



David Samsky for The Westfield Leader

A LASTING TRIBUTE... Morgan's Rifles, a Revolutionary War re-enactment group, fires off a salute in honor of fallen United States war veterans. They were joined by members of Lambs Artillery, another reenactment organization. See additional photos at goleader.com/photos.

## GOP to Run Write-In Campaign For Dist. 22 Legislative Race

By JENNA NIERSTEDT  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

AREA - This Tuesday's Primary races in legislative districts 20, 21 and 22, covering Union County, feature candidates for the State Senate and General Assembly, as well as local council and mayoral positions. Few contain competitive races. Statewide,

there are eight competitive Senate races and nine challenged Assembly races. Registered voters who have designated themselves as Democrats or Republicans, have previously voted in a Primary of the party of their choice, or have never voted in a Primary may take part in the June Primary. Locally, Union County Republi-

can Chairman Phil Morin said the 22nd legislative district, which includes Scotch Plains and Fanwood, would feature a Republican write-in campaign for the vacant State Senate and General Assembly seats for the Republican line on the November ballot. Under state Primary rules, if no candidate has filed by the April 9 deadline, the Primary candidate who receives at least 100 votes becomes the official candidate and will run for election in November.

The Republican Committee has endorsed Rose McConnell of North Plainfield for the GOP State Senate chairman. If Ms. McConnell gets the nod, she will face the winner of the

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## Annual Memorial Day Parade Honors Veterans

By LIZA KATZ  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD - Westfielders gathered Monday to remember those who have fought in the armed services for the United States at the annual Memorial Day parade.

The parade began at 9 a.m. at the World War I Memorial on East Broad Street and North Avenue, where Peter Hogaboom, commander of Post No. 3 of the American Legion in Westfield, led the opening ceremonies. Mr. Hogaboom recognized soldiers currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as those who have fought in past wars. He then introduced American Legion chaplain Al Riker, who offered an opening prayer, and Grand Marshal August "Gus" Pirrone.



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ON THE CATWALK... Mrs. Union County, Sherry Pascal of Westfield, engages the crowd as she moves down East Broad Street in the Westfield Memorial Day parade.

and the Iraq War. Mr. Farley gave a brief history of the Memorial Day tradition from its beginnings just after the Civil War until the present. He reflected on the personal lives of those lost, recognizing that these people are "not just a name or a number, [but] someone like us." Westfield Mayor Andy Skibitsky also spoke on the importance of Memorial Day.

After Kerry Stubbs sang "God Bless America," wreaths were laid at the various war monuments in honor of those who fought in all American wars and conflicts, especially those who lost their lives, were wounded, missing in action or taken as prisoners of war. Lambs Artillery presented cannon volleys, and Jack Panosh, curator of the Westfield Town Bell, tolled bells in remembrance. To conclude the ceremony, Ted Schlosberg of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts performed "Taps," and a closing prayer was offered.

The parade began immediately afterwards, led by the Westfield Police, veterans' groups, Mr. Pirrone and the mayor and town council. Numerous local organizations also participated, including the fire department, Emergency Medical Service, Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, WHS color guard and marching band, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

The festivities ended with a closing ceremony at Fairview Cemetery. Afterwards, the American Legion hosted a barbecue open to participants and spectators alike.



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IN REMEMBRANCE... Peter Hogaboom, left, delivers a speech to commemorate those who have served the nation while, left to right, Bob Farley, Patrick Tighe and Mayor Andrew Skibitsky look on.

## Westfield Historical Society Raises \$670,000 to Restore Reeve House

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Historical Society updated the council on its goal to raise \$800,000 to restore the four-acre Reeve House property at 314 Mountain Avenue, saying it has completed more than 80 percent of its goal.

The council and the historical society reached an agreement to restore the Reeve House and add a "carriage-type" structure to it that would provide a home for the society's resources and archives.

In an April 8, 2004 Westfield Leader editorial, former Westfield Historical Society President Don Mokrauer said, "With apologies to Voltaire, I maintain that if a permanent home for the Westfield Historical Society did not exist, it would be necessary to invent one."

Bill Shepherd, a Golf Edge resident and member of the Westfield Historical Society Board of Trustees, said the 1875 Victorian dwelling, which William Edgar Reeve's sons, Edgar and Ralph, ceded to Westfield in 1985, would be "turned into a museum. Not a house museum with a living room and dining room, but a museum with rotating exhibits.

"It will be a museum, cultural center and headquarters for the historical society and, hopefully, for some other volunteer organizations in town."

Mr. Shepherd said \$800,000 would "provide the group enough money to put the Reeve House in a position where it could be occupied" by funding the completion of architectural plans, along with new electrical, plumbing, air conditioning and external decorations. Internal decorations would be left to volunteers.

After raising the \$800,000, the historical society would then focus on accumulating between \$500,000 and \$600,000 to put up the adjacent building.

Mr. Shepherd said despite the lack of any general solicitations to the town

thus far, the group has raised \$670,000.

Tomorrow, June 1, the society will mail a solicitation and brochure to every household in town.

Mr. Shepherd said Union County, which "puts all the buildings up that mar our town... ought to help us out and do something that's going to be nice."

Overall, Mr. Shepherd said, "I think we're safely on our way. I'd like to get it done, so I can go back and retire."

Mayor Andy Skibitsky invited the group to kick off its fundraising events at the next public meeting to get the word out on TV-36.

Providing background, Sherry

Cronin, a vice president of the Historical Society, said William Edgar Reeve took part on the committee to raise funds for the World War I Memorial. In addition, the Reeves were responsible for establishing the Westfield Y.

Ms. Cronin also said the family sold the land that would become Mindowaskin Park to the town. "So, if it were not for the Reeve family, we wouldn't have those treasures that we have today," she said.

In other business, Third Ward Councilman and Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee Chair-

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## WF Fire Department Ceremony Honors Kelly Sr.



Horace Corbin for The Westfield Leader

FIRED UP... On Monday morning, Westfield firefighter personnel received service awards. Above, volunteer firefighter Daniel Kelly Sr., standing with his sons, Deputy Chief David Kelly, left, and Fire Chief Daniel Kelly Jr., right, receives the Distinguished Volunteer Service Award for 50 years of service.

WESTFIELD - The following personnel received Westfield Fire Department recognition at a ceremony on Monday, May 28:

Volunteer Firefighter Daniel Kelly Sr. received the Distinguished Volunteer Service Award for 50 years of devoted and extraordinary volunteer service, 1956-2006.

Lt. Scott Mazza, Firefighter Angelo Bencivenga and Firefighter Robert

Sawicki received a Unit Citation for incident occurring at 238 South Avenue in Fanwood on May 15.

Firefighter Harry Keen received a Civilian Service Award for actions at Scotch Plains structure fire while off duty on November 1, 2006.

Firefighter Daniel Magliore received an Actions Off Duty Award regarding an obstructed airway on infant on October 31, 2006.

## Freeholders OK \$414.4-Mil. Budget; Taxes Up 5.27 Percent

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

ELIZABETH - The Union County freeholders on Thursday night adopted a \$414.4-million budget that calls for taxes to be increased in 18 of the 21 municipalities as part of a \$238.6-million tax levy. County taxes will jump 5.27 percent, or \$11.6 million - about \$66 per household countywide. Taxes will drop in Garwood and Winfield and remain flat in Union.

Prior to adopting the budget, the freeholders approved a resolution to amend the spending plan by utilizing \$800,000 in previously held escrow monies as a revenue item, thus reducing the tax levy that had been \$239.4 million.

Freeholder Al Mirabella, chairman of the board's fiscal committee, said the county has been "working for some time on getting this money back" from Blue Cross Blue Shield. He said the insurance monies were freed up out of escrow to be used to reduce the county tax increase over last year.

Under the revised tax levy, the county purpose tax for Westfield will be \$23.6 million, an increase of \$1,187,902 over last year. The average assessed home in Westfield will pay \$2,298 in county taxes, or \$123 over last year. Scotch Plains taxpay-

ers will pay \$13.7 million, a hike of \$791,604, with the homeowners paying an average of \$1,679. The county tax in Fanwood will be \$3.8 million, or \$183,771 over last year, with homeowners paying \$1,413, or \$68 over last year.

Mountainside will pay \$6.2 million, an increase of \$155,348, with taxpayers paying \$2,094, or \$56 per household, over last year. County purpose taxes will drop in Garwood by \$101,854, to \$2.01 million, with taxpayers seeing a decrease of \$54, to \$1,115.

Elizabeth will pay the highest overall tax, at \$27.5 million, followed by Union, \$23.9 million, Summit, \$23.8 million, and Westfield.

Locally, average assessments are \$181,500 in Westfield, \$121,000 in Scotch Plains, \$85,000 in Fanwood, \$100,000 in Garwood and \$160,600 in Mountainside.

In addition to the county tax, the public information department also provided numbers for the open-space tax. Westfield will pay an average of \$105, an \$8 increase over 2006. Other towns are as follows: Scotch Plains, \$75, \$6 over last year; Fanwood, \$63, a \$4 increase; Garwood, \$50, down a dollar, and Mountainside, \$95, a \$6 increase. Mountainside's open-space

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Victoria McCabe for The Westfield Leader

ROLL OUT THE GREEN CARPET... Andrew Shue, left, organized a special premiere of Gracie, parts of which were filmed in Westfield, at the Maplewood Theater on Tuesday night. The film, about a high-schooler chasing her dream of playing soccer, was inspired by the life of Elisabeth Shue. Above, stars Andrew Shue, Carly Schroeder and Elisabeth Shue and director Davis Guggenheim attend the "green carpet" premiere. See additional photos at goleader.com/photos; look for a special feature in next week's Arts & Entertainment section.

## Construction Gets Underway For New Charlie Brown's

By WAYNE BAKER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS - Work on replacing the Charlie Brown's Steakhouse in Scotch Plains began last week. Ray Chmiel, a vice president with Charlie Brown's, said the company still expects to meet its Labor Day opening target. The restaurant was destroyed in an early morning fire on January 24.

The spring's wet weather prevented a scheduled April 16 groundbreaking ceremony, which was not rescheduled. Weather was not the only hurdle the company needed to clear - the initial design for the new building was rejected by the Scotch Plains Planning Board in March as "looking like a shopping center," according to Mr. Chmiel.

Mr. Chmiel said the design was adjusted in informal meetings following the planning board's initial rejection. Once adjusted to compen-

sate for the board's concerns, the revised design received board approval.

Mr. Chmiel said area residents would likely see activity, but little change, at the site for several weeks while foundation work is occurring. He estimated it would be about six weeks until new framing makes the progress at the site more apparent.

The design of the restaurant is a blend of both traditional and modern elements, Mr. Chmiel said. The left side and colonnaded entry pay homage to the area's Colonial past, with design elements such as clapboard and red brick. The right side's exterior will be more modern looking, with a stuccoed exterior and windows with large curved awnings above them for a Palladian appearance.

Mr. Chmiel expressed the company's appreciation of customer loyalty and its interest in seeing the restaurant rebuilt quickly.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

FLYING HIGH... Blue Devil Adam Bergo soared 43'3.75" to place second in the triple jump at the North Jersey, Section 2 Group 4 track tournament in South Plainfield on May 26. Bergo also won the high jump with a clearance of 6'4".

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