



Beth Budnick for The Westfield Leader

U.S.-MADE ENERGY NEEDED...Republican State Senator and Seventh Congressional District candidate Leonard Lance addresses the media and supporters at a press conference on rising gasoline prices held Tuesday at a Sunoco gas station in Cranford. At left is GOP U.S. Senate candidate Richard Zimmer.

Zimmer, Lance Support More U.S.-Made Energy

By BETH BUDNICK
Specialty Writer for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — Republican United States Senate candidate Richard Zimmer and Republican State Senator and Seventh Congressional District candidate Leonard Lance met at the Sunoco Station in Cranford on Centennial Avenue

WF Council

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promote sidewalk replacement and be pedestrian-friendly. We wanted people to still have the ability to take advantage of the program, which will help them get a better price."

When asked if the policy change may cause individuals to forego using the town for replacement projects, Mr. Gildea said he "would not be surprised if they chose not to work with the town and do it on their own. If that's the case, it's less money we have to budget."

Mr. Gildea told *The Leader* that there will not be "immediate savings" from the change in policy; however, he explained that it would save the town future debt service for capital improvements.

Sharon Stockwell, representing WECARE (Westfielders Concerned About Responsible Development), asked at the meeting if any "serious consideration" had been given to the group's suggestion to establish a vacant building registry as a way to generate revenue.

She had suggested, earlier this year, that the town create an ordinance that, among its functions, would define the term "vacant building" and establish a permit process for registering such buildings with the town. Mr. Foerst responded to Ms. Stockwell that her suggestion would be considered in due time but remains item 16 of 19 on the Code Review and Town Property Committee's agenda.

Scotch Plains Dems Name Mullen to Replace Samuel

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specialty Writer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — Township Democrats last week selected attorney Theresa Mullen to replace Richard Samuel as the party's candidate for township council in this fall's municipal election.

Ms. Mullen will face Republican Mary DePaola for the council seat, currently held by two-term Republican Paulette Coronato, who chose not to seek re-election.

Mr. Samuel quit the race late last month, citing personal time constraints and a desire to be involved with the presidential and congressional campaigns.

Township Clerk Barbara Riepe confirmed that Ms. Mullen filed her candidacy paperwork with the Union County Clerk's Office.

Ms. Mullen told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* this week that she has been active in the local Democratic Party since moving to Scotch Plains five years ago, and has been a committee representative for the 14th District for the past



Theresa Mullen

few years. She and her husband, Scott Phillips, a captain in the Kenilworth Police Department, have three young children. "I really am committed to running a positive campaign," she told *The Times*.

Ms. Mullen has practiced as a trial lawyer in New Jersey for 14 years and is an officer of the Union County Bar Association, and presently the co-chairperson of the county bar's Civil Practice Committee. She was also a member of the Scotch Plains Memorial Day Committee.

The mayoral race is headed by Councilman Kevin Glover for Democrats and Deputy Mayor Nancy Malool for the Republicans.

"I'm delighted to be running on the ticket with Councilman Kevin Glover for Mayor," Ms. Mullen said in a statement last week. "I support his pledge, and commitment to holding local government accountable for its spending and for stabilizing taxes. I truly believe we can make Scotch Plains even better. It's time for change, it's time to chart a new course, we can do better, we will do better."

Garwood Borough Council

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Ms. Villaggio said. Ms. Villaggio said that the borough would adjust residents' tax bills in their fourth quarter bills. Ms. Villaggio also said that the council would hold a new public hearing on the amended portions of the budget at a later meeting.

During the council's workshop session, Gene Jannotti, co-owner of Unique Cruise and Travel on Center Street in the borough, addressed the council regarding an issue with the concrete gabion on the property.

Mr. Jannotti said the gabion at the site is "sagging and bulging out," which he believes is leading to erosion and creates a public safety issue.

"The gabion is moving, sagging, shifting, bulging in that area," Mr. Jannotti said. "That can only lead to more serious problems."

Mr. Jannotti previously addressed the council during the June 24 meeting about the erosion of his parking lot due to the Garwood Brook. Mr. Jannotti said that gabion is contributing to erosion since it is lower than the soil level. Mr. Jannotti produced pictures of the site for the council and said he has had two independent engineers inspect the property.

"By building the gabion lower than the soil, it created the embankment," Mr. Jannotti said.

Councilman Keith Sluka offered to inspect the site to see the problem first hand.

Borough engineer Don Guarriello said that his opinion of the problem has not changed, since he still feels the ultimate issue causing the erosion is the elevation of the parking lot and the lack of curbing.

"You can't build a parking lot a foot and a half above something with nothing to hold it in place," Mr. Guarriello said.

During the open comment portion of the meeting, Charles Lombardo, a former councilman and current vice-chairman of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority, delivered a report to the council. During his report, Ms. Villaggio asked Mr. Lombardo if the borough's anticipated payment to the RVSA would lessen in 2009 due to lower water usage in the borough. Mr. Lombardo said that although there would still be an increase, the percentage increase would likely be lower.

"I think right now we will see a slight decrease in our anticipated budget for 2009," Mr. Lombardo said.

In other business, the council approved an ordinance charging a fee of \$175 for the solemnization of marriages and civil unions. The borough also introduced an ordinance relating to the defined contribution retirement program. The council will hold a public hearing on this ordinance during its Tuesday, August 12 meeting.

COAH Changes Met With Local Officials' Opposition

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the number of towns currently entered into a RCA is relatively small.

"The 2.5 percent commercial development fee pays for a fraction of the housing that COAH is projecting will be generated by commercial development," said Mr. Cerra. "Without the state identifying different funding sources, we can only draw the conclusion that local taxpayers will be asked to make up the difference."

Democrat Colleen Mahr, mayor of Fanwood and president of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors, said one of her main objections to the restrictions was the 2.5 percent cap placed on commercial development.

"I think it will put a tremendous burden on the municipalities, which will translate into more money that we will have to spend, which could result in higher property taxes to meet the mandated obligations," Mayor Mahr said.

Fanwood and other municipalities will join the League of Municipalities in its lawsuit to legally challenge the legislation. The League of Municipalities also ob-

jects to the creation of the State Housing Commission.

"We (League of Municipalities) honestly don't think the way to streamline and improve affordable housing policy is to create additional bureaucracy," Mr. Cerra said.

According to Mr. Foerst, the creation of the new "bureaucracy" is another example of how the state "ties our hands, takes our money, [and] allocates it as they see fit."

"They're (the state) now taking our money, and they may give it to somebody else in our region who we're forbidden to work with," Mr. Foerst said. "It really penalizes all of the local governments."

In a June 29 *Star-Ledger* article, Senator Ray Lesniak (LD-20, Elizabeth), a prime sponsor of the bill, said, "I don't think the municipalities have anything to worry about, if anything, they'll have more funds. It will be a more comprehensive one-stop-shopping approach for affordable-housing dollars."

Michael Pollack contributed to this article.

Residents Sue Board Over 'Gatehouse' Decision

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ated in the late 1920's as a fantasy-come-true development." It notes the "unique" entrance to Wychwood created by the location of the two "Gatehouse" properties which sit across the street from each other on the northern section of their lots." The lawsuit states that the Gatehouse "form a symmetrical, unique and historic entry way into the Wychwood area."

Planning Board Attorney Russell Finestien, in filing a legal response to the lawsuit, said the board "denies the allegations" of historic significance of the property and the Gatehouses.

According to the lawsuit, "The applicant seeks to subdivide the lot of the smaller Gatehouse and build a new, larger structure in what is now the open area in front of it, essentially obscuring the smaller Gatehouse from the view as you enter Wychwood."

The board denied this allegation in its legal response, stating, "The defendant asserts that the smaller Gatehouse cannot be

viewed under conditions as one enters Wychwood, and accordingly, deny the allegations."

The lawsuit contends that the new home is "twice the size of the smaller Gatehouse." The planning board said it "neither admits nor denies" that allegation.

The plaintiffs charged in the lawsuit that the board "trivialized the historical significance of the existing Gatehouses in favor of the economic interest of the applicant."

Mr. Fitzpatrick said the case focuses on the zoning code. "The town made a decision and the planning board followed it."

"You're going to destroy that entryway into Wychwood by putting a house on that lot. It was not designed for that. It was not intended for that," Mr. Fitzpatrick said.

Ms. Jester called the proposed subdivision "self-serving and offensive."

The plaintiffs are seeking reimbursement for the cost of the suit, including "reasonable attorney fees."

Clark Parkway Circle Project Nears Completion

By KATIE ROGERS
Specialty Writer for The Westfield Leader

CLARK — The eight-month-long project of renovating the traffic circle off Garden State Parkway exit 135 is nearly complete, leaving locals questioning its success.

The renovation added four traffic lights to the circle to ease confusion and regulate traffic flow, as well as a connector road for drivers through the middle of the circle itself.

The northbound exit ramps have been widened, and line striping has been added to control lanes. The project is set to be complete by July 15, and its cost tops out at \$4,289,000.

Joe Orlando, spokesman for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, said construction began at the circle to help alleviate what he called a "traffic nightmare."

"I can't think of too many areas that were as maligned as the Clark circle," Mr. Orlando said. "We received a lot of hate mail about that area."

He said since the construction has been underway and the new traffic pattern has become operational, these reactions have been countered.

"I think the best type of feedback is no negative feedback," Mr. Orlando said. "The hate mail has stopped. Some said construction was causing backups, but I think people are generally satisfied."

Westfield town councilman Mark Ciarrocca, chairman of the council's public safety, transportation and parking commission, said he believes the project's effects cannot be seen until sometime after Labor Day.

"Traffic is typically lighter in the summer," Mr. Ciarrocca said. "The proof will be when it's not summer anymore. It's not fair to gauge it until construction is complete."

Clark resident Arthur Purdy said he uses the circle everyday in his travels and feels the endeavor has led to a more congested and confusing area.

"It was never backed up before," Mr.

Purdy said. "I think they could have saved a lot of money, engineering and inconvenience by not doing this."

He said the new project will take some getting used to before traffic clears up.

Francis Lichowid, also a Clark resident, said she has been avoiding the area all together until construction is complete.

"I did use it once," Ms. Lichowid said. "But it's very confusing. I would like to go to Target or Marshalls [on Central Avenue] over there. I'm sure it will be better when they get it running."

Mr. Ciarrocca said complaints from residents regarding congestion and confusion are commonplace after undertakings such as the traffic circle.

"There will be inconvenience anytime there is a project," he said. "That traffic circle was a mess. You hope, at the end of the day, there will be an improvement."

Mr. Orlando said the Turnpike Authority believes this is the end to traffic issues that once plagued the Clark circle.

"This is the end," he said. "We think this will be the solution. I don't see us breaking out the hammers and nails again after this."

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owned by Carl and Olga Peschke, who currently live in one of the homes on the property. The Peschkes have signed a contract purchase with Daunno, which will go into effect after the memorialization.

The planning board also approved a resolution from the hearing last month of Jaime Chaves of Xocolatl cafe. The applicant was granted approval for a modification of utilization and associated variances and waivers to use the premises of former Annie's Gourmet Kitchen at 235 Elmer Street for the purposes of a restaurant.



Martin Sweeney for The Westfield Leader

TRICKS OF THE TRADE...One of the New Jersey Ironmen's star indoor soccer players, Andre Berenzon, visited the BFUT soccer camp on June 27 at Houlihan Field in Westfield to share tips about the game and tell stories about his life growing up in Brazil. The campers are in the U 9/10 age group and were very willing listeners. Andre plays forward for the team.

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Monday, June 30, Tudor Bailey, 41, of Newark was arrested in the area of North Avenue and Charles Street on an outstanding Perth Amboy criminal warrant. He was released after posting \$2,500 bail.

Tuesday, July 1, Stephen Newton, 25, of Westfield was arrested on two outstanding motor vehicle warrants after police responded to a noise complaint on the 900 block of Central Avenue. The warrants were from Garwood and Newark, with bail amounts of \$120 and \$250, respectively. He was released after posting bail.

Tuesday, July 1, Noel Sanchez, 30, of New Brunswick was arrested on the 500 block of South Avenue, West, on an outstanding New Brunswick motor vehicle warrant. He was released after posting \$550 bail.

Wednesday, July 2, merchandise with an approximate value of \$112 was reported stolen from a South Avenue liquor store.

Friday, July 4, following a motor vehicle stop at Stirling Place and Cacciola Place, Mark D. Walker, 2nd, 21, of Neptune was arrested on two outstanding Asbury Park warrants — one traffic and one criminal — with a total bail of \$600. He was released on his own recognizance as per the Asbury Park Municipal Court.

Friday, July 4, Merih Yavuz, 22, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding Cranford traffic warrant following a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue, West, and Tuttle Parkway. He was released after posting \$81 bail.

Friday, July 4, Gordon Grau, 49, of Mountaintop was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) after police received a report of a man sleeping behind the wheel of a running motor vehicle on the 900 block of South Avenue, West. Grau was issued a summons and released on his own recognizance to a responsible person.

Saturday, July 5, Juan Pablo Villalta, 29, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with the display of false government documents and the possession of false government documents during an investigation subsequent to a motor vehicle stop on the 600 block of East Broad Street.

Police identified the documents involved as a fraudulent Social Security card and a fraudulent resident alien card. Villalta was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and committed to the Union County jail on default of \$1,500 bail.

Saturday, July 5, Wilmer Castillo, 37, of Bound Brook was arrested on two outstanding Bound Brook traffic warrants after a motor vehicle stop at the north side Westfield train station. He was released after posting a total of \$178 bail.

Saturday, July 5, Oscar A. Moreno, 27, of Plainfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters pursuant to an outstanding Plainfield traffic warrant. He was released after posting \$250 bail.

Saturday, July 5, a resident of Stoneleigh Park reported the burglary of his motor vehicle and the theft of multiple compact disks and a radar detector. The total value of the missing items is \$132. The burglary occurred while the vehicle was parked in front of the victim's home.

Sunday, July 6, Sarahmi Mena, 29, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding criminal warrant from Union Township after police responded to a report of a disturbance at a municipal lot on Central Avenue. Mena posted \$634 bail and was released.

Scotch Plains

Thursday, July 3, a resident of Highlander Drive reported cut electrical wires he noticed on his walk home. Other acts of vandalism were reported earlier in the week.

Thursday, July 3, a resident of Harding Road reported that someone smashed a window in the rear door of his house.

Friday, July 4, Manuel D. Cardoza, 18, of Elizabeth was arrested in Jerseyland Park and charged with underage consumption of an alcoholic beverage and possession of fireworks. He was processed and released with a summons, police said.

Friday, July 4, a resident of Westfield Road reported that someone entered his unlocked vehicle and removed a cobra GPS unit, two cell phones and a Dewalt cordless drill.

Sunday, July 5, a resident of Flemington reported that while visiting a friend on Lamberts Mill Road over 30 music compact discs were taken from her unlocked vehicle.

Mountaintop

Tuesday, July 1, a vendor notified police of a situation involving a bounced check in the amount of \$10,451. The victim reported that he was contacted by the election committee for Frank Lautenberg and asked to complete an order for campaign merchandise (ponchos). According to police, the ponchos were delivered and the check the victim was given was returned for insufficient funds on several occasions. Senator Lautenberg's office had not returned the victim's phone calls at press time.

Tuesday, July 1, a patron of a Route 22 theater reported discovering her driver's side door lock was damaged upon returning to the vehicle after the movie. According to police, when she approached the car, she noticed two black males standing by the vehicle, who fled in a small silver vehicle with a fin on the back.

Sunday, July 6, police responded to Summit Road on a report of a gun being pointed at a pedestrian by the driver of a vehicle. According to police, as the victim waited to cross the street, the driver of silver vehicle pointed a black handgun at her from chest level. The victim reported to authorities that she distinctly heard a click as the suspect passed by, but no shots were fired.

Monday, July 7, Ernest G. Williams, 55, of Newark was arrested at the Essex County jail on a warrant in the amount of \$1,026.

Fanwood

Sometime between Saturday, June 28, and Tuesday, July 1, a resident in the 100 block of Willow Road reported that someone removed her purse from her vehicle while it was parked and locked in the driveway.

Tuesday, July 1, Anthony P. Moskal, 20, of Scotch Plains was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Farley Avenue on an outstanding warrant out of Fanwood. According to police, he posted bail and was released.

Wednesday, July 2, Albert M. Wright, 43, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Plainfield warrant after a motor vehicle stop on the 500 block of North Avenue. According to police, he posted bail and was released.

Wednesday, July 2, a Trenton Avenue resident reported that someone made \$783 worth of unauthorized purchases on his credit card. Authorities said, the incident is being investigated by the police, as well as the credit card company.

Thursday, July 3, William Bamrick, 84, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. According to police, he was processed and released to a responsible adult.

Friday, July 4, Jose G. Reyes, 38, of Rahway was arrested on an outstanding Paterson warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. According to police, he posted bail and was released.

Saturday, July 5, Marco Valladas, 19, was arrested and charged with theft and possession of burglary tools. According to police, he was processed and turned over to the Customs and Immigration Enforcement Agency after an investigation revealed he was in the country illegally.

Saturday, July 5, Mario E. Alvarez, 21, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with theft, possession of burglary tools and breaking and entering vehicles parked in a business lot in the 100 block of South Avenue. According to police, he was processed and released.

Saturday, July 5, Oscar Ortega, 22, of New Brunswick was arrested and charged with an outstanding South Plainfield warrant after a motor vehicle stop on the 100 block of South Avenue. According to police, he posted bail and was released.

Sometime between 9 p.m. on Thursday, July 3, and 5 a.m. on Friday, July 4, a resident on the 100 block of Midway Avenue reported that someone slashed three of the tires on her vehicle and scratched obscenities into the paint with a sharp object.

Sunday, July 6, someone reported that a bicycle valued at \$150 was stolen from a front yard on the 100 block of Watson Road.

Monday, July 7, a resident in the 70 block of Forest Road reported that someone removed approximately \$155 worth of DVDs from her vehicle while it was parked in the driveway. According to police, the victim was uncertain if the vehicle was locked at the time, although there was no sign of forced entry.

Lincoln School Adds New Restrooms

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specialty Writer for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Lincoln School will have 20 restrooms in total. As specified by law, each kindergarten and pre-school classroom must have one bathroom, as will Lincoln in each of its 15 classrooms.

According to architect Geogre Duthie, there were four or five bathrooms prior to the renovations.

The new early childhood learning center will also have one bathroom in the hallway on each of the three floors, one in the nurse's office and one in the main office. Each restroom will have one toilet and one sink and all are handicap accessible.

The building has an elevator that reaches all three floors and there is a handicap ramp at the outside entrance.

Bob Berman, business administrator for the Westfield school district, told *The Westfield Leader* last Friday that "we had to add them [bathrooms] to the classrooms" as part of the renovations. He also said he believes the original building had bathrooms on the first and third floors.

The next board of education meeting is Tues., August 26, at 8 p.m. in the board room at 302 Elm Street.

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