



NEW CRANFORD MAYOR...Cranford Committee member Robert Puhak takes the oath of office as mayor of the township committee for 2008. His wife, Lori, and their family accompany him. State Senator Thomas Kean, Jr. (LD-21, Westfield) administered the oath of office. See story on page 2.

SP Council Reorganizes

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believed that the council "will continue to work admirably in a bipartisan manner" on finding a successor to Mr. Atkins, as well as on other initiatives, adding that, "if it is not done unanimously, quite frankly, who cares?"

He said township residents "are astute enough to see through the unnecessary politicization of issues."

Addressing other issues, the mayor said he hoped "to see the township council take definitive action" this year on establishing a SID in the downtown business area. On January 28, the council will hold a meeting for downtown business and property owners to discuss the particulars of a SID.

Last month, the mayor said "a lot of the legwork" on the parameters and financing of a SID had been done in 2003-2004 when a steering committee formulated "many" of those details. The 2004 council voted down a SID ordinance in the face of opposition from downtown business and property owners.

The mayor called planned renovations to the two firehouses "one of the more important capital projects that will need to move forward" this year. In November, the council approved a \$5,000 professional services resolution for preliminary architectural services for improvements to the two facilities, which are located at the corner of Martine Avenue and Raritan

FW Council

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company to supervise upcoming shared-services meetings with Scotch Plains and the board of education (they will next meet January 18) and approved a change order to install bumpers around the fence-enclosed trash-collection zone behind downtown businesses along Martine Avenue.

The governing body dually honored Russell Wells, who was lauded for his service on the recreation commission and as the borough's volunteer of the month. In December, Mr. Wells stepped down after serving for a dozen years on the commission.

"I really did enjoy the 12 years," Mr. Wells said. "It wasn't just me; there were a lot of people on the commission and in the community [who] got a lot done...for the children and the people of Fanwood."

Recreation Director Bob Budiansky said Mr. Wells' departure "is a loss for the commission," but, he said, "I think we're all grateful for the years of your service."

Recreation Chairperson Pam Sayles, noting that Phyllis Mirabella also left the commission last month, added, "I hope we can get some more volunteers as good as you; we're recruiting."

Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell announced that the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Service takes place this Sunday evening at 7 p.m. at St. John's Baptist Church in Scotch Plains.

"You will leave reinvigorated and reenergized," she said, encouraging residents to attend.



LEADER OF THE (GOP) PACK...Senator Tom Kean Jr. of Westfield sits in his new seat as Senate Minority Leader with his family - from left to right, wife Rhonda and daughters Meredith and Elizabeth. Mr. Kean was sworn in to his new post during swearing-in ceremonies of the 213th State Legislature on Tuesday.

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MAYOR reMARKS

Setting Objectives for '08 In New Year's Address

By Mayor Martin Marks, Scotch Plains

The following is an excerpt from Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks's New Year's address.

I find it hard to believe that this is my twelfth reorganization meeting on the Scotch Plains Township Council and the ninth time I am delivering the mayor's New Year's address. When I think back to the first time I was sworn in as a councilman, I was joined at the microphone by my family, and my wife Lori had to hold our son Jeffrey in her arms. I have that picture prominently displayed in the mayor's office upstairs. Now, I imagine that my son could easily hold either of his parents in his arms.

It has been my custom to take a look back on the year just completed as this will make a natural transition to looking ahead. Early in 2007, we held a rather contentious public hearing on new parking regulations for residential streets near the High School. Emerging from that meeting, we were resolved to work with the School District and Fanwood Borough officials to devise a plan that would accommodate students need-

Scotch Plains Tells Appointments for 2008

Editor's Note: The following are Scotch Plains municipal appointments announced during the Scotch Plains Township Council reorganization meeting on January 2.

Township Attorney, Brian Levine, Assistant Township Attorney, Lawrence Woodruff; Municipal Prosecutor, Thomas Russo; Alternate Municipal Prosecutor, Robert Pansulla; Public Defender, Casey Woodruff; Alternate Public Defender, Matt Dorsi; planning board, Paulette Coronato, Robert LaCosta and Jeffrey Strauss (all one-year appointments), and Craig Clark (alternate member, two years).

Zoning board of adjustment; Chris Abeel (four years) and James Pate (one year) Mary DePaola (first alternate, one year) Susan Dinan (second alternate, two years); Construction Board of Appeals, Bruce Bond (four years); Ralph Checchio, (four years); and recreation commission, Carol Clancy (five years).

Council Liaisons: Jeffrey Strauss, recreation commission; Kevin Glover, Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education; Nancy Malool, PTA Council; Paulette Coronato, senior citizen advisory committee; Kevin Glover, technology advisory committee; ethics review board, Philip Schick and Kathleen McMahon (five years), and Scotch Plains Library Board of Trustees, Jeffrey Noon (three years).

SP Council Discusses Deer

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similar programs in the past two years, and at Tuesday night's council conference meeting, Mayor Martin Marks said statistics have left him with "no doubt" that the program was achieving its goals of reducing the herd.

He said that in 2006-2007, the firm removed 61 deer carcasses from township streets; the figure for the 2002-2005 years was more than 380. The program, involving the use of sharpshooters in the reservation, seeks to reduce the deer herd from the more-than-100 per square mile in late 2005 to about 20 per square mile. The mayor said he would like Union County officials to conduct a new census this year so results of the deer-reduction efforts could be accurately measured.

At its January 22 conference meeting, the council will hear from Joan Papan, the township's representative

to the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA), about a \$371,000 credit that Scotch Plains will receive from RVSA this year. The credit is part of an insurance payout to the RVSA stemming from a fire at its Linden facility a number of years ago. The RVSA is distributing the multi-million-dollar payout to the utility's 11 member towns.

The credit will reduce this year's initially expected fee increase of about \$450,000, Township Manager Thomas Atkins told the council. The RVSA nears completion of a court-ordered multi-million-dollar facilities upgrade that was financed by "steep" annual fee increases for its member towns. Mr. Atkins said the 2009 fee increase would again be large. With the upgrade to be finished by the end of this year, the "large" fee increases are expected to level off starting in 2010, he said.

Last month, the township received notification that it would receive a \$135,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation to fund this year for roadwork on sections of Deer Path and Glenside Avenue.

With the search under way for a successor to Mr. Atkins, who will retire this summer, the council on Tuesday privately interviewed two firms specializing in the recruitment of local government administrators. Government Management Advisors LLC of East Brunswick, headed by Greg Feherenbach, is a former town administrator in Piscataway, East Brunswick, New Brunswick and Sussex County and former manager in Ocean Township and Lakewood, Jersey Professional Management, a management consulting firm in Cranford, has provided assistance in the shared-services efforts between Scotch Plains, Fanwood and the board of education since 2000.

B&B App.

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ation to the application. Mr. Fawcett suggested that the applicant speak with bed-and-breakfast owners in the area and "pick their brains" to learn of their own experiences in setting up their operations.

At the beginning of its meeting, the zoning board welcomed two new members - Mary DePaola, who will serve as an alternate for 2008, and Susan Dinan, appointed as an alternate for 2008 and 2009. The board re-elected Mr. Fawcett its chairman for 2008 and chose Mr. Anderson as vice chairman and Mr. Loughlin as board attorney.

ing to drive to school without burdening residential neighborhoods with what had become a rather intrusive and at times dangerous approach to student parking. The level of cooperation between all parties concerned was heartening, and the new approach appears to be working satisfactorily.

We continue to make great strides with our parks and playgrounds. The soccer and baseball fields at the Vo-Tech on Raritan Road are complete. By spring, we will also be playing baseball and softball at this site, and they will be the first fields in Scotch Plains where night play under the lights will be available. Other recreation projects completed in 2007 and ready for spring 2008 play were renovations to the little league field on the north side of Route 22 and the expansion of Jerseyland Park.

Also under the auspices of our Recreation Department is the initiative to bring a new and much deserved Senior/Community Center to Scotch Plains. We have seen the first conceptual renderings and begun the preliminary engineering analysis for this project, and we will continue to give you updates as the process continues in 2008.

The construction and renovations to our Municipal Building are coming to a close. The exterior changes are essentially finished. Finishing touches are being administered to the interior work that has primarily involved expansion above our police department. We appreciate the patience of our residents, and especially our employees who were inconvenienced by the prolonged construction. The project will be completed within the budget framework we originally established.

In 2007 the Borough of Fanwood and the Township of Scotch Plains were jointly awarded a State Share Grant of almost \$150,000 to perform a feasibility study to explore the prospects of a new joint library for our communities. The next major goal is to find a suitable location for a new state of the art library that can fulfill the established needs and desires of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

The council will schedule multiple budget meetings to discuss and debate the 2008 executive budget currently being prepared by Mr. Thomas Atkins. As with every year, the Council will have to come to terms with the fact that the lion's share of our spending is non-discretionary, if not mandated by higher levels of government.

One of the more important capital projects that will need to move forward is work on our two firehouses. While work on the firehouses is not necessarily critical from a personal safety perspective, these capital improvements will go a long way in protecting these structures from unwanted deterioration, and give our volunteers more accommodating facilities.

The big recreation project for 2008 will be the Southside Field renovation project. We should be out to bid soon and construction underway in the coming weeks. With a little cooperation from the weather, we are hopeful to see our youngsters enjoying a new state of the art synthetic field in the fall. Additionally, we should see the construction of new soccer fields at the County property known as Ponderosa off Cooper Road underway in 2008.

Within the next couple of weeks, the Township Council will be hiring a new station manager for Scotch Plains Television Channel 34. Having a municipally employed station manager who will answer directly to the Township Council will go a long way toward making our station a real source of information, entertainment, and pride. The municipality will reap financial benefit not only from agreements previously reached with Comcast, but now also with Verizon as they begin to provide cable service to our residents.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize those that truly make Scotch Plains municipal government work the way it does. The five individuals seated at this dais may be the face of the government, but it is our employees, appointed staff, and the volunteers we will be appointing in just a few short minutes who are the ones truly responsible for making Scotch Plains the envy of other communities and such a desirable place to live, work, and raise a family. I look forward to working with them in 2008. I wish them and all Scotch Plains residents a healthy and prosperous 2008.



OUR NEW DIGS...Zambian refugees are completely outfitted in the sneakers, shorts and jerseys they received this year through donations from Westfield families, the Westfield Soccer Association and surrounding towns. The Regenstreich family - whose son, Andrew, is in Africa working at a refugee camp - started the drive after Andrew sent a letter requesting some equipment.



FATALITY...Westfield Police are on the accident scene at North Avenue near Fourth Avenue Friday morning at 7 a.m., where an eastbound vehicle struck and killed a pedestrian crossing the street.

Car Strikes, Kills Area Man On North Ave. in Westfield

By SUZETTE F. STALKER
Specialty Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WESTFIELD - A Plainfield man has died of injuries he sustained when he was struck by a car traveling eastbound early Friday on North Avenue near 4th Avenue in Westfield.

Captain Clifford Auchter of the Westfield Police Department told The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times Friday afternoon that Stanley Jackson, 57, was struck at 7:03 a.m. by a 2006 Mercedes Benz as he attempted to cross from the north side of North Avenue.

He said Mr. Jackson, an employee of Atlantic Plumbing at 526 North Avenue, East, had been attempting to cross the street to his workplace from a parking lot that company employees use on the north side of North Avenue. According to Captain Auchter, it was not known whether Mr. Jackson was in the crosswalk when the accident occurred.

The captain said Mr. Jackson had been "admitted to University Hospital in Newark in critical condition."

The driver of the Mercedes Benz, identified as Adela La Farga, 57, of Scotch Plains, was not injured. Captain Auchter said the police department had not issued any summonses to her. He said the accident remains under investigation.

The accident occurred near the scenes of two other traffic fatalities that occurred in Westfield during the past four years. In August 2006, an 82-year-old Westfield resident was killed when a car struck her as she attempted to cross North Avenue, East, between Central Avenue and Elmer Street.

In December 2003, a 58-year-old Mountaintop pedestrian was fatally injured when a car struck her as she crossed North Avenue, East, near Hillcrest Avenue.

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Sunday, December 2, police report multiple cases of windows being broken on automobiles between December 2 and December 30. The incidents involved front, back and side windows, as well as side-view mirrors.

There was one incident December 2 at Westfield High School, one December 9 on Myrtle Avenue, one December 20 on Kimball Avenue, five December 24, including one each on Everston Place, Westfield Avenue and Columbus Avenue and two on Grandview Avenue, one December 29 on North Avenue, West, and one December 30 on Barchester Way.

Additionally, police received reports of thefts from cars between December 10 and January 3. The incidents occurred at Delaware Street/Boynton Avenue, Tamaques Park, a municipal lot on Central Avenue and at a Clark Street facility.

Sunday, December 23, Javier Sanchez-Mariscal, 28, of North Plainfield was arrested on a Westfield motor-vehicle warrant at the Scotch Plains Police Department. He was released after posting \$760 bail.

Wednesday, December 26, Teresa Angelo, 36, of North Plainfield was arrested on Orchard Street on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant. She was released after posting \$175 bail.

Thursday, December 27, Farid Ali, 31, of Piscataway was arrested during a motor-vehicle stop on the 700 block of North Avenue, West, on an outstanding East Orange traffic warrant. He was released after posting \$387 bail.

Thursday, December 27, Cliff Navarro, 23, of Elizabeth was arrested during a motor-vehicle stop at West Broad and Pierson Streets on five outstanding motor-vehicle warrants and for hindering apprehension.

The warrants were from Watchung, \$1,700 bail; Scotch Plains, \$600 bail; Cranford, \$500 bail; Piscataway, \$500 bail, and Kenilworth, \$300 bail.

Navarro was charged with hindering apprehension for allegedly giving police a false name and date of birth. Bail was set at \$750. Navarro posted bail on all the warrants and the Westfield charge and was released.

Sunday, December 30, a resident of Barchester Way reported that the driver's side window on her motor vehicle was broken while the vehicle was parked in front of her house.

Wednesday, January 2, Steven Jaume, 33, of Warren was arrested on Springfield Avenue and charged with possession of anabolic steroids and possession of hypodermic needles. He was released on his own recognizance with a summons.

Wednesday, January 2, Brian J. Rosener, 18, of Linden and Jeffrey L. Meierdierck, 20, of Westfield were arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana following a motor-vehicle stop at South and Windsor Avenues. Both men were released on their own recognizance with summonses.

Wednesday, January 2, Alexandra J. McMahon, 21, of Westfield was arrested following a motor-vehicle stop on Scotch Plains Avenue and West Broad Street and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Further invest-

igation resulted in an additional charge of possession of cocaine. She was released on her own recognizance with summonses.

Thursday, January 3, Christopher Viciano, 19, of Elizabeth was arrested on an outstanding New Brunswick criminal warrant with \$816 bail following a police investigation on the 300 block of Connecticut Street. He was turned over to the New Brunswick Police Department.

Friday, January 4, Nancy Davis, 43, of Westfield was arrested on three outstanding Westfield traffic warrants, with a total bail of \$165, following a motor-vehicle stop on the 600 block of North Avenue, West. She was released after posting bail.

Friday, January 4, Andrew Garrison, 22, of Westfield was arrested during a motor-vehicle stop at Boulevard and Park Street on an active Westfield traffic warrant. He posted \$1,000 bail and was released pending a court date.

Saturday, January 5, Jim Dallas, 52, of Westfield was arrested on the 1000 block of Central Avenue on a Westfield criminal warrant. He posted \$2,500 bond and was released, with a court date to be set.

Garwood
Friday, January 4, David K. Folger, 49, of Tiverton, R.I., was arrested on the 100 block of North Avenue at the Cranford township line after police observed him allegedly driving his vehicle in an erratic manner. After stopping him, police determined Folger was intoxicated.

He was charged with driving under the influence, careless driving, failure to keep right and failure to exhibit a valid vehicle-registration card. He was released to a friend pending a municipal-court appearance.

Scotch Plains
Monday, December 31, an employee at a Mountain Avenue business reported that unknown suspects spray-painted graffiti on the back door of the business.

Thursday, January 3, Michael Brown, 24, of Morristown was arrested for obstruction of justice after police responded to a report of a disturbance on East Second Street. According to police, officers attempted to speak to Brown and he tried to flee before being apprehended. He was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and released on bail, police said.

Thursday, January 3, a resident of Raritan Road reported that someone broke the rear window of his motor vehicle.

Thursday, January 3, a resident of Lamberts Mill Road reported that his neighbor yelled at him on several occasions for no apparent reason.

Friday, January 4, a student at the Union County Magnet School on Raritan Road reported that someone entered his locker and removed his cell phone valued at approximately \$400.

Friday, January 4, a student at Union Catholic High School on Martine Avenue reported that someone entered his motor vehicle and removed his iPhone and GPS (Global Positioning System) valued at \$800.

Sunday, January 6, a customer at a Park Avenue business reported that the owner yelled obscenities at her after they got into an argument about the pricing of an item.

Fanwood
Wednesday, January 2, Joseph B. Franks, 21, of Allentown was arrested on outstanding Newark and Princeton warrants after a field investigation.

Thursday, January 3, Amirah J. Brack, 21, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Mountaintop warrant after a motor-vehicle stop on Terrill Road.

Friday, January 4, Alexander M. Acuna, 24, of Elmwood Park was arrested on an outstanding Paterson warrant after a field investigation on Arlene Court.

Friday, January 4, a resident of Kyte Place reported that someone entered his motor vehicle while it was parked in the street and removed \$4.

Saturday, January 5, someone entered a Gere Place resident's motor vehicle sometime between the hours of 10 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday and removed \$40. The vehicle was parked unlocked in the street at the time.

Saturday, January 5, Renata Alford, 27, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Newark warrant after a motor-vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Monday, January 7, Marie E. Edmond, 53, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding Raritan Borough warrant after a motor-vehicle stop.