

THE WESTFIELD LEADER.

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Town Council Establishes Self As Redevelopment Agency

By NANCY CROSS LANDALE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

During its conference meeting Tuesday night, the Westfield Town Council approved a draft resolution establishing the Town of Westfield Redevelopment Agency and designating the council as the Redevelopment Agency, as per state statute. This measure was taken in furtherance of the council's examination of land redevelopment to address the parking issue.

Referring to the search for parking consultants, Town Administrator James Gildea said, "We are getting a lot of responses to the Requests For Qualifications (RFQs)."

Mr. Gildea asked Traffic Parking and Transportation Committee Chairman and Second Ward Councilman Rafael Betancourt for the RFQs to be reviewed by the committee at its next meeting on Tuesday, February 19. Thereafter, requests for propos-

als will be sent out.

Mr. Gildea also advised that the Finance Committee has discussed and set aside monies in the legal budget for anticipated expenses in the Ward Commission suit, an action pending in New Jersey Superior Court challenging the 2001 redrawing of Westfield's ward boundaries.

With the Recreation Commission's support, the council also decided to pursue plans to make the Memorial Pool Complex a smoke-free area.

The council also addressed a proposal to designate all town fields as smoke-free areas. Mayor Gregory McDermott pointed out that banning smoking from athletic fields may be excessive since, in his view, smokers are sensitive about where they smoke and their behavior does not interfere with athletes on the fields.

Third Ward Councilwoman Claire Lazarowitz agreed, stating that most smokers already feel alienated and

still need places to engage in such conduct.

Fourth Ward Councilwoman Susan Jacobson pointed out that Kehler Stadium was successfully included in the ban on smoking for school property. In response, Mayor McDermott distinguished stadiums from open fields, where the area is not circumscribed.

Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence Goldman observed, "Some people will walk off (to smoke), but some will stand with the parents and light up. These are the people that offend others."

The discussion concluded with the council agreeing to the Mayor's suggestion to "start with the pool and then work on expanding (smoke-free areas)."

In committee reports, Laws and Rules Committee Chairman and First Ward Councilman Carl Salisbury advised that Harrison Street resident Kerry Hanson and others have developed a proposal for front porches to be exempted from property coverage limitations so that residents with porches can more readily incorporate additions to their homes.

Currently, for the majority of town properties, an owner may have up to 20 percent of the lot covered by structures. A standard back deck may occupy an additional 2 percent of the lot.

Under the proposal, the coverage limitation would increase from 20 percent to 28 percent for homes with unheated, roofed, or open porches.

According to Mr. Salisbury, the Laws and Rules Committee is unanimous in its agreement that an ordinance be adopted to change the coverage limitation in this manner.

Mr. Salisbury explained that when residents with front porches attempt to add to their existing homes, in order to comply with the current coverage limitation they are faced with the prospect of tearing down part or all of their porches or enclosing the porches.

He emphasized the communal importance of front porches and the need to preserve them to the greatest extent possible. He advised that both the Planning Board and the Historic Preservation Committee have endorsed the proposal.

Mr. Gildea added that the Board of Adjustment is still reviewing the matter and will provide its response in writing.

Town Attorney Robert Cockren expressed concern over the proposal, stating, "I have some misgivings because we could end up with all



MANNEQUINS READY FOR VALENTINE'S DAY... The mannequins in the window of Victoria's Secret on East Broad Street have been causing quite a stir for some Westfield residents, who believe the Valentine's Day display is a bit too risqué.

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RESPONDING TO THE CALL... Firefighters from the Westfield Fire Department answered a call to 121 Quimby Street, the location of Joseph A. Bank Clothiers, on Thursday, January 31. According to Fire Captain Daniel Kelly, personnel responded to an alarm activation/system malfunction.

Horace R. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

Landlord's Reps Address Concerns Over Westfield Apt. Renovations

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Several tenants, residing at 122 and 128 East Broad Street in Westfield, have raised questions and made allegations about the renovation actions of their landlord, Arthur Potyk.

Anthony Schilling of Relocation Realty, as agent for the landlord, and Wayne Augenstein, as attorney for the landlord, granted a two-hour interview with *The Westfield Leader* to respond to these issues, which include disruptions caused by renovations, construction workmanship and permits, suitability of interim living conditions, eviction notices, project schedules, future rent increases and communication between the parties.

Mr. Potyk's renovation plans, explained Mr. Schilling, include replacement of the electrical system, the heating system and the windows in five occupied apartments. He is also in the process of renovating two unoccupied apartments.

Mr. Augenstein emphasized that the landlord has invested a considerable amount of money in upgrading the buildings, both inside and outside, for the benefit of the tenants.

Mr. Schilling pointed out that he has also been instrumental in improving the quality of life in these buildings.

A major point of contention is whether the apartments will be liv-

able during the renovation process, or if the renovation process requires the tenants to relocate. Currently, the seven apartments are in varying stages of renovation, and one apartment has been vacated by the occupants.

Mr. Augenstein stated that the tenants, who vacated their apartments during renovations, did so of their

own choosing and not by necessity. Mr. Schilling maintained that the apartments will remain habitable during the entire process.

The Leader asked about the November letter to the tenants from Mr. Schilling advising them to wear a breathing apparatus or vacate the apartment during construction.

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After Heavy Discussion, BOE Makes Decision On Renovation Plans

By MICHELE VACCARI
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The entire Westfield Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools, Dr. William Foley, were present last Tuesday night to vote on an ultimate design plan and try to finalize a difficult schedule for the upcoming academic school year.

Architect David Fraytak, of Faridy, Veisz and Fraytak, a Trenton-based firm, returned one more time to offer an alternative design with some minor adjustments. The last time Mr. Fraytak approached the board, the coloration of the accent stone was changed.

Since then, the firm reviewed some different looks. The bids are due by the end of this week, so it was crucial the board come to a conclusion.

Board members were presented with original plans, as well as an alternative design for the anticipated Westfield High School (WHS) renovations. The last version that was

presented had a slightly different coloration, included the re-facing of orange panels, a water table base foundation and punched-in windows. The updated version, less linear and more horizontal, offers a façade that has relief without being too linear.

"I think the original design is the most appropriate," said Mr. Fraytak.

After discussing this matter for the past three weeks, tension was present among board members regarding the design plan of the project. Specific accents, such as the water table base, were the cause of debate.

According to some members, the two and a half foot off-white base that would run along the bottom of the façade can be a magnet to graffiti.

"I think we are micro-managing this to death," said board member Lisa Alter.

Board President Arlene Gardner was adamant about the money for

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New Jersey Naval Militia Experiences Growing Pains With Recruitment Process

By DEBBIE MADISON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

According to Rear Admiral Timothy Beard, the New Jersey Naval Militia is in need of volunteers, but they do not have the personnel available to review and evaluate the multitude of applications they have recently received.

Hundreds of applicants have been waiting, some more than two years, to be appointed to an appropriate rank and position. The Naval Militia has been flooded with applications by volunteers wishing to donate their time, especially since the terrorist attacks on September 11, said Admiral Beard.

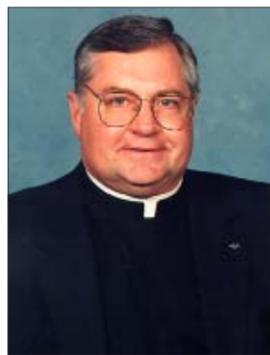
The Naval Militia, a division of the New Jersey National Guard, is an all-volunteer, adjunct organization, made up mostly of retired reservists and ex-military personnel, who in times of emergency or disaster, lend their assistance to other branches of the armed forces, such as assisting the National Guard and the Coast Guard.

Civilians, with special expertise in some skills, such as doctors and nurses, are also recruited by the Naval Militia to serve in a variety of roles within the organization's three battalions.

Bill Sheppard, Public Affairs Officer for the Naval Militia, described

the organization as a "force-multiplier," especially in times of disasters, such as during hurricanes or floods.

With the interest of the public to volunteer, growing pains have re-



Reverend Donald Hummel

sulted, particularly with respect to determining rank. Many of volunteers are seasoned professionals in civilian life. They expect their volunteer role to reflect their accomplishments.

The Public Affairs Officer for the New Jersey Department of Military

and Veterans Affairs, Colonel John Dwyer, said that only prior military experience is given consideration, but not civilian accomplishments, when determining rank.

Colonel Dwyer explained that even surgeons, assemblymen and congressmen enter the organization at lower ranks. In his experience, no one ever enters into the Naval Militia at a rank of Captain, which is the second in command.

He said that it is possible to offer someone an "honorary" position and rank, which would encompass the title and some of the privileges, but not the command authority.

For example, this controversy over rank in the Naval Militia, Joint Command, has been brewing between a local Catholic priest and the Naval Militia's Head Chaplain, an Assemblies of God Minister.

The conflict has escalated into a standoff, preventing The Reverend Donald Hummel, of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains from volunteering, as he would like to, for the organization.

Among Reverend Hummel's many accomplishments, he has served as the Chaplain for several local Police Departments and the Police Academy in Scotch Plains. He has also been the Chaplain for the National Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, as well as a liaison to the Bishop's Committee on Scouting and an international represen-

tative.

He has also been assigned to coordinate the Priest's Health Committee by the Archbishop of his Diocese. Father Hummel has been a Catholic priest and an educator for over 25 years.

According to Reverend Hummel, he was initially recruited by the Naval Militia with the promise of being commissioned at the rank of Captain, to the Third Battalion to recruit Catholic Priests to serve the New Jersey National Guard's units, statewide.

There is currently a shortage of Catholic priests serving within the Roman Catholic Church and the military.

Reverend Hummel contends that the rank of Captain would be commensurate with his 25 years of experience serving the civilian community and necessary in order for him to successfully carry out his networking duties.

He said that Admiral Beard and Ex-Adjutant General Paul Glazer, the two head Commanders of the Naval Militia, promised him this rank upon his being commissioned.

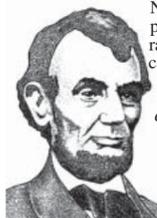
Chaplain Errico

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CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS...Kris McAloon, who is supervising the dredging of Mindowaskin Pond, told *The Westfield Leader* that the completion of the substructure is expected to be completed at the end of February. Construction of a new headwall, sidewall and entirely new structure for the pond, began in mid-December of 2001. Mr. McAloon reported that he anticipates work on the superstructure, an all-granite edifice, to be finished by the end of April.

Amy Horowitz for The Westfield Leader



Lincoln's Birthday - February 12

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CYAN YELLOW MAGENTA BLACK

Growing Pains At Naval Militia

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Ianello told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* that there was a miscommunication and that Reverend Hummel was never promised a rank of Captain. The Chaplain said that there is a very strict process that must be followed in order to properly rank and position newcomers into the military organization.

If called to active duty, during a time of war or disaster, even Chaplains could be called on to command and coordinate an operation.

Chaplain Ianello commented that in a military organization the proper rank is essential to the smooth and efficient operation of each division and that miss-ranking someone could not only be embarrassing in an emergency, but dangerous.

"The level of rank really doesn't matter to me," Reverend Hummel explained, "but it seems to me that everything was all set until Chaplain Ianello realized that I would outrank him. It is now a matter of principal, and I am not satisfied with their reasons for rescinding that promise," he added.

Reverend Hummel stated that his only duties would be to recruit, not command.

"I don't know what he was promised, but perhaps it was an honorary rank, not an official rank of full command authority," said Colonel Dwyer. He also wanted to clarify that Reverend Hummel would be recruiting other priests to go through the application process, not directly recruiting them.

"It seems that there are issues that lie beneath the surface of this dispute," Reverend Hummel remarked. "A good question is why there have been so few Catholic priests recruited previously."

To that remark, Chaplain Ianello replied that the severe shortage of Catholic priests in general has trickled down to all branches of the military.

Colonel Dwyer estimated that the National Guard was short five or six Chaplains, throughout the state. He said there was no way of knowing how many Catholic service men were underserved because religious affiliation was not something they asked or kept statistics on.

Although military Chaplains are trained to perform non-denominational services for any sect or religion, Reverend Hummel explained that in some circumstances, Catholic service men and women would prefer to receive spiritual guidance from a priest.

Chaplain Ianello added that the board was ready to bring Reverend Hummel aboard at a junior rank, but it was Reverend Hummel that was delaying his own entry by refusing to accept the required process.

Neither Reverend Hummel nor Chaplain Ianello possess prior military experience.

Newark Academy Pupils Earn Fall Term Honors

AREA - Debbie Marr, Director of Communications at Newark Academy in Livingston, has reported the names of students who earned high honors and honors for their academic achievements for the fall 2001 term.

To qualify for the High Honors list, students must earn grades of "A-" or above for each course taken. Students placed on the Honors List must attain grades of "B-" or above for each course taken.

Pupils earning High Honors include: Karishma N. Katti, seventh grader from Berkeley Heights, Julien M. Cobert, ninth grader from Westfield, and Nina Subbas, seventh grader from Westfield. Berkeley Heights residents placed on the Honors List include Tracy L. Jacobson, eighth grader; Lauren M. Martino, sixth grader; David R. Mazucca, 11th grader; Rebecca Shulman, sixth grader; Evan Sills, 11th grader, and Akshay S. Uberoi, 11th grader.

Scotch Plains resident Alexandra Smith, seventh grader, was also placed on the Honors List.

The following Westfield residents were placed on the Honors List: John N. Acquadro, 12th grader; Michael S. Forman, sixth grader; Stefanie D. Forman, 12th grader; Zachary Harris, seventh grader; Maria Hove, 10th grader, and Eric Weinberg, 10th grader.



WINNING POSTER...Chrissy Cobuzzi, seated, center, a seventh grader at Roosevelt Intermediate School in Westfield, was selected as the New Jersey state winner of Viacom Outdoor's public service campaign, "Youths Against Violence: Creating Awareness Through Art." Her winning piece has been enlarged and will be posted on an outdoor billboard at 491 Westfield Avenue in Roselle Park. Also cited for their submissions were seventh graders Julia Cederoth, left, and Lindsey Sauerwein, whose posters will be transferred onto bus cards on NJ Transit buses in the Westfield area. Roosevelt School Principal Dr. Ken Shulack joins art teachers Anne Cohen and Frank Thompson in congratulating the students. According to Cecilia Yu, Director of Public Affairs for Viacom Outdoor, about 25 schools in the state participated in the contest.

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kinds of unintended results." Illustrating his point, Mr. Cockren asked, "What's to stop someone from putting on a very substantial front porch and then asking for a substantial lot increase?"

Mr. Salisbury responded that the proposal addresses this concern by limiting the size of front porches to 400 square feet.

Councilwoman Lazarowitz added, "It is prohibitively expensive to put on a front porch."

Ms. Hanson, who was present at the meeting, suggested that a width limitation also could be incorporated into the proposal.

Mr. Cockren advised that the town's zoning officer and an outside planner should be asked for their opinions about what other communities have done in similar instances.

He added, "We have a very strict lot coverage limitation compared with other towns. This is why the blocks don't look crowded."

In other committee news, Councilwoman Jacobson, Chairwoman of the Solid Waste Committee, advised that there have been 74 complaints concerning recycling services since January 1. Of these, 48 have been resolved and the remaining are being tracked by Town Engineer Kenneth B. Marsh.

As for garbage collection, Ms. Jacobson reported that the committee is considering revising fees to account for the varying usage of senior and adults living alone versus larger families.

Councilman Goldman, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, reported that at committee's request, Mr. Marsh prepared a status report of capital projects approved in 2001 and incomplete capital projects approved prior to 2001. This report will be updated monthly and include 2002 projects.

The Public Works Committee agreed that the goal is to complete capital projects in the year approved, to the extent feasible. This will require development of specifications and drafting implementing ordinances shortly after the council's consideration of the capital plan during the current budget process.

Specific projects discussed included repaving Scotch Plains Avenue from West Broad Street to Dartmoor Terrace and installing curbing on a portion of the block south of Shackamaxon Drive in the spring; as a traffic calming and safety measure, installing sidewalks on the north side of North Scotch Plains Avenue and narrowing the road, likely to be completed with improvements to Memorial Park in 2003; and repaving Dickson Drive and Channing Street

Landlord's Reps Address Concerns Over Westfield Apt. Renovations

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Mr. Schilling said that the dust and debris caused by the renovations in tenant Elena Hernandez' apartment was minor and that the suggestion that tenants wear breathing apparatuses described a "worst-case scenario" and did not apply in this situation.

Mr. Schilling also stated that when Mrs. Hernandez and her granddaughter, Beatrice Montorossa, vacated the apartment, they chose to turn off the heat, which they controlled. *The Leader* previously reported that holes in the walls, due to the construction work, was causing the heat to escape, which Mr. Schilling claimed was not the case.

He also stated that the tenants were never without electricity and that all of the outlets remained functional. Mr. Schilling additionally explained that the workers would have moved the furniture back and adjusted the hanging wires if the women had been living in the apartment.

However, since they moved out, it was not necessary to continually move the furniture back and forth or to keep the wires hidden while renovations and inspections were being performed, he said. He stated the dust and debris would also have been cleaned up immediately if the women had remained in the apartment.

When asked by *The Leader* about electrical inspection failures, Mr. Schilling responded that a licensed electrical contractor was being used and that the failures stemmed from deviations between the original plans and the locations of the outlets or from minor problems that were remedied.

Since then, the plans have been revised to agree with the construction and the electrical work has passed the first rough inspection. The final inspection is scheduled for tomorrow, February 8.

Mr. Augenstein pointed out that it would be impossible to estimate a time frame for the renovations in each apartment, as much of the process relies on inspections, which they cannot control. He said the electrical inspector only works three days a week, which was, in part, what held up the process.

When asked if Barbara and Tyris Anderson, who are tenants, were being evicted because they had a home computer, Mr. Augenstein explained that the landlord served the tenants with a Rules and Regulations agreement, which, among other conditions, forbade the tenants from conducting business from their apartments.

Mrs. Anderson admitted in a letter this past fall to Mr. Potyk that her husband used his personal computer at home as a source of income and to conduct business.

Several of the tenants told *The Leader* their attorneys advised them not to sign the agreement, which, they claimed, contained conditions that would severely limit their rights. Mr. Augenstein stated that he considered the agreement to contain reasonable conditions.

Mr. Schilling explained that the agreement was not intended to harass the tenants, but rather to insure the enforcement of respect and civility within the buildings.

Mr. Augenstein admitted that one of the remedies that the landlord could exercise was to attempt to evict a tenant for refusing to sign the agreement.

Mrs. Anderson reported that the town's previous Fire Inspector, Kevin Martin, issued a stop work order on the construction in her apartment last year, due to unsatisfactory construction work that ripped apart her walls and ceilings.

"We had pigeons flying into the apartment next door to me and my walls were ripped out so that I could see and hear the pigeons," Mrs. Anderson claimed. "I had no heat retention and in addition to being cold in here, we had flies coming in."

Mr. Augenstein explained that the crumbling of Mrs. Anderson's walls was unforeseen. However, they were immediately repaired with new insulation and sheetrock. Mr. Schilling responded that the Andersons had unreasonable expectations that the electrical work could be completed in one day.

Regarding the tenants' concern that the rent would be raised to an unreasonable amount after renovating, Mr. Augenstein explained that the landlord would expect a reasonable return on his investment into the building.

Mr. Schilling added that any rent increase would be reasonable and well below market value for these types of apartments.

Other residential and retail complaints lodged by the tenants contend that Mr. Schilling has spoken to them in a very rude and intimidating manner when they inquired about the renovation time table or other repairs.

"I don't want to give my name, because I have to continue to deal with him, but he has a nasty attitude and told me I could get out if I didn't like it, when I have requested repairs," said one retail owner.

Mr. Schilling denied ever talking to any of his tenants in that manner, but commented that he has been cursed at and verbally harassed by tenants and their friends on occasion.

In concluding the interview, both Mr. Schilling and Mr. Augenstein commented that the first article that *The Leader* published on the apartments, two weeks ago, was unfair.

During the week, *The Leader* had several contacts with the tenants about the issues.

Ms. Montorossa stated that the majority of outlets in her apartment still do not work.

A few of the residents in these buildings reported to *The Leader* that there have been numerous problems associated with the renovation process, which, they allege, have caused unlivable conditions and health hazards, as well as financial hardships.

Some of the tenants told *The Leader* that they are reluctant to allow renovation work to begin on their apartments, after seeing other tenants dislocated for months at a time.

Many of the tenants who spoke to *The Leader* did not want their names published for fear of "retaliatory legal actions."

Inspection reports at the Westfield Building Department indicated that the electrical work in Mrs. Hernandez' apartment failed to pass inspection numerous times between August and December of 2001.

However, officials in the Building Department told *The Leader* that there was still outstanding paper work and improper permits for some of the other apartments, which they said the landlord has been lax in submitting over the course of several months.

The residents are questioning why the Building Department has not fined Mr. Potyk or issued stop on work orders for not submitting the proper paper work for extended periods of time.

Mrs. Anderson told *The Leader* that she called on Councilman Carl Salisbury, who she invited to inspect her apartment, on Monday night.

Councilman Salisbury told *The Leader* that he will look into the matter and attempt to get other town officials involved in rectifying the various problems and concerns of the tenants, if possible.

"Some of these issues sound as if they need to be resolved in court," Mr. Salisbury remarked. In the interim, he suggested that the tenants organize.

Councilman Salisbury remarked, "No one will be able to help them if they are intimidated into silence."

The Andersons also maintain that they are being evicted on "baseless" grounds, including charges that Mr. Anderson trespassed when he questioned construction workers regarding whether they had the proper permits to work in another apartment.

Two retail business owners in the building said that Mr. Potyk and Mr. Schilling have always treated them fairly and with respect, while others said that Mr. Schilling could often be very rude and abrupt.

Mrs. Montorossa said that she would like to see the town create ordinances that would impose reasonable rent increases and renovation conditions, such as relocation assistance, on landlords in order to protect residents from this type of financial hardship. She said that she and her grandmother have exhausted their savings having to pay for their own relocation.

Ms. Montorossa and other tenants are in the process of organizing a tenants' association with assistance from the New Jersey Tenants Organization (NJTO), based in Hackensack.

The Chairman of the NJTO told them he would come to Westfield to answer questions regarding tenants' rights and how to exercise their options by forming an association.

Westfield HS All Night Seniors Party Scheduled for June 24

WESTFIELD - Plans are under way for an all-night, substance-free party for the senior class of Westfield High School (WHS) on their graduation night, June 24.

"Project Graduation - Bash 2002," is being co-sponsored by the Optimist Club of Westfield, WHS Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and the Westfield Recreation Commission.

The purpose of the 13th annual event is to avoid the automobile accidents that can occur from drinking and driving following traditional celebrations after events like graduation.

"Last year's party was a great success by attracting 294 students or 91 percent of the graduating class," stated Project Advisor Donald Pray. "And, we are hoping to surpass that level for the Class of 2002."

Ricochet Racquet Club in South Plainfield has been reserved for the occasion, which is scheduled to take place from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the next morning. Bus transportation will be provided for the students departing from the high school.

Activities available at the club include racquetball, swimming, basketball, volleyball, and wallyball, which

Leader/Times Reporter Maria Woehr Accepts Job at KSVI Television

WESTFIELD - Maria L. Woehr, Westfield resident and correspondent at *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*, has opted to accept a



Maria L. Woehr

position as an on the scene television reporter at KSVI in Billings, Mont.

A Quorum Broadcasting Station, KSVI is a division of ABC/FOX.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Woehr of Westfield, Maria graduated Westfield high school in 1997. She majored in journalism, with a concentration in broadcast journalism and international relations at Boston University, where she graduated in 2001.

Her reporting name will be Maria McCarron.

Westfield BOE

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This project coming from the pockets of Westfield taxpayers and felt that the board should pay as much attention to this decision as they would to any additions they would make to their own homes.

After a long debate, the board voted on what would be the best renovation design for WHS. The board decided that Elevation 1, on Trinity Place, would have beige man-made stones, square corners along the doorframes, a 2-foot water table base and no horizontal stripes on the academic wing.

On the gymnasium, there will be one horizontal accent band and no water table base and beige panels will replace the existing orange paneling.

"I feel comfortable with the board's decision. It was well worth the effort. They made a good decision," said Dr. Fraytak.

Although the finalization of the design aspect was out of the way, problems regarding the project were not entirely out of the picture. With construction set to begin Monday, April 1, the task at hand for the board to tackle is the construction of the 2002-2003 school calendar.

"One of the most difficult times in construction is the finalization of the project and securing certificates of occupancies. I feel it would be better to construct a calendar now that allows for a little extra time later," offered Mr. Fraytak.

The board voted 8-1 not in favor of Draft 2 of the school calendar, which included a split-week spring vacation, in order to avoid low voter turnout for the annual budget and board elections on Tuesday, April 15.

"Right now it's just 'days off' not a vacation. With a split-week, people might just take the extra days off to fill it in and make it a vacation," said Westfield resident Casey Chandler.

The board has decided to get out a feasible school calendar to all parents and guardians of Westfield school children, eager for feedback to their proposal. The potential important dates include, Monday, September 9, as the first day of school, in order to allow for extra construction time.

Spring vacation will be held Thursday, April 17, to Friday, April 25. Since the days off are being squeezed in, it will affect the closing of the school year. School may have to remain open till Monday, June 24.

Based on how the weather goes, Superintendent Foley said he can give back snow days at the end of the year.

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University of Hartford Tells Fall Dean's List

AREA - The Office of Communications at The University of Hartford in West Hartford, Ct., has announced the names of students from Westfield and Scotch Plains who qualified for the fall 2001 Dean's List.

These pupils include: Cara Matossian of Westfield, Annie Thode of Westfield, and Scotch Plains resident Samantha Tenenbaum.

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