

Freeholders OK Easement For Kean Univ. Shuttle

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

ELIZABETH — The county freeholder board last Thursday night approved an easement for Kean University to build an access roadway through Elizabeth River Park for the purposes of linking Kean's main campus in Union and east campus in neighboring Hillside. The university has received approval from Liberty Hall Museum to access its property and needs state approval to build a bridge over the river.

The university will use the roadway for a shuttle service, which will operate from 8 a.m. to 10:40 p.m. weekdays, said Philip Connelly, vice president of administration and finance at the university. At peak times, two vans will run simultaneously. A bridge will be constructed over the river, which will include a pedestrian pathway for park users.

The east campus on North Avenue, located several blocks from the main Morris Avenue campus, was purchased from Pingry School in 1981. The campus is being renovated to accommodate the graduate school, undergraduate programs in occupational therapy, physical therapy and psychology, as well as practice facilities for student athletes.

Area residents, students, faculty and Kean officials attended the standing-room only hour-long hearing. Following the hearing, the board voted 7-1-1 to approve the easement in return for acquisition of parcel of land in Hillside from the university.

Union Mayor Peter Capodice, area residents and Freeholder Deborah Scanlon of Union, who voted against the easement, opposed the project. Freeholder Angel Estrada abstained, citing a conflict. Freeholder Scanlon said the lack of a traffic engineering report for the project, "gives me pause in terms of voting in favor of the project."

She said the property to be used for access road would have been "an ideal location" for the planned county children's museum. She was concerned that Kean's plans for the access road might have caused those plans to be scrapped. "It doesn't sit well with me," she said.

County Manager George Devanney said the Liberty Hall Museum property was no longer under consideration for the children's museum. Liberty Hall is the former home of the Kean and Livingston families.

Mayor Capodice said the shuttle service would "adversely affect the township." He also criticized the university for not communicating effectively with the township on the project. "I vow to the residents of Union that we will do everything to stop this," he told the freeholders.

Norman Berger of Mary Alice Court, a street located between the park and the east campus, said residents had little notice of the university's proposal. "This whole project is being rammed down people's throats."

Dr. Vinton Thompson, Kean provost and vice president of academic affairs, said students currently have to cross the intersection at North and Morris Avenues, which he described as "a very unsafe area."

Mr. Connelly said only shuttle vans and campus police would be permitted through electronic gates at the entrance to the museum property. He

said students would not be able walk through the entrance.

Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski said, "I'm concerned about pedestrians." She and other board members expressed concern about students crossing Morris Avenue.

"We can't prevent anyone from crossing Morris Avenue," said Mr. Connelly. Kean officials, however, said the access link roadway is aimed at reducing both vehicular and pedestrian traffic near the campus.

Some 3,000 students signed a petition supporting the \$1 million project which was presented to the board.

Prior to voting on the easement, board members told Kean officials to do a better job of communicating with the township.

The university must now receive approval for a permit from the state Department of Environmental Protection for waterway encroachment.

In other business the board introduced a \$6.5 million bond ordinance to fund the purchase 14 acres of undeveloped land from Hazelwood Cemetery in Clark. The public hearing and adoption vote by the board is scheduled for Thursday, March 30. The cost of the purchase will be paid out of the county's open space fund.

Jerry Goldman of Elizabeth questioned whether the county had sought an installment payment plan rather than bonding, which he said increases the county's debt.

Mr. Devanney said the purchase price negotiated was "below our appraised value (for the parcel) significantly." He said installment payments would have cost the county more money.

Garwood resident Bruce Paterson, in commenting on the use of a county car by Undersheriff and State Assemblyman Joseph Cryan of Union, said he didn't believe Mr. Cryan should be using a county car when traveling to Trenton on state business.

"I seriously think you ought to have a talk with him (about usage of county cars)," Mr. Paterson said. Assemblyman Cryan's county car was broken into on February 6 by lobbyist Karen Golding, who allegedly stalked him.

The board also approved a resolution opposing the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) proposal to redesign airspace. A county air traffic noise committee has said the redesign has said the plan could impact some 300,000 county residents. The FAA will hold a public hearing on its proposals this Tuesday, March 21 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Springfield.



MERCURY RISING...Blue Mercury, a luxury apothecary and spa located at 82 Elm Street in Westfield, celebrates its recent grand opening. In attendance, from left to right, are Tom Rich, Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) Economic Development Chair, Allison O'Hara, Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (WACC) President, Hal Narotzky, WACC Board Member, Sherry Cronin, DWC Executive Director, Diane Barabas, DWC Board Member and Mayor Andy Skibitsky with Bianca Grande and Jennifer Lomiky of Blue Mercury.

WF BOE Candidate Jane Clancy Making Careful, Responsible Decisions

I have lived in Westfield with my husband, Bob, a native Westfielder, for 21 years. We have seven children, two who have graduated from Westfield High School, a sophomore at the high school, an eighth grader and sixth grader at Edison, and a third grader and first grader at Tamaques School.

I attended Keene State College in New Hampshire, and Kean University in New Jersey where I received my certification in Early Childhood Education. I have taught at the Presbyterian Nursery School in Westfield for 20 years and am presently an assistant kindergarten teacher there. I stay current in education by frequently attending professional workshops.

I have been involved in the Westfield community and Westfield school system since 1987. I have served on the

Tamaques PTO board, chaired the St. Helen's Cub Scouts, co-produced the Tamaques Variety Show, co-chaired the Tamaques Community Service, and chaired the After School Enrichment program. I am a Girl Scout leader, and a religious education teacher. I am also on the board of my swim club and am currently serving on the board of education's (BOE) Citizens Advisory Committee.

I believe, that with my over 20 years of experience as a parent and an educator in Westfield, I could make valuable contributions to the BOE. I would be committed to the town to make careful, responsible decisions concerning the education of our children.

We are very fortunate to live in an exceptional town with extremely dedicated citizens and it would be an honor to serve the community on the BOE.

WF BOE Candidate Doug Stokes Send Questions, Ideas and Concerns

WESTFIELD — Doug Stokes of Westfield is seeking election to the town's board of education (BOE).

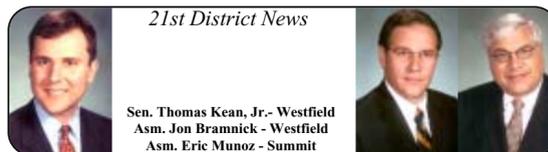
I was recently conversing with colleagues who were asking me why I am running for the Westfield BOE, since my entire day is already spent on the day-to-day operations of working in a school system with children, teachers, parents, administrators.

I simply replied, "that is the very reason I am running for the Westfield BOE."

Residents are encouraged to send any questions, ideas and concerns to me at stokesix@verizon.net.



Doug Stokes



Kean, Munoz Oppose FAA Airspace Redesign Proposal

WESTFIELD — Representatives from the 21st Legislative District are appealing to federal officials to reconsider the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia Metropolitan Airspace Redesign proposal.

Senator Kean is a prime sponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 34 (SJR 34) and Assemblyman Munoz is a prime sponsor of Assembly Joint Resolution 88 (AJR 88), which memorializes Congress to oppose the FAA's recommendation set forth in the draft environmental impact statement issued on December 20, 2005.

"What I find disturbing," Sen. Kean said, "is that in 2001 the FAA determined that aircraft noise pollution was the strongest and most widespread concern raised by the public. Now, four years later, they ignore this study and develop a redesign project that would substantially increase noise pollution for as many as 330,000 residents. I understand and am supportive of the need to improve the efficiency of our airspace, however

not if it conflicts with the needs and wants of the communities who will be most affected."

"I am also troubled that the FAA is pursuing projects that may have a substantial effect on the environment," Assemblyman Munoz added. "These environmental concerns could cost the state as much as \$2.5 billion. While I recognize there are economic benefits associated with additional flight service, it should not be at the cost of the quality of life for our residents."

AJR-88 was passed by the Assembly on March 2 by a vote of 69-2-5. SJR-34 has been introduced and referred to the senate transportation committee where it awaits review.

"The assembly has already overwhelmingly passed AJR 88 reflecting the collective consent of the lower house on this very important issue," Sen. Kean said. "I strongly urge the FAA to craft a new design plan that adequately addresses safety and security measures coupled with economic and societal benefits."

DEEGAN

ROOFING

C O M P A N Y

908-322-6405

Tear-Offs • Re-Roofs
Repairs • Gutters
Free Estimates • Fully Insured

PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES

Ahrre's Coffee Roastery 104 Elm St. 232-7977
Anais Boutique 51 Elm St. 233-3777
Bittersweet Designs 212 Lenox Ave. 389-0330
Castle Bootery, Inc. 52 Elm St. 233-7172
Cheeburger Cheeburger 251 North Ave. W. 389-1100
Classic Thyme 161 E. Broad St. 232-5445
Embroidery! Baby 102 Quimby St. 233-1221
Fast Frame 111 Quimby St. 301-0330
Funk & Standard 221 E. Broad St. 654-8707
Home Care America 317 South Ave. W. 789-8600
Isabella's American Bistro 39 Elm St. 233-8830
Jersey Mike's Subs 142 E. Broad St. 233-6002
The Leader Store 109 E. Broad St. 233-5609
The Liquor Basket 115 Quimby St. 232-1900
Manhattan Bagel 210 South Ave. W. 654-0525
Mojave Grille 35 Elm St. 233-7772
Nirvana 218 E. Broad St. 232-5774
Presidential Pen & Gifts 112 Central Ave. 317-9600
Randal's Shoes 82 Elm St. 232-3680
Roman Boutique 106 Elm St. 654-1658
Scott's Shoes 109 Quimby St. 233-5678
Sole 107 Prospect St. 654-7800
Subway 311 South Ave. W. 654-7500
Theresa's 47 Elm St. 233-9133
Westfield Tobacco & News 108 Elm St. 232-2224
Windmill 256 E. Broad St. 233-9424
Xocolatz 13 Elm St. 232-3962

Westfield W Dollar Days

MARCH 15, 2006 - APRIL 15, 2006

**RECEIVE & REDEEM
WESTFIELD W DOLLARS
AT PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES**

At Participating Businesses March 15 - April 15, 2006

- Receive One W Dollar for Every \$10 Spent on a Purchase
- Redeem W Dollars on Any Purchase
- Not Redeemable for Cash

Downtown Westfield Corporation
The Management Entity of the Special Improvement District
105 Elm Street • Westfield, NJ 07090 • 908.789.9444 • www.WestfieldToday.com

PERSONAL INJURY LAW

Call
JON M. BRAMNICK
CERTIFIED TRIAL ATTORNEY
BRAMNICK, RODRIGUEZ, MITTERHOFF, GRABAS & WOODRUFF, LLC
WWW.JONBRAMNICK.COM
1827 East Second Street, Scotch Plains
908-322-7000

HOME SHOW

March 24th, 25th & 26th WESTFIELD

The National Guard Armory - Next to Westfield High School
Showcasing Everything For The Home

- Kitchens & Baths
- Appliances
- Marble & Granite
- Interior Decorating
- Design Centers
- Deco Painting
- Faux Art
- Solar Energy
- Windows & Doors
- Pavers
- Patios
- Sunrooms
- Pools & Spas
- Cooking Shows
- Prizes

Beautiful Landscape Designs & More!

FREE ADMISSION - \$8 VALUE!
1 FREE Admission with 1 Paid & This Ad