



MONDAY MORNING ENTERTAINMENT... Spectators gathered at the corner of Brightwood Avenue and Embree Crescent in Westfield on Monday, September 16, to watch the demolition of a split level house. The home was levelled to make room for a new and larger dwelling for the property owners.

## County Road Resurfacing To Begin in September

AREA — Union County will resurface 11.6 miles of county roadway in nine municipalities starting the end of September. The 12 projects total more than \$2 million, mostly funded by \$1.9 million in aid from the Federal Highway Administration. Tarheel Enterprises of Morgan will do the work. Resurfacing and work on sidewalks, curbs and drainage will take from two to four days in most cases and will require that streets be closed. When roads are repaved, the top layer is removed and the road surface is shaped and resurfaced. Drainage problems are remedied and curb cuts and ramps are installed at intersections. New striping and reflective pavement markers are installed for better visibility. The projects include: Clark, a 0.6-mile segment of Westfield Avenue from Madison Hill Road to Brandt Avenue; Linden, a 0.8-mile segment of Roselle Street from Route 27 to Elizabeth Avenue; Rahway, a 0.3-

mile segment of Main Street from Hazelwood to Milton Avenue; Springfield, a 1.3-mile section on Mountain Avenue from Route 22 to Shunpike; Springfield, an 0.6-mile stretch of Hillside Avenue from Mountain Avenue to Route 22; Springfield, a 1-mile segment of Shunpike Road from Mountain Avenue to the Rahway Valley Railroad line; Summit, a quarter-mile segment of Constantine Place; Summit, Chatham Road; Westfield, South Avenue between Westfield Avenue in Westfield and West Street Garwood; Westfield, a 1.1-mile section of South Avenue. Union County has more than 171 miles of roadway of which 40 miles have been improved since 1999. Notices of road closures and detours will be posted on the impacted roads, sent to local newspapers and listed on the county's website, www.ucnj.org.

## Mr. Caruana Lauds Town's Initiatives on Child Safety

WESTFIELD — As he begins his fall campaign for a seat on Westfield's Town Council, First Ward council candidate Sal Caruana praised the police department, school teachers and many civic organizations throughout the town for the priority they place on child safety.

"I'm proud to live in a town that places such emphasis on educating our children about their personal safety. It has been a priority in our homes, schools, houses of worship and youth activities for some time and there are many abduction awareness programs that have been successfully implemented to date," said Mr. Caruana.

"Just last week, the Westfield Police Department conducted their annual Back to School Safety Assembly in all five of our elementary schools," he continued.

"Our teachers and police are regularly involved with our children on this issue and they have also done an outstanding job distributing information about suspicious events, persons or vehicles almost immediately to parents throughout the community," the candidate added.

Mr. Caruana said many community organizations are also involved with child safety and noted that for over 35 years, the Westfield Jaycees have supervised the CHILD SHIELD program in Westfield.

Families participating in that program display a brightly-colored CHILD SHIELD HOME decal in their front window to signify that their house is a place where children may go to seek assistance of a responsible

adult in emergency situations.

"There are countless Westfield homes displaying the CHILD SHIELD, which is evidence of our community's activism in child safety over the years," said Mr. Caruana. "But the goal is to designate at least two homes on every block in town."

Those families who wish to join this program may call Dr. Tim McCabe at (908) 232-1231 during business hours. Dr. McCabe is CHILD SHIELD Program Chairman for the Jaycees.

The implementation of technological advances such as Reverse 911, announced by Mayor Gregory McDermott last week, is also a continuation of Westfield's ongoing concern for child safety, Mr. Caruana noted. "Though no program is a substitute for effective parenting, I feel better as a father and a resident knowing that we have so many resources dedicated to protecting our children," he said.

Mr. Caruana lives on East Dudley Avenue with his wife, Darleen, and their two daughters, Patrina and Kristen Leigh. He is the President of an investment management firm, Foster Capital Corporation, in New York.

Mr. Caruana additionally is a Director of the United Fund of Westfield, Director of the Downtown Westfield Corporation, founder of Westfield Cares and Fundraising Chairman for the Westfield September 11th Memorial and Park.

He can be reached at (908) 233-4039 or at SalCaruana@aol.com. Mr. Caruana has invited First Ward residents to contact him with their thoughts and concerns.

## Candidate Owens Calls For Increased WF Planning

WESTFIELD — Citing the dramatic increase in the number of citizen-directed requests for traffic safety measures as but one example, Second Ward Town Council candidate David Owens is calling for an increased emphasis on planning comprehensive responses to emerging municipal issues.

"Our town, like most others, tends to deal with emerging problems by reacting to the loudest complaints and deferring most of the others," says Mr. Owens. "Government tends to operate by the cliché, 'The squeaky wheel gets the grease.' But while oiling the squeak may quiet the noise, it may also mask more widespread problems."

"A couple of years ago, residents of Westfield's Washington School district in the Second Ward, anticipating an increase of traffic in the neighborhood with the scheduled opening of a new supermarket on North Avenue, began seeking a remediation plan. The store opened a year later and traffic increased," Mr. Owens continued. "Only now, two years after these discussions began and a year after the opening of the store, has a traffic-

engineering firm finally been appointed to deal with the problem? Greater attention to planning could have minimized the impact."

"In the meantime, after some six years of citizen requests, traffic-calming measures of debatable effectiveness were finally installed on Rahway Avenue with the aim of making that corridor safer for the many school children that traverse the area. Likewise, Clover Street residents have been seeking a light at Central Avenue to make that intersection safer for children. Requests are also coming in from Sandra Circle, Forest Avenue and other areas seeking remediation for speeding traffic. All of these occurrences are being received and treated in ad hoc fashion," said Mr. Owens.

"But as concerns about traffic safety multiply, wouldn't it make more sense to examine all of these problems on a town-wide basis and create and promote a comprehensive plan for dealing with them as a whole?" he questioned. "Traffic safety is of course not the only issue that should receive this treatment. It should be a standard method for dealing with most municipal issues, from senior citizen housing and transportation to zoning to waste management," Mr. Owens said. "We need to spend more time examining emerging issues and planning for how to deal with them rather than treating each new incident in an isolated, ad hoc fashion."



SIDEWALK MADNESS... Resident Ellen Windorf with her son Aidan, 3, shows Westfield Town Council Candidate Mark Kuehn the hazards of strolling.

## WF Sidewalk Conditions Concern Candidate Kuehn

WESTFIELD — Mark Kuehn, First Ward Town Council candidate, speaks out on the condition of Westfield sidewalks and pedestrian safety — but he noted that this article is about sidewalk conditions, not the Department of Public Works, Town Engineer, Ken Marsh, and his people do a fine job with designated programs and allocated resources.

This article is about the need for the Town Council to re-prioritize use of our tax dollars. If we are going to raise taxes 10 percent, then let's at least get 5-inch bumps and foot-wide holes out of our sidewalks!

Sidewalk disaster, I don't know what else to call it. As we all know, many, many sidewalks throughout our town are broken, shattered and uprooted. I imagine most homeowners are aware they are responsible for their sidewalks. Yet, many are disasters waiting to happen. Walkers, joggers and strollers are forced into the streets. What should be a pleasant walk through wonderful neighborhoods is often a jagged avoidance of holes and ledges; people feel forced into the street risking their lives to face dan-

gerous traffic to avoid these conditions. There's also the outsider's impression of our town and negative effects on property values.

Most of you are aware of the town's sidewalk replacement program. It's a great program; simply call Public Works to be listed for the program, 50 percent paid by the Town, 50 percent by homeowner over three years. But with its magnitude, I don't see it going away soon, even with this program, as some will use it but many will not. And we all will continue to suffer with inconvenience, ugliness, and risks of falling or being sued.

Our sidewalks are for everyone. We all walk on them. Everyone benefits from well-kept sidewalks. Everyone suffers when some are bad; you don't just walk on your own. There are solutions. I say cut wasteful spending, but this is not wasteful. To do it without raising taxes, which have been raised enough, we must cut something else, which we can do.

To discuss any issues, contact Mr. Kuehn at 908-301-5642 or mkuehn@lindabury.com or see his website www.kuehnforcouncil.com.

## Property Taxes Discussed By FW Dem. Candidates

FANWOOD — Many people in New Jersey consider property taxes the most unfair of all the assessments that government has at its disposal. That is why there is strong support for a constitutional convention to deal with the tax problem.

There's a bipartisan bill in Trenton that would let the voters decide whether or not to hold a constitutional convention. Despite its sponsors' best efforts, the bill is blocked by legislators who don't trust the will of the people to reform property taxes.

There are mayors, including Mayor Martin Marks of Scotch Plains and

Mayor George Spadaro of Edison, who support a constitutional convention. Scotch Plains will have a non-binding public question about the proposed convention on the general election ballots in November.

But in Fanwood, the Republicans on the Borough Council blocked the chance for voters to send a message to Trenton on Election Day.

New Jersey's over-reliance on property taxes is unfair. The voters want tax reform. We will work on the municipal level to turn up the heat on reluctant legislators and let the taxpayers' voices be heard.

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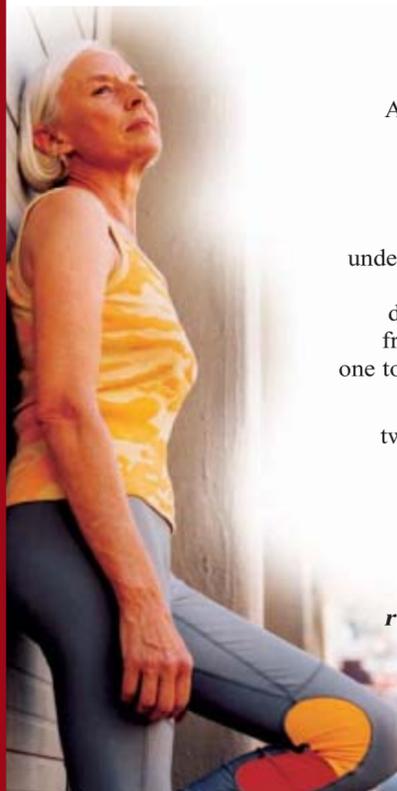
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