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A SPECIAL EVENING...Members of the Color Guard enter Mindowaskin Park for last week's special Independence Day ceremony. The Westfield Chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution (S.A.R.) and the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) participated in the ceremony.



AN INDEPENDENT NATION...Congressman Bob Franks, representing the Seventh District, addresses Westfield Community Band concert-goers during last Thursday's special Fourth of July holiday performance at Mindowaskin Park.

NEIGHBORS OBJECT TO DECISION

Planning Bd. Gives Nod to Subdivision Of Kent Place Lots

By RUSSELL R. WATKINS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

In an 8-1 decision Tuesday night, the Westfield Planning Board approved the subdivision of six town-owned lots on Kent Place. The action is a response to demands by Kent Place residents that the town do something to relieve persistent drainage problems in the area.

The project calls for relocation of a "paper" road which crosses the lots and leads to an existing water detention basin.

However, area property owners balked at the proposal when it was discovered that the subdivision may also lead to future construction on the wooded lots.

The lots are adjacent to two blocks of land recently approved for development by the town Board of Adjustment. Under the terms of the application granted on Monday, 20 feet of town-owned land lots would be added to the subdivision for the relocation of the "paper" road.

A "paper" road is one which exists on planning maps, but has never been developed.

Louis Seagull, a Kent Place resident, vigorously objected to the plan. In testimony before the board, he argued that residents were inadvertently signing onto a plan of action the consequences of which would bear

little resemblance to the original intent.

"Under the guise of fixing a water drainage problem in the short term, we are paving the way for development in the long term," Mr. Seagull maintained.

Christy Evans, a Kent Place resident who spearheaded the effort to bring the matter before the town, expressed similar concerns about the board's intent.

"Perhaps I am the one who's been naïve," Ms. Evans commented after Town Attorney Charles H. Brandt testified before the board that although "no present plans exist to develop this land," future development could not be ruled out. In fact, under questioning from Mayor Thomas C. Jardim, Mr. Brandt conceded that subdividing the lots would actually make the property more desirable and easier to develop.

Mr. Brandt, along with William S. Jeremiah, 2nd, legal counsel to the Planning Board, reminded those assembled that final approval of the plan rests with the Town Council. After the vote, in which board member Anthony M. LaPorta was the sole dissenter, they both urged residents to take up their concerns with the council.

The board had originally planned

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NEW ZONING ORDINANCE PASSED BY GOVERNING BODY ON FIRST READING

Restrictions for Amateur Radio Installations Questioned by Operator, Council Members

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Town Council, Tuesday night, decided to postpone action on a section of the town's zoning ordinance which would have placed further restrictions on amateur radio installations in town.

The remainder of the document, which has been the subject of countless hours of discussions at both the Planning Board and Town Council level, passed on first reading.

Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence A. Goldman, who chairs the Laws and Rules Committee which released the ordinance for action by the full governing body, said only one copy of the current zoning codes and most recent amendments exists. And that copy is in the hands of Zoning Officer Jeremiah P. O'Neil.

Mr. Goldman said the zoning ordinance was by far one of the most important matters he has been a part of since joining the council in January of 1997.

David Monfried, a resident of West Dudley Avenue and a licensed amateur radio operator, detailed for the council what he believes are "very significant flaws" in the proposed restrictions on amateur radio installations.

He argued that the ordinance includes what he described as an incorrect definition of an amateur radio station. He said it is not, as stated in the proposed amendment to the ordinance, "an arrangement of wires or

metal rods."

Mr. Monfried said, rather, that these installations consist of a receiver, transmitter and the antenna.

He also objected to a provision which would restrict the number of antennas per installation, noting that many operators require multiple antennas. Mr. Monfried has five antennas himself.

"So I find the restriction for one amateur station to be not only overly restrictive but in clear conflict with (standards established by) the Federal government," he said.

Mr. Monfried questioned why the ordinance would require a zoning permit for individuals operating amateur stations, noting that previous restrictions simply required a construction permit.

He also said he doesn't understand why the zoning officer should have to get involved in station installations. He said his antenna weighs no more than a pound and a half, much less than a traditional television antenna, which does not require a permit.

Mr. Monfried also said the proposal before the council which addressed wattage for such stations is not within the council's jurisdiction.

His biggest objection, however, lies with a restriction which would require antennas to be set back from the neighboring property lines — "a distance equal to or greater than the height of the antenna and supporting structures."

Given that many antennas are

around 45 feet in height, a person who was to place such an antenna in the middle of their yard would need to have a 90-foot-wide property.

"And I contend that is overly restrictive, discriminatory, and against the spirit (of Federal laws)," he said, noting 10 feet would be a much more reasonable restriction.

Councilman Goldman, upon reading the proposed restrictions earlier this week, questioned "where this came from," noting that the proposal had not come up during council deliberations on the ordinance over the past year.

He said the proposal regarding setbacks, alone, would "make it impossible for anyone" to comply with the provisions.

Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr., said it is important that neighbors are given the opportunity to be informed on additions to adjacent properties, including amateur radio towers.

Mr. Monfried said he has consistently discussed his operations with neighbors well in advance of changes to his installation. He said it is very difficult to see his antenna from the street or from neighboring properties.

Noting the short amount of time the council had to review the proposed restrictions, Mayor Thomas C. Jardim said the changes were not the "kind of policy" that the governing body should have to make "on the fly." He said further deliberations are

needed.

The zoning ordinance, officials said, includes a number of changes including one that no longer permits the use of pylon signs for automobile dealerships or gasoline stations — the only types of businesses which had been allowed to have such signs.

Offices will now be prohibited from downtown street level floor space. Stores will be sought instead under the ordinance. Also, prospective busi-

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MEMORIAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS UNDER CONSIDERATION

Town Trying to Reach Lease Deal For Playground at Lincoln School

By ANDREW FISHKOFF
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

While most people spend their summers relaxing, the Westfield Recreation Commission (WRC) remains hard at work, operating the town's municipal pool, parks, playgrounds and numerous athletic camps.

Last Monday, the Commission held its last meeting of the summer at Westfield Memorial Pool. The WRC is looking to expand the former Lincoln School playground. Recently, the Town of Westfield received money from Union County, as part of its "Project Pocket Park" program, to replace and update equipment at the

Lincoln playground, according to Glenn Burrell, Director of Recreation.

However, the town and the Board of Education have not agreed on how much of the playground will belong to the town. The town is looking for 150 square feet, but the Board of Education has not offered that, according to Third Ward Councilman John J. Walsh, Council Liaison to the Commission.

Despite the situation, the Commission remains eager to update the park, according to Mr. Walsh, because the Commission has "a huge chunk of change to do this."

The WRC is also revisiting the Master Plan as it relates to Memorial Park.

"As part of that, we will look at potential modifications and additions to the park," said Mr. Burrell.

Several possibilities are a roller hockey rink and a castle-like play structure for younger children. The Optimist Club of Westfield, a local service group, has taken specific interest in spearheading the proposal for the children's castle.

"However, due to its popularity, the addition of such a castle would create a greater parking concern than there already is," Mr. Burrell said.

The Commission is looking into the possibility of expanding parking

at Memorial Park, according to Mr. Burrell.

The WRC is responsible for all aspects of Westfield's recreational facilities, including the many town parks and pool. They also prepare the Recreation Department budget and create policy.

This year marks the most successful year of the Westfield Memorial Pool since its opening in 1970, according to James Gildea, Assistant Recreational Director. Over 1,700 families have joined the pool this year, which is "well on pace to exceed last year's record," said Mr. Gildea.

As a result of its increasing membership, new benches, umbrellas, and tables have been added at poolside, he added. The restrooms have also undergone improvements.

This past week also marked the beginning of sports camps offered by the Commission. Despite strong numbers, the enrollment is down from last year, due to the loss of field hockey camp, Mr. Burrell noted.

Finally, the Commission announced that last year's inaugural Mayor's Golf Tournament, which was also a campaign fundraising event, donated \$1,000 to be put toward improvements at Mindowaskin Park.

The Commission will hold its next meeting on Monday, September 14, at the Westfield Memorial Pool.

John Shippen Tournament Brings Back Memories Of First Native-Born American Golf Professional

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

He has been called the Jackie Robinson of golf. He died nearly 10 years before the phenomenal Tiger Woods was born.

His name is John Shippen, the first native-born American ever to play golf professionally.

"Ship," as his friends called him, is best remembered locally for the years he spent at Shady Rest Country

Club, which is now The Scotch Hills Country Club, in Scotch Plains.

For the past eight years, the legacy of John Shippen has been celebrated in a memorial golf tournament sponsored by the John Shippen Memorial Committee in Scotch Plains. The tournament raises funds for golf scholarships for minority boys and girls.

Sixty-six golfers recently attended the annual event at Shackamaxon Country Club. Most players came

from Union and Essex Counties, with some participants coming from as far away as Washington, D.C.

This year, Arizona Beverage Company and Merck & Company Inc., sponsored the event.

"Ship" was not looking for a place in golf history in 1896, when the newly organized United States Golf Association (USGA) decided to host the Second U.S. Open right in his own backyard of Shinnecock Hills, New York.

The 18-year-old Shippen was simply curious to see how his game matched up against the professional golfers from England and Scotland. The game of golf originated in Scotland.

While living on the Shinnecock Indian Reservation, young Ship had helped build the golf course. As assistant to the resident professional golfer Scotsman Willie Dunn, the teenager knew Shinnecock as well as anybody.

He had caddied there since he was 13 years old and played the course regularly. He gave lessons to wealthy businessmen like J. Pierpont Morgan.

In fact, "Ship's" own golf game was so good that his pupils put up the money for him to enter the tournament in July of 1896.

However, the competition did not make it easy for him. All 28 registered professional golfers threatened to boycott the tournament if Mr. Shippen and his friend, Oscar Bunn, were allowed to play in the game.

Why? John Shippen was the son of an African-American Presbyterian minister on the Shinnecock Reservation and a Native-American mother. Mr. Bunn was a full-blooded Shinnecock Native-American.

United States Golfers Association (USGA) President Theodore Havemeyer, a wealthy businessman from Rhode Island, ignored the professional golfers' threats. He assured the players that the tournament would be played with or without them, but definitely with Mr. Shippen and Mr. Bunn. Not one of the golfers withdrew from play.

After the first 18 holes of the tournament, Mr. Shippen was tied for first place with four other golfers. (Eighty-five years would pass before another African-American would lead the U.S. Open. He was Jim Thorpe, in 1981.)

During the second and final round of play, Ship got into trouble in the sand on the 13th hole. He lost the lead and was never able to regain it.

He finished the tournament in fifth

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TEEING OFF...Hanno Shippen Smith, the son of Clara Russel Shippen, watches as Ron Eiser tees off during the recent annual John Shippen Memorial Golf Tournament held at the Shackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains. Clara Russel Shippen is the youngest child of John Shippen, the first native-born American ever to play golf professionally.



VIEWING THE FACILITIES...Third Ward Councilman John J. Walsh, center, council liaison to the Westfield Recreation Commission, confers with Recreation Director Glenn Burrell, left, and Michael Kessler, representing the Board of Education, during Monday night's commission meeting at the Westfield Memorial Pool. Commission members toured the pool facilities to see recent improvements made to the complex.

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THANK YOU...Gwen Buttermore of Westfield, right, is thanked by Janet Weston, Director of Volunteer Services, for her work as a volunteer at Children's Specialized Hospital. Mrs. Buttermore, who sews bags, aprons, and other special projects and helps the teachers and children in the facility's Preschool Program, was honored for rendering 4,094 hours of service.

Westfield Residents Among Honored CSH Volunteers

Eighty-one volunteers, including 37 Westfield residents, were recently honored for providing more than 500 hours each of service to Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountaineer.

The volunteers performed a variety of duties, including inpatient transportation, assisting therapists and teachers, cuddling infants, playing with the children, and clerical work.

"We are thankful for the invaluable time and dedication that each of the volunteers has given to the hospital," said Janet Weston, Director of Volunteer Services.

"Whether they volunteer one hour each week or 20, they each help Children's Specialized provide care for the many children we serve each year," she added.

Westfield residents honored for their volunteer work at the hospital included Gwen Buttermore (4,094 hours), Ruth Elcome (3,692), Kathryn Kunz and Anthony Camera, (3,318 each), Winifred Blyth (2,866), Lynn Kolterjahn (2,708), and Marja-Lou Swan (2,358).

Other volunteers were Fran Crampton (2,330), Mary Mannino (2,314), Jean MacGregor (2,296), Elizabeth Stein (2,261), William Elmendorf (1,811), Mabel Connor (1,795), Margaret Waltman (1,685), Pat Schroeder (1,597), and Peggy Lott (1,536).

Also honored were volunteers Doris Molowa (1,440), Elizabeth

Loland (1,300), Janet Jackson (1,291), Robert Cushman (1,277), Helen Bovenkerk (1,140), Judy Jessup (845), Mildred Orlando (834), Roberta Brown (822), Barbara Lewis (813), and Betty Chichowski (731).

Additionally recognized were Mary Herberich (672), Cynthia McLaughlin (671), Leo Sobell (660), Charlotte Clevenger (652), John Barisonck (649), Jean Sawtelle (606), Peggy Bender (582), Kay Andre (578), Audrey Farley (554), Jane Bischoff (548), and Carol Wagner (509).

Children's Specialized Hospital, dedicated exclusively to pediatric rehabilitation, treats children and adolescents from birth through 21 years.

WHS Graduates Reunite at Academy

Westfield High School graduates Todd Phillips and Ryan Hughes recently ran into one another while having lunch at the Officer's Club at N.A.S. Whiting Field in Milton, Florida.

Both graduates had not seen each other since high school graduation. Ryan Hughes graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York. Todd Phillips graduated from Villanova University, Pennsylvania.

Both are Ensign's in the United States Naval Reserve and are currently naval aviator flight students at training squadron VT-2.

Planning Board Gives Nod To Subdivision of Kent Pl. Lots

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to hear a proposal concerning the former Excellent Diner site on North Avenue. Attorney and Bernardsville Councilman Lee Honecker, representing his grandmother, Stella Lekas, had been expected to make a presentation detailing the family's plans for the site.

Ms. Lekas, who has owned the property at 222 North Avenue since the 1930s, sold the cab portion of the diner building in 1995, after which it was moved to Germany. The lot has remained vacant since then, and town officials, concerned with what they feel has become an "eyesore" in the downtown, are considering purchasing the property and creating a "pocket park" on the site.

The council has already approved the first reading of an ordinance authorizing the purchase of the property, and the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has granted \$100,000 to Westfield as part of the Pocket Park matching grants program.

The delay in Mr. Honecker's presentation to the board — the result of insufficient legal notice to a nearby property owner — could put pressure on the council to approve the ordinance and jeopardize the family's plans for the site.

Mr. Honecker's presentation will be heard at the Planning Board's next meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, August 3, at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

His proposal includes removing the remainder of the diner, and the construction of a new, three-story building with a basement. The new building, slated for office and retail use, will require variances for side and rear yard setbacks, parking spaces, and loading/unloading areas.

Town ordinances require 32 off-street parking spaces, and approximately 350 square feet of loading/unloading space. Mr. Honecker's plans currently provide for no off-street parking spaces and no loading/unloading space.

Shippen Tournament Brings Back Memories of Golf Pro

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place and won \$10 in prize money.

Ship played in four more U.S. Opens before African-Americans were prohibited from participating in USGA events — a ban later rescinded in the mid-1960s.

Mr. Shippen managed to earn a living at golf by giving lessons, working as a grounds keeper, playing challenge matches and even opening his own club outside the Washington, D.C., area.

In Scotch Plains, from 1924 to his retirement in 1960, Mr. Shippen served as the resident golf professional at what is widely regarded as the first African-American country club in the United States, Shady Rest.

"John Shippen never bragged on what he did," said Ralph Wise of Plainfield, "and we never knew how great he was."

As Mr. Shippen's last professional golf caddie, then 11-year-old Mr. Wise began working for his mentor at Shady Rest in 1940s. He helped the Pro clean the greens, rake the traps and organize tournaments.

For his labors, Mr. Wise said he was paid a hot dog, a soda and 25 cents.

"More valuable than the money," said Mr. Wise with a smile, "was the chance to talk to the players and hear John Shippen explain the game and talk about the players of the day."

Under Mr. Shippen's tutelage, young Ralph Wise earned a spot on the local high school varsity golf team as an eighth grader. As a team member and later as team captain, the younger Mr. Wise had access to private courses which were closed to Mr. Shippen.

"John Shippen would always ask to see the scorecards," recalled Mr. Wise. "And he would say, 'there's always room for improvement.'"

John Shippen died at the age of 90 in 1968. In 1995, a public tribute to America's first golf professional was paid during the opening of the U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills, where John Shippen put in his history-making appearance over 100 years ago.

Restrictions on Installations For Amateur Radio Questioned

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nesses will no longer have to go through the often drawn-out Planning Board application process when they only require a modest increase in their parking allocation.

Under a change in the zoning law, if the amount of parking spaces are 10 or less over what was allotted to the previous tenant at the site, the matter will either be heard by the zoning officer or the Planning Board Site Plan Subcommittee.

If multiple variances are requested in an application, or if the parking allocation represents an increase of 10 or more spaces above what had been granted to the previous tenant, the case will be heard by the Planning Board or the Board of Adjustment.

Also, in an effort to avoid overdevelopment of properties in town, the zoning law includes a provision to base floor area ratios on the zone and not the lot it is located on, as is currently the case.

The floor area ratio is defined in the ordinance as "the total habitable floor area of all of the buildings on a site compared to the total area" of the lot.

On another matter, several residents of Summit Court approached the council for their help in investigating an apparent illegal commercial body shop in the neighborhood.

Town Attorney Charles H. Brandt said since these cases are hard to prosecute in municipal court, residents could help the town by getting license plate numbers of apparent customers of the alleged business.

Police Chief Anthony J. Scutti told

the residents to contact police if they notice any activity that might be concurrent with an illegal operation.

Mr. Brandt explained that under the town's zoning ordinance, commercial businesses of this sort operated from homes are not allowed.

After a lengthy discussion, the council approved resolutions authorizing the town to sell at auction town-owned vacant parcels at 900 Union Street, a triangular 150-foot by 178-foot by 229-foot lot, and an 84-foot by 170-foot rectangular lot.

The resolution passed 6-1, with Councilman Sullivan as the lone dissenter. Bidding for two parcels, to be sold as one unit, will start at \$300,000.

The council defeated a similar resolution to authorize the sale of a 71-foot by 120-foot lot at 708 Sherman Street. Bidding was to start at \$130,000. The resolution was defeated by a tally of 5-2.

Andrew Zachar Wins Merit Scholarship

Andrew W. Zachar, Jr., a Westfield high school senior, is among approximately 2,400 winners of Merit Scholarship awards financed by colleges and universities that were announced recently by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

Andrew will be attending Forman University in Greenville, South Carolina, which has awarded him the scholarship. He plans to major in business and computer science. His background includes two years as a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the A Cappella Choir, two years on the Westfield High School cross-country varsity team as well as the winter and spring track team. He was also named All-Conference.

The 1998 competition for Merit Scholarship awards began when about 1.1 million juniors in nearly 20,000 United States high schools took the 1996 Pre-Scholastic Assessment Test National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of entrants.

In September, 1997, fewer than 1 percent of high school seniors were named semifinalists on a state representational basis. These 15,000 top scorers were the only students who had an opportunity to continue in the rigorous competition by advancing to the finalist level.

To become finalists, semifinalists had to submit a substantial amount of information and meet a number of additional requirements. Each finalist presented an outstanding academic record, was endorsed and recommended by the school principal, confirmed qualifying test performance on a second test, and provided an essay describing activities, interests and goals.

WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

• A Lenox Avenue resident reported that five cardboard boxes containing assorted baby clothes were stolen from his front porch.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

• Robert Wetchkus, 28, of Westfield was arrested at Rahway Avenue near Vermont Street and charged with driving with a revoked license, authorities said. He was released on \$775 bail.

• A Westfield resident reported that his bicycle, valued at \$800, was stolen from the south side train station.

• A Wyoming Street resident reported that someone threw eggs on his motor vehicle while it was parked in front of his home.

THURSDAY, JULY 2

• Police received a report that a woman stole a pair of denim jeans worth \$36 from an East Broad Street clothing store.

• A 17-year-old male juvenile from Colonia was arrested in the 200 block of Myrtle Avenue and charged with possession of a weapon after he was allegedly found in possession of a four-inch knife.

Police recovered the weapon after responding to a report concerning suspicious people in the area, authorities said. The juvenile was turned over to the

FRIDAY, JULY 3

• A Westfield resident reported the theft of a bicycle from the train station.

• Police responded to a report of black smoke emanating from a mail box at First Street and Hazel Avenue, which was extinguished by Westfield firefighters. The damage to the contents of the box was unknown, and the incident is under investigation by postal inspectors.

SUNDAY, JULY 5

• A Kimball Avenue resident reported that someone spray painted a barn on her property.

MONDAY, JULY 6

• A Westfield woman reported the theft of her Trek bicycle from First Street.

• A representative of a Clifton construction firm reported that a rear tailgate from a company truck was stolen while the vehicle was parked in a South Avenue parking lot.

• A bicycle valued at approximately \$695 was reported stolen from a local recreation facility.

• A lawn was damaged on Ross Place by one or more unknown individuals, authorities said.

WESTFIELD FIRE BLOTTER

MONDAY, JUNE 29

• One hundred block of Clifton Street — wires down.

• Seven hundred block of Fairacres Avenue — unintentional alarm.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

• One hundred block of New Providence Road — system malfunction.

• Four hundred block of Poets Place — unintentional alarm.

• Three hundred block of Clark Street — unintentional alarm.

• One hundred block of Cacciola Place — smoke scare.

• Eight hundred block of New England Drive — arcing wire.

• Nine hundred block of New England Drive — hazardous condition.

• Five hundred block of Mountain Avenue — tree and wires down.

• Four hundred block of North Avenue, West — wire down.

• Ten hundred block of Prospect Street — power line down.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

• One hundred block of Sandra Circle — lock out.

• Seven hundred block of Central Avenue — smoke scare.

• One hundred block of Tamaques Way — smoke and odor removal.

THURSDAY, JULY 2

• Fifteen hundred block of Lamberts Mill Road — system malfunction.

• Eight hundred block of New England Drive — smoke and odor removal.

• Seventeen hundred block of Dakota Street — gas odor investigation.

FRIDAY, JULY 3

• Eight hundred block of Central Avenue — gas leak.

• Six hundred block of Knollwood Terrace — unintentional alarm.

• One thousand block of Prospect Street — water condition.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

• Five hundred block of North Avenue, East — wire down.

• Seven hundred block of Lawrence Avenue — smoke removal.

• Two hundred block of Hazel Avenue — mail box fire.

• Seven hundred block of Embree Crescent — gas odor investigation.

SUNDAY, JULY 5

• One hundred block of Scotch Plains Avenue — assist police.

• One hundred block of Scotch Plains Avenue — assist police.

Recent Home Sales

WESTFIELD

J.A. and H.R. Crawley to Kenneth A. Patricco, 1221 Prospect Street, \$238,000.

J.M. and M.A. Siedem to Matthew B. and Cheryl R. Roggenburg, 288 Watchung Fork, \$975,000.

C.A. Abell to Christopher and Roberta Fraites, 1060 Wychwood Road, \$995,000.

D.R. and P. Connell to Rohan T. and

Jacqueline D. Douglas, 716 Shackamaxon Drive, \$490,000.

R.A. Whitman and V. Geissler Whitman to Damien E. and Pamela J. Hughes, 424 Summit, \$359,000.

R.J. and L. Hendrickson to Bruce M. and Billie L. Baron, 763 Boulevard Street, \$380,500.

J.J. Kinyeri and Jan M. Smith to Kapildeo R. and Satya Bahadur, 1284 Rahway, \$218,000.



FOUR WHEELIN' AT PLAYGROUND...Toddlers enjoy one of the new pieces of equipment at the completely refurbished playground at the Westfield Day Care Infant Center. Pictured, left to right, are: Rebecca Harris, Eric Shor, Caitlin Gouldie, Nicholas Lopez, Kayla Tyra-Gant and Scott McCarrol. A ceremony will be held at a later date to dedicate the playground, located at 462 West Broad Street.

Oral Surgeon Discusses TMJ and its Symptoms

Did you know that there are many common conditions which can cause symptoms of Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Dysfunction about the head, face, and jaw? These may include chronic sinus problems, migraine or headache syndromes; medical conditions such as Lyme disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and others. Simple tooth pathology can cause similar symptoms.

In other words, these ailments can cause or mimic TMJ symptoms, which potentially makes diagnosis and treatment perplexing. As one can see, there are various causes for complaints in these areas, which must be differentiated from a TMJ problem.

"In our practice, we frequently see patients with facial, jaw, and headache complaints on a regular basis," explained Dr. Philip R. Geron of Westfield Oral Surgery Associates, P.C.

"Possible signs or symptoms of a TMJ problem include jaw pain or tightness upon function; jaw noises, such as clicking or popping, limited oral opening, and jaws shifting or locking," he added.

Common causes of TMJ symptoms include stress, clenching and grinding of the teeth, a bad bite, or snoring. Facial and head pains can often be referred from the neck. Certainly, direct trauma or sports injuries can cause a TMJ condition, according to Dr. Geron.

In such cases, a proper custom-made mouthguard can prevent or minimize trauma to this area. Fortunately, most TMJ complaints are not truly a joint problem, but rather of muscular origin.

As such, treatment generally has a very high success rate. Dr. Geron said. Treatment may consist of jaw exercises, various medications, and control of clenching, grinding, or snoring

with the use of a dental device, bio-feedback, or physical therapy.

Facial complaints of jaw origin can only accurately be diagnosed and treated through a comprehensive history, physical examination, and diagnostic tests usually performed by a qualified dentist or oral and maxillofacial surgeon.

Dr. Geron is Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Union Hospital, an affiliate of St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston.



THE CLEAN TEAM...The Clean Communities Program, which has been in place in Westfield for the past eight years, is underway once again. Town Engineer and Clean Communities Coordinator Kenneth B. Marsh, in conjunction with the Downtown Westfield Corporation, has developed a program which not only keeps the town clean but also offers employment opportunities for young people this summer. Pictured is this year's "Clean Team," working on the Central Avenue underpass. The teens will work one day a week throughout the summer in downtown Westfield.



ICING ON THE CAKE...Westfield Superintendent of Schools Dr. William J. Foley, along with Internal Coordinator of Strategic Planning Bett Willett, left, and the Board of Education's Long Range Planning Chairwoman Annmarie Puleo, admire a custom cake featuring the district's strategic planning logo. Baked and decorated by Strategic Planning Council member Alice Hunnicutt and her children, the design is based on the one created in the fall by Westfield High School (WHS) student Liza Yannuzzi. An evening of recognition, including refreshments and the presentation of certificates, was held on June 17 in the WHS library to honor the more than 230 people who helped formulate the strategies, goals and action plans for the district.



MOOD MUSIC...The mood of everyone attending the Strategic Planning Recognition Dessert on June 17 at Westfield High School was relaxed, as more than 230 volunteers who completed research and meetings, and finalized their recommendations for a Strategic Plan for the Westfield public schools, were honored for their dedication. Adding to the festive occasion was entertainment provided by several young musicians. They are, pictured left to right, Westfield High School student Ian Patt and graduating seniors Ben Siegel and Ben Schwartz.