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TIMES

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SIXTY CENTS

Outpouring of Local Charity Shown For Katrina Victims

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

AREA — After surviving one of the most horrendous disasters in United States history, the victims of Hurricane Katrina's wrath must now rely on the kindness of strangers to rebuild their lives.

In addition to the basic necessities of food, water and medicine, the people of the Gulf Coast will need

Maureen Kaufman, interim Executive director for the local chapter, told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood* that they have been instructed to collect and send monetary donations only at this time. She said that she expects that other items will be collected and shipped at later dates.

Most local churches, corporations and many retail stores are also sponsoring collections to send to various

to fill with supplies to bring down to the affected region. Church members loaded up the truck Tuesday afternoon with food and supplies, household items and toiletries, as well as a palette of water donated by Shop-Rite of Clark, and left for the Gulf Coast region.

A second, larger truck will also be going down next Tuesday with additional supplies. The truck will be driven down by a church member John DiGiorgio of Rahway to the Slidell, Miss. area where Convoy of Hope will set up relief tents.

Pastor Kenneth Brennan told *The Times* that the church took up a special donation of \$75,000, which they will match two to one, totaling \$225,000. Ninety-percent of that money will be donated to Convoy of Hope, with the other 10 percent being used for truck-supplies.

Evangel also plans on partnering with a church in the affected area, eventually sending down teams of construction crews to help them rebuild. Pastor Brennan said that Louisiana was one of the first states to send assistance to New York during the 9-11 disaster, and that the Bible admonishes those who have to help those in need.

Many local libraries are taking up donations and contributing to the disaster in other ways. The Scotch Plains Library is donating all of their fines for the week to the relief effort, reported Library Director Meg Kolaya. The Fanwood Library Director Dan Weiss said the borough's library would also be donating fines to relief efforts.

Ms. Kolaya also recommended that

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Benjamin B. Corbin for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*
HELPING HAND...The Evangel Church in Scotch Plains sent a large amount of relief items to the victims of Hurricane Katrina on Tuesday. Pictured above are some of the items and parishioners getting the goods ready for transportation to Slidell, La.

clothing, toiletries and toys for their children for many months to come.

The Westfield and Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross has mobilized along with thousands of other organizations across the country to contribute to the relief efforts.

relief organizations.

Among the many local churches and synagogues that are contributing to the relief effort, Evangel Church of Scotch Plains, in coordination with Convoy of Hope, a Missouri-based relief organization, has rented a truck

Rain Garden Proposed for Library; More Funding Needed for Courts

By MEREDITH MANNINO
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — Fanwood Environmental Commission member David Schwartzberg addressed the mayor and council Tuesday night regarding the creation of a rain garden on the north side of the Fanwood Memorial Library.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has agreed to fund this environmental safeguard for Fanwood. The approximate cost is \$1,500 to \$2,000.

A rain garden is a landscaped area containing wild flowers and other native vegetation that soak up rainwater, mainly from the roof of a house or other buildings. The rain garden flows with a few inches of water after a storm, and the water slowly filters into the ground rather than running off to a storm drain. Compared to a conventional patch of lawn, a rain garden allows approximately 30 percent more water to soak into the ground.

Storm water runoff from developed areas increases flooding, carries pollutants from streets, parking lots and lawns into local streams and lakes, and results in expensive municipal improvements to storm water treatment structures.

While an individual rain garden may seem like a small contribution, collectively, they produce substantial neighborhood and community environmental benefits, officials said.

"A rain garden is a very special type of garden," Mr. Schwartzberg said. "It's a very effective way to drain water. Not only does it look good, but it's very functional."

Mr. Schwartzberg explained that the library was selected for the rain garden because it will provide educational opportunities — pamphlets will be available at the site — and many people visit the library.

The rain garden will measure between 100 and 200 square feet and be shaped like a crescent or kidney bean.

Mr. Schwartzberg explained that in Cranford, approximately 40 inches of rainwater soaks into the ground annually. He didn't have the amount of rainwater per year for Fanwood, but indicated it was probably about the same as Cranford.

The environmentalist stressed that the major benefit to the rain garden is that water will infiltrate the ground instead of flooding the streets. The Union County Master Gardeners have been commissioned to plant the various flowers, and, according to Mr. Schwartzberg, some members of this

organization reside in the borough.

The council was in favor of the rain garden, but suggested that library officials approve it. Mayor Colleen Mahr explained that the library had been notified, and she had not received any objections.

The target installation date for the

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Limb, Brush and Leaf Pickups Announced

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains fall branch and brush pickup program will begin on Monday, September 19 at 7 a.m. The Department of Public Works will begin picking up branches and shrub parts only.

Grass, weeds, leaves, stumps and other materials will not be collected. Branches must be cut in reasonable lengths and tied in bundles. Metal wire should not be used.

The program will be conducted in the same manner as leaf collections. The DPW will be working on the north side and south side of the township simultaneously; therefore, officials said it is important to have limbs and branches at the curb by September 19. Officials said it is difficult to establish a schedule because it is not known how much material will have to be picked up at each residence.

The DPW will be going through the township once. Tree parts will not be picked up again until the spring clean up.

Residents are asked to put vegetative waste at the curb unless a pickup is scheduled. This material should not be put out until the weekend before the pick-up.

Leaf pickups will begin in Scotch Plains on Monday, October 31 on both the north side and south side of the township. The township plans at least three collection cycles. Residents are asked not to use plastic bags and to leave space along the curb line for water to flow.

Township officials are asking residents to keep as many cars off the roadways as possible during leaf collections. Also, leaf piles should be free of sticks, rocks, stumps, etc. to prevent damage to DPW equipment. Weather permitting, sweepers will be operating after the last pick-up cycle is completed.

The use of biodegradable paper bags is acceptable and encouraged. Residents should not put branches out at the curb. The township's compost center will not accept leaves if other vegetative waste is included in the mix.



Fred Rossi for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*
SUMMER TRADITION...Thousands of people from all over the area came out over Labor Day Weekend to the annual Italian Festival at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church in Scotch Plains. The fair featured rides, games and food. The fair benefits St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church and the Scotch Plains UNICO Club.

Ashbrook Deer Reduction Plan Now In Hands of County Officials

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township's plans for a deer-reduction program in the Ashbrook Reservation apparently are in the hands of Union County officials, who will have to decide whether to accede to a wish by state officials that any deer management program using professional riflemen be preceded first by what could be a weeks-long effort by bow-and-arrow hunters.

Township Manager Thomas Atkins told the township council at its conference meeting on Tuesday evening that he and Mayor Martin Marks had met last month with Dan Bernier, the Union County director of the Division of Park Planning and Maintenance, and had been told the Department of Environmental Protection's Fish and Wildlife Division will not issue a deer control permit to thin the deer herd via a professional firm using rifles without first giving bow-and-arrow hunters an opportunity to reduce the number of deer in the county-run reservation.

Mr. Atkins said the county has some concerns about non-professionals with bows and arrows in the reservation. There also is the question of how such a method might affect the adjacent county-owned Ashbrook Golf Course. The county does not want to

have to close the facility if a bow-and-arrow effort takes place during the golf season, he said.

Mayor Marks called the state's stance "patently political," saying officials in Trenton were "kowtowing to the hunters lobby."

Early this year, the state declined to issue a permit allowing Scotch Plains to reduce the burgeoning deer herd in the reservation. Earlier this summer, state and township officials toured the county-owned reservation to get a first-hand view of the deer herd.

The herd's increasing size in recent years has resulted in a number of car accidents, as well as resident complaints of deer wandering off the reservation and into neighborhood yards, where they destroy landscaping and tip garbage cans.

Mayor Marks lamented having to deal with two levels of government — county and state — in trying to implement a deer-reduction program, which the township government has been pushing for the past several years. The mayor on Tuesday described the problem in the Ashbrook Reservation as a "crisis."

In other business, Mr. Atkins told the council that bids had been received for renovations to the township library on Bartle Avenue, but were still being

reviewed because there were some legal questions needing to be resolved. Township Attorney Douglas Hansen said two of the apparent low bids may not be in compliance with state Public Contracts Law. If that turns out to be the case, the township's options will be to award the contract to the third highest bidder or re-bid the project.

Mr. Atkins also told the council that several municipalities in Union County are involved in the efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and that Scotch Plains emergency personnel may be called on to fill in for absent colleagues in neighboring towns.

Springfield and Linden are each taking a truck, with five-man crews, to the Gulf Coast and two fire department officials from Elizabeth also are heading to the devastated region.

As a result, Mr. Atkins said, Linden, and more likely Springfield, may occasionally need volunteers from other towns to cover some of their shifts. There also may be additional mutual aid calls for Scotch Plains fire and rescue personnel.

Separately, Paul Malool, husband of Councilwoman Nancy Malool and employed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, went to the Gulf Coast to assist in the agency's efforts.

New Jersey Emergency Volunteer Professionals Leave to Gulf States

By HORACE CORBIN
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

AREA — One thousand, two-hundred firefighters from across the nation went to the Gulf Coast states over the weekend to help in the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

New Jersey and Union County towns including Westfield, Cranford, Hillside, Union, Springfield, Plainfield, Linden and Elizabeth have volunteer professional teams that departed Saturday to parts unknown in

the gulf states. This mobilization has been underway since Thursday and the personnel become part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) rescue efforts.

The firefighter teams carry with them survival gear for living in the wild while performing their rescue work; military rations, water filters and such equipment. The men have volunteered for a minimum 30-day period.

Scotch Plains Councilwoman

Nancy Malool told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that her husband Paul who works for FEMA in New York City was dispatched to the Gulf States on Saturday.

Union County has coordinated six firefighters for the federal decontamination deployment. Five volunteers are from Elizabeth and one is from Union.

New Jersey Emergency medical response teams consisting of state employed physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists and crisis counselors are also being deployed to regular and field hospitals in Baton Rouge.

It is expected that other personnel will be dispatched on a longer-term basis as the gulf region transitions in this unprecedented disaster.

Officials report that the unconditional commitments to this disaster are also mindful of the regular service obligations of these forces in their home communities.

Fire Chief Dan Kelly recommended the Westfield team that includes Captain Michael Brennan and firefighter Tom Ryan. Firefighters Brennan and Ryan flew from New Jersey Saturday afternoon. Chief Kelly told *The Times* that the men are chosen based on many criteria including training, experience, aptitude and the capacity of their families (if married) to carry on with minimum hardship during their absence.

Engineering, crafts and construction companies in the area are also readying volunteers to depart to the Gulf Coast states.



TENNIS ANYONE...Assemblywoman Linda Stender and Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr inspect the newly resurfaced tennis court area at La Grande Park in Fanwood. The project was funded by a grant from the NJ Department of Community Affairs.

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Horace Corbin for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*
NEW JERSEY RESPONDS...Captain Michael Brennan of the Westfield Fire Department leaves for parts unknown in the gulf states Saturday with 38 pounds of survival gear. He and his teammate, firefighter Tom Ryan (not shown) must be prepared to live in the wild, volunteering for a minimum of 30 days to perform their rescue duties under FEMA command.