



Debbie Hoffman for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
A DAY FOR VOLUNTEERS... Mountainside borough volunteers enjoy a day at the community pool this past Saturday in recognition of their time to the community.

Lance Busy Campaigning

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not postmarked. While walking the streets of Scotch Plains, he said he oftentimes would go to Democratic-affiliated homes as well. "I will go to houses that may have a lawn sign outside for Senator (Barack) Obama," Mr. Lance said. "I try to speak with as many people as I can. I think Washington needs centrists, those that are neither extremely liberal nor extremely conservative. I hope to go to Washington to help end the partisan gridlock that I believe exists." Mr. Lance said his campaign focuses on issues of homeland security, fiscal responsibility and national energy independence. "I believe we can come together as a nation to try to solve the significant challenges that involve the American society, so the next generation will be

able to live in a country that has as much promise as the country in which we now live," he said. Aside from campaigning to voters, Mr. Lance also concentrates campaign efforts on fundraising for his push for Congress. Due to the fact that Mr. Lance ran against six other candidates to secure the Republican nomination while his opponent, Assemblywoman Stender, ran unopposed, Mr. Lance said his camp is working to catch up to her in fundraising. "We fundraise a great deal. We are working as hard as we can in that area," he said. "We certainly want financial support from the national level, and we've had discussions regarding that, so I am hopeful."

Tom Atkins' 28-Year Career

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Sidney Stone, then the municipal manager in Cranford. Despite Mr. Atkins walking in unannounced, Mr. Stone made time for him, telling him of a colleague in East Windsor who was looking for an assistant. Mr. Atkins, who called Mr. Stone "the guy that first helped guide me in this business" and remained in contact with him over the years, was informed of Mr. Stone's death this week at age 90, just a few hours after telling this story. That day in 1973, Mr. Atkins drove to East Windsor, then a very rural community in Mercer County, and asked at a diner for directions to the municipal building, which was located in a remote area in a former schoolhouse. After speaking with the municipal manager that day, Mr. Atkins said he was called that same evening, Monday, August 22 — a date and day of the week verified by *The Times* in an effort to confirm Mr. Atkins' reputation for a great memory — and offered the assistant manager's position. Mr. Atkins stayed in that job until Friday, October 31, 1975 — another date and day that was double-checked and correct. The following Monday, Mr. Atkins began his nearly five-year tenure as municipal manager in Metuchen. He told *The Times* that East Windsor was "a wonderful place to learn," and said Metuchen was "a wonderful town" and his favorite community in New Jersey after Scotch Plains and Fanwood, where he has resided with his wife Bonnie since the mid-1970's. Mr. Atkins took over as township manager in Scotch Plains in June 1980, succeeding Shirley Capone, who had been serving as acting manager for the previous six months after the departure of Jim Hauser in late 1979. Township Clerk Barbara Riepe, who was an employee in the clerk's office at the time, told *The Times* she has "never met a person with such a memory. After he met the employees, he knew your birthday, anniversary, husband's name, etc. Also, whenever residents with a problem address the council at a meeting, he knows exactly which house they live in because he rides his bike all over town." Joking that she would "never forget the long hair he had when he was hired," Mrs. Riepe said she "enjoyed working with such an intelligent and caring individual as TEA, as I always call him."

COAH

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Westfield must construct or an exact formula by which it must abide. Right now, the town must finalize all its prior-round obligations and project a fair-share plan that reflects housing trends from 2004 to the present before projecting through 2018. "First, we have to go back to 2004 and see what transpired. That's the easy part. The tricky part is looking into our crystal ball and projecting what will happen from now through 2018," he said. The town will put forth a projected number to COAH and provide regular updates on the "actual" growth occurring to see how accurate the projections are.

Mr. Drew said the lack of available land on which to develop would heavily impact the town. In addition to working out any outstanding prior-round responsibilities, Westfield and COAH must reconcile another issue. A court settlement dating back to the early 1990s has provided Westfield with a framework to figuring out its affordable-housing obligation. That provision is different than COAH's, however. "We have to find out which [the court settlement or COAH's mandate] takes precedence," Mr. Drew said. Mr. Drew said, "Everybody is equally confused," and he deemed the situation "murky." Separate from any third-round COAH rule, Mr. Drew took issue with a legislative action taken by state government that eliminated the use of Regional Contribution Agreements (RCAs), which he considered a "viable mechanism to meet a town's obligations" and eliminate towns' "realistic constraints."

Next Cell Tower Hearing August 25
CRANFORD — The Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet on Monday, August 25 to continue a hearing on a proposed 120-foot cell tower by New York SMSA Limited Partnership on the property of the Cranford Swim Club on the Westfield/Cranford border. The meeting begins at 8:15 p.m. All persons interested in the application can attend the meeting at the Cranford Municipal Building on Springfield Avenue.

Westfield Police Setup DWI Checkpoints Through Sept. 1

WESTFIELD — Through September 1, the Westfield Police Department (WPD) will establish driving while intoxicated (DWI) checkpoints at one or more of the following locations: North Avenue, South Avenue, Central Avenue, Springfield Avenue and East Broad Street. The police department announced Monday, August 18, that the program started Friday, August 15. The WPD has received a \$5,000 enforcement grant from the Division of Highway Traffic Safety to participate in the "Over the Limit Under Arrest" statewide impaired driving crackdown.

The grant funds the WPD to enhance the enforcement efforts during the time period of August 15 to September 1. Enforcement efforts include additional patrols that officers are specifically trained in detecting and apprehending drunk drivers, as well as establishing DWI checkpoints. Police Captain David Wayman advises that the Westfield Police Department is committed to using all enforcement efforts to reduce the rate of alcohol-related fatalities through the detection and removal of impaired drivers from the public roadways.

Two Men Indicted in 2007 Drag Racing Deaths in MS

MOUNTAINSIDE — Two men, who were street racing against a vehicle on Route 22 in Mountainside last year and fled the scene after the other car lost control and crashed off the highway, were indicted by a Union County grand jury last week. The men surrendered to authorities. Union County Prosecutor Ted Romankow said John Mannarino, 19, of Springfield, was charged with one count of second degree leaving the scene of a fatal accident and one count of third degree hindering apprehension. James Cavallaro, 21, also of Springfield, was charged with one count of third degree hindering apprehension.

Prosecutors allege Mannarino was operating a 1994 Corvette on a stretch of Route 22 in Mountainside and, with Cavallaro as a passenger, was street racing against Konstantinos Potouridis, 18, of New Providence, and passenger Paul Carbone, 20, of Millburn. Potouridis was operating a 1994 Camaro and the two drivers were conducting what is known as a "five to 90 race," which has the drivers begin with a rolling start. After one driver signals with three honks of a horn, both cars accelerate until the first one reaches 90 miles-per-hour.

During the course of the race Potouridis, who was in the right-hand lane of Route 22 East, lost control of the vehicle briefly entered the left-hand lane before hitting a telephone pole and landing in a culvert several feet from the roadway. Potouridis and Carbone were pronounced dead at the scene, Mr. Romankow said. Following the accident Mannarino and Cavallaro immediately fled the scene and then attempted to conceal the Corvette, authorities said. They

later returned to the scene — with friends — in a different vehicle, Mr. Romankow said. Mannarino and Cavallaro surrendered to authorities on August 11. Mannarino was released on \$20,000 bail and Cavallaro was released on \$5,000 bail. Mr. Romankow thanked and commended Mountainside Police Detective Michael Jackson and Detective David Nechamkin for their "diligent work in the investigation." According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) more than 800 people were killed in street racing-related crashes between 2001 and 2006. The NHTSA said after declining in the first half of the decade, street-racing deaths are on the rise again, climbing roughly 35 percent from 111 deaths in 2005 to 150 deaths in 2006.

The parents of the victims, speaking to the prosecutor's office last week, asked to use the word of the indictments to speak out against the dangers of drag racing and unsafe driving. "All drivers need to take responsibility for their actions," Paul's mother, Cynthia Carbone said. "They need to think not only of themselves but their passengers and the innocent people around them. "Every second of every minute of every day we miss our loving, caring and amazing son. Perhaps if these two men had cared to help authorities and went back to locate and reach the crash scene sooner, things might have turned out different," Ms. Carbone said. "We will never know." Konstanti's mother, Michelle Potouridis, said the accident brought "a life sentence of sadness for parents who did their best in raising their children and lost them to a risky decision."



Courtesy of Albert Pagliatunga
ROCKET MEN...Jefferson School Cub Scout Pack 673 boys launch and recover more than 30 rockets with the help of McKinley School Cub Scout Pack's Steve Huber and his son, Tim, pictured above. Mr. Huber is a part of McKinley's Pack 176, and Tim is from Troop 77 out of St. Paul's Church. For information about Pack 673, e-mail cubscoutpack673@yahoo.com or meet the group at Jefferson's library in Westfield on September 15 at 7 p.m.

Cheeburger, Cheeburger Closes After Four Years

By WAYNE BAKER
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WESTFIELD — The Cheeburger Cheeburger restaurant located in North Station Plaza closed suddenly last Monday night. The 1950's diner-themed restaurant had operated in that location since December 2004, and was usually busy with families and teens at the dinner hour. Jim Murphy of Copies Now, the neighboring store, said last Monday the manager, Lisa Baumgartner, came in and told them Cheeburger Cheeburger would be closing that night. Ms. Baumgartner, reached at the restaurant, declined to comment prior to speaking with Dan Colantuono, the restaurant owner. Later efforts to contact her proved unsuccessful. "It was a fun place," said Stuart Mayer, a tenant in the building. Mr. Mayer said the off-street location was "not the best." Keith Goldberg of Scotch Plains expressed surprise when he arrived Monday evening with his daughter, Ava, commenting on how busy the restaurant usually was. "I liked their French fries," said 9-year-old Maggie Richard of Fanwood, while her 6-year-old sister, Ellie, liked the chicken.

A peek through the windows on Monday showed a restaurant that appeared intact, with chairs and tables neatly placed as if closed for the evening. The chain's corporate office in Fort Myers, Fla., did not respond to requests for comment before press time. Dan McFarland, manager of the chain's New Providence restaurant, after saying the franchisees were not affiliated, said he had heard rumors of problems with corporate officials and

the Westfield location's ownership. Sherry Cronin, of the Downtown Westfield Corporation, when told of the closing last Thursday, commented, "I wouldn't be surprised, given the economy." Mrs. Cronin also said the town had declined sign variances requested by the restaurant, and this might have contributed to the closing. Anthony Schilling of Relocation Realty, the building's rental agent, had also been unaware of the closing when called last Thursday. He said the building's owner, Robert Massa, had mentioned nothing to him, and so was also likely unaware. When asked for an update on Tuesday, Mr. Schilling said that he knew nothing further.

Hearing Slated On AWC Projects

AREA — The New Jersey Economic Development Authority will hold a public hearing on September 9 for bond financing applications sought by the New Jersey American Water Company (NJAWC). Improvements proposed include sources of water supply, water distribution pipeline networks and construction of water treatment facilities previously operated by Elizabethtown Water Co. The impacted coverage area includes Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountainside. The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. at the authority's offices at 36 West State Street in Trenton. The hearing is open to the public for verbal and written comments. Written comments can be mailed to the authority's address.



Debbie Hoffman for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
REST IN PEACE...A roadside memorial has sprung up on Route 22 near AutoLand in Springfield at the spot where Mountainside teenager Tim Black sustained fatal injuries on August 10. See obituary on page 14.

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield
Tuesday, August 12, Garry Capaldo, 50, of Roselle Park was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) after a motor vehicle stop at Central Avenue and Greene Place. He was released with a summons to a responsible individual. Tuesday, August 12, Kenneth Middleton, 30, of Plainfield was arrested after responding to Westfield police headquarters to surrender on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant with bail of \$845. He was unable to post bail and was held pending an appearance in court. Wednesday, August 13, Robin A. Teufel, 20, of Berkeley Heights was arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana after a motor vehicle stop at Central and South Avenues. Teufel was released with a summons. Friday, August 15, Levi Samayoa-Montufar, 28, of Plainfield was arrested on multiple warrants during a motor vehicle stop at Euclid Avenue, South and North Avenues. They included a motor vehicle warrant for \$500 and a criminal warrant for \$200, both from Green Brook, and a \$500 motor vehicle warrant from Plainfield. He was committed on default of bail to the Union County jail. Friday, August 15, Michael Palumbo, 39, of Garwood was arrested at Sycamore and Columbus Avenues on an outstanding Union traffic warrant with \$235 bail. He was released after posting bail. While posting bail for her husband, Susan Palumbo, 36, of Garwood was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on an active Madison criminal warrant with \$499 bail. She was transported to the Madison Police Department. Sunday, August 17, after being stopped for motor vehicle violations, Alroy Williams, 42, of Donalville, Ga., was arrested on the 500 block of North Avenue on outstanding motor vehicle warrants from Newark and Bloomfield, with bail amounts of \$120 and \$275, respectively. Williams was released after posting bail.

witness described the vehicle as a white Jeep. Monday, August 18, an auto repair shop on Route 22 reported that someone stole a vehicle valued at \$7,500 from the lot. According to police, the keys were left in the vehicle so the owner could pick it up, but the shop owner did not know the vehicle owner was on vacation for several weeks. Monday, August 18, a Globe Avenue business owner/employer reported that someone removed \$430 in cash from a lock box containing \$600, which was kept in a cabinet in the office. According to police, the employer questioned employees, asking that the cash be returned. Afterwards, one employee was allegedly acting suspicious, performing tasks not normally his duty, authorities said. The employee as a harmless prank was said to have changed the names tags on the office doors sometime over the weekend, police said. **Scotch Plains** Monday, August 11, Daniel Vaughn, 21, of Plainfield was arrested for an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop. According to police, he was processed and released. Monday, August 11, a resident of Wareham Court reported that someone removed money from her checking account without her authorization. Monday, August 11, police responded to a hit-and-run accident on Terrill Road. According to police, an unknown suspect struck a vehicle that was legally parked and then fled. The incident caused damage to the rear of the vehicle, police said. Wednesday, August 13, Gary Brown, 53, of Scotch Plains was arrested after a motor vehicle stop for an outstanding warrant. According to police, he was processed and released. Wednesday, August 13, Adam Silverman, 18, of Fanwood was arrested and charged with distribution of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS). According to police, an investigation in the vicinity of the library subsequently led to the arrest of Silverman. He was processed and released, authorities said. Saturday, August 16, Mitchell Cohen, 22, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). According to police, Cohen was stopped for a motor vehicle violation at which time authorities smelled alcohol in the vehicle. He was processed and released, police said. Saturday, August 16, Drew Miller, 23, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with theft. According to police, Miller was stopped after a report of a suspicious person looking into vehicles. According to police, he was processed and released. Sunday, August 17, a resident of Route 22 reported that someone removed his GPS system valued at \$200 from his vehicle. **Fanwood** Tuesday, August 12, Dekim Berisha, 24, of Linden was arrested for an outstanding Fanwood warrant after a field investigation on Martine Avenue. According to police, he was processed and released. Thursday, August 14, a resident in the 400 block of South Avenue reported that someone removed \$625 from his checking account without authorization. According to police, the incident is under investigation. A resident of the 100 block of North Martine Avenue reported that sometime between Saturday, August 16, after 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, August 17, at 1 a.m. someone smashed the driver's side window of his vehicle while it was parked in the street and removed a GPS. Monday, August 18, between midnight and 2 a.m., a resident in the 100 block of Beech Avenue reported that someone threw eggs at his house.

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REPORTING FROM BEIJING...Fred Strauss of Westfield reports to Union County from the Olympics in Beijing that the Chinese people are excited and proud about hosting the games. Mr. Strauss poses by the Beijing Summer Palace during a respite from his data processing work with the Associated Press.