



SHARING THE NEWS...Tom Sloan, left, of Westfield shares his copy of *The Westfield Leader* newspaper with a friendly passerby in Istanbul, Turkey two weeks ago. In turn, Mr. Sloan reads a Turkish newspaper from the gentleman, who was from Iran. They were sightseeing at the famous Blue Mosque, Istanbul's imperial Mosque of Sultan Ahmet I. Mr. Sloan is a security executive who travels the world after having retired from the Secret Service, where he was a personal bodyguard to Presidents from Richard Nixon to Bill Clinton.

## St. Bart's Church Prepares Festivities to Mark 60th Year

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

SCOTCH PLAINS - Next month, St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church will kick off a yearlong series of events and activities to mark the 60th year of its founding.

"It's the first in a series of events this year," said Joseph Duff, a parishioner involved in planning the celebrations that begin on June 10. He told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* he expects six to eight events to be held over the next 12 months to mark the parish's establishment on June 4, 1948.

"It will be a chance to bring back old-time members and also to pull in newer members," he said.

On Sunday, June 10, a special mass officiated by retired Bishop Dominick Marconi will be held at 10:30 a.m. at Park Middle School, where masses were celebrated in the parish's early days prior to the completion of its Westfield Avenue facility. Pending approval from township officials, a religious procession through the streets from the school to the church will follow, with participation of various organizations affiliated with the church. At noon, there will be a benediction and picnic on the church grounds.

St. Bartholomew's founding came after decades of effort. In 1914, the San Nicola DiBari Society purchased a small piece of land on Lyde Place on which it hoped to build a church, but the request was denied. In 1925, the same group bought the 6.5-acre tract on Westfield Avenue that encompasses much of the church's present day property. While the re-

quest to build a church at the time was denied, the society retained the land. In 1946, a group of residents sent an appeal to establish a parish to Archbishop Thomas Walsh of Newark.

Two years later, the residents received approval, and the parish was named after St. Bartholomew the Apostle. Shortly after the church's establishment, Rev. John Nelligan was appointed its first pastor. Masses were celebrated both at the high school, which is now Park Middle School, and at nearby School One on Willow Avenue. Presently, the church, led by Father John Paladino since 2005, counts about 2,400 families as congregants.

Father John Lester, a retired priest involved in planning some of the 60th anniversary events, told *The Times* that "a lot of things are being planned" to mark the church's founding, but most are still in the early stages of consideration. One event that will be used to mark the occasion will be the annual Labor Day weekend festival from August 31 through September 3.



St. Bartholomew the Apostle



IN AGREEMENT...Scotch Plains Council members, from left to right, Nancy Malool, Kevin Glover, and Jeffrey Strauss walk with Mayor Martin Marks (right) during the Memorial Day parade on Monday.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Fanwood

A business on South Avenue reported that, sometime between May 7 and 25, someone broke into a vehicle and stole a radio, DVD player and navigation system while the vehicle was parked on the premises awaiting repair.

Tuesday, May 22, Bryan P. Pitts, 50, of Stroudsburg, Pa. was arrested on an outstanding Union Township warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Tuesday, May 22, a resident of the 200 block of South Avenue reported that someone attempted to steal her identity and get a mortgage in her name.

Friday, May 25, Ryan E. Costanza, 26, of South Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding North Hunterdon warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road.

Friday, May 25, Shatoya S. Johnson, 20, of Maplewood was arrested on an outstanding Orange warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Saturday, May 26, Jevon W. Scott, 22, of Plainfield was arrested on outstanding warrants out of Newark and Plainfield after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Saturday, May 26, Betty A. Henderson, 47, of Plainfield was arrested on outstanding warrants out of Newark and Plainfield after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Saturday, May 26, a resident of Burns Way reported that someone attempted to fraudulently sell them an item worth \$1,400 on eBay, which already had been sold to another individual.

Sunday, May 27, Dennis A. Panzavecchia, 25, of Chatham was ar-

rested on an outstanding Westfield warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. He subsequently was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

### Scotch Plains

Wednesday, May 23, a resident of Hunter Avenue reported that someone stole four bicycles from his unlocked shed. The bicycles were valued at approximately \$650, police said.

Wednesday, May 23, Sabore Mitchell, 27, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with aggravated assault and resisting arrest after he allegedly attempted to flee police while being placed under arrest on an outstanding warrant. Mitchell was transported to the Union County jail, police said.

Friday, May 25, Bander Abuatieh, 24, of Brooklyn, N.Y. was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop for a violation.

Friday, May 25, Renee Moxey, 21, of East Orange was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop for a violation.

Friday, May 25, a resident of Glenside Avenue reported that while he was walking home, several males struck him several times with their fists.

Sunday, May 27, a resident of Tussell Lane reported that someone entered his car, which was parked in the street, and removed several items valued at approximately \$100.

Sunday, May 27, Edward Grunberg, 59, of Edison was arrested on a warrant after a motor vehicle stop for a violation.

## Primary Elections

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non-traditional Republican bases."

In response, Assemblyman Green said, "The unions are supporting me, and I stood up for the taxpayers of New Jersey. To use that as a reason to feel that I'm vulnerable, I really feel that he needs to talk to people in New Jersey."

The 21st legislative district, which includes Garwood, Mountainside and Westfield, does not contain a competitive Primary race for State Senate or General Assembly. Following the Primary, Republican incumbent Senator Tom Kean, Jr. of Westfield and Democrat Gina Genovesi, a Long Township committeewoman, will face off in November. Republican Assemblymen Eric Munoz and Jon Bramnick will face Democrats Bruce Bergen of Springfield and Norman Albert of Cranford in the Assembly race in November.

In additional legislative races, the Democratic Party will fill seats on the county Democratic Committee.

"Our seats are up this year, and we have candidates for the Democratic Committee, not in every district, but it's fairly covered," said Ken Lipstein, chairman of the Scotch Plains Democratic Committee.

Although the state legislature, as well as most Union County municipalities, has few competitive races in the primary, Roselle has a battle for the Democratic mayoral nomination between incumbent Garrett Smith and Fourth Ward Councilman Clarence Cunningham.

Mr. Cunningham, who said Roselle residents first believed Mayor Smith was the only Democratic candidate, is running to make changes.

"(The mayor) has shown no leadership in the borough. The mayor says things that he's done that are not taking place. He's done nothing for the borough except cost (it) numerous lawsuits...It's a fiasco," he said.

Mr. Cunningham said he has the endorsement of the fire department and the local policemen's benevolent association.

The Times was unable to reach Mayor Smith for comment.

Roselle also has a competitive Primary race for the Democratic seats of the three-year at-large council term and the Ward 4 council term.

Linden and Plainfield, both included in the 22nd legislative district, also have competitive races for Democratic slots on the November ballot. In Linden, there is competition in Wards 5, 7 and 10, while Plainfield has a race in Ward 2. The 22nd district includes Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Although the Union County Freeholders Primary was shaping up for a battle between two Democratic slates, the Reform Democrats, who planned to challenge the Democratic incumbents, failed to file before the 4 p.m. April 9 deadline.

Therefore, the Primary is a non-competitive race within each party. Incumbent Democrats Daniel Sullivan, Bette Jane Kowalski and Plainfield City Councilman Rayland Van Blake will face Republicans Patricia Quattrocchi, Wallace Shackell, Jr. and Robert Reilly in November. Mr. Van Blake replaces Freeholder Adrian Mapp, who was bounced from the party's line by the county's Democratic organization in his quest for a second term. Mr. Mapp was to have run on the Reform Democrats' line.

In the 20th legislative district, which includes Elizabeth, Kenilworth, Roselle and Union, incumbent Democrat Senator Ray Lesniak and Republican Linda Gagliano, a member of the Union Township Board of Education, are unopposed for their respective parties in the Primary. Although Assem-

blymen Neil Cohen and Joe Cryan are officially registered as the Democratic General Assembly candidates, the Republican slots remain open. Mr. Morin said the GOP committee had not formally endorsed anyone for a write-in campaign as of May 25.

Hillside voters will decide the second-ward runoff contest between incumbent Deborah Stroud and Shelly Bates because the May 8 election winner did not receive 50 percent of the total vote, as the Hillside government requires. Hillside has a non-partisan type of government.

In municipal races in November, the Westfield Town Council will have a competitive race between Republicans Frank Arena (first ward), Jo Ann Neylan (second ward), Mark Ciarrocca (third ward) and Jim Foerst (fourth ward) and Democrats Ross Katz (first ward), Bruce Regenstreich (second ward), Matt Sontz (third ward) and Lenore Scurry (fourth ward). The Republicans are all incumbents, with the exception of Mr. Arena, who is seeking the seat held by Republican Peter Echausse, who is not running for re-election.

Fanwood voters will decide a race between first-term Mayor Colleen Mahr, a Democrat, and Republican Patricia Lindsey, the wife of former councilman Chester Lindsey. Running with Mayor Mahr are incumbents Katherine Mitchell and Joseph Higgins. They face opposition from Republicans Janek Anthony Skutnick and Joel Stroz. Democrats hold a 6-0 majority on the council.

In Mountainside, Mayor Robert Vigilanti is unopposed in the Primary and in the General Election for a sixth, four-year term. Borough Councilman Glenn Mortimer is seeking re-election. He is joined on the ticket by newcomer Jeff Wass, who will replace 25-year veteran Councilman Werner Schon, who is not seeking re-election. No Democrats have filed for mayor or council.

In Garwood, incumbent Democrat Councilman Charles Lombardo will run for a council seat with newcomer Stephen Napolitano, a partner in a Springfield accounting firm, a member of the borough's planning board and treasurer of the borough's recreation commission.

They will face off against Republicans Anthony Sytko, a law student who came within 25 tallies of winning a council seat in 2004, and Dennis Clark, a supervisor/dispatcher for a medical courier in South Plainfield. Mr. Clark ran unsuccessfully for council last year. Republican incumbent Victor DeFillippo is not seeking a second term.

Clark, Elizabeth, Rahway and Scotch Plains do not have municipal elections this year.

Of all registered voters affiliated with a party, 20.82 percent turned out to vote in last year's June Primary, according to the Union County Clerk's website. A total of 16.96 percent of Republican affiliates voted, while 22.55 percent of Democratic affiliates voted.

## Memorial Day Parade

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loved ones at home who are at war, continuing to make the aforementioned sacrifices while the rest of us continue to live our everyday lives."

Mayor Marks asked residents to "join our brave men and women abroad in making a sacrifice." He said websites such as vfw.org and legion.org provide "many wonderful ways to make a sacrifice of your time and/or dollars," including writing let-

ters of support to the troops, donating blood, volunteering at a Veterans Administration (VA) hospital, donating to scholarship funds for children of fallen soldiers and organizing special prayers at houses of worship.

After Mayor Marks' remarks, multiple local veterans and civic groups presented wreaths, and a Marine Corps Band member played "Taps." The parade, whose theme was "Semper Parati - A Special Salute to the United States Marine Corps," stepped off shortly before 11 a.m., with the Marine Band playing "The Marine Corps Hymn," which speaks of fighting the nation's battles "from the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli." The sidewalks were packed with parade watchers, who applauded the Marine Band as it passed by and still had enthusiasm left over to applaud marchers from local civic organizations, veterans groups, schools, sports leagues and other clubs and groups.

Earlier in the morning, a brief ceremony, including the presentation of a wreath, was held at American Legion Post No. 209 in Scotch Plains followed by a ceremony attended by dozens of residents at the Fanwood Memorial Library, where Mayor Mahr spoke and Pastor Kevin Brennan of Evangel Church offered prayers.

## SP-F Board of Education

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with a budget. "We had to find a hotel that gave us a free breakfast because of our budget," she said.

Ashley said that the project helped to improve her research skills. "Researching and finding the information was a lot of fun, and I'm glad that we got to do this," she said.

"Usually when my family is planning a trip, I'm just there; now I think I could take a part in it and have an opinion." Harmeet replied when asked by board member Jane Costello if their experience would impact future family vacations.

"One thing I saw was the pride in your teacher's face when each of you was speaking," BOE President Trip Whitehouse told the students. "If I should ever go to Spain, I know of five people I will be looking up."

In other board news, Superintendent of Schools Margaret Hayes said that the middle schools would have eight periods one day a week and seven periods for the rest of the week. The extra period would give students the opportunity to participate with teachers in an "advisory period" in which they will work on developing team-building and real-life skills, as well as "enthusiasm for being a middle-school student," Ms. Hayes said.

"It will build connections between students and teachers," said board member Sasha Slocum.

While the eight-period day has been set to occur just once a week for now, Ms. Hayes said the board is taking a "slow approach" toward establishing any additional eight-period days.



Jessica Jaskula for *The Times*  
PLANNING A TRIP...Five eighth-grade students from Park Middle School attended last Thursday's board of education meeting to explain their class project - planning an imaginary trip to Spain. Pictured, from left to right, are: Linda Materna, supervisor of world languages; Ashley Romans, Harmeet Sohal, Spanish teacher Meina Montalbano, Brianna Mahoney, Stephanie Robak and Beverly Zayas.

"We will evaluate and move forward in terms of where it takes us the following year," she said when asked about whether the eight-period day would extend to the rest of the week. Regular school hours will not be affected.

In her report from the curriculum committee, Ms. Slocum said that she was "happy to hear" that the gender gap in math and science classes has decreased.

Additionally, the board approved new math and science textbooks for the 2007-2008 school year, including "Science Modules" (McDougal-Littell, publisher) for middle-school science, "Forensic Science" (Kendall Hunt, publisher) for high-school science and "Precalculus" (Pearson/Prentice Hall, publisher) for high-school mathematics.

The board also passed a bid to award the J. Ackerman Coles School roofing project to East Rutherford Roofing Company, Inc., the only bidder, for \$268,750. With the conclusion of this repair, the roof work at Coles School will be complete.

Upcoming meetings for the BOE will be held on Thursday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m. (open agenda meeting); Monday, June 11, at 7 p.m. (student recognition) and Thursday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m. (regular public meeting).

## Union County Freeholders

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and Mountainside, \$95, a \$6 increase. Mountainside's open-space tax is the highest in the county after Summit, which will pay \$139 per household.

"It's a tough process," Mr. Mirabella said of the development of the annual county budget. "We are doing the best we can to provide the services to our residents."

Freeholder Dan Sullivan said municipalities throughout the county are "struggling" with budgets due to such expenditures as rising healthcare costs and employee pensions.

Mr. Sullivan called the effort by county officials to garner the \$800,000 reimbursement from Blue Cross and Blue Shield "an outstanding contribution."

County Manager George Devanney said the 2007 budget includes the reduction of 50 positions from the county payroll. He said collective-bargaining units have continued to agree to new contracts with no increases in the first two years in exchange for lifetime health benefits.

"They [the contracts] provide long-time savings for the county," Mr. Devanney said.

The county manager said the budget "fully funds" Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights, which has been running on a "multi-million deficit." He also noted that the budget includes educational opportunities at Union County College and the Vocational-Technical Schools in Scotch Plains as well as public-safety initiatives.

He said the state renewed the county-shared services grant for three years at \$300,000. Mr. Devanney de-

scribed a conference held on shared services with municipalities as "a very good, enlightening process which produced some good results" for now and the future.

During the public hearing on the budget, Bruce Paterson of Garwood spoke of what he deemed "financial mismanagement" at the county level. "County taxes are skyrocketing out of control," Mr. Paterson told the board.

He said the county should eliminate retroactive raises for department heads as well as lifetime health benefits in collective-bargaining agreements.

"There is no future. The future is here and now," Mr. Paterson said. He called the efforts to regain control of escrow monies a step "in the right direction."

"Unfortunately, you voted for the budget, and that is sad," Mr. Paterson said.

Tina Renna, president of the Union County Watchdog Association, said the county is "out of control" and that "money is being misappropriated."

"You could literally cut the payroll in half and no one would even blink," Mrs. Renna said.

Maryellen Taylor of Berkeley Heights said there are residents of her town who have moved from township to county employment and received "\$30,000 raises." She said county jobs "should be open to the public."

Both the budget and the measure to use the monies held in escrow passed by a 7-0-1 margin; Deborah Scanlon was absent and Adrian Mapp abstained from voting.



TRAVELING MEMORIAL...These Armed Forces veterans review names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall at Liberty Hall Museum in Union on May 17. The wall is one of two half-size replicas of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.