



Labor Day - September 2



THE TIMES

Scotch Plains - Fanwood

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FIFTY CENTS

SP-F and Westfield Schools On Time for Sept. Opening

By JEREMY LIPSTEIN and JENNIFER PINTO
Specially Written for The Times

Both Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood school districts are buckling down on construction during the last week or two, prior to the school openings.

Westfield High School (WHS) is currently undergoing over \$10 million in construction and renovations.

According to Westfield Board Secretary and Business Administrator, Robert Berman, "school will open on time on September 4."

The greatest project at WHS is the new wing that will accommodate about 14 new classrooms predominantly dedicated to the science program.

"Economically it works to build new science rooms, they are larger, our old rooms are only about 700 square feet."

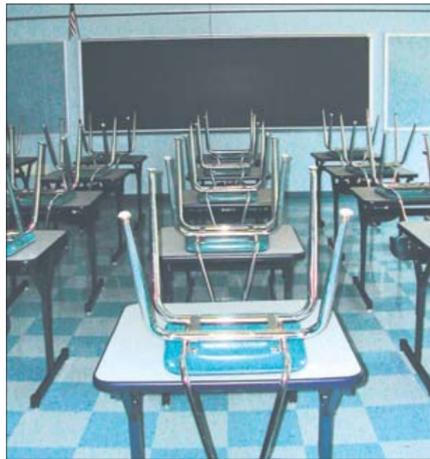
Also included in the new facilities will be storage rooms for all the science classrooms, restrooms and utility rooms. Mr. Berman said that the new building would be "completely separate from a utility point of view."

The new science edition is to be

completed by Friday, April 4, 2003. Once the new wing is completed, the current science rooms at WHS will be renovated into three large art class-

rooms, multi-purpose rooms music rooms may not be, as has been planned all along. These projects should be finished later this fall;

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READY OR NOT...Whether Scotch Plains and Fanwood students are ready or not, all of the classrooms in the district will be ready for the first day of school on September 9.

rooms, which are due for completion in the summer of 2003.

"All external work should be completed by the winter," stated Mr. Berman.

While classrooms, hallways, bathrooms and other necessary facilities will be ready for this first day of school, additional gymna-

Meat Market Owner, John Losavio, Recounts Six Decades of Changes

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Times

Now, he can walk right up to some of his customers and give them a great big hug. He could not do that in the 1930s in Scotch Plains — not anywhere. It just wouldn't have been proper for the township butcher to kiss one of his customers on the cheek back then.

He is John Losavio, owner for 63 years of John's Meat Market on Park Avenue in Scotch Plains, a man who remembers a lot from those six decades in the township.

"Women were very proper back in the 30s and 40s and everyone was a lot more formal," he recalled. "They also wore a lot more make-up back then too."

"People are friendlier now," he said. "They're more relaxed." And he prefers it that way.

After working as a delivery boy for the Morris Meat Market and then as an apprentice butcher for three years in the late 30s, Mr. Losavio saved up enough money to buy the shop. He purchased the butcher shop in 1939 for about \$2,000 and renamed it John's Meat Market.

The market was the only business on Park Avenue then and it remains the oldest surviving store in town. The rest of the block, like the town, was primarily houses, small farms or woods, he recalled.

Mr. Losavio was 21 years old when he bought the butcher shop — the expected age for him to have his own business in those days. One of the most shocking differences between then and now is how prices have changed, he said.

"In 1939, I could buy a new car for about \$2,000," he stated.

He bought his first home, on Stout Avenue, for \$5,000 from the Chief of Police at that time.

"During the Depression, I remember the masons and the carpenters standing on the corner, out of work. No one was building and many people in town lost their homes," he said.

"But, back then, a leg of lamb was only 19 cents a pound and people still had to eat, so we did okay," he related.

Over the years, he has seen more than a dozen mayors come and go. He remembers when the Mayor lived in the Muir House on the Village Green before they tore it down. Bartle Avenue was only a dirt road and the parking lot behind his store was a wooded field overgrown with tall grass and bushes.

"The town bought the field and I was very glad when they turned it into a parking lot," he stated. "Then developers knocked down the houses on Park Avenue to build more stores.

Back then, development was a good thing."

"The Stagecoach Inn was always full of out-of-town guests," he said. And they arrived in town on the trolley cars, he recalled. He even remembers when vegetables were delivered door to door by a horse-drawn cart.

"They used to come around and sell live chickens. They'd pull their heads off right in front of you. You'd have to gut it yourself, of course," he added.

his bodyguards to John's to pick up a few steaks.

Mr. Losavio said that he called Mr. Roselli the next day to see how dinner went. He told him that Mr. Sinatra liked the steaks.

"When Jack Nicholas rented a house in Westfield, his wife came in to buy some meat, but I didn't even know who she was," he said. The realtor who recommended them to John's came in to tell him that the Nicholas' loved the chops.

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BACK IN THE DAY...Owner of John's Meat Market, John Losavio, told The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood about how the township and its surrounding communities have changed over six decades.

He also recalled how, as a boy, his father took him to see a bootleg distillery in South Plainfield during the Prohibition.

"They used to get all dressed up to go shopping in Plainfield on Thursday nights," he said.

He remembered fashions changing from the sleek suited look of the 1940s to the poodle skirts and saddle shoes of the 1950s. He finds today's revealing styles the most shocking of all. He remembered bigger families.

He said that mothers didn't work as much and had four or five children, and, they didn't worry so much about too much meat in their diet like they do today.

"The vegetarians look so pale. They need more iron," he remarked.

"People used to eat more liver and kidneys years ago," he recalled. "Liver's not so popular today."

There were also famous people who frequented John's over the years.

According to Mr. Losavio, the famous singer, Jimmy Roselli lived in the Watchung Mountains. When Mr. Roselli was entertaining Frank Sinatra for dinner one night, he sent



COMING ALONG...While the schools may not look ready, this construction worker assured The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood that they are working at full capacity and should finish on time.



DECK THE HALLS...Among the improvements to Park Middle School are new floor tiles, lockers, lighting, ceilings and classroom windows seen above.

Shared Services Meeting Includes Discussion on 'Field of Dreams'

By JENNIFER PINTO
Specially Written for The Times

Representatives of the Scotch Plains and Fanwood councils and the Board of Education met August 21 for a Shared Services Committee meeting at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building to discuss the "Field of Dreams" project at Park Middle School.

The school board had met August 15 regarding the project, which involves proposed renovations to land at the school in Scotch Plains.

The board disagreed with the decisions of both the Scotch Plains Township Council and the Fanwood Borough Council in favor of Concept One, the plan that includes three baseball fields. The board decided to pursue Concept Two, a plan that would instead accommodate two baseball fields.

After the August 21 meeting, The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood contacted representatives of both coun-

cils for feedback.

"I would like to see the project begin perhaps in 2003, maybe even earlier," said Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks. "The Board of Education did not have a full board present at their meeting, as well as the benefit of the presentation by a Killam Engineer."

Kathy Meyer, Public Information Liaison for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, told The Times that the board would further evaluate the "Field of Dreams" project at its next board meeting scheduled for tonight, August 29.

The Times contacted Fanwood Mayor Louis Jung to ask the mayor why the Fanwood Council opted for Concept One.

Mayor Jung responded, "Looking at the big picture: schools, both recreation departments and post high school leagues all need fields; more fields will allow for more rotation" (with regard to maintenance).

The Times asked Mayor Marks if the decisions have varied due to the board and councils' different agendas.

"In this particular case, even if we have different agendas, we need to keep in mind what the common agenda is; what is important is the recreation needs of children in this area," said Mayor Marks.

"The Field of Dreams project should be a state-of-the-art recreation facility that we could be proud of when we host other communities, he said. "Incorporating the maximum number of fields gives an opportunity to rest other fields."

The Times also spoke to Scotch Plains Councilwoman Paulette Coronato about the shared services meeting.

"I was disappointed that the board was not given proper information to make the proper decision; they didn't all have the benefit of seeing the presentation," she said.

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Freeholders Want to Privatize Printing Services; Prosecutor Creates Task Force to Stop Area Gangs

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

The Union County government will shut its print shop and, instead, will contract with a private firm for its printing needs.

During its regular meeting last Thursday, the Board of Chosen Freeholders voted to authorize County Manager George Devaney to enter into a contract with Xerox Corporation to provide all printing services for the county.

The cost for this outsourcing over the next five years will be about \$47,641 per month, or \$571,000 annually. The potential annual saving

of privatizing the printing services, which won't take effect until next month, will be at least \$228,000 a year.

The board also accepted \$240,000 in funding from the state Division of Criminal Justice that will enable Union County to implement a Gang Suppression initiative over the next year.

County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow has created a task force to monitor local gangs. Comprised of local police officers, sheriff's officers and personnel from the prosecutor's office, the task force will collect and share information

with towns in Union County and also offer direct assistance to the smallest municipalities that lack the manpower to address the gang situation on their own.

In other business, Robert M. Sherr, Ben Laganga and Joanne Gemenden, all of Westfield, were among 11 individuals appointed to the county's Public Health/Weapons of Mass Destruction Advisory Board.

In a related move, the Freeholders passed a resolution requesting the federal government to make the smallpox vaccine available to state and local public health authorities and to begin mass immunization of the U.S. population.

Elsewhere, the county will enter into a \$2,700 contract with Ostap Terhakovec, a Westfield dentist, to

provide dental services to patients at Runnells Hospital for 12 months beginning on Tuesday, October 1.

The county is also entering into a \$94,800 contract with the Musial Group of Mountaintop for a preliminary interior space analysis and utilization study of the old county jailhouse in Elizabeth.

The Freeholders also approved alterations to the \$545,628 contract with Delta Contracting Company of North Brunswick for improvements to Seeley's Pond Dam on Blue Brook in the Watchung Reservation.

The Freeholders also passed a resolution condemning a federal appeals court ruling in June that declared the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional because of the inclusion of the phrase "under God."

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CYAN YELLOW MAGENTA BLACK

Seven Candidates Vie For Westfield BOE Seat Left Vacant By Lisa Alter

By MICHELLE H. Le POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Times

WESTFIELD -- At the close of last Friday's business day, Board Secretary and Business Administrator for Westfield Public Schools, Robert Berman, had received seven applications to fill a vacant seat on the school board by Lisa Alter as of September.

William Sweeney, Beth Reese, Thomas Pyle, Jr., Ron Snyder, Jenny Carroll, Beth Cassie, and Joseph Miceli have all thrown their hats into the ring for the position of Ms. Alter's successor, a term which will expire when the school elections take place in April of 2003.

Elected in April of 2001, Ms. Alter announced her intention to leave her post following the first year of her three-year term. She will enter a graduate program, which would have conflicted with her obligations as a board member. An attorney and active member of the community, Ms. Alter and her husband, Dr. Joel Confino, are long-time Westfield residents with two daughters.

Mr. Sweeney, a 21-year resident of Westfield, who previously served on the school board from 1993 to 1996, held the post of Finance Committee Chairman.

Mr. Sweeney, whose children have

all graduated from Westfield Public Schools, told *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* that he, "doesn't see himself as running (for a board position), but as a person offering his services to the board."

He believes that he holds a, "wealth of experience, particularly in the area of finance." Mr. Sweeney, who is an attorney-at-law, added that it is beneficial if the board looks to its "alumni" to fill seats left vacant, as such an indi-



Lisa Alter

vidual would be able to, "hit the ground running."

While the board has encouraged candidates for the post to consider running for another three-year term once the one-year vacancy has been filled, Mr. Sweeney stated that he could not absolutely confirm that he would be willing to run for another term.

A six-year resident of Westfield, Ms. Carroll said, "my purpose is to work with the board and the township to help improve the school district and the school board."

"From a parent's perspective, I would like to help children to attain their educational goals," she added. She said that "motivation" is the one word she would use to describe as the quality she would bring to the board seat. She is the mother of a one-year-old daughter.

The father of three children, Mr. Pyle has lived in Westfield with his wife for seven years. He told *The Times* that he has always had an interest in running for the school board, especially since his children will be going through the public school system over the next 17 years.

Encouraged to seek appointment to the board by fellow attorney and Westfield resident Douglas Fasciale, Mr. Pyle said that since he has observed a "mini baby boom" occurring in Westfield, he would like to ensure

that the schools continue to grow as the community expands.

"I want to see Westfield grow as well as its schools," he said of his long-term goal for the board seat, "but not at the expense of the quality of the education." Mr. Pyle cited the value of a Westfield public school education as one of the reasons his family, and other families, have decided to move to town.

An attorney practicing in Roseland, Mr. Pyle said that while he does not possess a career background in education, "I'd like to help plan what the future is going to be. I have experience running a business in New York and as an attorney. I can assess problems, get the information to solve those problems and make cogent, concerted decisions to make sure the right things are done."

Mr. Miceli, an elementary school principal in Bergenfield, who recently moved to Westfield, reported that he hopes his expertise in the field of education will contribute to the board and the welfare of the children.

The candidate added that he has been watching the progress of the construction projects in the school district and has been pleased with how well these jobs have been accomplished within the district's budget.

A resident of Westfield for two years, Ms. Reese is a mother of three children, who are attending Jefferson Elementary School. A certified teacher in Illinois, Ms. Reese is seeking her teacher certification in New Jersey.

While teaching in Chicago, Ms. Reese was involved in a socializing program, "Skill Surfing," which taught pupils how to communicate with their peers. She believes such a program would be useful in the Westfield school system.

"Communication" is the one word Ms. Reese chose to describe as the asset she could bring to the school board. She added that parents, teachers and boards should be in constant communication with one another for the betterment of the students' experience.

After being contacted by *The Times*, Ms. Alter, Mr. Snyder, and Ms. Cassie did not return phone calls.

Once the school board conducts public interviews with the candidates, the board will go into private session to discuss the appointment. After a public discussion, the new board member will be elected during a regular public meeting in September.

Ms. Alter's successor will complete the second year of her term, while the April 2003 election will decide who will complete the third year of her term.



Jennifer Pinto for The Times

TOP TO BOTTOM...Students at Park Middle School will be able to enjoy their cafeteria, which was gutted and totally refurbished over the summer. This room will be ready for school opening.

Mountainside Meeting Canceled; Parents Left Angry in Parking Lot

By JENNIFER PINTO
Specially Written for The Times

MOUNTAINSIDE -- Over 20 parents wandered the parking lot at Deerfield School in Mountainside on Tuesday, talking to each other about the canceled Board of Education meeting.

The Mountainside Board of Education canceled its scheduled public meeting without notice.

The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood contacted the Mountainside Board of Education administration office, which is temporarily working out of a building on Mill Lane in Mountainside, in the afternoon to confirm the scheduled meeting.

According to a representative of the school board administration office, the meeting was still planned for 8 p.m. on August 27.

The Times spoke to Mountainside resident Colleen Manion, who was shocked by the cancelled meeting.

"One of the many things that the Mountainside Board of Education is suffering from is lack of communication. Canceling the meeting seems like an effort of the board to not

involve parents on decisions being made," said Mrs. Manion.

Mrs. Manion told *The Times* that she, and other parents, arranged for a babysitter to watch over their children in order to attend this meeting.

"Our babysitter is a student at Deerfield School and she has been taught science in the cafeteria for years," said Mrs. Manion. "Classes in the cafeteria are a problem, portable trailers are a problem and postponing art and music classes are a problem."

"Our children deserve a competitive education...not angry and frustrated teachers," said Mrs. Manion.

Other parents, who did not want to offer comments on the record, will consider writing letters to the editor.

The agenda for the canceled meeting included discussion about construction delays, the transition of MOPPET through second grade back to Beechwood School in November and the results of the mold spores testing performed on the trailer.

The school board's public meeting has been postponed to tonight, August 29 at 8 p.m.

Construction Update

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

except for the high school, where a corridor will be constructed to connect the two-second floor-sections. This project will begin in December, once school is underway.

While both Park and Terrill Middle Schools had additional classrooms built to accommodate the incoming fifth graders, all the elementary schools have an additional multi-purpose room. As for the high school, the only work done over the summer involved asbestos removal, the addition of an elevator, and the installation of new windows.

The largest project done in the district is renovations at Park Middle School, the oldest school in the district. New floors, lockers, ceilings and lighting were installed.

Gem-Mineral Show On Tap in Fanwood

FANWOOD -- The New Jersey Mineralogical Society, Inc. will hold its 31st annual Gem and Mineral Show on Saturday, September 7, at the Fanwood train station, located at North and North Martine Avenues.

The show will take place from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dealers are expected to present a large variety of specimens, including fossils and jewelry. Admission is free.

The rain date is Sunday, September 8. For additional information, please call Russell Brarens at (732) 469-1047.

Cannonball House

To Be Open Sunday

SCOTCH PLAINS -- The Osborn Cannonball House, located at 1840 Front Street in Scotch Plains, will be open to visitors this Sunday, September 1, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Built circa 1760, this small, white clapboard house has been a museum for the past 30 years under the care of the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Costumed docents will give tours of the museum, as well as the surrounding flower and herb gardens. There is no admission fee.

'Field of Dreams'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The three fields allows us to get the most out of our land and keep it in great playing conditions. When our kids go visit other towns, they see wonderful fields and now that we have the same opportunity, we should do as much as we can with this gift," said Councilwoman Coronato.

As of now, no plans for the project have been formally decided upon. Mayor Marks told *The Times* that the next anticipated Shared Services meeting would be "sometime in September."

Voters in Scotch Plains Will Face Busy Ballot in November

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

legislative aide for seven years to the late State Assemblyman Alan Augustine.

She told *The Times of Scotch Plains and Fanwood* that her background in government "will enable me to help people

in Scotch Plains maintain the good quality of life we have here. I want to raise my kids here and we have to have a stake here."

Mrs. Malool added that she learned a great deal from her years of working for Mr. Augustine, "especially that people should come first."

Mrs. Ellington, an attorney who also holds a masters degree in public administration, told *The Times* "she wants to make a difference in the lives of residents of Scotch Plains." She added that "there are some important issues that need to be addressed, such as property taxes and the quality of life in general." She said it is "important to have a council that will address these concerns" and "brings about the changes that the people want."

Mr. Gowen currently operates his own Internet-based business and has a business background in the information technology area. He told *The Times* that he wants to look at how the township government does things.

"I'm curious, if we have always done things one way, why? If we've not always looked at the most efficient way of doing something, why?" he asked.

He also said he would like to see better communication with other entities, such as the board of education and the State Legislature.

"There is a drive in me to do things better. That translates into wanting to take action," he said.



Join the Team:

The Westfield Leader and THE TIMES of Scotch Plains-Fanwood

Freelance Reporters:

We are currently seeking freelance professionals to cover meetings in Westfield, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Fanwood. Freelancers must be available during evening hours. Meetings typically covered in our newspapers include Board of Education, Planning Boards, Municipal Councils, etc. College students welcomed. For information, contact Lauren Pass at (908) 232-4407 or send email to editor@goleader.com.

Student Interns:

Area high school students who are interested in journalism are encouraged to write for *The Student View*, a weekly column by local high school students. For information, contact Jeremy Lipstein at jlipstein@goleader.com.



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