



DANGEROUS JUNCTION... The intersection of Lawrence and East Dudley Avenues was the site of a serious car accident involving three motor vehicles last Friday afternoon at 3:03 p.m. According to police, the driver of the Volvo, traveling south on Lawrence, attempted to cross East Dudley in an unsafe manner when the driver of the Chevy Suburban struck the side of the Volvo sending it into the garden of 304 East Dudley Avenue. The Suburban was spun 90 degrees and hit the minivan head-on. All three vehicles were towed. Minor injuries were reported and a summons was issued to the driver of the Volvo.

Sidewalk Replacement, Capital Improvements OK'd by Town

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 echoed by several others, including Lynne Partridge, who went on to state that "we don't have time for all this bickering," referring to the Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee's lengthy process for proposing and implementing traffic safety measures at the town's problem intersections.

Acknowledging the urgency of the matter, First Ward Councilman Sal Caruana expressed a desire to make immediate changes at those problem intersections on Dudley Avenue, and in addition, he emphasized the importance of making children aware that safer options for crossing Dudley Avenue, such as at Clark Street and Elm Street, are also available.

Later in the open discussion session, Manhattan Bagel owner Joshua Lang complained about the closing of the South Avenue corridor for the Westfield Criterium bicycle race during the morning and early afternoon hours last Saturday, suggesting that the town should consult with local business owners before closing main roads in the future.

On hand to respond was race organizer Michael Jennings, who apologized for any detrimental effects that the race had on local businesses and promised to work together with business owners to ensure that the race does not negatively impact business in subsequent years.

In other matters, the council unanimously approved a number of resolutions put forth by the town's Finance Policy Committee, including the adoption of the 2005 Special Improvement District budget of \$377,575 and the insertion of special items for the police department's Body Armor Fund (including the Bulletproof Vest Program) and the Tobacco Age-of-Sale Enforcement Fund into the municipal budget.

The council also unanimously passed resolutions authorizing Mayor Gregory McDermott to apply for financial assistance from the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Mu-

nicipal Aid Program for the reconstruction of Boulevard from South Avenue to Grove Street, improvements to Grove Street between Rahway and Central Avenues, reconstruction of Prospect Street between Ferris Place and Cowperthwaite Place, and improvements to South Chestnut Street between East Broad Street and the Garwood border.

Finally, in another unanimous vote, the council passed the Code Review and Town Property Committee's resolution to approve a person-to-person and place-to-place transfer of a full liquor license for Northside Trattoria. The license will enable the restaurant, located on Prospect Street, to have a bar. A number of restaurants have controlled licenses, which limit the establishments to only serve alcoholic drinks at tables where food is being served.

Clarke

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 thorties said.

In January of 2005, Clarke was found guilty by a federal jury in Miami of attempting to travel in foreign commerce to engage in sexual relations with a minor, attempting to engage in a commercial sex act with a minor, and attempting to induce a minor child to engage in prostitution.

Authorities said Operation Turnaround was formed to address the problem of United States citizens traveling to Central American countries to engage in sex with minor children. The operation involved the FBI's creation of an undercover travel agency that offered travel packages to Costa Rica that purportedly included the sexual services of minors.

In all, Operation Turnaround resulted in the prosecutions charging a total of 11 defendants. All 11 defendants were convicted, four at trial and seven by plea. The convictions also included a police officer, a carnival worker, and a real estate agent.

Tax Levy Passes; Five Elected to School Bd.

By ANNA GITHENS
 Specially Written for The Leader and The Times

GARWOOD - Borough voters approved the \$6.4 million school tax levy on Tuesday as well as casting their vote for the five open seats on Board of Education (BOE).

With a record five seats up for grabs, two incumbents and three newcomers walked away triumphant. The four candidates who filed petitions prior to the February 7 deadline, as well as one write in candidate were elected.

Incumbent Gary Maher was re-elected, pulling in 246 votes, while newcomer Debbie Courtney and incumbent Monty Brown claimed 241 votes each. Tracey Schadewald, a first-timer vying for a chance to serve, pulled in 235 votes.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Maher will serve three-year terms, while Mrs. Courtney's and Ms. Schadewald's tenure will be for two years each. Christine Guerriero, a write in candidate, won a three-year seat and received 140 write-in votes.

Ms. Guerriero, a school nurse employed in Somerville, is a previous board member who served from 1990 to 1993.

The \$6.4 million school budget passed by a tally of 230 for to 123 against out of 2,440 registered voters.

According to write in candidate Christine Guerriero, the favorable turnout was most likely due to the lack of an increase in the local tax levy. She also stated that the school board worked hard to preserve this flat district tax and, as a result, "received overwhelming support from voters."

The lack of a tax increase was due, in part, to the receipt of deregionalization money received from the borough's contract with Clark's Arthur L. Johnson High

School. The BOE's task of limiting local tax increases was difficult mainly because of the ongoing school construction project that is scheduled for completion by December 2005.

According to information obtained from the BOE, local students are housed in the district's two school facilities. Kindergarten and pre-kindergarten pupils attend Washington School. Grades one through eight attend Lincoln School.

Construction of the new facilities will provide updated technology programs, including Internet access in all classrooms, and needed space for student instruction and curriculum requirements. The completed construction will allow the district to provide a full service lunch program in the new cafeteria and a new, modern library facility.

Included in the 2005/2006 budget, according to the borough's BOE, is funding for a projected enrollment of 417 regular and special education students from grades pre-k through eight. It also includes tuition for students in grades nine through 12, amounting to approximately 185 students, to attend high school in Clark.

Also included in the adopted budget is salary and benefits for approximately 59 full and part-time employees, which include teachers, administrators and custodial staff.

The re-organization meeting of the BOE will be held Tuesday, April 26, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Washington School. The swearing-in of the newly elected members will take place at that time.

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WINNING SMILE... Interim Chief School Administrator Walter Rusak, right, congratulates Scot Worswick after winning a seat on the Mountainside Board of Education as a write in candidate as board members MaryBeth Schaumburg, front, Carmine Venes, left and Pat Knodel, second from left, look on.

WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

FRIDAY, APRIL 1
 A resident of the 1300 block of Frances Terrace reported the theft of keys and a credit card from his truck.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2
 Stacy Wells, 35, of Westfield was arrested and charged with shoplifting a wallet valued at approximately \$155 from a North Avenue store. She was released on her own recognizance.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3
 Venancio Carachure, 26, of Plainfield was arrested in the 900 block of West South Avenue and charged with driving while intoxicated. He was subsequently released to a responsible party pending an April 6 court date.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5
 A Park Street resident reported that

a total of \$800 was charged on his Capital One Visa card without his authorization.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7
 Michael Mullings, 25, of Plainfield was arrested at South Avenue and Boulevard and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released on his own recognizance with summonses pending an April 20 court date.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9
 Joshua Newberg, 18, of Westfield was arrested on Summit Avenue and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana. He was released on his own recognizance with a summons pending an April 13 court date.



PHONE HOME... Betty and Bruce Maloney received two donation checks for phone cards to be sent to United States troops overseas. One check was from the Fireman's Mutual Benevolent Association Local No. 30 and the other from the Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 14. Lieutenant Robert Buccino of the Westfield Fire Department, who is also the Adjunct for the Disabled American Veteran's Chapter 14, presented the checks.

Budget Hike and Tax Bill Discussed by Boro. Mayor

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de-regionalization suit was recently put into the surplus. This week he reported that \$1.65 million was designated for surplus. He told those in attendance that it was important to have a surplus in case of an unforeseen emergency.

The mayor also noted that if any Mountainside resident decides not to pay their taxes, the borough is still obligated by law to pay the school board and the county portion of their tax bill.

Earlier in the year, Mayor Vigilanti noted that because of the major increases mandated by a formula from the state, the library must be given an increase of \$60,000 in next year's budget. Last, year because of the same formula, the library had a \$49,000 increase.

The mayor noted that the library did not ask for this money and that he did not like to see this mandated increase "passed on to the taxpayer."

Mayor Vigilanti stated, "Next year we will see this again as Mountainside is building \$30 million in new homes."

It was also noted that money was being appropriated for the mandated ordinance that was passed upon second reading on Tuesday evening from the state Department of Environmental Protection.

The mayor stated that because of the mandated ordinance, called the Storm Water Control and Flooding Plan Ordinance, Mountainside, along with all other New Jersey municipalities, must comply with all of the engineering requirements of the ordinance as well as map all of the storm sewer drains.

The governing body did recognize an \$8,468 grant that had been awarded this past winter to help comply with the ordinance.

Other ordinances passed after a second reading included: an ordinance supplementing regulations regarding road-opening permits on newly paved roads and an ordinance to reduce the speed limit from 35 miles per hour to 30 miles per hour on New Providence Road from Deer Path to Tracy Drive.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, at 8 p.m.

Ward Age-Restricted Project Hearing Tabled Until May

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but that a careful study done by running a television camera through the inside of the pipe found it to be in "excellent condition."

He noted that the pipe ran underneath Prospect Street to the municipal lot across the street. He added that in order to remove the pipe, Prospect Street would have to be closed for months and that waiting for numerous permits would hold up the project from the Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Disko said, "My suggestion is not to remove something that is working well. I think it should be left in and monitored."

He added, "When this sewer pipe was built 50-75 years ago, it was top-notch construction."

He did state that the applicants want to install panels to the pipe, so that if repairs needed to be made, there would be easy access.

Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh noted that he agreed with Mr. Disko's assessment after reviewing the tape and added that he wanted a legal

agreement "crafted to protect the town" if, and when, maintenance or repairs are needed.

He stated that he wanted to make sure the town would not be liable for any loss to cars in the garage in the event of flooding.

Mr. Marsh stated, "Just because this has never happened in the past doesn't mean it never will happen."

Robert Newell, Planning Board member and acting Chairman added, "If the north side parking deck had gone through, the town would have been faced with the same situation."

Michael Zemsky, owner of Newpointe Realty of Westfield, as well as the Benefits Service Company located next to the proposed condominium, are opposed to the project.

Representing the two businesses are attorneys, Leslie Cascone and Joseph Murray, respectively.

The next meeting regarding the application is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, at 8 p.m.



WESTFIELDER HONORED... Westfield resident Julie Phelan recently received a special award from Lafayette College, where she is a senior. Julie, right, is doing research with the guidance of Susan Bosow, Dana Professor of Psychology, left.

Psychology Award Granted To Julie Phelan of Westfield

WESTFIELD - Julie Phelan of Westfield received Lafayette College's Burton H. Cohen Memorial Prize during the college's Honors Convocation on April 17.

The award is presented annually to a senior psychology major who has demonstrated the inclination, intellectual curiosity, determination, and potential to become a dedicated, creative, selfless teacher.

A double-major in psychology and art, Julie was invited to make a presentation about her research on the society's tolerance of mental illnesses at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research from April 20 to 23 in Lexington, Va.

Julie is doing research with the guidance of Susan Bosow, Dana Professor of Psychology.



GIDDY UP... Westfield Police Chief Bernard Tracy keeps a tight grip on his two and a half year old granddaughter, Kaylee Marchese, as she enjoys a pony ride at the Spring Fling this past Sunday.



Visit Liberty Hall for these exciting events

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Saturday, May 14, Garden Photography Workshop
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