



**GRACIOUS VOLUNTEERS...** Last year's Pedals for Progress volunteers, seated from left to right, are: Cynthia Cuzzo and Jane Sentivan Standing, from left to right, are: Bill Henderson, Warren Rorden, Byron Miller, Frank Sahaj, Ray Luck Jim Hely and Bill Foley.

## WF Rotary Club Holds Annual Re-Cycling Drive

WESTFIELD - Westfield Rotary Club volunteers will accept donations of used, adult and children's bicycles and sewing machines at the Board of Education administration building located on 302 Elm Street on Saturday, October 5 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Rotary's sixth annual bike recycling drive is being done in partnership with Pedals for Progress. The charitable group, based in High Bridge, New Jersey, was awarded the Shell International Sustainable Development Award this year by England's Royal Geographical Society.



**CARING CUT...** Jill Pate, a fifth grader at Washington School in Westfield, donated her hair to "Locks of Love" which provides wigs to children with cancer and alopecia. For anyone interested in contributing hair, log on to [www.locksoflove.com](http://www.locksoflove.com). There is a 10-inch minimum requirement.

Bicycles must be assembled and in good or "repairable" condition. For each bike, a donation of \$10 will be sought to help pay for the high cost of shipping the bikes to non-profit distributors in the developing world. All cash and goods donated are tax-deductible. A receipt will be available at the drop-off site.

Recycling American bikes for use by farmers, tradesmen, mothers and other working adults in poor countries produces immediate gains in employment and economic self-sufficiency for the families.

Rotarian, Warren Rorden, is managing Westfield's used-bike collection, for the sixth consecutive year. Westfield's Rotary Club is one of 11 in New Jersey that sponsor a bike collection site and shipping container in partnership with Pedals for Progress. To learn more about Pedals for Progress, visit the organization on the web at [www.p4p.org](http://www.p4p.org).

Former Peace Corps volunteer David Schweidenback founded the non-profit group in 1991. He now leads hundreds of volunteers who run bike collections and container-loading parties with 111 community partners in nine states, from North Carolina to Vermont.

During 2001, Pedals for Progress donated 9,174 bicycles, 223 computers, 58 sewing machines and approximately \$400,000 in parts and accessories to 10 non-profit agency partners in eight developing countries. Upon arrival, bikes are reconditioned by local, non-profit agencies and distributed at low cost to poor working adults. The total of donated goods shipped since 1991 is now 50,460 bicycles, 592 computers, 150 sewing machines and \$8 million in bike parts.

## 600 Pounds of Tomatoes Given to Food Banks

MOUNTAINSIDE—Rutgers Master Gardeners of Union County harvested more than 600 pounds of tomatoes this summer and gave them to local food banks. The Master Gardeners grow vegetables in a one-acre "Sharing Garden" in the Watchung Reservation.

In addition to tomatoes, they grew and donated 100 pounds of peppers, 125 pounds of cucumbers, plus beans, lettuce, spinach and Swiss chard.

The Master Gardeners are volunteers and worked since the spring - planting, mulching, watering, weeding and harvesting. Larry Verdicchio of Sterling manages the greenhouse and oversaw the Sharing Garden this summer. Norma Cohen of Berkeley Heights, Cathy McKernan of Clark, Rosemary Shire of Cranford, Ellen Waksman of Westfield, and Penny Warrington of Cranford, all 2002 graduates of Rutgers Master Gardener program, tended the garden over the summer.

Though bountiful, this year's harvest was somewhat diminished by a resident groundhog who has been most appreciative of the gardeners' efforts. He or she gobbled up spring greens and gorged on Swiss chard. He'll be on a new diet after the groundhog-proof fence is installed.

In a thank you letter from a Food Bank, the person receiving the food said, "I made a salad, and it was the best. My mom taught me how to cook beans, but they never tasted so good. It's a lucky day when I have fresh vegetables."

So far this season, the Master Gardeners have provided fresh vegetables to seven agencies in Union County. Heidi Greiss of Union and Toby Ganz of Westfield handle distribution of the food to the agencies.

For more information about the Rutgers Master Gardener of Union County program, call (908) 654-9854. For information about plants and pests, call the Master Gardener help-line at (908) 654-9852.



**SUPPORTING DOUG FORRESTER...** Senator Richard Bagger recently hosted his annual campaign brunch at L'Affaire Restaurant in Mountainside. Pictured, left to right, are: Senate candidate Douglas Forrester, Senator Richard H. Bagger (D-21), Assemblyman Thomas H. Kean, Jr. (D-21) of Westfield and Dr. Eric Munoz of Summit.

## SP GOP Comments on Conservation Initiatives

SCOTCH PLAINS — Republican Township Council candidates Frank Rossi, Carolyn Sorge, and Nancy Malool recently offered comments on efforts to preserve open spaces in Scotch Plains.

Deputy Mayor Rossi stated, "I think our residents ought to take pride in the fact that they were the first in Union County to adopt a Municipal Open Space Trust Fund by referendum in 1999. The referendum sets aside almost \$200,000 per year over a ten-year period to be used for preserving open spaces, and it is my pleasure to report that the money is being put to good use as we are developing new ball fields. It is a win-win situation to keep these lands from residential and commercial development while at the same time provide much needed recreational space for the youth of the community."

"While it is great to follow through on the promise of additional ball fields, it is also important to maintain open spaces in their natural condition," stated Ms. Sorge. "This initiative started with Mayor Marks as he introduced the concept of the Conservation Zone or C-Zone to the Township Council in 2000. Township owned parcels of land on Hunter and Morse Avenues have been designated for the C-Zone in both 2000 and 2001, and the largest parcel of land to date on Westfield Avenue will soon also be earmarked for preservation. The important concept to remember is that no development whatsoever can take place in a Conservation Zone, and it sends a clear message that we are serious about keeping as many of our remaining open spaces in their natural condition as realistically possible," Ms. Sorge continued.

"It is my hope that we will continue

to add lands to our Conservation-Zone inventory in the years to come," commented Councilwoman Malool. "Right now our Environmental Commission, with the aide of a State grant, is conducting an open spaces inventory. This will clearly identify our remaining open lands. Once the inventory is complete, it can be added to the Township's Master Plan as its Conservation Element. From there we can continue to designate additional Conservation Zones. We can also look to purchase privately owned lands with the Open Space Trust fund dollars that Deputy Mayor Rossi talked about. Preserving open spaces is an important quality of life issue for our citizens that should continue to be a priority for our local government," Ms. Malool concluded.

## NJDOT Contracts A Billion Dollars

TRENTON — There are roughly 100 Department of Transportation projects under contract worth a billion dollars. Since January, 71 contracts worth \$325 million were awarded and another \$235 million in work by years end will be let. This is an increase of 42 percent over last year. The DOT is fast-tracking \$300 million in engineering and right-of-way work to move critical projects.

The DOT's capital budget is \$2.5 billion, but even with this massive investment, New Jersey will face at least a \$2.5 billion deficit to fix bridges throughout the state over the next five years. The DOT's mass transit system, its vulnerabilities and deficiencies highlighted by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in Manhattan, requires hundreds of millions of dollars in new equipment.



**DEMOCRATS UNITE...** Scotch Plains Democrats gathered at the home of George and Jane Gowen for a reception on September 4 highlighting the democratic candidates for council. Pictured, left to right, are: Council candidate George Gowen, Assemblywomen Linda Stender, Councilwoman Geri Samuel, Council candidate Shelia Ellington and Democratic Municipal Chair Kenneth Lipstein.

## Fanwood Democrats Announce Fundraiser

FANWOOD—The Fanwood Democratic Committee will hold a fundraising "Brunch with the Candidates" in support of council candidates Tom Plante, Jack Molenaar and Donna Dolce on Sunday, September 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at B.G. Fields Restaurant located on 560 Springfield Avenue in Westfield. The suggested donation is \$35 per person.

After the brunch, the democratic candidates will participate in Fanny

Wood Day activities and greet their neighbors in downtown Fanwood throughout the afternoon. Voter registration forms and absentee ballot information will be available at the table hosted by Fanwood democrats.

For more information about the election, please call Bill Populus at (908) 789-7577, e-mail [fannywooddems@netscape.net](mailto:fannywooddems@netscape.net) or write to the committee, P.O. Box 163, Fanwood, N.J. 07023.

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