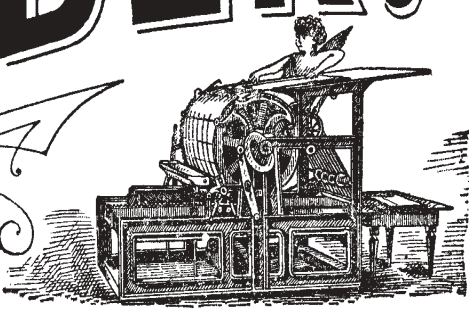




WESTFIELD LEADER



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Mayor McDermott, Students 'Come Together'



WESTFIELD'S ABBEY ROAD?...Westfield Mayor Gregory S. McDermott carried the weight of Joey Heister's backpack while escorting him to school down Kimball Avenue. Joey, a fourth grader at Wilson Elementary School, won a special raffle entitling him to being escorted by the mayor. In addition, Westfield police officers, principals, and Town Council members walked Westfield pupils to classes.

COUNCIL ACTS TO EXPAND RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT ZONES

Parking Advisory Group Seeks to Move Bus Pickup Area Out of South Ave. Lot

The Westfield Parking Advisory Committee is moving ahead with its deliberations on coming up with recommendations on solving a parking shortage both for commuters and for downtown employees and shoppers. Charlie Weidman, Committee Chairman, said the panel is on target to submit its final report to the council by November. A 50-page draft report was submitted to the governing body on September 4. The committee determined there was a shortage of 450 to 500 commuter spaces and 350 to 450 long-term, non-commuter parking stalls. The panel, originally 12 members, has been doubled in size for the second and final phase of the report. The committee completed its first parking count Tuesday afternoon of existing municipal and private lots to validate the shortfall numbers. Mr. Weidman said the municipal lots were 90 percent full between the hours of 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., when the study was conducted. Private lots, consisting of two-thirds of current parking capacity in town, were only 70 to 75 percent utilized. Mr. Weidman said a dialogue is

needed between private lot owners and the committee to discuss ways that private spaces can be better utilized by the town. In an effort to increase commuter spots, the town is moving ahead with plans to implement a valet parking system at the South Avenue lot, a plan that is expected to generate another 100 to 125 stalls. Another 29 spots are now available, on a temporary basis, at a privately-owned lot on Cacciola Place. The lot is roughly a six-minute walk from the Westfield train station, according to Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan. Mr. Weidman said the committee will begin discussions this week with NJ Transit to discuss better locations for buses to pick up commuters. The committee believes this would free up additional space at the South Avenue lot for commuters stalls. The committee has identified a dozen or so locations that might be suitable for a parking structure. The committee was set to discuss that issue at its meeting tonight. In other business, the council approved several neighborhood streets in town for residential parking permits.

One ordinance that was passed, 8-0, will allow residents who live in two-hour, un-metered zones to qualify for residential parking permits. Another ordinance expands the limited time parking area on Westfield Avenue, between Dorian Road, Park Street and Washington Street, "to alleviate the commuter parking problem" which Mr. Sullivan said has created a safety issue in the neighborhood. Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence A. Goldman opposed the ordinance, citing the displacement of commuters from other neighborhood streets, on top of an existing commuter shortage. He said the restrictions placed on passenger vehicles headed into New York City in the wake of the World Trade Center disaster has put an even greater increased demand for train commuters in Westfield. "We shouldn't be restricting the options that are currently available any more than we have up to this point. At the least, I'd like to maintain the status quo," Mr. Goldman stated. Mr. Sullivan noted the availability

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Ward Commission Weighing Moving Cacciola to Ward 3

A commission is looking into changing the political boundaries of Westfield's four wards based on the 2000 U.S. Census. Their main struggle is trying to unite a minority voting block, located on the south side of the train tracks, without creating too much of a discrepancy in overall population between the wards. Each of the wards has two representatives on the Westfield Town Council.

The commission, officially created Tuesday afternoon by existing state statute, consists of Town Clerk Bernard Heeney and the four members of the Union County Board of Elections: June S. Fischer of Scotch Plains, Mary Ellen Harris of Kenilworth, John De Simone of Clark and Teresa R. Hale of Hillside. Ms. Fischer, who chairs the County Board, and Ms. Hale are Democrats and Mr. De Simone and Ms. Harris are Republicans.

The re-examination of ward boundaries, required by state statute, requires that the largest ward's population cannot be 10 percent greater than the smallest ward. Under the 2000 census, the First Ward, at 7,575, is the largest ward, followed by the Fourth Ward, 7,532; the Third Ward, 7,347; and the Second Ward, 7,190.

Westfield Third Ward Councilwoman Claire Lazarowitz explained that the Cacciola Place neighborhood feels their voting block is being divided, possibly on purpose. Ms. Lazarowitz said she feels the boundary between the second and fourth wards, which goes down the middle of Cacciola Place, "needs to go the natural geographic configuration," namely the train tracks.

"Otherwise, it seems as though we are dividing people up in neighborhoods," she told the commission. She said that the area includes a population that is mostly black, Hispanic and older Italian residents. Ms. Lazarowitz indicated that these residents "really feel like they're being divided on purpose." The current configuration of the Second Ward hops the train tracks and includes Cacciola Place, Sussex Street, Ross Place, Stirling Place, and a section each of Carleton Road, Ripley Place and Central Avenue. It is the only ward that goes over the railroad tracks that run east to west, thus dividing the north and south sides of town.

"It's the one thing that has haunted me for over 10 years," Ms. Fischer stated after the meeting adjourned. During the hour-long meeting on Tuesday afternoon, commission members weighed a number of options to try and place the Cacciola and surrounding neighborhoods back into the Third Ward for the first time in 20 years. There was only a minor redraw of ward boundaries in 1991. However, by just moving the 529 persons in the Cacciola neighborhood from the Second to the Third Ward, the town's smallest ward becomes even smaller and wouldn't stand-up to the 10 percent rule, said Town Attorney Robert Cockren, who

is the attorney appointed to advise the commission. "If you (the commission) tinker, I think you are going to be dicing and slicing everywhere," Mr. Cockren advised commission members. Ms. Fischer responded, "I totally understand, but we have to come up with a remedy" to solve the Cacciola Place dilemma without causing too many additional changes to the existing wards. The commission is studying a proposal that would move part of the current First Ward into the Second Ward and a piece of the Third Ward into the Fourth Ward in order to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Planning Bd. Approves Catering Hall After Year Of Legal Maneuvering

After more than a year of legal wrangling, a catering hall proposed to be opened in the heart of Westfield's downtown has been given the green light to proceed.

The application by Ward & O'Donnell Property Development LLC was unanimously approved by the Westfield Planning Board on Monday night contrary to continued objection by several local property owners.

The plan calls for a catering hall to be operated on the second floor of the New Orleans-style buildings located at 159-169 East Broad Street.

In approving the application, Planning Board member Martin Robins stated that a catering hall in the downtown district is "an attractive and valuable activity with enormous benefits" for the town. Planning Board member William Ziff noted that the activities associated with this type of project were akin to "Arcanum Hall in a Westfield of a different time." Arcanum Hall is a historic building located at the corner of Elm Street and East Broad Street formerly used as a meeting hall.

The project was vigorously contested by local property owners who were concerned with the increased traffic and the added burden on the already overloaded parking areas within the buildings' proximity. During the meeting, Mr. Robins echoed this sentiment noting that the most central issue surrounding the heated debate over the project was parking.

"This application only caused problems because we have not solved the parking situation," stated Mr. Robins, referring to the highly debated proposal to construct tiered parking in the central business district.

He continued by forcefully noting that "Growth, creativity and economic potential will be strangled [in the downtown] by the ridiculous unwillingness to move forward with the parking deck."

Councilman Rafael Betancourt, town council liaison to the Planning Board, added that the council "has

been working hard to correct the [parking] problems."

The original application called for a parking variance from the ordinance requirement of 127 parking spaces required of a property of this size. The application had only proposed four spaces. However, Mr. Ward noted that short of "tearing down the building," the parking requirement could not be met in the downtown area.

Conceding in part to the objectors' requests, Mr. Ward agreed to limit the number of occupants on the premises to 40 persons before 6 p.m. and no more than 80 thereafter. This concession reduced the parking requirements to 13 spots during the day and 27 in the evening under the ordinance.

Both the applicant and members of the board noted that in the past no application was ever denied in Westfield's central business district because of a lack of parking.

The application, although unanimously approved, included several restrictive conditions of approval. Among other things, the approval was conditioned on the applicant's voluntary 40- and 80-person limitation on occupancy.

Also, the board required that their resolution be recorded with the deed to the property effectively limiting the present owner and all future owners to the restricted uses approved by the board.

"I am disappointed that this application escalated to what was coined by some board members at the meeting as the Hatfields versus the McCoy's," said Carol Schwarz Greco, whose family has strongly opposed

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From Their Home Front to Front Lines, Area Military Ready War on Terrorism

"He's on the right track," said Rear Admiral Timothy Beard, 3rd of President George W. Bush's plan to terminate terrorism through Operation Enduring Freedom. "He is being very cautious, very pragmatic and he is preparing so that that we, as a nation, can accomplish the goals to keep America safe." A former Westfield resident, Adm. Beard echoed what several area residents and military officials have said since terrorists took the lives of almost 7,000 individuals on September 11—they're ready, willing and behind President Bush.

Since that horrific day, William Sheppard, Fanwood resident and Public Affairs Officer for the New Jersey Naval Militia Joint Command, has been attending victims' funerals all over the state and pitching in at "ground zero."

A Vietnam veteran, Mr. Sheppard was proud to report, "There has been an influx of many young people in Generation X, who don't have a vehicle for community service enlisting with the Armed Forces to combat terrorism."

Those individuals who might be apprehensive about serving are "thinking of the old military, like Vietnam," according to Mr. Sheppard. "This is a new war we'll be fighting," he said. "Patience is absolutely the biggest priority."

Shortly after the attacks on the World Trade Center and The Pentagon, Mr. Sheppard was called to active duty.

According to the Fact Sheet issued by The New Jersey Naval Militia Joint Command, in the first nine days since the attacks on September 11, the organization has served in the following capacity:

- Provided 7,150 hours or mandays. Mandays are defined as the "accounting of a person for one day in formal Navy training in NITRAS (Navy Integrated Training Resources and Administration System).
- New Jersey Task Force 1-Disaster Medical Assistance Team activated by the U.S. Public Health Services for New York City, New York State and New Jersey.
- Commanded and served in New Jersey National Guard Joint Opera-

OCTOBER 9 DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE

The last day to register to vote in the general election of Tuesday, Tuesday, November 6, is Tuesday, October 9.

Forms can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office in the Westfield Municipal Building or can be printed out from www.lwnj.org by following the links, a courtesy of the New Jersey League of Women Voters.

To accommodate persons interested in registering, the Town Clerk's Office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

tions Command at Fort Dix.

- Provided Chaplain support to New Jersey National Guard and FBI in New Jersey and New York.
- Provided material management support to Bayonne Depot.
- Provided truck and bus drivers as requested.
- Provided water-borne support to New Jersey National Guard and Port Authority at the George Washington Bridge and between Liberty State Park and New York City.
- Provided liaison between New Jersey National Guard and FBI personnel.
- Activated its Legal Unit to support National Guard as needed.
- Provided building and ground security for National Guard Headquarters in Fort Dix.
- Provided small boat support to United States Coast Guard Station in Sandy Hook for three nights.

Adm. Beard, who founded the Naval Militia Joint Command, told *The Westfield Leader*, "A ground war will be different (in Afghanistan), but our military personnel know exactly what they're going up against."

Regarding the number of Armed Forces enlistees, Adm. Beard added to Mr. Sheppard's comments, "They say volunteerism is dead. I have to disagree with that. Vietnam veterans are coming back, and even some that are too old to serve. Everyone from their late teens to 60s are volunteering. They just want to do something."

"When issues are there and time is

of the essence," said Adm. Beard, "people will step forward and become leaders and heroes. They want to serve their fellow citizens."

When asked, "Can we win this war?" Adm. Beard responded, "Absolutely. There is no doubt about it." "My boats are prepared. My people are prepared, enthusiastic and very concerned," the Admiral said. "A good defense is preparedness."

Colonel John Dwyer, Public Affairs Officer for the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in Lawrenceville, reported that as of press time, only 50 air police had been mobilized to McGuire Air Force Base near Fort Dix in Wrightstown, with a 177 Fighter Wing positioned in Atlantic City.

Otherwise, Col. Dwyer said it was impossible to predict how many local or state residents would be mobilized to fight for their country.

"It's impossible to speculate," he said, "because nobody has yet to define this mission."

Thomas Cusimano of Westfield, who retired from the U.S. Army on July 1, said he would re-volunteer for service.

When asked if he considers President Bush's strategy against the terrorists to be effective, Mr. Cusimano said, "It is a patient, well thought out approach instead of a knee-jerk reaction which would not be successful in bringing these people to justice."

Dianne Gorbay of Westfield, the

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AFTER GREAT DELIBERATION...Despite years of controversy, ShopRite held its official grand opening last Wednesday. Located at South Chestnut Street and North Avenue, a traffic light has kept vehicles flowing smoothly.



OUR NATION MOURNS



MATTHEW D. HORNING MARSH & McLENNAN

Matthew Horning, 26

Editor's Note: The following is being re-published due to incorrect information, which appeared in the original article.

 "You really would have liked him," was the phrase Dana Horning used to describe her brother, Matthew D. Horning, 26, of Hoboken, formerly of Scotch Plains. Mr. Horning is among the 6,000 people missing after the September 11 terrorist attack at the World Trade Center.

A 1993 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Mr. Horning had worked since August of 1999 in data management for Marsh & McLennan, a financial services firm, located in Tower One (North Tower) of the World Trade Center. Mr. Horning was at work on the 95th floor when the first plane struck the tower.

After the crash, he was in contact with a colleague through text messages over a wireless pager stating that he was "O.K." The messaging continued while Mr. Horning was attempting to "get out" of the building but eventually subsided. He has not been seen or heard from since and is presumed to have perished in the disaster.

In addition to his sister, Dana, Mr. Horning is survived by his parents, Kurt and Diane Horning, and his paternal grandmother, Ruth Horning, all of Scotch Plains, and by his maternal grandmother, Ruth Jannuzzi of Basking Ridge, and Miss Maura Landry, "the love of his life," as his sister described her.

An avid Jets and Mets fan, Mr. Horning is described as a "great friend," which his sister says was evident in the number of people who attended a candlelight vigil in his memory the Friday following the attack.

"He really loved his family and friends" and had the rare ability to "just accept people as they are," she remarked.

The family has planned a memorial gathering for family and friends, to be held at the Higgins Home for Funerals on Mountain Boulevard in Watchung on the evening of Friday, October 19.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, October 20, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of the Mount Church in Warren. — James M. Foerst.



BANNER OF PRIDE...Children at Wilson Elementary School in Westfield sign a special banner, which will be hung at the school to show that the students were accompanied by town officials and parents during National Walk Our Children to School Day.

S. Plains Planning Bd. OKs Upgrades to Scotch Hills CC

By DEBORAH MADISON
 Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS -- On Monday evening, the Scotch Plains Planning Board unanimously approved a renovation plan for the township-owned Scotch Hills Country Club on Jerusalem Road.

Board Chairman George Tomkin explained to the public that because the facility is owned by the township, site plan approval by the Planning Board was not required, but was being presented to the board and the public so that community residents could have an opportunity to hear the plans and give their input.

Notices were sent to residents living within 200 feet of the facility announcing the presentation.

The plan calls for the renovation of the existing clubhouse building, including new windows, furniture and bathrooms that are ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. The construction of a new building, on the opposite side of the parking lot, will replace two existing trailers that are currently used to store golf carts and maintenance equipment.

The parking lot will be resurfaced and re-graded to incorporate more spaces and the addition of Belgian block will bring the lot up to code. New bump-out parking areas along Plainfield Avenue and Jerusalem Road will allow for additional street parking.

A new sidewalk on the Plainfield Avenue perimeter of the golf course will provide safer access from the street parking to the new building.

The new, two-story building, which will be approximately 35 feet by 55 feet, will make use of the existing grading, such that the upper level will be flush with the existing higher ground and the lower level will be flush with the lower-graded area, allowing access to both floors from ground level. The building will be of decorative masonry and wood-frame

with cedar siding and a shingle roof.

The lower level of the 25,000-square-foot building will house golf carts and maintenance equipment as well as provide a maintenance area for workers. The pro shop that currently exists in the old clubhouse will be moved to the upper level of the new building. A small kitchenette will provide snacks and lunch items with seating for approximately 20. The entire building, including the bathrooms, will be handicapped-accessible. A patio area will include four outdoor tables.

The cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$500,000, according to Township Attorney Douglas W. Hansen, who conducted the presentation to the Planning Board. The project will be funded by a variety of matching grants, bonds and notes and with funds from the township's Recreation Department Community Trust Fund.

Ray Poerio, Director of Parks and Recreation, explained to the board and the public that the need for additional accessible parking has been requested by the senior citizens of Scotch Plains, who make up a large portion of those who use the facility. The engineering firm of Killam Associates in Millburn and the architectural firm of Lauro Associates in Kenilworth met with a group of seniors and community residents several months ago to discuss the plans and to garner their input on needed renovations to the facility.

Cushioned chairs and more accessible parking within a reasonable walking distance to the clubhouse were among their suggestions that have been incorporated into the plans. Salvatore Lauro of Lauro Associates Architects explained to the board and the public that Plainfield Avenue and Jerusalem Road will be widened by nine feet in the vicinity of the golf course, in order to create bump out parking areas, so that cars can safely park along the roads, without backing up into traffic lanes.

Additionally, a four-foot wide sidewalk will be placed along the perimeter to permit safer access from the street parking to the clubhouses.

Mayor Martin L. Marks pointed

out that senior citizen use of the facility makes up 43 percent of the 20,000 golf rounds per season, in addition to the 100 seniors that meet at the facility on Tuesdays and 50 seniors who meet there on Thursdays.

Paul Paparella, an engineer with Killam Associates, told the board that the parking spaces will be increased from the existing 67 spaces to a total of 82 spaces, including four handicapped spaces. Lighting fixtures in the parking lot and alongside the street parking will be controlled by timers and on only when needed. Additionally, drainage improvements will also be added to the property.

Mr. Paparella said that they hope to get some of the work done this winter and to complete the project by early spring.

In response to a Plainfield Avenue resident who questioned the safety of parking along Plainfield Avenue, Mayor Marks explained that Police Chief Thomas O'Brien and the traffic bureau gave the plan a favorable review.

Mr. Hansen pointed out that the clubhouse had historical significance and called the building "the jewel of Scotch Plains."

"It is time to polish the jewel," he said. The plans, he said, were not ideal, because of the space limitations of the golf course, but they made the facility safer and more user-friendly than before.

In other business, the Planning Board voted to send a letter to State Assemblymen and the Acting Governor, objecting to a home-based business bill that has been passed in the State Assembly and will now go before the Senate in November.

The bill proposes to give state control to home-based business ordinances, taking control away from individual municipalities. The legislation covers such aspects of home-based businesses as client-parking restrictions and grandfathers illegal home-based businesses.

The board explained that their intentions are not to limit or restrict home-based businesses, but rather to maintain municipal control over the ordinance, and not relinquish ordinance control to the state.

WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

•It was reported that an unknown person has been removing money from an Elm Street medical office over the past several weeks. The amount reported missing is approximately \$352, police said, although it is unknown how the thefts occurred.

•David Bustos, 36, of Garwood was arrested and charged with hindering prosecution after he allegedly presented a fictitious driver's license when he was stopped for speeding at Embree Crescent. He was released on his own recognizance with a summons.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

•Unknown persons removed a recessed light from the south end of the gazebo at Mindowaskin Park.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

•A Central Avenue business reported the theft of \$250 in perfume.

Catering Hall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The application. "My family believes that in the best interest for the future of Westfield, a second floor catering facility does not belong in the downtown," she told *The Westfield Leader*.

"Unfortunately, I don't believe the board saw what could be in the future, a monumental parking problem by approval of this high density upper-floor use when presently, there is a 450 to 500 parking space shortage on the north side of town."

Attorney Glenn C. Kienz, counsel for the local property owner, advised *The Westfield Leader* that an appeal of the Planning Board's decision could not be ruled out. Presently, Mr. Kienz continues to attack the project by filing an appeal this week requesting that the Zoning Board of Adjustment review the determination of the town's Zoning Officer that both a catering facility and a cooking school are permitted in that zone.

That issue will be decided at the Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting scheduled for Monday, October 15.

Ward Commission Weighing Moving Cacciola to Ward 3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

accomplish moving the Cacciola neighborhood, now in the southern part of the Second Ward, into the Third Ward.

However by doing this, the Second Ward becomes too small, 6,651, and thus a section of the First Ward would likely have to be shifted into the Second Ward.

On the south side, a section of Boulevard over to Central Avenue is under consideration to be moved from the Third Ward to Fourth Ward. Several neighborhoods in the First Ward would move into the Second Ward under the plan including sections of Harrison Street and Raymond Avenue.

Mr. Cockren told reporters that he feels the current plan on the table for discussion creates an even greater discrepancy between the largest and smallest wards.

Under the current population, the difference would be 385 between wards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mother of United States Marine Captain Matthew Gorbaty, admitted to *The Leader*, "As a parent, you are nervous."

Mrs. Gorbaty spoke recently with Matthew, who is stationed and training at Parris Island, S.C. With great resolve in her voice she reported, "He will do what the Commander in Chief tells him to do."

"He's a very good Marine," she said.

Westfield native William G. Barton, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Barton, has been assigned as a recruiter in Marleton for the United States Navy, a position he will hold for another three years.

The 23-year-old Petty Officer told *The Leader* that he thinks President Bush is doing "an excellent job." Mr. Barton is especially encouraged by the patriotism he finds himself engulfed in since the terrible acts of September 11.

The number of enlistees has also amazed Mr. Barton, as he cited students in their junior and senior years of high school eager to sign up for duty in the Armed Forces.

Mr. Barton, who is likely to remain at Fort Dix and not part of the battle in the Middle East, said of the students, "They really want to do something. They want to help their country."

Regarding Operation Enduring Freedom, the young officer stated that the conflict is "not a win or lose thing." He added, "They have been fighting over religion for years. This is a war to get rid of terrorism everywhere."

The united front maintained by all Americans, including Muslim-Americans, has also encouraged Mr. Barton.

"Even though what happened that day was really horrible," he said, "people have put aside their cultural and political differences and become a united country. I'd like to see it stay that way for a long time."

Group Seeks to Move Bus Pickup Area Out of South Ave. Lot

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the Cacciola Place lot for Westfield resident commuters. He hopes the Transportation, Parking and Traffic Committee, which he chairs, will soon recommend acceptance of a bid proposal of \$248,000 for the valet, or stacked parking, plan for the South Avenue lot.

The ordinance passed 6-2, with Councilman Goldman and Councilwoman Claire Lazarowitz dissenting. The council tabled action on an ordinance that proposes to create a two-hour residential permit parking zone on Fairview Circle.

Ms. Lazarowitz said she has been contacted by a half dozen residents who are opposed to the restriction.

Councilman Sullivan said he had not heard of any opposition and, in fact, has heard a number of favorable comments when he recently visited the neighborhood.

"There will be commuter parking on this road if we do not pass this ordinance, and I think it is the right thing to do," he stated.

Fairview Circle residents will be contacted by mail to gauge their thoughts on the proposed restriction.

On another matter, officials decided to postpone action on implementing restrictions on the starting times for solid waste pickups in residential neighborhoods.

Following changes to an ordinance introduced on first reading in September, the Solid Waste Committee recommended that the starting time for pickups be moved to 5:30 a.m. instead of 6 a.m. It also proposed that no residential streets be exempted in the law. There is currently no restriction on the books for first waste collection times.

The previous ordinance included nine streets for exemption from the ordinance.

Acting Town Administrator Jim Gildea told *The Westfield Leader* that the council "had several reservations" concerning the ordinance.

Among them were the central business district and school zones, currently not included within the areas to be impacted by the ordinance. The council wanted to have further discussion on these areas before moving ahead with reintroduction of the ordinance.

During the public comment section of the meeting, Greg Ryan of Orenda Circle, a local Boy Scout, spoke of installing a handicapped accessible playground at Mindowaskin Park for his Eagle Scout project.

The project would be supported through private donations he plans to raise.

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