



A REAL CAT'S MEOW...This beautiful 1966 Blue Pontiac GTO with a 389 cu. in. engine, tri-power carburetors and four-speed, manual transmission is owned by Mike Bevilacqua of Cranford. This "cat's meow" was present at the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce Classic Car Show on August 28.

David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Freeholders Launch \$2.1 Million Program to Upgrade Playing Fields

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

ELIZABETH — Following on the heels of the Union County Pocket Park grants program and voters' passage of an open space tax last November, the Board of Chosen Freeholders have launched a new \$2.1 million matching grant program aimed at enabling towns to expand existing parks and acquire land for additional fields.

The \$2.1 million "Field of Dreams" program was introduced to mayors and recreational department officials at a press conference held at Sisselman Field in Elizabeth last Thursday afternoon.

Each of Union County's 21 municipalities will have the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$100,000. The freeholders program will give a priority to "field sharing" programs between towns.

The actual awarding of the grant money will be completed by December, with the cutoff for applications set for Friday, November 9, according to county officials.

"What we are really hoping is that in places like Scotch Plains, like Westfield, where they have fields but they are feeling the crunch, that this will help them revisit their existing (field) layouts," said Freeholder Linda d. Stender, a former Fanwood Mayor. She was also a coach in both the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Soccer Association and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Youth Association.

She said towns might want to use the funds for lighting a field or for reconfiguring the current layout of

fields. Freeholder Daniel P. Sullivan said the condition of existing athletic fields, along with the lack of open space, is a major issue in Union County, the second smallest county, at 100 square miles, in New Jersey. "So we realize open space — especially athletic fields — is at a premium," Mr. Sullivan said.

"Field of Dreams" follows the county's \$6 million Pocket Park program, where towns used grant money to upgrade existing parks and to acquire land to create pocket parks.

The county spent an additional \$1 million to upgrade playground equipment in county parks.

Freeholder Deborah Scanlon explained that applications will be considered based on land size, population, the scope of the intended projects and the ability of a town to match the county grant.

She said matching funds can be generated through the local municipal budget, in kind services and private donors, as well as State of New Jersey Green Acres grants and additional state or federal aid.

Grant applications must outline current levels of usage of existing playing fields and potential field expansion.

Applications will be reviewed by the Union County Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Advisory Committee, which is chaired by Freeholder Stender.

"This is a terrific opportunity for all 21 of our communities to share in the expansion of recreational fields,

for our children and the many organized teams in the county," said Freeholder Scanlon.

If funds are still available after the requests for grants have been honored, towns will be permitted to apply for the remaining money above their initial grants from the program.

The open space fund assesses Union County property owners at 1.5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. The fund is expected to generate \$4.89 million annually, or \$97.8 million over the length of the 20-year fund.

Support Groups Slated For Adults, Adolescents

WESTFIELD — Two new support groups are now forming in Westfield, for both adolescents and adults, that will focus on such topics as discipline, communication, goal setting, experimentation, and peer pressure, which may be causing stress in the home.

These groups will begin meeting on Wednesday, October 10, and last eight weeks. The meetings for adolescents will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m., and for adults from 8:30 to 10 p.m.

They will be held at Temple Emanu-El, located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield.

Saul Heitner, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over 25 years experience working with adolescents and their families, will lead the group discussions. There will be a moderate fee to participate.

For additional information, please call (908) 789-1011.

Bagger, Kean and Munoz Kick Off Campaign at Rally

By LAUREN PASS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SUMMIT — Assemblymen Richard H. Bagger, Tom Kean Jr. and Dr. Eric Munoz kicked off their District 21 State Senate and Assembly campaigns on Saturday at the Marco Polo Restaurant in Summit.

Mr. Bagger is running for State Senate, with his running mates seeking election for full terms to their Assembly seats.

The candidates cited a campaign theme of open space preservation, smaller class sizes, teacher training, and helping schools recruit and retain good teachers.

The candidates also spoke of their support of putting patients and doctors, not insurance companies, in charge of making their medical decisions. Mr. Bagger spoke about the progress that the Republican majority has made throughout the state in the past 10 years.

"Republican progress will continue in Trenton and we won't go back to

the (former Governor) Jim Florio days, which is exactly where (Democratic gubernatorial candidate) Jim McGreevy would take us," he said.

Mr. Bagger went on to say, "the principle objective of our campaign is not just to win, but to produce the sort of Republican majorities in all of the communities in this district so that (Republican gubernatorial candidate) Bret Schundler comes out of this district with a record-breaking majority of votes."

Mr. Kean praised Mr. Bagger for his work as an Assemblyman in the 22nd District.

"Rich Bagger has been a tremendous asset. Everybody throughout this district (and in) towns that not a one of us has represented, knows Rich Bagger for his strong and hard work on the (Assembly) Appropriations Committee, on the historical preservation and on education issues," said Mr. Kean, who replaced the late Alan M. Augustine in the Assembly earlier this year.

"We're going to win this election," Dr. Munoz said. "We're going to do better than anyone thinks."

Mr. Bagger, who was Westfield Mayor in 1991, has been a District 22 Assemblyman for 10 years. During that time, he has had over 100 bills signed into law. Mr. Bagger and his wife, Barbara, and three children reside in Westfield.

Mr. Kean and his wife, Rhonda, also reside in Westfield. Mr. Kean is currently the Vice Chairman of the State Government Committee. He is also a former volunteer firefighter and has also been an emergency medical technician.

Dr. Munoz is currently serving in the Assembly seat vacated by Kevin O'Toole, who moved up to fill a vacancy in the State Senate left by the retirement of Senator C. Louis Bassano. Dr. Munoz is a trauma surgeon at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark, and has served on the Common Council in Summit. He is also Republican Chairman in his hometown.

He resides in Summit with his wife, Nancy, and their five children. Mr. Bagger faces Ellen Steinberg from Chatham, for the Senate seat being vacated by Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco of Scotch Plains.

Mr. Kean and Dr. Munoz are opposing former Westfield Mayor Thomas C. Jardim of Westfield and J. Brooke Hern of New Providence, a candidate in last year's Seventh Congressional District Democratic Primary Election.

Westfield Recreation Events

The Westfield Recreation Commission has announced the following upcoming trips and programs:

Renault Winery Tour & Smithville Trip, Friday, October 26. The bus will leave at 9:15 a.m. from the Westfield Municipal Building. The \$52 per person cost includes lunch. The deadline to sign up for this trip is Thursday, September 20.

Ellis Island Trip, Sunday, November 11. The cost is \$58 per person with a deadline of Monday, October 1, to sign up.

"Guys and Dolls" At NJPAC, Newark, - Thursday, November 8. The cost of the trip is \$42 per person.

"School House Rock," The Forum Theatre Company, Metuchen, Saturday, November 3. The bus will depart Westfield at 10 a.m. The cutoff for this trip, which costs \$22 per person, is Monday, October 1.

"Winnie The Pooh Christmas," The Forum Theatre Company, Metuchen, Friday, December 14. The cost is \$25 per person and the bus will leave at 9 a.m. The deadline to register is Saturday, November 10.

Creative Memories Workshop, Friday, September 28, 7 to 9 p.m. Participants will learn to create a scrapbook photograph album for their photos and memorabilia. The fee is \$10 per person.

NJ Devils tickets: Discount tickets are available for the Friday, November 9 game versus Toronto Maple Leafs. Game time is 7:35 p.m. The fee is \$40 per person.

Upcoming fall programs:
Yoga, Mondays, 6:15 to 7:15 p.m., \$45 each. The class is for those aged 13 and up.

Dancercise, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:45 to 7:45 p.m., \$40 per person. The class is open to those 13 and older.

Aerobics, Mondays, 8:15 to 9 p.m., \$25 per person. The class is for those 13 and up.

Bowling, Mondays, 3:45 p.m. The cost is \$6 per week per person. The program is open to those aged 6 to 14. Bowling will be held at the Linden Lanes.

Bumper Bowling, Wednesdays, 9:30 or 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$6 per week. This program is for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten aged children. Bowling will be held at the Linden Lanes.

Arts & Crafts, Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 per person and the program is open to children is grades 1 through 5.

Instrument Workshop, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Times will vary. The program is for pre-kindergartners through sixth graders. The cost is \$50 per child.

Adult Group Fitness classes will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 7:45 p.m. The cost is \$25 per class, with classes held at the Westfield Athletic Club on Quimby Street.

Youth Group Fitness Classes will be offered as follows: ages 8 to 13, beginners, 4 to 4:45 p.m., and advanced, 5 to 5:45 p.m. The cost is \$50 per child, with classes held in the Community Room at the Municipal Building.

Teen Programs:
Teen Center: Friday nights from 8 p.m. to midnight. These gatherings feature music, movies, pool tables, video games, Ping-Pong, football, air hockey, big screen TV, refreshments, a lounge area and special events.

Night Place: Offered monthly to all intermediate school youths from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Activities include a disc jockey, food, games, movies and dancing. The cost is \$2 in advance and \$3 at the door. Upcoming dates include: September 21, October 19, November 16, January 25, February 15, March 22 and May 17. Early registration is recommended, as space is limited.

For further information on Westfield recreation programs, please call (908) 789-4080.

Scotch Plains Recreation Events

The Scotch Plains Recreation Commission has announced the following upcoming programs:

Adult Tennis Lessons have been pushed back one week and will begin on Monday, September 17. Registrations are being taken now. The cost is \$25 for residents and \$30 for non-residents.

Six sessions will be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Kramer Manor Courts. Each player must furnish their own racket.

Yoga has also been pushed back one week and will begin on Thursday, September 27. The cost is \$50 for residents and \$55 for non-residents. The course will be offered at the Towne House in Green Forest Park on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

A Coaches Certification Clinic will be held on Wednesday, November 7 in the multi-purpose room in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School from 7 to 10 p.m.

Vanity Fair Outlet Trip is slated for Wednesday, November 7. The cost is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents. Registration will be held from Monday, October 8 to Friday, October 19 for residents and from Monday, October 15 to Friday, October 19 for non-residents. The bus will leave from Green Forest Park at 8:30 a.m. and return at 6:30 p.m.

The Scotch Hills Improvement Tournament will be held this Saturday, September 15, at the Scotch Hills Country Club. Shotgun will begin at either 8 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. The \$50 per person cost includes: round of golf, cart, luncheon and prizes. Registration will be held at the Recreation Office.

For further information on any of these or other Scotch Plains Recreation Commission programs, please call (908) 322-6700, Extension 221.



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Blood Drive Scheduled In Westfield Sept. 25

WESTFIELD — The Blood Center of New Jersey has announced that a blood drive will be held at the Masonic Atlas Pythagoras Lodge, 1011 Central Avenue in Westfield, from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, September 25.

Donors must be at least 18 years old. Seventeen-year-olds may donate with parental permission. There is no upper age limit for donors, provided they meet health requirements.

Donors should know their Social Security number and bring a signed or picture form of identification. People with a fever or sore throat should wait until they are feeling better before donating, and there is a 24-hour deferral for teeth cleanings and fillings.

Individuals who have traveled outside the United States recently are asked to call the Blood Center at (973) 676-4700, extension no. 132 for eligibility criteria.

For more information or to sign up for a blood drive, please call the Blood Center at (800) 652-5663, extension no. 140.