



**BETANCOURT BACKERS...** Friends and family of Westfield 2nd Ward Councilman gathered to help him with his reelection campaign last weekend. From the left are Ryan Shallcross, Andres Betancourt, Brian Dunsten, Councilman Rafael Betancourt, Jordan Cassidy, Diego Betancourt, Mark Harbaugh and Christine Nugent.

## Betancourt Begins Reelection Campaign for WF Council

Accompanied by friends, supporters, and a group of middle school and high school students, Second Ward Westfield Town Councilman Rafael Betancourt kicked off his grassroots reelection campaign with weekend walks throughout the neighborhood earlier this month. Betancourt said the students, who wear special shirts with "I walked for Westfield" and "Betancourt for Council" on the back, are interested in the political process and have their parents' permission to participate in neighborhood walks as a way to learn how public officials interact with their constituents and as a way to earn community service recognition.

"One of my goals is to create awareness among our youth of how important it is to give back to the community, whether it's through a civic organization, a charity, or serving the people directly by seeking public office," said Betancourt. "The students are really enjoying meeting people and listening to the conversations I'm having with 2nd Ward residents—things like traffic safety, local taxes and parking. Their enthusiasm has really energized me for the fall campaign, and their interest in public service really makes me feel even more optimistic about Westfield's future. That's really a central theme of my campaign—building a better Westfield for the future. We can do that not just through our work on Town Council, but by ensuring that the next generation of leaders share the same spirit of community involvement as our current voting-age citizens."

Betancourt also announced his campaign team, which includes Karen Masciale, who will serve as campaign manager. Karen resides on Gallow's Hill Road and is Vice Presi-

dent of the Washington School PTA, as well as a Commissioner of the Westfield Recreation Commission. Betancourt's campaign treasurer is Jay MacDonald, a life-long Westfield resident who lives on Linden Avenue and serves as a member of the Planning Board.

"It's the people part of politics I really enjoy the most," said Betancourt. "That's why I'm building a grass roots effort for this year's campaign and am involving as many of my friends and supporters as possible. Being a councilman is hard work and there's a lot of responsibility that comes with the job. But I'm looking forward to being reelected by my constituents so I can continue all the great progress we've made in this town since I was first elected in 2000."

Councilman Betancourt moved to Westfield in 1985, when he was transferred while working as a Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He became an Assistant Union County Prosecutor in 1987-88, before joining his current law firm of Pisano, Triarsi & Betancourt, LLC in Cranford. His long record of service in Westfield includes stints as Public Defender from 1991-92 and Town Prosecutor from 1993-2000—a post he resigned from to run for Town Council.

Betancourt lives on Golf Edge with his wife, Esperanza, and two sons, Diego, 15, and Andres, 12. His responsibilities on Town Council include serving as liaison to the Planning Board and as Chairman of the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Committee, where he continues to lead efforts against over-development of Westfield and implement town wide traffic calming measures to increase public safety.

## Monitor Turret Is Topic For Historical Society Meeting

WESTFIELD—"Great Grandfather and the History of the Monitor Turret" will be discussed by Bob Miller, a Vice President of the Westfield Historical Society, at the Society's first Wednesday luncheon at noon, October 2, at B.G. Fields Restaurant, located at 560 Springfield Avenue in Westfield.

Mr. Miller's great-grandfather was Alban C. Stimers, chief engineer of the *Monitor*. In 1858, Mr. Stimers had also been one of the chief engineers aboard the original *Merrimac*, when it was the pride of the United States Navy as a sail and steam 40-gun frigate.

In 1861, when the Civil War began, the *Merrimac* fell into the hands of the Confederacy. The Confederacy converted it into an ironclad ship, and renamed it the *CSS Virginia*.

The U.S. Navy chose Mr. Stimers in November 1861 to work with the *Monitor*'s inventor, John Ericsson, to build the craft. Mr. Stimers saw to it that the inventor met all government specifications during the rush to have the ship ready in the 100 days required by contract with the government. At

the request of Mr. Ericsson, Mr. Stimers would stay with the *Monitor* on its stormy trip to Hampton Roads and would operate the turret through most of the battle with the *Merrimac*.

Mr. Miller will tell who really invented the turret and describe its construction and use by Ericsson; the role it played throughout the life of the *Monitor* until its sinking on December 31, 1862, and its final recovery from the depths off Cape Hattaras on August 5 of this year.

Mr. Miller had been the owner of the former Bob Miller Tire Company. He is currently Program Chairman of the Westfield Historical Society; a trustee in the Genealogical Society of the West Fields and serves on the Board of Governors of the Miller-Cory House Museum in Westfield.

Regular luncheon attendees will be contacted by telephone to verify their reservations. Space permitting, others may attend by calling (908) 233-2930 by noon on Monday, September 30. Mr. Miller can be reached by e-mail at Rem1921@aol.com.



Bob Miller



**BUSY DURING THE SUMMER...** The Westfield Hockey Team volunteered many hours over the summer moving hundreds of pounds of rock while helping to build the Westfield September 11 Memorial Park. The team still found time to win the summer varsity league hockey championship. For more information, email rayluckjr@comcast.net

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## Westfield Foundation Awards Community Grants

WESTFIELD—Westfield Foundation trustees, in their first three quarterly meetings of 2002, have approved grants to community programs and agencies totaling \$178,902.

First quarter recipients included the Interfaith Council for the Homeless, which received \$7,000 for the purchase of computers to upgrade their administrative work, the Westfield Neighborhood Council, granted \$5,000 to replace air conditioning equipment, the Children's Museum of Central New Jersey, which received \$4,000 to help underwrite a master plan for the development of a museum, and the United Fund of Westfield, granted \$5,000 to underwrite the cost of employment of a case worker to assist local families affected by the World Trade Center attacks of September 11, 2001.

Second quarter grants totaled over \$115,000, and included awards to the Education Fund of Westfield, the Westfield Glee Club, the Center for Hope Hospice, CONTACT-We-Care, the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, the September 11th Memorial, the Alzheimer's Association and the Westfield Community Band. The Foundation's summer youth employment grants of \$26,250 provided funding to 16 area non-profit organizations to allow them to hire area stu-

dents for summer jobs.

In addition, \$40,000 was granted to the Westfield Rotary Club from the Clarence F. and Florence M. Wallace Fund held within the Foundation to assist in funding scholarships awarded by the club.

Area organizations receiving grants totaling \$42,402 at the third quarter Board meeting include the Summit Speech School, for the purchase of a phonic ear transmitter, the Occupational Center of Union County, for a computer training work station, Union County College LIFE (Learning Is For Ever) program for 3 college courses to be offered at the Westfield Senior Citizen Housing complex, Prevention Links for its "Prehistoric Pals" program being taught in all 19 kindergarten classes in Westfield, the Westfield Symphony Orchestra, for partial funding of a New Year's Eve concert, the Rainbow Experience, for choral programs, and the Jewish Community Center of Central NJ for two LIFE courses.

In addition, \$15,000 was granted to the United Fund of Westfield as matching funds for its 2002-2003 annual campaign.

For further information on the Westfield Foundation, please contact the office at (908) 233-9787 or write P.O. Box 2295, Westfield, NJ 07091.

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PROGRAM

**Fauré Piano Quartet in G minor**  
**Dvořák Piano Quintet in A major**

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at 3:00 P.M.  
Morrow Methodist Church  
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**WESTFIELD**  
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Temple Emanu-El  
756 East Broad St.

Remaining Concerts: November 10, March 23, April 13, May 18

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IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR MAPLEWOOD: There are a limited number of single tickets still available. To insure entrance, single ticket buyers are urged to reserve in advance by sending a check and stamped, self-addressed envelope to Mostly Music, 16 S. Crescent, Maplewood, NJ 07040. Subscribers are guaranteed seating by 2:45 P.M. Questions? Call 973-762-0108.

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