

## Increased Parking Enforcement Generates Revenue for Westfield

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

According to Westfield Police Chief Bernard Tracy, parking is a valuable asset of the town that was being poorly managed prior to the creation of the parking department last year. "Everything is not being done to facilitate a deck," Chief Tracy told *The Westfield Leader*.

The department oversees enforcement, collection, maintenance, minor repairs, reporting and permit sales. "Proper enforcement is so important," the chief said. "The over-sale of permits can't be done until you get the violators out." He added that only then could the real number of parkers be determined.

While Parking Director John Morgan provided updated parking numbers for *The Leader*, he said that all requests for parking information must now go through Town Administrator James Gildea's office.

In employee parking lot 9 at the corner of North and Central Avenues there are 189 spaces and there are 211 permits sold. In South Avenue commuter lot 3 there are 460 spaces, with 648 permits sold.

In lot 6 on Watterson Street there are 104 spaces and 135 permits sold. In employee lot 8 on Elm Street there are 85 spaces and 101 permits.

In 2001, coin collection totaled \$539,480.17, which was up to \$624,816.93 in 2003. Also in 2001, 18,000 tickets were written, totaling \$100,000. In 2003, there were 28,000 tickets written which brought in \$240,000.

According to Parking Director Morgan there are 58 more permits than there were two years ago, and that will increase to approximately 100 by the end of the year.

Chief Tracy said that the public has the "wrong perception about what we've done" and that the way parking was managed was costing taxpayers money.

He said that collection was only being done once a week and that full meters would stop accepting money, allowing people to park for free. He also pointed out that when meters would break they would be out of service for weeks, but are now either fixed or replaced in the same day.

Parking Director Morgan and Chief Tracy said that previous parking enforcement personnel were not doing their jobs. They said that some of them made arrangements with postal employees and member of the Westfield Service League that they would not be ticketed, but did not have to feed the meters.

"We're trying to make (parking) more user friendly," Chief Tracy said.

He added that while meter feeding is a big problem downtown, they don't currently have enough personnel to enforce properly.

He said that while the proposed parking deck has nothing to do with current enforcement and manage-

ment, a deck would satisfy the parking shortfall. He said it would also provide the town with greater revenue.

There is "no greater need that I see" than parking, said Chief Tracy, adding that Westfield is a vibrant and growing town, and in the past few years while Westfield has changed

and grown, no additional parking was added. He said the current "perception is coming from a few negative people."

The chief said that he is trying to bring professionalism to parking with trained, uniformed personnel. He said that parking is probably the second

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## CONTACT's 5k Run Deemed Huge Success

By FRED K. LECOMTE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Despite heavy downpours earlier in the day, rays of sun followed approximately 300 runners from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and as far away as California who attended CONTACT We Care's Ninth Annual 5k run competition at LaGrande Park in Fanwood on Saturday.

Sanctioned by the U.S. Track and Field, the run included a kid's sprint and invitational wheelchair Race sponsored by Children's Specialized Hospital. CONTACT We Care, a non-profit crisis intervention group offers confidential assistance in prevention and counseling to individuals in Westfield and throughout Union County.

According to David Owens, it's executive director, "This is our major fundraiser for the year. It gets our volunteers out doing something different than their main work with the

unteers listen and provides recommendations to other suitable outlets to allow people the opportunity to express their stressful situations."

"These monies insure that our phone lines remain open and insure that we have the appropriate equipment and technology available for providing referrals to the many people that call," said Mr. Owens. "Additionally, our volunteers require a setting of comfort when they are working the hotlines. They must have current information at their fingertips to assist in counseling and providing comfort to the many who call. Individuals depend on the services of CONTACT We Care relating to their crisis."

Affiliated with CONTACT USA Network and the Kristen Brooks Hopeline Network, a suicide prevention network, (1-800-Suicide) CONTACT offers help in seeking professional assistance.



Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader  
RUNNING FOR A CAUSE... Approximately 300 runners await the start of the CONTACT We Care Ninth Annual 5k competition in Fanwood. The major fundraiser manned by volunteers nets approximately \$15,000, which helps keep the hotline (1-800-Suicide) open for crisis intervention, according to David Owens, Executive Director.

organization. This brings enjoyment to them. It is a social event that allows them to participate and communicate with the kids and interact with the runners as well. The event nets approximately \$15,000, which helps keep the hotline open for crisis intervention. The hotline manned by vol-

unters participating in the kid's ages two to 11 sprint groups received ribbons and goody bags filled with Mickey and Minnie Mouse dolls from Kellogg and banks from Commerce Bank. They then feasted on snacks and drinks.

The 5K runners took their position

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## Morin Looks to Unite County Republicans; Calls on DEMs to Return Kushner Donations

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Union County Republican Chairman Phil Morin is working with county Republicans to organize an Urban GOP task force so that specific issues can be discussed about towns throughout the county rather than basing issues on a broad 21-town strategy.

Mr. Morin said he is trying to focus on what is important to the constituencies.

"Union County is very diverse and it is important to understand the challenges facing elected officials," he said.

In Union County, there are approximately 40,000 registered Republicans versus 80,000 registered Democrats, with 130,000 unaffiliated voters.

He said that a gubernatorial primary in 2005 could push people to become registered Republicans.

"I look toward building the party for the future," he said.

Though Mr. Morin may appear young and a little green for his posi-

tion, he's getting help from his mentor, former Congressman Bob Franks. He's also working with Congressman Mike Ferguson to help with local campaigns. Mr. Morin served as Mayor of Cranford and Chairman of the Cranford Republican Party.

He said that this November brings key races in Scotch Plains and

Fanwood.

He is looking to keep Mayor Martin Marks and Councilwoman Paulette Coronato in place because they have "done tremendous job in Scotch Plains."

He said that while both Joel Stroz and Maureen Mawby from Fanwood are both newcomers, they are "solid"

## 歴史教育で暗闘 ●「建国の父たち」復活へ



Horse Corbin for The Westfield Leader  
LOOKING FOR A TRANSLATION... Bill Sanders of Mountainside shows his copy of a Japanese newspaper last week to *The Westfield Leader*. In June, he reached an international audience with an article about his patriotic project to place portraits of George Washington back into the classrooms of this country. *The Yomiuri Shimbun* is Japan's largest newspaper organization.

## Mountainside Republican Chairman Bill Sanders Weighs In on Issues

By HORACE R. CORBIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

For Bill Sanders, who is chair of the Mountainside Republican Club, the political problems in New Jersey and much of the nation are the result of an uneducated electorate; people are uneducated and less people are voting.

In an interview with *The Westfield Leader*, he said, "I must blame the media and the public education system for much of it. The press has their own agenda, ignores the issues and journalists don't report the facts. They've lost track of their professionalism." Mr. Sanders added, "Maybe they're afraid of their editors or publishers - or perhaps they just want to be the star and be the story."

"Those in charge now of the education system are ultra-left and have been trying to rewrite history and change curriculum in defiance of the facts," he said.

"The awful Governor McGreevey situation is a perfect example. He should leave immediately and the citizenry should be on the phone incessantly until he does; People should pick up the phone and burn the wires - call their elected officials and the media to put the pressure on for the governor to immediately step down," said Mr. Sanders. "His [the governor's] 'gayness' is not the issue. It's that he's been corrupt for a long

time and everyone has known it. It's been mentioned in the press, then dropped. The media keeps giving him a 'pass.' It goes back to the days when McGreevey became mayor of Woodbridge. Senator Ray Lesniak's law firm was selected as the town's attorney and the legal fees ballooned out of control, in my opinion - bilking the taxpayers," said Mr. Sanders.

"Now, on and on, the governor's associates and contributors are being indicted and resigning, I'm sure more is to come - yet the media continues to accept their carefully crafted answers," he said.

"Given your views on these matters," asked *The Leader*, "What are you doing about it?"

"For a few years now as you reported in the past, I've been working to promote the importance of character and sacrifice necessary for our leaders. Within the education system, I'm pushing for the reinstatement of portraits of George Washington in the classroom as a reminder to teach this to our children - that George Washington is called the 'Father of Our Country' because of the greatness of his character, strength and sacrifice," said Mr. Sanders.

"The education system has removed the portraits of our great founding fathers from the schools. The State Boards of Education and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) have fought bitterly against me. In 2001-2002, they even tried to remove mention of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, pilgrims and the word 'war' from the history books used to educate our children. Fortunately, although they work shrewdly in the background, the press picked up on this and it has been temporarily stopped. But, can you believe, there is more in the classroom history books of today about Marilyn Monroe than about George Washington?"

"Are you making any progress?"

asked *The Leader*.

"Fortunately, yes; although the progress is slower than I'd hoped and the task is enormous. I now have national attention, have been interviewed on radio shows, been written about in *U.S. Today* newspaper, been on regional TV and on national Fox News. In several states, I have been successful in getting portraits of George Washington back into some classrooms with the growing help from several national figures," said Mr. Sanders. "In June, we made international news by an interview and with an article in Japan's largest newspaper organization, *The Yomiuri Shimbun*."

"New York Bureau Chief for the newspaper, Hiroko Kono visited with me in my home in Mountainside. Her American born reporter, John O'Connor, to assist in developing the story, accompanied her. As I discussed how the education system is attempting to rewrite history and remove our founding fathers from the records, she kept shaking her head in disbelief."

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## Officer Perrotta To Supervise Parking Staff

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Town Administrator James Gildea told *The Westfield Leader* that as early as next week Police Officer Lisa Perrotta will become the supervisor for the five parking enforcement officers.

While Parking Director John Morgan will continue in his position, Mr. Gildea said that this change will give him more time to do "technical work" and free him from day to day operations.

## Westfield Town Council Committees Ready Busy Fall Filled With Projects

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

While the Westfield Town Council prepares to reconvene in September after their summer vacation, the four committees are gearing up to finish out the year with their list of projects.

First Ward Councilman Peter Echausse, Chairman of the Finance and Policy Committee, said that, "the most important thing in lieu of the upcoming referendum is the full dis-

closure of the financials so that all the citizens questions can be answered."

He said it is of the utmost importance to him that the citizens are informed as to the costs of the parking deck. He said that the residents need to know if the "cost match(es) up to the benefit."

While most of the work of the finance committee is done during the first half of the year in preparing the budget, they are working on a long-range capital expenditure plan.

Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee Chairman, Second Ward Councilman Rafael Betancourt said that his committee is currently in the process of selecting

residents for the Citizens Traffic Advisory group that the council recently agreed to form.

In addition to that, his committee is reviewing proposals for traffic calming and safety improvements for eight areas around town. The first four areas being looked at are McKinley Elementary School, Woodland Avenue, Franklin Elementary School and the intersection of Clover and Central Avenues. The second four areas are Ayliffe Avenue, the intersections of Lawrence and Dudley Avenues, Lawrence and Walnut Avenues, and North Avenue and Tuttle Parkway.

The committee is reviewing price

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Benjamin B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader  
BIG SMILES... Congressman Mike Ferguson stopped in at the Fanwood Children's Specialized Hospital to give a check for \$100,000 to provide funding for construction as the hospital expands.

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## 'Fanwood' Among New Titles in Book Series

By SUZETTE F. STALKER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

FANWOOD -- With a rich history and pivotal ties to the surrounding area since the 19th century, the Borough of Fanwood recently joined the ranks of Jersey towns to be profiled in the Images of America series from Arcadia Publishing.

A softcover volume compiled by the Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission, "Fanwood" contains 128 pages of text and about 200 photographs celebrating the people, places and events that shaped the community since the area was first settled in 1760.

Spanning just 1.3 square miles, Fanwood was incorporated as a borough in 1895, having formerly been part of the larger Fanwood Township. The area that was Fanwood Township is today home to the borough and the Township of Scotch Plains.

Pages of pictures recall the key role rail travel played in the establishment and evolution of the new community, following the Central Railroad of New Jersey's creation in 1874 of the train depot at North and Martine Avenues.

While the familiar Victorian Gothic station building eventually became a community center, the station itself remains central to Fanwood's identity and a vital link with other communities in the area.

"Fanwood" also offers images from bygone eras of local schools, churches and businesses, class photographs and club activities, and residents enjoying such timeless fare as an Easter egg hunt and ice skating.

Vintage snapshots additionally recall the borough's original library and post office buildings, along with the rural beginnings of what today are busy thoroughfares. Many historic homes are featured as well, along with cherished landmarks like the Carriage House, the Homestead Hotel and the once mighty Fanwood Oak.

The book pays homage to "Fanwood" mayors and many others whose lives left an indelible mark on the borough's political, economic, religious, social, cultural and academic histories. It also acknowledges the spirit of volunteerism that has been part of the fabric of the community throughout its history.

An entire chapter, entitled "The Guardian Angels," salutes those individuals who have protected Fanwood's citizenry for more than a century as members of its police and fire departments and its rescue squad.

There are photographs of the original Fanwood Fire Company and its hand-drawn hose cart; charter members of the borough's rescue squad and its first ambulance, and local police officers on the job, among many other images saved for posterity.

Finally, "Fanwood" offers a look back at local celebrations and customs over the years -- from a Depression era minstrel show to traditional Memorial Day parades to performances by the now-defunct Philathalians theatrical troupe.

The idea for the new "Fanwood" book originated with Fanwood Historic Preservation Commissioner Carol Oakes, who believed the time was right for a new publication about the borough.

While the Images of America titles also include one from 1995 entitled "Scotch Plains and

Fanwood," Mrs. Oakes said she felt the earlier book dealt mostly with Scotch Plains history.

Much of the information and half the photographs in the new publication had previously appeared in a 1990 book marking the Fanwood Fire Department's centennial. The printer of that book subsequently moved, however, and new copies could no longer be printed, according to Mrs. Oakes.

She noted a book she had seen about her son-in-law's hometown in Great Britain also served as a "little piece of inspiration" for the "Fanwood" project.

She said she contacted Arcadia Publishing, which informed her it would not cost the commission anything to prepare the book, adding that Arcadia handled publishing, printing and marketing aspects. After filling out a book proposal form last fall, Mrs. Oakes received the green light from Arcadia to get underway.

Over the next 10 months, she said, she and Commission Vice Chairman Joseph Nagy organized the book's nine chapters and selected appropriate photographs and information. Work on the book was completed at the beginning of May.

Retired Fanwood Police Officer Howard Drewes, one of the authors of the earlier book about the fire department, still had the photographs from that project, which were scanned by Mr. Nagy to be incorporated into the new publication.

As they prepared the book, Mrs. Oakes and Mr. Nagy gathered information from the owners of historic homes, and acquired additional photographs from private collections and the commission's archives at the Fanwood Memorial Library. Material was also obtained from the archives of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church.

According to Mrs. Oakes, commissioner Barbara Cox, who grew up in Fanwood, also contributed much to the effort through her "keen eye" for identifying people and places in photographs, as well as her skills at writing and proof-reading.

As the project progressed, Mrs. Oakes said fellow commission members also provided input and advice, in what she described as "a real team effort." More than 40 people and organizations are mentioned on the book's acknowledgement page for their contributions and support.

"I think they compiled a wonderful pictorial history of Fanwood, which I think people in Fanwood would like to keep as a remembrance, whether they stay in Fanwood or leave," Historic Preservation Commission Chairwoman Dolores O'Brien remarked of her colleagues' efforts.

She noted that copies of the \$19.99 book will be available for sale at this year's Fanny Wood Day celebration on Sunday, October 3.

Copies of "Fanwood" may also be purchased at area bookstores, independent retailers, online bookstores or through Arcadia Publishing. Arcadia may be reached at (888) 313-2665 or through www.arcadiapublishing.com.

Mrs. Oakes commented that she and the others involved in the project were "very pleased" with the results, and said she hopes another book will eventually be written about the community. "Even in a borough as small as Fanwood, there's a lot of history and a lot of stories to be told," she said.

## Union County Will Bond To Purchase Arts Center

By MATT MARINO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

COUNTY -- With the passage of a bond ordinance on August 19, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will now begin the process leading to the eventual purchase of the Union County Arts Center in Rahway for approximately \$6.18 million.

The facility, located on Irving Street in downtown Rahway and housed in the historic Rahway Theatre, currently operates from September through May of each year. Due to the lack of air conditioning, no events can be scheduled during the summer months, which is when most people typically would be interested in attending shows or productions.

Once the purchase of the center is complete, however, the county is planning significant renovations to the facility -- including the addition of air conditioning. This will enable concerts, shows and other events to be scheduled year-round at the center, which both Union County and Rahway hope will attract more people to the facility.

The renovation of the arts center will also occur in conjunction with several other projects slated for Rahway, which is undergoing significant revitalization efforts. Such projects include a new hotel and a parking garage, both located in close proximity to the arts center.

Officials in Union County have high hopes for the arts center as the "crown jewel" of a renewed focus on arts programs within the county. They feel it can have a similar impact that the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) had in leading the city of Newark's

transformation.

Since NJPAC was erected, Newark has seen a minor league baseball team -- the Newark Bears -- take up residence, and there are now plans in place for a downtown arena, which will serve as the home of the New Jersey Devils as well as host concerts and other arts-related programs.

Bruce Paterson, one of the four Republican freeholder candidates this year, has voiced displeasure in the past regarding the purchase of the arts center. His criticism mainly involved the potential use of funds from the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation fund.

However, the ordinance made it clear that Union County would not use money from the Open Space fund to purchase the center, a point that Mr. Paterson sought to clarify.

"I would have to assume now that we do know that it's just going to be regular bonds and not coming from the open space fund," Mr. Paterson asked.

Freeholder Chairman Angel Estrada confirmed that the eventual sale of bonds would indeed fund the purchase of the center.

In addition to the arts center, this particular bond ordinance (and the corresponding eventual bond sales) will lead to funding for other future projects.

According to Joseph Bowe, Director of the Union County Treasurer, these additional projects will include improvements in the long-term care units at Rumlens Specialized Hospital, replacement of various bridges within Union County, road resurfacing and improvements, and various traffic signal improvements.

## Phil Morin Seeks to Unite Union County Republicans

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Michael Brennan.

Mr. Morin said that since Mountainside Republican candidates are not being challenged, it shows the quality of government.

While the Republicans have not held a seat on the Freeholder Board since 1995, Mr. Morin said that, "any given year you have a chance of success. You never know what's going to happen," he said and pointed out Governor James McGreevey's surprise resignation.

He said that the candidates are out there working hard, and while Republicans have a voter and monetary disadvantage to Democrats in the county, the Republicans are pointing out the "patronism, nepotism and grotesque spending" that he feels resonates with people.

Candidate Patricia Quattrocchi has really impressed Mr. Morin with her research and familiarity with the issues, while, he noted, candidate Joe Rennu understands the "bizarre workings of county government."

Mr. Morin said that it "shows we have candidates out there working and tackling the issues."

He called upon the Union County Democrat Committee to return a total of \$170,650 in campaign contributions by Charles Kushner and his companies, Quail Ridge Associates and Highview Planning, and by Ronald Manzo and his company, RAM Insurance, made to the Union County Democrat Committee between 1998 and 2003.

Mr. Kushner pled guilty to 18 charges, including charges that he tampered with a witness in a federal

probe, filed false tax returns for several entities (including Quail Ridge in 2000), and violated campaign finance laws. Mr. Manzo pled guilty in June to five criminal counts stemming from illegal "insider" trading, which earned him over \$1 million.

"The Union Democrats should return this money, and any other donations linked to Mr. Kushner, and his companies, immediately," said Mr. Morin. "Mr. Kushner has been one of the biggest contributors to the Democrat party on the federal, state and local level for years. He and his companies have contributed to the campaigns of the Democrat National Committee (DNC), Senator Jon Corzine, Governor McGreevey, the New Jersey Democrat State Committee (DSC), and the Union County Democrat Committee. Even the DNC, Senator Corzine and the DSC have returned contributions from Mr. Kushner and his companies before Mr. Kushner pled guilty, while the Union County Democrats have stood mute on the sidelines, hoping not to be fingered."

"Mr. Manzo has contributed to the Democrats around the state and his company has won big contracts in Democrat-controlled counties. Even the Hudson County Democrat Organization, in a bitter primary battle last year, pointed out the distasteful pay-to-play practices of Manzo's company. I certainly hope that none of the Union Democrat candidates or party officials ever knew of Mr. Kushner's or Manzo's activities, and to show their disdain, they should return this money now," said Mr. Morin.

## Council Committees Ready Busy Fall Filled With Projects

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quotes for the first four, as well as all eight. After deciding how much of the project to move forward with, the committee will hold meetings with each of the neighborhoods to come up with plans.

James Foerst, Vice Chairman of the Code Review and Town Property Committee, said that the committee met with Town Planner Blaise Brancheau to work on the pilot study to control over development.

"Unfortunately, we can't just change town law," Councilman Foerst told *The Westfield Leader*.

He said that the town is forced to work within the state's municipal land use laws otherwise rulings can be challenged in court and overturned.

Councilman Foerst said that he is

not against development, but he would like to see construction that is "keeping with the character of the neighborhood."

While the pilot study is supposed to be complete by September, Councilman Foerst said that it could be as much as two years before new laws are in place.

The study is taking information from specific neighborhoods on current structures, and new laws could be applied to decrease the height and floor area ratio allowed in a specific neighborhood. This would stop "McMansions" from being built among smaller Cape Cod houses.

According to Committee Chairman Sal Caruana, the pilot study will be followed by a major study of the town.

"We have to figure out something to do on an interim basis, but I'm not sure what that's going to be," he told *The Leader*. "At this speed it's going to take months and months to get serious about doing something about this demolition."

Councilman Caruana also hopes that plans can be finalized for the Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial proposed for the grassy knoll next to Town Bank.

Town Administrator James Gildea said that the Public Works Committee, which is chaired by Third Ward Councilman Andrew Skibitsky, is working on the road project list for 2005. He said that the committee is looking to get a jump on the list so that the projects can go out for bid early in the year and be completed in a timely fashion.

The committee also recommended changes to the phone and message system at the Department of Public Works so that supervisors can see residents have been responded to, which have already been implemented.



PERFECT DAY...Last Sunday was a perfect day for both man and beast in the area as shown above by the contented cattle grazing lazily on property along Cushing Road in Scotch Plains.

## MS Republican Chairman Sanders Weighs In on Issues

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lief. My read on that is that the Japanese people and government, as a result of WWII, have been trying to model freedom of the press and truth in education after America's system -- something they didn't have much of prior to WWII," noted Mr. Sanders.

"To see these in America now in apparent reversion is totally confusing to her and the Japanese public."

Mr. Sanders noted, "I have a copy of the newspaper here and a cover letter from Kono. She wrote that she gave up trying to provide a translation for me, but that the headline reads 'Serious Conflict Under the Surface Regarding History Education -- Founding Fathers will be Returned.'"

When asked how he as a conservative differs from a liberal, he said that he believes conservatives support logical ideas; whereas liberals seem whimsical and are inclined to deal with "make believe." Being conservative doesn't mean one's locked into any one doctrine. For example, he says he supports stem cell research, but be-

lieves we must advance in a careful way. He noted that so does President Bush, as the first president to provide funding for it. But, the liberals keep saying he's holding back miracle cures. "You see, all this comes back to a job for the media and for education," he said.

By September 3, Bill Sanders hopes Governor McGreevey "does the right thing for the people of New Jersey by stepping down immediately." By that time too, he hopes the national TV ads by the candidates for president turn to the issues.

"When issues become the debate, Kerry will be crushed -- because he has no stand on any, just what he hopes the audience wants to hear at that moment," said Sanders.

When asked what he believes the important issues to be, Mr. Sanders said, "In the state, we need leaders of character, of integrity. I support Bret Schundler as a result. Nationally, the issues are security from terrorism, the economy and education."

## CONTACT's 5k Run Deemed Huge Success

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at the starting line, which began on Martine Avenue, wound through-out streets in the borough and ended at LaGrande Park.

Fanwood Council President Katherine Mitchell raised the megaphone, then announced "Runners, take your mark...get set...Go!"

Competing in the hometown race, several noted Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School cross country runners including alumnus Walter Biner, Adam Biner, Josh Zimmer and Mary Shashaty, winner of last years run.

"We use this race just as a fitness test going into the season to see what kind of shape they're in, how they have been responding to our summer training and to see where they stack up compared to last year," said head cross country coach Jeff Koegel. "Hopefully it's faster. If not, we'll look at things. We really discourage the kids from racing over the summer because we have so many races in the fall season and I don't want them to peak too early, but they can come out and win a trophy or medal."

Mary, who tightened up somewhat after two miles backed off the pace and crossed the finish line second in 19:47, improved her time by 33 seconds over last year.

"Road runs are a lot more fun just because the aura is really good and the atmosphere is really nice," said Mary. "In reference to the race, the girl (Kim Keenan-Kirkpatrick of Pittstown) who finished in front of me in a time of 19:34 and I went out pretty fast. Then, as the race went on, she made a move on me. I kind of knew she had it, but I just wanted to work off of her to get a good time. I'm just trying to get back in shape for the running season and go on to counties and sectionals; that's my main goal, so this was like a training run."

Walter Biner, who finished third overall and first place for Scotch Plains in a time of 16:46, added, "I've been training real hard over the summer and I just wanted to get a good workout today."

The top male finisher was Khalid Tihazov of Parsippany in a time of 16:11 and Josh Zinman of Fanwood finished sixth in 18:08.

Top female finisher was Kim Keenan-Kirkpatrick in 19:34. Allison Hoynes-O'Connor of Fanwood placed 5th - Rachel Barrett of Westfield, 7th - Lana Bencivengo of Fanwood, 8th - Laura Harrison of Scotch Plains, 9th. Top Male Masters Division finishers were: John Kane of Bridgewater, 1st place - Dave Bencivengo of Fanwood placed 8th. Top Female Masters division finishers were Jane Dora Reilly of Iselin, 1st - Cynthia Benn of Westfield, 3th - Joan Debiase of Fanwood, 5th - Donna Donaleski of Fanwood, 8th - Lisa Gentile, 9th and Anne Skudlark, 10th.

In attendance was long time Lighting Wheel member and Boston University student Jessica Galli

who attracted lots of attention at the event. Jessica who was the young-est athlete on the 2000 Paralympic team that competed in Australia will compete in the 100, 200, 400, 800, and 1500-meter track events for the United States in the 2004 Paralympians in Athens, Greece.

"I have been a member of Lighting since the age of seven, so I understand how excited our kids are about the race," said Jessica. "Now that I'm 20 years old, I'm just so happy to be here to support them and be their friend. I really enjoyed teaching them 'the tricks of the trade' with regard to road racing and helping them go through the course. This is a sport that is not very well known by many, but it's very similar to able-bodied road racing and track. We participate in the same type of events, except we do it on wheels and wear gloves. They are kind of a squared-off sneakers with its soul purpose is to pound the wheels, thus giving you more power and speed."

Children's Specialized Hospital Lighting Wheels Trisha Yurochko is the Marketing Coordinator and Head Coach. Trisha has been at the hospital for almost 25 years and involved with the team for 19 years. The order of finish for the wheelchair 3K race - Males: 1st place Wesley Cuevas of Jersey City in a time of 11:57 - 2nd Chris Arcell of Caldwell in a time of 13:58 - 3rd Daniel Wheeler of Shamong in a time of 16:07. Females: 1st place Emily Seelenfreund of West Orange in a time of 13:42 - 2nd place Chelsea Crytzer of Parsippany in a time of 13:43. Anyone interested in finding out more about the Lighting Wheels can contact Yurochko at (908) 301-5424.

At the completion of the event, participants enjoyed fruit from Gargiulo and Sons of Mountainside, bagels from Manhattan Bagel in Westfield, soft drinks from Pepsi Bottling in Piscataway and A & P of Fanwood supplied water. A trophy and ribbon award ceremony followed where Mr. Owens thanked the numerous sponsors, including a number of Fanwood merchants, Fanwood A&P who have been helpful this and previous years and particularly the entire Borough of Fanwood for its tremendous support.

Presenting the awards, CONTACT We Care Chairman of the Board Jeff Stirrat commented, "On behalf of the entire board of trustees we thank the hundreds of runners, volunteers and fans for coming out and lending their tremendous support. As you are aware, this is an outstanding agency that provides a great service not only to the immediate community, but also throughout the state. I wish to thank everyone especially thank Mark Zenovia, who's Company, On your Mark Productions, orchestrated this run. He did a tremendous job and we could not have done this without him," he said.

For more information on any of the CONTACT We Care programs or to volunteer, please call the office at (908) 301-1899.

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(908) 232-4407

## WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17

• A Knollwood Terrace resident reported the theft of his father's Trek 1200 blue bicycle, which had been secured at a bicycle rack at the northside Westfield train station.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18

• A *Westfield Leader* subscriber reported the unauthorized use of her credit card account information to make numerous purchases at several New Jersey stores.

MONDAY, AUGUST 23

• *Westfield Leader* subscriber two 13-year-olds and one 12-year-old, were brought in for questioning by police in connection with an incident of criminal mischief in which a paint can was tossed off a Central Avenue overpass and struck a motor vehicle below.

• There were no injuries as a result of the incident and no complaints had been filed at press time. The youngsters were released to the custody of their parents, according to police.

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## Parking

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

largest revenue after taxes.

"They've studied this (parking) to death," Chief Tracy said. "Commuters are a big part of Westfield, why shouldn't the town serve them?"

"There's a need for more parking in Westfield like there's a need for peace on earth," he said.

Chief Tracy noted that safety is the most important thing when it comes to crosswalks downtown. State law prohibits parking within 25 feet of a crosswalk, causing the removal of some illegal meters a few years ago. Meters were recently removed along North Avenue at the request of the Westfield Fire Department over traffic issues associated with the project at the South Avenue Circle.

In the future, Parking Director Morgan will be making recommendations to the town on ways to improve parking.