

Mrs. Walsh to Receive Award At Faith In Westfield Dinner

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce will honor Danielle Walsh with their 2001 Community Service Award at the 53rd anniversary dinner and Faith In Westfield Award Ceremony.

The dinner will be held on Monday, October 29 at 6 p.m., at The Primavera, owned by the Ferraro family, in Stirling. Mrs. Walsh is the current President of the Westfield Y Board of Directors and received the 2000 Golden Volunteer Award for service to the youth of the community. She is also President of the Board of Trustees of the Education Fund of Westfield and serves on the WCTV 36 Advisory Board.

She is the Secretary of the United Fund Board of Directors and served as Chairman of the Residential and Major Gifts Division for many years, as well as Annual Campaign Chairwoman for 1998 and 1999. An active member of the Rotary Club of Westfield, she was recognized last year as the first recipient of the annual Rotarian "Volunteer of the Year Award."

Mrs. Walsh has been actively involved with the school district for many years. She served as Parent-Teacher Organization President for Jefferson Elementary School, Edison Intermediate School and Westfield High School, as well as President of the Parent Teacher Council that represents all nine schools. She was on the original committee involved with establishing the Optimist Club sponsored Westfield High School post-graduation party BASH in 1990, and continues to be involved with the project.

Mrs. Walsh has served as a member of every Board of Education committee and as Chairwoman of the Facility, Board/Staff, and Town Relations Committees. First elected to the Board in 1992, she

served one year as Vice President and as President for the past three years. She was appointed Chairwoman of the Superintendent Search Committee that hired Dr. Foley in 1996, and was elected twice as Vice President of the Garden State Coalition of Schools, a state-wide organization of suburban school districts.

She has represented the school board as Chairwoman of the Negotiating Committee with the Westfield Administrators Association, Westfield Education Association, Westfield Association of Educational Secretaries, Westfield Instructional Support Staff (paraprofessionals), and Westfield Support Staff Association (custodians).

Under her eight-year leadership as Chairwoman of the Facilities Committee, the Board approved two successful Bond Referendums for elementary and high school classroom additions and building renovations, the construction of 31 new elementary classrooms, a Five-Year Long Range Facilities Plan, the renovation of Roosevelt Field and numerous capital improvements to each of the nine school buildings.

"Danielle has worked hard to improve our schools and our community. We are very pleased to honor her with the Community Service Award, and invite the community to be part of this gala celebration," said Darryl Walker, Chairman. Tickets are \$65 per person, which includes beer and wine, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dancing. The dress is business attire, with black tie optional. Reservations for the dinner can be made by calling the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce office at (908) 233-3021.



COMMUNITY SERVANT...Danielle Walsh, a 22-year Westfield resident, will be honored with the Community Service Award at the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce's 53rd Faith In Westfield Award Ceremony and Dinner-Dance on Monday, October 29.



SHOWING THEIR PATRIOTISM...Alison Gordon, center, and Pauline Guerreiro, right, of Flip 10 Nails in Scotch Plains demonstrated their patriotism on Thursday, September 13, while working on a satisfied customer.

Trash Train Plan Sent Back to Linden Council After NJ DEP Decision

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

LINDEN — Plans for a \$50 million barge-to-rail facility to process some 10,000 tons of New York City household garbage daily were put on hold last week by the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The DEP, which remanded the project back to the Union County Freeholders last week, has said it will not take any action on the proposed transfer station until the finance board completes its findings. The project requires a series of permits from the DEP in order to move forward.

Browning Ferris Industries (BFI) has been seeking to build the transfer station that would accept trash generated in Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens by barge. The garbage would be processed and placed into sealed, steel containers and placed on 5,900-foot trains, consisting of between 80 and 90 cars each. The trains would transport the waste to landfills owned by Allied Waste, the parent company of BFI, in Georgia and South Carolina.

Following BFI's action, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders voted 8-0 last Thursday evening to send the proposal back to the Linden City Council.

"They (the Linden City Council) have to decide if they want to proceed with the project," said Union County Counsel Carol Cohen.

Ms. Cohen said if Linden decided not to proceed, then there will not be an amendment to the Solid Waste Plan for the freeholders to reconsider for a third time.

"We (the county) did what we were supposed to do initially. We came up with a recommendation (in 2000). Commissioner Shinn sent it back to us to do certain fact-finding. We did the fact-finding; we held the meeting; we got the input; we sent our report back. Now Commissioner Shinn has basically said he's not doing anything (until the Local Finance Report is completed)," Ms. Cohen stated.

Among the routes under consideration by BFI for the so-called trash train is the Lehigh Valley Line, which includes the Rahway Avenue at-grade crossing in Westfield. BFI has estimated the train would be traveling at 50 miles per hour when it passes through the town, thus taking a little over two minutes to cross the at grade crossing.

That time would double, however, if the train were traveling 25 miles per hour, the more likely speed, BFI representatives have stated.

In a letter to Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella, DEP Commissioner Robert C. Shinn, Jr. cited a report from Attorney General John Farmer to the Local Finance Board,

which oversees municipal spending. Linden Mayor John T. Gregorio could face a \$500 fine if the finance board finds he violated an ethics law by negotiating the deal for the transfer station in his hometown, which benefits his son-in-law.

In addition, a grand jury has been empaneled since January to investigate circumstances surrounding the selection of Tremley Point for the trash transfer station.

The Freeholder Board had twice approved amending Union County's Solid Waste Management Plan to include the facility. The plan also met with favor by the Linden City Council and the Union County Utilities Authority.

Commissioner Shinn said the report "raises serious questions" concerning the circumstances surrounding the selection of the Tremley Point section of Linden as the site for the solid waste marine transfer terminal.

The biggest question raised by the DEP was the Attorney General's interim report, which "raises serious questions concerning the involvement in the project of the Mayor of the City of Linden, pointing to possible violations of the Local Government Ethics Law."

The 18,000-acre parcel of land the transfer station sits on is owned by Mayor Gregorio's son-in-law, Dominick Pucillo; Paul Weiner, a law partner of State Senator Raymond Lesniak, and Agnes Villani, whose husband was reportedly barred for life from New York's waste-hauling business for price fixing.

The landlord group would receive \$1.2 million per month in rent from the facility, four times the amount that Linden would make in hosting fees.

Mr. Farmer has submitted his findings to the ethics panel, which oversees municipal spending, for further investigation and action by the finance board.

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Scotch Plains Recreation Events

The Scotch Plains Recreation Commission has announced that there remains room in the following programs:

Bowling for ages 5 to 14.

Held at Linden Lanes on Mondays at 4 p.m., the fall session will run from October 8 through December 17. There is a \$10 registration fee to be paid at the Recreation Office, located on the first floor of the Scotch Plains Municipal Building on Park Avenue. There is an additional \$6 weekly fee payable at Linden Lanes. All bowlers must provide their own transportation.

Bumper Bowling for pre-kindergartners and kindergartners is available on Wednesdays at either 9:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. The session will begin October 10 and end December 19. A \$10 registration fee is due at the Recreation Office in addition to a \$6 weekly fee payable at Linden Lanes. Transportation must be provided.

The Senior Aerobics Class will be held on Mondays and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The dates are as follows: October 8 to 19, November 12 to 29. The fee is \$5 for residents, and \$10 for non-residents.

Arts and Crafts for kindergartners through sixth graders. Times and locations will vary according to age groups. The cost is \$25 for residents and \$30 for non-residents.

Twirling, for ages 6 to 13, to be held in the Terrill Middle School cafeteria. Classes are available for beginners, intermediate and advanced. Registration is underway.

Adult Crafts, to be held on Wednesdays at the Towne House from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The cost of the four-week session is \$52 for residents and \$57 for non-residents. This class will be pushed back so the township can get more registrants. The new starting date is mid-October.

Senior Line Dancing, to be held at the Towne House on Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. from November 7 through December 12. The cost of registration is \$15 for Scotch Plains residents and \$20 for non-residents. Registration will be held from October 1 to 12 for residents and from October 8 to 12 for non-residents.

A Spelling Bee will be held on Saturday, October 20 for children in grades 3 to 5. The event will be held at the Park Middle School Auditorium beginning at 9 a.m. A \$5 registration fee will be charged per person.

Trip to Vanity Fair Outlets, Reading Pa., Wednesday, November 7. The bus will leave from Green Forest Park parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and return around 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$17 for residents and \$22 non-residents. Registration will be held October 8 to 19 for residents and October 15 to 19 for non-residents.

Coaches Certification Program, Wednesday November 7. The program will be held in the multi-purpose room of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School from 7 to 10 p.m. There is no fee for residents but registration by phone is required.

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