

Columns From Those Who Serve You

Congress Needs to Take Action and Scrap Tax Code

By CONGRESSMAN BOB FRANKS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Everywhere I travel in our state, people are expressing anger and frustration with the current system of taxing Americans — and for good reason. Just look at the facts:

- The tax code is impossibly complex. With 475 different Internal Revenue Service (IRS) forms to choose from, it takes the average family more than 12 hours to fill out their tax return. Taxpayers are so afraid of making a mistake on their tax returns that 60 percent now hire a professional to do the job.
- The tax code is full of loopholes written to benefit powerful special interests at the expense of hard-working families. There's an army of lobbyists — more than 67,000 strong — working every day in Washington to preserve and expand the tax loopholes won by the special interests.
- Congressional hearings have exposed a tax collection agency that harasses and intimidates taxpayers. Working-class families are prime targets of the IRS because they figure you can't afford to fight back.
- It's costing you a fortune to enforce the tax code. American taxpayers and businesses spend \$300 billion a year just to comply with the current system.

I recently sent a survey on the tax system to my constituents. The response has been so overwhelming that we still haven't finished tallying all the results. But the preliminary numbers leave no doubt — taxpayers are demanding a new, simpler and fairer tax system.

In Washington, a movement is growing to scrap the current tax code. I am one of 127 House members on both sides of the political aisle who have joined in co-sponsoring legislation that would abolish the current tax code by December 31, 2001.

Congress would then have more than three years to engage in a national debate over tax reform and reach a consensus on implementing a new system that's simple, fair and honest.

While scrapping the tax code may be popular in New Jersey and in communities across America, in Washington the special interests are prepared to mount an all-out campaign to preserve the current system with all its loopholes.

If tax reform is to become a reality, taxpayers across the country must stand up and demand change.

Here in New Jersey, we have an opportunity to lead a national movement to "Scrap the Tax." Three state legislators are spearheading a

"Scrap the Tax" ballot initiative. State Senator Norm Robertson and Assemblymen Steve Corodemus and George Geist are sponsoring legislation that would place the question of abolishing the tax code before New Jersey voters this November.

The support of New Jersey voters would go a long way toward driving the issue through Congress. It can give members of Congress the resolve to stand up to the special interests, abolish the current tax system and develop a new way to finance the essential services of the federal government.

With the support of taxpayers across our state and our nation, we can force Washington to scrap the tax code and develop a new system that's simple, fair and honest.

Congressman Bob Franks, of Berkeley Heights, was elected to Congress in 1992 and reelected in 1994 and 1996 and is seeking a fourth term. The Seventh Congressional District includes Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountainside. He served seven terms in the State Assembly.



Over the past year, I have spoken to thousands of residents during my Mayor's walks in our neighborhoods, at public events and at community meetings. We have made a great deal of progress in Town Hall, but much still needs to be done.

Recently, the Town Council introduced its 1998 budget. This budget was the result of about two months of hard work by all of the members of council. Members of the public should know that the hard work has paid off, at least as it relates to our capital improvement program and other items for this coming year and for the longer term.

We have put together a capital program this year that is nearly double capital programs of the past. Some of the improvements for the coming year and beyond include:

This Year's Budget Doubles Capital Improvement Funds

By WESTFIELD MAYOR THOMAS C. JARDIM
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

- \$100,000 for the acquisition and renovation of the former site of the Excellent Diner into a "Pocket Park."
- \$7,500 to begin improvements to the "Central Avenue Corridor" as part of the Neighborhood Preservation Program.
- \$25,000 to be spent towards solving the downtown and commuter parking problems.

All in all, it's a capital program that demonstrates in many tangible ways our commitment to investing in our town and to accomplishing important quality of life initiatives.

Although I am pleased with the capital program we have developed, I cannot support other areas of the 1998 budget. I believe there are areas in the operating budget of the town which can be cut without any decrease in service.

I also believe strongly that the citizens of Westfield cannot afford property tax increases every year. This is especially true for senior citizens living on a fixed income and young families squeezed by a rising cost of living.

By setting priorities and opposing tax increases, my goal is to deliver the services you expect in a fiscally responsible manner. We can accomplish both of these goals this year without a tax increase.

Westfield Mayor Thomas C. Jardim was elected in 1996 as Westfield's first Democratic Mayor in 85 years. He is seeking a second, two-year term.

- \$600,000 in funds for paving and other road improvements, and a commitment to fix Westfield's crumbling roads over a multi-year period.
- Over \$100,000 to improve our parks and fields.
- \$25,000 for improved downtown lighting.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOARD OF EDUCATION WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals will be received by the Board of Education, Westfield, New Jersey, in the Board of Education Office, 302 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey, 07090, at 10:30 AM (Prevailing Time) on April 21, 1998 at which time bids will be opened and read aloud for:

BID NO. B8-121
ROOF REPLACEMENT FOR FIELD HOUSE AT GARY KEHLER STADIUM

Plans and Specifications will be available on April 13, 1998.

Plans, Specifications, Form of Bid, Contract and Bond for the proposed work and other Contract Documents thereto, as prepared by M. Disko Associates, are on file in their offices at 493 Lehigh Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083, and in the offices of the Board of Education, 302 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey, and may be examined at the office of M. Disko Associates during business hours.

Bidders will be furnished with a copy of the Plans and Specifications by the Engineer, upon proper notice and payment of a check for Forty (\$40.00) Dollars, payable to M. DISKO ASSOCIATES, said cost being the reproduction price of the documents and is not returnable.

Proposal forms (as contained in the Specifications) provide for the awarding of all the work to the lowest qualified bidder under a single contract.

The guaranty accompanying the bid shall be given in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the bid and may be given at the option of the bidder by a Certified Check, or Bid Bond from a reputable insurance company.

All bidders must be prequalified in accordance with Chapter 105, Laws of 1962, as amended by Chapter 188, Laws of 1968 as set forth in Instructions to Bidders.

Labour in connection with the project shall be paid not less than wages as listed in Prevailing Wage Rate Determination, pursuant to Chapter 150 of the New Jersey Laws of 1963, or the U.S. Department of Labor Wage Determinations, whichever are higher for each class of labor.

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, C. 127 (NJAC 17:27).

Bids may be held by the Board of Education for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the opening of Bids for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of bidders, prior to awarding of the Contract.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its judgment the public interest will be served by so doing.

By order of the Board of Education, Westfield, New Jersey.

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Bidding shall be in conformance with the applicable requirements of N.J.S.A.18A:18A-1 et seq., pertaining to the "Public School Contracts Law".

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Board Secretary

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Moving Toward Millennium Brings Host of Challenges

By SENATOR DONALD T. DIFRANCESCO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The year 2000 is quickly approaching and with it comes a host of new challenges for New Jersey's leaders.

To succeed in the new millennium, it is necessary to tap into the strength of our diverse population



enabling New Jersey to flourish economically, socially and culturally. Of course, all that we do in the years ahead we do for our youngest citizens.

Our children will need the best education we can provide to ensure their success, and the 208th Legislature is committed to do what is right for our schoolchildren and their teachers. The Senate is in the process of fine tuning the state budget for 1999, which will reflect an increase in state aid to our schools.

The latest school funding figures reflect an increase of over \$19.5 million in state aid for Union County

schoos.

Education prepares children for opportunities that will expand as New Jersey continues to successfully secure its position as a world-class economic leader.

That success depends on many factors, including the foresight and fortitude of state leadership to build a transportation system that moves us into the next century.

New Jersey has more railroad and highway mileage in proportion to its size than any other state. This vast network impacts how we move people and products, as well as our economy, employment, quality of life and environment.

Local interest in the development of light rail lines and grassroots advocacy for more direct train service should not be ignored. Development of mass transit has long been known as New Jersey's best avenue toward reducing traffic, lowering air emissions and strengthening regional hubs.

Tuning up our transportation system may involve costly projects, including expansion of the Hudson River tunnel. Ironically, these price tags will pale against the losses we face economically and environmentally if we fail to come to terms with our aging transit system.

I have asked the Senate Transportation Committee to review "Access to Region's Core" report and to conduct the hearings and research necessary to give legislative life to these proposals. The livelihood of New Jersey's commuters depends on a transportation system that works.

At the same time that we must find a way to keep our state moving, we must also find a way to slow it down. The insatiable need for development of the state's open spaces has seriously threatened the preservation of our natural resources and the availability of recreation and conservation land.

Initiating innovative incentive programs urging local governments to address the so-called "quiet crisis" of encroaching sprawl is at the top of the Senate's priority list.

We must build on past initiatives such as the purchase of Sterling Forest and the protection of more than 800,000 acres of parks, historic sites and public use areas through the Green Acres program.

The year 2000 provides the Legislature with a unique vantage point to discuss, evaluate and even direct the role state government must play as we face the issues of the 21st century.

I propose we do so under the auspices of a Senate Study Committee on the New Millennium, which will take a look at the impact of the year 2000. It's essential to be prepared for the potential technical problems which may arise, as well as issues such as population growth.

I have also called on my Senate colleagues to join me in working together as one house on the issues we know matter to all New Jerseyans, including relief for motorists and taxpayers.

The bipartisan spirit which pervaded the charity care and auto insurance reform debate is an ideal environment for the Legislature to begin its venture into the year 2000, and beyond.

Senator Donald T. DiFrancesco is serving his fourth term as State Senate President. A resident of Scotch Plains, he represents the 22nd Legislative District which includes Westfield, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

— Henry Ford

The Constitution only guarantees the American people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself.

— Benjamin Franklin

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The Board of Education of the Town of Westfield, in Union County, New Jersey, reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids for the whole or any part and waive any formalities in the interest of the Board of Education. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening thereof.

Bidding shall be in conformance with the applicable requirements of N.J.S.A.18A:18A-1 et seq., pertaining to the "Public School Contracts Law".

Bidders are required to comply with requirements of P.L. 1975, C.127, (NJAC 17:27).

By order of the Town of Westfield Board of Education, Union County, New Jersey.

Dr. Robert C. Rader
Board Secretary

1 T - 4/9/98, The Leader Fee: \$45.90

Sealed proposals will be received by the Board of Education of the Westfield School District, Union County, New Jersey, at the Board of Education, 302 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey, for the following supplies, equipment or services:

BID FOR: B9-101
PRINTED FORMS FOR THE WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR TO 1998-1999 SCHOOL YEAR

BIDDUE:
APRIL 23, 1998 at 10:30 AM

The bids will be received at the Administration Building, 302 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090, on the date and at the time indicated, and then publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids must be in strict compliance with specifications. Bids must be made on the proposal forms in the manner designed. Proposals must be endorsed on the outside of the sealed envelope, with the name of the bidder, the bidder's address and the name of the supplies, equipment, or services for which the bid is submitted. It is understood and agreed that proposals may be delivered before the time or at the place specified for opening. The Board of Education assumes no responsibility for bids mailed or misdirected in delivery.

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Board Secretary

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Columns From Those Who Serve You

Excellence in Education Guides Students' Lives

By DR. WILLIAM J. FOLEY
Westfield Superintendent of Schools
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

"If you do not know where you want to go, it does not matter what road you take." This ancient Chinese proverb holds special significance for school systems, entangled as they are with so much conflicting advice.



Some politicians are especially enamored with educational solutions to all of society's problems while they stridently criticize the performance of our students. Uniforms, vouchers, single-sex schools and state-sponsored pre-school education are just a few of the answers proposed in recent news accounts.

Some criticism, like reactions to the performance of United States 12th graders in math and science on the latest international assessment, is justified. Other issues, like the tragedy in Jonesboro, Arkansas, have no answers.

Last December, 35 Westfield citizens and educators gathered at Lucent Technologies for a weekend retreat to discuss what we wanted for Westfield students and how to get there. Part of the answer came in a mission statement that the committee unanimously approved to submit for community and board review.

"The mission of the Westfield School District, a system built on successful cooperation among family, school and community, is to prepare all students to achieve excellence and to become responsible citizens through rigorous educational programs which respect individual differences and diversity."

Parents send the schools children eager and ready to learn, while the larger community provides the financial resources and volunteer efforts that make the schools successful. Excellence is not simply about grades and college entrance, although these are important. Excellence is a value that should guide every aspect of the lives of children, whether it is on the athletic field, on the stage or in the workplace.

Concomitant with excellence is respect for differences, because both college, the workplace, and indeed the world in which they live, demands it.

As I reflect on our first efforts to set direction for the district for the next five years, I also find much that we can celebrate. Continued community support helps make the Westfield schools succeed. In addition to traditionally supporting the school budget, I find Westfield residents eager to help in so many ways. During the year, 170 volunteers representing all segments of the community have been active in the strategic planning process; more than 50 parents gave up their Saturday to wire schools during NetDay; and hundreds more are involved in volunteer efforts in individual schools.

In addition, the new families that have moved to Westfield in the past few years have revitalized our town. They bring enormous personal commitment to improve the quality of life in Westfield and the academic performance of our schools.

Our test scores are up at all levels as senior staff join with the many new teachers to raise the bar for all our students. The intermediate math program was upgraded, making algebra accessible to more students, and our elementary reading program is being totally rewritten. Technology is beginning to have an impact on our curriculum in language arts at the elementary level, in social studies in the intermediate schools, and in pilot programs at the high school.

Research available to our students has been dramatically increased as a result of computerizing our school libraries.

I emphasize these positive changes because I see a solid foundation to build upon as we improve our schools. Westfield public schools do not require radical transformation, but rather constant retooling, and reassessment. I am concerned about the results of the Third International Math Science Study and the poor showing of American students.

If the conclusions are accurate, even our advanced students are not performing at a level similar to their peers in Europe. We need to review these results and strengthen our programs. We need more flexibility in our regular education programs, and limit special education to students who truly need it.

While the increase in special education students is a district-wide problem, African-American parents are justified in their concern that their children disproportionately end up in resource centers.

How do we improve? The strategic planning committee and the seven action plan committees currently in place are one way to uncover problems and look for solutions. Your elected Board of Education members serve on various committees throughout the year, making recommendations and also welcoming public input.

With the needs raised by parents and teachers, come opportunities to improve. New ideas, however, remain in file cabinets unless the community commits itself to a budget. A school budget is more than a financial document; it is a statement of educational values. Teaching positions have been added to our 1998-1999 budget because we believe class size is important.

If we are to reduce our dependence on special education, then we need to provide classroom teachers, especially at the elementary level, with support for students who need help. This year's budget provides two teacher support positions for that purpose. Teacher training, continues to be part of our improvement plan, especially in regard to technology.

Placing more computers into the classrooms will become a reality next year when 95 computers are added to the fifth grades and 50 math workstations are installed in sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade classrooms. Last year's budget and this year's have committed well over \$1 million dollars to put the technology plan into action.

As I witness many of our plans become reality, I recognize that the dialogue begun this year will prompt further ideas for improvement. The strategic planning process is at the very least a superintendent's advisory committee, in which some of the best minds among our staff and community give me good ideas.

Not every recommendation is feasible, some ideas will not work, but I will listen to every suggestion. I look forward to sorting through the many proposals and developing a five-year plan for approval by the Board of Education. I will work with the board to find resources to make the plan a reality and to translate our mission into student outcomes.

I am confident that this cooperative effort of assessing the quality of Westfield education will provide us with the direction and the vision to prepare our children for the future. The mission statement makes it clear that public schools not only serve the public, they create the public.

Dr. William J. Foley, of Westfield, has been Superintendent of Schools in Westfield since 1996.

Countless People Responsible For Borough's First 100 Years

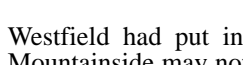
By MOUNTAINSIDE MAYOR ROBERT F. VIGLIANTI
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

When I was first approached by the Mountainside Historical Preservation Committee to pen this article, I sat down and began wondering about how I could possibly remember all the thousands of caring residents who have given so much to our community for the past 100 years. Well, I can't.

So, to those I don't mention, I can assure you it is not at all intentional. Where do you start?

Obviously, when we discuss Mountainside history, we should start with its first chief executive, Mayor Joseph W. Cory.

This name I know from our history. I've been told, fact or fiction, that the main reason Mountainside broke away from Westfield in 1895 was that around that time Westfield refused to erect street lights down Mountain Avenue; and so, the proud residents of "The Mountain Side" decided to form their own community. I guess if



Robert F. Vigilanti, Mountainside Mayor

Westfield had put in these lights, Mountainside may not exist today.

Current mayors of Mountainside I have known include Al Hartung, Joe Komich, Fred Wilhelms, Tom Ricciardi and Bruce Geiger.

Speaking of volunteers, I firmly believe that one, if not the main reason, for Mountainside's success has been the tremendous amount and quality of men and women we have had over the years giving so much of themselves for their community.

There is no dollar amount one could pay to a person who is serving out of love and dedication, and not for a paycheck.

In my short time, 28 years as a Mountainside resident, I have seen hundreds of residents who have served so willingly without pay. First to come to mind is John E. Keuler, a founding member of the Rescue Squad and a long-time member of the Mountainside Fire Department.

In the sense of being dollar rich, John was a poor man simply because he was always willing to give to others for free. Even in his work as an electrician, many said John didn't charge if he felt his customer was having hard times.

He also lost income because of the hours, days, and weeks he volunteered as a Rescue Squad member or a fire fighter, but in the end John was rich.

Before I leave the Rescue Squad, several ladies must be mentioned, who were the "day time squad" for many, many years: Mary Steiner, Helen Hay, and later Sandy Levine. Ruth Keuler, John's wife, not only served as a loyal member but was an instructor.

Since the squad's founding, there have been hundreds of dedicated members. These four stand out in my mind the most since they served so well when I was Captain of the squad.

Today, we still have Kit Carson, a native Mountainside resident and teacher in Deerfield Elementary School, and Bill Van Blarcom, the squad's long-time Treasurer and past council member, plus many residents and non residents who give of their time and talents to provide us with emergency care.

The Mountainside Volunteer Fire Department will always be known by the statewide slogan they started, by Ron Huter, "Look for two ways out." Then there was Doc Porter, Bob But-

ler, Joe Hershey, Bob Wyckoff, Alan Hambacker, Ed Colline, and Bruce Geiger, and many others who served as Chief. I can't leave this department without also mentioning Bob Farley and Jay Kelk, both of whom have served as chief and are still active today.

There is a group of residents who have never "moved on." We are most fortunate for generations of the Honeckers, Maxwells, Brahm, Bilwises, Pfeifers, McGuire/Harts, Roeders/Debbies, Heckels, Webbers, etc.

There exists a small group of residents whose pride for Mountainside will live on in our history. Jean Hershey's book on Mountainside; Harry Devlin's drawing of the Hetfield House; the Bass family's "Firefighter" monument; the Rescue Squad building dedicated to John Keuler and streets named for the Heckels, Blazos, Miarnis, Dunns, Ackermans, Mary Allen, and Coles are all part of our heritage and pride of our community.

One could not forget Emily and Elmer Hoffarth. Both worked for Mountainside, Emily, one of the nicest ladies I have ever met, was a major driving force in the history of our library. Her portrait adorns its lobby today in recognition and appreciation of her efforts and love of our community. Elmer was a long, long-time Borough Clerk and Elmer ran a tight ship.

Another borough employee, part-time, was Fern Hyde. Fern was the main thrust behind the saving, moving, and renovating of the Hetfield House.

The support and work of the late Mabel Young, was so appreciated by Mountainside residents that they created the Mabel Young Award to be given each year to Mountainside residents who display, through their actions, their true love and dedication to our community. How much more of an honor could be bestowed on an individual than to have an award named after her?

To bestow... what a wonderful thought. Many years ago several residents got together to create what later became simply "The Bestowers." This organization throughout the years has donated thousands of dollars and food to the needy.

Another of the more obvious reflections of Mountainside's community pride is seen in our section of Route No. 22. When compared to neighboring communities you can see that governing bodies of the past had pride in our development; thus, we have green grass and trees while others have asphalt. This was not only good planning but pride in one's community.

Look at our industrial area. All are campus-like settings and not the norm generally seen throughout north and central New Jersey.

In conclusion, Mountainside pride may have started in 1895 with the founding of our community, but it has grown each and every year. It has grown through our emergency services, and from our Historical Preservation in its constant work on the Hetfield House to the upgrading of "Children's County Home." And, of course, we're proud of the renowned Children's Specialized Hospital on New Providence Road.

Mountainside has truly grown into one of the finest residential communities in all of Union County and Central New Jersey.

Robert F. Vigilanti is now serving his 10th year as Mountainside Mayor. This column was written for the Borough's Centennial in 1995.

Mandates Relief Acts Provide Means to Control Local Taxes

By ASSEMBLYMAN ALAN M. AUGUSTINE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Controlling property taxes is one of the major concerns in all municipalities. In her State of the State address earlier this year, Governor Christine Todd Whitman put forth initiatives to give taxpayers a voice in property taxes.

She also recently created the Property Tax Commission which is charged with studying and proposing solutions to the problem of spiraling taxes. While it may take time to realize the fruits of these efforts, the Mandates Relief Acts have become a series of small, but significant, steps designed to enable community officials to cut their administrative costs and operate more efficiently, so they can control or even reduce local taxes.

Through the Mandates Relief Acts, burdensome state mandates have been repealed or modified. The first Mandates Relief Act was passed in 1995; the second in 1996. They helped local governments streamline their operation in dozens of ways from simplifying street sign installation to allowing the consolidation of planning and zoning boards.

Based on suggestions from local governing officials, the Mandates Relief Act of 1998, will also enable municipalities to eliminate or modify almost 40 mandates.

The most changes proposed in the 1998 Mandates Relief Act concern local finance and budget requirements. Municipalities would be allowed to pay bills under \$150 without having to do excessive paper work. Instead of printing bond ordinances in full, they could save money by advertising them in summary.

And they would be permitted to budget transfers when services are changed from the government to contracted services or from contracted services to the government unit. In all, 11 different mandates in this area would be changed. Among the record keeping reforms

the Act would establish is the creation of a Police Paperwork Reduction Task Force. COAH (Council on Affordable Housing) reforms would also be enacted. Municipalities would be permitted to apply for a waiver of the 25 percent senior housing cap found in COAH, and it would be able to satisfy its low and moderate income housing requirement by purchasing private homes at mortgage value.

Promoting shared services, the Act would reward municipalities and fire districts for consolidating by giving \$1 million to the municipality over 10 years and \$100,000 to a fire district over five years. Cap exemptions would be given to both the receiving and sending municipality entering into a new shared service.

In addition, early buy outs would be allowed for employees who are subject to reduction through shared services or municipal consolidation.

In other cost saving measures, the Act would enable municipalities and counties greater flexibility with Civil Service by allowing pilot projects, and would let counties give employees 50 percent of the savings from health benefits that are not taken. It would give municipalities greater flexibility, too, in returning small portions of publicly owned land back to the tax rolls.

Early last month, the Mandates Relief Act of 1998 was released from the Assembly Local Government and Housing Committee. Currently, it is awaiting review by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

The Mandates Relief Act may not receive the fanfare other major legislation does, however, it is providing the small steps that can make a significant difference for municipalities. It is providing municipalities with the means to contain costs, increase efficiency, and provide their constituents with property tax relief.

Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine, of Scotch Plains, has been in the State Assembly since 1992, was elected to a full term in 1993, and was reelected in 1995 and 1997. He also is a former Scotch Plains Mayor and Township Councilman and Union County Freeholder.

Students Excel on All Fronts In Challenging Environment

By DR. CAROL B. CHOYE
Scotch Plains-Fanwood Superintendent of Schools
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

In much of what you read and hear these days in discussions of American schools and education, there are oft repeated phrases like "preparing students for the 21st century" and keep-



ing pace with the expected "knowledge explosion," "emerging global economy," and "the revolution in technology" of the future.

The only problem is, for the children who are our students today, the future is now!

In the Scotch Plains-Fanwood public schools, we must help our 4,300

students to strive towards excellence, to work hard, to think critically and creatively, to be disciplined every day in order to achieve their full potential. For all of them, the future is today... it's everyday!

I am immensely proud of what's happening in our classrooms, on our playing fields and in our extracurricular activities right now. I see teachers challenging themselves to initiate exciting projects for their students. I see the professional staff actively engaged in planning staff development programs that will keep our teachers energized and up-to-date in their approaches to instruction.

Student achievement continues at a high level. We're proud of our National Merit and National Achievement Program scholars as well as our 18 Bloustein Scholars. Our seniors have been accepted at some of America's finest universities and colleges. Test scores are up! And students have excelled in academic competitions, winning national recognition in contests such as the ThinkQuest Internet contest and the Knowledge Master Open computer quiz bowl for middle school youngsters. Our Science League teams are performing among the top 10 to 12 schools in the state competition.

Our musical groups have been outstanding, involving nearly 30 percent of the student body. Sports teams have captured conference, sectional, and state championships this year. DECA has continued its winning ways and will be sending a large local contingent into national competition. Our Future Business Leaders of America chapter, under President David Gewirtz, who is also serving as state president, has been named the most outstanding chapter in the state for the fifth consecutive year!

In order to continue to provide our students with the kinds of tools and choices that they need every day, the Board of Education and administration must work diligently. They must respond to problems as they arise, focus our finances on instruction and plan carefully for our growing enrollments. All this, so that the quality of our programs and student experiences will continue to be outstanding.

In my roll as "capacity builder," I must try to move every person in this school system to achieve to their highest potential. Teachers must be capacity builders for their students. Parents and community members must be our full partners. Together, we must make the most of every day that we have our students with us. They cannot wait until the 21st century!

Dr. Choye has been Superintendent of Schools since April of 1993.

PUBLIC NOTICE

1998 TOWN OF WESTFIELD
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

Finance Committee	March 24, 1998
Downtown Westfield Corporation Budget of the Town of Westfield Special Improvement District, County of Union, for the year 1998:	
BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Downtown Westfield Corporation Budget for the year 1998, and	
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Budget be published in the THE WESTFIELD LEADER in the issue of April 9, 1998;	
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the Town of Westfield does hereby approve the following as the Downtown Westfield Corporation Budget for the year 1998:	
Recorded Vote: Ayes Mayor Jardim, Council members Vernick, Gruba, Sullivan, Goldman, McDermott, Albano, Walsh and Weinstein	
Nay 0	
Abstain 0	
Absent 0	

Notice is hereby given that the Downtown Westfield Corporation Budget was approved by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield, County of Union, on March 24, 1998. A hearing on said Budget will be held at the Westfield Municipal Building on April 21, 1998 at 8:00 p.m. at which time and place objections to said Budget for the year 1998 may be presented by Downtown Special Improvement District taxpayers or other interested persons.

DOWNTOWN WESTFIELD CORPORATION SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT 1998 BUDGET	
REVENUES	
GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS	ANTICIPATED 1998
Amount to be raised by Special Improvement District Tax	\$265,500.00
Total General Revenue	\$265,500.00
APPROPRIATIONS	
GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS	APPROPRIATIONS 1998
Operating	
Salaries and Wages	\$75,000.00
Other Expenses	\$190,500.00
Total General Appropriations	\$265,500.00
1 T - 4/9/98, The Leader	Fee: \$79.56

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY,
CHANCERY DIVISION, UNION COUNTY,
DOCKET NO. F-14725-97.

FIRST BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, PLAINTIFF vs. SARAH DUNNING, HIS WIFE, ET AL., DEFENDANT.
CIVIL ACTION, WRIT OF EXECUTION, DATED FEBRUARY 3, 1998 FOR SALE OF MORTGAGED PREMISES.
By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public vendue, on the 6th Floor of the Union County Court House (Tower 2), 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey on WEDNESDAY THE 22ND DAY OF APRIL A.D., 1998 at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.
The judgment amount is \$67,912.75.
MUNICIPALITY: Elizabeth.
COUNTY: Union, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

STREET & STREET NO.: 86 Division Street
TAX BLOCK AND LOT: BLOCK NO.: 7, LOT NO. 175.
DIMENSIONS OF LOT: 25 FEET x 100 FEET
NEAREST CROSS STREET: 74 feet from the intersection of Martin Street.
There is due approximately the sum of \$69,800.43 together with lawful interest and costs.
There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff's Office.
The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale.

RALPH FROEHLICH
SHERIFF
WILLIAM M.E. POWERS, JR., Attorney
737 Stokes Road
P.O. Box 1088
Medford, New Jersey 08055-9962
CH-753679 (WL)
4 T - 3/26, 4/2, 4/9 & 4/16/98
Fee: \$165.24

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY,
CHANCERY DIVISION, UNION COUNTY,
DOCKET NO. F-14411-94.

SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF WASHINGTON, D.C., PLAINTIFF vs. ALBERTO MORANTE & ADELA MORANTE, H/W ROBERT AND GLADYS VILLEGAS; ET ALS, DEFENDANT.
CIVIL ACTION, WRIT OF EXECUTION, DATED DECEMBER 5, 1997 FOR SALE OF MORTGAGED PREMISES.
By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public vendue, on the 6th Floor of the Union County Court House (Tower 2), 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey on WEDNESDAY THE 15TH DAY OF APRIL A.D., 1998 at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.
The judgment amount is \$83,405.22.
The property to be sold is located in the City of Elizabeth, County of Union, and State of New Jersey, commonly known as 622 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey, Tax Lot No. 647, Block No. 12. Dimensions of lots (approximately): 25 feet by 145 feet. Nearest cross street: Fairmount Avenue.
There is due approximately the sum of \$85,694.86 together with lawful interest and costs.
There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff's Office.
The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale.

RALPH FROEHLICH
SHERIFF
EICHENBAUM, KANTROWITZ, LEFF & GULKO, Attorneys
140 Sylvan Avenue
P.O. Box 1660
Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632-0660
CH-753656 (WL)
4 T - 3/19, 3/26, 4/2 & 4/9/98
Fee: \$171.36

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY,
CHANCERY DIVISION, UNION COUNTY,
DOCKET NO. F-15821-96.

SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF WASHINGTON, D.C., PLAINTIFF vs. CLARENCE W. TURNAGE; DOMESTIC FINANCE CORPORATION ET ALS; DEFENDANT.
CIVIL ACTION, WRIT OF EXECUTION, DATED JANUARY 15, 1998 FOR SALE OF MORTGAGED PREMISES.
By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public vendue, on the 6th Floor of the Union County Court House (Tower), 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey on WEDNESDAY THE 15TH DAY OF APRIL A.D., 1998 at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.
The judgment amount is \$34,032.53.
The property to be sold is located at:
Municipality: City of Elizabeth,
Tax Lot Number: 422, Block No. 3.
Approximate Dimensions: 100 feet by 25 feet by 100 feet by 25 feet.
Nearest Cross Street: Thirteenth Street.
There is due approximately the sum of \$35,072.50 together with lawful interest and costs.
There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff's Office.
The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale.

RALPH FROEHLICH
SHERIFF
HARRIS & KLEIN, Attorneys
177 Valley Street
South Orange, New Jersey 07079
CH-753660 (WL)
4 T - 3/19, 3/26, 4/2 & 4/9/98
Fee: \$155.04