

Local Charity For Katrina Victims

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tion has been coordinating a relief effort among the many Jewish organizations and synagogues in this area. They are collecting monetary donations only at this time to disperse to one of the major relief organizations in the affected region, he said.

Several churches and synagogues, including First Baptist Church of Westfield and Temple Shalom of Fanwood are in the process of organizing housing and relocation sponsorship for families that wish to relocate to New Jersey. Temple Shalom is collecting donations of supplies, clothing, toiletries and money, which will be forwarded to one of the major relief charities.

Hans Winberg, Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce Chairman and owner of Embroidery Baby on Quimby Street, reported that his nine-year-old daughter, Michaela, and two of her friends, Rebecca Kiefer and Jenna Helfand, all fourth graders in Westfield, raised \$200 by selling homemade brownies, which they baked, in front of his store on Monday. They donated the money to the Westfield/Mountainside Red Cross Chapter for the hurricane victims.

Ms. Kaufman reported that 10 residents from Westfield and Mountainside have volunteered to take the Red Cross training for even-

tual deployment. Various skills and disciplines are needed, she said. For more information, contact the Red Cross at 1-800-Help-Now or log on to westfieldmtnside-redcross.org.

Many students attending colleges and universities in the Gulf Coast were left to scramble for alternate housing and schools after it became apparent that their college campuses were severely damaged.

Thousands of students from Tulane University, Xavier College, Loyola College and New Orleans University are being offered housing and enrollment at other universities around the country. Many schools are offering financial aid, waiving registration fees and, in some cases, waiving tuition for the displaced students.

And many families across the country have opened up their homes, offering free room and board to one or more hurricane victims until they get back on their feet.

There are also numerous websites where families and friends can search to locate displaced or missing loved ones. These sites can be accessed by inserting "search Katrina victims" into any Internet search engine. Additional information on the status of the relief effort, providing assistance for the hurricane victims and locating missing people can be found at www.fema.gov.



WESTFIELD SUPPORT...Firefighters Tom Ryan and Captain Michael Brennan pose with well-wishers last Saturday afternoon prior to departing for the Gulf states as part of the FEMA rescue effort from the damages of Hurricane Katrina. Pictured above, from left to right, are: Mayor Andrew Skibitsky, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Brennan, Councilman Sal Caruana and Fire Chief Dan Kelly.

SCAD Screening

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cause they know he has it, and, therefore, been able to prevent serious crisis by taking the aforementioned precautions.

"Unfortunately, not everyone is as lucky," Mrs. Hammer said. "There's a theory out there about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome possibly being related. They're finding out that if a family that lost a child to SIDS now has a kid with one of these disorders, it may not have been SIDS. Maybe the babies had some kind of metabolic disorder and the families didn't

know the babies were basically dying just by sleeping through the night without eating."

The Hammers are hoping the state expands its funding to incorporate all of the disorders in the expanded screening into the state mandated one.

According to the Hammers, SCAD is now part of the New Jersey mandated screening, but many other disorders are not.

For more information on SCAD, visit www.fodsupport.org or e-mail laurenhammer@comcast.net.



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DWC Still Seeks Bus. Owner To Fill Vacant Spot on Board

By BETSEY BURGENDORF
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD - The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) is still searching for a downtown business owner to fill an available seat on its board that was left vacant by the resignation of Richard Fromkin, who left the area in June.

The corporation's by-laws state that the individual holding the position, which is slated for a business owner, cannot be a property owner as well.

At its last meeting, the board briefly discussed changing the by-laws to allow a property owner who is also a business owner to be eligible for the seat.

Mayor Andrew Skibitsky was in attendance at the meeting and said the DWC ordinance states that any and all changes to the by-laws would have to be approved by the mayor and town council.

According to Executive Director Sherry Cronin, the DWC has met with an attorney, "to help us craft that. A person could wear two hats, not just one."

Mrs. Cronin stated that any changes would take "a long time to happen" because they would be carefully examined by the mayor and council.

The current by-laws state that a board member's seat expires after a three-year term. The by-laws were tweaked in December 2003 when the town council reappointed property and business owner Joseph Spector to a second term.

Mr. Spector volunteered to serve

another term and indicated that he qualified for either of the designations and would be happy to accept either to make it easier for the board to fill the other seat.

At that time, Westfield Town Administrator James Gildea, who in 2003 also was a board member, questioned if that was permitted by the by-laws. Mr. Spector stated, "We fixed that problem."

Former Mayor Gregory McDermott told *The Westfield Leader*, "We reappointed him because he had been so active and there was no one else to take the spot."

The downtown has seen an influx of large chains in the last decade, including Bombay Company, Banana Republic and Victoria's Secret.

"Big businesses do not want to get involved (in the DWC)," Mr. McDermott said, explaining why seats on the DWC are hard to fill.

Mrs. Cronin stated that the DWC newsletter was distributed to all business owners in hopes of finding an interested party. The member would be required to attend a monthly meeting as well as an occasional council or committee meeting.

Mrs. Cronin stated that the position requires a minimal time commitment, "depending on how involved they want to be."

Any business owner interested in the position is asked to call the DWC office at (908) 789-9444 for more information. The DWC recommends eligible candidates to the mayor and town council for approval.

Westfield Council Discusses Website

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register a domain is \$100.

"For 30 days, free, we can get a mock-up, to create our own website. We pay an upfront licensing fee of \$2,700, and \$80 per month. We feel we can take our site to the next level," Councilman Echausse said.

Using an International City/County Management Association (ICMA) website, "we'll have the balance of a professional outside webmaster and internal expertise working with town professionals," said Councilman Echausse.

Ideally, Councilman Echausse said he envisioned a site where townspeople could conduct electronic online registration, pay fees online and get specific e-mail alerts.

"We want something proactive and attractive, and something, frankly, the town deserves," Councilman Echausse said.

Over the last few months, the Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee, working with the Citizens Traffic Advisory Committee, investigated the traffic "hot spots" in Westfield and identified eight locations for further study, based on the magnitude of requests and prioritization by the Westfield Police Department. Three hearings that included public input were held over several months.

Third Ward Councilman Mark Ciarrocca said the Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee has \$50,000 budgeted to accomplish each intersection in "incremental approaches."

Creating a pick up/drop off and curb extensions at Franklin Elementary School would incur the largest expense - \$18,000. It will cost \$12,000 to create a chicane and island effect at East Dudley and Lawrence Avenues,

and \$10,000 to complete work at McKinley Elementary School by slowing traffic at West Broad Street to 25 mph and making Lynwood Place a one-way road going southbound.

Westfield Fire Chief Dan Kelly, at the request of Mayor Andrew Skibitsky, gave an update on Westfield's role in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Mayor Skibitsky said the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) asked for 1,000 two-man teams from career fire departments around the country.

Chief Kelly explained that on September 1, he received a request from the Department of Homeland Security, through the U.S. Fire Administration in conjunction with FEMA.

"I had two firefighters step up," Chief Kelly said.

After "adverse conditions" for the men's 30-day deployment were explained, Captain Michael Brennan and firefighter Thomas Ryan accepted the request and boarded a plane at 6 p.m. last Saturday for Atlanta, Ga.

Mayor Skibitsky said, "(First Ward Councilman) Sal (Caruana) and I had a conversation with the two firefighters on Saturday. I think you made two very wise choices. They seem very ready and eager to go."

The mayor announced that Fourth Ward Councilman Larry Goldman and Councilman Caruana will "act as council liaisons to the town and get the word out and see how we can help victims of the hurricane. They'll be working with TV-36 and the local papers to talk about what we can do and coordinate with local agencies or organize a town-wide effort to raise funds."

Councilman Caruana reminded the council that there would be a memorial at the town's 9/11 monument this Sunday, September 11, at 2 p.m.

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