. Ferguson said: "Ultimately, the elections will be decided on where the candidates stand on the issues" such as taxes and homeland security although they would lengthen the Presidential campaign.

In terms of this year's elections, he said voters must decide, "Do we want higher tolls, do we want higher taxes and more spending or do we more fiscally responsible office holders in Trenton?"

In terms of the potential sale of New Jersey's toll highways, Mr. Ferguson said Governor Jon Corzine wants to sell the roadways "to try and finance the debt that our state has run up."

"The reason we have debt is because there is too much wasteful spending in New Jersey. Our budget is growing by leaps and bounds," he said. Mr. Ferguson said selling of the toll roads would mean "higher tolls and higher prices for motorists and drivers in New Jersey."

He said if Republicans running for the legislature can offer an alternative to this plan, "I think they will have a very good chance" at picking up seats in the legislature.

On the possible loss of a Congressional seat due to a declining New Jersey population, Mr. Ferguson said, "It is too early to say at this point how it would effect our electoral map."

"Our state is not affordable any longer. That's why people are actually leaving. Taxes are too high. The economy is not as strong as perhaps it could be," he said.

He said Homeland Security grants and increased special-education funding are among actions Congress can take to help alleviate the property-tax burden.

About his own legislation, Mr. Ferguson said he hopes his bill to fund the 40-percent federal funding mandate for special education included in IDEA, or Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, will be attached to the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act, thus increasing its chances of becoming law. IDEA was signed into law 30 years ago but has never been fully funded.

Mr. Ferguson said he is also working on solar-energy legislation, as well as an amendment to the Homeland Security bill to add \$50 million in grants for law enforcement agencies to create buffer zones around chemical plants and other areas of "critical infrastructure." The House passed Mr. Ferguson's buffer security bill.

Mr. Ferguson said on the issue of subprime mortgages that Congress has been eyeing legislation dealing with such areas as predatory lending and defaults on loans.

"Our main concern is keeping the loan industry healthy so that the capital is still there and available for those who qualify for receiving loans," he said.

For the entire *Leader* interview with Mr. Ferguson, visit goleader.com/services/video.



NIGHT OUT...Fanwood took part in National Night Out celebrations last Tuesday with Fanwood Community Policing Alliance-sponsored festivities in LaGrande Park prior to the recreation commission's weekly movie in the park. Above, a Night Out attendee handles one of the guns the Union County SWAT team laid out as part of its crime-prevention display.

Citizen Questions Rahway City's Water Pact

By JESSICA E. JASKULA
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

RAHWAY — At Monday's Rahway City Council meeting, Anthony Gencarelli, an employee of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA), used the public comment segment to voice his concerns about the authority's privatization plans. His comments were not made on behalf of the authority, but rather as a citizen, he said.

Council members received handouts with facts and a summary of Mr. Gencarelli's main points. He showed his opinion as to why there is an interest in privatizing RVSA, which included "procurement fees for professionals (\$500,000), fees for professionals to administer the contract and favors owed to privatization firms." He also noted, in his opinion, what would be the pitfalls of privatization, including "opportunities for corruption at the expense of the ratepayer, rate increases, work force reductions cost the community, the quality of service drops and a loss of flexibility and accountability."

According to Mr. Gencarelli, terminating a contract with United Water could be a very expensive move for the City of Rahway. In the water services agreement with United Water dated September 29, 1999, current termination fees could range near \$10,000,303.

"Even if terminated for cause, the city has to prove that United Water willfully or intentionally breached the contract in order to avoid paying the termination fee," Mr. Gencarelli said.

He also referenced Rahway Mayor James Kennedy's State of the City Address, dated January 2 of this year, in which Mr. Kennedy proposed "that it is in the best interest of Rahway taxpayers to discuss the privatization of the RVSA to cut costs and improve operations."

Responding to that statement, Mr. Gencarelli included a copy of Rahway's water rates in the handouts

he presented to the council. Union Water privatized Rahway Water in 1999, and water rates increased by 56.35 percent. In the following year, 2000, the annual percent increase was 3.02 percent, and the next-highest increase was from 2003-2004, in which the annual percent increase was 4 percent.

"That is why I'm really here," he told *The Westfield Leader*. "I don't want the taxpayers to get a raw deal."

In response to Mr. Gencarelli's comments, Rahway Business Administrator Peter Pelissier, a member of the RVSA, said the city's contract with United Water "saved the taxpayers, had we not privatized, \$32 million. We had a responsibility to consider, evaluate and understand the cost. United Water had improved quality, so the prices went up."

He said these fees are not that far away from other sewerage authorities in the area. Mr. Pelissier was the only council member to respond to Mr. Gencarelli.

WF BOA

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prevention.

Joseph and Barbara Pagano of 758 Prospect Street sought permission to demolish an existing single-family dwelling and construct another.

Some neighbors expressed concerns about additional water runoff due to the removal of vegetation. However, their architect proposed a double-row of evergreen shrubs to curb this effect. The board passed this application with that stipulation.

The board approved the application of Joseph and Mindy Nitti of 528 Boulevard to retain an already-existing garage with a setback of six feet, rather than the required 10 feet.

The board announced that it would hold a special meeting sometime in September to catch up with more than 20 applications that it has not yet heard.



POPULAR BUSKER...Mother and daughter are delighted as they chat with Al Madison, an area musician, as he entertains at the Westfield Farmer's Market last Saturday.

GW Council OKs Ordinance For Memorial Field Project

By KATHY MARQUES
Specially written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — At Tuesday night's borough council meeting, council members approved an ordinance authorizing the construction of the James V. Guerriero Memorial Field, the borough's Little League field located on Myrtle Avenue.

The \$2.1-million new athletic field with a new soccer/hockey/baseball field, upgraded recreational amenities and walking track will come from allocated grant money and a \$50.41 annual tax increase - for 20 years - on a house assessed at \$100,000. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are 1,095 owner-occupied households in Garwood.

Officials have said \$900,000 of the project would be funded through grants and other funding sources, including \$189,000 in open space grants from the County of Union.

Councilwoman Kathleen Villaggio, chairperson to the council's finance committee, announced that Garwood was denied extraordinary aid from Trenton, which is the reason why the budget has not been passed; the borough was waiting to see if they would receive additional funding.

"We feel we received an inaccurate answer from Trenton," said Mayor Dennis McCarthy, "and I will call them if I have to. We feel they made a mistake."

Resident Bruce Paterson thanked the council in their effort to contact Trenton in reapplying for the extraordinary aid.

"But do we really need to beg for money?" Mr. Paterson asked. "We have major problems here and increasing taxes and asking for aid is not the answer. This does not show good leadership. It's like all of you are the band playing on the Garwood Titanic while it's sinking. It's like extraordinary aid is a reward for bad financing. I'm just very livid and see no resolution from you guys."

Officials announced that its August 28 meeting has been cancelled and the next meeting, during which the council will vote on the budget, will be held on September 11 at 7 p.m.

Kowalski Notes

Phil Rizzuto's Passing

AREA — Hall of Fame Yankees shortstop and former broadcaster Phil Rizzuto died Tuesday. He was 89.

Union County Freeholder Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski said of his passing, "The County of Union is deeply saddened by the passing of Phil Rizzuto. Phil Rizzuto lived in Hillside for more than 50 years and took great pride in residing in Union County. He was the inspiration for the park we named in his honor five years ago."



MANY CHOICES...Residents are drawn to the Westfield Farmer's Market last Saturday and are faced with many mouth-watering choices ranging from fresh corn, honey and rhubarb/strawberry pie.



POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Tuesday, August 7, a resident of the 700 block of Tamaques Way reported that her motor vehicle was damaged with scratches in the paint while it was parked in the roadway in front of her residence.

Tuesday, August 7, a resident of the 500 block of Lawrence Avenue reported that a metal table and several flowerpots had been thrown into the swimming pool in the rear yard of her residence.

Tuesday, August 7, a resident of the 700 block of Tamaques Way reported that her daughter's motor vehicle had been defaced with scratches in the paint while it was parked in the roadway in front of her home.

Tuesday, August 7, a resident of the 30 block of Tamaques Way reported that her husband's motor vehicle was damaged with scratches in the paint while it was parked in the roadway adjacent to the couple's home.

Tuesday, August 7, a resident of the 400 block of Wychwood Road reported the apparent theft of several pieces of jewelry, valued in excess of \$10,000, from her home. The missing items included a sapphire ring, a diamond bracelet, a topaz ring and a diamond watch.

Wednesday, August 8, a resident of the 700 block of Tamaques Way reported that his motor vehicle was damaged while it was parked in front of his residence during the evening hours of August 6. The damage consisted of deep scratches to the vehicle's paint and body.

Wednesday, August 8, Joseph Wisniewski, 21, of Westfield was arrested on the 800 block of North Avenue, West on a traffic warrant with \$250 bail and a criminal warrant with \$750 bail, both from Plainsboro. He was released after posting bail on the warrants.

Thursday, August 9, a Forest Avenue resident reported that the left side passenger window of his motor vehicle was smashed while the vehicle was parked in front of his residence.

Thursday, August 9, a Summit Avenue resident reported his bicycle was stolen from outside of his residence.

Friday, August 10, Tony Alcantara, 22, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was arrested on an outstanding Roselle traffic warrant with bail of \$250 following a motor vehicle stop on the 500 block of Westfield Avenue. He was released on his own recognizance per the Roselle Police Department pending a court date to be set.

Friday, August 10, Isabella Brereton, 18, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was arrested on an outstanding Roselle Park traffic warrant with bail of \$750 following an investigation on the 500 block of Westfield Avenue. She was released on her own recognizance per the Roselle Park Police Department pending an August 16 court date.

date.

Friday, August 10, Jeremy Fisher, 22, of Grand Junction, Colo., was arrested on the 1400 block of Central Avenue on an outstanding criminal warrant out of Evesham Township. He was held pending the posting of \$250 bail.

Friday, August 10, John G. Nelson, 43, of Grand Junction, Colo., was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on an outstanding criminal warrant from Eatontown with bail of \$2,518. Nelson was released after posting bail.

Friday, August 10, Jose L. Roman, Jr., 36, of Perth Amboy was arrested for allegedly hindering apprehension following a motor vehicle stop at Park Street and Carleton Road. He was released on his own recognizance with a summons pending an August 23 court date.

Friday, August 10, Krste Donovski, 43, of Scotch Plains was arrested for allegedly driving while intoxicated following a motor vehicle stop at Brightwood Avenue and Clark Street. He was released on his own recognizance to a responsible individual pending an August 15 court date.

Saturday, August 11, Prince Addo, 31, of The Bronx, N.Y., was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at the plaza at North Avenue and East Broad Street on an outstanding Mount Laurel traffic warrant. He was released after posting \$250 bail.

Saturday, August 11, a Ross Place resident reported that someone keyed the rear compartment door of his motor vehicle while it was parked at the rear of the victim's home.

Scotch Plains

Tuesday, August 7, a resident of Acacia Road reported that someone had been making harassing telephone calls to her over the last several weeks at all hours of the day and night.

Wednesday, August 8, a resident of Spruce Mill Road reported that someone removed a GPS from his vehicle.

Wednesday, August 8, Jennifer Mingle, 24, of Manville was arrested on an outstanding warrant after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation.

Sunday, August 12, Charles Andrews, 50, of Scotch Plains was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop for suspicious activity. According to police, Andrews was transported to the Union County jail after he was unable to make bail.

Sunday, August 12, Willie Ausborne, 39, of Irvington was arrested for alleged DWI after being stopped for a moving violation. According to police, he was processed and released with a summons.

Sunday, August 12, the owner of an Evergreen Avenue building reported that someone sprayed a wall with graffiti.

Cacciola Court Date

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Victoria McCabe for The Westfield Leader
Top: the view from the backyard of 119 Cacciola Place; **bottom:** a dead rabbit lies in a trap placed outside the abandoned home at 121 Cacciola Place.

inside the house for safety reasons.

The nest was removed on August 11, and the traps were placed on August 13. Currently, there is only one trap inside the house, but additional traps may be added later.

BOWCO, Mr. Penyak's exterminator, is required to check the traps on a daily basis, and Ms. Moon's first weekly check was scheduled to begin yesterday. "We seem to be going in the right direction," Ms. Moon said in regards to progress since the court hearing.

Mr. Dauber said that by Monday afternoon, traps had been placed both inside and outside the house and that boarding up of the house was finished. "Hopefully that will keep the raccoons away," he said.

Mr. Dauber said his department did not conduct a walk-through on Monday; the health department conducted it, he said.

Calls to the health department left the status of the Monday walk-through unclear by press deadline.

"So far I'm happy," said Arlene Green, the owner of 119 Cacciola Place. "We feel a little safer but we still fear the raccoons. We've been scared to use our backyard for the past two years, so even though the house is boarded up and the traps are there, the fear will still be there for a long time."

Joseph Higgins Resigns from Council, Won't Run in Election

By ALLISON GIBBONS
and MICHAEL POLLACK
Specially Written for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD – At the beginning of Tuesday's borough council meeting, Mayor Colleen Mahr announced Councilman Joseph Higgins' resignation from the governing body, received in writing last Friday.

"He's really been a great addition to us," she said. "Joe did very well, and I'm sure that he will be sorely missed."

In his letter to the mayor and council, obtained by *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, Mr. Higgins said his decision to resign was "due to personal issues unrelated to anything involving [his] role as a councilman or [his] participation in borough activities."

In a Wednesday morning call with *The Times*, Mr. Higgins specified

the reason for his departure. He told the paper that he's "going through a difficult divorce right now that I thought, frankly, would be over with at this point."

He further elaborated, saying, "I thought I couldn't be an effective councilman, run a good campaign and be involved in the divorce all at the same time. I thought I would be shortchanging the other candidates and the town."

He also announced that he has withdrawn his name as a candidate in this November's election.

Mr. Higgins was named to the council at a special meeting held on August 3, 2004, following the resignation of Councilman Michael Brennan, who was completing his first term on council. After being named to the open seat, Mr. Higgins won a three-year term in November 2004.

He works for the New Jersey Schools Development Authority, formerly New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation. He told the newspaper that he acquires real estate for school projects in his role with the authority.

Prior to being named to the council, Mr. Higgins had served on the borough planning board and served as the chair of the Fanwood Downtown Advisory Group. Before his resignation, he acted as the council representative on the planning board.

He and his wife, Sherry, moved to Fanwood five years ago from Woodbridge and have two children.

The Fanwood Democratic Committee has 15 days to submit three names to the council, which has 30 days to appoint a member.

In other business, the council discussed amendments to the municipal budget. The amendments, when passed, will allow for the use of extraordinary aid.

"The amendment is necessary to put the [extraordinary aid] into the budget," Fred Tompkins, chief financial officer, said.

A public hearing will be held on August 23, when the council will vote on the budget.

"The overall increase in the tax levy is about 4.3 percent compared to last year," Mr. Tompkins said. The fourth-quarter tax bill should reflect a reduction from the third-quarter bill to account for the aid, he said.

As the averaged assessed value on a home in Fanwood is \$85,000, the decrease between the third and fourth quarter should be 6.83 percent, or about \$161 on average, he said.

Mayor Mahr said that Fanwood was one of 70 municipalities in New Jersey to receive extraordinary aid from the state.

She then discussed pensions, which she said are driving the largest increases in the municipal budgets in the state. "This is what's driving the increases here... it's the things we can't control," she said.

"It's a problem that we don't have an answer for at this level," Mr. Tompkins said.

The council approved a public-safety ordinance prohibiting U-turns on Walden Road, in response to concerns expressed by residents.

Councilwomen Donna Dolce and Joan Wheeler voted 'no' on the ordinance. "I still do not think this will resolve [the problem]," Ms. Dolce said.

In other business, Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell reported that the plans for the Carriage House have been submitted, and the \$50,000

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Citizen Questions Rahway City's Water Pact

By JESSICA E. JASKULA
Specially Written for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

RAHWAY – At Monday's Rahway City Council meeting, Anthony Gencarelli, an employee of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA), used the public comment segment to voice his concerns about the authority's privatization plans. His comments were not made on behalf of the RVSA, but rather as a citizen, he said.

Council members received handouts with facts and a summary of Mr.



Liza Katz for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

CRUISING... Glenn Gandy of Westfield poses with his 1956 two-door Chevy at Fanwood's Cruise Night, sponsored by the Fanwood Business and Professional Association and the Cruiser Club of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Mr. Gandy's car sports a silver star plate; he served in the Marine Corps for nine and a half years, two of which he served in Vietnam. This is the last of Fanwood's three Cruise Nights this summer, explained Don Wussler of Scotch Plains.

SP Police Set to Receive \$80,000 To Upgrade Comm. Equipment

By CARALINE KOELLHOFFER
Specially Written for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS – Congressman Mike Ferguson attended Tuesday's township council meeting to announce the House of Representatives' approval of \$80,000 in federal funding aimed to improve communications equipment for the Scotch Plains police department.

As part of the fiscal year 2008 Commerce Justice Science Appropriations Bill, the funding would increase the efficiency and reliability of day-to-day operations, as well as help the department during emergencies, Scotch Plains Police Chief Brian Mahoney said.

"Our first responders do enormous work in the community," Mr. Ferguson said. "This approval is a big hurdle. It is not a done deal yet. But I am hopeful the [U.S.] Senate will pass this into law and get the Scotch Plains police department the funding it needs."

Chief Mahoney spoke about the township's need for new technology.

"In the months after 9/11, there has been a new term that began circulating around – interoperability. That is basically the coming together of law enforcement and government, being able to communicate with other agen-

cies, other municipalities, other counties," the chief said.

Scotch Plains police officials said the funding would be used to upgrade the department's communications center, including radios, the notification and dispatch system, mobile computing, reporting and surveillance capabilities.

According to Mr. Ferguson's press secretary Angie Lundberg, the bill won House approval in late July and

must still be reconciled with the Senate's version of the legislation. The funding amount for Scotch Plains could change before final legislation – not expected until this fall – is sent to the White House.

Mayor Martin Marks thanked Mr. Ferguson for "going to bat" for Scotch Plains. "Our local municipal budget is already stretched thin. Once approved, these important funds will

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Ferguson Discusses Iraq War, Bridges, Newark Murders

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

WESTFIELD – From the Iraq War to increased violence among teenagers to the stability of America's bridges and roadways, Rep. Mike Ferguson (R-7, New Providence) discussed a number of local and national issues during an interview at *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* office on Monday.

Regarding the issue of the Iraq War, Mr. Ferguson said he has "grave concerns about the situation in Iraq... My main concern is that we are continuing to put our troops, young American men and women, in harm's way, to try and achieve goals in Iraq which ultimately can't be met unless the Iraqis themselves are willing to step up to the plate and take responsibility and help us achieve what we all want to achieve in Iraq, which is peace and stability." He blamed the lack of progress on the Iraqi Parliament.

Mr. Ferguson said following a September report from General David Petraeus, the U.S. commander in Iraq, he believes "there will need to be some major changes made... on the direction of the Iraq policy."

When asked whether he sees a troop reduction, Mr. Ferguson said, "What we all want is for our troops to come home as quickly as possible... What we are trying to sort out right now is the best way to achieve that."

He said of an immediate pullout,

"We want our troops to be safe. We don't want to put our troops that are already in Iraq in additional harm's way by policies that we implement."

Of the August 1 collapse of the Interstate 35 West bridge over the Mississippi River in Minnesota that has killed nine persons to date, Mr. Ferguson said, "The infrastructure in our country is vitally important. It is important that we not only build new infrastructure for our economy but that we maintain the structural integrity of our current infrastructure."

"In New Jersey this is a particularly important issue because we have so much infrastructure. We're the most densely populated state. Our infrastructure is crucial for the state's transportation of our citizens. Our infrastructure is crucial for our economy in our state," he said.

"This [bridge collapse] highlights how important it is that we maintain the structural integrity of our infrastructure. Because if we don't, tragedy can strike," Mr. Ferguson said.

He said that in the future, the federal government may need "to set our priorities a little bit better" by transferring funding from non-crucial transportation projects to more important areas such as structural integrity for bridges.

Concerning the recent execution-style murders of three college students from Newark, Mr. Ferguson said the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Courtesy of Cindy Dawley-Gallagher

FLOOD... Motorists on West Holly Street in Cranford steer through floodwaters brought by heavy rain on August 10. See story on page 3.

SP Rec. Comm. Considers Scotch Hills Senior Center

By MARIA WOEHRE
Specially Written for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Scotch Plains Recreation Commission Monday night signed off on a plan to renovate the Scotch Hills Country Club building to create a senior and community center.

The township council was expected to consider the commission's approval of the project Tuesday night and recommend that an architect raise the home in September and renovate the structure. See related Scotch Plains council story on this page.

Recreation officials, however, want the township to determine whether Scotch Hills is a historical landmark before proceeding with the project.

The Scotch Plains Country Club was originally the home of John Shippen, the first black professional golfer. According to Recreation Director Ray Poerio, Mr. Shippen lived in the country club's upstairs apartment. The second floor was later condemned and closed to the public due to termites.

"We have a lock on the door and no one is allowed up in there right now, so basically you would be changing the use of the building from 5,000 square feet to 15,000 square feet," Mr. Poerio said.

Because of its historical significance, Mr. Poerio said plans for the

renovations would restore Mr. Shippen's home to its original genre. A museum remembering him would be included in the plans for the senior center, and the name would be changed to the John Shippen Community Center.

The project would also restore the basement and the upstairs areas, which are not currently in use, for seniors and members of the community. The project is estimated to cost around \$1 million, Mr. Poerio said.

"You have to keep the memory of Shippen in this home and so we will be meeting the needs of the community and memorializing the historical significance of this place," he said.

"I have one serious reservation. We should do our due diligence and spend money on a historical appraisal to make sure this is not a landmark," Commissioner Stephen Steinbergher said.

"Appraisals could cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000 and we have already done significant renovations to the kitchen, the windows [and] added siding, so I think that we have already determined that it was not in the past," Commissioner James Walsh said.

"I am in favor of moving forward with this plan," said Commission Chairman Ed Zazzali.

The commission had originally

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Sarah Queller for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

NIGHT OUT... Fanwood took part in National Night Out celebrations last Tuesday with festivities sponsored by the Fanwood Community Policing Alliance in LaGrande Park prior to the recreation commission's weekly movie in the park. Left, a young resident enjoys the park's playground. Right, a Night Out attendee handles one of the guns the Union County SWAT team laid out as part of its crime-prevention display.



Fred K. Lecomte for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

HAPPENINGS IN WASHINGTON... Paul Peyton, *Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* assignment editor, and intern Kelsi Browning speak with Congressman Michael Ferguson (R-7) to talk about goings-ons in Washington and discuss local issues relevant to the upcoming November elections in the *Times* offices on Monday.

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Jenna Nierstedt and Victoria McCabe for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* RACCOON HUNTING WE WILL GO...Workers from BOWCO remove a trap with a dead rabbit in it from the abandoned house at 121 Cacciola Place last Thursday. The workers set traps to catch raccoons that have been living in the structure. The proximity of the house to the neighboring home is shown at right.

Fanwood Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

grant is going to be used mostly for cosmetic changes, including white-washing the walls and polishing the floors.

"Unfortunately, in this day and age, \$50,000 does not go very far," she said, adding that they continue to search for money to complete the second phase of structural work.

The Scotch Plains and Fanwood libraries are still looking into merging, Ms. Mitchell said, and are currently conducting a feasibility study. The council passed three resolutions later in the meeting to allow for the study.

Ms. Dolce reported on road projects in town, noting that construction on Watson and Russell Roads and Pleasant and Martine Avenues is now complete. Construction is ongoing at Marian Avenue and McDermott Place.

The high school still hopes to have its parking lot finished before the school year starts, Ms. Dolce said.

She also said that Fanny Wood Day, the weekend of September 30, would have a number of activities, including birdhouse building for children, as well as an "everything on wheels" parade in addition to ice cream and pie-eating contests.

In Councilman David Valian's report on the recreation department, he said that the June 26 "Party in the Park" was a "huge success," with more than 400 people attending.

In her discussion of health and safety, Ms. Wheeler urged Fanwood

dents.

The council passed 23 resolutions in total, including some governing construction and contract awards.

At the start of the meeting, the council honored the volunteer of the month, Gary Szelc, chair of the environmental commission. "He has really elevated what they do," Ms. Dolce said. She said how impressive it was that he has only lived in Fanwood for seven years.

"Fanwood is one of those towns where you can't help but get involved," Mr. Szelc said in response.



Marie Woehr for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* ANYONE FOR BICYCLING?...Scotch Plains resident Mark Cohen asks the recreation commission at Monday's meeting to create a family bike tour for Scotch Plains residents.

SP Recreation Commission

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considered areas such as Lamberts Mill Road, the Department of Public Works site, the former Terry Lou Zoo property on Raritan Road, the Ponderosa site on Cooper Road, which is being developed for soccer fields by the county, and Brookside Park on Hatfield Avenue.

Officials said all areas were deemed inadequate for the center for reasons such as space and convenience.

"[Scotch Hills] is the site that the seniors are unanimously comfortable with because it's convenient for many seniors in the area," Mr. Poirer said. "The Shippen Foundation is also behind us and will work with us to restore the home."

Original plans for the center included a basketball court, which will no longer be included due to a lack of space. The commission also recommended that the township council consider asking the original architect who was used to draw up plans for the other sites to submit a bid on the latest proposal.

"I am sensitive to starting this pro-

cess all over again when we have already been working with an architect," Mr. Zazzali said.

Mr. Poirer said plans for the renovation of the building would not extend into the golf course, and spaces for parties would also be available as they are now.

In other business, Scotch Plains resident Mark Cohen asked the recreation commission to allow him to create a family bike tour in Scotch Plains. The bike tour would take place in the fall or spring.

Mr. Cohen said the event would be an eight- to 12-mile ride through town from 8 to 11:30 a.m. He said local bike stores such as The Bike Stand and Sideline Sports would be willing to participate and might sponsor the event.

"This would be a great event for families," he said.

Publisher's Note

The Office of Newark Mayor Cory Booker has announced that donations to the families of the three students murdered on August 4 should be addressed to the Newark Community Foundation, P.O. Box 338, Morristown, NJ 07963, earmarked specifically for the Ivy Hill Families in the memo.

For more information, call the mayor's office at (973) 733-5888.

Anyone with information about the murders can call 1-877-NWK-TIPS.

Kowalski Notes

Phil Rizzuto's Passing

AREA — Hall of Fame Yankees shortstop and former broadcaster Phil Rizzuto died Tuesday. He was 89.

Union County Freeholder Chairwoman Bette Jane Kowalski said of his passing, "The County of Union is deeply saddened by the passing of Phil Rizzuto. Phil Rizzuto lived in Hillside for more than 50 years and took great pride in residing in Union County. He was the inspiration for the park we named in his honor five years ago."



Jenna Nierstedt for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* QUIET ON SET!...A teenage actress gets into position for the next take, left, last Thursday during a filming at 658 Boulevard for a Verizon commercial, set to air in a month, that features a family who discover that their dog has eaten the mother's cell phone. Members of the New York City-based production company responsible for the project, Believe Media, right, were on location from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., shooting both inside and outside the house. In addition to this commercial, they were filming for a different commercial that involves a family using a GPS system on vacation on Monday at The Treasure Cove on South Avenue.

Regular Attendees at SP Meetings to Move to Kansas

By FRED T. ROSSI

Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

SCOTCH PLAINS — Over the past eight years, it's a good bet that Bruce and Gloria Yakre may have had the best attendance record at township council's weekly meetings — and that includes the council members themselves.

Since early 2000, the Yakres have been fixtures at the Tuesday evening sessions during the open microphone time. Mr. Yakre can be heard offering his views on local matters, recounting tales of growing up in Brooklyn or even simply wishing his wife a happy birthday.

"We called it our off-off-Broadway show," Mrs. Yakre told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* this week. But next month, the curtain will fall when the couple leaves Scotch Plains for Kansas, where their son's family and their grandchildren live.

At last month's council meeting, Mayor Martin Marks said the Yakres had "put their heart and soul into this community in many ways" and thanked them "for everything they've done."

Mrs. Yakre has served on the Scotch Plains Library's board of trustees for five years, and both Mr. and Mrs. Yakre have served on the Memorial Day Parade and Mayor's Gala committees. In 2001, Mr. Yakre made an unsuccessful bid for the Republican nomination for township council.

He recalled that Irene Schmidt, then GOP chairperson, had asked him, "Why don't you screen [as a candidate before the GOP committee members who would be choosing a candidate]?" So he went to Home Depot and bought a screen. At his screening, "I unrolled it and on the screen, it read, 'Vote for Bruce.'"

Mr. Yakre said his remarks at the council meetings — "some of which," Mayor Marks teased last month, "had absolutely nothing to do with what we were talking about" — were never prepared in advance. He described his presentations, some of which involved small props, as "spontaneous stream of consciousness."

Mayor Marks called the couple "this township's biggest cheerleaders." Mrs. Yakre said living in Scotch Plains for eight years was "an incredible experience," especially given that she and her husband had moved here in late 1999 from a much larger town in Florida. "We never had the small town experience. But this town welcomed us."

She said her "biggest joy" was the library and the improvements that have been made in recent years under library director Meg Kolaya. "It's a wonderful, professional, forward-looking facility."

Her husband called Scotch Plains "a very livable town" where "the people are friendly."

As for taking their off-off-Broadway show on the road, Mr. Yakre told *The Times* he wasn't sure whether he'd be a regular attendee at council meetings out in the heartland, where he and his wife will live in a suburb of Kansas City. Besides, the mayor had joshed last month that he wasn't sure if Mr. Yakre's "Brooklyn stories will go over as well" at meetings in the Midwest.

Congressman Ferguson

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murders were a "terrible tragedy" not just for Newark but also for the nation. "It really reached a chord in every human being to see the senseless, awful deaths of these young people," he said.

"What this really seems to highlight is a real breakdown in our justice system and a breakdown in our immigration system," Mr. Ferguson said.

The main suspect who has been arrested is an illegal immigrant who had a criminal record, including two prior arrests, and was released on bail.

"Many are asking 'why wasn't he deported?'" the Congressman asked.

"We are going to have to do a better job of making sure that the prosecutors, law enforcement — both local and state — are working more closely and cooperating more closely with immigration officials to make sure these type of tragedies don't happen again," he said.

On gang violence, he said federal, state and local authorities will need "to try and figure out a new and better way to overcome the challenges that we are facing in our communities as they relate to gang violence."

Mr. Ferguson also touched on the battle that occurred in Washington earlier this month on a procedural vote when GOP members attempted to pass an amendment on an agricultural bill to prevent some programs, such as food stamps, from being available to illegal immigrants.

"We had actually won the vote on the floor of the House, and when the Democratic leadership of the House realized we had won the vote, they cancelled the vote and decided to revoke it."

"I've been in Congress six years and I've never seen that happen. There are other members who have been there 30 years who have never seen that sort of thing happen," Mr. Ferguson said. "People just felt the Democratic leadership wasn't playing fairly by the rules. They were breaking the rules to try and give welfare benefits to illegal immigrants."

He said a special investigative committee has been formed to investigate how the vote was cancelled.

On the subject of the earlier Presidential primaries next year, Mr. Ferguson said: "Ultimately, the elections will be decided on where the candidates stand on the issues" such as taxes and homeland security although they would lengthen the Presidential campaign.

In terms of this year's elections, he said voters must decide, "Do we want higher tolls, do we want higher taxes and more spending or do we want



Caroline Koellhoffer for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* FIGHTING FOR FEDERAL FUNDS...Congressman Mike Ferguson (R-7) addresses the Scotch Plains council on Tuesday night regarding a bill that would provide federal funding to the township's police department for communications upgrades.



POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Tuesday, August 7, a resident of the 700 block of Tamaques Way reported that her motor vehicle was damaged with scratches in the paint while it was parked in the roadway in front of her residence.

Tuesday, August 7, a resident of the 500 block of Lawrence Avenue reported that a metal table and several flowerpots had been thrown into the swimming pool in the rear yard of her residence.

Tuesday, August 7, a resident of the 700 block of Tamaques Way reported that her daughter's motor vehicle had been defaced with scratches in the paint while it was parked in the roadway in

front of her home.

Tuesday, August 7, a resident of the 30 block of Tamaques Way reported that her husband's motor vehicle was damaged with scratches in the paint while it was parked in the roadway adjacent to the couple's home.

Tuesday, August 7, a resident of the 400 block of Wychwood Road reported the apparent theft of several pieces of jewelry, valued in excess of \$10,000, from her home. The missing items included a sapphire ring, a diamond bracelet, a topaz ring and a diamond watch.

Wednesday, August 8, a resident of the 700 block of Tamaques Way reported that his motor vehicle was damaged while it was parked in front of his residence during the evening hours of August 6. The damage consisted of deep scratches to the vehicle's paint and body.

Wednesday, August 8, Joseph Wisniewski, 21, of Westfield was arrested on the 800 block of North Avenue, West on a traffic warrant with \$250 bail and a criminal warrant with \$750 bail, both from Plainsboro. He was released after posting bail on the warrants.

Thursday, August 9, a Forest Avenue resident reported that the left side passenger window of his motor vehicle was smashed while the vehicle was parked in front of his residence.

Thursday, August 9, a Summit Avenue resident reported his bicycle was stolen from outside of his residence.

Friday, August 10, Tony Alcantara, 22, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was arrested on an outstanding Roselle traffic warrant with bail of \$250 following a motor vehicle stop on the 500 block of Westfield Avenue. He was released on his own recognizance per the Roselle Police Department pending a court date to be set.

Friday, August 10, Isabella Breton, 18, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was arrested on an outstanding Roselle Park traffic warrant with bail of \$750 following an investigation on the 500 block of Westfield Avenue. She was released on her own recognizance per the Roselle Park Police Department pending an August 16 court date.

Friday, August 10, Jose L. Roman, Jr., 36, of Perth Amboy was arrested for allegedly hindering apprehension following a motor vehicle stop at Park Street and Carleton Road. He was released on his own recognizance with a summons pending an August 23 court date.

Friday, August 10, Krste Donovski, 43, of Scotch Plains was arrested for allegedly driving while intoxicated following a motor vehicle stop at Brightwood Avenue and Clark Street. He was released on his own recognizance to a responsible individual pending an August 15 court date.

Saturday, August 11, Prince Addo, 31, of The Bronx, N.Y., was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at the plaza at North Avenue and East Broad Street on an outstanding Mount Laurel traffic warrant. He was released after posting \$250 bail.

Saturday, August 11, a Ross Place resident reported that someone keyed the rear compartment door of his motor vehicle while it was parked at the rear of the victim's home.

Scotch Plains

Tuesday, August 7, a resident of Acacia Road reported that someone had been making harassing telephone calls to her over the last several weeks at all hours of the day and night.

Wednesday, August 8, a resident of Spruce Mill Road reported that someone removed a GPS from his vehicle.

Wednesday, August 8, Jennifer Mingle, 24, of Manville was arrested on an outstanding warrant after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation.

Sunday, August 12, Charles Andrews, 50, of Scotch Plains was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop for suspicious activity. According to police, Andrews was transported to the Union County jail after he was unable to make bail.

Sunday, August 12, Willie Ausborne, 39, of Irvington was arrested for alleged DWI after being stopped for a moving violation. According to police, he was processed and released with a summons.

Sunday, August 12, the owner of an Evergreen Avenue building reported that someone sprayed a wall with graffiti.

Rahway

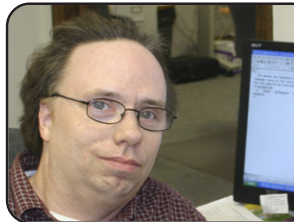
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following year, 2000, the annual percent increase was 3.02 percent, and the next-highest increase was from 2003-2004, in which the annual percent increase was 4 percent.

"That is why I'm really here," he told *The Times*. "I don't want the taxpayers to get a raw deal."

In response to Mr. Gencarelli's comments, Rahway Business Administrator Peter Pelissier, a member of the RVSA, said the city's contract with United Water "saved the taxpayers, had we not privatized, \$32 million. We had a responsibility to consider, evaluate and understand the cost. United Water had improved quality, so the prices went up. He said these fees are not that far away from other sewerage authorities in the area.

Mr. Pelissier was the only council member to respond to Mr. Gencarelli.



Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of *The Leader/Times*

Hearings Requested in High Crime Areas

Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (LD-21, Westfield), the ranking Republican on Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee, has asked committee chairman Gordon Johnson to convene a committee on the recent murders in Newark.

Mr. Bramnick said he wants to take Trenton's Law and Public Safety Committee to Newark to allow local citizens to have a voice in Trenton.

The assemblyman forwarded a letter to Mr. Johnson requesting that the committee hold the next public safety hearing in Newark.

"People are not always available to come to Trenton, so we should go to them," said Mr. Bramnick.

Cuomo Investigates Rutgers Athletic Dept.

According to *The Record*, Rutgers University is being probed about whether its athletic department took kickbacks for promoting a student-loan company on its website.

The school confirmed that the company, University Financial Services, paid Rutgers \$15,000 to advertise on its site and would, based on the contract, pay Rutgers \$75 for every loan in excess of \$200 made to Rutgers students and graduates.

The company said in a statement that it is cooperating with New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, whose office is reviewing similar deals made with at least 40 universities in the United States.

House Passes Bill to Increase Troops' Time Off

Two weeks ago, the House of Representatives voted 229-194 to pass the "Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act," giving troops the same amount of time off as they spend on the battlefield. The act gives the President the discretion to waive the rules if national security is threatened.

All New Jersey representatives voted along party lines, with the seven Democrats voting "yes" and the six Republicans "no."

Angie Lundberg, press secretary for Rep. Mike Ferguson (R-7th, New Providence), told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, "Congressman Ferguson believes military decisions need to be made by generals."

Kean May Have Advantage over Lance

According to politicsnj.com, Senator Leonard Lance of Hunterdon County, up for third term re-election as senate minority leader, at best would receive six votes. His likely challenger, Senate Minority Whip Tom Kean Jr. of Westfield, is said to have at least 11 votes in the GOP caucus if all incumbents are re-elected.

Four Republican seats are up for grabs, which could increase Republican standing to 20 or slump it to 14.

Assoc. of Realtors Lobby Against Local Level Tax

The New Jersey Association of Realtors has initiated a lobbying effort to kill legislation that would enable municipalities impose a separate local tax on reality transfers, according to *The Star-Ledger*. Governor Jon Corzine has said he thinks municipalities should be given more tax-raising options. The New Jersey State League of Municipalities supports such an expansion.

Five bills in the legislature would allow municipalities to charge 50 cents per \$500 of a home's sales price or \$357 on the average home in the state, valued at \$356,700. That payment would be in addition to the \$2,799 realty-transfer tax already imposed by the state, according to *The Ledger*.

House Passes Insurance Program for Kids

The House of Representatives and the Senate last week passed a bill that will reinstate and expand the existing State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The bill was co-authored by New Jersey's Frank Pallone (D-Monmouth), who heads a health subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Nine of New Jersey's 13 representatives voted in favor of the bill, including Rep. Mike Ferguson (R-7th) and all of New Jersey's Democratic Representatives. Senators Bob Menendez and Frank Lautenberg voted in favor as well. The bill expands the existing program that covers six million children of families with low and middle incomes who did not previously qualify for Medicaid benefits nationwide.

County Concerned About Firm Seeking Deed Database

By PAUL J. PEYTON

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

ELIZABETH — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders expects to vote next Thursday to extend an inter-local contract with Elizabeth for the county's health officer.

The board was poised to vote on a three-month agreement but, following a 90-minute executive session on August 9, opted to go month-to-month on the agreement through October 31.

The board approved the agreement with Elizabeth in February following the resignation of county health officer Denise Santiago. The position is part of the office of Local Information Network & Communications System (LINCS), within the Department of Public Safety, and is located at 300 North Avenue in Westfield.

Under the initial agreement, the county paid Elizabeth \$1,000 per month for the service. Elizabeth's health officer, John Surmay, is providing the service for the county.

"But we are still working to find someone to do this full time," said county spokesman Sebastian D'Elia.

In other business, County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi told the board that a private company, Data Trace, a subsidiary of American Title Insurance Co. out of California, has requested a copy of the county's database for deeds and mortgages through a OPRA (Open Public Records Act).

Freeholder Angel Estrada questioned whether the documents had to be certified and, if so, whether a third party would be able to obtain the information.

"They (American Title Insurance) could certainly sell it to a third party, and that is certainly a concern," said Ms. Rajoppi when questioned by free-

holders.

The county clerk said the request is different from one by National Deed Service, which she said purchased county deeds and then offered them for sale at 300 percent over the cost the county charges for the documents.

The freeholders are set to award the \$8,000 contract to Virginia-based AmCad LLC to transfer the records dating back to 1991 onto a DVD, the cost of which Data Trace will reimburse to the county. Ms. Rajoppi said Data Trace has received records from 2002 to the present.

County Counsel Robert Barry said the information is "a public document, so they are entitled to it."

Ms. Rajoppi also put forward resolutions to approve contracts for printing ballots for the November general election. The contracts, totaling a \$250,000, include Royal Printing Services of West New York in Hudson County, which will print election ballots at a cost of \$200,000.

Contracts will also be awarded to B&B Press, Inc. of Kenilworth to print absentee ballots at a cost of \$30,000. Full Mailers, Inc. of Garfield is set to receive a \$20,000 contract to mail sample ballots to Union County voters.

Ms. Rajoppi said the ballots would include those on election machines, as well as military and overseas ballots.

The board will vote at its next meeting to introduce the county's 2007 capital budget of \$29.2 million and to accept state grants totaling \$1.1 million to fund programs ranging from the Union/Essex County Auto Theft Task Force to a Route 27 corridor safety study. Three of the eight grants require matching funds totaling \$116,789.

WF United Way to Launch Fundraising Campaign

WESTFIELD — The Westfield United Way board of trustees has announced that it will officially launch its 2007-2008 fundraising campaign with a reception at the home of Mike and Jackie Cash on September 8. The goal of this year's campaign is \$715,000 and will support the efforts of 19 local agencies, ranging from Mobile Meals to Westfield Day Care, Jewish Family Service and the Westfield Community Center.

Active Westfield residents Cyrene and David Foltz will return as volunteer campaign co-chairs and say they have everything in place for another successful year.

"When we kicked off last year's campaign, we were confident we would reach our goal for three important reasons: the genuine community needs, a generous, caring, committed Westfield population and an outstanding group of volunteers," said Mrs. Foltz. "Our confidence remains high for the 2007-2008 campaign, and we look forward to the continuing generosity of Westfielders in supporting our 19 member agencies and the services they provide."

"Great campaigns require the efforts of many," Mr. Foltz added. "We're thrilled that this year's campaign leaders are John Ripberger, Charles Weidman, Wendy Cozzi, Colleen Echausse, Tom Cusimano, Dr. Robert Panza, Dr. Seymour

Koslowsky, John Schmidt and Clint Factor, all of whom were active in last year's campaign."

Additional agencies that depend on the Westfield United Way for support include the American Red Cross,



Mike and Jackie Cash

AREA of Union County, Boy Scouts, Central Jersey Legal Services, Cerebral Palsy League, Community Access Unlimited, CONTACT We Care, Girl Scouts, Jewish Community Center, Mental Health Association, Prevention Links, UCPC Behavioral Healthcare, Visiting Nurse & Health Service, the Westfield Area "Y" and Youth & Family Counseling.

For additional information, to donate online or to learn how to volunteer for the Westfield United Way, visit westfieldunitedway.org.

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Civil & Criminal Trial Lawyer

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Town Websites Offer Insight, Ideas, Some Confusion

By GEORGIA MIERSWA
and ALLISON GIBBONS

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

AREA — Town and borough websites are renowned for being either fountains of information or one-way streets to confusion. So how do the local websites stack up?

The Westfield Leader and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* examined the official websites of local municipalities to assess the accessibility and usefulness of their features.

In general, local town websites are informational and helpful. Occasionally, it took time to understand how to navigate the pages, and the absence of search bars on some of the sites proved problematic.

Below are the individual domain names, along with our reviews.

* * * *

Scotch Plains: scotchplainsnj.com

The Scotch Plains website is minimal in its appearance, but different departments are very easy to access with a "quick links" box on the left side of the homepage. The site includes three small pictures on the homepage, so it would be nice to see some expansion in terms of image spreads.

The page includes a link to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Schools website, but it is difficult to find unless you use the search function and scroll down an extensive list. The site includes a complete history of Scotch Plains, along with all the expected information; additionally, it contains a link to cancellations for town meetings, a useful feature for journalists and meeting attendees alike.

The list of contacts is under the heading of directories, which could become confusing for those new to the site.

Mountainside: mountainsidenj.com

The site is easily accessible and appears to have a friendlier vibe than other town pages. A note from Mayor Robert Vigilante is displayed at the bottom of the homepage, and a picture advertises a link to photographs of Mountainside taken by actual residents.

At the very bottom of the homepage is a helpful list of office hours for the offices at Borough Hall. A complete list of departments and services is conveniently located to the left, but unfortunately there is no information about the locations, updates or minutes of town meetings.

The site is well organized and aesthetically pleasing, which helps visitors to forget that there are some holes in what the town chooses to cover. However, the quirky choice of featured topics, including links to places of interest, senior citizen attractions and commuter information, makes it a page that residents will have no problem using again and again.

Garwood:

garwoodnj.com, garwood.org

Garwood's site is far from flashy, giving just the basic layout of an informative website.

Visitors may have trouble finding the actual site, however; there are two that feature the town: garwood.org and garwoodnj.com. The former is the "official site" and is vastly superior in both appearance and subject matter. It does not have a search bar, but everything is so well organized (and even color coordinated) that it does not seem to be necessary. Where most websites simply use bullets or boxes to display upcoming events, Garwood's site offers a fully laid-out calendar in a file that can be downloaded.

Clearly, this site has undergone serious changes since its inception, if it started as garwoodnj.com. With links to all things Garwood at the left (including schools, which appear to be missing from other sites), as well as a list of newsletters dating back to 2005, the site is a mass of easy access to information about the town.

Fanwood:

fanwoodnj.com,
visitfanwood.com/borough

Fanwood does have a twin site with a variety of interesting links from the homepage.

These include hotline numbers and contact information for the various houses of worship and hospitals in the area, along with community organizations and the local YMCA.

Fortunately, the site is useful in other areas as well. It does contain contact information, although it is listed under the "phone nos." link on the homepage. The site also has information about the fire and police departments and a link to the school system's page.

The official website has more information available about the government, including contact information as well as a calendar of events.

Westfield: westfieldnj.com, westfieldnj.gov

Westfield is another town with two domain names. westfieldnj.gov is the town's new, official site and is far more useful than its confusing alter ego. The biggest problem with the two sites is that in a Google search, the .com site is listed before the official site, so be sure to choose carefully.

The Westfield site is probably the best of all the town websites. Not only does it have a search bar, it also has an easy-to-access contact information link at the top of the homepage.

The site has a site map, a very handy tool, along with a complete listing of departments with separate pages for most. It was one of the few sites on which one could easily access meeting minutes and agendas from the homepage.

There is a link to the school system's website on the homepage.

Westfieldnj.gov was the only website with an FAQ page.

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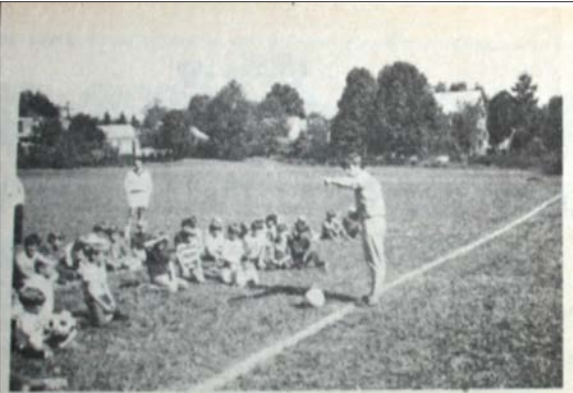
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Westfield Soccer Association Celebrates 35 Years, Looks Back at its History

By ALLISON GIBBONS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD—Keith Hertell grew up playing soccer in Garden City, Long Island. His elementary school gym teacher, an Englishman, had all his classes playing the beautiful game.

In 1968, when he married and



Gordon Bradley, coach of the New York Cosmos, demonstrates fundamental skills to boys of the Little League soccer program.

reprinted from The Westfield Leader, September 28, 1972

moved to Westfield, he noticed the only soccer in town was at the junior-high and high-school levels – and was definitely taking a backseat to football.

“I started to ask about how a little league program could be formed,” he said. By the spring of 1972, when a group of parents formed to start two travel teams, Mr. Hertell agreed to coach one if the parents would help him start his little league.

By that fall, the little league was composed of five teams, four of which were 12 years old and under and one with 13- and 14-year-olds.

But when Mr. Hertell had first begun to try to generate interest in a soccer league in Westfield, “The reception I received in terms of soccer was cold at best,” he said. He decided to generate interest in a different way: by bringing in a man by the name of Gordon Bradley, a name familiar to many of the older generations as the coach of the New York Cosmos.

The same coach working with the soccer phenomenon Pelé came to Westfield to teach a younger generation how to play.

Mr. Hertell met Mr. Bradley when he was invited to try out for the New York Generals, the precursor team to the Cosmos. “I would invite him to come to Westfield and run clinics,” he said.

“I think Gordon Bradley’s appear-

Wade Joins DC Public Relations Firm

WASHINGTON – Kathryn Wade, formerly of Westfield, has joined Crosby-Volmer International Communications (CVIC), a Washington, D.C.-based public relations firm. Ms. Wade is experienced in Latin American affairs and the development of cross-cultural alliances. She will assist CVIC as an account executive with consumer outreach and education campaigns among the Latino community and associations.

Ms. Wade studied languages and communications at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish with a minor in English. She spent a year studying communications at the University of Seville in Spain and helped organize a conference on the relations between sports and the media in the United States. She is fluent in Spanish.

She graduated from Oak Knoll School in Summit after attending Westfield public schools.

“When it absolutely must get there!”
goleader.com/express

ance in Westfield certainly provided awareness to the fact that just maybe, the sport had arrived in Westfield and that there was room for both football and soccer.” Mr. Hertell said of the development of the WSA.

In 1973, the five founders of the WSA met: Reginald Barley, Jack Beuhler, Bob Pecka, Dan Semels and Mr. Hertell, who was elected president.

As president, he worked to obtain playing fields, interacting with the recreation department as well as the Westfield Board of Education. They started at the Elm Street field; over the next five years, they also began to use fields at Sycamore Street, Memorial Park and Jefferson and Tamaques

Schools. “We had grown from about five teams in the fall, which represented about 72 kids, and five years later we were about 500 kids. Today I believe there’s over 2,000 kids involved,” Mr. Hertell said.

In an interview with The Westfield Leader and The Times, current WSA President Brian Greenspan said there are about 2,600 children currently involved in Westfield soccer, based on 2006-2007 numbers. About half of the players are girls.

He attributed the popularity of the sport first to the ease of play. “It’s a



Boys' Soccer Tournament Underway

reprinted from The Leader, October 4, 1973

very easy sport to play from the earliest ages,” Mr. Greenspan said.

The youngest program the WSA currently runs, “Fun of Soccer,” is for 3-to-6-year-olds and runs every Saturday in the fall for about 10 weeks.

Another attribute that contributes to the sport’s popularity is its accessibility. “The rules are essentially the same for both men and women,” he said.

George Kapner, the Westfield High School boys’ soccer coach, said the WSA did make an impact in Westfield soccer.

“They produce lots of players; they produce quality players,” he said.

The development of players from young ages was “an enormous edge” until the mid-90s, Mr. Kapner said, when other towns caught up to the WSA.

“In the 80s, we really took over as

FW Fire Dept. Breakfast Set Sept. 9

FANWOOD — The public is invited to a pancake breakfast fundraiser to benefit the Fanwood Volunteer Fire Department on Sunday, Sept. 9 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Chelsea located at 295 South Avenue in Fanwood.

The department needs funds to fully equip its first ladder truck.

In addition to the breakfast, there will be raffles, prizes, a moon bounce and a piñata. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 7 to 17. Children under 6-years-old will be admitted free.

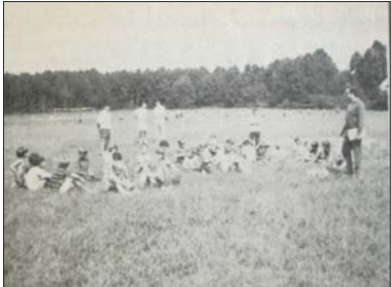
Tickets can be purchased at the door. For reservations, please call (908) 654-5200.

one of the best in the state,” Mr. Kapner said. “It was totally due to the Westfield Soccer Association.”

“We’re happy,” Mr. Greenspan said of the current state of the WSA. “Our whole aspect is to provide a level of soccer for whatever that child desires...It’s to get them as far as they would like,” he said.

The WSA does work with professional trainers to this day. “We contract with many great professional organizations that we work with very closely to train our members. I do not wish to single out one organization over any others or the program they currently work with in the WSA,” Mr. Greenspan said.

He gave credit to the volunteers who allow the program to run as well. “It is a tremendously dedicated group of volunteers,” he said, from the executive board handling the immense detail to the coaches and parents who give their time. “The volunteers are the real key to the success of the program – their



100 Register for Soccer

reprinted from The Leader, September 13, 1973

desire to educate themselves to provide a safe and appropriate environment, to watch children play a great game, is what is so rewarding,” he said.

Presently, the WSA runs a recreation, travel and inter-county leagues, along with a premier league, Mr. Hertell said.

People with Disabilities Fishing Derby is Sept. 8

ECHO LAKE – The 30th Annual People With Disabilities Fishing Derby will be held on September 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Echo Lake Park. The rain date would be the following day.

Fishing tackle and bait will be provided, along with a clown and magic show, lunch and prizes for all registered participants. Pre-register by calling Ellen Chase at the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation at (908) 527-4096. Volunteers are welcome and needed. For more information, contact Fred Bercaw at (908) 753-4726.

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club, Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and The Tedesco Bunch of Rumson will sponsor the event.



LOOKING AROUND...Red Tail Hawks thrive in the area. Each morning, the Westfield Hawk suns himself, perched atop the evergreen tree at the Northside Train Station parking lot.

Quote of the Week

From Internet blog regarding Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura’s statement, “If we arrested them all, where would we put them?” – Blogger, “How about deportation?”



An artist’s rendering of the villa-style construction at 1 Priscilla Lane in Westfield.

West Holly Street Flooding Concerns Area Residents

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD — Resident Cindy Dawley-Gallagher spoke at Monday’s township-committee workshop meeting on behalf of West Holly Street-area residents whom Orchard Brook flooding during rainstorms negatively affects.

“It’s a problem that has been ongoing for 40 years and has been promised to be corrected by the council committee for 15 years,” she said.

She said since the Nor’Easter this past April there have been four floods, two in the last month. She said three cars were totaled since last week’s rainstorm. Ms. Dawley-Gallagher presented pictures of the flooding depicting depths covering the top of tires.

Miriam Moody of West Holly Street attended the meeting and told The Leader/Times her garage flooded last week and the insurance company estimated damages to be about \$2,000, with an additional \$2,000 in damage to her car. She said when West Holly Street floods it “flows like a river.”

“We are completely surrounded by water. It’s like an island,” she said.

She said water comes from Westfield and Garwood and that a Garwood tunnel, built in 1926, needs enlargement.

Barbara Krause of Pittsfield Street said while driving from Orchard to West Holly Street at 9:20 a.m. last Friday, there was about two to three feet of water on the roadway.

“Maybe we should rescind the aesthetics plans for the Post Office Plaza Triangle (Eastman Street), which isn’t hurting anyone, and help these people, which is a life-threatening situation,” she proposed.

Ms. Krause also presented the committee with the current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) environmental impact statement, released this month in response to airspace redesign in the New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia metropolitan area.

The plan aims to ease delays at Newark Liberty International, John F. Kennedy International, LaGuardia and Philadelphia International airports but has met opposition from local governments because of the potential of increased air traffic noise.

Ms. Krause asked the committee to oppose the air traffic patterns proposed in the environmental impact statement. Elizabeth, Roselle and Westfield join Union County in opposition, as urged by the New Jersey Coalition Against Aircraft Noise (NJCAAN).

Mountain Ave. Home Uses Italian Villa Style

WESTFIELD — Many residents who have traveled down Mountain Avenue this summer may have witnessed the construction of a large home on Priscilla Lane.

One Priscilla Lane will be the private residence of a family who has lived in Westfield for many years, according to Christopher Zehnder of Zen Architecture LLC, the architect for the project. The property is over a half acre in area with frontage on Mountain Avenue.

“For this monumental home, my office chose to travel back through history to the Victorian Era. Within this 100-year period of American architectural history there existed several distinct architectural styles,” he said.

“My clients and I chose to combine building elements from the Italian Villa style with building massings gleaned from the Italianate style to create a period piece of architecture that would be both stylistically unique and accommodating of contemporary domestic design themes such as the ‘open plan’ and ‘kitchen as a gathering place,’” Mr. Zehnder said. “As this building evolves through construction, it will become a prominent example of how to design a large home without embracing the recent trends toward sterile, mass-produced impersonal dwellings.”

The Italianate style was introduced in the United States in the mid 1800s as an alternative to the then prevalent Greek Revival style. Properties commonly found in Italianate period homes include low-pitched roofs, arched windows, tall first floor windows, inclusion of a belvedere or tower structure, balconies with either wrought iron or baluster railings, an emphasis of vertical dimensions and stone, stucco or wood clapboards.



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The College Freshmen, Getting Ready for the First Year

Several thousand young people will be leaving Westfield, Scotch Plains and other areas of Union County for college over the next two weeks. Many are returning as sophomores, juniors and seniors who have successfully made the transition. The freshmen, however, are still wondering what's ahead.

These freshmen have already finished their applications and taken the SATs. They've chosen their colleges, filled out piles of paperwork and packed their cars with everything they'll need to set up their dorm rooms. However, questions with more open-ended answers still remain to be solved. What next? Where to go from here? While they're enthusiastic towards the new lives they're about to begin, it may seem that they're getting in over their heads.

Going to college is a transition unlike any other. They'll be living away from home for the first time, while planning their futures and forming friendships with people from different walks of life. They're probably excited, scared, anxious or a combination of the three. They may have hopes and expectations for the coming year, or they may be completely uncertain.

Questions regarding academics, social life and living away from home will come up. Even those who think their futures are already planned out will soon be confronted with new opportunities and be compelled to question their choices. Those who are not yet sure about their majors or possible careers might start out by taking general, introductory courses and gradually specializing as their academic lives progress. Their workloads will be more demanding than in high school, but hopefully they'll remember to balance studying with socializing and take time to relax.

Their interactions with those around them will be

radically different. While staying in touch with their high school friends, they'll be looking for ways to meet new people. Around the dorm, during class and in extracurricular activities are good places to start. In addition, they will more than likely be living with one or more roommates. Whether their roommates have similar tastes or are completely opposite, they'll learn to find common ground, share a space and negotiate differences, if not become friends. Of course, parties and other social events will be in abundance. Provided they don't interfere with academic success, these are exciting ways to meet new groups of people.

Perhaps the biggest change will be learning to live away from home. Aside from the practical aspects of living independently, such as doing laundry and managing financial matters, they will be adjusting to a new life apart from family and friends. They might feel homesick or need to talk to someone; in this case, a counselor provided by the school's counseling service may be of help. An older student who has been through the same experience might also be able to lend a hand. Staying busy and getting involved can help them take their minds off of homesickness, and before they know it, the campus will become a second home.

Soon enough, their parents will be sending them off with a hug and a kiss, and maybe a tear. Parents might feel a pang of sadness, as well as excitement about the new discoveries and challenges their freshmen are about to face. Their concern and frustration with paying the tuition bill is mixed with anticipation about sending their young adults out into the world.

The first year of college may seem overwhelming. Then matters settle in as they realize many others have done it and loved it.

Westfield Property Owners Should not Have their Rights Ruined by Either Cabal or by Preservation Ordinance

Regarding the letter in the August 9th edition of *The Westfield Leader* wherein Mr. Hudelson raises the issue of "unrestricted building" in Westfield, I point out that anyone who thinks that building in this town is "unrestricted" apparently has never applied for a building permit.

There are myriad zoning ordinances that constrain building in Westfield. Yet despite all of the existing zoning ordinances, the proposed "Little Gatehouse" subdivision doesn't violate one of them. That was the point of my letter supporting private property rights. When I purchase property, I want to be secure in the assumption that so long as what I want to do is legal, I do not have to run my plans by a cabal of my neighbors. And if this is a right worth safeguarding (and I believe it is), then the converse must also be true. My neighbors should be free to legally dispose of their property without interference from me.

This letter should not be read to suggest that I am unconcerned about property values and the aesthetics of a neighborhood. But let's not forget that every present building in Westfield (and indeed the world), replaced something else — be it a pre-existing structure, a lovely tree or an open space. It would be arrogant for me or anyone else to suggest that a neighborhood, as presently configured, is the ideal one and no further changes can be made.

What if that attitude prevailed the year before your house was built? As someone

who has lived in Westfield for three decades and has seen changes too numerous to count, I have found that apocalyptic predictions of plummeting property values and the ruination of neighborhoods simply have never come to pass. (Anyone remember the Shop-Rite fiasco? Talk about a Pyrrhic victory — Garwood got the ratable while Westfielders shop there!).

And even though I recognize that for the most part zoning ordinances don't control the design of new construction, thus allowing for the possibility that a house will be built that I find aesthetically displeasing, I feel this is a small price to pay for living in a democracy. I would rather live next door to a house not totally "in character" with the neighborhood than have the government tell me what my house has to look like.

All of which leads me to comment on the proposed amendment to the Historic Designation and Preservation Ordinance. The proposed amendment deletes the language in the current ordinance that forbids the town from designating your property as historic if you object. Accordingly, if the amendment passes, your house could be designated an historic property without your consent, leaving your deed encumbered and requiring you to obtain a certificate of appropriateness for something as minor as a paint job. To de-list your property is a complicated task that would probably cost dearly both in time

and legal fees.

That is why it is important to defeat the proposed amendment before it is passed. I'm sure there are many Westfielders who would treasure having their properties preserved under the ordinance, but please don't foist this upon those of us who would object.

The proposed amendment can be found at www.westfieldnj.gov and I urge every property owner to log on and read it. This amendment is the true threat to property values in Westfield. If you find it as unwarranted an intrusion into the enjoyment of your private property as I do, please e-mail mayorandcouncil@westfieldnj.gov and let your opinion be heard.

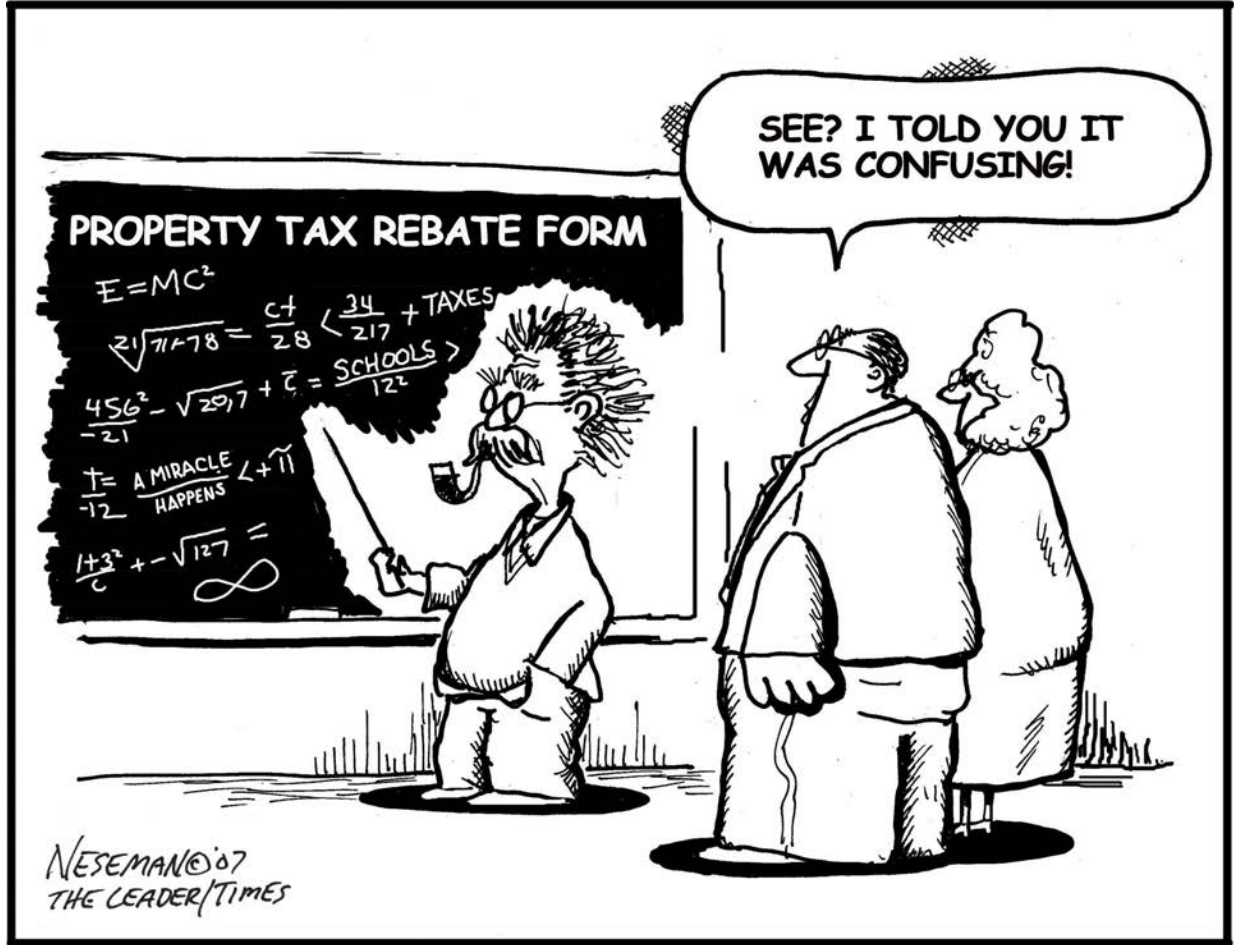
Susan Moryan
Westfield

Things Really Do Work In our Government

The Westfield Memorial Pool works. Medicare works. Social Security works. The Postal Service works. The Armed Forces work.

Who says that government does not work? It is sad, and in some cases even tragic, that some people in our country say that government does not work.

Stephen Schoeman
Westfield



Letters to the Editor

Westfield Historic Preservation or Loss of Property Rights?

All too often, the public relies on the media to keep them informed of changes occurring within their community. You would hope that when a senior editor takes on the responsibility of writing an article, he or she would have the knowledge and experience to check their facts behind the subject he or she is writing about. In the editorial written August 9th, this was not the case.

The facts of the Current Historic Preservation Ordinance (Appendix III of the Land Use Ordinance – Historic Preservation; Section 9B) are that a twelve-month "postponement period" goes into effect after a homeowner of a designated historical property is denied their application of appropriateness to perform work on their home. During this time, it is the hope of all involved to come to a resolution and compromise regarding said work.

This postponement period provides a balance that essentially protects the property rights of the owners, as well as advancing the goals of the Historic Preservation Commission. The twelve months provide ample time for the Historic Preservation Commission and homeowner to work together to come to an agreement that everyone involved can live with. It does not matter if you are a new homeowner or if you have owned your home for five or fifteen years; the same rules still apply.

This postponement period (Section 9B) in the Current Ordinance is being eliminated.

Kimberly Peterson
Westfield

Editor's Note: The proposed ordinance has been posted for several months at goleader.com/features/all_to_read_and_draw_their_own_conclusions.

Freeholder Scanlon Refutes Candidate Quattrocchi's Article

There is very little that can surprise me these days, and very little I read that can anger me anymore. I have experienced much in my personal and family life and, though the times may have challenged us greatly, at each turn my spirit has been restored by the kindness of others. I have refused to allow those whose sole purpose in life appears to be negative to bring me down.

Someone forwarded me an article written by Patricia Quattrocchi today, however, and the very smallness of her words demands a response.

I will never understand how a woman who describes herself as a survivor of cancer can denigrate the efforts of others working to raise dollars and attention for cancer research. It is beyond my scope of understanding when I glimpse the lack of compassion in people who can so easily deny the suffering experienced around the world. And I am baffled by those who seek to trivialize the efforts of people that don't fit into their own narrow little worlds.

When George Devaney shared his personal history and health challenges with me, we discussed those moments in each of our lives that produce deep introspection and change. So when he told me

of his and Angie's decision to go public with their journey and devote what little free time they have to try to make a difference in the areas of cancer and stem cell research, I was not surprised. When he shared with me his desire to try to make a difference globally and locally, he made me very proud. George has devoted his life to public service, and his ability to care about the global community is what makes him such an effective leader. Yes, it is very important that each of us find our own time and place to help others, but it is equally critical that we all understand that there is a world outside our corridors, and it is a world in which we are all involved.

As I said at the beginning of this letter, nothing much surprises me anymore. But for Mrs. Quattrocchi to pat herself on the back for her support of causes dear to her heart, while at the same time trivializing the same in others is appalling. And for her to dismiss the suffering of anyone outside her own circle, including those in Nepal, speaks volumes about her own character, beliefs and commitment.

Deborah Scanlon
Union County Freeholder

Ridiculous Quotes Attributable to Current-Day Political Leaders

Looks like those wild and crazy kids, Gov. Jon Corzine and Labor Union President Ms. Carla Katz are back in the news as their personal email exchange is the subject of a very public law suit. The situation has taken on a kind of "he said, she said" flavor.

The governor had indicated that the emails are of a "private" nature. Carla, in a court filing, has said that they are in regard to her concerns about public workers contact negotiations, which were underway at the time. The governor, backpedaling, told the press that she emailed him but he didn't respond, and both contend that the electronic communications did not have any impact on the outcome of the contract negotiations.

Corzine's statement, "There can be communication without discussion," is right up there with "I didn't inhale" and could go down in the "Hey, this guy has a way with words" annals of ridiculous quotes attributable to current-day political leaders.

The governor's ethics advisers have called Carla's emails an "end run" around the state's team of negotiators, thus admitting that they did indeed occur. They have gone on to say that the emails are not subject to disclosure and/or are protected by executive privilege. All of this is from an administration that promised the voters there would be a new "transparency in government" that would be a way to fight corruption and unethical practices.

Governor Corzine's reluctance to release his old mail has certainly piqued the interest of the press, who are always looking for a juicy story and the public who are by now wondering just what those emails contain. A Mercer County judge has now entered the picture and ordered all of the emails turned over for his behind-closed-doors review. He will decide what will and what won't be made part of the public record. Applauded by some as a great move on the judge's part, there are undoubtedly those possessing a voyeuristic nature who will be disappointed by the contents of the emails released, as they are hoping to uncover a J. Edgar Hoover living in Drumnthwacket.

The Open Public Records Act, or OPRA, has been put to the test in this case. Those in the know attempt to decipher what constitutes a public record and determine where is the delineation between public and private correspondence.

Surely, most of us would not be interested if Carla told Jon she just purchased a new pair of stilettos; however, we would have a vested financial interest in how those stilettos impacted on the contract talks, if in fact they did. For years, those in government were in the position to dictate, pick and choose what was in the best interest of the public to know.

The OPRA has put an entirely new complexion on the situation. Now, some in high places are trying to come up with inventive ways of discouraging public inquiries into what some consider mundane issues, possibly making them bigger than they really are.

The road blocks in Union County include a special form for requesters to fill out, specifying which documents they want. But OPRA says requests should be made in writing, and it does not specify that a form be used. And an attempt was made to levy an additional hourly fee on top of an already inflated per page copy charge. This was challenged within the legal system by a local activist group, causing the county to back down.

In the later case, the documents requested were of a nature that must be made available for viewing on demand to any Tom, Dick or Harry who walks in off the street. As for the form, the NJ Press Association has been granted permission to join in the fray to protect the interests of the media in the timely reporting on government-related issues.

The ability to view public documents, of course with the exception of those pertaining to sensitive Homeland Security information, is a wonderful tool to keep government accountable for their actions — especially when it comes to our tax dollars.

Life would have been much easier for the governor if only he had just turned over the emails and said "here you go, have your little chuckles." But now we are wondering just what these people have to hide. And in the case of Union County, why do they make it so darn hard?

Patricia Quattrocchi
GOP Candidate for Freeholder

Clean Elections: Small Step for New Jersey, Giant Leap for Reputation

With so much corruption associated with New Jersey elected officials, our state needs to change business as usual by removing money from politics and changing our election process.

This November, when voters in the 14th, 24th and 37th legislative districts select their representatives for the State Senate and General Assembly, they could have the opportunity to vote for candidates that did not receive substantial campaign contributions from unions, corporations, political parties or individual donors. These candidates are participating in the second Clean Elections Pilot Project.

Under this voluntary program, qualified candidates who collect 400 to 800 \$10 contributions from voters in their

district and agree to forgo private campaign cash receive public funding grants to run for office. The Clean Elections program is backed by a diverse group of concerned organizations, including the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, Rutgers University's Eagleton Institute of Politics, Citizen Action and the League of Women Voters, who will help to promote the program to voters in the pilot districts.

Although we will unfortunately continue to hear the negative stories associated with Jersey politics, we should take notice of the pilot program in the 14th, 24th and 37th legislative districts. Once this election cycle is over, our wish is for clean elections to come to a legislative district near you. Please see PlatformForProgress.org for more information.

Peter Cocozello
NJ Chamber of Commerce

Erratum

Myrna Gordon's name was misspelled last week in her letter to the editor.



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

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

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

Answers to last week's sarcane words.

1. Naiad — A water nymph or woman swimmer
2. Tinea — Ringworm; a skin disease caused by a fungus
3. Ichthyolite — The impression of a fish in a rock
4. Philliater — An amateur medical student

OLLAMH

1. Any assortment; a stew
2. A regional congress of soviets
3. A teacher or sage of ancient Ireland
4. An ancient flask or jug of leather

BRACCATE

1. Having feathers which conceal the feet and legs
2. Interlaced or linked
3. Brittle
4. Salty; saline

TORVITY

1. Sternness; grimness
2. Second-class, such as with racing boats
3. A twisting
4. Act of torturing

KNELL

1. A fine white clay used in making porcelain
2. A vase or pitcher with three handles
3. A large vat to hold cloth for bleaching
4. A mournful sound; usually of a bell toll

Letters to the Editor

Property Tax Credit Changes to Know

Changes have been made to the Homestead Property Tax Credit Program. Under the new plan, some New Jersey residents (those families earning less than \$100,000) will receive a 20 percent reduction. Many others will only realize a 10 or 15 percent cut while those earning more than \$250,000 will not receive a reduction.

Originally proposed as a long-term solution, the State Treasurer has testified that it is unlikely that this new program will be sustainable beyond this year. It is anticipated that these rebate checks will, as in the past, be sent out just prior to the statutory deadline of October 31.

Applications were mailed to property taxpayers in July and due to be filed by October 31st. If you have not yet received an application or need help completing the forms, please contact our Westfield office at (908) 232-3673 or our Summit office at (908) 918-0414.

Senator Tom Kean
Asm. Eric Munoz
Asm. Jon Bramnick

As School Taxes Rise, There's Less Reason for Some to Stay and Pay

At the Scotch Plains Township Council meeting at which the township's 2007 budget was enacted, Councilwoman Coronato correctly pointed out that hard times were ahead in the real estate and mortgage markets. Her conclusion that this indicated a need to raise taxes to offset any failure of hard-pressed taxpayers to meet their obligations was the wrong conclusion to draw.

Thirty percent of our taxpayers are over 55, and likely a large majority of them do not have children in our school system. They are paying their share of Scotch Plains' contribution to the tax for the Scotch Plains Fanwood school system. This is the portion of our population that can most easily move to other areas with lower taxes because the quality of the area's school system is not their primary concern in their choice of housing.

As the population of Scotch Plains taxpayers without children in the school system decreases, the percentage of the school system's taxes paid by those not adding to the cost of the school system decreases, thus raising everyone else's taxes in the process.

Add to this the reckless orgy of discretionary spending accelerated this year by the present municipal administration, and the likelihood of driving the over 55 population out of town increases.

It is time to at least slow down discretionary municipal spending and stabilize or lower municipal property taxes and not follow the present path to double-digit tax increases. Yes, we are headed for increasing problems with regard to real estate prices and liquidity.

The spending and tax policies of the present municipal administration are leading Scotch Plains to an unnecessarily severe crisis. As seen above, the taxes that can be increased by excessive municipal spending is not just the municipal portion of our tax bill but the school portion as well.

Dick Samuel
Chair, Scotch Plains Democratic Com.

Home Burglarized, Jeweler Thanked

We would like to express our gratitude to local merchant Michael Kohn Jewellers. Two weeks ago, our Westfield home was burglarized and a number of items of jewelry were stolen.

Although the sentiment of many of the items can never be replaced, the staff at Michael Kohn were incredibly helpful in providing detailed records and appraisals for insurance purposes, despite the fact that some purchases dated back more than ten years.

We would like to thank them for their compassion and assistance during a difficult time.

The Caiola Family
Westfield



SUMMER TRAVELS...Left, Kathy Marques of Hillside poses in front of the Tower of Belem in Portugal this summer. The Tower of Belem, built between 1514 and 1520 under the supervision of architect Francisco da Arruda, is the sentinel over the Tagus River that protects the entrance into Lisbon. Second from left, Russell Wells of Westfield hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu last fall. Machu Picchu, or "Old Peak" in the Quechua language, was once a sacred city and a central site for religious ceremonies of the Inca people in Peru. Second from right, Mr. Wells drove through Sossusvlei last summer while on a driving safari through Namibia. An area of the Namib Desert, Sossusvlei is known for its breathtaking sunrises and is home to some of the highest sand dunes in the world. Right, David Sunseri of Westfield traveled to Switzerland this summer. The Swiss Alpine region covers about 60 percent of the country.

Workshops Held to Assist Residents with RebateForms

UNION — Senator Raymond Lesniak and Assemblymen Neil Cohen and Joseph Cryan conducted Property Tax Rebate Workshops in each municipality of the 20th legislative district last week. The legislators, staff and representatives from the State Department of Treasury helped residents fill out their forms, track the status and answer questions regarding the rebate. Over 100 residents attended the workshops.

Mr. Cryan said, "In addition to these workshops, our district office is a resource to all residents. If you have any questions or need help with your application, I encourage you to reach out to our office; we are here to serve you."

Last year, legislative district staff assisted roughly 700 residents file for tax

rebates. This year, a property tax rebate hotline has been established. The number is (888) 411-2890.

Mr. Cohen said, "This year's state budget appropriates more funding for property tax relief than any other budget in state history." He continued, "Additionally, no new taxes were created and no existing taxes were increased."

Mr. Lesniak added, "Establishing significant property tax relief is a top priority in the State Legislature. To make this relief permanent, we encourage residents to pass the sales tax dedication ballot question in November."

For more information, contact the legislative office at (908) 624-0880 or the hotline, or visit the website at NJCommunityFirst.com.

Pulaski Skyway to Undergo Substantial, Lengthy Repair

TRENTON — Commissioner Kris Kolluri announced last Friday that starting August 27 the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) will rehabilitate the Route 1&9 Pulaski Skyway, which is located in Kearny, Jersey City and Newark.

"The Pulaski Skyway repair project exemplifies NJDOT's commitment to improving and stabilizing New Jersey's roadway network," said Commissioner Kolluri. "NJDOT is working to ensure that all of New Jersey's bridge and roadway infrastructure is safe and in a state of good repair."

This \$10 million project includes repairs to the existing bridge deck, including partial replacement of 1,250 feet of roadway at the eastern end of the structure. Parapet repairs, concrete encasement removal and pier cap repairs to improve structural stability are also scheduled. NJDOT is scheduled to complete the project in August 2008.

In order to mitigate traffic impacts,

bridge deck repairs will be performed exclusively on weekends. Traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction from 9 p.m. Friday night to 6 a.m. Monday morning. The normal traffic configuration will be in effect on weekdays.

From August 27 through December 2007, the eastbound right lane of the Pulaski Skyway will be closed on weekends. All westbound lanes will remain open. From March through June 2008, the westbound right lane will close on weekends. All eastbound lanes will remain open. From June to August 2008, the east and westbound left lanes will be closed on weekends. The east- and westbound right lanes will remain open.

Variable Message Signs (VMS) will be installed through the work corridor to advise motorists of scheduled lane closures and other traffic information. Motorists can also access real-time traffic information at trips123.com or via the NJDOT web site at njcommuter.com.

Safe Toys for Kids, Peace of Mind for Moms

By Congressman Mike Ferguson

Elmo in the Giggle Box, Dora's Talking House and Thomas the Tank Engine are popular children's toys. And if you have young kids like my wife Maureen and I do, you've probably had these toys in your house. Unfortunately, these and dozens of other toys have been included in a nationwide recall of toys made in China because "surface paints on the toys could contain excessive levels of lead."

As parents, we all try so hard to do the right things for our children, from making sure they eat healthy and get enough exercise to monitoring what they watch on television. That's why it's so heart-breaking to learn that our kids' toys might actually harm them.

More than 1.5 million Thomas the Tank Engine toys and accessories were recalled in June because of possible lead poisoning. Last month Fisher-Price, citing lead hazards, recalled 1 million toys, including Elmo Light Up Musical Pal, Sponge Bob Squarepants and Cookie Monster Giggler Grabber. Each of these toys was manufactured in China.

Lead poisoning is linked to brain damage and blood disorders, including anemia, and can cause permanent damage in children. The dangers of lead are so great that it has been prohibited from paint in the United States for more than 30 years. After searching their homes to ensure that their kids aren't playing with any of these recalled toys, parents ask common-sense questions — how could toxic Chinese-made toys get into the United States and why isn't there a system in place to protect our kids from unsafe toys?

The troubling answer is that when U.S. toy companies choose to manufacture their products overseas, quality control becomes a real concern — and in the case of Elmo and Sponge Bob, quality control rests with a Chinese company. That formula has proved dangerous for American kids. That's why I introduced bipartisan legislation in Congress — the "Safe Toys For Kids Act" — to require that imported children's toys be certified by an inde-

pendent third party and meet U.S. product safety standards by independent laboratories before they can be imported into the United States. The bill would prohibit uncertified toy imports from entering the country.

No parent should ever have to worry about whether their kids' toys are toxic and would make them sick. My legislation would help ensure that toys are safe for kids and also give moms and dads peace of mind in knowing that one more layer of safety has been added to protect the health of our children. Parents with questions about the latest recalls can visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission's web site at www.cpsc.gov or call the commission toll-free at (800) 638-2772.



TRAVELS TO CHINA...Ryan Brown of Westfield spends his summer in China learning the language and culture. He is pictured in Shanghai.

Learning Language and Culture in China

CHINA — Ryan Brown, a 16-year-old Westfield resident, has just returned from a month-long trip to China. He attended the Concordia Language Village's High School Credit Abroad Program, in which he studied Mandarin. The Freeman Foundation provided a scholarship for his study.

Beginning in Beijing, Ryan and classmates explored the Great Wall and the Forbidden City. The group took a 36-hour train ride across China, ending in the city of Kunming in the Yunnan Province. There, at the Yunnan University, Ryan studied Mandarin for three hours a day and participated in Kung Fu classes.

The group flew to Shangri-La in the Tiger Leaping Gorge, one of the steepest gorges in the world, with the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain towering 18,000 ft over the raging Yangtze River. They trekked to a guesthouse on the mountainside, gazed at amazing scenery, dined on Tibetan food and were blessed by Buddhist monks.

Ryan will be a junior at the Union County Magnet High School. He has a passion for Chinese culture. He attends the Union Chinese School in Westfield on Saturdays and is tutored by Yuti Hsu. He studies Tai Chi with Master Joe Eber and Ving Tsun Kung Fu with Sifu David Robinson.

Ryan's most memorable experience on the trip was befriending the Chinese teenagers he met in Kunming.

Concordia Language Villages is a nonprofit, 50-year-old program of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. Each summer, 6,000 young people from the United States and 25 other countries participate in language and culture programs offered in 14 languages. The Chinese program, for youths ages 15 to 18, runs for four weeks.

Garwood Family Swim Night Information

GARWOOD — Family Swim Night is set for this Friday, August 17, from 6 to 10 p.m. Please call the Garwood Recreation Department Hotline at (908) 418-7649 with any questions.



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Two River, Town Bank List Management Posts

MIDDLETOWN — Community Partners Bancorp (NASDAQ symbol CPBC) has announced several management changes effective August 1 per its management succession plan. CPBC is the parent company of Two River Community Bank, based in Middletown and The Town Bank, headquartered in Westfield.

Barry Davall will retire as chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of Two River Community Bank (TRCB), while continuing as president, CEO and director of CPBC.

William Moss, president and director of TRCB, will also assume the title of CEO of the bank. Mr. Moss is also vice president and senior loan officer of CPBC. Michael Gormley was named chief operating officer of CPBC. Mr. Gormley will remain senior vice president and chief financial officer (CFO) of CPBC and executive vice president and CFO of TRCB and The Town Bank.

Alan Turner, executive vice president of TRCB, will become the bank's senior loan officer, a position previously held by Mr. Moss.

Robert Downes, Sr., who is president, CEO and director of The Town Bank, remains vice president of CPBC.

Charles Parton, chairman of TRCB and CPBC, stated, "We are very fortunate to have this type of depth in top level management. It has allowed us to put into action a succession plan which will assure continued strength in leadership for years to come and enable Mr. Davall to devote his time and talent to strategic initiatives and management oversight."

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9.99 59.94 -25.00 34.94 5.83	10.99 65.94 -25.00 40.94 6.83	12.99 77.94 -25.00 52.94 8.83
PER BTL.		

Little Penguin ALL TYPES PRICE BREAK 10.09 1.5 L	Bella Sera Pinot Grigio AND ALL OTHER TYPES PRICE BREAK 9.29 1.5 L	Sutter Home White Zinfandel PRICE BREAK 6.29 1.5 L
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Simi ALL 750 MLS Cabernet ... 18.99 Merlot ... 14.99 Chardonnay 13.99 Sauvignon Blanc 11.99	Di Lupo Alto Adige Pinot Grigio 12.99 750 ML Chianti Riserva 9.99 750 ML Rossa Toscana Your Choice! 9.99 750 ML Pinot Grigio 9.99 750 ML	Vina San Esteban Cabernet Merlot Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc 7.99 750 ML Penny Lane Cabernet Merlot Chardonnay Zinfandel 7.99 750 ML Beringer White Zinfandel 4.99 750 ML
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Heidsieck Monopole Blue Top 26.99 750 ML Domaine Chandon Brut Blanc de Noir 14.99 750 ML	Chalone Monterey ALL 750 MLS Cabernet Merlot Pinot Noir Chardonnay 9.99 750 ML	Toasted Head Chardonnay Cabernet Merlot 10.99 750 ML Yellow Tail RESERVE ALL TYPES 9.99 750 ML	Amberton Knight's Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Chardonnay Napa Sauvignon Blanc Napa Merlot Napa Pepperwood Grove All Types 7.99 750 ML	Fetzer Valley Oaks ALL TYPES 11.99 1.5 L Real Sangria 9.99 1.5 L Sutter Home Cabernet Merlot Chardonnay Pinot Grigio 8.99 1.5 L Minini Pinot Grigio Montepulciano 8.99 1.5 L Santa Marvita Cabernet Merlot Chardonnay 6.99 1.5 L Fox Horn 4.99 1.5 L
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Rossini's Classic Cellars Chablis Rhine Burgundy Rubino Rosso Rose Blush Chablis 7.99 750 ML DESSERT WINES ALL TYPES 9.99 3 L	Almaden 5 L BOX Chablis Rhine Burgundy Blush Chablis Golden Chablis Cabernet Chard. Merlot Wt. Zin. 12.99 1.75 L	CR Cellars Bravissimo Fortissimo 12.99 4 L
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Dewars White Label PRICE BREAK 28.09 1.75 L	Belvedere Vodka PRICE BREAK 26.00 750 ML	Bacardi Rum PRICE BREAK 19.00 1.75 L
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CORDIALS Cointreau 29.99 1L Drambuie 25.99 750 ML Pama Pomegranate Liqueur 19.99 750 ML Baileys Irish Cream 18.99 750 ML Caravella Limoncello 17.99 750 ML	Canadian L.T.D. 11.99 1.75 L RUM Capt. Morgan Spiced Rum 25.99 1.75 L Ron Romero Light or Dark 12.99 1.75 L Whaler's 10.99 750 ML TEQUILA Cancun Gold or White 19.99 1.75 L BOURBON Jim Beam Black Label 36.99 1.75 L Woodford Reserve 26.99 750 ML	VODKA Grey Goose Reg or Flavors 53.99 1.75 L Svedka 19.99 1.75 L Finlandia 26.99 1.75 L Iceberg 23.99 1.75 L Crystal 9.99 1.75 L BRANDY/COGNAC Christian Bros. 16.99 1.75 L Don Julio ALL 750 MLS Silver 36.99 Reposado 39.99 Anejo 42.99 Hennessy Cognac ALL 750 MLS VSOP 36.99 VS 26.99	Fleischmann's 12.99 PREFERRED 1.75 L SCOTCH Chivas Regal 27.99 12-YR-OLD 750 ML Dalmore 27.99 12-YR-OLD SINGLE MALT 750 ML Clan MacGregor 15.99 1.75 L GIN Tanqueray 32.99 1.75 L Hendrick's 26.99 1.75 L Fleischmann's 11.99 1.75 L Crystal 10.99 1.75 L
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Mark Lacis and Ms. Christine Giameo

Ms. Christine Giameo To Marry Mark Lacis

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Giameo of Westfield have announced the engagement of their daughter, Ms. Christine Giameo, to Mark Lacis. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gatinis Lacis of Bonita Springs, Fla.

A 1998 graduate of Westfield High School, the bride-to-be received her Bachelor of Science degree in Operations Research and Industrial Engineering from Cornell University in 2002.

She was employed at Johnson & Johnson for four years before moving to Colorado in 2006. Ms. Giameo currently is employed as the supply chain manager at Trinidad Benham in Denver.

The future bridegroom, a 1997

Hiking Club Offers Variety of Activities

COUNTY – The Union County Hiking Club offers a varied and regular program of hiking and bicycling activities. Most events take place in central and northern New Jersey.

Membership dues are \$10 per year. Guests are invited to try out the club before joining. To request a complimentary schedule, please call (908) 527-4900.

graduate of Parsippany Hills High School, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Rutgers University in 2001 and a law degree from Seton Hall Law School in 2005. He currently is employed as an attorney with Ireland Stapleton in Denver.

The couple will be married in the Colorado Rocky Mountains in the summer of 2008.

La Leche Meeting Set Tomorrow Morning

WESTFIELD – The La Leche League of Westfield, a non-profit breastfeeding information and support group, will hold its next monthly meeting tomorrow, Friday, August 17, at 10 a.m.

Topics for discussion will be “Why Breastfeed Beyond Three Months?” and “Ideas for Starting Solid Foods and Thoughts on Weaning.”

New, experienced and expectant mothers and their children are invited to attend to learn more about breastfeeding, have their questions answered and meet other breastfeeding mothers. For more information and the meeting location, please call Mari at (908) 233-6513.

‘Mozart and More’ Concert On Tap at Township Library

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Woodland Quartet of the Scotchwood Chamberplayers will hold its annual concert, “Mozart and More: 2007,” on Tuesday, August 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Public Library.

For over 30 years, this group has performed a free concert each August. A selection by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is always included. This year, selections will include movements from Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Opus 44 No. 1 Quartet in D Major; Mozart’s Quartet No. 22 in Bb, K589; a medley of music from *Carousel* by Richard Rodgers in a quartet arrangement by Robert Paoli, and a quartet arrangement of Carlos Gardel’s Tango.

First violinist Debra Biderman has been performing with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra since 1967 and is a private instructor. A frequent soloist and recitalist, she serves on the Education and Outreach committees of the New Jersey Symphony.

Cellist Linda Fink also is a private teacher and freelance performer throughout the tri-state area. She is a member of the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea, the Plainfield Symphony and the Central Jersey Symphony.

Violist Robert Paoli is an English teacher at the Wardlaw-Hartridge School. A composer and arranger, he is director of the Summit Strings and president of the Plainfield Music Club.

Violinist Lubove Schnable, a resident of Fanwood, is director of the Woodland Quartet and of the Blue Hills Symphony Orchestra. She teaches privately and performs with

the Central Jersey Symphony, the Summit Symphony and the Plainfield Symphony.

The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue. For more information or directions, please call (908) 322-5007.

Thrift Shop Announces End-of-Summer Sales

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League’s thrift shop, located at 1730 East Second Street in Scotch Plains, will end its summer schedule with a week of half-price and bag sales. The final bag sale days will be held from Tuesday, August 21, at 10 a.m. through Friday, August 24. A bag, which the shop will provide, will cost \$5.

The store will be closed for a week of cleaning, painting and restocking and will reopen on Tuesday, September 4, at 10 a.m. Fall clothing for infants, toddlers and school-age children will be among the featured merchandise. In the women’s department, there are expanded racks devoted to pre-teen girls.

Summer hours during August are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Beginning September 4, regular hours will be 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. For more information or directions, please call the thrift shop during business hours at (908) 322-5420.



NEW LIONS ON BOARD...The Scotch Plains Lions Club welcomes new members to the organization. Pictured, from left to right, are: Membership Chairman Dominic Lagano, new member Paul DuVoisin, President Barbara Anilo, new member Sandra Pompilio and Barney Barnett, past district governor, who led the welcoming ceremony. Not pictured are the club’s other new members, Fritz and Nancy Bauer.

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MR. AND MRS. LOUIS MATTHEW DE MASI
(She is the former Ms. Elizabeth Ann Giameo)

Ms. Elizabeth A. Giameo Weds Louis M. De Masi

Ms. Elizabeth Ann Giameo, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Giameo of Westfield, was married on Friday, April 13, to Louis Matthew De Masi. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis De Masi of Westfield.

The afternoon ceremony took place at the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield, with the bride given in marriage by her father. Officiating at the nuptials was the Reverend Monsignor Joseph Masiello. A reception followed at the Park Savoy in Florham Park.

Ms. Christine Giameo of Denver, Colo. was the maid of honor for her sister. The bridesmaids were Ms. Christina De Masi of Westfield, the bridegroom’s sister; Mrs. Angela Brehm of Toms River, Mrs. Anne Lutkenhouse of Hoboken and Ms. Meghan Schwarzenbek of Summit, all friends of the bride.

Dr. Christopher De Masi of Scotch Plains, the bridegroom’s brother, served as the best man. The groomsmen included Matthew Ambrosia, Richard Cohen and Michael Dixon, all of New York City, and Matthew Cognetti of Scotch Plains. All are friends of the bridegroom.

Nicolas De Masi-LaRosa and Julian De Masi, both nephews of the bridegroom from Westfield, served as ring bearers.

Paul Giameo of Roselle Park, the bride’s uncle; Mrs. Lindsay De Masi of Scotch Plains, the sister-in-law of the bridegroom, and Ms. Meghan Schwarzenbek did readings.

A 1996 graduate of Westfield High School, the bride earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Villanova University. She currently is employed as a benefits analyst for ACS in Little Falls.

Also a 1996 graduate of Westfield High School, the bridegroom was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Kean University. He currently works in marketing and sales support for Peerless Beverage Company in Union.

The bride’s mother and bridesmaids hosted a surprise bridal shower at Acquaviva delle fonti in Westfield.

The parents of the bridegroom hosted a rehearsal dinner at La Griglia in Kenilworth the evening before the wedding.

Following a wedding trip to Aruba, the couple resides in Westfield.

Lions Continue Campaign To Increase Membership

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Scotch Plains Lions Club has reported that its ranks continue to grow, having added four new members this year, and will continue its campaign to increase membership in the fall.

The new members are Paul DuVoisin, Sandra Pompilio, Fritz Bauer and Nancy Bauer. They were formally admitted into the Scotch Plains Lions Club at the end of June.

Part of Lions International, the Scotch Plains Lions Club has been active for 50 years, serving the community by utilizing funds from its pancake breakfasts, craft fairs and White Cane Days. These funds are used to support multiple community needs as well as various organizations serving the blind and visually impaired. Each year, the Scotch Plains Lions Club also awards a scholarship to a deserving student from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and distributes toys to the needy at holiday time.

Additionally, the club arranges for

free eye screenings during the annual Scotch Plains Health Fair and also arranges for free or low-cost eyeglasses to be provided to needy local children.

The club collects used eyeglasses at its collection box located on the sidewalk in front of stores on Park Avenue opposite the Scotch Plains Municipal Building. Last year, more than 1,000 pairs of eyeglasses were collected and recycled for disadvantaged people throughout the world.

For additional information about the Scotch Plains Lions Club and/or to attend a meeting, please call Membership Chairman Dominic Lagano at (908) 322-6558 or Club President Barbara Anilo at (908) 322-4472.

Open House Is Slated At Temple Emanu-El

WESTFIELD – Temple Emanu-El, located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield, will hold an Ice Cream Sundae Open House for prospective members on Friday, August 24.

At 7 p.m., visitors will have an opportunity to meet members of the synagogue community, including newer and longtime congregants, clergy and staff.

Participants also will be able to get acquainted with the temple’s religious school and Early Childhood Education programs; learn about its education initiatives, social action programs and worship opportunities, and take a tour of the facility.

At 8 p.m., all are welcome to worship with members of the congregation. An “Ice Cream Sundae” oneq Shabbat reception will follow.

www.goleader.com

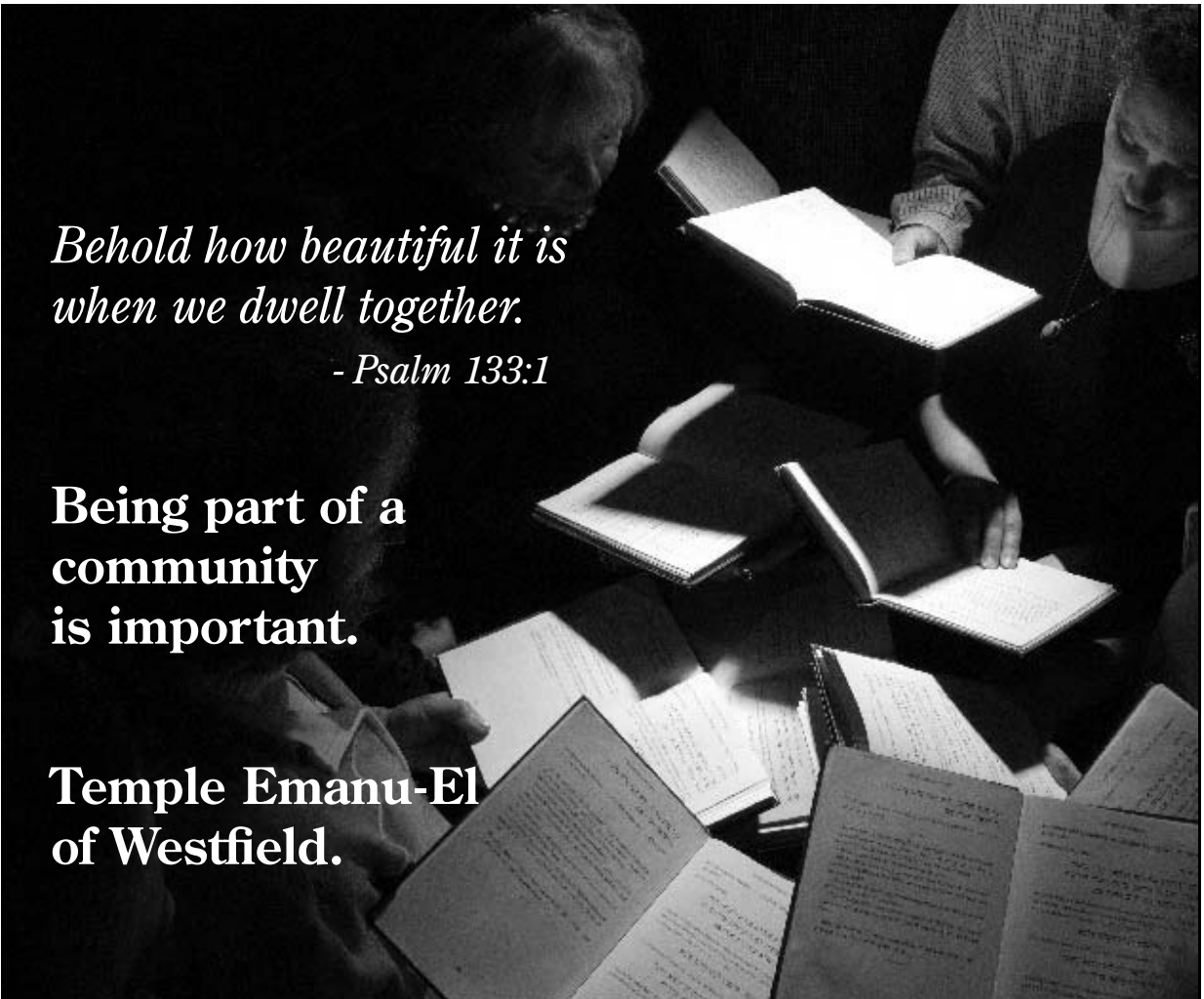


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- Psalm 133:1

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Friday, August 24, 7:15 - 8:00 p.m.
Meet & Greet for Potential and New Members
Erev Shabbat Service at 8:00 p.m. followed by an ice cream *oneq* Shabbat

Friday, September 7, 7:00 - 7:45 p.m.
Meet & Greet for Potential and New Members
Shabbat Hallelu, an Erev Shabbat Service in Song begins at 7:45 p.m.

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— Obituaries —

Charlotte Irion, 82, Medical Secretary; Active In Westfield Methodist Church

Charlotte Epps Irion, 82, of Sterling, Va. died unexpectedly of heart failure at her home on Friday, August 3.

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., she was a resident of Fanwood and Westfield from the mid-1930s until 1972.

Mrs. Irion worked as a doctor's assistant and medical secretary in various offices in New York City and Westfield. In 1972, she moved to North Ferrisburgh, Vt. with her late husband to run a farm supply and hardware store. The Irions lived in Vermont until 2004, when they moved to Sterling, Va.

Mrs. Irion was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Westfield and maintained lifelong ties with members of the congregation and clergy there, notably the Reverend Clark W. Hunt and music director Phil Dieterich. In 2006 she attended a reunion of church members in North Carolina to celebrate the 90th birthday of Dr. Hunt. She also was a lifelong opera fan and

attended many performances at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

A 1943 graduate of Westfield High School, she earned her associate's degree in medical secretarial science from Colby Junior College in New London, N.H. in 1945, with highest academic honors in the natural sciences.

She and her husband, Herbert "Bud" Irion, raised four children in Fanwood and Westfield. Mr. Irion preceded her in death in July 2005.

Surviving are three daughters, Susan Irion, Barbara Sawyer and Margaret Brown; a son, Robert Irion, and four granddaughters.

Services and interment are planned for Saturday, August 18, in North Ferrisburgh, Vt.

Arrangements are by the Adams-Green Funeral Home in Herndon, Va. Memorial contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church, One East Broad Street, Westfield, N.J. 07090.

August 16, 2007



Charlotte Epps Irion

Elena Irwin, 62, Lifelong Town Resident; Touched Lives of All Who Knew Her

Elena "Lou" (Barker) Irwin, 62, passed away on Wednesday, August 8, 2007, at home.

A lifelong resident of Westfield, she touched the lives of everyone who knew her.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Donald, a patrolman with the Westfield Police Department, in 1988; by her son, Jonathan Charles, in 1973, and by her sister, Nancy Barker, in 1991.

Surviving are two loving daughters, Kimberley Louton (and her husband, Thomas) and Katie Irwin (and her fiancé, Paul Campanile); three devoted grandchildren, Miranda, Donald and Max Louton; two sisters, Patricia Whitmore (and Ed) and Charlene Jacobs (and Charles); a brother, Charles Barker (and Nancy); a sister-in-law, Lanna Ramagosa (wife of the late Bill); 11 loving

nieces and nephews; many beloved great-nieces and nephews, and many dear friends.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, August 11, at the First Congregational Church of Westfield. Interment took place at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield.

The family requests donations in her memory be made to the Westfield Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 356, Westfield, N.J. 07091.

August 16, 2007



Elena Irwin

Newcomers Club Posts Date For Welcome Tea

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers Club has invited new residents and those who have been through a recent lifestyle change such as a marriage, a new baby or change of employment to attend its annual September Welcome Tea.

This event will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, September 20, at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, located at 74 Martine Avenue, South, in Fanwood. Current club members will highlight the year's upcoming activities such as Ladies Night Out, Morning Coffee, book discussions, playgroups, toddler events and cooking, among other offerings. In an effort to welcome new residents to the area, local businesses are donating gifts for the event.

A non-profit social organization, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers Club offers daytime and evening activities for women and their families. For more information about the club or the upcoming September Welcome Tea, please visit the club's website at scotchplains.com/newcomers/ or call Jennifer at (908) 756-1464.

We Possess Power to Save Lives Around the World

By REV. ED CARLL

I was privileged to take a trip to Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda this past February, seeing first-hand what hospitality and generosity looks like when partnerships are formed between faith communities in another continent.

While there with Church World Service, an ecumenical relief and development ministry supported by most mainline Protestant churches, I also witnessed the superb work of Catholic Relief Services, American Jewish World Service and several other non-governmental international relief and development organizations which are saving lives, educating for the future and providing the basics for life to go on one more day.

Having taken this eye-opening, spirit-changing trip to Africa, one thing became intensely obvious and has remained so: without the support of and partnership with those of us in the developed, privileged one-third world, everyday life for millions of people in the two-thirds world would remain completely desperate.

It is one thing to watch it on "60 Minutes," it is quite another to walk through a village meeting grandparents who have been left to care for their AIDS-orphaned grandchildren. It is one thing to hear stories about the humanitarian aid that comes through non-governmental organizations (NGOs), it is quite another to meet and be embraced by someone for whom life has changed dramatically for the better because of it.

It was a mind-altering, heart-changing experience to be welcomed into a village with joyous drumming, singing and dancing. My strongest memories are of the children with whom we played who now have clean water to drink for the first time in their lives; of families who have learned how to avoid life-threatening diseases and of the strong faith of the dozens of faith-based educators and social workers who have been organizing local communities toward personal and social change.

Since returning, I have been thinking differently about my ability to partner with people in the two-thirds world, particularly Africa. As the pastor of a congregation in a very economically privileged part of the world, I have been thinking about the hundreds of ways I can invite the people whom I serve to remain conscientious, vigilant and joyous about sharing one of our most abundant resources: our money.

One such invitation was offered earlier this summer in a wonderful "NothingButNets" fund-raiser at our Vacation Bible School here at the church. It was fun to help little children begin to learn that they can do a lot to save the lives of other children in the world. They raised over \$900 to buy 90 mosquito nets! The best thing is: they have learned that they can make a difference. A simple \$10 mosquito net can save a family from disease and death.

"NothingButNets" is a new collaboration with the NBA, the Bill

and Melinda Gates Foundation, the United Methodist Church, *Sports Illustrated* and the United Nations Foundation. If you haven't heard about this exciting new effort, I invite you to take a minute to search on: www.NothingButNets.net.

The United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Mentor Initiative have turned to the United Nations Foundation and "NothingButNets" for help. The challenge is urgent – without outside assistance, officials estimate 25 percent of the internally displaced people in Chad will die from malaria.

Learn what you can do to save the lives of a family during this rainy season in Chad, with only \$10. Talk with your children or grandchildren and teach them to be more generous in a world that cries out for our help: NothingButNets.net. Buy nets, enjoy saving lives!

Reverend Carll is senior pastor of the First United Methodist Church, located at One East Broad Street in Westfield.

Registration to Begin For 'Y' Fall Session

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Area "Y" Fall 1 Session will run from Tuesday, September 4, through Saturday, October 27. Various new and expanded programs will be available.

Registration for Gold and Silver individual and family members will begin this Saturday, August 18, at 7:15 a.m. Members will be able to register online. Open registration for program and new members will begin on Monday, August 20, at 7:30 a.m.

Additionally, screenings and lectures presented by Overlook Hospital health educators will be featured at the "Y" three times a week this fall.

A schedule of dates and times is available at the main "Y" facility, located at 220 Clark Street in Westfield, and online at westfieldynj.org. For more information, please call (908) 233-2700 or visit westfieldynj.org.

American Red Cross Offers CPR Courses

AREA – The Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross has announced the dates for a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation course covering Adult CPR/AED, Child CPR/AED, Infant CPR and First Aid.

This course will first be offered this Saturday, August 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. It will be held at the American Red Cross office located at 332 West Front Street in Plainfield. Some or all portions of the course may be taken.

The course also will take place on Saturday, August 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Spanish. This session will be held at the American Red Cross office located at 16 Jefferson Avenue in Elizabeth. Some or all portions of the course may be taken.



RIBBON CUTTING...The newly re-paved and re-lined parking lot on the La Grande Avenue side of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church is officially open for use. Pictured above, the Reverend David Jahnke, new pastor of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, and Trustees chairman Wendy Warwick cut the ribbon following Sunday worship August 5.

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A WORK IN PROGRESS...The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, located at Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street, undergoes front terrace renovations. The project, slated for completion by mid-September to coincide with the start of the new church season, will make access to the sanctuary safe, secure and more easily handicap-accessible.

Site Improvements Continue At Presbyterian Church

WESTFIELD – With its prominent location at the corner of Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street and its tall white spire, The Presbyterian Church in Westfield is one of the town's most familiar landmarks.

In order to make access to the sanctuary safe, secure and more easily handicap-accessible, the 279-year-old church is undergoing a major renovation project to its front terrace.

Established in 1728, The Presbyterian Church is firmly rooted as a cornerstone in the formation of the town itself. In his book, "A History of the Town of Westfield, Union County, New Jersey" (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1923), Charles A. Philhower wrote that on January 27, 1794, Westfield formally separated from Elizabeth and was "made a separate township – to be called the Township of Westfield."

In those days, Westfield was a rural community that included The Presbyterian Church, as few as 14 homes, a single store, one blacksmith shop, one tavern and one all-ages schoolhouse.

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield has a long history of making capital improvements to its buildings and structures. A major renovation project occurred in 1964 when, in order to accommodate a growing membership roster, the church was literally cut in half and the front section was moved on rollers 37 feet towards East Broad Street.

This project actually added 30 feet to the sanctuary without noticeable change to the interior or exterior appearance of the building.

In 1997, major renovations to the sanctuary were made in a Sanctuary Revitalization Project. These renovations included a new sound system, carpeting, an enlarged welcome entrance, air conditioning, a new lighting system and chandeliers, organ refurbishing and accessibility additions.

The current 2007 Terrace Project will complete a major milestone in church planning and safety improvements, benefiting all congregation members and guests visiting the church property.

The project itself has a long history, beginning with the formation of a Terrace Project Committee in December 2005. The committee is comprised of six church members with specific skills in planning, communications and engineering. After meeting with town officials, the groundbreaking was held on July 23 of this year. The scope of this project includes replacing the sanctuary terrace, steps and driveway; creating a welcoming, safe entrance for the church community, and addressing significant water and moisture problems in the lower levels of the sanctuary.

A targeted completion date of mid-September will coincide with the church's annual "Rally Day" event on Sunday, September 16, that will

kick off the new church season.

A complete history of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield is available in the church library, and members of the staff are available to conduct tours of the buildings. Any inquiries regarding this project or specific questions about the church are welcome. With advance notice, group tours through The Presbyterian Church Cemetery also may be arranged. For more information, please visit westfieldpc.org or call the church office at (908) 233-0301.



A LOOK BACK...Pictured above is The Presbyterian Church in Westfield during 1964 renovations, when the church was cut in half and the front section moved on rollers 37 feet toward East Broad Street to accommodate a growing congregation. Additional enhancements were made to the landmark church in 1997. Established in 1728, The Presbyterian Church has been a fixture of community life in the town ever since.

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Ruth Smith Is Recognized With Excellence Awards

WESTFIELD – The board of trustees of Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corporation has announced that Executive Director Ruth B. Smith has been named the recipient of two awards in recognition of performance excellence.

Ms. Smith has been executive director of the Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corporation housing

facility for the past 17 years.

During the 76th Annual Meeting and Exhibition of the New Jersey Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (NJAHSA), held in Atlantic City May 30 to June 1, Ms. Smith was presented with NJAHSA's 2007 Distinguished Service Award.

With more than 30 years of service, Ms. Smith is recognized as a statewide leader in the field of affordable senior housing, has been pivotal in the development of programs and services, and also has served as a mentor, confidante and friend to current and emerging professionals throughout the state.

Additionally, she has been selected to receive the 2007 Dr. Herbert Shore Outstanding Mentor Award.

This award will be given in recognition of her dedication, commitment and compassion for mentoring persons working in senior housing. She will receive it at the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging's Annual Meeting and Exposition in Orlando, Fla., which will take place October 21 to 24.



Ruth Smith

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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 9-12

PANCOAST 3-FOR-3, 3 RBI; SWISHER PITCHES A GEM

Montrose Rocks Russell, 7-1, For FOMSA Championship

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

Top-seeded Montrose Avenue reclaimed supremacy in the Fanwood Old Men's Softball Association (FOMSA) by rocking defending champ Russell Road, 7-1, in Championship Game 3 at the Dorris Ferry Softball Diamond in Fanwood on August 8. The Montrose men, who won the title two years ago, took charge with a 5-3 victory in Game 1 on August 6 but Russell bounced back to win a fierce, 10-6 battle in Game 2 on August 7 to force the showdown. Montrose tapped starting pitcher Hal Breuninger for two runs on three hits and three walks in two innings. Reliever Eric Barlow scattered seven hits and walked four in his five innings.

Gary Pancoast went 3-for-3, including a double, with two RBI and a run scored in Montrose's 11-hit out-

put. Bill Swisher and Jim Swisher cracked two hits each and Mike Swisher banded an RBI single. Chris Ferraro robbed home, singled and walked in a run and pitcher Bob Swisher reached base twice and brought in a run. Jordan Scher and Nick Alpizar each singled.

Bob Swisher limited Russell to seven hits and three walks, while striking out one. Montrose exhibited brilliant defensive plays, including a double play, which occurred in the second inning. Third baseman Ferraro gunned down runners heading home in the fifth and seventh innings. Second baseman Bill Swisher turned a second-to-first double play in the second, along with several cerebral plays.

"Good pitching, along with Scher's four walks was the inspiration for us in Game 1. Second game, they got their bats going and outplayed us, while in

Game 3, we outplayed them. We hit and we pitched. Their pitchers were a little wild and that won it for us," said Montrose team captain Jim Swisher.

Bob Sawicki ripped two singles to lead Russell. Louis Santana slapped a single, Luke Cerchio clouted a double and Chris Donovan ripped a single and scored the lone run. Ed Barlow, Jack Todard and Craig Gibson each rapped singles.

Russell third baseman Mark Gorman played a major role in five putouts, which included a rundown putout and several fine scoops of hot grounders. Louis and Luke Cerchio also demonstrated some defensive brilliance, while setting up four putouts.

"It's been a long, tough season. Consistency throughout the third game won the series for them. Where we needed to be, we were not. They

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



GLIDING AND SLIDING IN FOR A RUN...Montrose Jordan Scher barrels safely home as Russell catcher Craig Gibson attempts the tag. Team captain Bill Swisher, left, hopes for the best while Nick Alpizar, right, makes the call.

ROSA RAPS 3-RUN HOMER; NICOLSON, HERNANDEZ HR

Cepp's Throttle Delasal, 11-4, Force Showdown for Crown

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

Inning-by-inning pep talks paid off for Cepp's "Vets & Rookies", who broke open a tight game with four runs in the seventh inning to throttle the hot, charging Delasal team, 11-4, in Game 2 of the Scotch Plains Men's Softball League B Division championship at Jerseyland Field in Scotch Plains on August 8. The final showdown for all the B Division marbles had been set for August 13.

On August 8, the Delasal men, who entered the game having won 10 of their last 11 games, sent Cepp's reeling, 18-8, in Game 1 of the three-game series. Intent on turning the

tide, Cepp's team captain Joe Cepparulo, Sr. gathered his team prior to the game and said, "I want everybody talking tonight. Nothing bad! Pick everybody up. And outfielders, let's get the ball into the cutoff man."

Cepp's outfielders did get the ball into the cutoff man on time when needed and the infielders added some defensive flare of their own, especially third baseman Colin Weber, who made several diving stops for putouts, turned a third-to-second-to-first double play (DP) and chased down a popup in shallow leftfield. Shortstop Ed Gutierrez also made several fine plays, but the most exciting was his absorption of a lightning

liner off the bat of Delasal's Frank DiGiovanni.

Offensively, Cepp's kept plugging away until they accumulated 22 hits, including four from veteran Art Schmidt, who started a two-out rally in the seventh inning with a heads-up double. Ivan Rosa (2-for-5, 3 runs scored) twisted the cap on that inning with a three-run blast. Rookies Weber (3 RBI, run scored, double), Joe Cepparulo, Jr. (2 runs, RBI) and Mike Rusin (RBI, run scored, double) each had three hits and Jeff Bell belted two. Gus Alvarez rapped three singles

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



MAKING A BIG CONTRIBUTION...Cepp's Mike Rusin ripped a pair of singles, doubled, had an RBI and scored a run in the 11-4 victory.



SLIDING SAFELY INTO THIRD IN A CRUCIAL INNING...St. Luke's Rick Regenthal slides safely into third ahead of the tag from St. Pat's Jack Kennedy. Regenthal went on to score the fifth of six runs in the third inning.

SMITH SLAMS SOLO HOMER; HOBBLE 3 HITS, 3 RBI

St. Luke Remains 'Top Dog', Pounces on St. Patrick, 11-6

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

Shortstop Scott Smith made a number of run-preventing plays, and teammate Art Hobbble hacked a two-run single and an RBI triple to help St. Luke remain the "top dog" in the St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League with an 11-6 victory over St. Patrick at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on August 9. Since a devastating 19-6 drugging of St. Jude in the "Battle of the Best" on July 13, and a recently dropped doubleheader to the Pats the Lukes have been virtually untouchable.

Smith grabbed a grounder and chased down the lead runner (Bob Guy) heading to third in the first

inning; then he made a fine running catch in shallow left in the second inning. Second baseman Kevin Spellman followed up Smith's fete with a running grab of his own. Smith made another run-saving catch in the third inning, then topped it off with a second-to-first double play in the sixth. Centerfielder Rick Regenthal made a diving snag in the fifth inning that also kept additional Pats from patting the plate.

Smith also pounded a solo homer, doubled and scored twice in his team's

16-hit effort, while Hobbble hit safely in all three at bats. Once again, Joe Tilocca fooled the outfielders with an RBI triple to add to his single and two runs scored. Damon Roth doubled, singled, scored once and had two RBI, while Regenthal singled twice and scored twice. Spellman ripped an RBI single, an RBI sacrifice fly and scored once. Steve Murano singled twice, scored once and had an RBI, while Nick DiNizo (RBI) and Sal Gano each singled and scored once.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

See photos of Sports:
on www.goleader.com
St. Luke/St. Pat Softball
Cepp's/Delasal Softball
Montrose/Russell Road
Click "Photos" – When page
Changes, Click "Photos"
On Left Side of page

CORRECTION:

On page 12 of our August 9 issue, a picture of Kyle Rowbotham standing in front of "Castle Neuschwanstein" was noted as being in Tyrol, Germany. Neuschwanstein is near the town of Schwangau in Bavaria, Germany. Tyrol (Tirol) is a federal province (comparable to a state in the U.S.) in Austria. Sorry for the mental slipup!

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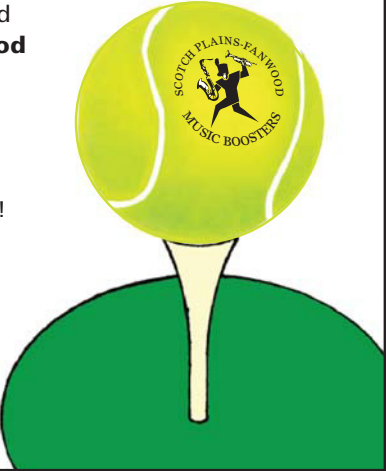
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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
TAKING A WICKED CUT...St. Luke's Sal Gano took a wicked cut, which resulted in a 10-foot dribbler that he beat out for an infield single.

St. Luke Remains 'Top Dog', Pounces on St. Patrick, 11-6

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

St. Pat totaled 13 hits and received a pair of singles, a pair of runs scored and a pair of RBI from Paul Bifani. John DeProspero and Guy each contributed a double and a single, an RBI and a run scored, and Marty Marks added a two-run single. Gary Cardinale (run scored) and Jim Barba each had two hits, while Kevin St. Onge (run scored) and Tony Blasi each poked a single. Barba displayed a lot of glitter at second base with several sparkling plays, and third baseman Jack Kennedy reacted correctly to a steaming line drive.

After the Pats failed to score in the top of the first, St. Luke scored a run on Spellman's sac fly, which prompted Tilocca to blurt, "That was our inning. Keep winning them!"

They were able to win that inning because Bob Guy, who doubled, drifted too far off base and got chased down by Smith to spoil a threat.

Teammate Frank Pepe reminded him, "Bobby! You're not 30 any more."

The Pats put together four singles and a double to plate four runs in the

third and take a 4-1 lead, but true to their "top dog" spirit, the Lukes retaliated with six in the bottom of the inning.

"Way to break out, guys," said Smith

"Let's stop the bleeding here, guys. Let's go," pleaded Pat man St. Onge.

Gano added some excitement in the fourth when he beat out a 10-foot single to incite a three-run eruption and push the Lukes to a 10-4 lead.

"Way to put the wheels on, Sal," shouted DiNizo.

Tilocca followed with his RBI triple, Roth hopped an RBI groundout and Smith smashed his solo homer.

In the fifth, Pat man Milk Monroy mumbled, "Let's get out of this hole."

With a whiff of positivism, Guy growled, "Let's get four or five runs. Five or six hits will do it."

Marks drilled a two-run single to bring home Bifani and Guy.

In the bottom of the fifth, Regenthal singled and Hobbie thumped his RBI triple to center for the game's final run.

St. Patrick	004	020	0	6
St. Luke	106	310	x	11

St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League Standings:

ANGELS DIVISION: (As of August 11:)

TEAM	W	L	Pct
St. Luke	14	6	.700
St. Patrick	13	7	.650
St. Michael	11	8	.577
St. Joseph	8	11	.423
St. David	4	16	.200

SAINTS DIVISION:

TEAM	W	L	Pct
St. Jude	13	7	.650
St. Aloysius	11	9	.550
St. Anne	10	9	.526
St. Anthony	7	12	.368
St. Stephen	7	13	.350

St. Patrick 7, St. Luke 6

After finishing a tie game in which St Luke scored three runs in the top of the eighth and St. Patrick scored four in the bottom of the eighth to win it, there was another game to play. Tied going into the seventh, St. Pat's scored two and held off St Luke for the home and away sweep. Leading Pat's was Bob Guy with a homer and Tom Kucin with two hits and three RBI.

Tom Fitzpatrick Signs Letter of Intent

To Fairfield University

WESTFIELD — Thomas Fitzpatrick has signed a NCAA Letter of Intent to run Cross Country for Fairfield University in Connecticut. Thomas is a graduate of Holy Trinity Interparochial School in Westfield and St. Peter's Preparatory School in Jersey City. He is the son of Trish and Bill Fitzpatrick of Westfield.

St. Michael 11, St. David 7

In yet another home and away makeup doubleheader, St David scored two in the bottom of the eighth to win it after Al Betau legged a triple into a homer in the top of the eighth. In the nightcap, Kevin Woodring led the Mike's attack with a homer, two doubles and three RBI. John Deitch also homered for Mike's.

St. Stephen 12, St. Anthony 9

St Stephen scored three in the seventh, as Cory Woodring had a triple and three RBI. Anthony's Rick Wustefeld and George Gracia each had two hits.

St. Anne 13, St. Jude 8

St Anne's Lou Ballestrieri had two hits and three RBI, and Harold Hopler had a homer, double and four RBI. Jude's Steve Ferro and Bruce Evans had three hits each and Mike McLane had three RBI.

St. Joe 5, St. Aloysius 1

Frank Chupko had a masterful pitching performance, holding St. Al's to six singles. Bruce Logan and Marty Bernstein led a four-run fourth with a hit apiece. Al's Pat Loungo and Tommy Maher each had a hit.

St. Aloysius 11, St. Michael 7

Snatching defeat from the jaws of victory was St. Michael's, as they allowed eight runs in the bottom of the sixth. John Esposito and Pat Kehrlie each had homers and Dan Nigro had two hits. Mike's Kevin Woodring (homer, double), Al Betau and Pat Nigro each had two RBI.

St. Luke 11, St. Patrick 6

St. Luke turned up the heat with a six run third. **See exclusive story.**



Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
PRESENTING A LEADER SHIRT...U.S. Congressman Michael Ferguson graciously receives a Westfield Leader Greg Norman line shirt from Assistant Publisher/Sports Editor Dave Corbin during a visit to the Leader/Times office on August 13 as Publisher Horace Corbin observes.

Scotch Plains Men's Softball A & B Division Playoffs:

A DIVISION (final round):

Outsiders 27, Investor Savings 18:

Rumors of sleeping bats have been dispelled, as a calculator was needed to figure out the score. We can't remember the last time a team scored 18 runs and were never really in the game. The Outsiders used all their home runs by the second inning, cruising to a 27-18 victory. It was not like the Investors laid down, it is just that they could never recover from the early 14-3 lead the Siders put up in the second inning.

The Investors were trying every strategy with five-men infields and changing pitchers, but this was not the night for gimmicks. Hitting was in the air. Samila's Samoans were on all cylinders. The only thing that could stop the Outsiders is Mike Parkhill's third base coaching skills.

Game 2: Outsiders Top Investors, 19-3, for A Division Crown:

B DIVISION Semis:

Delasal 24, DJ's Limo 2

Runs were also the flavor of the night in the rubber match of the semis in the B's, but it was all the Delasal Visitors who were doing the scoring. There were seven competitive teams in the B's, and anyone who got hot could take it all. It's reminiscent of the Sofa King run of a few years ago (whatever happened to that team?)

But give Novy's Nerds their props. They jumped out to a 9-1 lead and never looked back. Coviello has not seen a beating like that since he unveiled the famous Friday's teams of yesteryear. So the No. 5 seed is pitted against Cepp's Vets, and this should be another wild one.

Championship Round:

Game 1: Delasal 18, Cepp's 8

Game 2: Cepp's 11, Delasal 4

Game 3: Delasal 16, Cepp's 8 (Doug DeLisa hits grand slam)



SENIOR 75+ NATIONAL CHAMPS...These Northern New Jersey Area athletes recently won the 75+ Senior National Softball championship held in Louisville, Ky. The local seniors won all of their game and defeated a team from Ohio in the final game to claim the crown. Pictured in the front left and in the inset is Westfield resident Chick Miller.

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BECOMING THE 2007 FOMSA CHAMPS...Montrose Avenue, the champs of the Fanwood Old Men's softball Association, defeated Russell, 7-1, on August 8. Pictured front row, left to right: Michael Swisher, Bob Swisher, Jim Swisher, Bill Swisher and Chris Kluckas; back row, Gary Pancoast, Nick Alpizar, Jordan Scher, Ken Kulp and Chris Ferraro.

Montrose Rocks Russell, 7-1, for FOMSA Title

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

executed enough to win. I would not say they outshined us by a lot, but they made us pay for our mistakes," said team captain Louis Cerchio. "It was a great club that we lost to and our hats are off to them."

In the bottom of the first inning, Ferraro and Bill Swisher each rapped back-to-back singles and Ken Kulp lofted a thumper to right center, advancing the runners. Ferraro used his wheels and darted home safely on Alpizar's groundout to third. Russell

tied the score in the second. Donovan singled, Ed Barlow jumped on a happy pitch for a single and Todard walked. Gorman drilled the ball to Bill Swisher, who turned a second-to-first double play as Donovan scored.

Montrose tapped Breuninger for a run in the second inning, highlighted by Pancoast's lone single and, of course, the three walks. Eric Barlow relieved, and was greeted by Ferraro, who worked a bases-loaded RBI walk. Montrose threatened to blow the

game wide open in the third. Alpizar worked a free pass, Scher singled, Chris Kluckas earned a free pass and Pancoast punched a sac fly to right to make the score 3-1. But it could have been more if Gorman had failed to make a fabulous snag at third and then team up with Gibson for a heads-up pickoff at third.

Despite Luke Cerchio's plea to his team, "Come on guys, this is where we make our move, the fifth inning," and Lou Cerchio's comment, "Hey! The fans are booing. They're complaining and are not happy with our play," Russell seemed unable to launch an attack. Meanwhile, Montrose plated three runs in the fifth. Alpizar smacked a single to left, Scher walked and Pancoast hammered a one-out double past an outfielder. Alpizar scored, and Scher, running at high amps, blew through a stop sign at third and miraculously skidded home safely. Mike Swisher, still chuckling on his way to the plate, wiggled an RBI single to right.

When asked which game stood out above the rest during the season, Swisher said, "It was the second to the last game of the season when we lost two in a row and lost the first seed. We came back and beat Midway in a real tight game, and that got us the first seed and became the turning point of the season."

Russell Road	010 000 0	1
Montrose Ave.	121 030 x	7



COMEBACK KIDS...The Westfield White 9-year-old baseball team won three hard-fought games in a row in July to make the finals of the Clark Baseball Tournament after an 0-2 start. Great pitching, strong fielding and powerful bats landed the come-from-behind team in a final game against Hillsborough Township that ultimately was decided in the bottom of the sixth inning. Pictured, the team is all smiles showing off their second place trophies.

Cepp's Throttle Delasal, 11-4, Force Showdown

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

and scored a run, and veterans Mike Cornacchia (RBI) and Gutierrez each added a single, while Cepparulo, Sr. and Steve Levitt each added an RBI and a run scored.

Delasal, who had been boisterous on the bases in the previous 11 games, was somewhat sedated offensively with nine hits even though Kevin Nicolson (2 runs scored) and Hector Hernandez each stung screaming two-run homers and singled. DiGiovanni singled and scored once and Bob Mrynyj tripled, while Chris Toledo, Anthony DelaSalla and Sean Meaney each tapped a single. DiGiovanni, at third, turned a third-to-home DP. Second baseman Mrynyj made a diving grab to initiate a putout, and shortstop Mike Colbert went deep in the hole to make a flexible flick to first for a putout. Hernandez made a shoelace snag in right.

After Cepp's failed to score in the first two innings, Cornacchia clearly commented, "Everybody shake off your first at bats. We have a lot of game left."

But it was Delasal who shook the tree first when Nicolson launched his two-run shot in the bottom of the second. Cepp's answered twice in the third when Cepparulo, Sr. and Levitt

both walked and scored on respective RBI singles from Cornacchia and Cepparulo, Jr.

After Bell made a pair of fine catches in center and Weber made a

fice fly to center, but Hernandez hammered his two-run shot to put Delasal on top, 4-3. In the fifth, Weber whacked an RBI double to tie and Rusin ripped an RBI single in the sixth to put Cepp's up, 5-4.

With extraordinary effort, Schmidt manufactured his double in the seventh.

"He made that double," expressed Cornacchia.

Weber followed with an RBI single, and Rosa dropped his two-run homer over the leftfield fence, giving the Vets a 9-4 lead.

Somewhat concerned, DiGiovanni whispered, "Everybody line drives. Let's put some pressure on them."

Colbert added, "You can't get them all with just one swing."

Offensive silence ensued.

Sensing the kill, however, Cepp's chewed off another run in the eighth on Rusin's double and Cepparulo, Sr.'s RBI sac fly, giving Cepp's a six-run lead.

Offering words of precaution, Cornacchia chanted, "That's nothing! They can score ten runs without blinking an eye."

Delasal only blinked! In the ninth, Cepparulo, Jr. scored on Weber's RBI single. Delasal remained mute!

Cepp's	002 111 411	11
Delasal	020 200 000	4



LEAPING HIGH FOR THE BALL...Delasal second baseman Bob Mrynyj made several fine defensive plays.

Delasal – Showdown Winners – B Division Champs



B DIVISION CHAMPS...Delasal used the long ball to defeat Cepp's, 16-8, in Game 3. Doug DeLisa broke a tight game wide open with a grand slam homer. Pictured, left to right, are: front row; Ed Novy, Chris Toledo, Joe Della Sala and Hector Hernandez; back row, Mike Colbert, John Hagy, Frank DiGiovanni, Bob Mrynyj, Kevin Nicolson, Doug DeLisa and Anthony Della Sala.

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CELEBRATING THE BIG WIN...The Westfield White "A" 11s celebrate after defeating Berkeley Heights, 6-4, to win the North Jersey All-Star League Championship in Long Hill on July 31.

WF White 11s A Team Wins North Jersey Championship

The Westfield White "A" baseball team got clutch hitting, great pitching and solid defense to defeat Berkeley Heights, 6-4, and win the North Jersey All-Star League Championship in Long Hill on July 31. Westfield reached the finals by stopping Chatham, 5-1, in the quarterfinals and by nipping Ridge, 3-1, in the semis.

Against Chatham, Chris Arena smacked a three-run homer and Thomas Randazzo went 3-for-3. Jake Wasserman pitched four innings, yielding four hits and walking none while striking out three. Chris Sweeney pitched two innings, striking out four and allowing only one hit. Peter Zecca hit a ground rule RBI double. Conner Hagan laced two singles, while Pat Decker and Wasserman each singled.

In the victory over Ridge, Sweeney pitched a complete game. Matt Smoot and Arena turned a double play. Randazzo successfully fielded a tough hopper at short, Decker converted a slow roller at third and Marc Luino recorded all three outs at second base in the third. Connor Cummings in right and Zecca at short contributed fine plays.

In the title game, Sweeney pitched four and two-thirds innings. Dylan Elliott relieved and recorded a strikeout to end the game with the tying runs on base. Smoot made a

big-league sliding catch on his knees by the fence in foul territory and Matt Storcks made a leaping catch of a line drive to left-centerfield to stop Berkeley Heights' rallies.

Offensively, Randazzo ripped a three-run double and Elliott provided three hits, including a shot off the top of the centerfield fence. Hagan, Wasserman, Arena and Smoot each added a hit. Storcks, Cummings, Decker, Zecca and Luino also contributed.

Game manager Matt Smoot said, "This will be a season the boys and their coaches will never forget. If I could explain what changed from a truly terrible beginning of the season to what we all witnessed the last month, I would write an article about youth sports. However, maybe the most simple explanation is that the team never quit!"

Smoot added, "As coaches, nothing could make us more proud than the manner in which this group of kids conducted themselves, as they never gloated and were constantly supportive of one another."

Westfield finished the season with an 11-2 league record, while going 3-0 in the playoffs. The team went 5-1 in winning the Edison 50/70 Tournament with a victory over North Brunswick. Westfield finished with an overall 21-9 record.



The Westfield White "A" 11-year-old baseball team shows the trophies

Union County Senior 50+ Softball League Standings:

50+ DIVISION 1 (AS OF AUGUST 12):		
TEAM	W	L
American Legion	18	3
Awnings Galore	15	6
Antone's Pub & Grill	14	7
D&K Associates	11	10
KMD Tuning	7	14
Promptcare	6	15

50+ DIVISION 2:		
TEAM	W	L
The Office	13	9
SMC	12	10
Northwest Mutual	9	14
Union Center National Bank	8	15
Associated Auto Parts	6	16

SUPER SENIORS DIVISION:		
TEAM	W	L
Commerce Bank	14	1
Creative Industries	13	4
LA Law	6	10
Smith Barney	5	12
Associated Auto (Silver)	2	13

Promptcare 6, Antone's 2

Promptcare received outstanding pitching from Pat Lopiccolo, flawless defense from his teammates and timely hits from Glenn Reed to capture a well-played game.

The Office 10, UCNB 5

The Office clinched first place in their division, keyed by the strong pitching of veteran Ken Dunbar and the productive three hits of Dave Drechsel. Jeff Villani led the Bankers with three hits.

Awnings 16, Promptcare 4

Awnings pounded 29 hits, led by Bill Blitz, Neil Grandstrand and Bob Grausam with four hits apiece. Others contributing with three hits each were Bruce Crawford (4 RBI), Tom Pasko (4 RBI), Brian Grandstrand, Ray Meigs and Bill Watson.

Northwestern 17, UCNB 10

Northwestern responded with a total team effort. Every batter contributed at least one hit, the defense turned two key double-plays and they received solid pitching from Dennis Baker and Wayne Morse.

Creative 12, LA Law 4

Trailing 4-1 after five innings, Creative finally solved pitcher Tony Orlando's deceptiveness by scoring 11 runs in the final two innings. Creators Bill Dougherty, Bob Failla, Karl Grossmann and George Merlo each hammered three hits. Bob Berger and Charles Lehman each provided three RBIs.

Associated (Silver) 15, Smith-Barney 14 (8 innings)

Associated Silver rallied in the extra inning. Paul Brody (4 hits, 3B) and Rich Krov (3 hits, 2B, 3B) led the Associated Silver.

KMD TUNING 21, Northwestern Mutual 16

WTA Women's Doubles Tennis Ladder Results:

The women's doubles ladder is organized by the Westfield Tennis Association and is open to new players at any time. All players must be residents of Westfield. A team must play at least one match during each reporting period or they will be dropped three positions in the standings. Match results should be reported to Nancy Freundlich, ladder coordinator, at (908) 232-6545, or freundlich@comcast.net, within 24 hours of the match by the winning team.

The next, and last, reporting period ends September 3 at 8 p.m. Any questions regarding ladder rules should be referred to the ladder coordinator. Further information, as well as application forms, can be found on our website at www.westfieldnj.com/wta.

1. Mari Melao/Kristina Papadopoulos
2. Lisa Black-Polak/Carolyn Fleder
3. Nancy Freundlich/Priscilla Wood
4. Cindy Gallagher/Lisa Long-Hickman

WTA Men's Doubles

Tennis Ladder Results:

The standings of the WTA Men's Doubles ladder marked the end of the seventh of eight reporting periods. The final reporting period ends on Monday, September 3, with playoffs to follow immediately afterwards. To qualify for the playoffs, each team must have played eight matches by September 3. Any questions can be directed to Jim Oslislo at jeoslislo@verizon.net.

1. Marotta and Kiesel (2)
2. Avdey and Nisita (9)
3. Dohm and Wendel (4)
4. McGlynn and Aliche (5)
5. Mancini and Oslislo (8)
6. Erlich and Muroff (2)
7. Cappiello and Suri (3)
8. Friss and Friss (1)
- () number of matches played.



GREAT SWIM SEASON... The Willow Grove Swim Club Barracudas completed their season with an impressive 5-0 record. The team, comprised of swimmers aged 6 to 17, defeated Manor Park Swim Club, Westfield Memorial Pool, Cranford, Nomahegan and Highland Swim Club. The outstanding season could not have been achieved without the dedication of the coaches. Pictured, left to right, are: Kate Kosenick, Michael Miller, James LiVolsi and Christine Marino (head coach).

WTA Women's Singles Tennis Ladder Results:

The standings for the Westfield Tennis Association Women's Singles Ladder reflect three matches played through August 13. Numbers in parentheses beside each name indicate matches played so far. At least six matches need to be played by Labor Day in order to qualify for the playoffs in September. Players can access weekly updated standings (as well as matches played) on WTA's website, www.westfieldnj.com/wta, by clicking on Women's Singles.

Further information about rules or joining the ladder is available by calling Jean Power at (908) 654-7418 or e-mail at jbpumpiron@aol.com. This last reporting period will conclude at 8 p.m. on Labor Day, Monday, September 3. Match scores should be reported within 24 hours and weekend scores by Sunday evenings to J. Power.

1. JoAnn Purdy (4)
2. Clara Karnish (6)
3. Janice Honymar (2)
4. Nancy Freundlich (6)
5. Priscilla Wood (5)
6. Linda Coleman (7)
7. Andrea Krest (4)
8. Ann Diehl (5)
9. Lisa Alonge (4)
10. Jean Power (0)
11. Lisa Sottung (0)
12. Lisa Black-Polak (0)
13. Vanessa Barber (0)
14. Mari Melao (0)

WTA Men's Masters Singles Tennis Ladder:

The standings of the Westfield Tennis Association Men's Masters Singles ladder marks the end of the seventh reporting period. Jim Oslislo defended his lead for two periods counting, besting Peter Lee on August 12. John Mancini defeated Mike McGlynn. Lee had beaten McGlynn, and Chris Wendel topped Don Dohm. Six players have now qualified for the playoffs. Players are reminded that 8 matches are required to play in the postseason playoffs.

The next reporting period marks the end of the regular season on Labor Day, September 3. Check www.westfieldnj.com/wta for all match scores, complete results and information and the WTA online directory for contact information.

1. Jim Oslislo (9) *
 2. John Mancini (8) *
 3. Chris Wendel (20) *
 4. Peter Lee (6)
 5. Mike McGlynn (11) *
 6. Joe Donnolo (13)
 7. Don Dohm (3) *
 8. Dewey Rainville (2)
 9. Henry Williams (8)
- Inactive members through August 12: Vince Camuto, David Armstrong, Todd Kreil, George Sincov.
() Number of games played
* Match played in reporting period.



TOP GOLFER... Jonathan Lee, center, of Westfield, who will be entering the fifth grade at Jefferson Elementary School, took first place at the 41st Annual Rutgers Junior Open Golf Tournament on August 6. Lee shot 92 over 18 holes to capture the championship of the Youth Division (ages 8 to 11) by four strokes at the Rutgers University Golf Course in Piscataway.

"You Gotta Have Faith"

Open House - Sunday August 19th 1-4pm
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Open House Sunday, August 19, 1:00 – 4:00PM

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Notice is hereby given that Westfield Board of Adjustment adopted Resolutions at its August 13, 2007 meeting for the following applications heard at its July 9, 2007 meeting.
George H. Malgeri, 128 Boynton Court, Applicant seeks permission to install an above ground pool with a ramp and to retain an existing deck contrary to Sections 11.08E6, 12.04F1, 12.04F2, 13.02C2, and 13.02D3 of the Land Use Ordinance. **Application approved with stipulation.**
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gorelick, 526 Kimball Turn, Applicant seeks permission to construct a two story addition and a ramp contrary to Sections 11.07E6 and 12.03B1 of the Land Use Ordinance. **Application approved with stipulation.**
Robert Stahl & Elizabeth Ferguson, 540 Highland Avenue, Applicant seeks permission to construct a two story addition with a front porch and rear deck contrary to Sections 12.04E1 and 11.06E6 of the Land Use Ordinance. **Application approved as amended.**
Vanessa & John Schwartz, 812 St. Marks Avenue, Applicant seeks permission to construct an addition to the garage, a second story addition over the garage and a portico addition at the mudroom door contrary to Section 11.09E6 of the Land Use Ordinance. **Application approved.**
Jeffrey Diehl & Ann Diver, 972 Woodmere Drive, Applicant seeks permission to construct a one-story addition to the house, a one story addition to the garage, and a second story addition over the existing portion of the garage contrary to Sections 11.06E6 of the Land Use Ordinance. **Application approved.**
Karen & Elliot Fried, 375 Wychwood Road, Applicant seeks permission to construct a roof over the front portico contrary to Section 12.03D of the Land Use Ordinance. **Application approved.**
Kathleen A. Nemeth Secretary, Board of Adjustment
1.T - 8/16/07, The Leader Fee: \$45.90

HELP WANTED

I am looking for somebody to help out every 2 weeks with my ironing. If interested please call Sarah on (908) 247-4222

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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.

FREELANCERS WANTED

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Local financial services firm seeks individual to set appointments for advisors. Tele-marketing experience required. Call Mike (732) 744-3752

Westfield Teachers Attend Summer Math Program

WESTFIELD – A total of 76 elementary teachers in the Westfield Public Schools recently attended a summer professional development program focused entirely on the mathematics curriculum.

In addition to the classroom teachers, participants in the two-day session also included Special Education and Achieve/Basic Skills teachers.

The common-themed morning workshops were led by Regina Kiczek, Supervisor of K-12 Mathematics, with the assistance of Math Leadership Team members who represent each elementary grade level: Mary Dailey, fifth grade; Mary Tarashuk, fourth grade; Lori Swanson, third grade; Vicki Coppola, second grade; Lisa Barretta, first grade; and Kim Conklin, kindergarten. These facilitators provided specific grade-level presentations to teachers in the afternoon.

“Each of the sessions was well attended with interesting discussions on

how teachers can best utilize our Math resources effectively,” Ms. Kiczek said. “The teachers are encouraged to reference their handbooks on differentiation and assessment to help them meet student needs in different ways,” she added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD

Notice is hereby given that **ORDINANCE NO. 07-14-S**
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 67, POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE FANWOOD BOROUGH CODE TO REVISE SALARIES OF THOSE EMPLOYEES
was passed and adopted on the second and final reading at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fanwood held on August 14, 2007.
This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage and publication as required by law.
Eleanor McGovern
Borough Clerk
1.T - 8/16/07, The Times Fee: \$18.36

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD

Please take notice that on 9/17/07 at 7:30 PM at the Fanwood Borough Hall, located at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey, the Planning Board will hold a hearing on the application of the undersigned. The property in question is located at: 126 Farley Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey, also known as Block 27, Lot 40, as shown on the Fanwood Tax Map, owned by JMG Properties, LLC.
The applicant requests a conditional use variance to build in a flood zone, which is in violation of Section 184-184 of the Fanwood Land Use Code.
The applicant will also seek such other relief as may be determined necessary at the public hearing based upon review of the application or amendment(s) to the application.
The file pertaining to this application is available for public inspection during normal business hours (8AM-4PM, Monday through Friday) from the Secretary of the Planning Board at the Administration Office of the Borough of Fanwood at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey.
Any interested party may appear at said hearing and participate therein in accordance with the rules of the Fanwood Planning Board.
Mr. Mike Galbraith
JMG Properties, LLC
644 Jerusalem Road
Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076
Attorney for Applicants:
Robert Sullivan
120 Snyder Avenue
Berkeley Heights, New Jersey 07922
1.T - 8/16/07, The Times Fee: \$35.70

Open House Sunday, August 19th 1 to 4 pm
36 Woodbrook Circle, Westfield



Custom New Colonial featuring 5 bedrooms, 4 full and 1 half bath, Family Room with a Fireplace, Gourmet granite and stainless kitchen, Master Suite with sitting room/office, walk-in closets and luxury bath, and more!!! Please come by Sunday between 1 and 4 pm or call Grace Rappa for a personal showing 908-770-4411. **\$1,379,000.** DIR: East Broad St. rt on Springfield Ave. rt on Woodbrook Circle.



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We would like you to meet the new additions to our family



Virgina Cosenza



Mercedes Priolo



Susan Witzel



Pauline Genakos



Claire Butler

We are pleased to announce our new sales associates, who have recently joined our Century 21 Taylor & Love family.

Virginia, her husband and their two children have lived in Westfield for 6 years. She comes to us with 14 years of real estate experience and a strong background in finance. In addition to her career as a Realtor®, Virginia is very active on the Board of the St. Paul’s Day School in Westfield and she is an active member of the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield.

Mercedes, a lifetime resident of Union County who is fluent in Spanish, lives with her husband and three children in Garwood. She prides herself on providing excellent customer service and aspires to be your “Realtor® for life.”

Susan is a life-long resident of Westfield and follows in the footsteps of her mother, Janet DeFiore a Realtor® in our office for many years. You might say real estate is in her blood! Her priority is the needs of her customers, and handles every detail of their transactions as if they were her own.

Pauline has been a Realtor® in Westfield for nearly all of the five years that she has lived in this town with her husband and two children. She enjoys real estate because she enjoys helping people realize their dreams of owning a home. She is on the board of the PTO at Wilson Elementary School and is very active in the community.

Claire has been a Realtor® for over 40 years and has dedicated herself to servicing the towns and communities of Union County. She has weathered the ups and downs of every conceivable market, bringing with her a wealth of insight, knowledge and experience to our family.

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PUBLIC NOTICE		PUBLIC NOTICE	
2007 MUNICIPAL BUDGET AMENDMENT			
BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, COUNTY OF UNION			
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007			
REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION SUMMARIES			
Summary of Revenues - Current Fund	Anticipated From	Anticipated To	
1. Surplus Anticipated	900,000.00	920,000.00	
3. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	2,175,070.64	2,649,820.64	
6. Amount To be Raised By Taxes	4,993,997.00	4,572,997.00	
Total General Revenues	8,252,067.64	8,325,817.64	
Summary of Appropriations - Current Fund	Appropriated From	Appropriated To	
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	3,204,620.00	3,205,120.00	
Other Expenses	3,737,678.71	3,810,928.71	
Total General Appropriations	8,252,067.64	8,325,817.64	

Notice is hereby given that the budget amendment was approved by the Borough Council of the Borough of Fanwood, County of Union on August 14, 2007.
A hearing on the budget amendment will be held at the Municipal Building on August 23, 2007 at 7:30 (PM) at which time and place objections to the Budget amendment for the year 2007 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.
Copies of the detailed budget amendment are available in the office of Eleanor McGovern, Borough Clerk, at the Municipal Building, 75 Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey, 07023, (908) 322 - 8236, during the hours of 8:00(A.M.) to 4:00(P.M.).
1 T - 8/16/07, The Times Fee: \$45.90



ADDING UP...Pictured above, Tania Bizink, fourth-grade teacher at Jefferson School, discusses with her colleagues the valuable background information on mathematical content found in the Teacher's Reference Manual she is holding.

The Rainbow Experience Announces *Seussical* Auditions

WESTFIELD — The Rainbow Experience, a multicultural community theater group, has announced auditions for *Seussical*, the musical adaptation of the words of Dr. Seuss.
Auditions will be held on two different days in two different locations: Monday, September 10 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on 125 Elmer Street in Westfield and Thursday, September 13 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the United Church of Christ- Congregational at 220 West 7th Street in Plainfield. Callbacks will be scheduled on Saturday, September 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Westfield.
Auditions are open to adults and youths fifth grade and above. Please prepare a song in your key and bring sheet music. An accompanist will be provided. Those who do not have a song prepared but would still like to audition, will be asked to sing something from the show.
Seussical will be performed Saturdays and Sundays, November 10 and 11 and 17 and 18. Rehearsals will be Monday and Thursday nights; beginning the week of September 17, they will be held on Saturdays as well. Be prepared to list possible conflicts at auditions.

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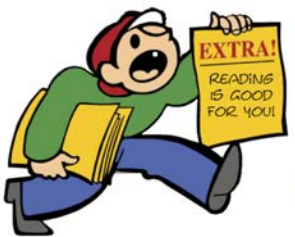
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Student Acting Troupe To Present *Les Miserables*

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

SCOTCH PLAINS — It will be Broadway on the Scotch Plains Village Green this weekend when a troupe of student actors performs *Les Miserables*.

Gail Marie Sprague, who will enter her senior year at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, formed the group STARS (Student Thespians Are Recreating the Stage), which numbers about 20 and ranges in age from first graders all the way to rising high-school seniors.

"We don't have a strong summer theater group in town," she told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, noting that some student thespians go to other towns to act in plays.

While the township recreation department paid for some rentals for the production and secured the rights to the play, the cast built the sets themselves and local schools donated costumes.

The cast began working on the play in early June. A dress rehearsal last

Friday afternoon at the high school found the cast lip-syncing to recordings of the songs in an effort to help the group with its timing, although the performances on Saturday and Sunday evenings will be sung live.

Why *Les Mis* as the group's first production? "We're all really good singers," Gail Marie explained. And since the play doesn't require much in the way of sets, the cast was able to focus on the production since "we didn't have much time to build sets."

The performances on the Village Green next to the municipal building on Park Avenue will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, August 18, and Sunday, August 19, and run approximately two hours. Admission is free.

"It all really came together," said Gail Marie, speaking in full costume and make-up, which included a dirty trench coat and a generous heaping of fake blood smeared on her. "It was fun putting it all together. Now it will come together as a show itself."

WESTFIELD FOOD 4 THOUGHT



By JAYNE SALOMON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Tomato growing is just as much an art as the culinary preparation of them.

The question of whether a tomato is a fruit or a vegetable is almost as puzzling as the age-old question of what came first, the chicken or the egg — except it is a bit more answerable.

Although tomatoes are often thought of as vegetables, in actuality they are a fruit exhibiting all the properties of a fruit. Here in the Garden State, many home gardeners get pleasure from growing their own tomatoes.

Of all the fruits and vegetables backyard farmers raise, tomatoes are by far the most popular. During a good season, it is not uncommon to be inundated with this versatile fruit.

There is nothing quite as delicious as a freshly grown ripe tomato from one's own garden. It is nicer still to be able to reap the benefits without doing the work yourself.

It is my good fortune to have friends here in Westfield who successfully produce tomatoes in their gardens and generously share the fruits of their gardening efforts. Here are a few ways to put those excess plump homegrown Westfield tomatoes to good use.

ROASTED TOMATO SALSA

*This easy-to-prepare salsa can be made to accommodate varying degrees of hotness by adjusting the amount of jalapeno peppers. The recipe calls for 1/4 of a medium sized jalapeno, which makes this salsa relatively spicy. Add more jalapeno for spicier or less for milder salsa.

INGREDIENTS

6 to 8 Roma tomatoes cut in half
1/4 jalapeno pepper
2 tablespoons olive oil
Splash of tomato juice
1 onion, diced
2 large garlic cloves, sliced
1 teaspoon cider vinegar
2 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon fresh chopped cilantro (approximately 6 sprigs) or 1 teaspoon dried cilantro

PROCEDURE

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Place the tomatoes and the jalapeno pepper cut side down on a baking sheet. Drizzle with the oil. Bake for 20 to 30 minutes or until the skins begin to pull apart. Cool completely. Remove the seeds from the jalapeno and decide how much to use. Start by using a small piece as you can add more as needed later. Place half the tomatoes and the jalapeno in a blender or food processor with the splash of tomato juice and puree. Add the onion, garlic, vinegar, sugar and the cilantro and pure until smooth. Store in a sealed container in the refrigerator for 2-3 weeks.

Yield: 16 servings

ROASTED TOMATO BRUSCHETTA

*Bruschetta can be served immediately or marinated for 30 minutes or more before serving. Store in the refrigerator, covered, for up to a week.



BRUSCHETTA

INGREDIENTS

6 ripe plum tomatoes
2 tablespoons + 2 tablespoons olive oil
3 garlic cloves + 1 garlic clove
1/2 red onion, finely diced
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 cup finely chopped fresh basil

3 tablespoons capers

Dash of pepper

1 baguette, French or Italian bread cut into 1/2 inch slices

PROCEDURE

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Cut the tomatoes in half, lengthwise. Brush 2 tablespoons of oil on a baking sheet and place the tomatoes face down.

Roast the tomatoes for 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool for 5 minutes. Finely dice the tomatoes and put into a medium size bowl. Mince the 3 garlic cloves and add to the tomatoes. Add the remaining 2 table-

spoons of oil, red onion, balsamic vinegar, salt, basil, capers and pepper to taste. Mix well.

Toast the bread in the oven for 5 minutes, turning once. Remove and rub each piece with the whole garlic clove. Spoon a tablespoon of bruschetta on each slice of bread and serve.



RATATOUILLE



RATATOUILLE

*A traditionally French dish that can be served as a main course or as a side dish with just about any meat entrée. It's a wonderful vegetarian dish and a great way to get the kids to eat vegetables since the release of the movie.



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INGREDIENTS

1 onion, diced
4 garlic cloves, sliced
1/2 cup olive oil, divided
2 medium eggplants, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
2 medium zucchinis, peeled and diced
2 tablespoons fresh chopped basil
1/2 teaspoon oregano
1/2 teaspoon thyme
1 teaspoon kosher salt or more to taste
Dash of pepper

PROCEDURE

In a large pot, sauté the onion and garlic in about 2 tablespoons of the oil for 3 minutes or until the onions are softened. Add the eggplants in increments and more of the oil. Sauté until all the eggplant is coated in the oil, about 4 minutes. Add the zucchinis and the remaining oil and continue to sauté for 1-2 minutes. Add the basil, oregano, thyme, salt and pepper and mix well. Cover and simmer for 20-25 minutes. Serve hot or at room temperature.



THAT'S NEWS TO ME...News 12 New Jersey anchors Janine Strafaci and John Bathke, in between interviews, discuss areas of Westfield such as the Addams Family House that people can visit. The TV special is part of News 12's summer of Friday night programming, which showcases selected towns in New Jersey.

News 12 Chooses Westfield as Part of 'On the Road' Series

By GEORGIA MIERSWA
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Who would have thought that within a year of filming a Campbell's soup commercial and the feature film *A Perfect Christmas*, the strip of sidewalk where Elm and Quimby Streets meet in downtown Westfield would again be swarming with a camera crew?

Nevertheless, a little before 5 p.m. on Friday, July 27, police officers began to move yellow blockades to isolate the area from the Mojave Grill to Wachovia Bank so News 12 New Jersey would have the opportunity to interview Westfielders for the series "On the Road."

The TV special is part of News 12 New Jersey's summer of Friday night programming devoted to profiling selected towns in New Jersey. According to the show's producer, Bill Schlosser, Westfield was chosen after producers met a couple months ago and "hashed out ideas" about featuring a variety of towns in different counties.

"The goal is try and sell the towns by showing different aspects of each," said Mr. Schlosser. "The atmosphere is great, and everyone knows Westfield, so the choice was a no-brainer."

When told of Elm Street's history of magnetism to camera crews, Mr. Schlosser said he wasn't surprised. "The street is minimal impact, and the line of restaurants looks nice as a background."

Mayor Andrew Skibitsky was in attendance during the filming and was the first person to be interviewed by news anchor Janine Strafaci. Af-

terward, the live telecasts, which ran until 8 p.m., featured storeowners, Westfield residents and passers-by, whose insight would give audiences "a sense of the town," according to Ms. Strafaci.

Even this *Westfield Leader* reporter, between meteorologist Dave Curren's weather forecasts, got a chance to chat on camera about interning at a newspaper and leaving for college after living in Westfield for 14 years.

The telecast received attention from those of all ages in the downtown area. A group of teenagers approached two police officers to inquire about the presence of the white News 12 van, while restaurant employees curiously peered over at Mayor Skibitsky mid-interview and a ninth grader circled the crew with a video camera of his own.

The team had shot its last two shows from Clinton and Jersey City. "Clinton was crazy," said Ms. Strafaci. "I signed literally hundreds of autographs. Like the people in Westfield, everyone was so excited about ["On the Road"], which makes the crew have a great time, too."

News Anchor John Bathke, whose broadcast in Westfield included information about sights such as the Charles Addams house, noted that while towns in New Jersey are geographically close together, each is very distinct.

News 12 New Jersey reaches 1.8 million homes with Comcast, channel 62, and in Cablevision, channel 12. The station is not a stranger to Westfield. In May channel 12 filmed a segment about Westfield High School's weekly newspaper, the *Hi's Eye*.

Ed Palermo Big Band To Play Free Concert

WESTFIELD — The Union County Summer Arts Festival concert series continues on Wednesday, August 22, featuring The Ed Palermo Big Band with Rob Paparozzi. The free concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in Echo Lake Park.

The Ed Palermo Big Band has attracted audiences for more than a dozen years at New York City nightclubs like the Bottom Line and Iridium. The band's first CD earned a four-star review from *Down Beat Magazine* and other major jazz publications. Ed and his 16-piece band regularly perform jazz and blues sets featuring the tunes of music legends such as Frank Zappa and Paul Butterfield.

For the blues set on August 22, the band will add the talents of Union County-based singer and harmonica player Rob Paparozzi, who has recorded with such artists

as Bernard Purdie, Cyndi Lauper, Roberta Flack and Blood Sweat and Tears.

Lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets are encouraged. Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que will have a food concession, along with an ice cream and snack vendor, which will be available at approximately 6:30 p.m.

In case of rain, concerts will be held in the air-conditioned auditorium at Cranford High School on West End Place off of Springfield Avenue in Cranford at 7:30 p.m.

For up-to-date concert/rain information, call the Parks and Recreation hotline at (908) 352-8410 after 3 p.m. on the day of the concert, or check ucnj.org after 3 p.m.

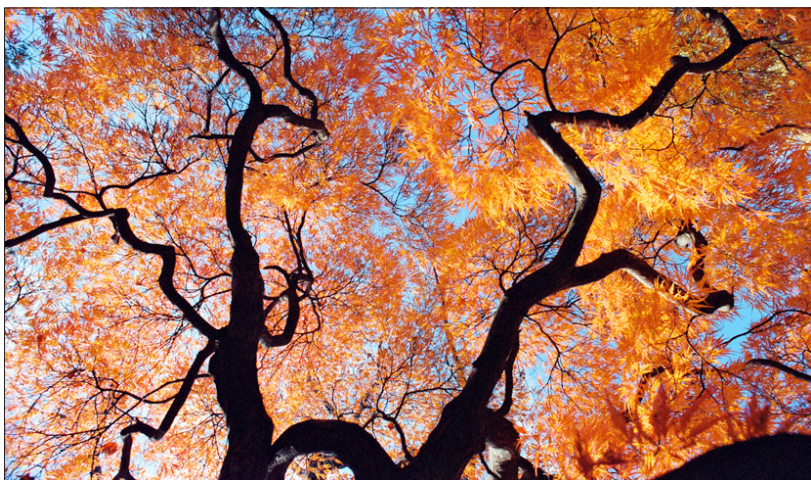
For more information about activities in Union County's parks, call the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities at (908) 527-4900.

Berkeley Heights Landscape Artist to Exhibit in Summit

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — Nancy Ori of Berkeley Heights, local photographer and teacher, will have an exhibition of photographs from her portfolio, "A Celebration of Trees," during the month of September at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey (VACNJ) in Summit in the faculty gallery.

The artist's reception will be held on Sunday, September 23 from 1 to 4 p.m. immediately following a lecture, "How to Photograph Trees," from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public. Registration and fee payment are required to attend the lecture. The faculty gallery is open Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Most of the photographs in the exhibit depict scenes from the east coast, with a major portion of the imagery from New Jersey.



NANCY ORI — "JAPANESE MAPLE"

The exhibit provides a balance of images between the seasons, textures, colors and moods of the ever-changing environment.

Her images consist of a series of photographs highlighting the natural beauty of trees in a variety of settings.

Ms. Ori is recognized internationally as a photographer and video producer for New Jersey Media Center in Berkeley Heights. She also enjoys teaching photography classes and workshops each year throughout the United States and Europe. She is on the faculty of the VACNJ.

Her lecture and camera instruction, "How to Photograph Trees," is part of a faculty lecture series offered by the VACNJ. Contact the arts center to register at (908) 273-9121. The fee for the lecture is \$75.

For information on the exhibit, lecture, other classes, workshops and private tutoring, call (908) 790-8820.



By VICTORIA McCABE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Maroon 5's celebrated debut, "Songs About Jane," hit record stores in 2002 with a collection of songs in which frontman Adam Levine explored feelings about an ex. Strains of R&B shaded the album's corners, a pop-rock offering with exceptional promise.

It's a different Levine who comes back with a vengeance on his band's long-awaited follow up, "It Won't Be Soon Before Long." The guy who once sang "I don't mind spending every day out on your corner in the pouring rain/look for the girl with the broken smile, ask her if she wants to stay a while/and she will be loved" has shed much of his sentimentality.

There's not a lot of emotional brooding going on here; it's brutal honesty and a kind of love-'em-and-leave-'em recklessness that dominate the new album. "I answer questions never maybe, and I'm not kind if you betray me," Levine sings at one point.

His voice harkens Justin Timberlake, but his songs throw off a less-angular R&B vibe — these are the songs JT might have made had he gone in a more pop-rock direction. The 80's synth that kicks off "It Won't Be Soon Before Long" infuses opening track "If I Never See Your Face Again" with a punchy danceability

that Michael Jackson couldn't scoff at.

But Maroon 5 don't abandon the roots they planted in "Songs About Jane" because their debut ran such a gamut of sounds that they could really explore any stylistic direction they want. And they don't forget their softer side — the earnest "Won't Go Home Without You" and tender ballad "Better That We Break" show a heartfelt longing. Sure, it's a huge contrast from the in-your-face beats and lyrics found elsewhere on "It Won't Be Soon Before Long," but it doesn't feel like a contradiction. It feels like the work of masterful pop artists who see genre distinctions as lines to be crossed, not followed.

The best songs are the explosive "Wake Up Call" and the brief "Little of Your Time." The former lays a confrontation with a cheating girlfriend over infectious melodies; the latter is a crisp cut with great harmony-centric breakdowns.

"Kiwi" drives home a sharp funk/R&B jam and then, at the last minute, lets a searing rock guitar riff finish it off. It's surprising and unconventional, an encapsulation of the band itself. And it's pretty darn catchy.

Straddling the line between rock and R&B with authority, Maroon 5 have created a distinctive record, and it won't be long before praise starts seeping in from everywhere.

See it all on the web in color . . .

www.goleader.com

Extra Education



CAPITOL GAINS... Stephanie Baier, 15, of Scotch Plains traveled to Washington, D.C. as part of the National Student Leadership Conference, which teaches young people from across the nation about government and the law. As part of the conference, she met with Rep. Mike Ferguson, R-N.J., in his Capitol Hill office. Stephanie, an incoming sophomore at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, is the daughter of Joan and Charles Baier of Scotch Plains.

Kean University Launches \$30-Million Campaign

UNION — Kean University is undertaking an unprecedented campaign to raise a minimum of \$30 million from private philanthropic sources toward a campus-wide \$350 million investment.

"Transforming Lives: the Campaign for Kean University" will play a vital role in the University's plans to fund the next generation of educational programs, scholarship and fellowship initiatives, endowment components and other capital endeavors.

The campaign, which has already raised more than \$15 million, essentially covers six areas of priority.

These include building upon the university's already successful science and technology, history and visual and performing arts programs; developing a human rights institute; broadening the scope of the recently launched Global MBA program and significantly increasing the amount of scholarship support for students. Specifically, the Capital Campaign seeks to raise funds for a total of four distinct sectors of university life.

The Centers for Excellence piece includes developing channels for study as well as enhancing existing ones, such as its New Jersey Center for Science, Technology and Mathematics Education; Liberty Hall Mu-

Northwestern Student Graduates With Honors

WESTFIELD — Alison Bennett, daughter of John and Faith Bennett of Westfield, received a bachelor of science degree from the Northwestern University School of Communication.

Alison, a graduate of Westfield High School, was a communication studies major. She was a Communication Century Scholar and named to the dean's list.

seum at Kean University and the forthcoming human rights institute.

Through the Student Empowerment component, the foundation seeks to acquire funding for scholarships, fellowships, mentoring, summer internship programs and career development opportunities.

For more information about "Transforming Lives: the Campaign for Kean University," log onto the Kean University Foundation website located at keanfoundation.org, or call (908) 737-3340.

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Arts & Entertainment



AN ENCHANTED EVENING...Area artists, including Westfield's Shari Seltzer (Enchanted Forest), left, and Jeannette Goldstein (To Life), right, walked home winners at the Members' and Students' Show and Sale at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey.

VACNJ Members' Sale Showcases, Lauds Area Artists

By MARYLOU MORANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

AREA – Several area artists won awards at the Members' and Students' Show and Sale recently held at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey (VACNJ) in Summit.

The Show and Sale showcased the far-reaching range of artistic talent in the fields of painting, drawing, collage, jewelry making, photography, sculpture and other art forms associated with the VACNJ.

Show and Sale jurist Rupert Ravens, curator and director of Rupert Ravens Contemporary in Newark, awarded more than \$1,900 in an event that featured more than 200 artists.

Winners from Westfield included Mary Gregg, who received a Merit Award for her acrylic painting "Little Green Parrot", Shari Seltzer, who received an Honorable Mention Promise Award for her mixed media work "Enchanted Forest", and Jeannette Goldstein, recipient of the Kathie Kempf Dorman Memorial Award for Sculpture for her piece "To Life," created from Indiana limestone.

Scotch Plains resident Christine Moulton Lee won the Martha Barnes Memorial Award for Ceramics for "Expecting," and Garwood resident Louis Rigano received an Honorable Mention for "Deep Space," a multimedia work.

"[The Show and Sale] gives us cause to celebrate another year of members' creativity at the [VACNJ],"

Mr. Ravens said.

"The most exciting fact that I learned was that, without exception, every artwork submitted was an original," he said, recalling how he studied each piece of art in order to determine the winners.

Since its founding in 1933, the VACNJ has evolved into a major regional art center with both a professionally-recognized art school and a critically-acclaimed exhibition program.

The VACNJ Summer Exhibit, "CHAIRS: Form Follows Vision," is composed entirely of the work of local artists created around the theme of chairs and will be on display until August 31.

VACNJ is located at 68 Elm Street in Summit. For more information, visit at artcenternj.org or call (908) 273-9121.

'Hooray' for Local Talent At Paper Mill Conservatory

By SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

AREA – When Paper Mill Playhouse announced it might close its doors last spring because of a short-fall of funds, it held a "Save the Paper Mill" fundraising rally at the Millburn theater.

After that, \$1.3 million dollars in donations poured in, the last two shows of the regularly scheduled season went on and the summer conservatory program for children and teens was saved.

One of the advocate attendees at the rally was Westfield teen Jennifer Dilzell, who had good reason to be there. She had auditioned and been accepted to the 12th season of the upcoming Summer Musical Theatre Conservatory at the playhouse and wanted to return for a second year at the stellar program.

Jennifer, who will be a junior at Westfield High School (WHS) in the fall, spoke highly of her experience at the five-week program that culminated in the Voices of Tomorrow Concert, held the first weekend in August.

"I think I learned the most from the acting class, which included acting exercises, improvisation and short scenes," Jennifer said. "John Housley, our teacher, was pretty amazing."

Her classes included musical theater, acting, dancing and monologues/cabaret presentation. "Basically, I had four classes daily with additional master classes in specialty areas like stage combat," she told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

The teens had to audition again at the end of the first week to see who would get which solos, duets or featured spots in the show. Two area teens, Jennifer and Fanwood's Elizabeth Minski, were among the selected.

The concert utilized the theme of "Hooray for Hollywood." "Hooray" was the perfect word for the night, which boasted songs from 33 movie

musicals, classic to contemporary.

Conceived, directed and choreographed by the creative team of Michele Mossay-Cuevas, Tim Herman, Mark Hoesbee, John Housley, Patrick Parker, Albert Evans and Susan Speidel, the night showed what young talent combined with clever choreography and inventive staging can produce.

Especially delightful in the Classic Film Musical segment was one of the opening numbers, "That's Entertainment," which featured Elizabeth Minski. Elizabeth was noted in the playbill as a Paper Mill Playhouse "Rising Star Nominee" for her performance in Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's (SPFHS) 2007 production of *Once Upon a Mattress*.

Jennifer, with partner Vincenzo DiPeri and teen ensemble, brought down the house with their energetic version of "The Atchison, Topeka and the Sante Fe" from *For Me and My Gal*. Unique choreography, vibrant energy and talented singer/dancers made the steamy locomotive leap to life.

Act II featured a segment entitled "For the Young at Heart," with the Junior Division (elementary school) and Junior Division Plus (middle school) students singing Disney favorites. Area students involved in those toe-tapping numbers included Westfield's Benjamin Chavez, Rachel Chodor, Christopher Morrissey and Isabelle Smelkinson and Scotch Plains residents Olivia Whitehouse and Emily Sheppard.

For SPFHS class of 2007 graduate Sarah Marable, who served as dance intern in the conservatory this summer and will attend SUNY Purchase as a theater major, the dream of one

day being on the professional stage may become a reality.

Not every student in the summer program desires a Broadway career, however. Jennifer, who performed in WHS's *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and Cranford Dramatic Club's Community Theater production of *Narnia* last year, doesn't see professional theater as part of her dream. "But I do see myself always being interested and participating in community theater, doing theater in one shape or form," she said.

The teen narrators of the night explained, "Hollywood has encouraged us all to dream."

Hooray for The Paper Mill Conservatory that gives students the tools for dreaming and learning life long skills for involvement in the arts.



Susan M. Dougherty for The Leader/The Times
RIISING STAR...In front, Fanwood's Elizabeth Minski, a Rising Star Nominee with Paper Mill Playhouse for her role as the Queen in *Once Upon a Mattress* at Scotch Plains/Fanwood High School, joins classmates in the finale, "Wish Medley."

POPCORN™ Becoming Jane: An Affair to Decipher

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By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER
2 and 1/2 popcorns

Maybe Jane Austen had a boyfriend. Maybe she didn't. In either case, her reputation has remained thankfully unsullied to these many years. However, with a suspected eye toward profit, director Julian Jarrold's *Becoming Jane* now suggests a little romantic irony.

Whether or not she was as beautiful as Anne Hathaway, who plays her with engaging wit, per this biopic the famous spinster of belles lettres certainly had her opportunities. And if you don't trouble yourself too terribly about the veracity of Sarah Williams and Kevin Hood's screenplay, Miss Austen's suddenly "divulged" affaire de coeur with Tom Lefroy has its moments.

If nothing else, the implication puts a bee in the bonnet of Austen fans. Call it the literary movie of the summer. You can just imagine the heady buzz around the cabanas and tiki bar.

Heretofore, the general reader took it on faith that Austen wrote solely from interpolated observation and imagination. Now, this inspiration ("Pride and Prejudice's" Mr. Darcy?) arises. And as is only befitting of one whom we considered pragmatic and austere, when Miss Austen does fall it's real hard and, by the mores of the day, for the wrong person.

Not that Tom Lefroy, the Peck's bad boy who visits Hampshire and captures our budding authoress' fancy, is all that terrible. Actually, supplying the movie with yet one more example of its signature contradictions, James McAvoy's rascalion from Ireland isn't the brawling, self-obsessed dandy we first think. Well, not entirely.

It just wouldn't do if our independent Jane, whom Miss Hathaway soon successfully insinuates in our psyche, would fall for a really bad guy. On the other hand, he must have spirit.

Thus it turns out that the flaunter of propriety also has loads of character, perhaps brought to the surface by

Jane's attentions. Whether it's enough to conquer the social storm their ensuing relationship will beget remains to be seen. 18th-century realities considered, Cupid will be up against it.

Freethinking scalawag that he might be, Tom doesn't dare forget on which side his crumple is buttered. Uncle and law professor Judge Langlois (Ian Richardson) controls the purse strings. So it doesn't bode well when, at dinner, the old goat finds Jane's intellect disturbing. Far worse, she is the daughter of a mere minister. No fortune there.

Not surprisingly, Jane's mom (Julie Walters) also opposes the match, especially since Laurence Fox's Mr. Wisley, with the intrusive help of his Dickensian aunt Lady Gresham (Maggie Smith), has made his honorable intentions known.

OK, so the geek isn't so dashing. But look in the dictionary under wealthy suitor and you'll see his picture.

There's more...yet another admirer is lurking in the shadows. He'll figure in some crucial cause and effect later in the tale. But for now, when it comes to swains, poor Jane is surrounded by an embarrassment of riches. We laugh when she throws up her arms and asks, "Are there no other women in Hampshire?"

Mom is steadfast, offering Jane yesteryear's version of, "It's just as easy to fall in love with a rich man as it is a poor one." Forgive the realist. A true cynic in one of Austen's novels might add that economics offers the only reason to wed...that real love is a luxury only the very rich and those who've nothing to lose can afford.

Naturally, Jane doesn't buy it. At least not this Jane, whom we suspect has been interpreted just a tad present-minded. She is a full-fledged Sister, a progenitor of Women's Lib who wows 'em at a cricket match when she grabs a bat and scores a whatever they're called. It'll be real love or nothing.

All well and good. Problem is, we've witnessed this conundrum before. Remember all that shouting next-door when you were little? Oh, money, money, money. But aside from the fact that it's a noted personage being vexed by the old cash versus love quandary, the script offers no nuances.

Still, the production values are solid if not impeccable. The acting is commendable. And fervent aficionados, while perhaps taking umbrage at the artistic license, will be heartened by the plethora of allusions woven into the story's fabric.

While perhaps peppered with wishful thinking, it is clear this is an homage, the product of devotees, right down to the style of exposition. We draw our conclusions from what the characters say and do rather than from an omniscient narrator. Nonetheless, there is cause for divided opinion.

Whereas those who oppose any sort of modern update in their literary history are bound to exhibit prejudice, the filmmakers may take pride in the notion that Austen herself could appreciate the dollars and sense sensibilities that account for *Becoming Jane*.

Becoming Jane, rated PG, is a Miramax Films release directed by Julian Jarrold and stars Anne Hathaway, James McAvoy and Julie Walters. Running time: 120 minutes.

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Susan M. Dougherty for The Leader and The Times
AFTERGLOW...After the Voices of Tomorrow Concert at Paper Mill Playhouse, performer Jennifer Dilzell of Westfield, left, is greeted outside by friends and family members. The teen, who will be a junior at Westfield High School in the fall, spent her second summer at the playhouse's Summer Musical Theatre Conservatory. See related story at upper right.

Art Institutions Partner In Evening for the Arts

SUMMIT – The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey (VACNJ), domogallery of Summit and Lydia Johnson Dance will come together to present an event for art lovers in New Jersey on Friday, September 7, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The VACNJ will showcase a new Contemporary View Series exhibition, *Peter Williams: Artistic Repair*, while Lydia Johnson Dance will perform a contemporary dance performance inspired by his artwork.

Mr. Williams explores a range of racial and social issues in his paintings.

The domogallery will present artwork and objects from the private collection of Patricia Bell curated by Mari D'Alessandro, director of Exhibition Programs at the VACNJ.

A free "ART BUS" will be provided to shuttle attendees back and forth between the arts center and domogallery throughout the evening. The entire event is free and open to the public.

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