



# THE TIMES

## Scotch Plains - Fanwood

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FIFTY CENTS



Cheri Rogowsky for The Times

**VICTORIAN VISION...**Members of the Fanwood community gathered to mark the installation of 16 "Fanwood" lamps around the Municipal Building driveway and along the walkway to the Patricia M. Kuran Cultural Arts Center, pictured above. Among those in attendance were Mayor Louis Jung, standing on ladder; Clayton Pierce, Downtown Revitalization Coordinator, standing to the left of the lamp; elected and borough officials and Department of Public Works personnel. The lamps are a residential version of the ones in the borough's downtown.

## School Bd. Honors Mr. DiFrancesco; Debates School Hours for 2002-2003

By JENNIFER PINTO  
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education honored Scotch Plains resident and Former Governor Donald DiFrancesco during the Open Agenda Meeting on May 9.

The school board, friends, and members of the community discussed the work that Mr. DiFrancesco has given and continues to contribute to the community of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Many people mentioned that they felt reassured by the SP-F school system, considering that it had produced someone so honorable.

Erik Rosenmeier, Athletic Director, as well as other members of the athletic department of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS), recognized Mr. DiFrancesco by presenting him with his own SPFHS baseball jersey, while announcing that the baseball field would be named "DiFrancesco Varsity Field Complex."

The festivities for the event included patriotic tunes sung by the McGinn Elementary School kindergartners and by fifth grade girls. In addition, SPFHS students ended the event with two instrumental performances.

After the two-hour ceremony, the official agenda for the meeting was discussed.

The first item of discussion was the revised 2002-2003 calendar, which was approved by the board. The board also attempted to pass the revised school hours for 2002-2003 in order to settle transportation bids earlier.

Parents expressed concerns about changing the school hours without consulting the community and the Parent Teacher Association. Parents didn't agree with the

revised schedule and felt that the proposed starting and ending times for all of the schools were not reasonable.

Members of the public also felt that it was not appropriate to discuss such a complicated issue at such a late hour, considering that Mr. DiFrancesco's recognition ceremony had ended at 10 p.m.

One of the main concerns was having the fifth graders start at 8:30 a.m. and end the day at 3:15 p.m., while sixth through eighth graders in the same school would start earlier at 8:05 a.m. and end at 2:35 p.m. Members of the public felt that having two different schedules in the same school would be distracting to the students and inconvenient for parents.

The board offered solutions to parents who had children in the fifth grade and in other grades, one option was library time for the students who were waiting to begin class or waiting for their parents to pick them up from school.

Due to the many conflicts involving transportation and after school activities, the board decided to table the discussion of this topic until the next meeting.

In the superintendent's report, the high school music department's trip proposal, "Festival at Sea," for April 11 to 14, 2003 was approved. The Creative Workshop Program for June 26 through July 24 and the agreement with the Princeton Review to enter into a partnership program with SPFHS beginning in the fall of 2002 was also approved.

In other business, the board approved the Bill List, which included the April 30 bill list for \$687,881.32, April 26, bill list for \$254,400 and the April manual check list for \$66,503.86.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, May 20, at 8 p.m.

## Scotch Plains Teenagers Admit To Assault of 13-Year-Old Girl

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Times

On Monday, two Scotch Plains teenagers stood before Superior Court Judge John Malone and pled guilty as adults to aggravated sexual assault, admitting they took part in the violent attack on a 13-year-old female near Park Middle School in Scotch Plains on January 2.

According to Assistant Prosecutor Casey Woodruff, 17-year-old Mark

Russell and 16-year-old Jesus Gonzalez waived out of juvenile court after the Prosecutor's Office filed motions to have them treated as adults for prosecution purposes, due to the nature of the crime, according to a press statement.

Both boys admitted to forcing the victim to perform oral sex, and to restraining the girl while others molested her. Gonzalez also admitted to a count of sexual assault because he

followed the girl inside the school after the group attack and forced her to perform oral sex.

Manuel Batista and Bryan Soriano, both 16 years old at the time of the offense, have pled guilty to first-degree aggravated sexual assault, which will be treated as a second degree crime by the prosecutor's office. They have both been released on bail pending sentencing.

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## Donald Domanoski Takes Office As Fanwood's New Police Chief

By KIMBERLY MERZ  
Specially Written for The Times

There was standing room only during Tuesday's Borough Council meeting, as Donald Domanoski was appointed as Fanwood's new Chief of Police, effective on Monday, July 1.

Municipal police officers, firefighters and officials filled the Council Chambers to witness the ceremony. They also turned out to honor Lieutenant Edward White, Jr.'s promotion to the rank of Captain.

The former Captain Domanoski had served as Acting Police Chief since February. He succeeds former Police Chief Robert Carboy, who retired this year.

In addition, Corporal Francisco Marrero was promoted to Sergeant, while Patrolmen Anthony Nassaur and Russell Yeager were each elevated to the rank of Corporal.

Brian Bartiromo was sworn in as the newest member of the Fanwood Police Department.

Both Police and Fire Department Valor Awards were presented that evening, as well as letters of commendation and special recognition to those officers who assisted in the September 11 recovery efforts.

Fittingly, Mayor Louis Jung proclaimed the week of May 12 to 19 as National Police Week.

Former Chief Carboy wished Chief Domanoski the best and presented his successor with his own police badge, which he received when he was sworn in as Police Chief in 1998. Chief Domanoski has been a member of the Fanwood Police Department for approximately 25 years.

Former Fanwood Mayor Maryanne Connelly, who also held the title of Police Commissioner during her tenure on the governing body, said that she was "here when

he (Chief Domanoski) became a corporal, and I am really honored to be here tonight."

"Fanwood has always had very special police chiefs and very special police officers, as demonstrated by the caliber that we saw tonight," she continued. "I just want to congratulate them all, and I am proud to

be a part of Fanwood."

Assemblywoman Linda Stender, who is also a former Mayor of Fanwood, said the borough was fortunate to have such fine public servants.

Valor Awards were presented to Officers Yeager and Michael

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## NO DECISION MADE ON PROPOSED DRINKING ORDINANCE

# Township Council Approves Municipal Budget For 2002

By FRED ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Times

Mayor Martin Marks said on Tuesday night that it was important to get the public's input on the proposed township ordinance aimed at curbing underage drinking and, thus, the Township Council will likely introduce the proposal at its May 28 meeting and encourage residents to offer comments then and again at its June 11 meeting.

The council has been wrestling with the details of the ordinance, particularly its constitutionality and potential effectiveness for the past few months, and the Mayor admitted at the council's regular meeting on Tuesday that members of the governing body have heard varying opinions from the public on the proposal, which, as currently being considered, would permit local police officers to enter a private residence and take legal action if they witness the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by someone under 21 years of age.

Normally, when an ordinance is introduced, a public hearing during which the public can express their opinions is held two weeks after the introduction. In this case, the Mayor said, the public will have two opportunities to offer their opinion on the ordinance, once upon its introduction and again at the public hearing. "The Township Council may take

action on June 11," the Mayor said, "or it may not." He told *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* after the meeting that the ordinance could still be altered or revised or even tabled when the council holds its conference meeting next Tuesday.

In other matters, the council also unanimously approved the township's 2002 municipal budget,

which will result in a \$58 property tax increase for the owner of an average assessed home of \$117,000.

The two other components of the property tax bill will increase more, with the education portion rising an average of \$363 and the county portion going up by \$93. Township

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## New Telephone Inquiry System Implemented By U.S. Postal Service

By DEBORAH MADISON  
Specially Written for The Times

The U.S. Postal Service has implemented a new customer service telephone inquiry department to answer all incoming telephone calls made by customers to local post offices. When customers call the old telephone number for their local post office, they will hear a recording announcing the new 800-customer service number. When customers call directory assistance, requesting the telephone number for a local post office, they will also be given the new, toll-free customer service number, 800-ASK-USPS (800-

275-8777).

The new system has been implemented in some regions of New Jersey and will be gradually implemented throughout New Jersey and the entire Eastern region in the near future, said Spokesperson for the Postal Service, Carl Walton.

The new system was adopted in Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountainside earlier this month.

The new call center will provide customers with information about most commonly asked questions including: Zip codes, mailing rates, hours of operation, product and service information, change of address and other typical issues.

The press release stated that many customers used to get busy signals or their calls did not go through when calling a local post office because of the volume of calls received. Mr. Walton reported that many more calls have been getting through to the new call center than were previously received by local offices, an indication that the system was working as planned.

Customers preferring to call their local post office directly will be given the direct number, by the customer service representative, when inquiries require information specific to a local office, which cannot be answered by the customer service center.

Each local post office that has been transferred over to the new system has a new local telephone number.

Scotch Plains Postmaster, Jim McDade said in the press release that 80 percent of all calls to a local post office sought information on such topics as zip codes, post office hours and locations and mailing rates.

"The U.S. Postal Service is making it easier for customers to get information and to resolve service issues by telephone," said Mr. McDade.

"Establishing a telephone call center makes it easier for our customers to get prompt, accurate information about the postal service and give us more time to resolve local service-related issues," he said.

## Freeholders Approve Expenditures For Vocation Training, Education

By FRED ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Times

The Union County Freeholders last week approved a \$14 million bond ordinance to finance construction of a new academic building at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools in Scotch Plains. This will enable expanding the student body and increasing the number of courses offered.

Freeholder Daniel Sullivan said that an additional building will allow the school to offer a full-time program rather than the current half-day curriculum and, "address the needs of those who want a vocational education." He added that the county is eligible for a 40 per cent reimbursement from the state for the project, meaning the \$14 million price tag could be lowered to less than \$9 million. Mr. Sullivan said the new academic building could be ready for use by September 2003.

Calling the approval, "the best thing for Union County and its students," Freeholder Mary Ruotolo said at the Freeholders' meeting that the project demonstrates "our commitment to quality education." She said, "Usually the first cuts in pub-

lic school education budgets are in the vocational and technical areas and job training."

"It is important," she added, "to recognize that not all students want to follow a college education path."

In other matters, the board approved two resolutions concerning educational opportunities for youths and senior citizens in Union County.

A resolution was approved implementing the "College for Teens" program, which will provide about 100 county high school students with the chance to attend classes at Union County College in Cranford this summer. The three-week program is open to students in all of the county's 21 municipalities with a minimum grade point average of C or better.

The Freeholders also backed a resolution renewing the "Senior Scholars" program at Union County College. The program will be extended further, into next spring rather than the end of this calendar year,

because of an in-kind contribution from the college.

The board also approved a resolution that continues a contract with former professional boxer Gerry Cooney, currently a resident of Fanwood, to provide boxing clinics and substance abuse workshops for at-risk teenagers and their families.

Separately, the county will enter into a professional services contract with JCA Associates of Clark for the provision of construction administration and inspection for the replacement of the Cooper Road bridge in Scotch Plains.

The Freeholders also gave their backing to a proposal by Westfield officials to lower the speed limit on Mountain Avenue from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

The Freeholders' next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, May 23, at which time a public hearing and vote on this year's \$324.5 million county budget will be held.



Bill Sheppard for The Times

**CHANGING OF THE GUARD...**New Fanwood Police Chief Donald Domanoski, center, is congratulated on becoming the borough's new "top cop" by his two immediate predecessors. They are former Chief Robert Carboy, left, who retired this year, and former Chief Anthony Parente, who retired in 1998 and now heads the John H. Stampler Police Academy.

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## Westfield Mayor, Local GOP Officials Visit White House

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Times

WESTFIELD -- Last Tuesday five local residents, including Westfield Mayor Gregory McDermott visited the White House and met with President George W. Bush. While in Washington the group also met with senior strategists and attended a luncheon hosted by the Republican National Committee (RNC).

Approximately 90 residents from six states were invited to attend. The states represented are considered swing states, and the GOP is trying to increase the grass roots effort for the November election.

President Bush spoke to the group for a half an hour on many issues including the state of the White House and where the nation

stands in the eyes of the world.

According to Mayor McDermott security at the White House was stringent and no one was allowed to personally converse with the President.

Mayor McDermott told *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* that it was an honor to even be considered to meet the President. He went on to say that it was an interesting experience to meet with political strategists because they are on a different level, in that they are in politics full time.

Michelle Albano of Westfield, a GOP Team Leader, was also in attendance. Mrs. Albano said that President Bush's talk was nice because it was informal.

Ron Frigerio and Bill and Giovanna Palatucci of Westfield also attended.

## EZ Pass System Remains Plagued By Technical and Fiscal Challenges

By DEBORAH MADISON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Plagued by extensive technical and financial difficulties on many of New Jersey's major highways, the EZ Pass Mass Transit System will have accumulated a debt of \$469 million by 2008, when the bond contract becomes due, according to Director of the NJ Turnpike Authority, Michael LaPolla.

Defects repeatedly occurring at over 250 lanes on the Garden State Parkway and the NJ Turnpike are resulting in thousands of violations being issued in error to valid users and a deficit of correct fare charges on thousands of accounts.

With over a million users traveling through the EZ Pass tolls daily, Mr. LaPolla told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* that there was probably a two percent margin of error - between 12,000 to 18,000 false violations per day.

"For the overwhelming majority of customers, the system works and is a great convenience," he added.

Westfield resident and Westfield Leader Bookkeeper, Karen Hinds told the Leader that she and her entire fam-

ily have been EZ Pass users for the past year and a half. They have not had any problems, according to Mrs. Hinds, with violations or improper billing. Her husband, Don, uses EZ Pass almost daily. Mrs. Hinds said, from Westfield to Paterson and her daughter uses it to and from Montclair. They have used EZ Pass on the NJ Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway with no problems.

"It really speeds up our trips with hardly any waiting," Mrs. Hinds said. "We really like using it."

The system was originally designed to pay for itself by an estimated \$450 million in violation and fare charges, to fund the overall \$500 million installation and operation price tag. However, the collection of valid violation charges has fallen far short of original estimates, while technical problems are plaguing valid customers.

Plainfield resident, Marvin Daniels, who also uses EZ Pass almost daily, told the Leader that he has had numerous violations in error despite being a valid cardholder. Mr. Daniels said that he frequently gets violations in the mail showing a photo of his car, allegedly going through the tollbooth without paying. "The antenna just doesn't pick up the signal from my badge," Mr. Daniels said. He claimed that the badge is always properly mounted on his windshield. Each time he gets a violation, Mr. Daniels said, he has to fill out a dispute form.

Part of the problem is that antennas installed on the tollbooth plazas are failing to pick up the signal from users' ID badges, mounted on their windshields. Some of these signal problems, explained Mr. LaPolla, may be due to improper mounting of the badges, which some users prefer to hold and flash at the antennas.

"Users who switch cars may not be flashing the badge at the proper moment for the antenna to pick up the signal," Mr. LaPolla said. This results in the system recording the car's license plate number as a "toll-cheat" and issues a false violation. Some reports, however, have indicated that the antenna on the tollbooths were improperly installed, not following the manufacturer's specifications.

Chase Manhattan Bank has been hired to oversee the credit card and violations charges. They get paid for each and every look at a credit card or violation charge, costing the flawed system millions of dollars.

"The transit system has a negative cash flow due to these design flaws," Mr. LaPolla explained.

Assemblywoman Linda Stender told *The Leader* and *The Times* that, "either gross mismanagement or criminal intent" was behind the massive system failure. "If you follow the money trail, you'll find an alphabet soup of companies involved in making huge profits on this whole deal," she said. "And now all of these companies are pointing their fingers at each other to blame for the system failures."

PB Farradyne, based in New York, a subsidiary of the International Engineering firm of Parsons Brinckerhoff, was the management coordinator overseeing several other companies involved in different aspects of equipment design, production, installation and operation of the EZ Pass system.

PB Farradyne, specializing in transportation engineering and planning has been the management firm for many major public works projects, including construction of airport terminals at JFK and the Times Square Re-development Project.

The corporation oversaw installation of the antennas by MFS Technologies, a subsidiary of World-Com.

The NJ Turnpike Authority ultimately oversaw the entire operation, according to Ms. Stender. A spokesperson for Parsons Brinckerhoff said that the company was declining to comment and referred all questions to their client, the NJ Turnpike Authority.

"It's difficult to comprehend how things could get this messed up with all of these professionals involved," Ms. Stender commented. "This is either gross incompetence or just another example of the debacles of business and stock manipulation typical of NJ business deals," she added.

Able Engineering, one of the companies involved in the installation, in an "Enron-type situation," saw their stock skyrocket, never paid the contractors and then disappeared behind the smoke-screen of bankruptcy after

## SP Assault

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to a press statement, one juvenile, who was 14 years old at the time of the attack, remains in the George W. Herlich detention center awaiting his waiver hearing.

The four other co-defendants now face evaluation at the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Avenel, to determine whether they are compulsive and repeat sex offenders. If they are found to be repeat offenders, they will remain at the Avenel Center.

"We believe that the juvenile court, for these defendants, would not have been appropriate, especially in light of the physical injuries and emotional trauma inflicted on the girl," Union County Prosecutor Thomas Manahan said in a press statement.

Because they have pled guilty as adults to first-degree charges, they could each receive a sentence of 10 years in a state prison. This crime falls under the state's "No Early Release Act," requiring 85 percent of time served before an individual becomes eligible for parole.

This means that Russell faces a minimum of 8½ years and Gonzalez a minimum of 12¾ years, while Batista and Soriano will serve no less than 4¼ years each, pending the judge's final sentencing decision.

They will also be subject to the requirements of lifelong community supervision, notification and registration under New Jersey's Megan's Law.

If the case had gone to trial, and the suspects convicted of aggravated sexual assault, they could have faced a sentence of up to 20 years.

Russell and Gonzalez now remain in detention, where they have been held since their arrest several days after the assault, pending the posting of any bail prior to sentencing.

Sentencing for Russell and Gonzalez has been scheduled for Friday, September 13.

## FW Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Schilling, for their lifesaving efforts on the evening of May 27, 2001, at Fanwood's Sun Tavern Restaurant.

As recounted by Councilman and Police Commissioner Thomas Ryan, the officers successfully resuscitated a 72-year-old man who collapsed at the restaurant and had no pulse when the officers arrived, using a defibrillator to restore his heart rhythm.

Mr. Ryan said that a permanent plaque with the officers' names on it would be displayed in the Borough Council Chambers, "to remind us that we have terrific police officers. They are our first responders, and they are here, not only to preserve the peace, but they can save a life as well."

Four officers received Letters of Commendation in appreciation of their service to Fanwood. They included Sergeants Marrero and Thomas Jedic; Lieutenant Richard Trigo and Detective Eugene Chin.

"Your investigation and eventual arrest of suspects who were committing burglaries, in and around Fanwood, show what a dedicated investigator can accomplish," Councilman Ryan said to Detective Chin.

The Fanwood Fire Department had its share of Valor Awards, as well. Anthony Pecora, Fire Chief Richard Regenthal, Jeff Downing, Jason Lowrey, John DeProspero and Dave Zawodniak all were honored.

The council also recognized, with a resolution, the bravery, compassion and selfless actions of 11 Fanwood police officers, who went on their own time to help in the September 11 recovery efforts on Staten Island.

"We all are painfully aware of what happened. The small sacrifices of the communities in and around New York were something that showed how much of a community we are, even in this larger sense," Councilman Ryan observed.

"A small town like Fanwood, sending a number of their police officers, on their own time, and they helped out in a way that was important...It makes me very proud to know that we had our officers helping out in this way, and in a meaningful way," he said.

Three promotions were announced for the Department of Public Works, including Anthony DelMonte, Foreman; Joseph Ferrara, Assistant Foreman, and Frank Todisco, Operator.

With the unanimous approval of the "Request For Qualifications" (RFQ) regarding a redevelopment plan for a block of commercial land in the downtown, the council will accept applications from developers from Monday, June 3, to Wednesday, July 31.

Within those six weeks, there will be a two-week period when interested parties can submit questions.

Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell said she had to do a lot of soul searching before she voted in favor of the RFQ, because of her concerns that the redevelopment plan would lead to downtown business owners losing their establishments.

Mrs. Mitchell decided to support the RFQ because of the involvement of an 11-member "screening committee," of which she will be a member. The committee will review the applications submitted by developers.

"This way, I can keep my thumb on it," she said.

## COUNCIL WILL BEGIN ENFORCEMENT OF NEWSRACK ORDINANCE

# Town Will Rewrite Senior Citizen Housing Land Lease

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Times

WESTFIELD -- At Tuesday night's regularly scheduled conference session a lengthy discussion took place on renewing the land lease for Westfield's Senior Citizen Housing Corporation, located on Boynton Avenue.

The lease, which expired in October, is for the land located at 1133 Boynton Avenue, the lease for the land at 1129 Boynton Avenue was set six years ago for approximately 35 years.

The original lease for 1133 was set for 50 years, to go along with the 40-year mortgage, which was provided through New Jersey Housing and Finance Agency (NJHFA).

The mortgage was in place when the original lease was signed. Senior citizens paid off the mortgage in a period of 27 years due to a restructuring of the financing that took place in the 1980s.

Karen Simon, the Housing Manager of Second Westfield Senior Citizen Housing Corporation, told the Mayor and council that they are asking for a 35-year extension, in case they need to apply for another mortgage.

According to Town Attorney Robert Cockren, the last lease carried multiple restrictions on senior citizens' ability to borrow money from lenders other than government agencies.

He also explained that seniors pay the town quarterly, in lieu of taxes, in a formula of 6.28 percent of the gross revenues they receive in rent. It was not clear to anyone present where the formula came from.

Mr. Cockren added that he had been in contact with Leonard Zucker, the attorney for senior citizens. Mr. Zucker had requested that all places in the lease where it said NJHFA be replaced with the word, "lessee," a proposal which Mr. Cockren was uncomfortable with.

Second Ward Councilman Matthew Albano stated that Ruth Smith, Executive Director of Westfield Senior Citizen Housing Corporation, approached the council on this subject last June, in regard to the lease renewal.

Councilman Albano added that there were questions as to whether senior citizens had complied with the terms of the lease, especially the payment in lieu of taxes.

Town Administrator James Gildea told *The Westfield Leader* that Senior Housing had complied in 2001, and that the total for both houses had been \$141,000. He added that he would be asking Town Treasurer Liy-Huei Tsai to look over payments for the past five years.

First Ward Councilman Carl Salisbury stated that the lease would allow them to mortgage or borrow monies, but that the town was not responsible to repay, should they default on the loan. He asked about what happens to the town's property title, should the lender re-possess, and questioned whether the lender could come in and build something else on the property. Mrs. Simon responded that there is a

deed restriction on the property.

Second Ward Councilman Rafael Betancourt asked if the council could retain the right to look over all loan agreements before they are signed.

Mayor Gregory McDermott asked why senior citizens wanted a 35-year lease, rather than a shorter time period.

Third Ward Councilwoman Claire Lazarowitz questioned why it has taken a year for the council to respond.

Mr. Gildea responded that the issue was given over to Mr. Cockren last year, and that there was a change in the town administration. He said that there were multiple other complications and various questions, adding that he has frequently been on the phone with Mrs. Smith.

Mr. Cockren explained that the lease is a long, complicated document, and that he did not want to get involved in a full rewrite or to do something unintended.

Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence Goldman stated that he felt there should be a non-disturbance agreement, meaning that the lease would be severed if they were to default on the loan, or there should be a restriction that the property can only be used for senior housing. He added that the old lease needs to be thrown out and a new one be written.

Councilman Betancourt stated that a new lease may be more advantageous for them to borrow. The council was in consensus that a new lease be drawn.

Mrs. Smith told *The Leader* that she was in favor of a new lease being drawn.

"I want to protect the town too," she said. She added that they are asking for a 35-year lease should the corporation need to take a 30-year mortgage. Though they had no current plans of doing so, Mrs. Smith stated that there is a hope of a third complex, due to the need for low-income senior housing, which is evident through their three-to-five-year waiting lists.

In other business, the council will award a bid of \$46,145 to TC Graphics for all printing purposes.

Mr. Gildea announced that the waiting list for parking was being cleaned up, and they were currently up to 1999.

The demolition of a home will take place at 1109 Columbus Avenue, and another home and garage will be torn down at 708 Garfield Avenue.

According to Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh, neither property can be subdivided without a variance.

Councilman Salisbury stated that the newsrack ordinance has not been enforced, and that an enforcement officer needs to be appointed.

Discussions about the regulation of news boxes first started in early 1998 by then Mayor Thomas Jardim, Councilman Goldman and former First Ward Councilwoman Gail Vernick, who were all concerned about the number of boxes that they thought had begun appearing on the sidewalks of Westfield. Concerns centered around aesthetics and

safety.

The ordinance, which was passed in November of 1999, set a permit fee of \$25 for the first newsrack installed and \$10 for each subsequent machine.

While not limiting the number of machines at any one location, the ordinance does restrict each newsrack owner to no more than one machine at any one site.

Councilman Salisbury added that resident, Bruce Long, had voluntarily done the initial assessment, and would now be doing a thorough assessment of all newsracks in town.

Councilwoman Lazarowitz suggested that Mr. Long be approached to be the enforcement officer.

Councilman Salisbury also announced that a draft of the porch ordinance should be ready for the next conference session. He stated that the ordinance would encourage the building of new porches as well as keeping old porches, adding that the Board of Adjustment had questioned the front and side yard setbacks for new porches.

Mr. Gildea informed the council that he has spoken to the manager of the Garwood Shop Rite in reference to shopping carts and parking in and around Gumbert Park. He added that the manager stated he would keep the area clear of shopping carts and that the owner is looking to buy more property for parking. There are currently 16 permit spots in the Shop Rite parking lot that the Borough of Garwood owns and is unwilling to sell.

Mr. Marsh told the council that he found a modular fence-like barricade that folds up with lights and space for signs. He can purchase two 30-foot long fences for \$1,700, to go across South Euclid Avenue during the closures for baseball. He said that the baseball association would be responsible for setting them up and taking them down. He added that these barricades could also be used for road construction.

Councilman Betancourt stated that some residents are opposed to even a temporary closure of South Chestnut Street, and that he does not want to divide the neighborhood. He said that it may be beneficial to contact the RBA group for the traffic calming project proposed for that area.

Mr. Marsh presented the council with another draft of the curb assessment policy, and will further revise that to combine with the 1998 ordinance.

First Ward Councilman Peter Echausse suggested a two-to-three-year town wide road plan, which would identify priority streets.

Mr. Gildea asked Mr. Marsh how many petitions for roadwork he receives from residents. Mr. Marsh responded that he sees approximately two to three petitions a year.

The next public meeting of the Town Council will be held on Tuesday, May 21.



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**Honoring**  
**Mayor Greg McDermott • Janice Weinstein • Neil Sullivan**

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