

Scotch Plains Recreation Events

Tennis Ladders: will be formed depending upon registrations for men's and women's singles and doubles and seniors as well. There is a \$5 registration fee per individual.

Overnight Vacation Trips: The vacation trips are sponsored by Scotch Plains, Mountainside and New Providence Recreation Departments. The trips are as follows: August 17 to 20 to Gettysburg, Pa. and Pigeon Forge, Tenn. from September 28 to October 4. For further details, contact the Recreation office at (908) 322-6700, ext. 221.

Summer Programs: will include but are not limited to Parks Program, Small Fry Summer Program, Basketball clinic, tennis lessons, trip to see Somerset Patriots Ball game, Teen Club Night, Teen White Water Rafting trip, golf clinics and tournaments, adult yoga, senior aerobics and adult dance and much more. Residents are advised to check the summer brochure which will be available this month.

Teen Club Night: Will be held on Friday, June 7, at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School from 8 p.m. to midnight. All students, ages 13 through 18, who attend the high school are invited. Activities include a disk jockey, Human Foosball, Rock Climbing Wall and Virtual Reality, as well as refreshments. This program is sponsored by the Scotch Plains Recreation Commission and by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Municipal Alliance and funded by the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the UCDHS Division of Planning.

The High School Moonglowers Music Group: will be performing on Wednesday, June 12, on the Village Green outside the Scotch Plains Municipal Building at 430 Park Avenue, at 7 p.m. This is a free concert provided to the residents of the community.

The Cultural Arts Concert Series: will begin on Thursday, July 11, and will conclude on Thursday, August 29. All shows will be held on the Village Green. In case of rain, the concerts will be moved indoors to the high school auditorium. Concert performances are scheduled to include, but are not limited to, Jim Barone as Elvis; Teddy Halek, presenting a tribute to Frank Sinatra; Beatlemania and The Nerds. Interested individuals are encouraged to bring a chair and a blanket to best enjoy the outdoor summer festivities.



Cheri Rogowsky for The Westfield Leader and The Times INTERVIEWED AT THE LEADER...Senator Richard H. Bagger, center, pauses after being interviewed by Publisher Horace R. Corbin and Leader reporter Lauren S. Pass during a TV-36 showing at the annual SpringFest in Westfield on May 5. Staff members of The Westfield Leader and The Times conducted interviews with state and local politicians, town officials, various organizations and local high school coaches and athletes.

Stender Proposes Loans For Fire And Rescue Volunteers

SCOTCH PLAINS - Assemblywoman Linda Stender, D-22, announced that she introduced legislation that will provide low interest mortgages for volunteer fire and rescue squad workers. Mrs. Stender said, "This bill will serve as an incentive for individuals to volunteer for service on fire or rescue squads."

Assembly Bill 2330 would create a low interest mortgage loan program in the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency for individuals who serve on an active basis on volunteer fire or rescue squads. The agency will establish an interest rate for the loan program at an amount below the market rate for home mortgage loans in the area where the property is located.

"Volunteer fire and rescue squads are vital members of our community," said Mrs. Stender. "Volunteers strengthen our communities, but towns across New Jersey are having a harder and harder time recruiting new members. It is important to find new ways to encourage residents to volunteer their time and participate in essential community services. I believe that volunteers are the heart of a strong community and I am proud to sponsor legislation that will help support volunteering in our fire and rescue squads."

Under the bill, to be eligible for the program, the applicant must provide proof of one year of active emergency service as a volunteer member of a rescue squad or a fire squad. The mortgage loan shall be used only for the purpose of enabling a borrower to acquire or construct a residential property or refinance an existing residential property loan.

Westfield Tree Preservation Ordinance To Be Revised

WESTFIELD - The Town Council is expected to consider proposed changes to the Tree Preservation Commission (TPC) Ordinance in the near future.

The proposed changes to the three-year-old ordinance include reducing the clear cut zone around proposed driveways and sidewalks from 15 to five feet; a provision to require developers to contribute to a Tree Trust Fund when removing more than 75 percent of the trees in development and a provision that triggers a tree preservation plan for proposed building demolitions that is meant to prevent teardowns from circumventing the development review process.

Former TPC Chairman Michael Snizek, who drafted the proposed changes, believes these changes will be the first of many over the coming years that Westfielders will demand. "The commission received a lot of calls from Maye Street residents who were horrified to see so many trees removed from their street. Unfortunately, the TPC has no jurisdiction over trees on developed property. Towns like Millburn and Mountainside have much stricter ordinances that could have prevented or at least minimized what happened on Maye Street."

The TPC is a sub-committee of the Westfield Planning Board and was founded in 1999 by Mayor Thomas Jardim. The commission was formed to, "preserve, protect and promote the trees of Westfield so as to enhance the quality of life in town".

The commission's primary function is to review proposed building sites and to recommend which trees are worth saving and to help formulate re-planting plans. The group also publishes a recommended species list and consults on tree planting efforts such as the Central Avenue corridor re-development.

The TPC has reviewed nearly 50 sites in the past three years, from small single-family sites to the 13 home Codding Road sites, which is currently being developed near the Westfield Armory.

The commission recently hosted a tree-planting seminar, which was conducted by TPC member and local landscape designer Craig Stock, who presented the group's recommended tree species list and a primer on best planting practices.

The commission does not have oversight over trees on private property. As currently written, Westfield residents do not require a permit to remove trees on their own property unless the tree is a town tree. Generally any part of a tree within 10 feet of the street is a town tree and cannot be removed without permission from the town. Claude Shaffer of the Town Department of Public Works may be contacted at (908) 789-4100 if an individual wishes to remove a tree believed to be a town tree.

Rescue Squad To Hold Open House

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Rescue Squad located at 335 Watterson Street, has invited everyone to an Open House on Monday, May 27, Memorial Day, between 12 and 4 p.m. Residents are invited to tour the facility and meet members of the squad.

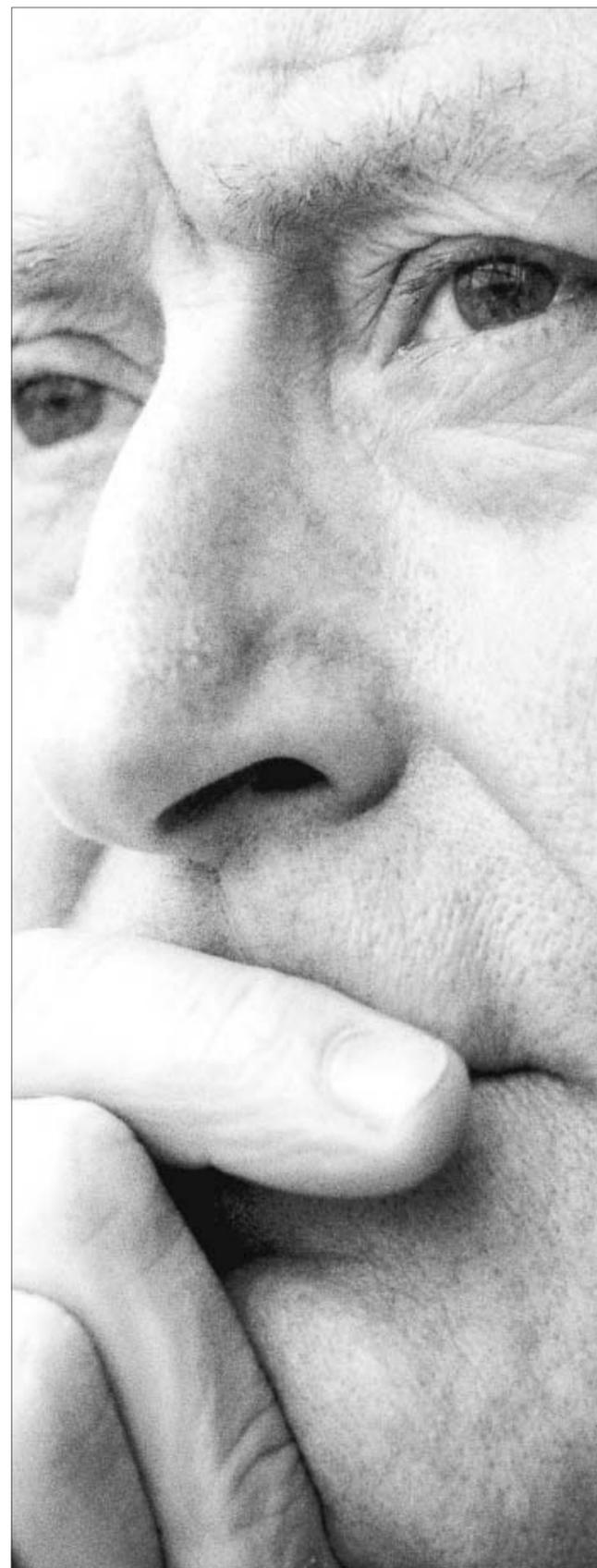
"We feel it is important to give the community the opportunity to meet us and tour our facility," said Captain Miki Urso.

"The residents will be able to see firsthand what a wonderful organization this is," said Fund Drive Chairman and Vice President Dan Sullivan.

The Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad is an entirely volunteer organization and is solely dependent on tax-deductible contributions. Contributions may be made to the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 356, Westfield, 07091. Please call (908) 233-2501 for information.

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Forrester to Speak at MS GOP Meeting

MOUNTAINSIDE - The Mountainside Republican Club will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, May 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mountainside Borough Hall, located on Route 22 at the intersection of New Providence Road.

Senate candidate Douglas Forrester will be the guest speaker. The meeting is open to the public.

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