



# THE TIMES

## Scotch Plains - Fanwood

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### UNDERAGE DRINKING ORDINANCE DISCUSSION ON TAP NEXT MONTH

## Land on Plainfield Ave. Eyed For New Ballfields in Twp.

By FRED ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Times

The push to secure more ballfields in Scotch Plains got a boost on Monday night when the Township Planning Board accepted the local Recreation Commission's plans for the development of a tract of land on Plainfield Avenue.

At the Township Council's regular meeting on Tuesday night, Councilwoman Paulette Coronato said the board had unanimously backed the plans after what she termed "an excellent presentation" by recreation officials.

The land, which is near the Scotch

Hills Country Club, will house a Little League baseball field and a soccer field.

Mrs. Coronato, a member of the board, said there will be a parking lot as well as a small building for equipment storage and bathrooms. It is also possible that, at some point in the future, a concession stand could be included.

"This is something that we sorely need," Mrs. Coronato said, especially in the wake of the decision by Union County last summer not to go forth with leasing a portion of the Ashbrook Reservation to Scotch Plains for development of several ballfields. She

expected that the Plainfield Avenue site should be playable by next spring.

In other business, the council also voted to award a bid for construction of a new pro shop and other renovations at Scotch Hills Country Club to FTF Construction of Warren, which submitted a bid of about \$666,000.

Township Manager Thomas Atkins said the project, which besides the new pro shop will include renovation of the existing clubhouse and refurbishing the parking lot, will be completed next winter.

In addition, a bid for this year's residential spring clean-up program

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## Mandatory Statewide Water Limits Imposed On Region and County

By HORACE CORBIN  
Specially Written for The Times

On March 15, mandatory statewide water restrictions were announced. A drought has been declared as a result of more than a yearlong lack of rain, which has created depleted reservoirs and caused a significant lowering of groundwater tables.

Recent rainfall has not alleviated the drought. According to authorities, it has only been a drop in the bucket in terms of what is needed to bring conditions back to normal.

The information within this report is a summary of the water restrictions and applies only to the New Jersey Central and Coastal North drought regions, including Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties, and parts of Hunterdon, Mercer and Morris Counties. Refer to <http://www.njdrought.org> for all details. Other regions of the state are more severely restricted.

Donna Gregory, a spokeswoman for the Elizabethtown Water Company, headquartered in Westfield, which provides water to most of this region, told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* that the public must consult with the state and local governments for information on the specifics of the water restrictions.

She explained that the state government is the ruling authority, and it is posting updated information on its website as conditions change. The water company is distributing water conservation kits to the public at shopping malls throughout the area, to assist with conservation. The kit includes shower and toilet restriction devices.

The water company and *The Leader* and *The Times* will distribute free water conservation kits at SpringFest in Westfield this Sunday, April 28, in front of the newspaper office on Elm Street.

The following information was extracted from the state website:

*At this time, it is okay to water your lawn if you live in Union County, but you may only water your lawn every other day. If your house number ends in an even number, you may water only on even numbered days. If your house number ends in an odd number, you may water only on odd numbered days.*

*You may water a new lawn only if you have a commercial landscaper install the sod or seed. This applies to new lawns only. Overseeding (adding seed to bare or thin spots) has been done may not be watered. Once a new lawn is installed, you may water it only as follows:*

*You may water it only for the first 45 days after planting. You may water only in the morning and evening, between 6 and 9 a.m., and/or between 5 and 9 p.m. You may water each part of the lawn for no more than 45 minutes per day. If possible, reseeding or resodding of existing lawns should be put off until after the drought is over.*

*Most lawns turn brown if not watered, not because they have died but because the plants go dormant. This enables the roots to survive for a long time, and the green color will be quickly reestablished when watering begins again.*

*Watering of athletic playing fields at schools and parks is allowed, but limits apply.*

*You may water flower and vegetable gardens. You may water shrubs*

*and young trees. But, you must use only a watering can or a hose that does not leak and has a hand held nozzle that shuts off automatically when released.*

*In all cases, you must use as little water as possible, no puddling or runoff may occur, and you must not water any paved area.*

*Golf courses can be watered, but special restrictions apply.*

*You may top off a swimming pool with water as necessary to make the filtration system work. You may fill a*

*drained pool if it was drained prior to March 11, 2002. You may fill a new pool under construction. Pools may be refilled once. You may drain and refill a pool once for structural repairs. Municipal pools may be drained and refilled once if necessary for healthy operations.*

*As applicable, individuals and towns must obtain prior approval from the local municipal water purveyor before refilling pools. The rules for swimming pools also apply to*

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CONSERVATION IS KEY...Elizabethtown Water Company and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* will be giving away water conservation kits to be attached to your faucets at the Spring Fest in Westfield on Sunday. Pictured, left to right, are: Elizabethtown Water Company's Director of Corporate Communications, Donna Gregory, President of Elizabethtown Water Company, Andrew Chapman, and Lauren Pass of *The Times*.

## Garbage Disposal Remains Complex Situation After Burners Experience Financial Challenges

By DEBORAH MADISON  
Specially Written for The Times

How and where to dispose of the millions of tons of garbage generated by central New Jersey is a controversial matter, with cost, jobs, environmental and health concerns at the heart of this growing crisis. With the prospect of much more trash from New York City coming to Union County, the complexity of the issue is expected to grow.

Prior to a study commissioned in the 1970s, there was no regulation overseeing where rubbish was dumped in New Jersey. Dozens of legal and illegal landfills existed, many located in the 2,508 acres of Meadowlands wetlands, located off of the New Jersey Turnpike in Ruthersford.

Viewed as an unusable breeding ground for mosquitoes, the prevailing thinking supported filling in the wetlands with debris and ash. Many hospitals, industrial sites and apartment buildings had their own, unregulated incinerators, which were not inspected for air quality or ash disposal.

In 1968, the Meadowlands Commission was created. A study of the wetland area determined rubbish was

eroding in an uncontrolled and unsafe manner. The study concluded that this was having a detrimental effect on the surrounding land, air and underground aquifers.

The study also concluded that incinerator ash, being dumped in the wetlands and at other landfill sites, was often toxic, emitting noxious fumes into New Jersey's air, ground and waterways.

Pressure from environmentalist and citizens groups resulted in the creation of the Clean Air Act of 1970, which forced the shutdown of many incinerators and precipitated the necessity of solid waste management and regulation in New Jersey. It was determined then by a joint task force that the best alternative to burying the refuse was to burn it.

From the time public meetings began in the mid-1980s, when the idea of having incinerators in 21 locations throughout New Jersey was introduced, grassroots citizens organizations voiced strong opposition.



SUDDEN STORM... Last Friday evening, trees and electric wires were damaged throughout the area due to high winds from thunderstorms as temperatures dropped from record highs in the 90s to normal 70s. Pictured, above, is a fallen tree in Fanwood on Martine Avenue near Midway Avenue.

## Board of Ed. Members Pay Tribute To Sheldon, Simpson As They Retire

By JENNIFER PINTO  
Specially Written for The Times

Board of Education President Dr. Sheldon and Board Vice President Jessica Simpson, retired together after both serving the community for 10 years since April 1992.

At last Thursday's meeting on April 18, the Board of Education spent two hours honoring Dr. Sheldon and Mrs. Simpson. Members of the community, co-workers, and friends thanked both board members for all of their time and hard work.

"I would like to wish you well and thank you for your service to the community," stated Assemblywoman Linda Stender.

"Your dedication and time is just incredible, and for that we thank you," said BOE member Pat Hoynes-O'Connor.

Letters were read honoring Dr. Sheldon and Mrs. Simpson, gifts were presented and dessert was served during a brief intermission after two hours of praise.

During the third and final hour of the meeting, the agenda was reviewed.

The language arts curriculum was discussed through a power-point presentation, showing how the SP-F school system plans on implementing more strategies for reading comprehension.

The BOE updated the public about the construction of school buildings; seven out of eight buildings will be under construction from now through the summer. All of the elementary schools are presently under construction and the window project at the high school will begin in a few weeks.

The BOE addressed the "Field of

Dreams" project. There will be \$600,000 going towards renovations at Park Middle School and for additional fields.

Letters to the board regarding budget issues and teacher contracts were mentioned.

An out of district placement for autistic children was approved for the remainder of the 2001 through 2002 school year. Children would move from the High Road School in East Brunswick to the Children's Institute in Verona.

The board adjusted the cost of last year's renovation of the SP-F high school auditorium from \$257,265 to \$267,983.

The nonpublic textbook program for 2002 through 2003 was approved

allowing the Union County Educational Services Commission to handle the purchasing and distribution of nonpublic school textbooks, in turn, the Board of Education of SP-F will pay a surcharge of 10 percent, covering costs for administering the program.

In other business, the board approved the job description of high school assistant principal, the week of May 6 to May 10 was declared as Teacher Appreciation Week and May 8 as National Teacher Day.

The board also discussed a calendar change for the 2002 through 2003 year. In order to better accommodate families for spring recess. No changes were decided.

The next public meeting is at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 25.

## Fanwood Budget Calls For 4.14 Percent Hike Over Last Tax Levy

By KIMBERLY MERZ  
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Borough Council introduced its 2002 municipal budget during a special meeting April 17, calling for a 4.14 percent increase over last year's tax levy.

If adopted, borough residents can expect to pay approximately \$8.60 per point, or an average increase of \$54.

According to Mayor Louis Jung, the municipality's share represents 21 percent of residents' tax bill. The

local school district's portion comprises approximately 62 percent, with Union County taking roughly 17 percent.

A public hearing on the budget is slated for Monday, May 20.

With the general appropriations totaling \$6,163,772.30, most of the borough's increases are due to non-discretionary expenses. According to Councilman Stuart Kline, Finance Committee Chairman, this year's mandatory expenditures include a \$46,585 increase over last year for general liability insurance.

"What we are getting from our general liability carrier is that the industry as a whole is making up for, and recouping from, 9-11, either in terms of losses already paid out, or prospective claims risk profiles changing, as a result of the terrorist attacks," Mr. Kline said.

He added that for the third straight year, health insurance premiums for borough employees have gone up about 20 to 25 percent, resulting in an increase of \$104,523.

In addition, sewer costs have increased by \$18,249; the bill from the Westfield Regional Health Department was raised by \$6,781, and payment of bond principles are going up \$42,000 this year. In addition, the interest on bonds is increasing by \$36,316.50.

"We have control maybe over, I'd say, about 10 to 20 percent of our budget; everything else is more or less non-discretionary. Out of our 5.8 million dollar budget, about 50 to 55 percent is wages, and much of that, about 60 to 70 percent, is subject to contracts. So, given the constraints that we face, I think we have done a tremendous job over the eight or nine meetings that we have had, with limiting this to a 4.1 percent increase," Mr. Kline explained.

He said that it was the council's objective to keep the budget to a modest increase, in line with the inflation rate of about 2 percent, "and we're not that far off."

"The 4.1 percent increase is a little bit higher than I would like to see as

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## Traffic Calming Project Starts on Rahway Avenue, Streetscapes Begun on Central Ave.

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Times

WESTFIELD -- Westfield residents are, and will continue, to see many new road construction projects this year.

Construction has already started for the Rahway Avenue traffic-calming project and the streetscapes project in downtown Westfield is set to start on Central Avenue on Monday, April 29.

The Rahway Avenue project will cost \$240,000, but according to Town Administrator James Gildea, the project may come in under that price due to the scaling back of certain parts. The town received a state grant for \$210,000 to help fund this project. The project is expected to take approximately six weeks to complete.

It includes 100 feet across, three inch high, and six feet wide speed humps in front of Westfield High School and the field house at Kehler Stadium. It also includes raised intersections at Dorian Road and Grove Street and crosswalks that will be raised three inches at Willow Grove and Clifton Street to allow for better visibility to drivers cresting the hill.

There will be bump outs located at sev-

eral locations. The bump outs are similar to those on South Avenue in Plainfield. There will be a three-foot bump out on Rahway Avenue across from Willow Grove Road to prevent drivers from passing on the right.

Bump outs will also be located at Max Place and Normandy Drive; Rahway Avenue will be 28 feet wide in these areas.

There will also be lights in the crosswalk at Kehler Stadium, although the lights will be similar to those on East Broad Street at Temple Emanu-El, it will have flashing lights in the crosswalk and down the center of the road, allowing drivers behind larger vehicles better visibility.

The bump outs and speed humps will be marked with signs and striping to highlight their visibility.

According to Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh, this is considered the pilot project and the town could see more traffic calming projects in the future.

Rahway Avenue is the longest unbroken street in Westfield, meaning that it has no stop signs or lights. Rahway has a 25-mile an hour speed limit for the entire 2.2 miles. Rahway is entirely a municipal road, unlike many others in town, such as North and

South Avenues, which belong to the county. Over a 10-year period, there have been 344 automobile accidents and more than 65 of those had injuries.

The worst intersections on Rahway for accidents are Rahway and Lamberts Mill Road, and Rahway and Shackamaxon, with 13 accidents with injuries each, and West Grove Street and Rahway, which has had 10 accidents with injuries, an average of one per year over the last 10 years.

The Westfield Board of Education and BRAKES (Bikers, Runners and Kids are Entitled to Safety) are in support of the traffic-calming project.

The streetscapes projects include decorative concrete sidewalks, colored asphalt crosswalks, and landscape improvements in the central business district as well as on Central Avenue between North Avenue and Cacciola Place. The work set to begin on Monday will take place on Central Avenue.

Councilman and Chairman of the Public Works Committee Lawrence Goldman has stated that there will be a published list of current and upcoming projects in *The Westfield Leader* starting in the Thursday, May 2, edition.



Photo courtesy of USAF For The Times

USAF BAND CONCERT...The award-winning Heritage of America Band, pictured, above, from Langley Air Force base in Virginia will perform at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School auditorium on Wednesday, May 1, at 7 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

## USAF Band Sets Performance At Scotch Plains-Fanwood HS

By BILL SHEPPARD  
Specially Written for The Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The USAF "Heritage of America" Band from Langley Air Force base in Virginia under the leadership of USAF Major Larry H. Lang will perform at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) auditorium on Wednesday, May 1, at 7 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

Major Eugene Pearson of the NJ821st Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps in Scotch Plains, whose group sponsors the

concert, told *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*, "The last time we were privileged to have a concert in our area by this award winning band was just after Hurricane Floyd. The upcoming concert has special meaning in light of the events of 11 September."

Tickets are required for admission and can be obtained by mail or in person at the SPFHS Main Office, Attention Concert Tickets, SPFHS, 667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains, 07076. The number of tickets is limited to five maximum for groups.

## SP Council

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was awarded to Midco Waste Systems, which submitted a bid of \$174,395, about \$20,000 lower than the cost of last year's program, which was also overseen by Midco.

Mayor Martin Marks said the dates of the clean-up will be announced soon.

Next month, the council, in an effort to curb underage drinking, is expected to introduce an ordinance that would give the local police the right to enter a private residence where underage persons are in possession of or consuming alcoholic beverages.

In response to a resident's comment to the council on Tuesday night that enactment of such an ordinance would be a move "totally in the wrong direction," Mayor Marks, admitting that the issue was a difficult one to address, encouraged public input on the matter.

At the beginning of the meeting, Police Chief Marshall Nelson formally promoted three members of the force. Officer Joseph Zito was promoted to Sergeant. Sergeant James Rau was promoted to Lieutenant and Sergeant William Schultz was promoted to Lieutenant.

As part of the anticipated sale and development of the so-called "Broadway" tract on the eastern edge of Scotch Plains, the council approved resolutions appointing Howard Davis as legal counsel for representation on contractual and environmental issues and Susan Judge as special legal counsel for representation on other contractual issues.

Last fall, the council passed an ordinance changing the zoning designation for the area, which is located between the Scotch Hills Country Club and the Westfield border. Such a change will permit the development of detached single-family homes intended to be an adult community.

Mayor Marks issued a proclamation declaring Thursday, May 2, as a Day of Prayer in Scotch Plains, the week of May 5-11 as Hunger Awareness Week and Thursday, April 25, as Arbor Day in Scotch Plains.

The council's next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, when the public hearing on the township government's 2002 budget will be held.

## Parents Protest WHS Open Lunch, Say Drug Use, Sexual Activity, Drinking Take Place

By ROBERT COAKLEY  
Specially Written for The Times

WESTFIELD -- The two new Westfield Board of Education members were sworn in Tuesday night. The meeting also hosted a debate between students and parents about the issue of how much freedom to give teenagers when safety is such a concern. In this case, the issue was the Open Lunch policy at Westfield High School, which allows juniors and seniors to take lunch off campus. The school board took no action on the subject, but agreed that more in-depth discussion should take place in the future.

Before the meeting started, Alice Hunnicutt and William Ziff were sworn in as the newest members of the Westfield School Board. They had won election held on April 16. Mrs. Hunnicutt and Mr. Ziff are new to the school board, while Ms. Gardner started her third term.

Ms. Gardner was re-elected as president of the school board at the meeting, and Anne Riegel was re-elected as vice-president.

The meeting was crowded with parents and students wishing to comment on the "Open Lunch" policy at Westfield High School. Superintendent of Schools William Foley explained how the open lunch program started in 1989, allowing only seniors to take lunch outside of school. "In 1991, the junior class was allowed to take lunch off-campus as well," Foley said. The students have 40 minutes to eat lunch outside of school and then come back for their classes. According to the speakers, the students usually go to downtown restaurants or delis to eat.

Dr. Martha Kieczkowski presented a petition with over 300 signatures to the school board about the problem and impact of the Open Lunch program. The petition was circulated only last Thursday, and already had a strong response. She explained how the WHS Open Lunch policy is not being properly enforced: the high school doors are not watched, and students of all grades are leaving school premises during the school day. They listed problems of unsupervised activities including drug use, drinking and sexual activity.

"Students are aware that policies are not enforced, weakening respect for schools, teachers and parents," Dr. Kieczkowski said. "Too many of our children are becoming involved in dangerous and regrettable activities."

Dr. Kieczkowski went on to say, "a strongly enforced, redefined policy is needed." According to the "Problem Statement and

Action items" that was given out, the Open Lunch policy should be limited to WHS seniors, and the 22 points of ingress and egress at the high school should be closely monitored through student identification. Her husband, Gerard Kieczkowski also spoke at the meeting about how students abuse the open lunch policy.

Sean Wright, a junior at WHS, said the high school has one of the most rigorous academic programs in the state. Having lunch off school property at a restaurant is a relief, he said. Also, drug abuse and sexual activity are issues that are limited that open lunch will not fix, Mr. Wright said. Wright continued to state that the WHS cafeteria is crowded. He also described the quality of the cafeteria food as "iffy" and said certain students have dietary concerns or are vegetarians, and the cafeteria does not have food for them.

Tom Dwyer, a parent, said the other parents attended because getting involved is very important. Changing the lunch policy will not change the situation if students break the rules, but you have to start somewhere, he said. "You have to close the little window of opportunity," he said.

Mark Felder, another parent, said there is more at hand than just the issue of open lunch, and that can cloud the issue. But when no one can control who leaves and arrives at the school during school hours, there is a problem. He said that enforcement has to be studied.

David Eisenberg, a high school junior, said 95 percent of the students appreciate the open lunch policy, and are just trying to use what liberties they have. The students have a valid concern when they are given privileges and then those privileges are taken away, he said.

Other students also spoke for the open lunch policy. Chris Aldridge said juniors would be given mixed messages about how the school trusts them to choose college but not spend 40 minutes off campus. Erin McClellan said a poll should be taken of the juniors' and seniors' parents. Willie Masket said crowding in the cafeteria would get worse over the next few years. Carolyn Harvos said the open lunch policy would be easier to enforce with different identifications for juniors and seniors.

Dr. Robert Petix, the principal of WHS, said the matter will go beyond the meeting, and discussions will have to be held. An intelligent study will have to be done to see if the open lunch policy is educationally good for the students, Dr. Petix said.

When the school board meeting went into private session, the adults and teenagers met outside the administration building to discuss the matter a little bit more. Everyone agreed that the open lunch policy had to be better enforced, and that more official discussion was needed. Both sides agreed there is a legitimate concern from everyone involved. At this time, it seems the matter will be discussed at length during the June meeting of the Westfield School Board, and no policy changes will start until September.

Also at the meeting, Business Administrator Robert Berman discussed the work around the schools. There was an official groundbreaking on April 9, and work has begun on the major areas of construction, Mr. Berman said.

The cafeteria, the guidance and the gym storage expansions were set to have concrete put down this week. The steel for the cafeteria is set to be erected this Saturday, and the bids on the field house will go out next Thursday's *Westfield Leader*, he said.

## Fanwood Council

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a resident, but nevertheless, I think in view of the circumstance, I think we've achieved a very good budget this year," Councilman Kline continued.

He also explained that new revenue sources were identified, that did not exist last year, such as parking on South Avenue. He said the council took a very conservative approach and fine-tuned the revenue portion of the budget, reflecting the new revenues in this year's projection.

Mayor Jung said this allowed the borough to maintain the current level of services.

The entire council expressed support for the budget. However, Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell said she was uncomfortable with the amount of speculated surplus and hoped it wouldn't result in something being eliminated or another increased tax levy.

Chief Financial Officer Barbara Brennan said Monday that the estimated new revenue from the expanded South Avenue parking area totaled \$47,787, and was calculated by taking a percentage of the possible total revenue, if the lot was full every day.

Council President Joel Whitaker said the budget represented a very good effort by the entire governing body.

"This is the sort of year that a really serious effort needed to be made, because we had, and still have, people who are laid off, people who are losing jobs due to mergers — AT&T is still making more rumblings up there on the hill. So, I think it's really important to try and draw this budget as tightly as possible," Mr. Whitaker said.

Councilman Thomas Ryan, Jr. said that sacrifices had to be made this year, and it took an effort by all the council members, "to make sure every penny was squeezed out of the budget."

The purchase of one of two police vehicles, which was planned several years ago, was postponed, as well as some capital projects.

"It's always a very difficult balance. We very easily could have gone more conservatively and had a higher tax increase," Mr. Ryan said.

### Bearded Iris

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## Mandatory Water Rules Imposed Throughout State

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outdoor hot tubs, spas and Jacuzzis. Small "kiddie pools" are exempt from the restrictions.

You may not wash your car at home. Cars may only be washed at commercial car washes. Commercial car washes must comply with limits and must conserve water.

Boats may only be washed at boat dealerships, marinas, and commercial boat/car wash businesses. Limits apply to how and when boats may be washed at these businesses. You may flush your own boat engine if flushing is needed to remove salt water, but you may not wash the whole boat yourself.

Washing of pavement is not allowed, except at restaurants for public health reasons, as part of road construction or repaving, and for street sweeping if non-potable water is used.

Opening of hydrants is a serious problem during times of drought, because it can waste gallons of water in a very short time. It can also be dangerous because it can lower the water pressure so that firefighters can't fight fires effectively. The police can fine people who open hydrants. Repeat offenders can even be sent to jail.

Restrictions apply for those with wells also. Your well may be lower than you realize. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has seen more than double the usual number of wells going dry in recent months, as compared with the same months last year. Even if your well is doing okay, it is fed by an underground aquifer that extends for miles. When you pump water out of that aquifer, you lower water levels throughout the area, so

you may be causing other wells to go dry, and contributing to lowering of streams and rivers.

The state applies restrictions based on conditions in each drought region, but local conditions can be more severe due to localized rain showers and a town's existing water supply system. So it is important that you comply with the most stringent requirements that apply in your area.

Officials of the towns of Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountainside, plus the County of Union, told *The Leader* and *The Times* that no additional local water use restrictions have been imposed at this time. The public is advised to monitor local television stations, websites and the newspapers for updates on water use restrictions.

David Williams of Williams Nursery in Westfield told *The Leader* and *The Times* that "a drought is not a reason to give up on gardening. Southern California has been under a drought for the past 40 years, and gardening is still the number one hobby there. There are many drought tolerant plants that can be used and new soil amendments that can be added to the soil to increase water retention. Mulching existing beds will help protect existing plants."

Randall Miller, general manager at Parker Greenhouses Farm and Garden Center in Scotch Plains, told *The Leader* and *The Times*, "Avoid sprinkling the lawn. It will go dormant in a drought and 'regreen' when rains return. But, definitely deep water your deeply rooted trees, shrubs and plants every three days or so to keep them healthy and to conserve water at the same time. Dead plants are a problem, grass recovers quickly!"