

## WF Hosts 'Light the Night' Walk for Leukemia Research

By KATHY MARQUES  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WESTFIELD — Westfield glowed Saturday evening with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's "Light the Night Walk." The event began at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, with hundreds of people enjoying refreshments, sandwiches, music and socializing on the warm evening.

Balloons — white ones for survivors and red for supporters — commemorating lives touched by blood cancers, inundated the church ground.

"The weather was perfect for a walk, and walking for a great cause makes it even better," said walker Mitch Hatfield of Union.

"The event raised over \$96,000, with approximately 700 participants and 38 volunteers," said Giana Panas, deputy executive director of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. "More than 76 percent of funds raised by the society are used to advance its mission of finding a cure. Last year, the nationwide [Light the Night] Walk raised \$32 million, so we were very pleased to pass it this year," said Ms. Panas.

Walkers who wore red T-shirts had individually raised more than \$1,000 for the event. Collectively, the Bright Light Walkers raised more than \$70,000.

Twenty-five-year-old Westfield native Craig Goldberg was this year's honored patient. He was diagnosed with Acute Myelocytic Leukemia (AML) shortly after graduating from Lehigh University at the age of 22.

"When my parents told me the news, instead of being upset, I just said, 'It's O.K., I'm going to beat it,'" he said. He was cancer-free by his 23rd birthday.

Mr. Goldberg lives in Clark and has been teaching English and journalism at Kumpf Middle School for three years while also coaching boys soccer at Kumpf and baseball at Arthur L. Johnson High School.

"It's a powerful feeling to say that I am a survivor. People say, 'Why me?' I say I was diagnosed so that I can help others," he said.

The Tarabokia family of Berkeley Heights stood out in their bright orange shirts. First-time walkers, they were there with family and friends to support their 5-year-old son Nicholas's struggle with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). They have raised more than \$2,300 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

The Kirschner family came out to honor its father, Martin Kirschner from Staten Island, who passed away of Lymphoma in 2006 at age 64. "It's a great way to meet other people, and it's a wonderful organization to raise money for," said one of his children. This is the second time they have done the walk.

As hundreds of people strolled the two-mile walk with lit balloons, passerbys wondered what was going on. "I thought it was some kind of parade. But now that I know, I think it's really neat and will join next year," said Susanna Krause of Watchung.

Walker Marcos Giacommi, visting relatives from Italy, said, "What better way to get kids out of the house, off the Playstation, exercise and learn about helping others?"

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society was founded in 1949 and is the "world's largest voluntary health organization dedicated to funding blood cancer research, education and patient services," said Kristin Auci, Light the Night campaign coordinator.

For more information on Light the Night, contact the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at (908) 654-9445 or lightthenight.org/nnj.



Linda Condrillo for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
**BOOGIE NIGHTS...**Nick Dehmer, Jake Weber and Austin Hamwi of Rahway join performer Jim Rohe, master storyteller and musician, in a sing-a-long around the campfire at the Trailside Nature Center in Mountainside last Friday. Hayrides, hot chocolate, and perfect weather made for a fun-filled night for area residents.

## Fanwood Council Approves Trash-Fee, Salary Resolutions

By TED RITTER  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — Mayor Colleen Mahr and the borough council, at their regular October meeting Tuesday night, approved a resolution pertaining to solid-waste collection fees for stores and other businesses along the downtown block of Martine Avenue.

Borough attorney Dennis Estis explained that new dumpster enclosures are currently being constructed in the parking lot behind the businesses.

"When these enclosures are completed, all property owners along that [block] will be required to pay their share for collecting solid waste," he said.

Mr. Estis said business owners would likely begin paying the solid-waste fees in December.

"The charges are comparable to what store owners are now paying [for garbage collection]," he added.

"This has been a long time coming," said Mayor Mahr, who spearheaded the borough's effort to corral the assorted trash containers behind Martine Avenue stores in favor of uniformly designed, fenced-in enclosures.

Following a brief power failure that affected Borough Hall at about 8:20 p.m., the mayor and council resumed the meeting and approved two measures regarding salaries and compensation for non-unionized municipal employees — an ordinance setting general salary ranges and a resolution establishing actual salaries.

Non-unionized employees include the borough's recycling and senior-citizen coordinators, school crossing guards and the borough's judge, prosecutor and public defenders, among others.

"These are the people who actually make Fanwood function," said Katherine Mitchell, council president. During a later executive session, the mayor and council discussed a resolution that would set the salary of the borough's public-works director.

Tuesday night's meeting also included the approval of two resolutions related to state Council On Affordable Housing (COAH) regulations.

The first COAH-related measure formalizes the borough's commitment to provide funding to rehabilitate up to two existing housing units per year for the next 10 years for low- and moderate-income residents, according to Mr. Estis.

Fees that are charged to developers constructing new buildings, including those in the downtown district, finance rehabilitation costs, he explained.

"That's a hidden benefit [of downtown redevelopment] that most people don't realize," said Mr. Estis.

"This is one way that some of our neediest residents will be offered some financial assistance," added Mayor Mahr.

The second COAH measure asks the state for the authority to increase developers' fees. An ordinance would have to be drafted and a public hearing held before the fees could be formally increased, officials said.

The mayor and council honored James Peeney as the borough's volunteer of the month. Mr. Peeney heads up the local senior citizens' club.

Councilwoman Joan Wheeler said Mr. Peeney has taken the club "in a very progressive direction," helping to arrange new senior-discounted trips, programs and other special activities.

"With a little bit of effort, we've been able to make a lot of people happy," said Mr. Peeney. "We're having a great time."

The council recognized Zachary Koch, from local Boy Scout Troop 33, for his recent Eagle Scout project, which Mayor Mahr called a "valuable community service."

Zachary inspected, numbered and catalogued all 210 storm drains on the borough's south side; he then enlisted a team of 30 volunteers to help him mark the drains with medallions urging people to help protect the Raritan River watershed by keeping trash and other pollutants from getting into them.

The mayor and council also honored two local children — Keenan Porter and Kaavya Krishna Kumar — for finishing first and second in the Environmental Commission's recent birdhouse building contest for the Nature Center.

## Topps Meat

Continued from page 1

Founded in 1940, Topps was a leading manufacturer and supplier of premium-branded frozen burgers and was a contract manufacturer as well, including for Wakefern Foods of Elizabeth, the retailer-owned cooperative of Shop-Rite that distributes store-brand products.

Joseph Barbato, manager of the Garwood Shop-Rite, confirmed the store had been a retailer of Topps products but referred further questions to the company's Elizabeth headquarters.

Corporate representatives of Wakefern and Parsippany-based Kings Supermarkets were not available to comment yesterday. Recalled products specifically include certain 10-pound boxes of Butcher's Best 100-percent all-beef patties, certain 10-pound boxes of Kohler Foods burgers, certain 10-pound boxes of Sand Castle fine meat, some two-pound boxes of Topps 100-percent pure-ground-beef hamburgers and some three-pound boxes of Topps 100-percent pure-ground-beef hamburgers.

E-cooli generally causes stomach cramps and nausea that clear up in a few days, but it can be deadly to the very young, the very old and those with compromised immune systems.

## Omnipoint

Continued from page 1

an application to be refilled if revisions result in what courts have termed "a significant change" from the original application.

Mr. Samuel argued at last Thursday's meeting that moving the tower from its original proposed location would result in a significant change. Besides moving the tower's location, he said, it was also possible additional variances might be triggered by further revisions to the original application.

Mr. Stamos, saying, "I have not withdrawn anything," countered by saying that any changes would not be significant and that the number of variances he originally sought would not increase "regardless of where the tower is proposed to be placed."

Mr. Loughlin expressed his discomfort with allowing the hearing on the application to move forward — with revisions being made between now and December — because of the possibility of additional variances being needed as a result of relocating the tower. He said no one knew what the magnitude of the changes would end up being.

If the revisions to the plans were significant enough, he asked, "Is this going to be substantially a new case?" He added that if a new application eventually needed to be filed, then Mr. Samuel's client would have been wronged because of the time and expense involved in putting together an objecting case based on an original application that, in the end, was not heard by the board.

Saying the board had "an expectation that your ducks are in a row," Mr. Abeel told Mr. Stamos that he was not comfortable with Omnipoint's failure to investigate the wetlands issue earlier. He said it wasn't fair to township residents — who he said have sacrificed their own time and perhaps some expense to come to three inconclusive hearings since July — to grant yet another extension to "a big corporation with deep pockets."

## Cell Carriers File App. To Build 130-ft. Tower

CRANFORD — Westfield residents John and Jenny Schuvart of Manitou Circle notified The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times on Monday morning that Verizon Wireless, Omnipoint Communications, New Cingular Wireless (AT&T) and Sprint have filed a joint application with the zoning board of the Township of Cranford for approval to construct a wireless-communications facility at the Cranford Swim Club, located at 201 County Park Drive.

The Schuvarts said they were concerned about the 130-foot "monopole" that the facility would feature, especially "after [successfully] fighting the one at Wychwood Gardens."

The applicants have applied for use, height and setback variances. The zoning board has scheduled a public hearing on the joint application for next Monday, October 15, at 8:15 p.m. at Cranford's municipal building at 8 Springfield Avenue.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Scotch Plains

Monday, October 1, a resident reported that a former friend confronted him on Westfield Avenue and yelled obscenities at him.

Monday, October 1, Jeff Kirby, 53, of Scotch Plains was arrested for possession of marijuana after officers responded to a report of a disturbance. He was transported to headquarters, where he was processed and released after posting bail.

Tuesday, October 2, an employee of a South Avenue business reported that a former friend hit her several times on the arms and chest as she was leaving work. According to police, the victim stated there had been problems in the past with the suspect, and she intends to file charges.

Wednesday, October 3, Gabriel Adenu, 29, of Elizabeth was arrested for driving with a suspended license, for being an uninsured driver and for an outstanding warrant out of Elizabeth for \$580. He was initially stopped for failing to have his vehicle inspected.

Friday, October 5, a student at the Union County Vocational Technical School reported that someone removed his iPod, valued at \$100, from the inside of his jacket.

Saturday, October 6, Judith Polinchock, 37, of Union was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated after police smelled a strong odor of alcohol coming from the vehicle. She was transported to headquarters, where she was processed and released.

Saturday, October 6, a student at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School reported that someone removed his bicycle, valued at \$200, from the back of the school.

Sunday, October 7, Eddie Williams, 27, of Somerset was arrested and charged with DWI after officers found him asleep at the wheel of his vehicle at a traffic light on Mountain Avenue. Officers also smelled a strong odor of alcohol, police said. Williams was processed and released.

### Fanwood

Monday, October 1, a business in the 100 block of South Avenue reported that sometime between September 28 and October 1, someone broke into three vehicles, removing a radio from one.

Tuesday, October 2, Linda Schweikert, 64, of Fanwood was arrested for obstruction of justice after a motor-vehicle stop on Martine Avenue.

Tuesday, October 2, Richard T. Burger, 37, of Freehold was arrested for outstanding warrants out of Bridgewater and Wall Township after a motor-vehicle stop on Terrill Road.

Tuesday, October 2, police observed graffiti on Sheelens Crossing Bridge. The incident is under investigation, police said.

Wednesday, October 3, Giancarlo A. Pesantez, 25, of Kenilworth was arrested on a Scotch Plains warrant after a motor-vehicle stop on Martine Avenue.

Wednesday, October 3, Stefanie C. White, 48, of Elizabeth was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Clark after a motor-vehicle stop on LaGrande Avenue.

Thursday, October 4, Keyon R. Wilson, 35, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding East Hanover Township warrant after a motor-vehicle stop on Terrill Road.

Thursday, October 4, Kathryn M. Magnus, 49, of Fanwood was arrested on an outstanding Clark warrant after a motor-vehicle stop on Arlene Court.

Friday, October 5, Lotoya S. Kidd, 25, of Islip was arrested on an outstanding Newark warrant after a motor-vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Saturday, October 6, Henry A. Bennett, Jr., 54, of Greensburg, Pa., was arrested on an outstanding Sayreville warrant after a motor-vehicle stop on Terrill Road.

Saturday, October 6, Jeffrey J. Harrell, 48, of Plainfield was arrested for an out-

standing Bridgewater Township warrant after a motor-vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Sunday, October 7, Miltonia Williams, 55, of Westfield was arrested for an outstanding Westfield warrant after a motor-vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Monday, October 8, Charlotte M. Muhammad, 37, of Elizabeth was arrested on an outstanding Monmouth County Sheriff's Department no-bail warrant and a Neptune Township warrant after a motor-vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Monday, October 8, Vanessa P. Risso, 32, of Gillette was arrested on an outstanding Kearney warrant after a motor-vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Mountainside  
Monday, October 1, a woman told police that someone wrote and an obscenity using ketchup on the trunk lid of her 1992 Mercedes Benz while it was parked in her driveway on Locust Avenue. Police said something else was written on the left quarter panel but ran off due to moisture and gravity.

Monday, October 1, a homeowner on Old Tote Road reported that someone drove over the curb on the Central Avenue side of the house and ran over an Arborvitae Bush and through a six-foot vinyl fence. Patio furniture was also damaged. Total damage was estimated at \$1,000.

Upon an investigation, police said they determined that a limousine driver made a U-turn in the victim's driveway and backed into the fence. When contacted by police while getting repairs at a body shop in Long Island City, N.Y., police said the limo driver admitted to jumping the curb but thought he had only brushed against the bush and was unaware of the other damage.

He was issued summonses for leaving the scene of an accident, failure to report an accident and careless driving, police said.

Monday, October 5, Adham El-Sherbeini, 21, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with driving with a suspended license. He was stopped on Route 22 West for driving without an inspection sticker.

Monday, October 5, Ivelina Penaecevedo, 25, of Newark was arrested and charged with credit-card fraud and theft by deception following an investigation.

Monday, October 8, Michael G. Kilcore, Jr., 48, of Union Beach was arrested on Glenn Road on an outstanding Union Beach warrant.

Monday, October 8, Maite Aquino, 24, of Elizabeth was arrested for an outstanding warrant out of Mountainside for \$639. He was transported to police headquarters.

## Fanwood Sells 2008 Parking Permits

FANWOOD — Parking permits for 2008 went on sale October 1 for Fanwood residents. Permits for all other residents will be available starting November 1. Those interested can purchase permits at the Fanwood Police Department, located at 75 North Martine Avenue.

Permits can be obtained 24 hours a day, seven days a week after the dates listed above. Cash or money orders will be accepted. Credit cards will not be accepted.

The cost of the permit for Fanwood residents is \$240. For all other residents, the cost is \$504.

Questions can be directed to Sergeant Howard Jarvis at the Fanwood Police Department at (908) 322-5000 ext. 153.

## Fanwood GOP Candidates

Continued from page 1

type of pattern," Mr. Stroz said. He said the council needs some "fresh blood" and an "alternative perspective" to break that "group-think" mentality of the current governing body.

Mr. Stroz said he would like the Fanwood council to pass a resolution putting an end to any further consideration of TDR in the borough.

"It's better to have a sensible development plan than to just accept something like that," he said.

Mr. Parenti added that the governing body never voted to "bring in" or "take out" TDR. "So, it's just sort of hanging there," he said.

Mr. Stroz said the borough has a historic preservation commission, which protects the borough's North Avenue-Martine Avenue historic corridor from overdevelopment. He said TDR arose from the borough council, not the preservation commission.

He said downtown redevelopment has been "very slow," noting that for the past four years, redevelopment has been "wandering in the wilderness." He said only two mixed-use buildings have been built thus far.

Mr. Stroz said the borough council has felt "no need to inform the public as to what went wrong" with the Station Mews fire wall that collapsed in the spring, trapping employees at the adjacent Livingston-Wilbor Corp.

"This is the type of thing that has spurred me on to look to take a more active role in Fanwood, to be a councilperson and to help the council to move forward," Mr. Stroz said.

He said he favors attracting development that brings in stores and services, such as professional offices, to the borough.

"That would bring us rates. And the rates from the commercial sector would be more valuable to us than bringing in apartment buildings or residential units, which, quite frankly, [lead to] a lot of school-aged children," Mr. Stroz said.

Mr. Parenti said the downtown area lacks parking.

"I believe in shared services, but I don't believe in shared parking because it's proven, no matter where you go, it just doesn't work," he said.

"We have a plan where we can increase parking within the downtown area without the acquisition of much property, something that is actually within our grasp," Mr. Parenti said.

On the issue of the municipal budget, he said he "went into shock" when he received his property-tax bill, noting that the municipal portion of his tax bill went up 7.3 percent.

"I think what's happening with the budget is that we're relying too much on this [extraordinary] aid that eventually has to dry up because the state is not in too good [of] shape," Mr. Parenti said.

Mr. Stroz said the 7.3-percent increase is the highest tax hike in more than a decade.

Mr. Parenti said he and Mr. Stroz would like to see the rates from new downtown developments "dedicated by ordinance...to the direct relief of the taxpayers."

Mr. Stroz said the money would help a "population that is bending under the weight of this tax burden."

Both candidates said without extraordinary aid from Trenton, the borough could have been looking at double-digit-percentage increases in municipal taxes this year.

On the issue of shared services, Mr. Parenti said agreements must either "improve efficiency or [must] be economically sound."

"I don't particularly agree with sharing a library [with Scotch Plains]," Mr. Parenti said. "What I disagree with is the possibility of putting it on borough property where borough hall is."

He said the back of the municipal building is a retention basin.

"So, that just leaves the front, and I would just hate to see a building go up in front of borough hall and a parking lot alongside of it," Mr. Parenti said.

Mr. Stroz also said he "does not see the upside" of a combined library. "And I would certainly hate to lose the library that we have now. But we will see what the [feasibility] study says."

In closing, Mr. Parenti said the borough needs a comprehensive traffic study and better street lighting. Mr. Stroz said the additional developments are one reason a study is needed in advance of these projects.

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