

## Freeholders OK Program For Raritan Valley Towns

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

meeting the minimum requirements will receive a grant award of \$25,000.

Based on these rules, Westfield, with a land area of 6.29 square miles and population of 28,870, will receive a grant award of \$25,000. Scotch Plains, with a land area of 9.60 square miles and a population of 21,125, and Fanwood with 1.3 square miles and 5,115 residents, will both be eligible for \$25,000 grants. Plainfield and Union will receive \$50,000 grants. Population figures are from the 1990 Census.

On another economic development initiative, the board approved a contract with Global Market Strategies, Inc., of New Brunswick, to provide foreign investment in Union County and to promote the goods and services of companies located in the county.

The one-year contract is \$750 per month with a maximum of \$119,700 for the length of the contract. Freeholder Linda d. Stender, who chaired the board last year, explained that the contract continued the county's efforts to develop international trade.

Last year, county officials and the board welcomed a business delegation from Luxembourg, located in northwest Europe, with a group from the county, in turn, visiting that country. Later this year, a group from Holland will visit Union County. International trade connections are also being arranged with Portugal and China, according to the Freeholders.

Last week, a delegation from Saudi Arabia, representing 35 companies, visited the county as part of a trip arranged by the United States Mission to Saudi Arabia's Commercial Service. The trip was jointly sponsored by the United States Department of Commerce for the American Council, the Union County Economic Development Corporation and the County of Union.

"I think it bodes well for our efforts that are on-going, as we work to support trade in Union County," Freeholder Stender explained.

Freeholder Chairman Daniel P. Sullivan referred to the Saudi Arabian delegation visit as, "another event in the continuing effort to bring business — whether it's national or international — here to Union County."

The board also authorized grants totaling \$1,688,750 for the county "Project Pocket Park" program. As part of the one-year, dollar-for-dollar matching grant program, Westfield will receive \$100,000 to buy the former Excellent Diner site on North Avenue West, which the Westfield Town Council has proposed to turn into a park.

The council delayed action on an ordinance creating the park, pending

a Planning Board application by the owner of the property to construct an office building on the site. Westfield will also receive \$17,500 for the renovation of the playground at the former Lincoln School, on Westfield Avenue. Among the proposed improvements are new swings, a playing surface, benches, play equipment for kids and trash receptacles. The school is currently leased to the Union County Educational Services Commission as a high school for emotionally disturbed students.

Scotch Plains has been approved to receive \$100,000 to acquire the former Terry Lou Zoo, more recently known as the Scotch Plains Zoo, property. While the Scotch Plains Township Council is moving ahead to condemn the property in order to create a park on the site, Sunrise Assisted Living has proposed to build a facility on the site which they just recently purchased.

Fanwood will receive a \$125,000 grant to create a passive park on Watson Road. Among the improvements will be the removal of asphalt, installation of a drainage system, landscaping, water, electricity and a gazebo.

In other business, the board approved a six-month contract with "This Is It" Concept and Event Production Company of Hoboken, to produce and promote a two-day jazz festival. "Jersey Jazz by the Lake" is planned for Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 13, in Nomahegan Park in Cranford.

Freeholder said he believes the festival will be a "marvelous" and "stellar" event for the county.

He said there are hopes the festival will become an annual county event similar to the summer concert series at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside.

The board also approved a resolution supporting the development of an adolescent forensic facility to address the needs of multi-problem youth who exhibit symptoms of serious mental illness and violent or sexually predatory behavior.

Currently, adolescent offenders are often confined to county youth detention centers, which county officials agreed is inappropriate, noting that these offenders are not well served within the traditional juvenile justice system nor community mental health services.

At the start of the meeting, the board acknowledged the service of Elizabeth Police Chief Gene Mirabella, the father of Freeholder Alexander Mirabella.

Chief Mirabella, who headed the force over the past eight years, has retired after 38 years.

## GOP Chair Proposes Freeholder Districts For Union County

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

DiGiovanni is challenging Mr. McDermott's stranglehold on the Union County Republican Party. In an effort to win this political battle, Mr. McDermott has decided that the welfare of Union County residents should take a back seat to his political ambition, which led him to propose this change in Union County's government.

Freeholder Sullivan explained that the current county manager and nine-member system dates back 22 years. He said this form of government is the "most effective and efficient county government in the state."

Mr. McDermott said a seven-member board "would reduce salary and personnel costs" in the county.

Freeholder Sullivan said, however, that the proposal clearly demonstrates that Republican leaders are "out of touch with the voters of Union County."

He said it is "outrageous" that Mr. McDermott seeks to alter county government to "insure his political survival and his personal monetary gain."

"I truly believe that the reason voters have elected Democrats to the Freeholder board in the past three elections is because we listened to the people and implemented policies that are important to them," Freeholder Sullivan said.

Mr. McDermott noted that legislation is being prepared at the state level for introduction in the Legislature, both houses of which are controlled by Republicans as is the Governor's office. If the bill is passed and signed into law, a referendum would then be put before voters on the proposal to change the form of Union County government.

Freeholder Sullivan responded that instead of "tinkering with a form of government that is not broken, he (Mr. McDermott) should start listening to the voters. If he did, he might have a little more success on Election Day."

## Luxembourg Mission Boosts Economic Development Plan

Continuing their mission to expand Union County's economy by solidifying ties with the international market, officials recently returned from Luxembourg with commitments from companies based there to visit the county to explore possible sites of operation.

Freeholders Donald Goncalves and Linda d. Stender, Deputy County Manager George Devaney and a Port Authority of New York and New Jersey representative comprised the Union County delegation to Luxembourg.

They met with members of Luxembourg's Ministry of Economy and Chamber of Commerce, FEDIL (an association of 400 companies and industries) and a bankers' association, as well as officials from Luxguard, Price Waterhouse and Tycos, which are American companies doing business in that country.

They continued the international dialogue begun last December, when 12 representatives from Luxembourg visited the county to discuss trade and investment with business executives and public officials.

"Union County's economic future is dependent on establishing ties around the globe," said Freeholder Stender, calling the three days of meetings in Luxembourg "extremely productive."

"Our meetings not only resulted in two companies coming to see what Union County — the 'gateway' to the New Jersey/New York Metropolitan Area — has to offer," she said, "but enabled us to make valuable inroads in the country that is known as the 'gateway' to Europe."

Freeholder Goncalves, Liaison to the Union County Council of Economic Advisers, said that a priority of the Council "is to bring opportunities here and promote our area as an operations center for access to the United States and North American markets."

He said executives from two Luxembourg-based, publicly traded companies — a packaging distribution firm and a manufacturer of construction materials seeking to relocate from the Midwest — will visit Union County

next March to explore possible sites of operation.

Freeholder Goncalves said the two firms will have an opportunity to see the benefits of setting up business in Union County, such as the county's infrastructure and proximity to major seaports, airports and commercial centers.

Freeholder Stender said that by establishing ties in Luxembourg, Union County will have access to every major European city and their respective commercial opportunities.

"We continued to build bridges and open dialogues in order to match businesses on both sides of the Atlantic with goods and services," she said, noting that Luxembourg is "the crossroads of trade for the European market of 400 million inhabitants."

The Board of Chosen Freeholders and the county's Department of Economic Development have established several initiatives to promote the county's economic growth, while ensuring that taxpayer dollars receive their best return on investment, according to Freeholder Chairman Daniel P. Sullivan.

No taxpayer money was used to finance the Freeholders' mission, Mr. Sullivan maintained.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS PLANNING BOARD**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Planning Board of the Township of Scotch Plains will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, June 1, 1998, at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey to consider the Minor Subdivision application of Court James Enterprises, LP, Joseph and Michelle D'Annunzio for 1 James Court and 1540 Cooper Road, Block No. 12101, Lot Nos. 7 and 8, which proposes to move and re-establish the rear lot line. No new construction is planned, but the following variances are requested:

**Proposed Lot 8**  
**Section 23-3.4A, Para. A, Col. 5 - Lot Area -**  
Required: 40,000 sf.  
Proposed: 36,136 sf.  
**Section 23-3.4A, Para. A, Col. 7 - Front Yard Setback -**  
Required: 60 feet  
Existing: 51.40 feet  
**Section 23-3.4A, Para. A, Col. 7a - Side Yard Setback -**  
Required: 50 feet  
Existing: 21.06 feet  
**Section 23-3.4A, Para. A, Col. 9 - Total Both Sides -**  
Required: 65 feet  
Existing: 52.92 feet  
**Proposed Lot 7**  
**Section 23-3.4A, Para. A, Col. 7 - Front Yard Setback -**  
Required: 60 feet  
Existing: 46.39 feet.

All interested parties may be present and heard. The file pertaining to this application is in the Office of the Planning Board and is available for public inspection during regular office hours.

Barbara Horev  
Secretary to the Planning Board  
1 T - 5/21/98, The Times Fee: \$40.80