



RESTORATION...The Reeve House on Mountain Avenue was built in 1875. The photo inset, upper right, taken in the early 1900s, shows the original porch that the Westfield Historical Society is now working to recreate.

Westfield Pool

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a ramp that goes into the pool. "You have to go far and wide to find any place where you can take a wheelchair and wheel the person into the water," Mr. Kaufmann said. The pool will also provide a water wheel chair for its members.

A safer zero entry kiddie pool with a splash pad and interactive spray features replaces the old kiddie pool, and is independent from the lap pool. "One addition we made was to add a satellite concession stand in the kiddie area for parents who have children in this area, especially infants," Mr. Kaufmann said. The satellite concession stand will no longer require parents to pack up their things and children every time they want a soda or ice cream.

"The expanded main pool and kiddie pool now combine with our previous major projects to deliver one of the best municipal complexes in New Jersey," Mr. Palatucci said. "What the people will not be able to see is the [changes made to the] filtration system," Mr. Kaufmann said. "We've changed the filtration system to be much more efficient and much more effective. We have also put in UV filters which are state of art for killing any type of E. coli or chloroforms."

The cost for the renovations came from pool membership fees, visitor fees, daily fees and rentals. No tax dollars went into the renovation or

Westfield Council

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tracted with Honeywell to establish an e-alert system.

Jointly purchased with the Westfield Board of Education, there will be two separate, but connected, systems.

This year, the town will pay \$27,000, and the BOE will be charged \$17,000. A three-year arrangement, the cost drops \$4,000 for both entities next year.

The e-alert system will enable the town to send important notices more effectively. Residents will have the ability to stay informed via an "unlimited" number of devices, including home phone, pager, cell phone, e-mail and more. Residents will also be able to customize when and how they receive notification. For instance, someone could choose to be called at home in the morning but e-mailed at the office during the afternoon.

Mr. Ciarrocca said the town would work with the school system to encourage those on the school's network to "opt in" to Westfield's service.

Mr. Ciarrocca said the system would prove to be a "very effective method [of communication]." He said he hopes that, eventually, enough people take part in the alert system that it eliminates the need to disseminate information via paper mailings, which are more costly and environmentally unfriendly.

operation of the pool, Mr. Kaufmann said.

"It [the pool] has turned into a family facility, we have things for every age group," Mr. Kaufmann said. "Our other pool lasted 30 seasons; no one will be around to prove me wrong, but I say we are now good for another 60 to 75 years."

Garwood Council

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cation for Bensi's restaurant, the board required that a full meal be served to outdoor diners. Councilman Keith Sluka said this was mainly to prevent people from drinking in excess outdoors.

"The spirit of that requirement was to eliminate a lot of people hanging out, drinking," Mr. Sluka said.

Since Rosie's Wine Bar and The Station are not primarily restaurants as Bensi's is, the council will only require them to offer food to outdoor customers. The board also stipulated that The Station be required to close its French doors during the hours of 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. when school is in session since children walk home past the bar.

Borough attorney Robert Renaud said he would prepare resolutions for the place-to-place transfers, which will be voted on at the next meeting.

The council will also hold public hearings on three ordinances during its next meeting. These ordinances would restrict parking on certain sections of Maple Street, lower the age limit from 55 to 50 for the Garwood Mews condominium complex in the borough and amend a portion of the fire code regarding inspections.

WF BOA

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heating and air conditioning in the space, a television, couch, and games. He stated an undersized home as his hardship.

His home is 1,300 square feet. He said two and a half years ago he was denied a variance when he wanted to add a family room on to his home, an addition he said that would have meant about a 2 percent difference from the floor are ratio allowed by ordinance.

His next-door neighbor opposed his use citing that she thought it would lower the value of her home, create noise, and that she was concerned that Mr. Lanzano's two young children were not being supervised. She also said "this is a leeway to allowing everyone in Westfield to use their detached garage as living space."

"I can understand his need for this space, but there hasn't been testimony to approve this application," Mr. Burslem said.

Westfield Police Officers Receive Promotions

WESTFIELD — Chief John Parizeau announced the promotions of the following Officers on June 3:

Lieutenant Scott Rodger, starting as a police dispatcher in 1986, Scott was appointed as a police officer in 1989 and to sergeant in 2005. Scott holds a degree in computer science from Union College and is currently assigned to the Information Technology Bureau.

Lieutenant Christopher Battiloro: Starting as a police dispatcher in 1995,

Chris was appointed as a police officer in 1997 and promoted to sergeant in 2006. Chris is a graduate of Clemson University and will be assigned to the Patrol Division.

Sergeant Jason Rodger: Starting as a police dispatcher in 1994, Jason was appointed as a police officer in 1997. He has served as one of the town's training officers as well as coordinating the Police Explorers program. Upon completion of a supervisory training program at Rutgers University, Jason will be assigned to the Patrol Division.

Sergeant Frank Padovano: Frank was appointed as a police officer in 1998. He had previously served as a corrections officer at the Mountainview Correctional Facility. He is a graduate of Rutgers University and currently a member of the Union County Emergency Response Team. Upon completion of a supervisory training program at Rutgers University, Frank will be assigned to our Patrol Division.

Sergeant Leonard Lugo: Leo was appointed as a police officer in February of 2001. He had previously served with the Paterson Police Department as well as in the United States Army National Guard. Leo is a graduate of William Paterson University. Upon completion of a supervisory training program at Rutgers University, Leo will be assigned to the Patrol Division.

WF Diner Waitress Arrested in Fraud Case

BY KATIE ROGERS

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — Cranford resident John Polo Jr., 38, pleaded guilty on Monday to four cases of fraud and identity theft, according to Assistant Prosecutor for Union County Ann Rubin.

The investigation into the thefts began in October of 2007, when two customers from the Westfield Diner reported there were fraudulent purchases made on their credit cards from P.C. solutions, Polo Jr.'s business. It was later discovered that Denise Tortorello, a waitress at the diner, was Polo Jr.'s accomplice.

According to Ms. Rubin, Tortorello admitted to copying down the customers' credit card numbers and giving them to Polo Jr., who would then make purchases from his own company and pay himself.

Polo Jr.'s second partner was Samuel Jacobs, a patient transporter at St. Joseph's hospital in Paterson, the assistant prosecutor said. She said Jacobs aided Polo Jr. in obtaining the personal information of several hospital patients, enabling Polo Jr. to steal more than \$52,000 from E-Trade in five months time.

Ms. Rubin said Tortorello pleaded guilty to two counts of credit card fraud and was sentenced to 18 months in state prison, while Jacobs pled guilty to third degree trafficking in personal identifying information and faces two years probation. Polo Jr.'s sentencing is scheduled for Friday, August 8.

Muhlenberg

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

license to operate Muhlenberg as an acute-care facility for one year so that a comprehensive evaluation of what health services needed to be maintained could be conducted.

Some were disappointed at what they perceived as a lack of support from local political leaders. State Assemblyman Gerald Green of Plainfield was attacked. "Why did Mr. Green not say something to the public earlier?" asked Chao I-Chen of Plainfield.

Mary Zink, an active member of the Plainfield community, said, "We will not vote for Green, [Governor Jon] Corzine or [Assemblywoman Linda] Stender if they do not help us address this issue. It is polite to say 'We hear you,' but we need action."

"We will make this a political issue," she concluded. "Our elected government must be held accountable for those who voted them into office," added Joseph Barnes of Plainfield.

Word came on Friday after the meeting that department managers at Muhlenberg were notified that the hospital will continue to operate as an acute care facility until Friday, June 27, which was two weeks more than thought.

Some employees in attendance said the facility had already been stripped of many of its abilities to function.

According to staff, residency programs have been discontinued and key functions transferred to other hospitals like JFK.

Bill Nagl summed up the position of many in attendance when he said that the real issue is "the disparity of health care between the haves and have-nots."

After delivering an account of how Muhlenberg saved her life when she went into acute respiratory distress, Patricia Richards stated to cheers that she was, "here tonight as a warrior of the cause to keep this hospital open. We are minorities here - we need help."

Calling the meeting to a close, Board Chairman Donlen called the audience a "spirited group" and the situation a "very painful thing." She said the next step was for a public voting session to be called, at which Solaris will formally present its application to close Muhlenberg as an acute-care facility. "I have no idea," she said, when asked what the board may recommend to Commissioner Heather Howard, who will make the final determination on the fate of Muhlenberg.

"Don't leave us," said Flor Gonzalez in a final plea.

Many vowed to fight on as long as there was a chance.

The decision will be made in Trenton.



TOWN'S FINEST...On June 3, five Westfield Police Officers were promoted. Pictured, from left to right, are: Sergeant Frank Padovano, Sergeant Leo Lugo, Lieutenant Christopher Battiloro, Chief John Parizeau, Lieutenant Scott Rodger and Sergeant Jason Rodger.



POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Tuesday, May 27, a teenager returning to his home in the 700 block of Clark Street heard noises inside the house and subsequently discovered a flat screen television had been removed from a downstairs home entertainment center and was left lying on the floor.

Police responded to the scene, along with the Union County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, to check the residence. No one was seen in the vicinity of the home and nothing was reported missing, according to police. The incident remains under investigation.

Friday, June 6, Evan Fernandez, 19, and Michael Downer, 18, both of Westfield, were arrested during a motor vehicle stop on the 500 block of Kimball Avenue. Each was charged with possession with intent to distribute less than 50 grams of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and underage possession of alcohol. Both men were processed at police headquarters, issued summonses and released pending a court appearance.

Friday, June 6, Omar Harris, 39, of Linden was arrested at Plainfield police headquarters on an outstanding criminal warrant from Westfield. He was committed to the Union County jail in lieu of \$578 bail.

Saturday, June 7, Eric Diaz, 30, of Belford was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on outstanding motor vehicle warrants from Clark and Middletown. Bail amounts on the warrants were \$120 and \$228, respectively. Diaz was released after posting bail.

Sunday, June 8, a resident of the 500 block of South Chestnut Street reported the theft of \$60 in cash plus three credit/debit cards from her purse while it was left unattended in an unsecured room at a local church.

Scotch Plains

Tuesday, June 3, Ashlee Christmas, 19, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged for an outstanding warrant after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation. She was transported to headquarters where she was processed and released after posting bail, police said.

Wednesday, June 4, a resident reported that someone removed gift cards from her purse.

Wednesday, June 4, a student at the Union County Magnet School reported that someone removed her Ipod valued at \$300 from the treadmill at the gym.

Wednesday, June 4, Paul Longson, 18, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana. According to police, he was stopped for a motor vehicle violation and officers discovered the marijuana. He was transported to headquarters where he was processed and released after posting bail, police said.

Thursday, June 5, Christian Lalau, 18, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with distribution of marijuana in a park. According to police, officers responded to a report of narcotics activity at Haven Avenue Park at which time they said they observed Lalau selling marijuana. He was transported to headquarters where he was processed and released after posting bail, police said.

Thursday, June 5, Mandel Sly, 19, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged for resisting arrest. According to police, officers responded to a report of an individual driving a car without the owners consent. After being stopped by police, Sly attempted to run, authorities said. He was transported to headquarters where he was processed and released after posting bail, police said.

Fanwood

Friday, June 6, Shakirah Griffin, 30, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Scotch Plains warrant after a motor vehicle stop. According to police, she was processed and released.

Friday, June 6, at 3:30 a.m. a Patterson Road resident reported that someone attempted to gain entry to his home through

breaking a window but fled when the victim arrived at the scene of the break in. According to police, the incident is under investigation.

Friday, June 6, a bank on North Avenue reported that someone cashed fraudulent checks in April in the amount of \$955 and \$975. According to police, the suspect has been identified and charges are pending.

Saturday, June 7, a 17-year-old Plainfield juvenile was arrested in the 500 block of North Avenue for shoplifting. According to police, he was also charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS). He was processed and released to a responsible adult pending a court date in Elizabeth Family Court, police said.

Saturday, June 7, a resident of Chetwood Terrace reported that someone entered his home and removed two sets of car keys. According to police, two vehicles, a 2009 Toyota and a 1999 Mercury were stolen from the driveway. The vehicles were recovered the next day in Plainfield, police said.

Saturday, June 7, Jennifer L. Hopkins, 26, of Willingboro was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Edgewater Township after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. According to police, she posted bail and was released.

Sunday, June 8, Daniel C. Smith, 20, of Martinsville a passenger in a vehicle, was arrested for multiple Monroe Township warrants after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue. Tracy A. Getchis, 26, the driver of the vehicle was arrested for an outstanding Trenton warrant. Getchis was also charged with possession of CDS paraphernalia. According to police, both individuals posted bail and were released.

Monday, June 9, Regina K. Jonesbooker, 42, of Sicklerville was arrested for an outstanding warrant out of Maywood after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. According to police, she posted bail and was released.

Tuesday, June 10, Kelly A. McGrath, 27, of Linden was arrested for an outstanding Linden warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. According to police, she posted bail and was released.

Garwood

Tuesday, June 3, Maria Sosa, 51, of Perth Amboy was arrested on South Avenue just past the Westfield line and charged with driving under the influence and for driving with a suspended license. She was also charged with having an open alcohol container in a vehicle, an obstruction on her windshield view, police said.

She was taken to police headquarters where police said she failed a breath test. Sosa was released to a family member pending a June 9 municipal court date.

Tuesday, June 3, Jose Arroyo, 44, of Roselle was arrested in the 100 block of North Avenue and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, suspected to be marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released pending a June 9 court date.

Thursday, June 5, Steven Reilly, 38, of Cranford was arrested at the Garwood Mall and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance determined to be marijuana and drug paraphernalia, a brass pipe. Police responded to the scene on a suspicious person call.

Reilly was also charged with an active traffic warrant out of Morristown.

He was released after posting bail pending a Garwood Municipal Court hearing.

Monday, June 9, Noelle Bradbury, 37, of Union was arrested in the 400 block of North Avenue and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, having an open alcohol container in a motor vehicle and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was transported to police headquarters where she failed a breath test, police said. Bradbury was later released pending a municipal court date.

Area Schools Close Due to Extreme Heat

By KATIE ROGERS

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

AREA — As temperatures neared 100 degrees this week, school districts across Union County called for early dismissals and closures.

In many school districts, such as Westfield, Berkeley Heights and Scotch Plains-Fanwood, only parts of the schools are air-conditioned. As a result, students were let out for half the school day.

Sally Roland, executive assistant to the superintendent of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district, said schools were forced to shut down due to the extreme heat. "Most of our schools are not air conditioned," Ms. Roland said. "Only one school is. Right now, we are looking at possible single sessions, but the decision hasn't been made."

She said students must be in school for at least four hours in order to count for a legal, instructional day of school. Therefore, if students complete half days in the hot classrooms, they will not have to make up days at the end of the year.

Judy Rattner, superintendent of the Berkeley Heights school district, said her schools followed suit with half days on both Monday and Tuesday.

"Parts of the middle school and high school are air-conditioned," Ms. Rattner said. "But there wasn't enough air-conditioned space for us to circulate the classes."

The Westfield school district stayed open for a full day on Monday, and a half-day on

Tuesday, according to Lorre Korecky, coordinator of school community relations. Westfield schools had already reached the limit of allowable days off and had set their final school day for Thursday, June 19, which will have a four-hour session and graduation to follow at 6 p.m.

"The kids were encouraged to drink water and stay hydrated," Ms. Korecky said. "The blinds were drawn and the lights were low. A lot of efforts were made to keep the kids and teachers cool."

Westfield schools' concerts were rescheduled to coincide with cooler temperatures. The sixth and eighth grade Choral and Orchestra Concert originally scheduled for Tuesday night at Roosevelt Intermediate School was rescheduled for tonight. Edison School concerts originally scheduled for June 11 were moved to June 12.

For students in the Mountainside school district, most schools did not let out early, according to Sue Nugent, secretary to the chief school administrator. Although, students at Beechwood and Deerfield Schools were dismissed Tuesday at 1 p.m. due to the heat.

"We didn't have to let out early, our schools are air-conditioned," Ms. Nugent said. "I'm sure the kids are bummed."

Cranford schools were also closed on Monday and Tuesday due to the heat. Garwood schools remained open even though the schools only have some air conditioning.



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