

THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

New Program Demands Higher Qualifications for Student Jobs

By MIRIAM BAMBERGER
Specialty Writer for The Westfield Leader and The Times

As summer comes to a close, so ends the summer jobs of many teenagers. For years, the end of the school year has marked the beginning of more than just days at the pool and trips to the beach — it also means the opportunity for many students to find jobs. Whether at an ice cream parlor or as a camp counselor, summer gives teens a chance to seek the most alluring (and eluding) element in a student's life — money.

From car payments to college funds to movie tickets, everything demands money, and many teens are willing to work for it. In fact, an estimated four million American teens left the comfort of their couches to find jobs this summer.

However, when the schoolyard gates open for another year of tests and homework, some teens find it difficult to juggle part-time employment and meet the demands of education.

In the past, employment for youths was considered character building — a surefire way to create responsible, capable adults. Recently, however, the question has been raised whether having a job can be detrimental to a student's education. In response to this widespread concern, the government has begun to shift the emphasis from employment to education.

The Business Coalition for Educational Excellence recently introduced

their "School Counts!" program. It is hoped that this program, modeled after the National Alliance of Business program "Making Academics Count" will help develop a more motivated and qualified teen work force in New Jersey.

According to the New Jersey Department of Labor, this program aims to illustrate the important link between academic performance and future professional success.

Employers who agree to participate in "School Counts!" will require proof of acceptable academic performance as part of the job application process for students. Opponents may protest that academic performance is not necessarily a reliable indicator of work capability. That is, is it fair that a student with a "D" average be ineligible to apply for a job at a fast food joint? Arguably, no.

However, the program's criteria extends beyond just good grades. In addition to maintaining a "C" average, students must also achieve a stellar attendance and promptness record of 95 percent or above, complete high school within eight semesters (four years), and go beyond the minimum course schedule required for graduation.

Supporters of the program say that states, which have adopted similar programs, have witnessed a decrease in training costs and the turnover rate. This is likely due to the fact that employers participating in this program are not only hiring competent students, but also reliable, motivated and responsible workers.

While the program may sound idealistic to some, its intentions are admirable. Not only does "School Counts!" help businesses find desirable employees; more importantly, it aims to help teens find a balance between work and school and teach students the undeniable connection between education and success.

Concepts & Thought



GENEROUS DONATION... Westfielder Matthew Washuta, an alumnus of the Summit Speech School participated in the "No Limits" theatre group this winter and the Children's Art for Charity benefit. He was also nominated by AG Bell to receive the Arts and Science Award for the 2002-2003 year. His mother, Jeanne, placed the highest bid at the Children's Art for Charity Benefit, which was sponsored by Creative Hands, and chose the Summit Speech School as the recipient of her donation, and the mural.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY, CHANCERY DIVISION, UNION COUNTY, DOCKET NO. F-23510-01
OPTION ONE MORTGAGE CORPORATION, A CALIFORNIA CORP., PLAINTIFF vs. DERRICK JACKSON, ET ALS, DEFENDANT.
CIVIL ACTION, WRIT OF EXECUTION, DATED JUNE 3, 2002 FOR SALE OF MORTGAGED PREMISES.

By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public vendue, at the Union County Administration Building, 1st Floor, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, New Jersey on WEDNESDAY THE 18TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D., 2002 at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.

The judgment amount is ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWELVE & 82/100 (\$124,312.82).

The property to be sold is located in the CITY OF ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY 07202, County of UNION and State of New Jersey. Commonly known as: 132 BURNETT STREET, ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY 07202.

Tax Lot No. 83 in Block No. 6. Dimensions of Lot: approximately 25 feet wide by 159 feet long.

Nearest Cross Street: South Street. Situate at a point on the southeasterly side of Burnett Street distance approximately 225 feet easterly from its intersection with the easterly side of South Street.

There is due approximately the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN & 96/100 (\$133,537.96) together with lawful interest and costs.

There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale.

RALPH FROELICH SHERIFF

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Erratum
The special "Back to School" supplement, which was published on August 22, accidentally omitted Tamaques Elementary School from the roster of local schools. Tamaques Elementary School is located at 641 Willow Grove Road in Westfield. Principal Michael Cullen may be reached at (908) 789-4580. The school website is www.westfieldnj.com/tamaques and the e-mail address is ts@westfieldnj.com.
Additionally, the new principal for McKinley Elementary School in Westfield is Claudia Andreski. Earl Tankard, who was listed as the Acting Principal of McKinley, is actually the Assistant Principal at Franklin Elementary School in Westfield.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS INVITATION TO BID

Invitations are extended to qualified Bidders to bid for the following Project:

SHADE TREE WORK

Bids will be accepted only by mail or in person to the Office of the Township Clerk, Scotch Plains Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076 (attn: Barbara Riepe, Township Clerk) until October 21, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.

The Township of Scotch Plains (hereinafter "Township") shall not be responsible for any bid mailed which is lost in transit or delivered late by the Postal Service. At the above time, the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All bids must be presented in sealed envelopes, which are clearly marked "Bids for Shade Tree Work, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076". No bid will be received after the time and date specified.

After receipt of bids, no bid may be withdrawn within (60) sixty days after the date of the bid opening except if provided for herein. The bid of any bidder who consents to an extension may be held for consideration for a longer period of time as may be agreed upon between bidder and the Township.

All bids must be on the bid forms provided by the Township of Scotch Plains in the bid package. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained at the Office of the Director of Public Property, 2445 Plainfield Avenue, Scotch Plains, between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Bid proposals and all required documents must be completed and submitted by the date as set forth above. All documents in the enclosed bid package must accompany the bid proposal.

In addition to the above documents, a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond issued by a responsible bank, trust company or insurance company, payable to the Township of Scotch Plains shall be submitted with each bid as a guaranty that if a contract is awarded the bidder shall execute said contract. The bid security shall be in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total amount of the bid or Twenty Thousand (\$20,000) whichever is lower.

All bid security, except the bid security of the three apparent lowest responsible bidders shall, if requested in writing, be returned after ten days (10) from the opening of the bids (Sundays and Holidays excepted) and the bids of such bidders shall be considered withdrawn.

The successful Bidder shall be required to submit a Performance Bond in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the amount of the accepted bid at the time of contract execution. A Consent of Surety regarding bonds required by the Contract Documents shall also be submitted with the bid. Sureties shall be licensed and/or authorized to transact business in the State of New Jersey and be acceptable to the Authority. The term of the contract shall be for a period of one (1) year, commencing January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004 with an option to renew for one (1) additional year at the sole discretion of the Township.

The Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive immaterial informalities, or to accept any bid which, in the opinion of the Township of Scotch Plains, will be in the best interest of the Township all in accordance with the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. In the event of an equal or tie bid, the Township shall award the bid to the bidder, which, in the Township's sole discretion, best serves the interest of the Township.

The Township also reserves the right to reject any and all bids if sufficient funds are not available and/or appropriated. The selected Bidder, will, within seven days (7) of award of the bid, enter into an appropriate contract with the Township.

All bidders must comply with P.L. 1975, Chapter 127 entitled "An Act Relating to Affirmative Action in Relation to discrimination in connections with certain Public Contracts and supplementing the Law Against Discrimination" approved April 16, 1945 (P.L. 1945, Chapter 169) N.J.A.C. 17:27, as amended from time to time, and the Americans With Disability Act.

All bidders must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor to engage in public work as defined in the requirements listed under N.J.S.A. 34:11-5661 through 56:55, as well as N.J.A.C. 12:62-1.1.

Where applicable, prevailing wage rate shall be paid to all workers on the job as per N.J.A.C. 34:11-56, 25 et seq.
BY ORDER OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS OF THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.
WALTER F. DINIZO
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

BARBARA RIEPE
TOWNSHIP CLERK
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