



FRESH FACES... Tiger cubs from Tamaques School in Westfield visited *The Westfield Leader* office on November 14, 2002 to learn about newspapers; not to play hooky from school. Pictured above from the left are Christopher, Jack, Patrick, Mac, Christian, Mark, Drew and Brendan.

SP Library to Hold Winter Story Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — Registration for the Winter 2003 Story Time at the Scotch Plains Public Library will take place starting Monday, December 2, and continue until each class is full. The maximum number per class is 20 children. A sign-up sheet will be available on the Children's Room desk.

"Pre-School Story Time" will run on Tuesdays, January 14 to February 11, from 10 to 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 to 2 p.m. Children must be three years old or before the date of the first program.

"K-First Grade Story Time" will be held from January 14 to February 11, from 3:45 to 4:15 p.m. Craft registration will be announced.

These programs are offered for Scotch Plains residents who are library card holders. For further information, please call the Children's Room between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at (908) 322-5007.

Westfield Chamber Announces Annual Holiday Ornament Sale

WESTFIELD — The 14th annual Westfield Holiday Ornament for 2002 is now on sale by the Westfield Area Chamber. The ornament commemorates the Westfield Christmas Tree lighting ceremony, which will be held this year on Sunday, December 1 at 5 p.m. at the North Avenue Train Station.

The ornament ball is deep blue with a depiction of the Westfield Christmas Tree in silver and white. The limited edition ornaments are \$10 each and can be obtained at: Coldwell Banker Realtors, Fleet Bank, PNC Bank, Scott Shoes, The Town Bank of Westfield and the Chamber office.

A limited number of ornaments from 1991, 1994, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 are available at the Chamber office, 173 Elm Street, 2nd floor. Other years are sold out.

For more information, call the Chamber office at 908-233-3021.

SP Mayor Martin Marks Discusses Plans for 2003

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

SCOTCH PLAINS — After 10 months as a minority party in 1999, followed by three years with a majority, Republicans in Scotch Plains will occupy all five Township Council seats as of January 1, and Mayor Martin L. Marks is hoping that 2003 sees the completion of a number of projects currently in progress.

Speaking to *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* before departing for the annual New Jersey State League of Municipalities convention in Atlantic City, the Mayor says he is looking forward to "throwing out first pitches at a few ballfields" next year. There are several ballfield construction and renovation projects currently underway, most notably on Plainfield Avenue. Work on the county-funded Field of Dreams ballfield renovation project at Park Middle School will actually begin next year, Mayor Marks predicted.

The Mayor also said he looks forward "to breaking a bottle of champagne" on two new jitney buses, hopefully at the beginning of the year. The two shuttle buses, which will be shared with Fanwood, each seat 25 passengers and will run during the morning and afternoon rush hours on the north and south sides of the railroad tracks. One bus will be devoted to serving the bulk of Fanwood and the southern side of Scotch Plains while the other bus will serve the northern sides of both communities. New Jersey Transit, which is administering the federally-funded program, will disburse grants to fund the operating costs of the program.

The Mayor also said that the Township Planning Board, of which he is a member, will soon be moving forward on the so-called "Broadway Redevelopment" project, a development proposed for the area between the Scotch Hills Country Club on Jerusalem Road and the border with Westfield that would be an age-restricted senior citizen development of detached single-family homes and recreational facilities.

"We've gotten a lot of public input," the Mayor said, both positive and negative, all of which, he said, are being forwarded to the developer so that any concerns or suggestions can potentially be incorporated into the plans for the site. He reminded that the township does have some control over the development since some of the lots to be sold and developed are township-owned.

On Election Day, township voters overwhelmingly approved a non-binding referendum calling for the convening of a state constitutional convention to address property tax reform.

Mayor Marks said, "I'd like to be an ambassador for this" and assist the League of Municipalities, which has

backed the idea, as well as "promote this in other communities."

Another matter needing to be addressed soon will be the Department of Public Works site on Plainfield Avenue between the Scotch Hills Country Club and the ballfields being developed. He said the township would like to relocate the facility "or bite the bullet and build a new facility." The present structure "is in a state of disrepair," Mayor Marks said he was hopeful that "something definitive can be done."

Future uses for the former zoo property on the south side of Scotch Plains will also hopefully be addressed seriously in 2003. A number of environmental-related concerns have delayed any final disposition of the land at the corner of Terrill and Raritan Roads. Once those concerns are allayed, the Mayor said, "We can take a look at establishing something there."

Mayor Marks expects another "difficult and tight" 2003 municipal budget, with serious discussions among Council members set to start sometime in early February.

"The economy is still sluggish," he said, and township investments "aren't generating the kind of income we saw in 1999, for instance," when the municipal surplus was in excess of \$3 million.

The Mayor took a few minutes to address some of the comments made in last week's *The Times* by Township Democratic Chairman Kenneth Lipstein, specifically about the just-completed campaign and the reasons for the local GOP sweep.

"I found it amusing that last time, he actually came to a televised Council meeting to air his gripes," the Mayor said. "This time, he chose to do it through the newspaper."

Mr. Marks said the "excuses they come up with when they lose," such as Mr. Lipstein's contention that a general Republican trend did in his party, "are really ludicrous." The Mayor said there was no statewide Republican trend this year, given Democrat Frank Lautenberg's relatively easy Senate victory. He pointed to previous elections, such as in 1996, 2000 and 2001, when local Republicans won despite Democratic victories at the top of the ballot.

"People in Scotch Plains evaluate the situation and vote for local Republicans. To imply that Scotch Plains voters are modern lemmings that follow the trend is a disservice," the Mayor said. He also defended the Republican campaign against Mr. Lipstein's charges of excessive negativity. "Most of our pieces were positive," Mayor Marks said. "There are times when it's going to be hard-hitting." The Mayor served as campaign manager for the three Republican candidates this year. Calling negative tactics "a part of politics," he maintained that, "our residents can see through all that silliness."



PROMOTIONAL QUARTERS... Hal Narotzky, left, and his wife Shelly Abernson, right, pictured at their Westfield office of Abernson Narotzky & White, Inc.

**Talking Business
New York City Couple Brings Company to Westfield**

By BENJAMIN B. CORBIN
Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

WESTFIELD — In 1992, Shelly Abernson and Hal Narotzky not only brought their company to Westfield from New York City, but the married couple also made their home here.

It all started when Mrs. Abernson and Mr. Narotzky accepted a dinner invitation from their old neighbor, previously from New York City. During their visit, the couple immediately fell in love with Westfield.

Now, they have two children in the Westfield schools — Natalie and Max. Natalie is an eighth grade student at Edison Intermediate School, and Max is a fourth grade student at Jefferson Elementary School. Mrs. Abernson and her daughter sing in the Little Opera Company of NJ, and Mr. Narotzky is an active member of the Westfield Jaycees. Mr. Narotzky, Mrs. Abernson and their children are members of Temple E-manuel in Westfield.

Their business is thriving in West-

field. Abernson Narotzky & White, Inc. provides promotional and advertising materials for trade shows and other similar events. They have provided the WAM coins for the Westfield Chamber of Commerce and have completed projects for the Westfield Symphony Orchestra.

They also worked for Mercedes-Benz, HBO, Pfizer, Jim Beam and Volvo with catalog programs and national direct mail campaigns.

NAMI Meeting Set At Osceola Church

COUNTY — The National Alliance of The Mentally Ill will present the second and third segments of a series called "Living With Schizophrenia" starting Tuesday, November 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the Osceola Presbyterian Church in Clark. For information, please contact (908) 233-1628 or namionion@hotmail.com.



CROP WALK SUCCESS... Some of the participants of Crop Walk 2002, organized by the Faith Lutheran Church of New Providence and hosted by United Methodist Church Crop Walk 2002, gather October 27 for a three-mile walk to fight hunger. Pictured, left to right, are: Alexandra Price of Fanwood, Katie Harrington of Chatham, Emily Walker and Rosie Everson, both of Fanwood; Meghan Nord, Douglas Auchter and Tim Drury, all of Berkeley Heights; Emily Everson of Fanwood and Joseph Auchter of Berkeley Heights. Karen Berk of Fanwood served as Chairwoman. The walk benefited St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark and Church World Service, which combats hunger on a worldwide scale.

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