



UP AND OVER... An accident occurred at the intersection of St. Marks and South Euclid Avenues on Friday, November 15 when a Jeep driven by Israel Sanabria of Union struck a vehicle being driven by Peter Terry of Scotch Plains. Both men reported injuries and were transported by the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad. Sanabria, whose jeep also struck a telephone pole, a tree, and then overturned, was ticketed for failure to yield at a stop sign.

Freeholder Scanlon Tells Residents: Beware of Asian Longhorned Beetle

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Following meetings in October that included a parade of county residents protesting the decision not to sell a portion of a 63-acre tract of land in Summit to a local church, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders' regular meeting last Thursday saw just three individuals speaking briefly on the matter.

At its first meeting since the November 5 election that saw three Democrats win re-election, ensuring a 9-0 all-Democratic Board for next year, the Freeholders, after listening last month to some furious and emotional protests by parishioners of Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, seem to have weathered the political fallout and threats by some church members that Democrats would pay a political price at the polls for their decision.

Back in the spring, the Freeholders had voted to purchase 63.5 acres of property owned by New Jersey-American Water Company and then made known their intention to sell seven of those acres to the church.

After a group of Summit residents protested the proposed land sale to the church, a \$15,000 envi-

ronmental impact study was conducted by PMK Group of Cranford, which found concerns about deforestation and possible harmful effects on local wildlife if the property were to be sold and then developed by the church.

Next Tuesday, November 26, county residents will have an opportunity to dispose of unwanted



BWARE OF THE BEETLE... Union County Freeholder Deborah Scanlon has advised county residents to watch out for the Asian longhorned beetle, pictured, above.

ammunition and fireworks at the county police headquarters building on North Avenue in Westfield.

"Many residents have these potentially dangerous items in their homes and would like to dispose of them safely," said Freeholder Board Chairman Lewis Mingo, Jr.

From 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Union County Police Department will accept all fireworks and ammunition of up to 50-caliber in size. This is the first time this type of program has been conducted in Union County. No guns will be accepted. All materials brought in by residents will be placed in a burn container and later detonated by the police.

Saying the program is not just for those individuals who use firearms for target shooting or hunting, Freeholder Chester Holmes said the county "gets many calls from residents who come across these items when they clean out a home after the death of a loved one." People tend to keep these items simply because they are unsure of how to

dispose of them.

In another matter, Freeholder Deborah Scanlon is warning county residents to be on the alert for the Asian longhorned beetle, which can destroy thousands of trees in a short period of time. This type of beetle has been discovered near Union County.

Freeholder Scanlon, the board's liaison to the county's Shade Tree Commission, said officials are working with state and federal officials on the problem. The beetle, native to China, lays its eggs in hardwood trees; the larvae then feed off the delicate living tissue inside the tree, an infestation that is fatal to a variety of trees, namely maples, boxelders, horsechestnut, willows and elm trees.

The beetle is 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches in length, with a shiny black shell with white dots. Urging residents to be watchful, Freeholder Scanlon said the beetles "spread very, very quickly and our best chance for stopping this infestation is to catch the beetles very early."

The Freeholders' next regular meeting will be on Thursday, December 5.

Freeholder Board's Initiatives for 2002 Reviewed; Trash Train No Longer An Issue At Tremley Point

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Just a few weeks ago, the voters of Union County decided that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will once again consist of all Democrats. Freeholder Nicholas Scutari, of Linden, was re-elected to his third three-year term, while Angel Estrada of Elizabeth was elected to his second. Rick Proctor, of Rahway, was elected to his first term, following an appointment last February to fill the vacancy left by Linda Stender who won a State Assembly seat last year.

While, an appointment as the Freeholder Chairman is still upcoming

BOE Audit Runs Smoothly; Y's Men to Fix Elm St. Field

By CHARLOTTE LEDERMAN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

"No violation of state laws, regulations, no reportable conditions." Such was the good news at Tuesday's board of education meeting as the Highland Park accounting firm of Hodulik and Morrison, PA gave their report on the 2001-2002 audit.

Indeed, accountant Bob Morrison further informed the board that his firm had found that "the financial statements were fairly represented" and the internal controls of checks and balances were "designed properly and working."

Mr. Morrison also noted that he and his employees had enjoyed the "complete cooperation of the staff" in Westfield and what a pleasure it was to work for such a town. Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley credited Business Administrator and Board Secretary Robert Berman and the work that he has done in facilitating the auditing process, both this year and in years past.

During their discussion of the audit, board member Carol Molnar asked Mr. Morrison to explain the impact of "centralized fix asset accounting." Overall, this will be required as part of the audit next year, and as a result, will necessitate the board hiring a full time employee to fill this need.

The board also heard a presentation from the Y's Men, a service organization based at the Westfield Y, that has historically sold Christmas trees at the Elm Street Field. Recently, this field has come under much debate as to its proper care and usage. The Y's Men proposed to the board, though, that as an act of good faith they "change the way we do business on the field."

This year, no tractors will be allowed on the field and they hope to experiment with straw and alternate pathways to eliminate mud and minimize damage to the field.

Y's Men member and field profes-

sional Greg Nicoll also proposed to "establish and manage a field conditioning program of aeration, fertilization and seeding for the Elm Street Field."

The service group believes that "this conditioning program will significantly improve the condition of the field and its turf within a short period." It will work in conjunction with numerous suppliers and services to "directly assist the board in covering the costs and managing the program."

Board President Arlene Gardner accepted the Y's Men's proposal, noting it was "generous" as it was "at



FIELD OF TREES?... The Elm Street Field, across from the Stop and Shop Supermarket, has been the home of the Y's Men's Annual Christmas Tree sale. This year, the Board of Education will once again permit the Y's Men to use the field. However, the board asked the organization to consider moving the sale to the Memorial Pool complex due to continual wear and tear to the Elm Street Field.

no cost to the board."

Board member William Ziff also seemed to speak for the entire board when he voiced that he felt it was a "win-win situation."

In other news, Mrs. Gardner alerted the board to several community events. This week is American Education Week and includes the theme of "Making Public Schools Great for Every Child!" As such, cooperation between staff, parents, and the community as a whole are responsible for making the Westfield Public Schools so successful.

Mrs. Gardner noted, "We are for-

night at Westfield High School on Thursday, November 21 and the high school's production of Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth*, which will begin today, Thursday, November 21, and run through the weekend.

Mrs. Gardner closed the meeting, reminding the community that the Westfield Public Schools will hold a four-hour session on Wednesday, November 27, and will be closed Thanksgiving Day and Friday, November 29.

The board will reconvene next month on Tuesday, December 3.

Westfielder Linked To Snipers

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Former Westfield resident, Peter Gianquinto, 53, was arrested in New York on passport fraud charges. According to the Associated Press, Gianquinto is linked to the D.C.-area sniper, John Allen Mohammed, since Antiguan authorities saw them together on the island.

According to Westfield Police Detective Lieutenant Frank Brunelle, Gianquinto has been "doing this (committing fraud) a long time."

Lieutenant Brunelle said that Gianquinto been arrested on fraud charges several times by the Westfield Police Department. He added that Gianquinto would typically impersonate people in the entertainment field.

Gianquinto grew up on Highland Avenue, but there was no record of him in the Westfield High School yearbooks.

The *New York Post* reported Wednesday that Gianquinto used that passport to travel from Antigua to New York in April and May 2001. It also said court documents indicate federal agents focused on Gianquinto shortly after the arrests of Muhammad and second sniper suspect John Lee Malvo.

A phone call to Attorney Albert Stender, who is representing Gianquinto, was not returned.



BUILDING UP?... The owners of the Trader Joe's building on Elm Street have applied to add two stories to the building for commercial and residential space. This would block the current view of the Presbyterian Church steeple as pictured above.

"The Freeholder Board has worked to acquire available open space, located primarily in the Western part of Union County. Green the Streets will place needed emphasis on developing recreational areas in our county's older, more densely populated communities."

- Freeholder Lewis Mingo

gated, and New York backed out, according to Tom Plante, from the County's public information office.

Mr. D'Elia also stated that the environmental process of this project will be complete in early 2003. He also notes that permit applications and design will require approximately another 18 months, so that construction will be ready to begin in 2005.

In addition, Mr. D'Elia reports that the County and the City of Linden have met with property owners of Tremley Point and that the Global Village Plans have "advanced significantly." He reports that New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) clean up plans are complete and that a site plan has been reviewed. He further notes that the owner of the property should be "able to select a developer within the next six months to begin work on the property."

Also outlined in his report, was the

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CELEBRATING LITERACY...Washington Elementary School students were treated to an evening of fun, music and reading during the school's Annual Literacy Night. Author Danny Alderman autographed copies and sang songs from his new book, "Songs for America's Children."

Freeholder Board Says Trash Train Is No Longer An Issue

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fourth initiative entitled Partnership for Economic Progress, (PEP) which would help Union County's small businesses by aiding those businesses impacted by the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The purpose of the initiative is to bring together economic development organizations to coordinate services to these small businesses.

According to the Union County Freeholder Office, the organizations involved include the Board of Chosen Freeholders and the County Manager, the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Human Services. In addition, the Union County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, the Union County Workforce Investment Board, the Elizabeth Development Company, the Union County Economic Development Corporation, the Small Business Development Center and Union County College are working towards this initiative.

Projects launched for the initiative include providing technical assistance programs to small businesses in the areas of International Service, export readiness and trade and government procurement as well as a small business debt refinancing loan program to refinance existing business-related debt. Also, additional technical assistance courses are being offered at Kean University while

Union County College is providing a new curriculum for small business employment training.

The final initiative reported by Freeholder Mingo is the "Green the Streets" project. According to Mr. Mingo, through this initiative Union County will dedicate \$1.75 million from the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, to create parks, connect greenways and improve park areas in the County's urbanized, congested areas.

In a press release, submitted by the office of Mr. D'Elia on October 9, it was announced that the program was officially launched.

According to Mr. Mingo "the Freeholder Board has worked to acquire available open space, located primarily in the Western part of Union County. Green the Streets will place needed emphasis on developing recreational areas in our county's older, more densely populated communities."

Municipalities eligible for this matching funds program include, Rahway, Elizabeth, Linden, Hillside, Plainfield, Roselle and Union Township. Each municipality can apply for up to \$250,000 and the deadline for applications is December 31, 2002.

The Freeholders will appoint a chairman for 2003 at their reorganization meeting in January.

Scotch Plains-FW School Board Hears Report On District Voting Patterns

By JENNIFER PINTO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS -- The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education (BOE) kicked off their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 19 with various board priority items.

Board Secretary and Business Administrator Anthony Del Sordi briefed the board and the public on construction updates throughout the district.

Mr. Del Sordi noted that the high school extension would be completed by March due to the late arrival of steel materials. The McGinn School multipurpose room will be completed by next week, however Brunner School's multipurpose room is the project that is "lagging behind" according to Mr. Del Sordi.

Representing the School/Community Relations Committee, Vice President Linda Nelson addressed the board by presenting a report with the Ad Hoc committee on voter patterns in school elections.

According to Ms. Nelson "the Community Relation Committee has been working on this project for 10 months" when originally the project was only anticipated to be a few weeks.

Ms. Nelson served as the chairperson for the Ad Hoc committee which also consisted of members: Margaret Ames, Bill McClintock, Lorraine Staniec and additional volunteers. The group gathered Union County Board of Election data as well as voter turnout and approval rates.

"We are only passing the budget by 200 votes," stated Ms. Ames.

Ms. Ames reiterated that half of the voters who are voting for school budgets are not public school voters.

According to Ms. Nelson, a public school voter is considered a parent with a child in the public school district. A non-public school voter is basically anyone who has never had a child in the school district or a parent who no longer has a child in

the public school district.

According to statistics in the voting analysis report: "In 2002, in polling places where the budget passed, public school voters averaged 38 percent; in 2001, public school voters averaged 40 percent; and in 2002 there were six failing polling places while in 2001 there were 9."

"We can not know how each district did, but we can know how each polling place did," said Ms. Nelson.

The report stated, "in 2002 public school voter numbers increased slightly at the North side schools; however, at J.A. Coles, Park, and the high school, public school voters slipped slightly."

Ms. Nelson and Ms. Ames also stated in the report that, "in the past two years the budget has passed by a tighter margin than in the previous four years."

The committee's recommendations were to continue this voter study and explore software options that would help to cut down on the amount of time that the project initially took when it was done manually.

According to the report, the group also wanted to recommend doing a focus group for Brunner School parents before 2003, due to their low voter turnout revealed by the study. The report also recommended working with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) legislative chairpersons and BOE liaisons to develop new ways to bring people to the polls.

Board member, Edward Saridaki, stated his concerns on the voting analysis saying that it "could border on unethical."

"When you start analyzing that degree, you're creating pressure on the voters...our responsibility is to get better voter turnout with an accurate budget," said Mr. Saridaki.

In other business, Barre and Company presented the annual audit, making the following recommendations: SUI taxes should be transferred from the P/R agency account to the SUI trust fund on a quarterly

basis; all quarterly payments to the NJ unemployment fund should be paid from the SUI trust fund account; business office personnel should continue to ensure proper payment; and principals should be notified of their responsibility to reconcile accounts on a monthly basis. All of these recommendations were well received and approved by the board.

The board also reviewed the Quality Assurance Annual Report (QAAR), which approved the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and the School Nursing Services Plan. The QAAR reported on the breakdown of students in the district who need daily or occasional medical attention by the school nurse. The report stated that each school has a certified full-time school nurse and the high school also has an additional part-time nurse.

Superintendent of Instruction, Dr. Margaret Hayes also introduced the updated Information Technology Curriculum for grades five through eight to be implemented in the 2003-

2004 school year, which was approved by the board. The curriculum focused on developing proper keyboarding at an earlier age.

Board member Craig Nowlin also reported for the Shared Services committee regarding the Field of Dreams project, stating that bid documents will most likely be going out in December.

According to the motion approved, the board also agreed to participate in the purchase of grounds equipment with the Borough of Fanwood and the Township of Scotch Plains. The cost is estimated to be \$75,000 prorated at 40 percent each to the Township of Scotch Plains and the Board of Education and 20 percent to the Borough of Fanwood.

"We currently rent this equipment...they are looking at equipment to do a number of operations," said Mr. Del Sordi.

The next public Board of Education meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on December 5.



CULTURALLY ENRICHING...The Mountainside Parent-Teacher Association hosted a Cultural Enrichment Program at Deerfield Elementary School on October 31. *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, a musical theater production by Encore Performing Arts, Inc. was held for children from third through seventh grades, who have been reading age-appropriate versions of the classic tale. Craig Babcock, left, performs a festive tune with Richard Stillman.

Diane Park of Westfield Attends Governor's School

SCOTCH PLAINS -- Union County Magnet High School in Scotch Plains has revealed that Diane Park of Westfield is among four students to attend the New Jersey Governor's School during the summer.

A concert violinist, Park studied at the Governor's School of Arts at The College of New Jersey. The program emphasized extensive study in the fields of creative writing, dance, music, theater, video/film production and the visual arts.

A prestigious and competitive educational initiative for high school juniors throughout the state, the Governor's School is an intensive,

Service Is Announced For Mrs. Hamberger

Jacqueline Hamberger, 57, of Mountainside died on Tuesday, November 19, at her residence. A complete obituary will appear in next week's edition.

Visitation will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. today, Thursday, November 21, and from 9 to 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, November 22, at the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street in Westfield.

A funeral service is set for 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at the funeral home. Burial will take place at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a hospice program of one's choice or to the American Lung Association.

November 21, 2002

four-week residential program held on college campuses throughout New Jersey.

Each year, approximately 2,400 students apply for the 350 seats funded through the Governor's School program.

Students are nominated by their high schools and must submit an application. Nominees are judged on a number of criteria, including transcripts, letters of recommendation, essays, extracurricular activities, community service, special honors and PSAT scores.

Diane is a student at the Union County Magnet School and a member of the Class of 2003, the third graduating class of the school.

Mount Holyoke Notes Paul's Enrollment

WESTFIELD -- Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. has announced that Westfield resident Lisa Paul has begun her first year at the college as a member of the Class of 2006.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Paul of Westfield, Lisa is a graduate of Westfield High School.

She is a member of the National Honor Society and a historian for the Italian Club. Lisa's extracurricular activities include playing varsity lacrosse and horseback riding.

While at Mount Holyoke, Lisa plans to explore her interest in veterinary medicine.

WESTFIELD FIRE BLOTTER

- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7
 - North Avenue, East - malfunctioning fire alarm
 - Stoneleigh Park - malfunctioning fire alarm
 - Prospect Street - medical emergency
 - Elm Street - medical emergency
 - Central Avenue - auto accident with extrication
 - Stirling Place - kitchen fire
 - Kimball Circle - fire alarm activated accidentally
 - Stoneleigh Park - malfunctioning fire alarm
 - Stoneleigh Park - malfunctioning fire alarm
- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8
 - Clark Street - unauthorized burning
 - Shackamaxon Drive - malfunctioning carbon monoxide alarm
- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11
 - Springfield Avenue - medical emergency

- North Euclid Avenue - investigate unknown odor in a home
- Boulevard - auto accident with injuries
- Frances Terrace - telephone wire down
- Tice Place - investigate hot pipes in a home
- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12
 - New Providence Road - malicious false alarm
- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13
 - Breezeknoll Drive - medical emergency
 - Moss Avenue - transformer explosion
 - Lenox Avenue - telephone wire down
 - Trinity Place - investigate citizen complaint
 - Fairmont Avenue - fire alarm activated accidentally
- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14
 - Central Avenue - investigate sewer odor in a basement
 - North Chestnut Street - electrical fire

WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12
 - A total of \$1,775 in cash and checks was reported stolen from a professional office in the 500 block of East Broad Street.
 - Jewelry, clothing and miscellaneous items totaling approximately \$4,700 were reported stolen from a business on East Broad Street.
 - An individual used a Cumberland Street resident's identification to remove approximately \$338 from the victim's bank account via two electronic withdrawals.
- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15
 - Adley J. Torres, 28, of Edison was arrested at Lamberts Mill Road and Spruce Mill Lane and charged with driving while intoxicated. He was released to a

- responsible party.
- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16
 - A credit card belonging to a resident of the 500 block of Wychwood Road was used to charge \$700 in cash withdrawals and merchandise.
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17
 - A resident of the 500 block of Wychwood Road reported the theft of \$60 in cash from her residence on November 14.
- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18
 - A Mountainside resident reported the theft of several pain pills from her purse while she was visiting a home in the 500 block of Wychwood Road several days earlier. The value of the pills was listed at \$6.

The Westfield Leader and The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood announces our first **Ye Olde Fashion Christmas** - SPECIAL FULL COLOR INSERTION - to be inserted into our **December 5th Publication**

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Christopher Radko

Meet Tad Donovan of the Christopher Radko Company. There will be the special event ornament "Merry Mouse Magic" that is only available at the event. New additions to the line this year include the Fantasia Vintage Ornaments, Bubble Lights, and over 200 new styles for 2002. A special door prize drawing will be held.

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