

WESTFIELD

LOCAL POLITICAL PARTIES

Robert W. Cockren of 520 Sherwood Parkway heads the Westfield Republican Town Committee, (908) 654-4956, rwcchr@aol.com
 Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence A. Goldman, of 850 Nancy Way, is Chairman of the Westfield Democratic Committee, (908) 654-8910, lgoldman@gibbonslaw.com.

The committees are comprised of one committeeman and one committeewoman from each of Westfield's 22 election districts.
 The Democratic Committee organizes the week following the June Primary Election each year, while the Republican Committee organizes the week following the June Primary Election every two years.

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**Two Years of Intense Work Paying Off for Couple
 As They Restore 1871 Victorian Home in Westfield**

Editor's Note: In keeping with the artistic flavor of this edition of *This Is Westfield*, the following story on the refurbishing of a circa 1872 Victorian home on Westfield Avenue is being republished. The story first ran in the December 31 issue of *The Westfield Leader*.

By CHRISTINE BROWN-CHARLTON
Specially Written for This Is Westfield

After four years of searching for their dream house, Roy and Sherryl Pascal finally found it on Westfield Avenue in Westfield. And after two years of intense and ongoing renovations and restorations, the house is finally beginning to look like the home of their dreams.

Prior to the Pascals' purchase of the home, one may not have noticed that there was a building there at all. The overgrown property at 633 Westfield Avenue was hidden by trees and had fallen into major disrepair.

The Pascals removed the trees and unpruned bushes and began the daunting task of restoring this 1871 Victorian home.

In 1997, the house was nearly sold to a developer who intended to demolish the house in order to build two new ones in its place. After neighbors protested and

petitioned the Planning Board and the Town Council, the board decided not to grant the developer a variance to continue with his plans.

Prior to the board's decision, the council rezoned properties along Westfield Avenue, Park Street and Summit Avenue.

The action, among other things, prevented development of the property from pushing through his plan to subdivide the lot for two new homes.

The developer eventually rescinded his offer to buy the property. When the Pascals bought the property, it was a cash deal with no contingencies,

and according to Roy Pascal, the project has been "twice if not three times the work we anticipated" and they have "probably gone 100 percent over budget!"

Mrs. Pascal has acted as general contractor for the project, carefully orchestrating the enormous work that had to be done.

Her vision was that of a "whimsical Victorian" which reflected our own personalities. As only the fifth owners of the home, the Pascals have done as much research as possible in order to return the home to its original condition.

They had all the original brass fixtures restored by the Brass Shop in Westfield,

and if restoration was not possible for moldings, doors or tiles, the Pascals have had them duplicated to match the originals.

The first step was structural repair and demolition. These were both extensive due to the fact that there was major termite and water damage and that the house was struck by lightning in 1992 and was never properly repaired.

"I was finding charred wood behind the walls and the strong odor emanated throughout the house once we started pulling everything apart," said Mrs. Pascal.

The kitchen and all four corners of the house were rotting and literally falling off. The entire home had to be boosted up in sections to repair the foundation and restore structural integrity. The home's exterior now boasts cedar shingles in a mauve color and green and white awnings reminiscent of the 1800s and consistent with the original home.

Besides a 1910 two-story addition and a small breakfast nook that the Pascals have added to the back of the home, the house is in its original form.

"We really tried to change as little as



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