

# THE WESTFIELD LEADER.

OUR 112th YEAR - ISSUE NO. 06-112      USPS 680020      Periodical - Postage Paid at Westfield, N.J.      Thursday, October 18, 2001      Published Every Thursday Since 1890      (908) 232-4407      FIFTY CENTS



**SHE WILL CARRY THE TORCH...**Jennifer Buccino, who has taught physical education at Tamaques Elementary School in Westfield for 11 years, will carry the torch for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah. Pictured, above, Ms. Buccino, who coaches spring track, cross country and winter track for Westfield High School, is flanked by students. Ms. Buccino was nominated for the honor by former student Heather Dennis.

## WASTE ORD. RESTRICTS TRASH COLLECTIONS TO 4 A.M. ON DOWNTOWN STREETS

### Ex-Councilman Seeks Moving Cacciola From 2nd to 3rd Ward

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Westfield Town Council members were asked Tuesday night to support moving the boundary lines for the Second and Third wards in order to enable the entire Cacciola Place neighborhood to be located in the Third Ward.

Former councilman from the Fourth Ward, James Hely, said this year is the opportunity for the Westfield Ward Commission, encompassing the four members of the Union County Board of Elections and the Town Clerk, to correct the problem.

He noted the Second Ward is the only one of Westfield's four wards that protrudes over the railroad tracks that separate the north and south sides of town. Mr. Hely said he believes that moving the Cacciola area from the second to the third, as it was prior to 1981, is the logical thing to do.

Third Ward Councilwoman Claire Lazarowitz agreed with Mr. Hely.

"It is the moral and correct thing to do and the just thing to do to put this ward back together," Councilwoman Lazarowitz stated.

Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr. said he would like to see a community-wide meeting to discuss the issue. He said recommendations would then be forwarded to the Commission.

The Ward Commission is set to meet today, Thursday, October 18, at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers, at which time action may be taken on a map proposed by the commission at its October 2 meeting.

The commission includes Board of Election members June S. Fischer of Scotch Plains and Mary Ellen Harris of Kenilworth, both Democrats, and Republicans John DeSimone of Clark and Teresa R. Hale of Hillside. Town Clerk Bernard Heeney is chairing the commission.

In other business, the council moved ahead with an ordinance Tuesday night aimed at curtailing early morning garbage pickups in the town.

Ever since state legislation was signed in May by Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco, the town has been working to craft an ordinance that will address the problem of residents being woken up early in the morning by haulers.

Westfield had originally adopted an ordinance in 1993 to curtail this practice. That restriction, however, was deemed unenforceable by a Superior Court judge. The judge ruled that towns could only restrict the

hours of waste collection through a contract with the haulers. Westfield is among those towns whose residents are billed individually by haulers.

Local Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger subsequently unveiled state legislation, A-1936, which allows these towns to impose time restrictions. That bill is now law.

Over the past few months, Westfield council members have debated the best way to create an ordinance that addresses both residential and commercial areas.

The ordinance now on the table imposes a 6 a.m. restriction in residential areas and a 4 a.m. starting time for garbage collection in the central business district. Included in the 4 a.m. restriction are several residential streets that border commercial areas.

These streets are: Central Avenue, East Broad Street, Mountain Avenue, North Avenue, South Avenue, West Broad Street, Lamberts Mill Road, Rahway Avenue, Clark Street from North Avenue to Tuttle Parkway, and Springfield Avenue.

Councilman Sullivan suggested that the downtown be changed to 3 a.m. to enable haulers time to get in and out of the business district before restaurant staffs start arriving for work.

"I voted to keep the process going, hoping we could amend this next week," Mr. Sullivan told *The Westfield Leader*. Jerry Infantino of Infantino Bros., who owns a local disposal company, said the 4 a.m. time would make it difficult for him to complete his route.

## POSTAL OFFICIALS SAY PROCEDURES ARE ONLY A PRECAUTION

### Local United States Post Offices Put on Alert; Workers Instructed to Weed Out Suspicious Mail

By DEBORAH MADISON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

In response to recent Anthrax exposure incidences by mail, Postmaster General John E. Potter announced Monday the formation of a task force to review "every plan and approach it has regarding mail security and the handling of hazardous materials in the mail."

Service will lead the task force, announced Postmaster Potter. Mr. Weaver will be joined by representatives from postal unions, management associations and the Office of the Inspector General, along with safety and medical specialists and members of the mailing industry.

The United States Postal Service has stepped up security and training at all local postal facilities, putting postal employees on special alert,

according to Diane Todd, Manager of Public Affairs for the Postal Service for the New York Metro Area, which includes Central New Jersey. A directive from the United States Postal Service has instructed all local post offices not to discuss security issues with the public or media and all inquiries are being coordinated through Ms. Todd's office.

According to Ms. Todd, post office employees are receiving daily

updates on the safe handling of possibly tainted mail.

Ms. Todd said she believes that

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## Local Security Efforts Upgraded To Heightened Alert as Precaution

By DEBORAH MADISON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

In the wake of escalating numbers of Anthrax exposures and a warning issued by the FBI that future terrorist attacks are likely, security is becoming an increasingly prominent concern on everyone's mind.

Tasks that used to be performed with little or no concern for personal safety now often prompt second thoughts before entering crowds, large buildings or other possible terrorist targets. Opening up the mail has become a serious game of Russian roulette as numerous employees of major corporations and political leaders have received Anthrax-laden letters and bomb-sniffing dogs have become an increasingly familiar sight for New Jersey commuters at the entrance to the Holland Tunnel.

On a local level, municipal buildings, schools, hospitals and other, large public facilities have been work-

ing closely with law enforcement to re-evaluate their current security levels and to upgrade security where needed. Local emergency personnel, such as the police and rescue squads, have been engaging in communication networking and ongoing training in recent weeks, in the event of a public health crisis or disaster.

Policies that were already in place, such as patrolling schools and municipal or local federal buildings, re being reinforced with a more heightened sense of vigilance, according to local police. Rescue Squad personnel are being offered elective updates on biological and chemical weapons training as well as ongoing training in handling potentially contagious situations.

Union County Sheriff Ralph G. Froehlich reported to *The Westfield Leader* that new electronic scanners have been installed at the county's three municipal buildings, the Court House, the prosecutor's building and

the Administrative Building. He also said that his office has been coordinating and sharing information with county and local police departments to insure that security measures are updated and adequate.

"We are re-alerting all departments to security policies and stepping up enforcement of those policies," Sheriff Froehlich said.

Union County Assignment Judge Edwin S. Beglin, Jr. has advised all municipal courts to keep an officer on duty in every courtroom, during court hours. While most municipal buildings already had this security measure in place, they are now being more careful to insure that the courtroom officer is not sent elsewhere during court hours, reported Chief Thomas O'Brien of the Scotch Plains Police Department.

Chief O'Brien also said that although no other new security measures are being implemented yet, there is a new, heightened awareness of the surroundings for both officers and the public.

"There is no reason to lock up public-access buildings like armed camps," Chief O'Brien remarked.

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PANEL OF EXPERTS... "The First Nine Days" production, which will air on Westfield TV-36 starting the week of October 22, was taped last Wednesday at the office of *The Westfield Leader*. Pictured, left to right, are some of the experts on the panel: Lieutenant William Sheppard of the New Jersey Naval Militia, *Leader* Publisher Horace R. Corbin, and Navy Rear Admiral Timothy Beard, 3rd.

## Jardim, Hern and Kean Join New Initiative to Attract Young Voters

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

An effort is underway this year to increase participation among the state's younger voters, namely those between the ages of 18 to 24.

Three of the four candidates seeking office in the newly-crafted 21st Legislative District, which includes Westfield and Mountainside, have pledged to participate in the New Jersey Voter Campaign, an initiative

by The Center for Democracy & Citizenship in Washington, D.C.

Executive Director David E. Skaggs, who grew up in Cranford and served six terms in Congress from 1986 to 1998, told *The Westfield Leader* that Republican Assemblyman Tom Kean, Jr. of Westfield joined Democratic Assembly candidates Thomas C. Jardim of Westfield and J. Brooke Hern of New Providence, in pledging their support for the initiative.

"We are doing a lot of things to get out the youth vote, said Mr. Kean. He cited a piece of legislation he sponsored which was signed into law, allowing high school students to serve as election poll workers. He has also crafted a bill that expands voting hours in New Jersey.

"My hope is more people turn out (on Election Day) among all age groups," he said. "Any effort to do that is a good thing."

Mr. Jardim and Mr. Hern joined the New Jersey Young Voter Campaign on September 25.

"It's important that young people have a voice in and feel like they are a part of the democratic process," said Mr. Jardim in a press release issued in September.

Mr. Hern added, "It is troubling to

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## Closure of Central Avenue To Impact Clark, Westfield

The Union County Department of Operational Services announced early Monday afternoon that Central Avenue, from South Avenue in Westfield to Terminal Avenue in Clark, will be under construction on or about Friday, October 19.

Weather permitting, it is anticipated that the work will take approximately three days, excluding weekends, to complete.

The work being performed will consist of various road improvements, milling, paving, and road striping. Due to the nature of the work involved and the amount of men and machinery required, full closure of the road will be warranted in the area of work to optimize the safety of the work crews and motoring public alike.

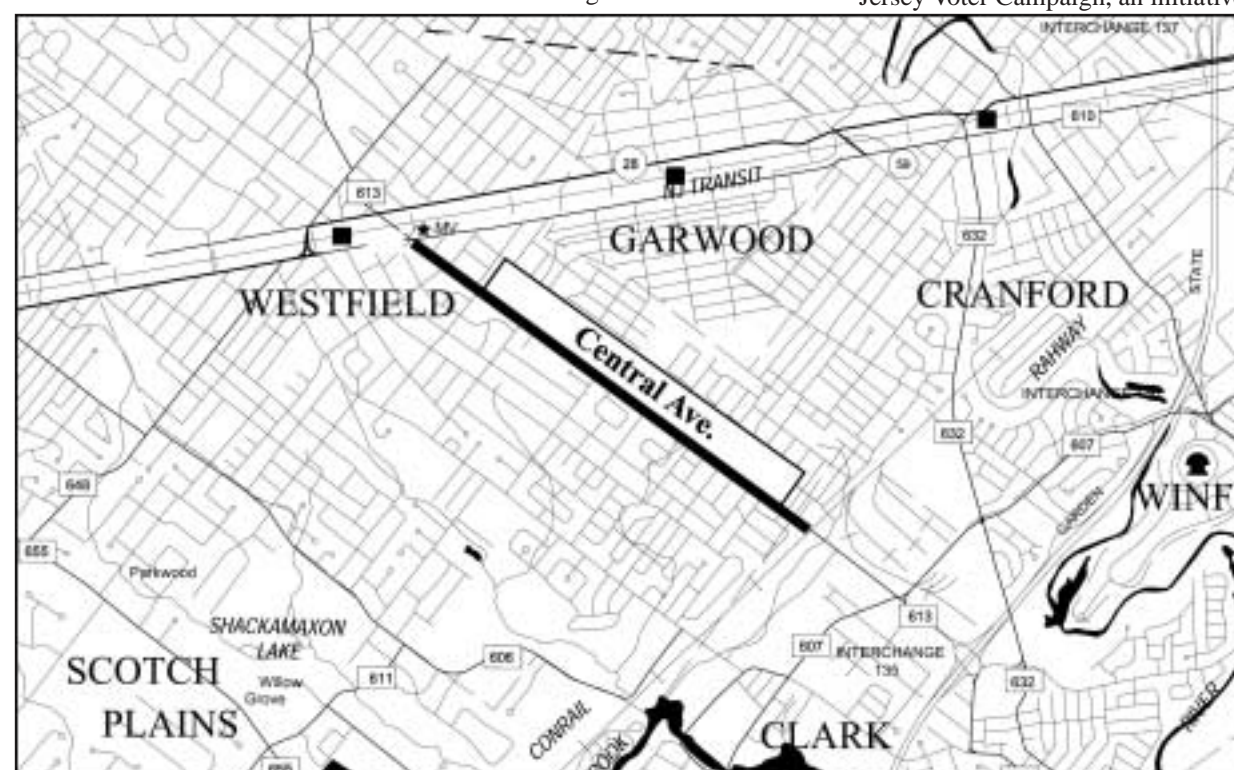
A clearly marked detour route will be established and maintained by Union County Police forces. Emer-

gency vehicles will be permitted to travel through the construction area at all times. Access to residences, including delivery and other services, will be allowed as much as possible.

A notice issued by the Department of Operational Services stated, "The County recognizes the inconvenience that any road construction may cause and apologizes for any difficulties encountered. The County shall make every effort to have the work completed as soon as possible."

For specific traffic inquiries, please call the County Traffic Bureau at (908) 789-1489 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. For other information regarding the road project, please call the Engineering Bureau at (908) 789-3685 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

For any emergencies that may arise, please call the proper Municipal Police Department.



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ON WITH THE SHOW...Members of Westfield TV-36 and employees of *The Westfield Leader* helped organize and arrange preparations for the taping of "The First Nine Days." Pictured, left to right, are: TV-36 Director Eileen O'Donnell, Leader Sports Editor and Assistant Publisher David B. Corbin, TV-36 Video Director Doug Black, and Leader employee Rob Connelly.

## Lack of Pact Causes Few Staffers To Attend Reception With Board

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN  
Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader*

SCOTCH PLAINS -- With no resolution of the contract between the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education and Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association (SPFEA), few teachers participated in the district's "Fifth Celebration of Achievement" for newly-tenured staff members on October 11.

Just two of the 34 honorees — Brunner Elementary School Principal Jodi Frank and Supervisor Carol Senff — attended the reception alongside board members, administrators and Parent Teacher Association officers.

The contract between the parties expired June 30. Board member Lance Porter reported negotiating teams from the board and SPFEA were to meet with a state mediator on October 17 in an effort to resolve the contract.

While Mr. Porter reiterated his belief that a settlement can be reached, he said he felt the board had been "attacked" in recent weeks. He added, "Just as teachers have a professional responsibility to teach the children...we, too, have a responsibility to the taxpayers and community."

During the meeting, board members welcomed Scotch Plains-Fanwood High

School (SPFHS) students Regina Cappio and Andrea Meyer as part of a newly-formed team of students who will be attending board meetings to facilitate two-way communications between the board and high school students.

Students had first approached the board last spring about opening up the lines of communication, a suggestion supported by SPFHS Principal Dr. David Heisey, Superintendent Dr. Carol B. Choye and the board as a whole.

Science Supervisor Dr. Trisha Camp presented the new school year's first curriculum presentation during the instructional update portion of the meeting. Dr. Camp and Elementary Science Supervisor Merrie Snow spoke to the need for better teaching to improve student performance in science programs.

The curriculum review process included a survey of students, teachers and parents across the grade levels to gauge their perceptions of the effectiveness of the curriculum.

The supervisors made a number of recommendations with respect to curriculum: examine the elementary level science units for their age appropriateness and duplication or gaps in subject matter; consider the appropriateness of the se-

quence of middle school science courses; give high school students more options in the way of science courses; and add a double lab period to the high school program.

They called for more in-district and out-of-district professional development. They suggested staffing might need to be increased at the middle and high school levels.

According to Dr. Camp, enrollment alone creates a need for an additional science teacher at SPFHS next year. The department also hopes to institute workshops to give parents a better understanding of what the science program is all about.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. Kathleen Regan explained that it would take three years to implement the recommendations, if accepted by the board, as the budget cannot absorb them all at once.

In other business, the board adopted a resolution to participate with the Township of Scotch Plains and Borough of Fanwood in a feasibility study to acquire and share a joint Public Works facility. The cost of the feasibility study is \$25,000, \$17,000 of which will be funded by Scotch Plains, \$7,500 by the board, and \$500 by Fanwood. Jersey Professional Management of Cranford will conduct the study.

The proposal grew out of ongoing meetings of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Shared Services Committee, which includes representatives from both municipalities and the Board of Education.

## Council

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He said employees arrive early in the morning at restaurants and park in privately owned alleyways, thus blocking dumpsters.

The ordinance was approved by a 7-2 tally, with council members Matthew P. Albano and Janis F. Weinstein voting against it, indicating they favored adding the 3 a.m. restriction for the downtown.

Peter Furino of RND Disposal said he was sorry that the council had opted not to proceed with a 5:30 a.m. residential restriction it had been considering. He said the extra hour would help him complete his routes in a timely fashion.

In an related matter, resident Gerard Beatty of North Euclid Avenue asked the town for assistance in curtailing early garbage pickups for a professional office building that abuts houses in his neighborhood. He said garbage is picked up at around 4:30 a.m.

Town Attorney Robert Cockren advised the resident, who was joined by neighbors, that the professional office's application before the Board of Adjustment in 1993 stipulates that the building's garbage be picked up "later in the day." He said the town had contacted the business and that the stipulation by the board would be enforced.

Sherry Nidositico, who resides at the end of Harrison Street near Broad Street, said she is awoken by the collection of garbage at 2:30 a.m. at an East Broad Street medical building.

"It's just ridiculous," she stated.

## Local Security Efforts Have Been Upgraded To Level of Heightened Alert as Precaution

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"We don't want to go to extremes." He also said that it is reasonable to expect to give up certain freedoms, such as at airports, but that in small towns, a heightened awareness is all that is required at this point.

Fanwood's Chief of Police Robert J. Carboy said he wanted to assure the public that "everything that can be done, is being done" by local law enforcement and emergency personnel. "We will keep the public informed of any measures they need to take, if and when that becomes necessary," Chief Carboy said.

In addition to adding a second police officer to the courtroom, police in Westfield have added extra patrols to the train station at the request of NJ Transit.

Lieutenant John M. Parizeau of the Westfield Police Department expressed the need for everyone to be more observant and to report anything suspicious to local authorities.

"The public is truly our eyes and ears out there," said Lieutenant Todd Turner of the Mountainside Police Department. Mountainside has stepped up patrols throughout the borough and compiled emergency plans that are frequently updated, Lieutenant Turner said.

Many local schools have reinforced their locked-door policies, which were put into place after the incident at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo.

Most elementary schools lock all doors, except for one main entrance, which usually can be observed from the school's main office. This locked door policy is in place for Westfield, Scotch Plains-Fanwood and Mountainside elementary schools and middle schools. The local high schools frequently have individual security policies, which are left up to each principal's discretion or determined by the Board of Education.

Westfield High School Principal Dr. Robert G. Petix pointed out that security needs at the high school level are different than for younger children.

"Older kids can handle themselves in the hallways and know to report strangers in the building, so the policy for the high school is to keep things as normal as possible, while heightening awareness," Dr. Petix said.

The high school has several para-professionals with walkie-talkies who patrol the grounds and hallways.

"An extreme, knee-jerk response is the worst kind of over-reaction and not conducive to a learning environment," he added.

Westfield Superintendent of Schools Dr. William J. Foley said the district's crisis management plan is also being reviewed on how to handle problems that may arise from terrorism.

He emphasized that for older children at the high school level, who have access to the media, it is important to relate the facts to them, so as to allay misinformation, that may be incomplete or distorted.

While the current policy promotes informing older students of news events when they occur, it does not promote the district informing younger students of catastrophic events. Dr. Foley said this policy is endorsed by the district's psychology-consultants, and he agrees with it.

Kathleen L. Meyer, Public Information Coordinator for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district, told *The Leader* that tightened security measures were implemented immediately after the Columbine shooting incident, but that those security measures became lax over time.

"The locked-door policy is now being reinforced, once again," said Ms. Meyer. Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, however, continues to have several doors remaining open as parking-lot access is necessary, Ms. Meyers said. High school teachers have been assigned to patrol various hallways.

Mountainside has had police officers patrolling the schools on a regular basis for over a year, said Mountainside's Chief School Administrator Dr. Gerard Schaller.

"We already had a good security system in place since Columbine," said Dr. Schaller. The district will, however, be reviewing the crisis management plan and distributing pamphlets to teachers and parents in the near future, regarding how the district will respond to various crises that may happen.

All of the local post offices have been issued new policy directives from the

Federal Postal Service and the Federal Aviation Administration regarding security issues and suspicious packages that may pose health threats, according to Customer Service Manager Dennis Maher of the Westfield Post Office.

All post offices have been advised not to discuss any new security mea-

asures with media or the public, but to direct all inquiries through a public information coordinator. (Please see related story).

Despite all of these added precautions, Lieutenant Parizeau agreed with Chief O'Brien that the small towns that make up this local community are unlikely terrorist targets.

## Local United States Post Offices Put on Alert

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there is no cause for widespread public alarm, as the likelihood of a private citizen receiving a tainted parcel is very slim. Postal employees are being instructed to be especially alert for suspicious looking packages and to separate them out for examination by postal inspectors.

According to Ms. Todd, postal employees have been receiving training updates on handling the mail safely for many years, and recent incidences have not changed or modified those policies.

"We are simply re-alerting postal employees to be more vigilant about putting those guidelines into effect," Ms. Todd remarked. "There are no new policies being implemented at this time."

That may change, however, with the directives that come out of the new task force, she added.

A previous press release, issued on October 11 by the Postal Service, answers frequently asked questions about Anthrax, including what customers should do in the event that they receive a suspicious looking package or letter.

The press release lists the typical characteristics of such packages, "which ought to trigger suspicion." They include packages or letters which are:

- Unexpected or from someone unfamiliar to the person receiving the mail.
- Addressed to someone no longer with the receiving company or organization.

- Have no return address or one that can't be verified as legitimate.

- Of unusual weight, given its size, or lopsided or oddly shaped.

- Are marked with restrictive endorsements, such as "Personal" or "Confidential!"
- Have protruding wires, strange odors or stains.

- Show a city or state that doesn't match the return address.

In the unlikely event that a suspicious parcel is received, the press release advises customers to isolate the parcel, not open or touch it, and to notify a postal inspector or the local police department. Customers are advised to wash their hands with soap and water in the event that they may have touched a tainted letter or package.

Captain Joseph M. Protasiewicz of the Scotch Plains Police Department reported that as of Tuesday, there were three incidences of suspicious pieces of mail reported to the police department.

Those parcels were very carefully opened and discovered to be only unsolicited junk mail, with unrecognizable return addresses.

"The Post Office is really better suited to handle this problem," Captain Protasiewicz commented. "If the police department gets inundated with hundreds of calls regarding possibly suspicious mail, we won't have the

resources to respond to our real duties," he added.

Lieutenant John M. Parizeau of the Westfield Police Department also reported that there were a few cases involving suspicious looking letters, which the police responded to and which turned out not to be dangerous.

He also advised the public to not become overly paranoid about marginally suspicious looking mail. He agreed with Ms. Todd that the chances of a low profile, private citizen being targeted with a biological weapon are slim.

Other issues covered by the press release include information on Anthrax exposure, symptoms, treatment and a Web site address for additional information about the Postal Service, including recent press releases, at: [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).

The Westfield Post Office has been issued a directive by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requiring identification from senders of packages over one pound and that the identification must match the return address on the packages, said Westfield Post Office Customer Service Manager Dennis Maher.

Ms. Todd confirmed that the FAA has issued separate guidelines to local post offices regarding airmail restrictions.

"We would like to see that all mail has a return address on it, but that would be nearly impossible to enforce," Ms. Todd added.

Post offices across the country, as well as other businesses, are reporting a series of incidences of possible exposure to substances feared to be Anthrax.

Many businesses have been evacuated and postal inspectors or local police called in to investigate what has turned out to be numerous false alarms.

A Westfield Post Office box user called *The Westfield Leader* on Tuesday afternoon to report that she was exposed to a substance when she opened her post office box that day at the Westfield Post Office.

She also said she saw five other post office box users who were exposed to this white powder when they opened their post office boxes. The woman, who refused to give her name, told *The Westfield Leader* that she immediately reported the incident to Post Office personnel, who advised her to wash her hands and listed symptoms of Anthrax exposure for which she should watch out.

The woman said she was distressed over the way the Post Office handled her situation, saying she felt personnel should have taken it more seriously.

When asked about the incident, Westfield Postmaster Kenneth Brown reported the mark on the woman's mail was nothing more than a stain. He also said this was an isolated incident. He said the piece of mail in question was being tested to determine the nature of the stain, as per postal procedures.

## Jardim, Hern and Kean Join New Initiative to Attract Young Voters

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see how very few young people exercise their right to vote. Even in their lack of participation, they are expressing their belief that public policy is not relevant to their lives. Clearly, it is incumbent upon candidates and office holders to communicate directly with young people in a way that brings them out to vote."

The Young Voter Campaign is a non-partisan effort to assist candidates for state political office who choose to reach out to and engage younger voters.

According to The Center for Democracy & Citizenship, nationwide voting records reveal that less than a third of those aged 18 to 24 voted in the 1996 Presidential election. Only 28 percent are believed to have voted in the 2000 campaign, with turnout among this age group totaling only 20 percent in the 1998 Congressional elections.

"The trend obviously has troubling implications for the health of American democracy, and stands in striking contrast to the fact that this same age group volunteers for various community service activities at very high rates," according to a fact sheet from the Center.

Mr. Skaggs told *The Leader* that candidates in 15 of New Jersey's 40 legislative districts are participating in the voter initiative. Democrats, Republicans as well as third party candidates are taking part in the effort.

He said the Center is working with the League of Women Voters, as well as the Eagleton Institute of Politics.

While hoping for more support, Mr. Skaggs said, "It is at least a good first effort."

"It's crucial for the good people who run for office to rise above the conventional wisdom and break the unfortunate habit, where candidates ignore potential young voters because so few vote, and so few vote because candidates ignore them," Mr. Skaggs said in a statement issued when Mr. Jardim and Mr. Hern joined the young voter initiative.

Each candidate has pledged to spend 10 percent of their campaign budgets on efforts directed at younger voters. Candidates will keep the Center for Democracy & Citizenship informed of scheduled campaign events directed at this age group. They have also promised to participate in debates or campaigns forums with their opponents that are aimed at younger voters.

Mr. Skaggs said, to date, Mr. Kean, Mr. Jardim and Mr. Hern have all agreed to debate. Mr. Skaggs said he is hopeful that Mr. Kean's runningmate, Assemblyman Eric Munoz of Summit, will also take part in that forum.

The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Carnegie Corporation of New York have funded the New Jersey Young Voter Campaign.

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## "ELECTION PREVIEW 2001"

On Thursday November 1, 2001 *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains - Fanwood* will publish its Annual Special Publication "Election Preview 2001". This edition will feature candidate biographies and candidate advertising presentations.

As a special promotion, the newspaper will also be published "The Same Day" on the Internet at [www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com). The newspaper on the Internet will be in color. The newspaper is sold at newsstands and stores throughout the region.