

SEEKING NANNY

Westfield family needs a full-time nanny/mother's helper, Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Position is available now. Looking for a caregiver to primarily assist the grandmothers in taking care of a three year-old girl and her two-month old sister.

Experienced nannies are preferred; must love kids and be highly trustworthy and responsible. Enjoys reading, counting/numbers, and playing games with the kids.

Please provide your own transportation. Some light housekeeping and errands may be required.

Contact:  
redbank972@gmail.com

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EXPERIENCED LINE COOKS

Seeking experienced Line Cooks for Private Country Club in Central New Jersey. Minimum of 5 years' experience in a fine dining club, hotel or restaurant. Culinary school graduate strongly preferred. Must be proficient in classic and modern cuisine terminology and techniques. We offer health benefits, paid vacations and 401K plan. Only qualified applicants will be considered. Email resume to:  
**jabril1114@aol.com**  
**(908) 232-4141**

www.goleader.com

HEALTHCARE CLASSES

CNA classes start mornings January 15th, evenings January 8th.  
CHHA, classes start evenings January 20th.  
NCLEX RN/PN REVIEW weekends January 12th.

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MINI ESTATE SALE

Mini Estate Sale - Living Room, Dining Room, Bedroom Furniture, Hand Woven Area Rugs & misc. artwork.  
**January 4, 2014**  
**10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Swans Mill Lane**  
**Scotch Plains, NJ**  
**(908) 472-3045**  
Some pictures upon request.

## Independent Pharmacy Owners Discuss Industry

REGION — Over 200 New Jersey independent pharmacy owners gathered on December 10 to discuss the current state of retail pharmacy.

“Winter Pharmacy Summit: Recognizing Key Policy Makers and Discussing the Issues Confronting the Practice of Pharmacy” was held at Deewan Banquet Hall in Piscataway. Lead organizer Ritesh Shah raised the issues confronting retail pharmacies.

“We are dealing with an un-level playing field. PBMs [pharmacy benefit managers], mail order operations, and others are not playing by the same set of rules that we have to follow,” he said. “Tonight we take the first step toward leveling that playing field and restoring equality to the industry.”

The event brought the leadership and members of many prominent pharmacy organizations. Representatives from the New Jersey Pharmacists Association (NJPhA), Garden State Pharmacy Owners (GSPO), Indo-American Pharmaceutical Society (IAPS) and the Independent Pharmacy Alliance (IPA) were all present. The event was also attended by Monmouth County Democratic Chairman Vin Gopal, newly elected Assemblyman Raj Mukerjee (D-33rd, Jersey City), and Assemblyman Gary Schaer (D-

36th Passaic). Mr. Gopal and Mr. Mukerjee were presented awards for their continued support for retail pharmacies.

The pharmacy group announced their intentions to create a Political Action Committee named NJRxPAC.

“We need to educate our elected representatives. There is a misperception that we count pills for a living. We are professionals on the front line of healthcare,” said Mahesh Shah, who is on the steering committee for the PAC and is also a member of the state’s Board of Pharmacy. The PAC will have an advisory board that includes many pharmacy owners.

Ritesh Shah announced a bold agenda for the PAC. “We will go to Trenton in March to fight for Audit Bill of Rights, and ask for legislation that mandates PBMs to update their pricing on a regular and frequent basis,” he announced.

The consensus was that this is a much needed effort. “It is about time that we did this in New Jersey. We need a voice in Trenton, so we can advocate the pharmacy industry, especially independent business owners. I am excited about NJRxPAC,” said Sanjay Shah, owner of Front Street Pharmacy in South Plainfield



MAYORAL VISIT...Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr came to speak to the third grade students at School One Elementary on December 12. The students have been learning about local government and Mayor Mahr presented an informative speech about local government and the role of the mayor. She also touched on the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a community. She was well received by the students and answered their many questions.

More Letters to the Editor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

## Let County Open Space Trust Fund Die As It Was Scam on Taxpayers

I’ve read both the “Patch of Grass” on-line editorial in Jaffe Communications and *The Star Ledger’s* Op-ed article, “New Jersey’s Open Space Crisis,” that opined New Jersey’s financially strapped Open Space Trust Fund. However, we must also recognize that even if it is funded, a big problem within the law remains: how is the grant money being expended?

Here in Union County, the taxpayers passed an Open Space referendum back in year 2000. It was a feel good issue and easily passed. It is funded by a 3.7 percent assessment all properties in the county. It has brought in, and still brings in, around \$10 million annually. However, down deep in the referendum’s wording is a little known fact that open space trust monies can also go towards the operation and maintenance of recreational facilities; to include: legal costs, surveys, studies and bonding attorneys. The county then went on a spending spree for the next five years borrowing (bonding) a lot of the money, in addition to the tax monies collected, to pay for open space prop-

erty. Keep in mind that all open space acquired thru the program must remain open space. One example: here in Union County the old Esposito farm, in Clark, is no longer a farm but now a paved over playground. Another, the old Oak Ridge Golf Course, will now have a new indoor skating rink and other assorted buildings on its once open space. Ain’t no farmland being preserved for any future generations!

Even more egregious, due to a runaway Union County budget these past five years, the county freeholders started to drain open space fund monies to help balance the county budget. In Union County some employees working on non-OSTF purchased properties (GHCC is one) are paid with money from the fund; despite the fact that the property was not purchased from fund monies. They now pay these employee salaries under the guise that it is for open space operation and maintenance. Last year this practice cost the fund \$6 million of the \$10 million collected. The balance of course goes toward debt service and miscellaneous professional costs along with an annual \$1 million grant give back to the local towns right before the November election. Their spurious actions now leave the Union County Open Space Trust Fund devoid of its true intent/purpose, to buy and preserve open land. Fact: in 2013 the freeholders did not purchase any land at all. It will be the same in year 2014; despite the fact that the fund is funded and raided each and every year of over \$10 million of our tax dollars. Voila - no money left in the fund for land preservation!

Open space preservation is certainly a good cause, but funding the program is not the problem — the problem is how it is administered. With millions being spent on salaries on non-OSTF properties with no accountability it just becomes Union County’s secret slush fund to bloat the budget. If this is the case throughout New Jersey then I say let the trust fund die out. The way the fund is administered is a scam perpetrated on the taxpayers who voted for it. It’s lost its shine.

Jim Buettner  
Cranford

Probitas Versus Honos

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD

Public Notice is hereby given that the final ordinances as follows were passed and adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield at a meeting thereof held on December 17, 2013.

Claire J. Gray  
Town Clerk

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2013

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 1869

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2014

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, CHAPTER 20

1 T - 12/19/13, The Leader Fee: \$16.83

## Changeable Winter Weather Causes School Closing Difficulties

Dear Mountainside Families: I want to take this opportunity to clarify this morning’s [Tuesday’s] call for a school closing. I sincerely regret that many of you were inconvenienced, but please know that the safety of your children is of paramount importance in making the decision to close the school district.

When snow is in the forecast, the decision-making begins early. It is always our goal to let you know as early as possible if there is going to be a school closing or a delayed opening. I was on the phone this morning with Mr. DeVico, our supervisor of maintenance and custodial services, [Police] Chief Debbie, and Mrs. Rattner, superintendent of Berkeley Heights, between 5 and 5:30 a.m. The consensus, based on the weather forecast and the road conditions at the time, was that the snowfall would not interfere with arrival and dismissal.

However, the weather changed rapidly between 5:30 and 6:30 a.m. The snow was coming down much harder than reported. The chief of police in Berkeley Heights advised Mrs. Rattner at 6:45 a.m. that the road conditions in Berkeley Heights were worsening and it was not safe to drive. Another factor was that the on-line weather forecasts did not reflect the current conditions.

Mrs. Rattner contacted me and I again consulted with Chief Debbie. The decision was then made to close school. We tried to get the word out as quickly as possible, fully realizing that in some situations students were already on the buses and had to turn around.

With regard to transporting high school students, as indicated in all of our notifications, if the Mountainside Schools are closed we do not send buses to Berkeley Heights or the Union County Vocational Technical Schools.

Again I regret the inconvenience of the late call but your children’s safety is always at the center of the decision.

Nancy Lubarsky  
Mountainside Chief School  
Administrator

## Group Homes Fire Suppression Bill Opposed by Community Access Unlimited

TRENTON – Legislation to require installation of automatic residential fire suppression systems and fire alarm protection systems in all group homes including hallways and living, dining and kitchen areas and bedrooms at all group homes throughout New Jersey was released Monday by an Assembly panel.

The Group Home Fire Safety Act, A-1843, is opposed by Community Access Unlimited (CAU) and other groups representing the disabled community, which note that the legislation would require that all group homes have sprinkler systems installed within four years. In addition to the CAU, the Association for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities (ABCD), the N.J. Association of Community Providers (NJACP), the Arc of N.J., the N.J. Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD), Department of Human Services (DHS)/Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), and the Sup-

ported Housing Association (SHA) also oppose the bill.

According to a press release from groups, there are a number of reasons for their opposition of this bill: Due to licensing that are put in place through DHS/DDD and OPIA ratios of staff to individuals served ensure the safe evacuation of all residents in less than three minutes. A recent sampling of an unannounced overnight fire drills conducted by state and local fire officials throughout the state resulted in 93 percent of the drills being successful. The unsuccessful drills were for a variety of reasons, one of which was that residents did not want to get up in the middle of the night knowing that it was a drill.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, the incidence of fire in a therapeutic residence for people with disabilities is .0017 percent - one of many compelling statistics. People with developmental disabilities living in a community facility have substantially less incidences of structural fires and substantially fewer deaths, when compared to the general population.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of Scotch Plains will hold a public hearing on **JANUARY 2, 2013, at 7:30 pm.**, Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, First Floor Council Chambers to hear the application of Martin & Joann Minnicino, 4 Allenby Lane, Block 14901, Lot 2, R-1 Zone who propose the construction of a one-story, one-car garage addition to the existing dwelling contrary to the following section of the Zoning Ordinance: **Section 23-3.4A, Para. A, Col. 7a – Side yard setback.** Minimum required: 50 feet. Proposed: 44.83 feet.

All interested persons may be present and be heard. The file pertaining to this application is in the Office of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and available for public inspection during regular office hours.

Barbara Horev, Secretary  
Zoning Board of Adjustment  
1 T - 12/19/13, The Times Fee: \$22.44

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD INVITATION TO RE-BID

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE TOWN CLERK OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY, ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014 AT 10:00 A.M. PREVAILING TIME AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 425 EAST BROAD STREET, WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY FOR THE:

**“2014 CURBSIDE COLLECTION AND MARKETING OF RECYCLABLE MATERIAL IN THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY”.**

PROPOSALS SHALL BE IN WRITING ON THE FORMS FURNISHED AND MUST BE DELIVERED AT THE PLACE AND BEFORE THE HOUR ABOVE MENTIONED, AND MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CERTIFIED CHECK OR BID BOND PAYABLE TO THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO AT LEAST TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE BASE AMOUNT OF THE BID, BUT NOT LESS THAN \$500.00 NOR MORE THAN \$20,000.00. (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-21) EACH BID MUST ALSO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SURETY COMPANY CERTIFICATE STATING THAT SAID SURETY COMPANY WILL PROVIDE THE BIDDER WITH THE REQUIRED PERFORMANCE BOND IN THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE CONTRACT (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-22), BY A NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT AND A CONTRACTOR’S QUALIFICATION STATEMENT, STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, ON THE FORMS INCLUDED IN AND EXPLAINED IN THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.

BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 ET SEQ. AND N.J.A.C. 17:27 AND MUST PAY WORKMEN THE PREVAILING WAGE RATES PROMULGATED BY THE NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY FOR THIS PROJECT. COPIES OF WHICH ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN ENGINEER.

**ALL BIDDERS MUST SUBMIT WITH THEIR BID A COPY OF THEIR NEW JERSEY BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE. FAILURE TO SUBMIT PROOF OF REGISTRATION WILL DISQUALIFY THE BID.**

SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE SEEN OR OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS CENTER, 959 NORTH AVENUE, WEST, WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY, IF IN THE INTEREST OF THE TOWN, IT IS DEEMED ADVISABLE TO DO SO.

KRIS J. McALOON  
TOWN ENGINEER  
1 T - 12/19/13, The Leader Fee: \$58.14



HERITAGE FEAST...The students in Jackie Duffy’s third grade class at School One Elementary in Scotch Plains completed a Heritage Project by creating a poster about their heritage to present to the class. Each child brought in food representing their heritage to share at “Heritage Feast” on November 27. Some children dressed up, brought items that represented their heritage and one child performed an Irish dance.

## SP-F Scholarship Foundation To Award Scholarships

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation invites all high-school seniors and college students residing in Scotch Plains and Fanwood to apply for the many scholarships available through the Foundation.

Some awards are need-based, while others have different criteria for selection, such as the intent to pursue an education focused on teaching, nursing, mathematics, veterinary science, foreign language, music or fine arts, among others. Scholarships also are offered to students who have shown an interest in various areas during their high-school career, such as social service organizations, Scouting or athletics.

A full description is available in the application booklet, which can be accessed online at the Foundation’s new website, spfscholarshipfoundation.org, at spfk12.org (see “2014 Local Scholarships Booklet” under “Announcements” on the school district’s home page) or in the guidance office of area high schools. The major criterion for eligibility is that the applicant resides in Scotch Plains or Fanwood; an applicant need not be a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

In addition to the application, the Foundation requires a personal letter from the applicant, a letter of reference and an official high-school transcript, including SAT and/or ACT scores, or an official college transcript. Individuals are asked to see the application booklet for details.

Applications should be mailed to: Scotch Plains-Fanwood Schol-

arship Foundation, P.O. Box 123, Fanwood, N.J. 07023 and must be postmarked by Saturday, February 15, 2014. Applications postmarked after this date will be returned. Incomplete or unsigned applications may not be considered.

In the past 47 years, 2,523 students have received \$2,507,042 in scholarship aid. Scholarships are funded through a community-wide appeal in the spring and through Dollars for Students, the Foundation’s annual house-to-house canvass, which will take place March 29 and 30, 2014. Other scholarships are administered by the Foundation, but are funded by other community organizations; for example, every Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) in the district funds at least one scholarship. Applications are reviewed by a Screening Committee consisting of four trustees from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation and PTA representatives from the public schools.

For further information, access spfscholarshipfoundation.org or call Mary Ball Cappio at (908) 889-8155, or contact the Foundation at spfscholarshipfoundation@gmail.com.

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## Summit Vigil Remembers Victims Of Newtown, Conn. Tragedy

Conjuring up images of some ancient ritual, approximately 100 people braved the snow this past Saturday to come together to remember the children and adults who died in Newtown, Conn. one year ago. We stood in a large circle as the lights went down and a single flame was passed, one to the other, as we each lit a candle in remembrance. Tears streaming down our faces, we tried to make sense of what had happened.

The vigil was held at the Central Presbyterian Church in Summit. I only knew one other person in the room, but the sense of community lay over us like a soft blanket. The program opened with the Children’s Choir of St. Teresa singing “This Little Light of Mine.” The beauty of their voices took my breath away. Their bright eyes and flushed cheeks brought life and innocence to the somber mood of the adults sitting in the audience.

The high vaulted ceiling of the church’s community room with the long red velvet curtains on the stage was the backdrop to this outpouring of love and bewilderment. In our hearts we were all trying to understand this horrific act of anger. “How do we wrench meaning from this tragedy?” asked Reverend Vanessa Southern.

One of the speakers was Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich who did not mince words. He opened with “I hate this subject,” and then went on to talk about assault rifles. “The assault rifle’s only function is to kill human beings. No one needs this kind of weapon. This is a killing machine. It’s not made to hunt, but to kill people,” he told the gathering. Although the vigil had been advertised, no elected officials had bothered to attend. No one with the power to pass gun control legislation was there.

Although a majority of the public favors banning assault weapons this is too much for our legislators to get done. Congress has done nothing. The New Jersey Legislature did pass a package of gun control measures but Governor Christie vetoed the centerpiece of the legislation which would have mandated instant background checks.

After the Sheriff spoke, William

Edwards, a Vietnam vet came to the microphone. He spoke with a quiet dignity. He opened with, “Life is a sacred gift. Witnessing the act of killing destroys the human spirit.” He told us what he had seen in Vietnam and described his return, “I was safe but my soul and my spirit were lost.” He encouraged the people there to act. “That’s how change happens. One person at a time.”

Rabbi Avi Friedman introduced the next segment which was the reading of the names of the 20 children gunned down in a matter of minutes last December and the names of the six educators who died with them. The names were read by 7th graders from South Orange Middle School; their sweet young voices bringing the names to life, connecting each name with the young life that was gone. The Rabbi read out the names of the adults killed and included Adam Lanza, the shooter, and his mother. I know that Adam is reviled by many, but the Rabbi included him because, he too, is a victim. A victim of his life and the pain that life brought him.

Music rounded out the evening. Karen Egert of Westfield sang the song “Sweet Angel” which she composed and recorded of “My Beautiful Town” by the Newtown Youth Voices was played. The beauty of the words and the voices only bringing home to those of us there how much will be missed by those innocent children.

To close the program, Reverend Southern told of how the parents in Newtown are asking people to perform 26 acts of kindness in honor of their children. I will be trying, for the next 26 days, to do just that. A kind word. Patience. A donation of time or money.

As I left the church it was still snowing. The clean blast of cold air soothed my eyes, blurred and swollen from tears. The fresh air of the fallen snow smelled good after the oppressive gloom of the church. As I looked out over the field with a lighted Christmas tree in the distance, I cried anew at the snowmen not being built in Newtown this winter.

Ann Ormsby Cary  
Westfield