

## Plan to Create Parking Spaces In Downtown Westfield Told

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feet but widened from 65 to 75 yards, "which falls under the NJSIAA (New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association) requirements," Recreation Director Bruce Kaufmann said.

He noted money would be available from Union County grants that could total \$100,000.

Fourth Ward Councilman James Foerst said he would like shrubbery added as a buffer for surrounding properties as well as traffic improvements in the area.

Councilman Larry Goldman, who also represents the Fourth Ward, said neighbors are concerned about timing of the lights and glare that would give off on area homes.

Officials noted that the lighting would be new technology that will reduce light spill and glare on surrounding homes. Timing of the lights would be controlled from other locations by entering codes on-line.

On another matter, in order to create more revenue to offset costs, the Recreation Department has proposed several new user fees. Organizations would be charged \$50 per day to rent a field for such events as picnics. Adults using town parks for organized games would be charged \$30 per game for up to three hours.

Town officials have proposed a fee of \$25 per hour for use of the gazebo in Mindowaskin Park. The gazebo is used through the summer during weekends for wedding photos. Each wedding would be given a maximum of two hours for their photos.

The Community Room at the municipal building, which Mr. Kaufmann said

is in need of new chairs and tables and needs to be painted, would be rented for \$10 per hour. These monies would be placed in a maintenance fund for improvements to the room.

First Ward Councilman and Finance Policy Committee Chairman Peter Echausse said the proposed fees would be reviewed at the council's next conference meeting on Tuesday, May 3.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, several residents commented on the application by Temple Emanu-El on East Broad Street to expand its parking capacity. The original application was rejected by the Board of Adjustment. The temple sued the town but the courts sent the application back to the board of adjustment for a decision.

Patricia Hay of Jefferson Avenue, whose home is located across the street from the temple, said the neighbors in the area heard very little on the fact that action was about to be taken on the temple application.

"Very few people heard about this," she said.

Her husband, James Hay, said the proposal is being moved too quickly by the town without giving residents an opportunity to have their concerns considered by the board.

"I think there is something wrong here," he said.

A Wells Street resident said he felt "shut out" of the issues such as ingress and egress out of the proposed parking lot. He said under the original application, a caretaker's home was not to be torn down. He said it now appears the house would be torn down in seven years to build an administration building.



UNVEILING PLANS...Bethel Baptist Church officials review construction plans with Robert Downes, Sr., President and Chief Executive Officer of the Town Bank of Westfield. The bank is helping to fund the project. Pictured, left to right, are: Deacon Charles Whitehead; attorney Susan McCrea; William McDuffie, Board of Trustees Chairman; Pastor Kevin Clark; Mr. Downes; Cecilia Ellington, Trustees Treasurer, and Ed Wojtaszek, Town Bank Executive Vice President and Senior Loan Officer.

## Newly Elected Bd. Members Sworn In To Garwood BOE

By ANNA GITHENS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**GARWOOD-** Four out of five newly elected members of the Garwood Board of Education (BOE) were sworn in Tuesday evening at the board's annual reorganization meeting. Tracey Schadewald could not attend the meeting and will be sworn in at a later date in Business Administrator Barbara Tudek's office.

The board re-elected Adele Lewis to serve as president, but failed to elect a vice president due to a 4-4 tie in votes. Board members Barbara Greet and Gary Maher each received four votes each. The motion will be tabled until the next board meeting, to be held Tuesday, May 17.

BOE member Linda Koenig will again serve as the board's Clark representative for Garwood's send-receive program with Arthur L. Johnson High School. The existing contract was for a period of 10 years and is subject to renegotiation this year.

"At this point, it is going to be renegotiated hopefully for another 10 years. We are very hopeful that we can negotiate this (contract) because it has worked out well for everybody," informed Ms. Koenig. "It was a bad situation to happen when the de-regionalization (of the former Union County Regional High School District) went through. All the other districts suffered because of it, too."

Ms. Koenig went on to say that Berkeley Heights, Boonton, Springfield, and Kenilworth districts are all having problems now and in her opinion, "The de-regionalization should not have happened."

In early January of this year, Clark Mayor Sal Bonaccorso wrote a letter to Garwood Mayor Dennis McCarthy expressing his disagreement with certain terms of the contract. In the letter, Mayor Bonaccorso declared that, "Clark is subsidizing Garwood students in excess of \$1 million." This created a stir within the Borough of Garwood.

Mayor McCarthy responded to the

letter the following week.

"The agreement between the boards was fairly negotiated and was deemed, at the time, to benefit both parties," insisted Mayor McCarthy, who at the time was serving as a Garwood Councilman.

Mayor McCarthy also explained that the Garwood students are utilizing Clark's "excess capacity" in reference to Mayor Bonaccorso's accusation towards Garwood students being subsidized by Clark. He also pointed out that there has not been any additions or construction done to Clark schools because of the attendance of Garwood students.

He said that he believes the contrary is true in that, "One may look at this situation as one in which Garwood is subsidizing the Clark system." Mayor McCarthy also reminded Mayor Bonaccorso of Garwood's duplicated expenses, such as having its own superintendent of schools.

He ended his letter by respectfully suggesting that the two boards should be conducting the negotiations. They originally struck the agreement, and they are most familiar with the needs of the students and the district.

Superintendent of Garwood Schools Dr. William Murphy says that he has had an "excellent working relationship with Assistant Superintendent Susan Miksza for the six years that I've been here."

Dr. Murphy also said that it is "because of the very fine articulation that we have between Garwood and Clark that our children go to the high school so well prepared."

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Time asked Dr. Murphy if the recent changeovers to the Garwood Board of Education affect day-to-day deliberations. Dr. Murphy responded, "This is a very supportive board and I've worked with all of these people before. So, I don't have any lack of confidence that things are going to change in any way. We are going to continue to get the support that we need and that's why we've been such a model school district."

## Council, BOE Setting Process To Review Defeated Budget

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Fourth Ward Councilman Jim Foerst said he would wait to hear a report from the council's Finance Policy Committee on their recommendations before issuing his position on the budget.

Meanwhile, school officials were hoping to keep any budget cuts to a minimum.

"Clearly with the defeat of a budget there has to be a reduction in the tax levy," Superintendent of Schools Dr. William J. Foley said.

He reasoned that, although the final decision on how much to cut now rests with the town council, he believes that a cut of a "few cents in the tax rate" is fair, given the closeness of the defeat—51 to 49 percent. He noted that the defeat of the school tax levy in 1994 was much larger at 400 votes.

Dr. Foley said new programs in the 2005-2006 budget, such as expanding technology to the second grade, are likely to be the first programs to be cut as opposed to slashing existing programs.

He said the budget defeat by voters "is not a mandate to freeze the budget" but a request to review the budget again and look for spending cuts.

"I'm optimistic that we will work this out with something that is reasonable and amicable" to both the town council and school board, Dr. Foley said.

Board of Education President Ann Riegel said she felt the defeat of the school budget "will be a wakeup call about the importance of the (budget) process."

Ms. Riegel said she favors looking at a number of changes to assist the community including expanding poll hours and better communicating with the community on the budget.

"We heard from people that we did it (open polls) from 2 to 9 p.m. to keep people away, which is not the case," said Ms. Riegel.

"We are up 500 'no' votes (on the budget). This is definitely significant," said Ms. Riegel.

"It's frustrating," she said, noting that members of the public did not express negative sentiments about this year's budget at board meetings.

Ginny Leiz, BOE Vice President and a member of the Finance Committee, said the council and school board need to "find some money to reduce taxes and then keep an excellent school system in tact. I think we can do that."

She said the district failed in its message to voters explaining this year's budget to the community. In the future, Ms. Leiz feels the school board needs to receive the support of the community as a whole, not just the parents.

"This (the budget defeat) is so unusual for Westfield," said Ms. Leiz. "People are saying 'uncle' (to tax increases)."

She said the recently approved Westfield Education Association (WEA) contract "is no longer negotiable" in terms of cuts by the council. One area added this year is domestic partnership benefits.

"We don't know if that is going to have much of an impact (in terms of future costs)," Ms. Leiz said.

She said school officials have recommended a cut of around two cents in the tax rate, which equals \$360,000 in spending cuts and a reduction of \$36 to a home assessed at \$180,000 to an average increase of \$288 to support the school budget.

BOE member Beth Cassie said, "There is a process in place that will unfold in the next two weeks."

"We hope the board and council can come to closure on this" which is "in the best interest of the community."

"We will get our directive from the council and we will work with our administration," said Ms. Cassie.

Newly elected board member Gary McCready said he believes that there appeared to be "a lack of interest" from residents during this year's school budget process.

## Musical Performances Slated At Westfield Public Schools

WESTFIELD - The Fine Arts Department of the Westfield Public Schools will host 19 musical concerts this spring, which will be free and open to the public.

Approximately 2,500 students in grades kindergarten through high school will perform district-wide.

The following concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m.:

- Monday, May 9 - Southside Elementary Strings at Edison Intermediate School (EIS);
- Tuesday, May 10 - Band and Vocal Concert at McKinley Elementary School, 500 First Street;
- Wednesday, May 11 - Band and Vocal Concert at Jefferson Elementary School, 1200 Boulevard;
- Monday, May 16 - Vocal Concert at Franklin Elementary School, 700 Prospect Street, and Band and Vocal Concert at Tamaques Elementary School, 641 Willow Grove Road;
- Tuesday, May 17 - Instrumental Concert No. 1 at Westfield High School (WHS), 500 Dorian Road;
- Thursday, May 19 - Instrumental Concert No. 2 at WHS, and Band Concert at Franklin School;
- Monday, May 23 - Northside Elementary Strings at Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark Street;
- Tuesday, May 24 - Vocal Concert at WHS;
- Thursday, May 26 - Band and Vocal Concert at Washington Elementary School, 900 St. Marks Avenue, and Wilson Elementary Band and Vocal Concert at RIS;
- Wednesday, June 1 - Seventh and Eighth Grade Choral and Orchestra Concert at EIS;
- Tuesday, June 7 - "A Night at the

Opera" at EIS, and Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Bands Concert at RIS;

- Wednesday, June 8 - All-City Elementary Concert at WHS;
- Tuesday, June 14 - Seventh and Eighth Grade Instrumental Orchestra Concert at EIS, and Sixth and Eighth Grade Choral and Orchestra Concert at RIS; and
- Wednesday, June 15 - Sixth Grade Band and Vocal Concert at EIS.



**NEW MEMBER...**Marisa Anthony was awarded membership in the Mu Kappa Tau Marketing Honor Society and the Golden Key International Honor Society. A senior, who is presently attending Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Mass., Marisa will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management with a double major in Marketing and Human Resources this month. A 2001 graduate of Westfield High School, Marisa is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Anthony of Westfield.

### Impatient? Don't Wait!!!

He's Back! Dig Ed Williams checking to see if David's late to work.

## Impatiens Sale

Two Days Only  
April 30th & May 1st

# \$9.99 flat

Special Sale Hours  
Sat 7am-7pm Sun 9am-6pm

If you haven't started thinking about the garden, now is the time. For those that like to get an early start, and save quite a bit of \$\$\$ we are having our Impatiens Sale Saturday and Sunday April 30th & May 1st.. Over 2 truck loads of Impatiens will be here available for only \$9.99 flat. We will be opening our doors early on Saturday for those that want to get a really early start. (7am). Remember there is still a slight chance of Frost, so protect them if you hear of frost warnings on the news.

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## WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

### MONDAY, APRIL 11

A teacher at a Lamberts Mill Road school reported the theft of his wallet from the pocket of his coat, which had been hanging in an unlocked classroom closet.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 12

A resident of the 500 block of Coddling Road reported the theft of a lawn sign valued at \$25.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

Approximately \$460 in cash was reported stolen from a bedroom at a residence in the 700 block of Fairacres Avenue.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 14

The theft of a bicycle, valued at approximately \$201, was reported in the 500 block of Cumberland Street.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 17

A Livingston Street resident reported that she was assaulted in the fitting room of a North Avenue store by another female who asked the victim how she looked, then before the victim could respond, scratched her across the cheek and fled. The suspect was described as a short, stocky white female in her late teens. The victim refused medical attention.

Miguel Mendoza, 23, of Roselle was arrested in the 300 block of South Avenue, East and charged with hindering apprehension for allegedly fleeing police following a motor vehicle stop.

Authorities said that upon being pulled over, Mendoza exited his vehicle in a South Avenue parking lot and fled on foot. He was later arrested after returning to the vehicle, and was released on his own recognizance.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 19

Jeffrey Nordahl, 29, of Colonia was arrested during a motor vehicle stop at Rahway Avenue and Bell Drive and charged with possession of a suspected controlled dangerous substance. He was issued a summons and released.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

Juan Soria, 21, of Plainfield was arrested at Boulevard and Ross Place and charged with obstructing the administration of law. He allegedly fled his motor vehicle, leaving several passengers behind, as police attempted to pull him over at South Avenue and South Elmer Street for a motor vehicle violation.

Soria, who was apprehended several blocks away, was released after posting \$1,500 bail.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 21

Marsha Armstrong, 21, and Caroline Britt, 36, both of Irvington were arrested in the 200 block of East Broad Street during an investigation into an alleged shoplifting at a business in the 100 block of Central Avenue.

Armstrong, charged with shoplifting perfume, was released on her own recognizance with a summons.

Britt was charged with possession of stolen property and hindering apprehension, for allegedly concealing the perfume. She also was held on warrants from South Orange, for \$3,500, and Newark, for \$5,000. Britt was released on her own recognizance on the Westfield charges and turned over to the Newark police department.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 22

Police arrested four men in the 200 block of Acciolla Place in connection with an incident in which a Ripley Place resident claimed he was threatened with a knife. The victim was not injured. The suspects were identified as Ramell

## Perrin

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commodate residents interested in pursuing a seat on the board.

"We did make strides forward," Mr. Rusak continued. "We are televising meetings for the first time. We can't hold people by the hand and make them run (for BOE). People have to do that on their own."

"We have to look in the mirror and say what have I done. I feel at this time we have made an attempt," Mr. Rusak concluded.

In other news, Mr. Perrin announced that Sean Reilly from Home Health Science has "unofficially, by observation, not seen any evidence of any water staining in samples taken" from insulation. After extensive testing and inspection of the roof at Beechwood School, it was determined that the odor in four classrooms that went unidentified for months was caused by wet insulation on the rooftop unit RTU-2.

Mr. Perrin stated that the air conditioning has been turned on and "is running as it should be." "And odorless," Mr. Rusak added.

The board also approved payment to LEW Corporation in the amount of \$10,500 for services related to the biological inspection and testing at Beechwood School to determine if the odor was in any way harmful to students and staff.

Changes in the vacation policy for 12-month employees were approved. It was determined that employees will take vacation time during the summer months, with five days being allotted for time-off during school months. Any vacation days not taken can be used the next consecutive year, but will be forfeited if not used within that time frame. Past vacation time will be grandfathered into the new policy.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BOE will be Tuesday, May 10, at 8 p.m. in the Media Center at Beechwood School, located on Woodacres Drive.

### Kristina Williams Placed On Fall Dean's Roster

WESTFIELD - Kristina Williams, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Williams of Westfield, was named to the dean's list for the fall 2004 semester at Washington University in St. Louis, Miss.

A graduate of Westfield High School, Kristina is enrolled in the university's School of Engineering and Applied Science.

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