

Torah Center to Hold Program on Samson

WESTFIELD - The Union County Torah Center, located at 418 Central Avenue in Westfield, will present a special lecture as part of its Jewish History Course entitled "Samson and Delilah Through the Eyes of the Torah" on Tuesday, November 13, at 8 p.m. Professor Mitchell Bomrind of Kean University will discuss the life of Samson, including his holy birth, his battles with the philistines, Delilah's deception and his ultimate self-sacrifice for the preservation of all Israel. The lecture is part of the fall session of the "Jewish Literacy Program," an extensive adult education program presented by the Torah Center each season. For more information, please call the center at (908) 789-5252.

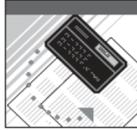
Scotch Plains, Fanwood Plan Veterans Day Ceremonies Sunday

SCOTCH PLAINS - The two local veterans organizations, American Legion Post No. 209 and Veterans of Foreign Wars No. 10122, will conduct ceremonies on Sunday, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day. The services will begin at 11 a.m. with the laying of wreaths at the Veterans Monument at Park Avenue and Front Street in Scotch Plains. At 11:30 a.m., there will be a presentation of wreaths at the Fanwood Memorial Library at North Avenue and Tillotson Road. All members of the community are invited to attend these programs to recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by all former members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Knights of Columbus Collect Food and Toys

GARWOOD - The Garwood Knights of Columbus Council No. 5437 are collecting canned and dry food goods for needy families, as well as new, unwrapped toys for terminally ill children of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Donations of either food or toys may be dropped off after 4 p.m. at the Council Hall, 37 South Avenue in Garwood (opposite Pathmark). Parking is located behind the building on Willow Drive. Monetary donations may be made payable to: Garwood Knights of Columbus Food Drive. For further information, please call Keith Gallagher at (908) 789-0931 or the Council Hall at (908) 789-9809, after 4 p.m.

See it all on the Web!
www.goleader.com



Talking Business

Walter Braswell of Westfield has been named President of the New Jersey Utilities Association (NJUA). The association represents the state's investor-owned, electric, natural gas,



Walter Braswell

telecommunications, water and sewerage companies.

Mr. Braswell has worked for over 20 years with Elizabethtown Water Company. He has served as a Director and Treasurer for NJUA. He is Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary of the Elizabethtown Water Company and Corporate Secretary of Elizabethtown Corporation in Westfield.

Westfield attorney Lawrence A. Woodruff was awarded the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism's 2001 Professional Lawyer of the Year Award last month at the commission's sixth annual professionalism conference at the New Jersey Law Center.

The award is given annually to those attorneys who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to professionalism throughout their careers in the law.

Mr. Woodruff practices law in Westfield. For nearly 20 years, he has been the Scotch Plains Planning Board attorney. He recently completed a term as President of the Board of Trustees of the Interfaith Council for the Homeless in Union County.



Nicholas A. Frungillo, Jr.

Robert W. Dowens, Sr., President and Chief Executive Officer of The Town Bank of Westfield, has announced the promotion of Nicholas A. Frungillo, Jr., of Mountainside to Executive Vice President. He was also appointed to the bank's Board of Directors. He had previously served as Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Operating Officer.

The bank is headquartered at 520 South Avenue in Westfield and has a second office located at 44 Elm Street.

Acting Governor and State Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco of Scotch Plains was recently honored by the Union County Bar Association.

The Acting Governor, who will leave office in January, has represented District 22 for the past 22 years. He served in the Assembly and Senate before becoming Senate President a decade ago.

Talking Business is published periodically in The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times.



Donald T. DiFrancesco

Kristallnacht Events To be Remembered At Service Tonight

SCOTCH PLAINS - An Interfaith Service of Memory and Prayer will be held tonight, Thursday, November 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the Wilf Jewish Community Center, located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains.

The program will recall the events of November 9 and 10, 1938, when synagogues, Jewish homes and businesses owned by Jews were set on fire and Jews were murdered throughout Germany and Austria.

This rampage, which became known as Kristallnacht (The Night of the Broken Glass), was the harbinger of the Holocaust.

Sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League and by the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey, the event is free and open to the public.



WAR OF WORDS...The Borough of Fanwood and the owner of Frank's Automotive Repair Shop are battling over how the borough's revitalization efforts will impact the downtown property. The owner has charged the borough with encroaching on his parking lot (pictured above.)

Fanwood, Frank's Auto Repair Shop At Odds Over Revitalization Efforts

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Times

The downtown Fanwood beautification project has taken an ugly turn in a war of words and accusations between the borough and Frank's Automotive Repair Shop, at the corner of LaGrande and Martine Avenues.

Frank Constandi, owner of the automotive repair shop, has accused the borough of attempting to railroad him out of his location, in order to implement its redevelopment plan for the block that includes his property. He contends that the plan does not find his automotive shop's location in that prime spot to be desirable.

The Borough of Fanwood commissioned the plan after opting to designate the 6.5-acre block of downtown land, located between Martine, South and LaGrande Avenues and Second Street, as meeting criteria as an area in need of redevelopment under New Jersey's Local Redevelopment and Housing Law.

Mr. Constandi alleges that the borough has intentionally encroached onto his property, with a sidewalk that has taken away four parking spaces along the LaGrande Avenue side of his lot, which are crucial to the operation of his business, in an attempt to harass him and eventually force him into relocating.

Mr. Constandi stated that the police have been harassing him about parking customer cars on that sidewalk and have issued warnings that he will receive tickets if he continues to do so. He said they have also harassed him about parking his tow truck on LaGrande Avenue.

Speaking on behalf of the Borough of Fanwood, Clayton Pierce, Coordinator of the Fanwood Downtown Revitalization Committee, told The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood that the sidewalk encroachment was an "unfortunate mistake" that will be remedied, but has nothing to do with want-

ing the automotive shop to relocate.

According to Mr. Pierce, the county widened LaGrande Avenue many years ago, eliminating the usual 10 feet of borough-owned property that typically borders most properties. This led to the borough making the mistake of assuming that it could install a five-foot-wide sidewalk on what was thought to be borough property.

As a remedy, local officials have decided to permit Mr. Constandi to park on the sidewalk and acknowledge that the sidewalk belongs to him, not to the borough, Mr. Pierce said.

Mr. Constandi, however, is not satisfied with that solution, saying it will make him appear to be disrespectful of the sidewalk and will upset the community. He would prefer that the borough tear out the sidewalk and restore his blacktop to the condition it was in before the sidewalk was poured.

This remedy was requested after the borough rejected Mr. Constandi's suggestion that the municipality replace the lost parking spaces by giving him four parking spaces in the borough-owned lot behind his shop.

That request was deemed to be "unreasonable," said Mr. Pierce. Attorneys are in the process of working out a mutually agreeable solution.

Mr. Pierce admitted to The Times that the downtown revitalization plans have determined that an automotive repair shop would be better suited to a different location and that the corner where it is currently located would be better suited for retail, but that this had nothing to do with the sidewalk encroachment mistake.

"Most of the other merchants in town understand that we need to do what is best for the entire community," said Mr. Pierce. "Mr. Constandi has not been very cooperative nor has he attempted to work with us on numerous townwide projects," Mr. Pierce commented.

"A service station in that location is not lucrative and it doesn't belong there," Mr. Pierce remarked.

Mr. Pierce said the borough has extensive funds to insure that merchants who are relocated will not engender any financial loss. He said that certain businesses will most likely be asked to cooperate by moving to more appropriate locations in concert with implementing the overall downtown revitalization project.

An ordinance directing the Fanwood Planning Board to review the redevelopment plan for the block was expected to be introduced at last night's Fanwood Borough Council meeting.

Mr. Pierce said that Mayor Louis C. Jung and the council are very disturbed by the unfair accusations made by Mr. Constandi.

"He has repeatedly humiliated this administration, the Mayor and Borough Council, by making untrue accusations in numerous newspapers," he stated.

The borough does not want to have to use the process of condemnation under the right of eminent domain to force any business to move, Mr. Pierce explained. However, the borough is prepared to do whatever is necessary to carry out what is best for the entire community, he added.

Responding to these statements, Mr. Constandi said, "They have encroached on my land and are making me out to be the bad guy in all of this. They cannot find a location for my business that will be as lucrative as this one. I don't want to move."

Mr. Pierce said that he holds the key to the borough's ability to assist the merchants, but that no one will want to assist Mr. Constandi if he continues to be so uncooperative. There are numerous locations on South Avenue that would be more appropriate for Mr. Constandi's automotive repair shop, Mr. Pierce added.



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