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HUNG UP!! Divorcee Should Take Care of Self When Children Go to See Dad By Milt Faith, Executive Director Youth and Family Counseling Service

THE word HISTORIES SLEUTHS BY JO & JOHN JACOBSON PALACE

Scotch Plains, Fanwood and BOE Deserve Pat on Back For Exploring Shared Services

The Scotch Plains and Fanwood governments, along with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, all deserve a pat on the back for the good example they have set on the issue of shared services. Back in February, Mayors Martin L. Marks of Scotch Plains and Louis C. Jung of Fanwood, joined by School Superintendent Dr. Carol B. Choye, announced the formation of a nine-member advisory committee to, in Mayor Marks' words, "investigate the possibility of sharing services, personnel, land and buildings."

form certain jobs, has led to discussions between Scotch Plains, Westfield and Clark about the possibility of sharing the expense for this program. The costs for the coming refurbishment of the Hetfield Avenue bridge that crosses over the New Jersey Transit railroad line will be shared by Scotch Plains and Fanwood, with the rail agency kicking in half of the expense. There have also been other contacts between municipalities in the area about where certain services could be shared. Obviously, all government services and operation can't be shared, but wherever there are functions and services that are being unnecessarily duplicated, localities, in the name of sparing their property taxpayers any additional burdens, should investigate. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood advisory committee has taken the bull by the horns in this regard, having already identified a few dozen areas of possible cooperation and focusing its attention on five or six of those areas. Their task will be made a bit easier by officials in Trenton, who, for once, are putting their money where their mouth is. Instead of just paying lip service to the shared services idea, the Whitman Administration is also making available some grant money to allow towns to retain consultants to assist them in their work. Any ideas that save local taxpayers money is worth looking into, and we hope that the Scotch Plains-Fanwood advisory committee on shared services continues to build on the momentum and energy it appears to have and comes up with some ideas that result in a lessened burden on its taxpayers.

Letters to the Editor

Turn to National Day of Prayer For Help With Crime, Violence

More and more crime, violence, fear and hopelessness permeate our culture. We are living in a nation which has been blessed above all others and yet we are finding ourselves in a moral decline. We read one news report after another full of horrible things people do to one another and now we have begun to reap the ultimate harvest, the poisoning of the minds and lives of our children. The glaring examples of children raping children and kids tuning their well refined video murdering skills to real handguns is absolutely evil. How long will it be until the good people of this nation use the power they possess to take back our communities and our kids? For the sake of our children we must look at what we can do right now to begin turning the tide, encouraging that which is good and letting them know that some things are morally wrong and unacceptable. If we can't stand for what we know is best for them how can we expect them to be strong when they have moral choices to make? We should all be joining today, May 4, National Day of Prayer events to seek His forgiveness. Peggy Cowan Fanwood

LaPolla Co-Chairman Takes Issue With Letter Writer's Comments

Mr. Golush took time to respond to my letter of March 30. Perhaps if he had taken just a bit more time and given more thought he might have written a far more accurate and honest response. It is totally false and dishonest to accuse me of being anything but cordial and polite to Maryanne Connelly during our trip to Israel. We dined along side each other on several occasions and shared in friendly conversation. We also shared a crowded cab ride, laughing all the way back to our hotel. My basic personality is such that I am a friendly and outgoing person. I know of no other way to be. Had David Golush and I come face to face April 21 as we sat in the same row of the movie theatre I would have been cordial to him. As for questioning county finances, the county taxes have not risen in the last six years of a Democratic majority while increasing services. That is not a claim the Republicans could make when they controlled the Freeholder board. Mr. Golush is to be commended for his business success and I particularly respect him for his philanthropy. However, it was never an issue that I raised or questioned. Mr. Golush, I don't have any Democratic bosses as you erroneously stated. But, I do have competent leaders and wonderful friends like Michael LaPolla. Our families have celebrated many special occasions together. Last week, the LaPolla family shared a place with our family at our Seder meal. Obviously, Mr. Golush doesn't understand that true friendship transcends politics. I have come to know and respect Jon Corzine not as a hero as David Golush asserts, but as a fine and decent gentleman. If he claims never to have made any offer to Maryanne Connelly to leave the race, I believe him. Until she came forward with what I believed to be a false charge, Jon and Joanne Corzine were both firmly supporting Mrs. Connelly and had contributed to her campaign. Mr. Golush, another of your inaccurate statements is that I have been a Democratic activist since the days of FDR. I wasn't old enough to vote for president until 1956 when I proudly cast my vote for Adlai Stevenson. That's 12 years after Roosevelt's last run. Again, you missed your mark. Mr. Golush, I've scanned the headlines and read all current Letters to the Editor and try as I might I couldn't find one black sheep taking issue with an old and often used cliché. How petty and foolish can you get? Also, anyone who questions my political correctness might just as well be standing in front of a fast moving train. My success in party affairs speaks for itself. I have been elected by my peers from all 21 counties in New Jersey to represent them to the Democratic National Committee. I am now serving in my fourth four-year term. I have been selected because of my ability to relate and interact well with others. Lastly, as for getting to the truth you can believe whatever Maryanne Connelly has chosen to say. I, however, believe my trusted friends. June S. Fischer Co-Chairman of the LaPolla for Congress Campaign Scotch Plains

Remove Brightwood Park From Lists Of Future Development, Writers Say

Editor's Note: This Letter to the Editor also was sent to First Ward Councilman Carl A. Salisbury. We request that the Town Council permanently protect for future generations the treasure which is Brightwood Park. Let's take it forever off the list of possible targets for development of any kind. If we don't, there will be no end to the assaults on it. The Recreation Department's ill-considered proposal to cram playing fields into the Park was turned down just last year. And now Norman Greco proposes the same kind of inappropriate incursion into the last remaining natural area in all of Westfield. In the name of "saving money" he proposes that the Elm Street playing fields be paved over for an "employee's parking lot," creating yet another hideously ugly "field" of asphalt two blocks away from the Broad Street stores. The location almost assures that employees would only use it if forced to do so. And we all know that shoppers would still cruise around waiting for someone to leave an on-street parking spot rather than have to walk that far. There is no parking, flat ground or existing access road in the part of Brightwood Park coveted for these playing fields. Their already very expensive construction would then put more traffic

Humane Society Salutes Congressmen For Animal Protection Issue Votes

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and its 7.3 million supporters nationwide, I commend Representative Bob Franks, Senator Frank Lautenberg and Senator Robert Torricelli for achieving perfect scores of 100 on our 1999 HSUS congressional scorecard. Representative Franks sided with animal protection concerns on all six issues we scored during the First Session of the 106th Congress. He voted to cut funding for an ineffective U.S. Department of Agriculture program that spends millions of the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars — as a subsidy to livestock ranchers — to kill bears, mountain lions, foxes and other predators with inhumane traps, poisons and aerial gunning. He also voted to restrict the use of cruel and indiscriminate steel-jawed leghold traps and neck snares on National Wildlife Refuges; to protect dolphins from tuna-fishing boats that use dolphin-deadly nets; and to prohibit commerce in videos that depict animal "crushing" and other appalling acts of cruelty. He also co-sponsored legislation to combat the gruesome practice of cock-fighting and to protect farm animals injured at stockyards. Senators Lautenberg and Torricelli, on similar issues before the Senate, sided with animal protection concerns at every opportunity. Mohandas Gandhi once said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." Indeed, you can tell a great deal about the compassionate impulses of elected officials by assessing where they stand on animal protection matters. The HSUS applauds Representative Franks, Senator Lautenberg and Senator Torricelli for their consistent and principled support for animal protection in this session of Congress. Wayne Pacelle Senior Vice President The Humane Society of the United States

Westfield School Board President Thanks Public for Support, Vote

On behalf of the Westfield Board of Education, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Westfield community for voting in favor of the 2000-2001 school budget. The 2 to 1 vote was once again an affirmation of the community's support of education. Important initiatives in technology, curriculum, facility upkeep and teacher training will take place in the new school year to prepare our students for the future. I would also like to thank the Finance Committee, particularly Michael Kessler — the chairman, for months of work in fine-tuning the budget. Congratulations to Michael, who will serve a one-year term on the board. Congratulations to Anne Riegel and Carol Molnar who were elected to con-

tinue their valuable service on the board. Welcome to Kimberly Rhodes, our newly-elected board member, whose financial background and service on the Citizens Advisory Committee on Capital Projects, will be a great asset to the board. Thank you to Thomas Taylor, who has given six years of service to the community by serving on the Board of Education. Thanks also go to Peter Bilsion for seeking a seat on the Board of Education with great interest and enthusiasm. It is gratifying to be part of a school district where caring, dedicated citizens continue to volunteer, making education a priority in Westfield. Darielle Walsh President Westfield Board of Education



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