



**Westfield Council**

**Peter M. Echausse (R)**

Recent statistics show that efforts to improve pedestrian safety in Westfield are paying off according to First Ward Councilman Peter M. Echausse. He noted that in 2000, there were 2,173 moving violations cited by the police department.

Of that number, 550 were for speeding and 21 for driving while intoxicated (DWI). Through the first nine months of 2001, due to the success of Police Chief Bernard Tracy's Safe Operating Speed (SOS) program, 2,950 moving violations were cited. Of that number, 1,350 were for speeding and 40 were for DWI. "The evidence is clear that Westfield is more serious than ever about slowing down traffic to safer levels," said Councilman Echausse. "This year is not even over and already the police department has issued nearly triple the amount of speeding tickets compared to last year. Chief Tracy deserves a lot of credit for implementing a program, SOS, that improves traffic safety through education and enforcement of speed limits."

Councilman Echausse said enforcement is also up on critical streets within the First Ward. For example, speeding tickets on Lawrence Avenue increased from 34 in 2000 to 116 so far in 2001. On Dudley Avenue, the numbers were 28 speeding tickets in 2000 versus 82 in 2001. And on North Avenue, there were 49 speeding tickets issued in 2000 versus 79 so far this year.

"Enforcement of existing speed limits is only one piece of making our streets safer. We are also in the process of lowering some speed limits, such as on Mountain Avenue, installing reflector strips on stop signs as well as rumble strips at key intersections to reduce potential accidents," said Mr. Echausse.

The police department, in conjunction with the Town Council, is in the process of appealing to Union County to reduce the speed on Mountain Avenue, which is a county road, from 35 to 25 miles per hour. Later this month, the Town Council will adopt a resolution urging the county to lower the speed limit on that main artery. A speed study by the police revealed that the average speed on Mountain Avenue is 34 miles per hour, and over a thousand cars a day travel over 40 miles per hour, mostly during non-rush hour.

"Once we get the speed limit lowered, radar enforcement will rise dramatically on Mountain Avenue to ensure the safety of pedestrians," said Mr. Echausse. "Also, we're reducing the chance of accidents on Dudley Avenue by installing rumble strips before the stop signs on Prospect Street and Clark Street."

"These strips have proven to be effective in reducing accidents at the intersection of Lawrence and Dudley, and I'm hopeful that they will make the Dudley Avenue corridor a much safer street for everyone, particularly for children attending the Franklin School, which is in close proximity to Dudley."

**Reid Edles (D)**

Reid Edles, Westfield Democratic candidate for First Ward seat on the Town Council, has stated that residents often cite the conditions of town streets during his door-to-door campaign.

"Residents are concerned that we are paying high taxes, yet the streets are in poor condition. Residents state that our neighboring towns have streets that are in better condition than ours."

"We need to have a long range plan to ensure that the streets in Westfield are kept in good condition," Mr. Edles said. "Many streets need to be repaved, for example. Residents point out that unless numerous requests are made to their council members, the Town often 'forgets' about their streets in the First Ward."

"Residents should not have to go before the Town Council, as my wife did, to get their streets repaired or paved. We need to have a Town Council that is responsive to the needs and requests of its taxpayers," Mr. Edles said. "I intend to be proactive and responsive to the needs of the community. I want to see that the town takes the initiative in this and other areas."

Another area of concern that Mr. Edles has is the condition of Westfield's parks. Brightwood/Taylor Park, as well as Mindowaskin Park, are in the First Ward. Brightwood/Taylor Park is a natural environment for many bird species to the delight of many Westfield residents; Mindowaskin Park, in the center of town, offers the entire community a place for summer concerts and children's play areas.

"We need to ensure that we maintain a clean and safe environment for all Westfield parks," Mr. Edles said.

**Matthew P. Albano (R)**

Westfield Second Ward Councilman Matt Albano has identified those traffic calming measures necessary to ensure the safety of children and preserve property values which, he said, have been "severely impacted" by the increase in traffic volume and speed throughout the Second Ward.

Mr. Albano cited the impact traffic has had on the "ShopRite grid" as well as along East Broad Street and Gallows Hill Road.

Over the past two years, Mr. Albano said he has worked with area residents, the Westfield Police Department and an independent traffic consultant to take proactive steps to ensure pedestrian safety, ease traffic and protect property values.

For example, due to the recent opening of ShopRite, rumble strips have been placed at South Chestnut Street and Fourth Avenue and others will soon be placed at other dangerous intersections.

"While we realize that the rumble strips won't divert traffic, we believe they are effective in alerting drivers to upcoming stop signs and dangerous intersections," he stated. "Additionally, we are in the process of re-stripping the

crosswalks along St. Marks (Avenue) to protect the children who walk to Washington Elementary School.

"We have also stepped up police enforcement, placed the police speed monitoring device along various points of South Chestnut and are currently repairing the flashing crosswalk light on South Chestnut before the intersection of St. Marks," said Mr. Albano.

He said future initiatives will include the installation of speed bumps to deal with the excessive speeds and increased signage with the placement of reflectors on stop sign poles throughout the ward.

He said traffic calming measures along East Broad that have been put into action include the reduction of the speed limit to 25 miles per hour and stepped up police presence.

"I am actively opposing Union County's proposal to put a traffic light at the intersection of (South) Chestnut and East Broad. Instead, in order to make this intersection safer, I am proposing the prohibition of left hand turns from North and South Chestnut onto East Broad," Councilman Albano said.

Additionally, he indicated the council is reviewing the proposal from its traffic consultant regarding the placement of traffic calming measures along East Broad particularly near the Temple Emanu-El.

To deal with the excessive speeds tracked on Gallows Hill Road, he said the council is seriously considering the installation of speed bumps as well as brick pavers in the road at the bend in order to slow the traffic.

"Unfortunately this road is used as a cut through street by students at (Union County College) and residents of adjoining towns. Therefore, we need to implement these traffic calming measures to change the driving habits that have developed," Mr. Albano said.

"My main concern is the safety of our school children. I'm a parent and I'm concerned about the traffic impact on pedestrian safety in the Second Ward. I'm going to take whatever action is necessary to maintain the quality of life in the community and protect our property values in the Second Ward. That means controlling traffic with the help of police, and protecting pedestrians by enacting as many safety measures as possible," he said.

**Tom Fucillo (D)**

Tom Fucillo, Democratic candidate for Westfield Town Council in the Second Ward, has called attention to the overgrown retention basin behind Cranford Avenue, in hopes of getting the council to take some action to solve a long-time health problem for area residents.

"In conversations I've had during my door-to-door campaigning on Cranford Avenue and the surrounding streets, I've heard many complaints about the unwillingness of the council to take steps to deal with the overgrowth," said Mr. Fucillo. "There is a real frustration and health concern in that neighborhood."

The retention basin, a tract of land owned by Westfield but leased to Cranford to act as a basin in the event of flooding, is severely overgrown with weeds, brush and other vegetation, the candidate stated. According to local residents, this has been a matter of long-term concern, particularly in the summer months when there is an increase in the insect population.

"One individual living on Cranford Avenue told me that he has been complaining to the town for years, as have his neighbors, and the council has done nothing to deal with the problem," Mr. Fucillo said.

"Another summer has gone by, which means another period where those residents were fearful of contracting West Nile Virus, Lyme Disease and any number of other insect-spread illnesses," he said. "If elected to the council, I will examine the lease agreement or whatever arrangement there is between Westfield and Cranford," the candidate said. "It is critical to identify the provisions of any agreement that deal with the maintenance of that land; and once identified, I will see to it that those provisions are enforced."

"The residents of Cranford Avenue and the surrounding streets should not go through another summer afraid to use their backyards," Mr. Fucillo said. "It's time to elect new leadership in the Second Ward that will be responsive to our concerns."

Mr. Fucillo and his wife, Kristin, live on Hillcrest Avenue with their two sons.

**Janis F. Weinstein (R)**

Being responsive to constituents is the best way to become an effective public servant. For the past five years on Town Council, Fourth Ward Councilwoman Janis F. Weinstein said, this is the adage she has lived by and has thereby built a reputation as a leader who fights for the needs of local residents.

"Being an effective leader means, first, being a good listener and, second, knowing how to work with your colleagues on council and with the various town departments to get things done," said Councilwoman Weinstein.

"Often, there are obstacles to overcome, such as bureaucracy and genuine differences of opinion, but I pride myself in always making myself available for my constituents. No one has ever waited more than 24 hours to receive a return phone call from me. That's what I believe people respect in a local representative and that's what I believe people want in their council member," Councilwoman Weinstein stated.

From keeping property taxes stable to preserving parks and fields, to improving roads and ensuring safer streets, Mrs. Weinstein noted she has a "strong track record of results" on Town Council. On the fiscal front, Mrs. Weinstein said she helped hold this year's municipal tax increase to less than 1 percent,

the lowest increase in 10 years.

Six roads in the Fourth Ward have been repaved in the past few years, with Vermont Street, Otisco Drive, Plymouth Road and Rutgers Court scheduled for this year, she added, noting that Dickson Drive and Scotch Plains Avenue are on tap for 2002 and Tamaques Way has been proposed for 2002.

Councilwoman Weinstein also said she has also been one of Westfield's "leading safety advocates," by adding crossing guards for Westfield's schools and particularly securing a guard at the Westfield High School to aid in the crossing of students.

Other initiatives she cited include slowing traffic on Dorian Road and Scotch Plains Avenue, and securing the installation of a flashing, yellow light on West Broad Street at McKinley Elementary School.

"The flashing light has been a safety concern of mine for the past two and a half years. The footings are installed and we are awaiting the delivery of the lights, which ordered in August, are scheduled to arrive within the next week," she stated.

Another initiative was the installation of lightning detectors in Westfield's active parks, which, she said, was hailed as a "first" for a New Jersey municipality. Along with the detectors, she had public telephones installed at these facilities for use by adults and children in contacting emergency services, if necessary.

The dredging of Tamaques Pond, scheduled to begin this year, the renovation of Memorial Pool and Park, and the hiring of additional Department of Public Works personnel to better maintain fields, were all priorities for Councilwoman Weinstein in 2000 and 2001.

"I believe keeping partisanship to a minimum is the best way to get results on Town Council," she said. "There are no such things as Democratic parks and Republican streets. Wherever there have been issues of concern to my constituents, I've tried to address them, from filling potholes to improving playing fields."

"The bottom line is that I want a better community for my constituents in the Fourth Ward and throughout town. Though listening to what people in my neighborhood have to say, I think that together we've made great progress, and I look forward to getting even more accomplished in the years ahead."

**S. Plains Council**

**Pat Romano (D)**

"Taxes. At election time everyone talks about taxes. But what is the real tax issue?" Scotch Plains Democratic Township Council candidate Pat Romano said this week.

"Everyone wants to keep taxes as low as possible. That can't be the issue. Everyone agrees that almost all of the expenditures that taxes are used for are non-discretionary. That can't be the issue."



"The greater part of property, taxes go to pay the school budget and county assessments, beyond the control of municipal government. That can't be the issue. So what is the tax issue?" the candidate questioned.

Mrs. Romano said, "The real tax issue is, which side has been straightforward with the voters? The Democrats have been, and the Republicans have not."

Mrs. Romano explained that in 1999 the Democratic majority passed a budget raising the tax rate from 92 to 97 tax points, "based on the recommendation of the nonpartisan professional staff."

A tax point is one cent for each dollar of assessed value of property. "Although the Republican minority raised no objection at the work sessions during which the increase was proposed, they staged a protest in front of the television cameras at the first public reading of the ordinance, and argued that the tax rate should remain at 92 tax points," Mrs. Romano noted.

"The Republicans criticized the tax increase during the election held that November, using the issue to win the election and gain the majority," she noted. "However, in 2000, just months later, the new Republican majority passed a budget approving a tax rate of 97 tax points, the very same rate they said was so wrong when the Democrats passed it the year before. Then, in 2001, the Republican majority passed a tax rate of 101 tax points, the highest in Scotch Plains history."

"It seems to me that the Democrats all along told the voters straight out what was necessary in order to fund the essential services of government," Mrs. Romano said. "Meanwhile, the Republicans hypocritically played political football with the tax issue just to win an election. If a tax rate of 97 points was so wrong in 1999 when the Democrats held a majority, why did it become so right in 2000 when the new Republican majority approved the exact same rate?"

"Indeed, had the Democrats not set a rate of 97 points in 1999, the Republicans would have been forced to adopt an even higher rate in 2000 to make up the shortfall that would have occurred, as they did in 2001," the candidate stated.

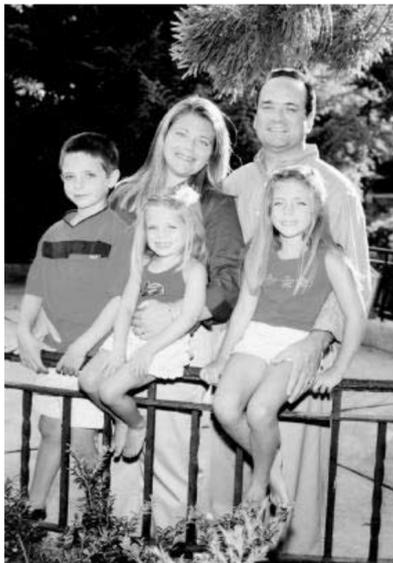
Mrs. Romano pointed out that Guy Celentano, her Republican opponent, "has endorsed the Republicans' hypocritical approach to the tax issue." Mrs. Romano further stated that Mr. Celentano's remarks concerning property taxes at the recent candidates' debate "displayed a disturbing lack of understanding of municipal government."

Mrs. Romano said, "I endorse the honest, straightforward manner in which the Democrats have dealt with the sensitive issue of taxes. If I am elected to the Scotch Plains Township Council this November, I pledge to continue the Democratic goal of honestly dealing with the important issues of government."

**Matt ALBANO**

**A PROVEN LEADER**

**Who Gets Results for 2nd Ward Families**



*"As a father raising my family in Westfield, I know the importance of keeping our streets safe, our taxes low and our parks well maintained. I pledge to continue to be a responsible and responsive leader on Town Council."*

- Keeping Taxes in Check Without Reducing Municipal Services
- Making Streets Safer for Pedestrians, Bicyclists and Children
- Promoting the Paving of Our Most Deteriorated Streets

- Supported Saturday Summer Hours for Westfield Memorial Library
- Advocated the Passage of an Amendment preventing "Shoehorning"
- Consistent and Proactive Constituent Service

**RE-ELECT**

**MATT ALBANO**  
**2nd WARD COUNCILMAN**

Paid for by Friends of Matt Albano for Council, JoAnn Neylan, Treasurer

## COUNTY OF UNION

### Fall Collection Events 2001

### Household Special Waste Day

**Saturday, October 27**  
**8:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**Scotch Plains Public Works**  
**Plainfield Ave., Scotch Plains**

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**MATERIALS ACCEPTED FOR SAFE AND PROPER DISPOSAL**

<p><b>AEROSOL CANS</b> <b>MOTOR OIL &amp; OIL FILTERS</b> <b>PESTICIDES &amp; HERBICIDES</b> <b>POOL CHEMICALS</b> <b>SOLVENTS &amp; THINNERS</b></p>	<p><b>ANTIFREEZE</b> <b>OIL BASED PAINTS</b> <b>VARNISHES</b> <b>CORROSIVES &amp; CLEANERS</b> <b>GASOLINE</b></p>
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Unknown or unidentified materials, explosives, radioactive materials, gas cylinders and materials containing PCB's will **NOT** be accepted!!!

**NO LATEX PAINT OR EMPTY CANS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

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For more information please call the Bureau of Environmental Services Hotline at (908) 654-9889 or visit our website at [www.unioncountynj.org/oem](http://www.unioncountynj.org/oem).  
>RAIN OR SHINE >UNION COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY, PROOF OF RESIDENCY IS REQUIRED  
>PRE-REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED!!!

## Computer & Electronics Day

**Saturday, November 3**      **Lucent Technologies**  
**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**      **600 Mountain Ave., New Providence**

**ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT ACCEPTED:**

Monitors Hard Drives Modems Keyboards  
CPU's Mice Printers Scanners  
TV's/VCR's Fax Machines Circuit Boards

NOT ACCEPTED: MICROWAVES or AIR CONDITIONERS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2001- SCOTCH PLAINS PUBLIC WORKS (2445 PLAINFIELD AVE.) Take Route 22 West to Mountain Avenue Exit, Scotch Plains. Use jughandle to cross over Route 22 and bear onto Mountain Avenue. Follow Mountain Ave. for 1/4 mile and make left onto Henry Street. Continue on Henry St. to end, then turn left onto Westfield Avenue. (Westfield Ave. turns into Plainfield Avenue at the bend in the road). The Public Works Building is on the left side of Plainfield Ave.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2001- LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES: From ROUTE 22 WEST: Traveling West into Scotch Plains take Exit for Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Berkeley Heights & New Providence / Route 78 (2nd right after McDonalds, before Blue Star Shopping Center). At 1st light, turn right onto New Providence / Diamond Hill Road. Continue straight for 3 lights. At 3rd light, make a right. Lucent is the 1st light on the right.

FROM ROUTE 22 EAST: Traveling East into Scotch Plains take Exit for Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Berkeley Heights & New Providence / Route 78 (immediately past Snuffy's). Make first right, (crossing over Route 22). At the light, follow signs for New Providence continuing straight onto New Providence / Diamond Hill Rd. Continue straight for 3 lights. At the 3rd light, make a right. Lucent is the 1st light on the right.

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