



**HARD AT WORK...**At Saturday's annual Pumpkin Fair at Franklin Elementary School in Westfield, this youngster worked diligently to give his pumpkin a winning smile.

## Pool Expansion Project Bid Comes In \$535,000 Over Budgeted Amount

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Westfield Recreation Commission has asked the Town Council to bond over \$500,000 to keep the pool expansion project on schedule. Recreation Director M. Bruce Kaufmann announced Tuesday night that the lone bidder, Metcon Construction, Inc. of Rockaway, came in at \$1.6 million or \$535,000 over the \$1.1 million the Recreation Commission had budgeted for the project.

The town floated bond anticipation notes in August for the project. Metcon has proposed to work with CFM Construction of Union.

The Recreation Director said Metcon would manage the project and complete the demolition phase of the work while CFM will complete the installation of the new pools. Mr. Kaufmann and Recreation Commission Chairman Keith S. Hertell implored the council to take action swiftly to ensure that the project meets the target completion date of July 15.

The project includes a new diving tank and pool, an eight-lane competition pool and two new slides and accompanying pool.

Mr. Kaufmann noted that the Westfield Memorial Pool is a self-sustaining utility with its own budget supported entirely by its 9,000 members. He noted that he has previously managed municipal pools in Livingston and Summit, both of which were included in the municipal budgets and supported by local property taxpayers.

Acting Town Administrator Jim Gildea said Metcon was one of eight companies that picked up bid specifications from the Recreation Department. He said the new project would be built around the existing facilities. A previous proposal had the new pools spread out over the Scotch Plains Avenue property and located near homes in the area, which drew the ire of area residents.

Recreation officials said the main pool and kiddie area would be open on time in June.

The commission expects to raise membership fees for the first time in five years in order to finance the entire cost of the facility.

Current Westfield resident membership fees are as follows: \$210 for families, \$170 for a couple without children, \$125 for individuals, and \$60 for seniors. Out-of-town memberships are also accepted.

The Parking Advisory Committee is looking to begin neighborhood discussions by the end of November in wards where the committee is eyeing tiered parking structures.

The committee will meet with the Town Council on Saturday, November 17 to update the governing body on the second phase of its report. This phase focuses on determining where additional parking capacity could be placed and the best methods of financing those additional spaces.

Mayor Gregory S. McDermott and Charlie Weidman, chairman of the committee, said the panel is considering a separate parking department instead of a utility to manage the town's parking assets.

They noted that this type of operation, which put parking revenue under one roof, would enable the parking department head to report directly to the town administrator and the mayor and council.

Mayor McDermott emphasized, however, "there is absolutely nothing concrete at this point."

Mayor McDermott said he wants to present the information contained in the panel's report to the public so that it is kept informed of the process. Residents can read the initial part of the report on the town's Website, westfieldnj.com.

The process of creating the new boundaries for Westfield's four voting wards drew criticism from Democratic members of the council.

Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence A. Goldman questioned why Town Attorney Robert Cockren was appointed as attorney for the commission. He cited the fact that Mr. Cockren had served as Republican Municipal Chairman and thus would not be able to be non-partisan in his recommendations to the commission.

Mr. Goldman also questioned why

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## New Approved Map Places All of Cacciola in 2nd Ward

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

With representation from both political parties present, the Westfield Ward Commission has approved a new map, which places the entire Cacciola Place neighborhood in the Second Ward.

Town Clerk Bernard A. Heeney cast the tie-breaker in the 3-2 vote. Republican Commission members John De Simone of Clark and Mary Ellen Harris of Kenilworth voted in favor of the new map while Democrats June S. Fischer of Scotch Plains and Teresa R. Hale of Hillside voted against its adoption.

The commission, by statute, consists of the Town Clerk and the four members of the Union County Board of Elections. The map of the town's four ward boundaries must be adopted every 10 years following approval of the U.S. Census.

Population-wise, based on the 2000 U.S. Census, the First Ward will remain the same with a population of 7,575 with the Second Ward increasing from 7,190 to 7,607. The Third Ward will drop from 7,347 to 7,142 with the Fourth Ward decreasing from 7,532 to 7,320.

Westfield is divided into four

wards with the railroad tracks dividing the north and south sides of town.

The action by the commission preceded an hour and a half hearing in which proponents and opponents of the map presented by the commission which called for moving the entirety of Cacciola Place into the Third Ward was presented.

Ms. Hale said she was looking for a map that addresses racial, moral and statutory equality.

"I don't feel that proposal no. 2 (proposed by Republican Second Ward Councilman Rafael Betancourt) meets any of those requirements," she said. "It is not contiguous, it is not compact, and it is not morally correct." She said proposal no. 1 meets the requirements, both morally and statutory.

"We have people in this town who feel as if they're not represented," said Ms. Hale. She said as long as this is the case, residents in the affected neighborhoods will not come out and voice their opinions. "Because their idea is, 'why bother?'"

Mr. DeSimone disagreed saying, "I don't see anybody being disenfranchised." He also said that many other towns are divided by railroad tracks, bridges, etc.

In supporting the map presented by Mr. Betancourt, Mr. DeSimone said he agreed that, "the status quo (the current map) has to go."

"In compromising, I would support proposal no. 2," he added.

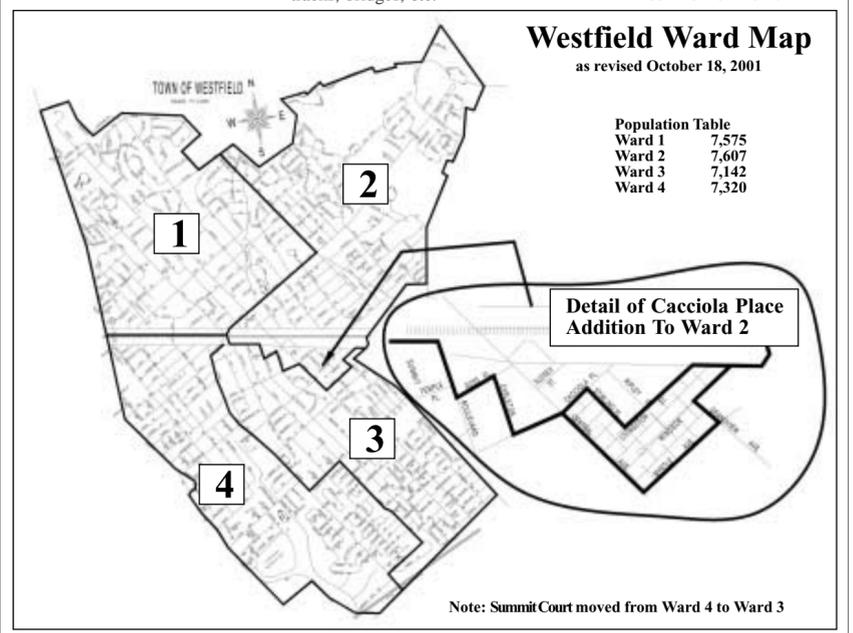
Ms. Fischer said the map that was eventually approved does not solve the problem of correcting the Cacciola Place neighborhood issue.

She said the first map, which places the Cacciola neighborhood and surrounding streets in the Third Ward on the south side, keeps in mind the "natural boundaries," namely the railroad tracks, and keeps the neighborhood contiguous.

The new map puts Cacciola Place; Stirling Place; Livingston Street; Ripley Place, between Livingston and Windsor Avenue; Myrtle Place; Grandview Avenue, from Windsor Place to Myrtle Avenue, and South Avenue from The Plaza to Boulevard, in the Second Ward.

On the far south end of town, Summit Court and the Boulevard from Ayliffe Avenue to the Clark border will be moved from the Third to the Fourth Ward.

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## Area Rescue Squads Gaining Updated Training as Precautionary Measure

By DEBORAH MADISON  
Specially Written for The Times

Even though local communities in this area are seemingly unlikely targets for bioterrorist attacks, many area rescue squads are updating their training and are on heightened alert as a precautionary measure, according to Dan Sullivan, Chairman of the First Aid Council for the 2nd District, which covers most of Union County.

All local rescue squads have been advised by their district supervisory agency to practice universal precautions with a heightened vigilance, reported Mr. Sullivan.

As a part of their required training, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and First Responders are taught safety precautions, said Westfield Rescue Squad Captain Michelle Urso. These include safety of the scene itself, recognizing the need for additional resources; such as Hazardous Materials teams, and keeping the emergency service workers safe through body substance isolation (BSI) precautions, Ms. Urso explained.

Along with practicing universal

precautions, EMS personnel have always been directed to be on the look out for any patterns of symptoms that may signify a widespread outbreak of any kind and to report these observations to the proper authorities. These precautions have always been a part of the required training for EMTs and are adequate to handle the current circumstances, Mr. Sullivan stated.

Since 1999, members of rescue squads and fire departments throughout New Jersey have been offered an elective class in Weapons of Mass Destruction by the New Jersey State

Police. The class focuses on nuclear, biological and chemical agents, including how to identify the agents, recognize the signs and symptoms of exposure, and proper decontamination methods. This course has been an elective available to EMS personnel for the past several years.

The procedures for handling any potentially contagious call, whether it is hepatitis, AIDS, anthrax or smallpox would be the same, noted Fanwood Rescue Squad Captain Sue Davis. Ms. Davis recently took the updated Weapons of Mass Destruction Course and noted that there were

more than the usual numbers of emergency service personnel taking the class, including police and firefighters as well as EMS personnel.

"Whereas in the past, many EMS volunteers may not have included that course in their electives, there seems to be a heightened interest in taking this course and it is being offered more often now," Ms. Davis said.

Ms. Urso reported that most of Westfield's Rescue Squad members have not elected to take the weapons

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## State's Economy Remains Strong Following Events of September 11

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

According to New Jersey Department of Labor Commissioner Mark B. Boyd, New Jersey appears to have weathered the economic impact from the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center fairly well thus far.

The Commissioner said his office has been "keeping a close eye on the economy" to see what impact the tragedies of September 11 will have on New Jersey.

Mr. Boyd, a Westfield resident, has been paying particular attention to claims for unemployment insurance. While the number of claims has jumped since the tragedy, the

increase has not been as significant as first feared by the Labor Department.

This past summer, the department registered 15,000 claims following the layoffs at Lucent Technologies at the end of June and beginning of July.

"Every week after that peak of 15,000, we saw our initial claims load fall every single week up until the week of September 11," he said. "We had gotten down to as low as 7,000 claims. And I really felt the

economy of New Jersey was really performing brilliantly before September 11."

The travel and leisure segments of the economy have been hit the hardest over the past month. This includes restaurants, Atlantic City resorts, the limousine business, hotels, etc. In fact, the union that represents Atlantic City hotel and restaurant workers was concerned that the slowdown would result in layoffs.

In addition, Continental Airlines

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**BURN, MORTGAGE, BURN...**The Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corporation recently celebrated paying off its mortgage by burning it in a small cauldron. Pictured, above, are: Robert Conroy, Chairman of the Corporation's Board of Directors and Ruth Smith, Executive Director of the Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corporation.

**WESTFIELD TAX OFFICE  
EXTENDS HOURS ON NOV. 1**  
The Office of the Westfield Tax Collector will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 1, the day quarterly taxes are due. Normal business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. will resume on Friday, November 2. Interest will be charged after Monday, November 5.

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## Area Rescue Squads Gaining Updated Training as Precautionary Measure

course in the past, but that they intend on offering the level one part of that course at the Westfield Rescue Squad in the near future.

Mr. Sullivan wished to stress that the average, low profile person, who is not a high profile politician, famous media personality or a postal worker has a relatively low-risk of exposure to anthrax at this time.

"I am concerned that some of the media is hyping this anthrax threat and unnecessarily alarming the public," he said.

Mr. Sullivan pointed out that to really get a clear perspective on the anthrax threat there should be information on how much anthrax occurred in the general population prior to September 11. He pointed out that 33 anthrax exposures out of a population of 225 million is a relatively low number compared to a flu outbreak. His chief concern is that if these anthrax exposures are not quelled before flu season, then there will be widespread fear over not being able to differentiate between flu symptoms and anthrax infections.

A widespread panic over anthrax exposures could severely tax and overwhelm emergency services, he said.

Should there be a widespread outbreak of anthrax or smallpox, Mr. Sullivan commented, he is confident that the government and EMS would

be prepared to handle the situation and to coordinate all of the necessary services.

Joanne Gurske, Captain of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, feels confident that the squads are ready and able to handle any bioterrorism threat that may come this way. All local rescue squads, Ms. Gurske explained, are a part of each town's emergency management plan, which coordinates EMS, police, fire and other services in the event of any type of widespread problem.

On September 11, there was a very well coordinated response by police, fire and EMS teams to the crisis, Ms. Gurske added. The local emergency management plans coordinated the efforts of hundreds of collaborating rescue squads in and around New York City. That same coordinated system would be put into place wherever a crisis occurred, she said.

Since the attacks on September 11, all local rescue squads have been advised by the FBI to keep their ambulances locked to forestall ambulance thefts. The directive originated over concerns that stolen emergency vehicles could gain access to restricted areas, Ms. Urso noted.

The Centers for Disease Control has issued informational releases to all emergency services regarding the safe handling of potentially hazardous materials, the protocols of who

to call in the event of emergencies and information on general bioterrorism preparedness and response issues.

"Coordination of services is key to a well-planned response," said Ms. Davis. "The community services in this area are very well-coordinated and ready to deal with any and all possible emergencies," she said. Ms.

## Boyd Comments On Economy

furloughed 4,000 workers. However, the airline hopes to bring back the bulk of those employees, Mr. Boyd noted.

"The New Jersey economy was, I think, very well situated to deal with the slowdown that was occurring nationally. Our unemployment rate was well below the national average. Post September 11, while it of course has been a shock to the New Jersey economy, it has not been as significant as I had feared," Mr. Boyd noted.

The week following the Trade Center collapse, the state's unemployment claims jumped to 9,000 and continued rising until hitting 11,000. Two weeks ago, the number dropped to 10,000.

"That clearly is a significant impact. That is an over 50 percent rise in your initial claims," he said. But he had feared the state would slip back into Lucent Technologies-type of numbers from July, or that of post holiday layoffs. Holiday layoff claims this past January came in at around 20,000.

The Commissioner, noting the loss of some 30 million square feet of office space in Lower Manhattan, noted the importance of keeping those companies that had offices in the Trade Center in the region.

Mr. Boyd said New Jersey, New York and Connecticut need to keep working with the companies to ensure that they remain in the Tri-State region.

"You've got to keep them here. Because if a company moves to Florida, they're never coming back," he reasoned.

The Labor Commissioner, who has made literacy of the New Jersey workforce a key initiative of his office, noted that many lower-skilled workers also lost their jobs on September 11. This includes those persons who washed windows at the Trade Center or those vendors who sold their goods in the lobby area. He also noted that the skill requirements for security guards has been significantly increased in light of the current national security concerns.

Mr. Boyd noted that recent unemployment claim numbers, coupled with 4.5 percent unemployment, the lowest in the region, indicates that the state appears to be on a strong economic footing.

"This is a lot better than I thought it would be," Mr. Boyd noted, explaining the New York's has an unemployment rate of 4.9 percent, which is identical to the national rate. Connecticut was at 4.7 percent. "New Jersey is doing exceptional," he added. "The sky has not fallen. The economy has certainly weathered the initial phase of this," he said. "But, it is an ongoing fluid situation. And we'll see what happens next."

Davis also wished to stress that a widespread terrorist attack in this area, in these local communities, was very unlikely.

Additionally, Mr. Sullivan pointed out that the over-usage of antibiotics such as Cipro, when not required or not properly prescribed, could cause more harm to the user in the long run.

Lauren Pass contributed to this story.

## New Approved Map Places All of Cacciola in 2nd Ward

Mr. Betancourt, who presented proposal no. 2 to the commission, said he submitted the second map in response to the "alleged disenfranchisement of traditional Italians, of African-Americans, and of Hispanics" in the Cacciola Place neighborhood made during the commission's initial meeting on October 2 by Third Ward Councilwoman Claire Lazarowitz.

"This proposal increases this neighborhood and leaves it in the Second Ward which I submit I'm capable of representing," he stated.

Mr. Betancourt noted that he was the first Hispanic person elected to the Westfield Town Council when he won his council campaign last year. He noted that he received 145 votes in the voting district where Cacciola is located, to 217 for his Democratic opponent, William Ziff.

He said there is "no credible evidence" that any members of the impacted neighborhoods have been disenfranchised.

In asking for the current map to be adopted he told the commission, "Keep us diverse, we're enjoying it." The commission's proposal, which was defeated in a 3-2 tally, would have placed South Avenue from the traffic circle to the Garwood line, Ross Place, Carleton Road, Sussex Street, Cacciola Place, Stirling Place, Livingston Street, and a section of Park Street, in the Third Ward.

On the north side of town, a section of Raymond Avenue and Harrison Street, Maple Street, Maye Street, Stanley Oval and East Broad Street from the railroad tracks to Harrison Street, were to be moved from the First Ward to the Second Ward. A section of Kimball Avenue would have also been moved from the First Ward to the Second Ward.

The commission's map, known as proposal no. 1, would have made the south side 1,172 persons larger than the north side.

Proposal no. 2 shows a difference of 720 persons between the north and south sides of town, with the north being larger. The Second Ward would be 465 residents greater than the Third Ward.

Currently, the difference between the north and south sides is only 114, with the First and Second Wards differing by 385 tallies.

Donnell Carr of Hort Street, a former councilman, who read a statement from himself and the Reverend Leon Randall, noted that Cacciola Place residents, especially the children, "in essence are south siders."

"There are common interests and concerns and common geographical boundaries," Mr. Carr said in reading his statement. "To split this area into two political wards that, for the most part, share nothing else in common makes no sense to us."

Edward A. Hartnett of Clifton Street, a professor of constitutional law at Seton Hall University School of Law, said federal statutes say each neighborhood should be "compact, contiguous" while not showing a dif-

## TV-36 Posts Airing Times For 'The First Nine Days'

WESTFIELD -- Westfield Community TV-36 has announced airing times for "The First Nine Days," a presentation of the New Jersey Naval Militia and its role following the events of September 11.

The announced schedule is: Friday, October 26 at 12:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m. and Sunday, October 28; 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m.

The program is to be repeated over the next few weeks.

## Town Council

the town's building department was utilized to draw up ward maps proposed by the commission as well as one presented by Republican Second Ward Councilman Rafael Betancourt.

Mr. Cockren explained that no one objected at the first meeting to having him give legal advice to the commission. In addition, he said the cost of drawing up the maps would likely have been more substantial had a private firm as opposed to the town done them.

The attorney explained the makeup of the commission, consisting of the four members of the Union County Board of Elections and the Town Clerk, and the commission's attorney are bound by state statute.

Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr. said he had three proposals that would be an improvement over either of the ward maps considered.

He called the plan to situate the Cacciola Place neighborhood in the Third Ward as opposed to a compact neighborhood in the Second Ward, "partisan gerrymandering." His comments, he noted, concerned the efforts of Democrats and community leaders to create a compacted Cacciola Place neighborhood. Republicans have said the new map has accomplished this by encroaching the Second Ward further into the south side.

The neighborhood is currently split between the Second and Third Wards. The map approved by the commission places the neighborhood in the Second Ward.

Third Ward Councilwoman Claire Lazarowitz, a Democrat, said she was "uncomfortable" seeing Mr. Cockren as the legal adviser when she attended the commission's October 2 meeting.

"How can we tell which hat is being worn?" said Ms. Lazarowitz.

Mayor McDermott, a Republican, said he feels the decisions rendered by Mr. Cockren this year as Town Attorney have never been about politics but what was best for the town.

## William Smith College Welcomes Fowler

WESTFIELD -- Jennifer M. Fowler of Westfield has been enrolled in William Smith College in Geneva, N.Y. as a member of the Class of 2005.

Jennifer is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fowler of Westfield.

## WHS Class of 1936 Plans 65th Reunion

WESTFIELD -- The Westfield High School Class of 1936 will hold its 65th reunion in St. Augustine, Fla. on Friday, November 2, according to graduate John H. Bade of Medford, Ore.

## Sara E. Euwer Enrolls At William Smith College

WESTFIELD -- Sara E. Euwer of Westfield has been enrolled in William Smith College in Geneva, N.Y. as a member of the Class of 2005.

Sara is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Euwer, 2nd of Westfield.

## WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 8

• Inge Weilandt, 58, of Clark was arrested on South Avenue and charged with driving while intoxicated. She was later released to a responsible party.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

• A First Street resident reported that his motor vehicle was supposed to have been dropped off at a service station by an individual who instead drove it around. The vehicle was eventually returned and no charges were filed.

• A resident of West Orange reported that a Hillside woman punched her in the neck with a closed fist during an altercation in the parking lot of a local church. The victim refused medical attention and no complaints were filed.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

• A Prospect Street resident reported the theft of an American flag valued at \$30.

• A resident of South Avenue, West, said she discovered jewelry valued at approximately \$700 missing after her belongings were moved to that address.

• An incident of criminal mischief occurred at an East Dudley Avenue residence, in which an evergreen tree and a hose lying beneath it were burned.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

• A Plainfield resident reported the unauthorized withdrawal of \$950 by an unknown person from his account at a local bank.

• An East Broad Street resident reported that an unknown person made charges to his daughter's VISA card after she had lost it. The unauthorized use of the card was discovered when they checked on the matter with a bank.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

• Two American flags were reported stolen in separate incidents, both of which occurred on Prospect Street. One flag was stolen from outside a restaurant.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

• A shopper at an Elm Street supermarket reported that she left her wallet at the store, after which unauthorized charges began appearing on her credit card. The missing wallet also contained \$10 in currency.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

• Shari Paler, 30, of Union was arrested and charged with shoplifting \$89 worth of clothing from a North Avenue store, as well as with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, identified as suspected cocaine or heroin, and possession of a hypodermic needle. Her total bail on these charges was set at \$7,500.

A computer check revealed Paler was also wanted on outstanding warrants out of Newark and Millburn for failure to appear, with a total bail of \$1,350. She was being held in the Union County Jail in Elizabeth, police said.

A second suspect, John J. Defeo, 31, also of Union, was arrested on charges of receiving stolen property and theft by deception after he allegedly attempted to return the merchandise that Paler is believed to have taken to the store in exchange for cash. Bail was set at \$300. Defeo was also wanted on an outstanding warrant out of Newark, for which bail was set at \$350.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

• Sean Carroll, 22, of Westfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated at Boulevard. He was later released to a responsible party.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

• Robert M. Baran, 19, of East Brunswick was arrested and charged with theft by unlawful taking and with credit card theft after he allegedly removed \$41 and credit cards from a pocketbook belonging to an Ayliffe Avenue resident while doing work at her home. He was released on a summons.

• A resident of North Cottage Place reported the theft of two engagement rings from her bedroom.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

• A Washington Street resident reported the theft of various items, including a video game, a videocassette recorder and approximately \$700 in cash and currency from her home between August 4 and October 19.

• An outdoor lamp valued at \$150 was reported stolen from a Ramapo Way residence after it was pulled from its cement base.

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## "ELECTION PREVIEW 2001"

On Thursday November 1, 2001 *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains - Fanwood* will publish its Annual Special Publication "Election Preview 2001". This edition will feature candidate biographies and candidate advertising presentations.

As a special promotion, the newspaper will also be published "The Same Day" on the Internet at [www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com). The newspaper on the Internet will be in color. The newspaper is sold at newsstands and stores throughout the region.