



SCOTCH PLAINS HOPEFULS...Neal LeStrange, left, Kevin Glover, center, and Jeff Strauss, right, gather in preparation for the fall Democratic campaign. They are seeking election to the Scotch Plains Township Council.

LeStrange, Glover, Strauss Announce Campaign Events

SCOTCH PLAINS — Neal LeStrange, Kevin Glover and Jeff Strauss, the Democratic candidates for Scotch Plains Township Council, will host a series of community events to be held in the fall.

Mr. LeStrange, Mr. Glover and Mr. Strauss will be talking with residents at a barbecue to be held at Jerseyland Park on Saturday, September 9, from 1 to 4 p.m. This event is open to the public and is free of charge.

Scotch Plains residents can also meet the candidates over brunch on Sunday, September 17, at the home of Lou and Ann Beckerman at 3 Highlander Drive. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person.

A golf outing will be held on Monday, October 23, at the Scotch Hills Country Club. A combination of nine

holes of daylight golf and nine holes at night with glow-in-the-dark balls will be played. A meal will be served between the rounds. The cost is \$135 per golfer, and there are a limited number of openings still available.

Mr. LeStrange is a retired Scotch Plains police lieutenant. Mr. Glover's background is in facilities management, while Mr. Strauss is an attorney with local government experience.

"The candidates look forward to meeting [residents] at one of these events or during the campaign to discuss [residents] hopes and concerns for our township," a campaign spokesman said.

To learn more about these events, to request a lawn sign or to become involved with the LeStrange, Glover and Strauss campaign, call campaign headquarters at (908) 490-1900, or e-mail scotchplainsdem@aol.com.

Fanwood Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing by the end of the year. Mr. Slachetka said that the borough could have "a working TDR program with all elements in place" by early next year.

Mayor Mahr said she would like T&M Associates to schedule one additional informational meeting in town and one more council briefing prior to sending the TDR plan to the state for approval. She questioned whether the program would provide enough incentives for property owners to participate. "Will there be enough of a carrot?" the mayor asked.

Mayor Mahr asked for clarification on potential parking requirements

for newly developed properties in the receiving district. "I would hate to see some of our visions [for development] thwarted by parking restrictions," she said.

Mr. Slachetka said the parking issue "becomes a balancing act" and he said other TDR program question marks would be cleared up before the next mayor and council update.

In other business Tuesday night, the borough council discussed proposed plans to revise the local Halloween parade route. The idea is to keep parade participants from ending up on LaGrande Park ballfields.

The park's fields are being extensively reconstructed and, once the project is completed next month, the tender new fields will likely be fenced off and closed to all activities until next spring, officials said.

The mayor and council will explore the possibility of hosting the Halloween parade end in the nearby parking lot behind the stores along Martine Avenue. The mayor said plans would be made public once they're finalized.

SP-F BOE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ice time. The team has been in existence for two years.

"When we were told there was no money for any additional programming the freshman soccer team was funded. We have enormous community support," said Nancy Bauer, a member of the SPFHS ice hockey association.



David Samsky for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
NIGHT AT THE FAIR...The Italian Festival at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church in Scotch Plains drew local crowds over the Labor Day weekend.

New Traffic Signal in Westfield is Operational

By HORACE CORBIN

Specialty Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WESTFIELD—The new traffic light at the intersection of Central Avenue, East Broad Street and Mountain Avenue in Westfield is now operational.

The Westfield Police Department offers several reminders and cautions to the driving public.

Stopping in the lane of traffic in front of the Rialto Theatre to either let off or pick up pedestrians is prohibited, and those that do so will be ticketed. Stopping not only causes traffic congestion but also puts other pedestrians in the area at an increased

risk. Pedestrians can be dropped off behind the Rialto or down on Elmer Street, where traffic is light.

The police department expects to fine-tune the light timing as necessary. Police Chief John Parizeau has noted that it will take time but it will be done as promptly as possible.

A traffic officer will be at the post for some time to aid in pedestrian safety and to observe traffic conditions.

For more information, contact the Westfield Police Department, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, N.J. 07090; call (908) 789-4000; e-mail police@wpdnj.org.

John's Meat Market Garners NJ Family Business Award

SCOTCH PLAINS — John's Meat Market of Scotch Plains is one of 16 family-owned businesses that will share the spotlight at the 14th annual New Jersey Family Business of the Year Awards presentation, which will take place during a luncheon on Tuesday, October 3 at the Crystal Plaza Caterers in Livingston.

Finalists and semifinalists in each category — those companies with annual revenues up to \$10 million and those with more than \$10 million — will be honored during the ceremony. The winners, selected from among the finalists, will be revealed at the luncheon.

The Rothman Institute of Entrepreneurial Studies at Fairleigh Dickinson University, PNC Bank and *New Jersey Monthly* magazine sponsor the awards program as, the only statewide effort to specifically honor family-owned companies for their role in the economy and contributions to the community.

Co-sponsors of the program this year include: Camares Communications, Crystal Plaza Caterers, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, PSE&G and Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti, LLP.

Companies that will be honored are: More than \$10 million category: Champion Container Corporation of Avenel; Cinelli Iron and Metal Com-

pany of Hackensack; Eastman Companies of Livingston; J.S. Hovnanian & Sons of Mt. Laurel; Knowles Restaurants of West Orange; Remington & Vernick Engineers of Haddonfield; Terra Momo Restaurant Group of Princeton and Viking Yacht Company of New Gretna.

Up to \$10 million category: Cooper Pest Solutions, Inc. of Lawrenceville; Economy Supply Company of Harrison; Library Automation Technology of Somerdale; NAI Hanson of Hackensack; The Mart of Middletown; Rainbow Academy Child Care Centers of Edison and John's Meat Market of Scotch Plains.

John's Meat Market is a third-generation family business that opened its doors in 1939. Still at the same location 67 years later, the business, owned by the Losavio family, offers USDA prime meat and organic poultry.

Community service is "a priority" at John's, which has been a supporter of the Scotch Plains community for many years. To recognize that service, the township's government named a street after the company founder, John Losavio, this past spring.

For more information, please call Kim Dennison of the Rothman Institute at (973) 443-8880.

State Shutdown, Auction Highlight Newsy Summer

By PAUL J. PEYTON

Specialty Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

Area residents returning from vacations missed a busy newsy summer locally and statewide. Here is a summary:

July

The July Fourth weekend was absent of New Jersey Lottery ticket sales, and on July 5, Atlantic City casinos and state parks closed, as state government shut down for a week over a budget stalemate between Governor Jon Corzine and Assembly Democrats.

In the end, a \$30.9-billion budget with a 10-percent increase in spending was passed, including an increase of the state sales tax from 6 to 7 percent. Assembly Democrats opposed Governor Corzine's sales tax increase but agreed to a compromise to put revenue generated by the sales tax increase toward property tax relief.

The Chemidlin family in Scotch Plains received good news with the release of Michael Chemidlin from Sierra Leone. The missionary and former National Guard staff sergeant was arrested on April 29 for conspiracy while taking pictures of the United Nations court complex, which was holding former Liberian President Charles Taylor. Mr. Chemidlin and multiple nationals were charged with trying to free Taylor, who was being held for war crimes during the country's civil war.

Westfield Police Officer Gregory Kasko was suspended with pay pending a third disciplinary hearing on department charges of lying during a department disciplinary hearing and the internal affairs investigation that preceded the hearing. The officer had been suspended without pay for sleeping on the job and failing to back up a fellow officer at a motor vehicle stop and for "arrogant and disrespectful behavior" against Town Administrator Jim Gildea and publicly criticizing actions of former Police Chief Bernard Tracy.

The Westfield Town Council hired Judith Thornton as the town's first town planner. She replaces planning consultant Blaise Brancheau, who is expected to leave at the end of the year. Ms. Thornton held a similar position in Cedar Grove.

August

The Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) board deadlocked 5-5 in a vote to decide if the RVSA should proceed with a proposal to turn over operations of its facilities to a private company. Later in August, the board proceeded with a vote to add a new position to assist RVSA's executive director. East Rutherford Mayor James Cassella, a Republican, was approved at a salary of \$75,000.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education named Margaret Hayes as the new superintendent of schools. She replaces Carol Choye, who has retired after 13 years with the district. Ms. Hayes previously was Scotch Plains-Fanwood assistant superintendent for curriculum, instruction and assessment.

A citizens' advisory panel to Union

County Board of Chosen Freeholders presented plans for soccer fields, a picnic area, gardens, playground area, a possible water feature, a walking/jogging path and the refurbishment of the former Sevell family home into a senior education center at the county-owned Ponderosa Farm property on Cooper Road in Scotch Plains. Plans for a children's farm were dropped after residents opposed the plan.

Westfield was the stage for filming of a Christmas season movie featuring Queen Latifah called *Perfect Christmas*. The crew shot scenes in downtown locations including Elm Street and Central Avenue.

State Attorney General Zulima Farber resigned after a report by retired judge and Deputy Attorney General Richard Williams found she had violated the state ethics code when she went to the motor vehicle stop of her boyfriend, Hamlet Goore, who, police said, was driving with an expired driver's registration and suspended driver's license.

Governor Corzine has appointed his chief counsel, Stuart Rabner, to replace Ms. Farber. The state senate must confirm Mr. Rabner before he can take office. First Assistant Attorney General Anne Milgram is serving as acting attorney general.

The Motor Vehicles Commission initiated an investigation into whether any of its employees violated procedures in assisting Mr. Goore. Mr. Williams' report found that Angel Estrada, a Union County freeholder, helped Mr. Goore get his driving privileges reinstated by calling the court's suspension unit. Mr. Goore's license was activated during that phone call, an hour before Mr. Goore paid the \$137 reinstatement fee at the Elizabeth DMV office, which Mr. Estrada manages.

A state superior court judge temporarily halted the sale of three 2004 luxury cars to sheriff's officer Christopher Coon, the stepson of long-time Sheriff Ralph Froehlich, for \$300 following an auction conducted by the sheriff's department on August 15 at Sevell's Auto Body Shop in Westfield. Hillside Auto Center has claimed the sale was "a sham" when a third bidder opted not to purchase the vehicles and the \$110,600 bid of Raj Srivastava, Hillside Auto's owner, was disallowed because he did not have a certified check with him at the scene as required by auction rules, according to court records.

Mr. Coon filed suit against Hillside following his July 2004 purchase of a Mercedes Benz E-500 for \$49,500 when he found out the car had a defective radio, which was not reported. State Superior Court Judge John Malone ruled that Hillside was in violation of the Consumer Fraud Act and later issued a judgment of \$142,500 against the dealership, which led to seizure of the additional autos at Hillside's Route 22 dealership to satisfy the judgment.

A hearing on a "show cause" order by Hillside Auto is scheduled for tomorrow morning before Judge Malone.



LET THERE BE LIGHT...As seen from above in the office at the Rialto Theatre, workers ready the new traffic light last Thursday in Westfield at the convergence of East Broad Street, Mountain Avenue and Central Avenue.



POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Monday, August 28, Erika Fiallos-Acosta, 23, of North Plainfield was arrested at South Avenue and Boulevard and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). She was released to a responsible individual.

Monday, August 28, Thomas Ralston, 55, of Westfield was arrested in the 600 block of Ripley Place on an outstanding \$500 Garwood motor vehicle warrant. He was released after posting bail.

Tuesday, August 29, Anatoly Oshust, 18, of Cranford and Christine Malczanek, 19, of Scotch Plains were arrested during a motor vehicle stop at North Avenue and Clark Street and charged with possession of a suspected controlled dangerous substance, believed to be ketamine; possession of hypodermic needles; underage possession of alcohol and unlawful possession of fireworks. Both suspects were released on their own recognizance.

Tuesday, August 29, a resident of the 900 block of Prospect Street reported a burglary at his home in which an undetermined amount of jewelry was taken. There were no signs of forced entry.

Wednesday, August 30, Daniel Robinson, 40, of Westfield was arrested and charged with burglary and theft following an investigation in the 700 block of Central Avenue involving a home burglary that occurred earlier in the year. He was released on his own recognizance with a summons pending a September 6 court date.

Thursday, August 31, Thomas Walsh, 52, of Cranford was arrested and charged with DWI following a motor vehicle stop on East South Avenue. He was released to a responsible individual.

Thursday, August 31, James Curry, 26, of North Plainfield was arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana. Curry also was taken into custody on an active criminal warrant for \$2,500 from Union Township Municipal Court.

This investigation followed a motor vehicle stop at Downer Street and Scotch Plains Avenue. Curry was released on his own recognizance on the suspected marijuana possession charge and turned over to Kean University police on the warrant.

A passenger in his vehicle, Claire Gordon, 25, of Westfield was arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was released on her own recognizance with a summons.

Friday, September 1, Josepaulo Almeida, 21, of Roselle was arrested and charged with DWI following a motor vehicle stop at North and Central Avenues. He was released to a responsible individual.

Sunday, September 3, a resident of the 700 block of Fairacres Avenue reported a rear window and tailgate on his motor vehicle sustained damage as the result of a bicycle striking the vehicle. The bicycle was apparently hurled at the vehicle and was recovered at the scene. The vehicle was parked in front of the owner's residence.

Sunday, September 3, a resident of the 900 block of St. Marks Avenue reported the theft of a navigational system valued at \$700 from his motor vehicle while it was

Planning Bd.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ments and the alterations will increase the amount of space between the porch and the edge of the lawn.

Board Attorney Clifford Kuhn said he was in support of the variance since it would "decrease the non-conformity."

Officials said many homes in Fanwood are in "defiance" of the existing side-yard minimum size because they were "grandfathered in" to the current building code.

Mr. Ahlin of Willoughby Road sought approval from the board for a deck that is over the side-yard setback minimum by 10 feet. Several board members, including Mr. Cummings, said they inspected the property prior to Thursday's meeting.

Mr. Cummings said he had a "concern that (the deck) would cramp the backyard, since there will be so little area between it and the fence" at the rear edge of the lawn.

Mr. Ahlin said the adjoining property to his backyard is lined with trees and the closest structure on that property is the garage.

The board granted the variance.



Courtesy of Greg Ryan
ACCIDENT...The rest area on Route 22 in Mountainside eastbound was the scene of a tractor-trailer jack knife accident Tuesday afternoon about 5 p.m. The truck careened off the road against a telephone pole and on top of the guardrail. PSE&G assisted with the pole and wires. Mountainside Police and Fire Departments responded and Atlantic Health Care transported the driver to Overlook Hospital. Also responding was Union County Haz Mat.

DEEGAN
ROOFING
COMPANY
908-322-6405
Tear-Offs • Re-Roofs
Repairs • Gutters
Free Estimates • Fully Insured

NORTHSIDE TRATTORIA
THE BAR IS OPEN
TAVERN & RESTAURANT
Live Jazz
Tuesday thru Saturday
THE ONLY LIVE ENTERTAINMENT IN TOWN
16 Prospect Street, Westfield 908-232-7320
LUNCH: Tues. - Sat. DINNER: Tues. - Thurs. • 5:00pm - 9:30pm
Fri. - Sat. • 5:00pm - 10:00pm Sun. • 4:30pm - 8:30pm