



PARADING FOR THANKSGIVING...Three wild turkeys throw caution to the wind by foraging for food at a very unlikely location: Embree Crescent and Hanford Place in Westfield. See letter on page 4.

Police Seek Volunteers For Domestic Violence Response

SCOTCH PLAINS — The police departments of Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Westfield, Clark and Union County have formed a team and are collaborating on domestic violence issues. This effort is designed to increase the safety and decrease the isolation of domestic violence victims in the region.

The Union County Prosecutor's Office and Project Protect of the YWCA of Eastern Union County will assist the project. The police departments are recruiting volunteers from the four communities to work on the Regional Domestic Violence Response Team.

Fanwood Police Chief Donald Domanoski and Scotch Plains Police Chief Marshall Nelson state, "Domestic violence is not new to our communities or to any community in our country. Recent U.S. Department of Justice statistics indicates that violence by current or former partners of women especially is common and frequent, and is a major cause of serious injuries. We believe that many of these injuries are preventable, and that the way in which we as law enforcement agencies respond to abuse can make a difference

for many families in our communities."

Project Protect provides family violence prevention, education, training and emergency intervention services. The project offers shelter from harm and provides advocacy and counseling services.

On domestic violence, the five police departments interact with the criminal justice and family court systems. The departments focus on providing victims with immediate relief from dangerous situations, and they pursue the arrest of and prosecution of abusers.

The police hope that information and support from volunteers will enable more educated decisions and enhance support for victims. Similar programs in the state yielded positive results.

Applications are now being accepted at the five police departments for volunteers to serve on the team.

Fanwood or Scotch Plains residents should contact Lieutenant Richard Trigo of the Fanwood Police Department at (908) 322-5000 Ext. 117 or Lieutenant John Shebey of the Scotch Plains Police Department at (908) 322-7100 Ext.140.

Ammunition Disposal Offered by County PD

WESTFIELD — Residents can dispose unwanted ammunition and fireworks on Tuesday, November 26 at the Union County Police headquarters at 300 North Avenue East in Westfield from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Disposal is free.

The County Police will accept all fireworks and ammunition of up to .50-caliber. Unwanted ammunition and fireworks brought in by the public will be placed in a burn container at police headquarters and will be detonated later by police. No guns will be accepted at this location.

Fireworks and ammunition are hazardous materials and are not accepted as household waste or even hazardous waste. This is the only acceptable method for disposal of these items.

It is particularly important to dispose of old fireworks, which are not regulated and have a propensity to become unstable. Even older ammunition can become unstable and dangerous.

The Union County Police Bomb Squad organized this collection as a service to the public. This is the first time the county has provided this service.

"This is not just for people who use firearms for target shooting or hunting," said Freeholder Chester Holmes, a former police officer. "Union County gets many calls from residents who come across these items when they clean out a home after the death of a loved one. Many people hang onto these items because they do not know how to dispose of them."

The Union County Police can also help residents ensure that war memo-

ria such as grenades, shells and rockets are really inactive. The county police are able to come to residents' homes and inspect items using a portable x-ray machine.

For information about the ammunition and fireworks collection, or to have the county police look at memorabilia, please call the Union County Police at (908) 654-9800.

Mental Health Association Honors Dr. Bride

WESTFIELD — Dr. Nancy Marie Bride was presented the 9/11 Leadership Award by The Mental Health Association of New Jersey for her work in Union County in response to the 9/11 disaster. Dr. Bride is Executive Director of the Mental Health Association of Union County (MHAUC) located in Westfield.

Charles Weston, Past President of MHAUC said, "Nancy's leadership and expert counseling skills, compassion and dedication allowed her to work at the front line during the first few weeks after the disaster, and to continue her dedication to victims and responders to this day." Dr. Bride organized 17 mental health counselors as volunteers to provide assistance to victims and first responders.

This spring in honoring the Salvation Army, Dr. Bride's said, "Another year has passed, and we are here once again to celebrate and to hold on to each other."

To inquire about MHAUC programs, call (908) 272-0300.



CLEO'S FIRE...William McMeekan, Jr. caught lightning in Westfield over the WWI monument at just the right time a few summers ago. Now, footage of his video of Westfield will be part of the renowned holiday window display at Henri Bendel's high fashion in New York City.

WF Resident Works With 'Smart Coating' Research

WESTFIELD — John Federici of Westfield, Professor of Physics at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), is on the research team for developing "Smart Coatings."

Soon, military vehicles might be covered with a coating that heals itself, if corroded or scratched. The vehicles might also automatically change color on the battlefield, creating instant camouflage and rendering them invisible.

Smart coatings could also reduce the sensitivity of explosives, making them safer for soldiers to handle.

Such coatings will employ nanotechnology. Microscopic electro-mechanical machines, called nano-machines, will be embedded in the coating. These devices will be able to

sense, communicate and act — thus, the name "Smart Coating."

Researchers at NJIT and at the U.S. Army's Armament Research and Development Center at Picatinny Arsenal are developing smart coatings for the Army. Funded by the U.S. Department of the Defense, the futuristic coatings are intended for use on a wide array of military vehicles — tanks, trucks, helicopters and weapons systems.

Paints now used by the Army are expensive and labor intensive to apply. If scratched or corroded, vehicles need to be repainted — which can hide structural damage. The Army estimates that the cost of corrosion damage relating to painting and scraping is \$2 billion per year.



John Federici



'TIS THE SEASON...The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield will present its "Deck the Halls" holiday house tour on Saturday, December 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Four homes will be decorated for the holidays, among them this Victorian residence at Dudley Avenue. Additionally, a boutique will be featured between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Community Players Theater. House tour tickets may be purchased at Baron's Pharmacy, 243 East Broad Street or Lancaster, Ltd., 76 Elm Street, both in Westfield, or at the door for \$30.

FW Lions to Hold Christmas Tree Sale

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Lions Club will hold its annual Christmas Tree Sale at LaGrande Park, beginning on Sunday, December 1, and continuing until Christmas.

The sale hours will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends and from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Revenue from this sale benefits local charities and scholarships for local students.

WF Service League Seeks 2003 Grant Applications

The Westfield Service League (WSL) is currently accepting requests for applications for grants for 2003.

This past year, the WSL donated \$72,000 to local agencies and organizations. The grant funds result from the profits of the WSL Thrift and Consignments Shops, located at 114 Elmer Street.

The WSL is celebrating its 70th anniversary of providing service to the Westfield area. Over that period, the WSL has donated over \$1.8 mil-

lion dollars to various agencies.

To be considered for funding, each agency or organization must submit a written request to Faith Bennett, Donations Chairperson, 629 Saint Marks Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090.

All completed applications must be returned no later than February 1, 2003.

It's all on the Net, www.goleader.com

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