



STANDING WATCH...Members of the Westfield Fire and Police Departments and The Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad stood motionless and silent as the honor guard for 33 hours at The September 11th Memorial Park. For more photos and the story see page 6.

## CF Stopped Paying For Basin When WF Stopped Billing

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Westfield Leader recently ran a story about the retention basin located behind homes on Cranford Avenue. Westfield owns 2.79 acres of the 9.29 acre basin, which it leases to Cranford.

The lease was signed in August of 1979, and is scheduled to last for a term of 25 years. Cranford was supposed to pay Westfield \$3,000 a year with a 5 percent increase each year.

According to Westfield Town Administrator James Gildea, there is no known record of payment from Cranford and the payment that was due in June of this year was not received.

According to the Cranford's Township Clerk Rosalie Hellenbrecht, the last payment made to Westfield for the retention basin was in 1992, in the amount of \$5,656.93. She explained that the

money was budgeted by the township in 1993 and 1994, but that the township received no invoice. She added that the township has not paid because there was no bill.

Mr. Gildea stated that Westfield is currently going through all of the past records to find a record of payment. He stated that the amount Cranford is saying they paid would have been the payment for 1993, and that Cranford would still owe \$65,295.53 for the years since then.

Mr. Gildea added that he was also

attempting to contact past Town Administrators. Westfield had a change in administration when Jack Malloy retired in 1993 and Ed Gotko took over on January 1, 1994.

Mr. Gildea said that Westfield will be sending Cranford a letter.

Representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) said that the classification of the land is unknown, as their records do not date back to 1979.

According to the DEP, a land study

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## State Test Results Reported by Dr. Dolan; BOE Will Examine Class Rank Study by Ridge HS

By CHARLOTTE LEDERMAN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Members of the Westfield Board of Education analyzed two prevalent and "hot" issues facing the school district community, test scores and class rank, during their regular Tuesday meeting.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Margaret Dolan provided the board with a comprehensive breakdown of Westfield Public School's 2002 testing results.

Though state variation in testing has made it difficult to establish a test result history, and therefore difficult to see trends, Dr. Dolan remarked that Westfield was in "category six," in which all schools in the system demonstrate excellence in

test scores and working toward the betterment and continued excellence of the schools.

In the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA), the test score breakdown for general education students is as follows in the Language Arts: 4 percent were partially proficient, 52.9 percent were proficient, and 46.7 percent were advanced proficient.

Compared to the state percentiles, Westfield performed quite well in Language Arts, with 99.6 percent of WHS students scoring above the state average and the 86.9 percent of students in the state scoring above the state average.

In the category of Mathematics, general education students taking the

HSPA are 0.8 percent partially proficient, 51.7 percent are proficient, and 47.5 percent of pupils are advanced proficient.

Westfield students also excelled in the Mathematics category, scoring 99.2 percent above the state average, while 73.1 percent of students in the state achieved that distinction.

In the Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA), 2.0 percent of general education students were partially proficient, 79.0 percent were proficient, while 19.0 percent were advanced proficient in the Language Arts category. Overall, the district has 98 percent of its students above state standards.

In the GEPA category of Mathematics, the district percentile is 93.3

percent above state standards.

Dr. Dolan concluded with the Elementary School Proficiency Assessment (ESPA) report, proving that Westfield performed highly as well.

Public Information Officer Lorre Korecky reported, however, that since the school district has not received the statewide test results for the GEPA and ESPA, it would not be possible at this time to determine a comparison between Westfield public school students and pupils throughout the state in those tests.

However, Dr. Dolan reported during the meeting that Westfield was performing very well in all of these tests.

In other board business, members devoted most of its time to the issue of class rank, specifically at Westfield High School.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley told the board about a study done by Ridge High School where they have examined all aspects of class rank. Although the board members had yet to read the report as the meeting commenced, the board devoted over a third of their time to the issue.

Such careful consideration on the subject of class rank was in fact a deliberation on whether or not to actually formally further deliberate the issue at a later date. Indeed, the board followed an outline, "Creating a Decision-Making Model," which was given to them by a representative of the State Board of Education as a formula for dealing with future problems.

Following such procedure, they attempted to prioritize the issue, flushing out if the topic of class rank was of a high, medium, or low priority level.

Once it was determined that class rank concerned a great number of Westfield students, teachers, and parents, the issue was given the green light for further investigation. The board will eventually form an ad hoc committee, comprised of the individuals who are affected most by a change in class rank policy.

Hoping to gather a wide range of opinions and factual data, the board hopes to use this year to thoroughly explore the school system's policy.

Dr. Foley felt it best that such a



CAR SHOPPING...Two youngsters played the day away with colorful model vehicles, which were on display during Sunday's "FallFest" celebration. The street fair was sponsored by the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

## Westfield Scientist Accepts National Defense Position

By HORACE CORBIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Dr. Ron Brachman of Westfield has been chosen to be the Director of the Information Processing Technology Office (IPTO) of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

DARPA conducts advanced research in science and technology for the U.S. Department of Defense.

Since the 1950's, in the days of Sputnik, DARPA was created by the Department of Defense to maintain technological superiority and prevent surprises to the United States.

Dr. Brachman told *The Westfield Leader*, "The opportunity I have been handed is tremendous, and it's a chance to do something really significant for the country at a national level. It's very exciting, particularly at a time like this. It feels very good."

"The position I have accepted is traditionally rotational, lasting about 3-4 years. DARPA has a budget of about \$2.5 billion with eight departments such as the one I head. In my department, we're looking to advance artificial intelligence and cognitive systems; it's mostly computer programming."

He told *The Leader* that contact for the position came about since he serves as President of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). This national scientific society is the most important organization in the field.

The IPTO has been responsible for some of the most important breakthroughs of the last 40 years, including time-sharing computer systems, the basis of the personal computer (including the mouse, graphical interface, and hypertext), the ILLIAC IV supercomputer and the ARPANet. Perhaps most significantly, IPTO leadership was directly responsible for the creation of the worldwide Internet.

Its prior leaders are amongst the most important figures in the history

of computer science in the United States, and it has had several books written about its history.

"In 1962 in this position, Lick Leader is noted for his concept of an Inter Galactic Computer Network," said Dr. Brachman. "Maybe we'll think today about the InterPlanetaryNet and *The Leader* can be read on Mars," he said.

Dr. Brachman had a long and successful career in computer science and artificial intelligence research during 17 years with research organizations at AT&T from which he recently retired.

He received a B.S.E.E. degree from Princeton University, and S.M. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. He has published extensively, has numerous patents, and his research led to the creation of a sub-field of artificial intelligence called Description Logics. He chaired national conferences, won best paper awards, and edited several important collections.

He served nine years as the Secretary-Treasurer of the International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence, and last year was elected President of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). Dr. Brachman is a Fellow of AAAI and a Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery.

Dr. Brachman will lead the office as it pursues an aggressive agenda that may transform the nation's computer foundations. The office's new Cognitive Information Processing Technology Initiative will develop the next generation of computational systems with radically new capabilities.

Dr. Brachman explained, "Cognitive Systems" will demonstrate levels of autonomy and reasoning far beyond those of today's systems. With the ability to reason, learn and adapt, and with facilities for self-awareness, IPTO hopes to produce com-

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## MS School Bd. Discusses Improved Communications; School Opening

By JENNIFER PINTO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

At the regular scheduled meeting on Tuesday, the Mountainside Board of Education discussed the recent success of their school opening and how to better improve communications with parents.

"We opened our doors with 667 students," Chief School Administrator Dr. Gerard Schaller stated. The board reiterated to the public that the school opening went smoothly and especially thanked the custodians for all of their hard work. Dr. Schaller also stated that any bussing issues are currently being resolved.

Due to the traffic at Deerfield School, buses are having trouble getting to the school on time. Dr. Schaller stated that the buses have been backed up by 10 minutes.

The school board said that their first meeting to discuss the new strategic plan for the school district would be held on Thursday, November 20. Some of the board's main objectives are to start committees that consist of board members as well as sub-committees consisting of some parents.

The strategic plan will target several objectives, some of which include hiring qualified teachers and partnering with the community to improve communication.

Other goals that directly effect students include discussing issues such as respect and tolerance, and appropriate, "best practices."

The school board plans to send letters to parents discussing district goals and strategic planning.

As far as communication between the parents and the district, the board plans on utilizing TV-35 to videotape and broadcast their public meetings. The board also plans on posting messages on the districts website as well as utilizing the districts phone service.

A brief discussion regarding recess time at Deerfield School was also brought up by the school board. The board and Deerfield Principal Priscilla Church cleared up any misconceptions of a lengthy recess and told the public that recess is only 20 minutes.

Mrs. Church also discussed how teachers will be further involved in recess, allowing them the opportunity to see how their students interact

with others during recess.

In other business, the board approved the appointment of Frances Tolley as Interim Business Administrator/ Board Secretary effective and retroactive September 20 at \$400 per day. Mrs. Tolley, who has been with the district in the past, will work on Tuesday and Thursday.

Any additional required time will be paid to Mrs. Tolley at a rate of \$50 per hour. Mrs. Tolley will be with the district until the Business Administrator/Board Secretary position is filled.

The following personnel for extra services for the 2002-2003 school year were approved. The additional personnel include: Anthony Bento for girls' soccer coach for \$2,163, David Campbell for the boys' soccer team for \$2,163, and Patricia DeCastro for field hockey coach for \$2,472.

The following mentor positions for the 2002-2003 school year were approved by the board: Kindergarten teacher Michelle Padovano as mentor to Kindergarten teacher, Laura Pojednic as second grade

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IN MEMORIAM...Students and members of the community left flowers, stuffed animals and notes on the front lawn of the high school in remembrance of Greta Schoenemann. Thursday afternoon, crowds gathered at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield to pay their respects to Greta during an emotional service.



David B. Corbin and Ben Corbin for The Westfield Leader



A FEAST FOR THE TASTEBUDS...Visitors to the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce's "FallFest" street fair gobbled up generous portions of "butterfly fries." A festival favorite, attendees also savored London broil, sausage and pepper sandwiches, lemonade, gyros and other treats.



TRAVEL BACK IN TIME...Festivalgoers grooved to the oldies crooned by "Reminiscence," a popular band which played during FallFest. While the melodies could be heard throughout the streets, music enthusiasts lined Elm Street to get a closer look.

## New Coffee, Dessert Café Will Open in SP; Subdivision on King Street Will Be Revised

By DEBORAH MADISON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS--Scotch Plains residents and shoppers can look forward to taking the chill off their downtown holiday shopping with a hot cup of Jamaican brew this December.

Café Essence, a new coffee and dessert shop, which is situated at the former location of The Bike Stand on East Second Street, was approved by the Scotch Plains Planning Board during their Monday night meeting.

Scotch Plains residents Crystal Smith and Patricia Powers told the board that they envision an upscale café with comfy couches, wireless Internet stations and outdoor tables in the summer to round out the café's "New York City atmosphere."

Ms. Smith, who lost her job in New York City's financial district last September, said that running a café has been her lifelong dream.

The café will hold approximately 38 seats and will serve imported Jamaican coffees, sandwiches, soups and desserts. There will also be fruit smoothies for the after-

school crowd and smooth jazz and decaf for the after-dinner crowd. They would appeal to families with children and the 25 to 55 year old crowd, with special senior citizen teas and other community-oriented events, Ms. Powers told the board.

Board members voiced their concerns regarding the potential parking deficiency in the lot behind the store, should the restaurant generate too much traffic, as well as the feasibility of this type of business at this location.

Ms. Smith testified that after consulting a marketing expert, they anticipated this location to be an ideal spot for this type of eatery, which would generate a steady, but modest traffic flow. Ms. Smith said that they were certain that the municipal lot behind the store and the street parking in front of the store would be adequate to handle the flow.

The board agreed with Ms. Smith that the restaurant's upscale atmosphere would not generate the kind of traffic of fast food eateries like McDonald's or Dunkin' Donuts. The governing body granted the site plan approval and parking variance with the amendment that it was only for this type of low-flow restaurant and would not transfer to any other type of eatery, which might necessitate greater parking needs.

Board members commented on how this type of business would enhance the business district by generating more evening traffic for other downtown stores.

In other business, the board heard the continuation of the Fantini application for a subdivision on King Street. The board asked Mr. Fantini to return with a revised concept plan, showing a subdivision with conforming lots for comparison to

their original proposal. A conforming subdivision would include five houses as opposed to the six proposed. There was no date set for the revised presentation.

Board member Maria Sartor reported to the board that the Zoning Committee's sign study determined that there was very little consistency in township signs. The committee is studying signs in order to formulate standards for a sign ordinance. Currently, no freestanding signs are permitted, except by variance.

Part of the municipally owned property at the corner of Westfield

Avenue, Evergreen Avenue and Henry Street has been rezoned from a "P" zone to a "C" zone. The "C" represents that the property is now zoned a conservation zone, which is protected as permanent open space and will never be developed. Approximately 3.18 acres of the 5.89 acres lot has received this protective zoning.

Board member and Councilwoman Paulette Coronato said that this proposal sends a message regarding how important open green space is for the enjoyment of the township's residents.

## Westfield School Bd. Examines State Test Results for 2002

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committee not be influenced by the board's initial feelings, and that it should "let them do their work."

Then, based on the recommendations of the anticipated committee, the board will decide to keep the existing policy in place, modify it in some way, or completely eliminate class rank.

Not having read the Ridge High School report, however, board members expressed that they did not know much about the issue.

"We should actually read the Ridge report before further discussion," said Board President Arlene Gardner. The report was unavailable to the press at the time of the meeting.

In other news, a recent incident at a track meet, where a student suffered a severe asthma attack brought into question Westfield's emergency policy for athletic events. Since this particular event was large and involved students from many schools, emergency services were present and the student was given oxygen.

Board member Alice Hunnicutt voiced concern that had this been a smaller meet, such services would not have been available.

The board decided that all coaches should have a cellular phone in order to deal with any emergency situation.

Mrs. Gardner felt that that was in fact the current policy, and would review the policy booklet to see if that was the case. Having the appropriate support for emergency situations (whether that include

cellular phones or more assistant coaches) was of the utmost importance to them, voiced Mrs. Gardner.

The board also wished to note the fall and winter dates for the Edison Intermediate School program, "Nightplace," which will run on Fridays, September 27, October 18, November 15, and January 24. These evenings will provide young adults with a place and structure for nighttime activities.

At the next board meeting, the members hope to hear a report by Superintendent Foley on the state and purpose of Project 79 at Westfield High School, as most members were unclear as to the exact nature of the organization.

Contributing to all of these discussions was new board member, Beth Cassie. Mrs. Cassie will fill the interim term of Lisa Alter, who left the board in the spring of this year.

Mrs. Cassie said that she looks forward to working on the issues facing the board and is "excited that I was selected to fill the interim position on the board of education."

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Education Editor Michelle H. Le Poidevin contributed to this story.

## MS BOE

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teacher, Kimberley Lasch as a mentor to third grade teacher Elizabeth Lee; and seventh grade social studies teacher as a mentor for sixth grade social studies teacher, Walter Kempner.

Patricia Debbie has also been appointed Interim childcare coordinator, at a rate of \$15 per hour until a permanent employee is hired.

The next Mountainside Board of Education meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8, at 8 p.m. at the Deerfield School.

## SP Council Sets Ordinances To Make Park Avenue Safer

By FRED ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS -- In an effort to make the area in front of Park Middle School safer for motorists and pedestrians, the members of the Scotch Plains Township Council introduced three ordinances aimed at freeing up the roadway from excessive traffic.

One ordinance will mandate right turns on Park Avenue from the Church Street intersection and the school's exit driveway during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times.

The second ordinance will prohibit parking or standing of vehicles on the west side of Park Avenue from Church Street to a point 100 feet to the north.

The third ordinance will establish a bus stop on the same side of Park Avenue across from the Church Street intersection.

Public hearings on the trio of proposed ordinances will be held at the council's Tuesday, October 8 meeting.

In other business, at its regular meeting on Tuesday night, the council took the first step toward authorizing the township's third conservation zone when it passed a resolution establishing a lot line creating two separate parcels of land from an existing township-owned property at the corner of Plainfield and Evergreen Avenues.

The six-acre property is adjacent to the township's Public Works site and is presently zoned as "P" (Public).

Councilman Frank Rossi said the resolution was, "the first step to cleave off a portion," of the property, slightly more than three acres in size, that will be designated as a conservation zone, which designates certain land as being off-limits to development of any kind -- be it residential or commercial,

or even the development of a new park.

Immediately following passage of the resolution, the council introduced an ordinance formally designating the property as a conservation zone. The public hearing will be held on October 8.

Councilwoman Paulette Coronato noted that the Township Planning Board, at its Monday night meeting, had voted to back the council's intentions. Given the level of development in Scotch Plains and elsewhere, "it behooves us to try to impress upon people," how valuable vacant land is, she said.

At the start of the meeting, the council saluted Norbert Bernstein, who is retiring as Director of the Scotch Plains Public Library after 30 years.

A council resolution saluted Mr. Bernstein for his, "wisdom and leadership in guiding the library through major changes," as well as his, "tireless dedication to the library and service to the community."

His efforts, the resolution stated, "were focused on making the Scotch Plains Public Library not only an informational and cultural center, but an integral part of our community."

In brief remarks, Mr. Bernstein said his was, "not a one-man operation" and hailed the library staff, "for their help and cooperation and expertise." He also thanked the council because; "they sent fine, outstanding trustees to the Board of Trustees."

Mr. Bernstein also recognized Township Manager Thomas Atkins because, "without his help, interest and experience, the library could not have overcome some of its problems." He also thanked Ted Czarnomski, President of the Library Friends Group, for his efforts.

## Dr. Bachman

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puter systems that will literally know what they're doing."

Dr. Bachman expects to spend three or four years developing the new research initiative, continuing to live in Westfield while working in Arlington, Virginia. His wife, Gwen, is a physician working at UMDNJ in Newark.

They live with their daughter, Lauren, who has entered the seventh grade at Edison Intermediate School. Their older daughter, Rebecca, a graduate of Westfield High School, is now in her second year at Oberlin College.

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**Join the Team:**

The Westfield Leader and THE TIMES of Scotch Plains - Fanwood  
Freelance Reporters:

We are currently seeking freelance professionals to cover meetings in Westfield, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Fanwood. Freelancers must be available during evening hours. Meetings typically covered in our newspapers include Board of Education, Planning Boards, Municipal Councils, etc. College students welcomed. For information, contact Lauren Pass at (908) 232-4407 or send email to editor@goleader.com.

Student Interns:

Area high school students who are interested in journalism are encouraged to write for *The Student View*, a weekly column by local high school students. For information, contact Jeremy Lipstein at jlipstein@goleader.com.

**WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

- A member of the National Guard reported the theft of her purse, containing a wallet and cellular telephone, from an office at the Armory on Rahway Avenue.
- Maria Kostas, 50, of Elizabeth was arrested and charged with shoplifting a \$24 hair clip from a store on North Avenue. She was issued a summons and released.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

- A golf club wedge valued at \$299 was reported stolen from a business on Central Avenue.
- Ahmed A. Omar, 25, of Westfield was arrested in the Memorial Pool parking lot and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a suspected controlled dangerous substance in a motor vehicle and being on park property after hours. He was released on his own recognizance.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

- Elisha Candia, 19, of Westfield was arrested and charged with shoplifting for allegedly using store merchandise to obtain store credit in the amount of \$391 at a North Avenue store. She was released on her own recognizance.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

- A Connecticut Street resident reported that his automobile was struck with a piece of concrete, which broke the passenger window and dented the door frame. The incident occurred while the car was parked in his driveway.
- A Welch Way resident reported that his company car was unlawfully entered while parked in his driveway, whereupon a digital camera and a valise containing miscellaneous items were stolen.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

- A Carleton Road resident reported an attempted burglary to his home after discovering several pry marks on his rear door. No entry was gained.

**Basin**

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would have to be done by an engineering company to determine if any action or permits need to be sought, and then the DEP can determine which maintenance techniques can be used. They also said that the owner of the property is responsible for the maintenance, regardless of any subsiding.

Residents of Cranford Avenue have been complaining for several years now regarding the condition of the retention basin behind their homes. The basin is six to seven feet deep, and has streams running through it. Residents are unhappy with the overgrowth of plant life and the presence of rodents and other animals.

The contract with Cranford expires in August of 2004, and the township must notify Westfield in writing six months prior if they wish to renew for another 25 years.

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