

## Garden Proposed At Fanwood Library

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special garden is Wednesday, September 21. Councilman Jack Molenaar noted that the rain garden's new home at the library will be helpful in terms of encouraging residents to create such environmental safeguards in their own backyards.

Joe Pryor, the borough's engineer, discussed some glitches that arose as his team began rebuilding the tennis courts at Forest Road Park. He explained that as work began on the courts, the team encountered considerable amounts of clay, which were soft and wet. The problem with his team's finding is that the clay was difficult to remove.

"We tried to give away the materials but no one wanted it," Mr. Pryor stated. The engineer added that, as a result, the material had to be professionally removed, which cost an extra \$25,000. The money came from previously allocated funds.

In other public works news, officials discussed Pleasant Avenue. According to the council, residents of this street opposed the installation of a sidewalk at that location. Mayor Mahr indicated she wants to walk Pleasant Avenue and speak to the residents in order to get a clear understanding of what they would like to see built in their neighborhood.

In their role as the Fanwood Rede-

velopment Agency, the mayor and council discussed changes that have been made to the Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

The alterations are related to parking requirement specifications, and these revisions will be presented to the planning board prior to its Monday, September 19 meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Ling, owners of Enchantments LLC, will go before the board at that meeting to present their plans for a retail, commercial and residential building at 224 South Avenue.

The planning board has approved developer Michael Marcovecchio's application to construct a mixed-use residential and retail development at 222 South Avenue on the corner of Second Street.

The three-story, 6,500-square-foot building will include 10 residential apartments on the second floor, offices on the third floor and retail space on the ground floor. The building's facade and the materials used will incorporate Fanwood's Victorian style.

Borough Attorney Dennis Estis reported that the Marcovecchio family's lawyer has indicated that the developers are encountering difficulty securing a utilities permit, but are hoping to meet the Thursday, September 29 deadline despite this setback.



Horace Corbin for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
SUMMERS END...Fans of the St. Barts Annual Softball Championship enjoy the perfect weather last Monday at Brookside Park.

## Masked Gunman Holds Up Scotch Plains 7-11

By DEBORAH MADISON  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The 7-11 in Scotch Plains on Park Avenue was the scene of an armed robbery on Tuesday, August 23 in the early morning hours, according to Sgt. Brian Donnelly of the Scotch Plains Police Department.

According to Sgt. Donnelly, a masked man wielding a small handgun demanded cash from the two employees on duty and then fled on foot. No injuries were reported and the amount of cash was undisclosed. There was no other description of the gunman because the mask completely covered his face, Sgt. Donnelly reported.

The police do not have any sus-

pects at this time but are actively investigating the crime, Sgt. Donnelly told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*. When asked if this was similar to any other recent crimes in the area, Sgt. Donnelly said it was not, but that the police department was still investigating and reaching out to other police departments to determine if this crime was part of any pattern.

The police are also asking for any witnesses, who may have seen anything, to come forward.

Sgt. Donnelly said that the two employees acted appropriately, handing over the money. The police advise all store employees to not resist during robberies or to try any heroic acts during robbery attempts, as these two employees exemplified.

## Local Charity Flows To Katrina Rescue

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people check out the legitimacy of a charity before donating. The Scotch Plains Library has a list of legitimate charity organizations, and patrons can call the library for this information.

Stanley Stone, Executive Vice President of the Jewish Federation of Scotch Plains said that his organization 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.

All of the organizations reported that they were advised to coordinate their contributions through one of the larger charity organizations and to contribute only money at this time due to the enormous need for funds and eliminate the chaos that would ensue if thousands of independent trucks rolled into the affected area.

Many other local organizations told *The Times* that they will be doing something, but haven't had a chance to meet with their boards yet to determine how they will contribute.

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 who 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 Winberg, 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 on Tuesday.

Over a thousand, two-man fire fighter teams from across the nation are on their way to the Gulf states to help in the relief effort.

New Jersey and Union County, including Westfield, Union, Springfield and Elizabeth, have volunteer, career professional teams departing soon or who are already in transit. This mobilization has been underway since Thursday.

The firefighter teams carry with them survival gear for living in the wild while performing their rescue work, military rations, water filters and other such equipment. The men

are volunteers for at least a 30-day period.

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, La.

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 these agencies are also mindful of the regular service obligations of these forces in their home communities.

The American Red Cross is sponsoring a training program for anyone who would like to join the relief effort in the Gulf states. Once volunteers have completed an 18-hour training course and have been medically cleared, they will wait to be deployed to the Gulf Coast. Deployment decisions are being coordinated by the National Red Cross in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Classes were held last weekend and will be repeated in the future.

Ms. Kaufman reported that 10 residents from Westfield and Mountainside have volunteered to take the training for eventual 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 [www.westfieldmidside-redcross.org](http://www.westfieldmidside-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.

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 web sites 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](http://www.fema.gov).



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