

**POLICE BLOTTER**

**Westfield**  
 Tuesday, September 27, an Elmer Street resident reported a burglary to his apartment and the theft of approximately \$1,230 worth of property, including a portable computer and a DVD player.  
 Tuesday, September 27, a Mountain Avenue resident reported the theft of an eight-foot-high, inflatable Disney character lawn ornament.  
 Thursday, September 29, Katy Melnick, 36, of Newark was arrested in the 300 block of Brightwood Avenue on a criminal warrant issued by the Westfield Municipal Court. She posted \$350 bail.  
 Thursday, September 29, Louis Ortiz, 43, of Cranford was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on contempt-of-court warrants out of Westfield, for \$500, and Roseland, for \$180. Ortiz posted bail.  
 Thursday, September 29, Damian King, 30, of Linden was arrested at West South Avenue and Crossway Place on a contempt-of-court warrant for \$300 from Scotch Plains, for which he posted bail.  
 Thursday, September 29, Betsaida Aguilar, 25, of Palisades Park was arrested at South Avenue and Crossway Place on a \$200 contempt-of-court warrant out of Bergenfield and posted bail.  
 Friday, September 30, John Harrington, 23, of Westfield was arrested in the 200 block of Kimball Avenue on an outstanding contempt-of-court warrant from North Hunderdon for \$204. Harrington posted bail.  
 Friday, September 30, Todd Auran, 28, of Roselle Park was arrested in the 800 block of Central Avenue on two outstanding contempt-of-court warrants

out of Cranford - one criminal and one traffic - for a total of \$1,000. He was turned over to Cranford police.  
 Saturday, October 1, Christina Hood, 29, of Belleville was arrested during a motor vehicle stop at Central Avenue and Park Street on a contempt-of-court warrant from Clark for \$110. She posted bail.  
 Saturday, October 1, a Westfield resident reported the theft of \$131 in currency from his wallet that was left unattended at an Elm Street grocery store.  
 Sunday, October 2, during a motor vehicle stop at the intersection of Brightwood Avenue and Clark Street, Jerian Baldwin, 60, of Bennington, Vt. was arrested on two outstanding contempt-of-court warrants from South Plainfield, for which he posted a total of \$375 bail.  
 Sunday, October 2, Ramiro Mojica, 28, of Franklin was arrested during a motor vehicle stop at Ripley Place and Livingston Avenue on an outstanding contempt-of-court warrant for \$35 out of Parsippany. Mojica posted bail.  
**Scotch Plains**  
 Monday, September 26, a Terrill Road resident reported being the victim of harassment. The victim stated that a former coworker called her on her cell phone several times and made inappropriate comments to her.  
 Tuesday, September 27, a student of

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School reported the theft of a cell phone from his locker. The phone was valued at \$400. There are no suspects at this time.  
 Tuesday, September 27, a resident of Victor Street reported an attempted burglary to his residence. The victim stated that sometime overnight, unknown suspects broke a window to his house. Entrance was not gained.  
 Tuesday, September 27, a Henry Street resident reported damage to his driveway lights. The victim stated that several lights were broken sometime overnight. There are no suspects at this time.  
 Sunday, October 2, a business owner on East Second Street reported being the victim of criminal mischief. The victim stated that unknown suspects threw eggs at his business.  
**Mountainside**  
 Monday, September 26, an unknown black male with dreadlocks ran from a patrol stop initiated by Union County Police on Route 22. The suspect ran across Route 22 towards Famous Dave's Restaurant. It was reported that the suspect might be in possession of a handgun. A perimeter was established and the area was patrolled by Mountainside, Scotch Plains, Westfield and Berkeley Heights Police Departments. The suspect was observed entering 7-11 and then running down Mountain Avenue. The suspect entered the wooded area known as the Barnes Tract. A search of the area did not produce the suspect and police eventually called off the search. The incident is still under investigation.  
 Thursday, September 29, Jaolil Spruiel, 19, of Plainfield was arrested for receiving stolen property and for eluding and resisting arrest. The subject was spotted on Route 22 traveling at a high rate of speed. When an officer ran a plate check, the vehicle was determined to be stolen. The subject tried to elude police and crashed the vehicle in Echo Lake Park. He attempted to avoid arrest but was successfully brought into headquarters where he gave police a false identity. Further investigation de-

termined his true identity.  
 Friday, September 30, Angelo Chavez, 26, of Bloomfield was arrested for driving with a suspended license following a motor vehicle stop on Route 22.  
 Friday, September 30, Mia Flake, 26, of Scotch Plains was arrested on Route 22 for driving while intoxicated (DWI) following a motor vehicle stop. The subject was also cited for disorderly conduct and was transported to Muhlenberg Hospital from headquarters for suicidal behavior in the holding cell.  
 Saturday, October 1, a victim reported his vehicle was robbed while parked at Loews Theatre. The victim reported that the driver's-side door lock was broken and his wallet and cell phone were reported missing from the glove compartment.  
 Saturday, October 1, Anabela S. Jeronimo, 41, of Harrison was arrested while driving on Cornell Parkway for driving with a suspended license. She was also issued a summons for driving an uninsured vehicle.  
 Saturday, October 1, Hugo V. Dias, 19, of Harrison was arrested for outstanding warrants following a motor vehicle stop on Cornell Parkway.  
 Sunday, October 2, Pedro Castillo, 22, of Plainfield was arrested for DWI following a motor vehicle stop on Route 22.  
 Sunday, October 2, a victim reported that his vehicle was broken into while parked at Arirang Restaurant. The victim reported the driver's-side door lock was broken and items were removed from the trunk. Officers obtained a surveillance video from the restaurant and witnessed the individual rummaging through the vehicle. The incident is still under investigation.  
**Fanwood**  
 Wednesday, September 28, Lawrence F. Thomas, 51, of Plainfield was stopped for investigative purposes on Kings Street and Terrill Road and was later arrested on outstanding warrants.  
 Wednesday, September 28, David Richardson, 30, of Newark was arrested for outstanding warrants following an investigative stop.  
 Thursday, September 29, Cedric A. Smith, 38, of Jersey City was arrested for outstanding warrants following a motor vehicle stop.

**GOP Appeals Appellate Court McWilliams Reversal**

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
 Specially Written for The Westfield Leader  
**WESTFIELD**—The Union County Republican Committee has filed a challenge in the New Jersey Supreme Court to a three-judge appellate panel ruling on Monday that overturned a lower court's decision that Plainfield Mayor Al McWilliams cannot run for reelection as a Republican.  
 Mayor McWilliams, seeking a third term as mayor of Union County's third largest municipality, initially won his challenge before State Superior Court Judge Walter Barisonek, the Union County Assignment judge, last week.  
 The Appellate Court, which reviews superior court decisions, submitted its brief one-page decision Monday afternoon just four hours after the deadline for legal briefs from attorneys in the case.  
 Mr. McWilliams was dumped from the county Democratic organization line in May and was subsequently defeated by just 325 votes by Sharon M. Robinson-Briggs, a member of the city's board of education, who replaced the mayor on the regular Democratic line in the primary.  
 Republicans, led by attorneys Phil Morin and James Foerst, Union County GOP Chairman and Westfield town councilman, respectively, argued that Mr. McWilliams would be able to run for state assembly, county freeholder or even for Plainfield city council under state law.  
 They said state statute N.J.S.A. 19:13-14.1, otherwise known as the "sore loser law," discriminates against unaffiliated and Republican voters, representing 11,000 of the nearly 19,000 registered Plainfield voters. The GOP argued that the law only applies to independent candidates who might file as a candidate in November after losing a primary just to take votes away from major party candidates.  
 Mr. Foerst said the appellate ruling contained "no basis of fact, no analysis or discussion." He said the decision was no more than a summary judgment.  
 "I was surprised by the timing (of the decision)," Mr. Foerst said, noting the court only received legal briefs hours before its ruling.  
 Judge Barisonek, in his 19-page ruling handed down on September 29, found that the "state has failed to set forth a sufficient public policy justification for treating municipal elections differently than other governmental county and state officials."  
 Mr. Morin responded to Judge Barisonek's ruling by stating, "This was a victory for the citizens of Plainfield. They will now get the chance to vote for Mayor McWilliams, despite the Union County Democratic machine's last-ditch effort to deny the

voters a choice in November by filing an appeal and the County Clerk's blatantly partisan stance in opposing Mayor McWilliams candidacy."  
 "Regardless of the person or the party, one of the most basic principals of our society is access to the ballot both as a voter and a candidate. It is this fundamental right of citizenship that we should always strive to protect," Mr. Foerst said in responding to Judge Barisonek's decision.  
 Judge Barisonek's decision was appealed by the Union County Democratic Committee. The state attorney general's office along with the County of Union challenged Mayor McWilliams' filing as Republican mayoral candidate.  
 County Counsel Robert Barry said last week that the county would not be joining the Democratic Committee's appeal.  
 County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi rejected the GOP's request to place Mr. McWilliams on the GOP mayoral ballot, citing the "sore loser's" provision.  
 Calls to Robert Varady, a Union Township attorney representing the County Democratic Committee, and to Committee Chairwoman Charlotte DeFilippo, were not returned by press deadline.  
 In terms of the appellate court's decision, Mr. Foerst said the ruling contained "no basis of fact, no analysis or discussion." He said the decision was no more than a summary judgment.  
 "I was surprised by the timing (of the decision)," said Mr. Foerst, noting the court only received legal briefs hours before hand.  
 The Appellate Court gave Republicans until today, October 6, by 5 p.m. to file a new candidate for Plainfield mayor. The GOP's primary election winner, Cheryl Arana, dropped out of the race on September 13, citing personal reasons.

**Meisel**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1  
 pathways within county parkland.  
 Mr. Paterson took a shot at Freeholder Dan Sullivan for accruing 30,000 miles in his county, "taxpayer-supported" vehicle, a Ford Explorer, as published in a *Star-Ledger* report.  
 "That's amazing," Mr. Paterson said. "Thirty thousand miles is an awful lot." When he questioned whether corruption might be involved, Freeholder Chairman Rick Proctor said Mr. Paterson had crossed over the line of acceptable decorum when addressing the board.  
 Mr. Paterson apologized. However, Freeholder Chester Holmes responded, "An apology is not accepted when you make a statement like that."

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OUR 115th YEAR - ISSUE NO. 32-2005      USPS 680920      Periodical - Postage Paid at Westfield, N.J.      Thursday, A

**Mayor's Saturday Hours Prove Effective for Residents**

By BETSEY BURGENDORF  
 Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**WESTFIELD** — Mayor Andrew Skibitsky has opened his office door for the past few months on Saturday mornings to give residents an opportunity to talk with the mayor one-on-one in a venue much more personal than town council meetings.  
 Since the first Saturday he has met with approximately 10 residents each morning.  
 "I'm not sure I've ever  
 courts would be ready or an alternate plan was in place.  
 Mayor Skibitsky immediately placed a phone call to Town Administrator Jim Gildes, who stated that the courts were being repaired, not resurfaced and would be completed in the next two weeks.  
 "If the weather cooperates, it should be done in two weeks," Mayor Skibitsky added. "Lights and courts,  
 point being, we serve as an extraordinary ambassador for the city of Westfield."  
 Mr. Wroe stated the Westfield Symphony Orchestra would like the town to participate in an in-kind contribution by donating the police presence required when the orchestra performs in town to help with traffic, parking and the crossing of pedestrians attending the performances. In the past,

When he was sworn into office on June 21, Andy Skibitsky promised to make our local government more open, more accessible and more accountable.  
 He kept his promise.  
 In fact, every Saturday morning you can find Andy Skibitsky hosting meetings with local residents at Town Hall.  
 This gives residents an opportunity to talk to the Mayor and share their concerns on a time frame that fits their schedule.

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