



Bill Sheppard for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
Senator Jon Corzine talks with Donald Alfano of Westfield who is Vice President of Great Expectations in Somerville. Corzine presented a check to the organization for homeless pregnant women in the amount of \$50,000. In presenting the check, Corzine said: "On behalf of the Federal Government, myself, Senator Torrecelli, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, I am proud to present this check to such a worthwhile cause and organization. This is not PORK. It's our responsibility to support programs such as Great Expectations. We must maintain a partnership between government, faith based organizations and the community."

Senator Corzine Speaks On Homeland Security

By STEVEN KRAKAUER
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

U.S. Democratic Senator Jon Corzine visited Union County last week, making stops at a Rahway senior citizen home and the Elizabeth YMCA.

Senator Corzine has been the center of attention on many issues facing Congress recently.

One of the major questions surrounding Senator Corzine is whether or not he will support his fellow New Jersey Senator Robert Torricelli's current re-election campaign for U.S. Senate, in light of the ethical concerns surrounding Senator Torricelli.

Senator Corzine says he, "absolutely will support." Senator Torricelli in his race against Republican Candidate Doug Forrester.

"It's unfortunate circumstances, but I respect the fact that he's admitted his errors in judgment," Senator Corzine said.

The fundamental author of the Corporate Accountability bill that is being moved through the Senate, Senator Corzine stated, "we need real long term change that will make a difference."

Senator Corzine feels there will be various lawsuits facing current entities in the mix of corporate fraud charges like WorldCom, Martha Stewart and Tyco.

Senator Corzine also spoke of his involvement in homeland security bills.

"I think most of the folks in Congress support pulling together an emergency response team," said Sena-

tor Corzine.

Another issue associated with homeland security is protecting the chemical plants across the country. Right now there are 11 sites in New Jersey that, if an explosion were to occur, would affect approximately one million people.

Senator Corzine said that he feels closer to the homeland security issues because he serves New Jersey.

Two other bills currently being backed by Senator Corzine are proposed naval dredging in Sandy Hook in order to make for safer navigation, and making New Jersey's John's Law a national law.

John's Law would require states to impound the vehicle of a person arrested for drunk driving for 12 hours. Also, if a DUI arrestee were released into the custody of another person, that person would have potential civil or criminal liability for permitting the arrestee to operate a vehicle.

Senator Corzine resides in Summit, and is in his first term in the U.S. Senate.

Commerce Bank Website Creates Stir With Info. About Coming Branches

By BILL SHEPPARD
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD—Commerce Bank of Mount Laurel is expanding rapidly, with several existing and planned locations in Union County. The bank lists its plans on its website, <http://bank.commerceonline.com>.

The website shows existing bank locations in Summit, Springfield, Cranford, Clark, Rahway and Fanwood. Coming branches are shown for Westfield, Berkeley Heights, Garwood and Union. The proposed branch at Park and Mountain Avenues, which was discussed at Monday night's meeting of the Scotch Plains Planning Board, was not listed.

The coming branch listed for Westfield is planned for 433 East North Avenue and is scheduled for 2003. A reporter from *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* visited the proposed location in Westfield and found it to be the current site of New Norris Chevrolet.

When asked, Pat Sabino, Manager at New Norris Chevrolet, expressed surprise that their business location was listed. He contacted the owner, who also denied the claim of Commerce Bank.

The Leader and *The Times* then had several telephone conversations with Commerce Bank headquarters personnel, in an attempt to confirm the accuracy of the address for their planned location in Westfield. Commerce Bank repeatedly acknowledged it to be accurate.

On Monday, Sandra Martin, a spokeswoman for Commerce Bank, told *Leader/Times* publisher Horace Corbin that the corporate file for the location in Westfield shows it to be correct, but that it is preliminary, as it is subject to approvals.

When pressed to confirm the accuracy of other locations that they list for future branches, in view that existing businesses and employees can be affected by the announcements, Mrs. Martin commented that Commerce Bank is expanding rapidly and that perhaps 8,000 locations are under

consideration.

Commerce Bank reports coming branches in Union County in Berkeley Heights, opening in 2002 at Springfield and Snyder Avenues; Garwood, opening in 2003 at 2 North Avenue; Springfield, opening in 2002 at Springfield Avenue, Morris Avenue and Blacks Lane; Union, opening in 2002 at 2265 Morris Avenue, and Westfield, opening in 2003 at 433 North Avenue East. Commerce Bank reports operations in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and Delaware.

Union County Briefs

Volunteer Directory: The Union County Office of Volunteer Services will publish a directory of volunteer opportunities this fall. The directory will highlight the significant roles that volunteers can play in public and private agencies. To be listed in the directory or for more information about existing volunteer opportunities, call the Union County Office of Volunteer Services at (908) 527-4200.

Outdoor Concert: The final performance in the Summer Arts series of free concerts at Echo Lake Park will feature singing and dancing of the French Canadian folk group Barachois on Wednesday, August 28 at 7:30 p.m. Lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets are encouraged. Refreshment stand will be available at 6:30 p.m. For more information call (908) 527-4900.

See it all!
 On The Net
www.goleader.com



LANDSCAPE MASTERPIECE...Scotch Plains Fire Station #2 at 1910 Raritan Road received a landscaping facelift by volunteers and local businesses. Paul Robinson donated his services along with Terre Co. and Green Meadows Landscaping. Plants were donated by Parker Greenhouse, Amberg Perennial Farm and Sanguiliano Garden Center. The improvements are in preparation for the Fire Department "wetdown" on August 17, 2002.

Stender Urges Homebuyers To Be Educated Consumers

ASSEMBLYWOMAN LINDA STENDER

SCOTCH PLAINS New Jersey is one of the most expensive states to live in, and the situation will not improve in the near future. However, there are a few important things prospective homeowners can do to better prepare themselves.

"Dangerous business practices such as predatory lending make performing preliminary research essential for consumers," said Mrs. Stender (D-22). "New home buyers should educate themselves on their rights so that they are more prepared for the home-buying process."

To become well informed, consumers should enroll in a homebuyer education and counseling program. Certain mortgage companies require

new applicants to complete these courses so that they are better aware of the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in the home-buying process.

"Anyone looking for a homebuyer education and counseling program can contact their municipality's planning and development office for help," said Mrs. Stender. "Any bank's mortgage officer can also recommend programs to you."

Mortgage companies examine potential homeowner's credit history, income, employment history, debt to income ratio, and assets during the application process.

"New Jersey may be one the most expensive states to live in, but owning a home is still a vital and accessible part of the American dream," said Mrs. Stender.



WEISMAN HELY DIGIOIA & BOYLE

A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CERTIFIED TRIAL LAWYERS

INJURY CASES



Jim Hely

See us in the Bell Atlantic Yellow Pages.
 Only 1 of 40 lawyers is a Supreme Court Certified Trial Lawyer.
 (908) 789-9000

Personal Training for the Busy Baby-Boomer

In-Home, In-Office or Facility
 Fitness Training.
 Advanced Wellness
 Technology

Individual, Pairs, or Small Group
 Sessions at Affordable Rates.
 Dedicated to the establishment of positive, achievable, fitness plans and goals for the busy baby-boomers of today!

Fit One Training—Wattabodi Workouts Inc.
Frank H. Fryer - Certified Personal Trainer and Wellness Consultant

NSCA Certified
 ACE Certified
 Phone: 908-389-1091
 E-mail: f.fryer@worldnet.att.net
 Website: www.5pillars.com/820757500

VIDEO

V I D E O

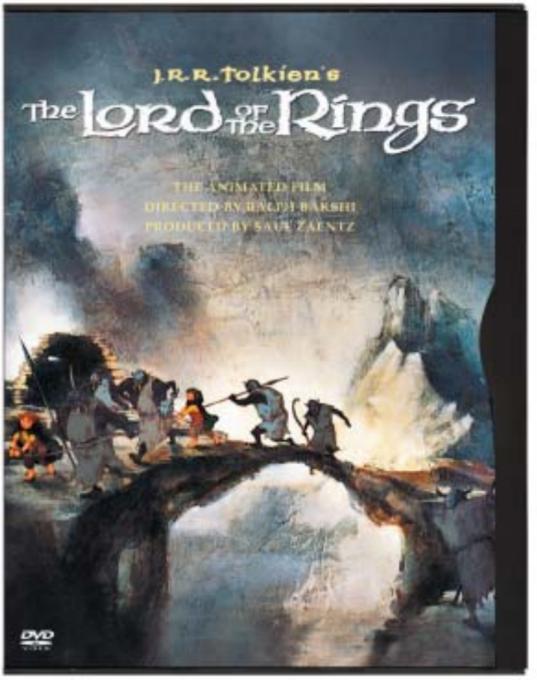
NJ's BEST SELECTION!

Movies and DVDs

MORE DVDs
 MORE VHS
 MORE GAMES
 MORE TITLES

PREV. VIEWED VHS
3 FOR \$18

Reg. \$5.55-\$8.88 each.
 Satisfaction guaranteed. Not to be combined with any other offer.
 Expires 8/28/02



J.R.R. Tolkien's
The Lord of the Rings
 THE ANIMATED FILM
 DIRECTED BY PETER JACKSON
 PRODUCED BY SAUL ZAENTZ

DVD RENTAL
\$249

New release or catalog titles. Limit 2 rentals per coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or pre-paid rentals. Extended viewing fees at reg. rates. Tax not included. Adult DVD's not included. Expires 8/28/02

DVD RENTAL
\$249

New release or catalog titles. Limit 2 rentals per coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or pre-paid rentals. Extended viewing fees at reg. rates. Tax not included. Adult DVD's not included. Expires 8/28/02

DVD RENTAL
\$249

New release or catalog titles. Limit 2 rentals per coupon. Not to be combined with any other offer or pre-paid rentals. Extended viewing fees at reg. rates. Tax not included. Adult DVD's not included. Expires 8/28/02

OPEN 365 DAYS

184 ELM STREET WESTFIELD 908-654-9600

A NOVEL APPROACH TO COMFORT



SAVE 35-50%

ON HANDCRAFTED SHIFMAN MATTRESSES
 AND RECEIVE A FREE \$50-\$75 BORDERS® OR WALDENBOOKS® GIFT CARD*

Experience the sublime comfort of a Shifman handmade mattress. Crafted entirely by hand, every Ultra Premium set combines natural cotton upholstery, an exclusive hand-tufting method and eight-way hand-tied boxsprings. Luxurious comfort, quality, and durability; that's the Shifman heritage. Visit us now for another Shifman tradition: Savings. Now that's a bedtime story with a happy ending!

LIMITED TIME ONLY
 *applies to Ultra Premium sets only.
 Receive a \$50 gift card with Twin or Full size; receive a \$75 gift card with Queen or King size.
 Your gift card will be sent to you by Shifman Mattress Co. within 6-8 weeks after the date your mattress is delivered.

BANCROFT		CRYSTAL		SAPPHIRE		*SAVOY		*SATURN	
SUGG.	SALE	SUGG.	SALE	SUGG.	SALE	SUGG.	SALE	SUGG.	SALE
TWIN EA. PC.	240	330	\$179	TWIN EA. PC.	520	\$279	TWIN EA. PC.	830	\$439
FULL EA. PC.	360	450	\$249	FULL EA. PC.	640	\$349	FULL EA. PC.	1000	\$539
		1110	\$599	QUEEN SET	1490	\$799	QUEEN SET	2240	\$1199
		1570	\$849	KING SET	2250	\$1199	KING SET	3170	\$1699
								TWIN EA. PC.	970
								FULL EA. PC.	1170
								QUEEN SET	2580
								KING SET	3660
									\$1999

Savings off of manufacturers suggested retail and may not be based on actual sales.



Valley Furniture Shop

Exquisite 18th Century Reproductions

20 Stirling Road, Watchung, New Jersey 07069 (908) 756-7623
 33 Forest Avenue, Hawthorne, New Jersey 07506 (973) 427-1848
 Monday-Saturday 10-5:30 • Thursday Eves 'till 9 PM • SUNDAY 1-5