

Parade Committee Confirms Mr. Riker as Grand Marshal

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Memorial Day Parade Committee has announced that this year's parade Grand Marshal will be Alfred Riker of Westfield. Mr. Riker was named Grand Marshal last year, but the parade was cancelled due to inclement weather.

This year's parade will take place on Monday, May 31, with opening ceremonies to begin at 9 a.m. at the Monument to Veterans of World War I at the plaza at East Broad Street and North Avenue.

Riker graduated from Montclair High School in 1953 and enlisted in the United States Air Force the following year. Following basic training at Sampson Air Force Base, he spent nine months in radio school. He was stationed in France for 38 months, where he worked at a NATO base, and after leaving the service was employed at

an electronics factory. Riker later graduated from Montclair State Teachers' College with a degree in Industrial Arts. He was then employed as an industrial arts teacher by the Sayreville Board of Education.

Since retiring in 1966, Riker, together with his wife of 39 years, Betty, has devoted much time to the Boy Scouts. They have two children, David and Carrie, and an Australian cattle dog named Niabi "little fawn".

Riker received the Silver Beaver Award, the highest honor that a Boy Scout Council can confer upon an adult volunteer, and he continues to serve as Scout Master of Troop No. 73 in Westfield. He has also been active in the American Legion, where he has been Commander, Membership Chairman, Chaplain and Boys State Chairman.



Alfred Riker

Asm. Bramnick Introduces Bill to Promote the Arts

WESTFIELD – Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (R-21) has introduced Assembly Bill 2613, which would require school districts in the State of New Jersey to give equal weight to art

and art-related courses when determining a student's grade point average. Advanced placement courses are exempt from this requirement.

"A solid foundation in the arts is as equally important to a student's intellectual and emotional development as a foundation in the social and natural sciences," said Bramnick. "An ambitious student should not be discouraged from participating in an art, music, theater or other arts-related course simply because that course will not be calculated as significantly towards grade point average."

Bramnick has been able to enlist strong bi-partisan support for Assembly Bill 2613. Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan (D-18), vice-chairman of the Assembly Education Committee, has agreed to co-sponsor this legislation.

"Support for the arts is not a partisan issue," he said. "This legislation will increase access to arts and arts education for all of New Jersey's students."

"The citizens of New Jersey are fortunate to live in a state with a rich cultural and artistic landscape," he remarked. "Our state has produced some of the finest artists, musicians, actors, actresses and authors in the nation. Our public school systems should reflect this tradition and encourage the artistic development of our children."

Steve Brozak to Speak at MS DEM Club Mtg.

MOUNTAINSIDE – Steve Brozak of Westfield, the Seventh-District Democratic candidate for Congress from this area, will be in Mountaintown on Tuesday, June 1 to discuss with voters his positions on local and national issues.

All residents are invited to meet and question the candidate beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Marriott Brighton Gardens, 1350 Route 22 (westbound).

Brozak was the subject of a front-page article in *The Wall Street Journal* on April 21. He is an investment banker specializing in bio-tech companies and a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine reserves who has served in Iraq.

The host for the gathering is the Mountaintown Democratic Club. A club business meeting to follow Brozak's remarks will include a discussion of how to participate in the national election campaign. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, please telephone Phyllis Brociner, club president, at (908) 273-1779.



Michael Pollack for The Westfield Leader and The Times

THE FORGOTTEN WAR NO MORE... Westfield High School student Kevin Devaney is building a Korean War Memorial at Memorial Plaza off of North Avenue for his Eagle Scout project. Volunteers are welcome to help out with the project on weekends. The memorial is scheduled to be dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11.

Fanwood Committee to Host Memorial Day Picnic in Park

FANWOOD – The Fanwood Memorial Day Committee will sponsor a picnic in LaGrande Park at the conclusion of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 31.

The parade will kick off at 10:30 a.m. at Park Avenue and Front Street in downtown Scotch Plains, travel along Park and Martine Avenues in Fanwood and conclude before noon at Martine and Marion Avenues in Fanwood.

Parade watchers and participants are welcome to attend the picnic

afterwards at the park, located at the corner of LaGrande Avenue and Second Street.

Memorial Day Committee members will serve hot dogs, soft drinks and pretzels near the recreation building at a minimal cost. Ice cream, gourmet coffee and sweets will also be available from the Double Dipper.

For more information about the picnic or to volunteer to help the Memorial Day Committee, please call Linda Caminiti at (908) 889-4935.

Free Maps to be Available For Scotch Plains Garage Sale

SCOTCH PLAINS – Maps will be available for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood town-wide Garage Sale, to be sponsored by the Scotch Plains Junior Woman's Club on Saturday, May 22. There is a rain date of Sunday, May 23. Residents of Scotch Plains and Fanwood hold their own garage sales from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and keep all profits.

For \$15, their address is listed on a map of participating homes and items for sale at each location. The club distributes the maps for free throughout both towns. Proceeds go to local charities.

Last year, nearly 200 homes participated, supporting local charities such as the Interfaith Council for the Homeless, Tiny Tim Fund,

Early Childhood Learning Centers, the Education and Enrichment Foundation of Scotch Plains and the Scotch Plains Public Library.

Scotch Plains Junior Woman's Club members will distribute the free maps tomorrow, Friday, May 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Scotch Plains at Nunzio's Pizza on Mountain Avenue and Palmer Video on Westfield Avenue, and in Fanwood at Quick Check on North Avenue.

On Saturday, May 22, maps will be available from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. in Fanwood at Quick Check on North Avenue, Fanwood Bagel and the Scotch Plains Library.

The maps will only be available at these times. Individuals are asked not to call these establishments. For more information, please call (908) 889-5153.

The Scotch Plains Junior Woman's Club is a nonprofit community service group. It is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

WHS Student to Build Korean War Memorial

By MICHAEL POLLACK
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Westfield High School sophomore Kevin Devaney is building a Korean War Memorial in Westfield, an effort that will help him earn the Boy Scout distinction of Eagle Scout.

Devaney, a member of Westfield Presbyterian Church Boy Scout Troop 72, is soliciting local businesses to help construct the memorial, which will sit across the street from the World War I and 9/11 Memorials at the intersection of East Broad Street and North Avenue by Lord and Taylor's. The town hopes to unveil the monument at a dedication ceremony on Veteran's Day.

The granite memorial, commemorating the lives of Westfield's Marine Private First Class Griswold Hill, Jr., Army Lieutenant Charles Lipphardt and Army Private First Class Richard Wilson, will stand six feet tall, three feet wide and one foot thick.

Craig Stock of Stock Landscaping Design of Westfield, who was instrumental in the design of the 9/11 memorial, is developing a garden setting for the Korean War monument to include Korean spice viburnum, Korean dogwoods and boxwoods and oriental fountain grass.

"I tried to find plants that had symbolic value to Korea or originated from there," Stock said. "Also, the plants will be low-maintenance and won't obscure the view into downtown and the other memorials."

"I knew about that land and asked Kevin about pursuing a memorial there," he added. "He's a great kid. He's well-organized and good to work for. For the town it was a no-brainer. The town's talked about a memorial for years; it just took someone to take the ball and run with it."

The monument will feature a cut-out of the Korean Peninsula splitting the memorial into two pieces. One half will have an inscription to the

Korean War veterans and the other side will feature the veterans' names. When standing behind the memorial, one will see the top of the World War I and 9/11 memorials and downtown Westfield.

Owner of Master Memorials Tim Doerr, who worked extensively on the 9/11 Memorial, took Devaney's plans and designed the granite structure.

"He's a bright young man, especially for his age," Doerr said. "He came here with the basic design for the monument and I just took his ideas and adapted them."

"When the area is fully landscaped it'll look nice. The plants are everything. It's going to be a nice tribute to the Korean War veterans," he added.

Often considered the "forgotten war" of the 20th century, Devaney sought to memorialize the service of Westfield's Korean War veterans and pay homage to the 37,000 Americans who died in Korea.

"There's a memorial for every other major 20th-century war," Devaney said. "Korea's had been skipped over. I thought the people who served from Westfield should be honored."

The process began on March 26 during Devaney's meeting with Stock. The difficult part, Devaney said, was finding the names of Westfield's servicemen. Aided by the Historical Society and old issues of *The Westfield Leader*, his plan began to materialize. Within days of his presentation at a Westfield council meeting, Town Administrator James Gildea approved the plan, and broken steps and shrubbery were removed from the hill where the monument will sit.

"He presented a plan that was well-received and very well-thought-out," Gildea said.

"I'm proud of Kevin," Gildea added. "He took existing town property, which could use work, and improved our own community through his Eagle Scout project. That's very commendable. Not everyone visits the area around Memorial Plaza. Now it's a destination. It's place where people can sit and reflect on the war and look at a nice framed section of downtown Westfield. Now people will be enticed to go there."

The Eagle Scout project is a large component of earning the distinction of "Eagle Scout," the highest rank in Boy Scouts. Devaney joined the Boy Scouts in 8th grade and considers community service a high priority.

"I think that part of the obligation of being a citizen is doing community service," Devaney said. "I joined Boy Scouts late and my friends were all ahead of me in rank. For me, being behind spurred me to work harder and catch up."

"Your high-school diploma is great until you get your college diploma," he added. "Being an Eagle Scout will always remain."

Scotch Plains Home Sales

Christopher and Pamela Savoca to Sandra Biniek, 2093 Grand Street, \$290,000.

Christopher and Pamela Savoca to Michael and Shirley Hayeck, 2085 Grand Street, \$340,000.

John and Kerrie Shepeluk to Irene Gonzales and James Colinders, 206 Hawthorne Street, \$289,000.

Michael and Doreen Coyle to Corey and Josette Sohmer, 2320 Lyde Place, \$389,000.

Donald Auriema to Jinjan Zheng and Wensheng Cai, 324 William Street, \$351,000.

Anthony and Catherine Lopilato to Thomas and Bred Kucin, 409 Acacia Road, \$492,000.

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Father's Day: June 20