



Courtesy of Jonathan Delano  
OUTSTANDING...Drew Fleyzor of the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad displays the plaque he received on May 30 as part of the Overlook Hospital EMT Excellence Award.

## FW Mayor: State 'Ridiculous Ramp-up' of Pension Fund

By TED RITTER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

FANWOOD — At a special meeting Tuesday night, Mayor Colleen Mahr announced that a "community-wide meeting" regarding the borough's budget will be held on Wednesday, July 9, at 7 p.m. at Forest Road Park. In making the announcement, the mayor said she has called the meeting "to sort of separate fact from fiction and explain why we're even looking" at the issue of municipal employee layoffs.

"The Borough of Fanwood has received some extraordinary [press] attention in our attempt to be prudent and to communicate to all our employees [about] the situation we're in," Mayor Mahr said.

The borough sent layoff notices to every municipal employee last week

(see page 4), as the governing body continues its efforts to finalize an \$8.5 million budget this summer. Mayor Mahr said the decision to send out the layoff notices was "misinterpreted in ways we could not have foreseen." She said it was "incorrectly reported" that the decision "was because of our state aid numbers."

Rather, the mayor pointed to a "loss in revenues" and "significant increases in our pension obligations" due to the state's "ridiculous ramp-up schedule" for refunding the pension system. "This is why we're in the situation we're in," Mayor Mahr said.

"The public needs to understand that even if we get extraordinary [state] aid, that just gets us to the 4 percent cap on the [municipal tax] levy; we're still facing a significant tax increase," she said.

As introduced, the borough's spending plan would result in a municipal tax hike of nearly 30 percent without state aid. Borough Administrator Eleanor McGovern said the state spending plan agreed to in Trenton earlier this week likely means that Fanwood will receive only about 75 percent of the aid that came in last year, not including any extraordinary aid for which the borough also applied.

"So we've basically been told to look at what [we] got last year and knock off 25 percent," said Mayor Mahr, adding that the borough's Chief Financial Officer Fred Tomkins "is going to start running the numbers" in order to determine specific aid amounts. "It's confusing because state aid is made up of so many different pots of money," she explained.

"As soon as we get the figures, we'll have them prepared for everybody," Mrs. McGovern said.

"Twenty-five percent less of anything, in these days, is a tremendous reduction," Council President Joan Wheeler said.

"Any tax increase is not something the public wants to see," said Mayor Mahr, adding, "We are [also] affecting employees' lives, that's for sure." The mayor said she is holding the July 9 meeting to make it clear to the public "where we are today" in terms of the borough's revenues, pension obligations and state-mandated costs "that we don't have any control over."

"This is not a spending problem," Mayor Mahr noted. "Our spending is flat."

Also Tuesday night, the governing body approved a resolution renewing a shared services agreement with Scotch Plains. Under the agreement, Fanwood's tax collector works for Scotch Plains for approximately eight to 10 hours per week. "Scotch Plains pays us for these services," Mayor Mahr said. "We've been doing this now for two years."

Following the meeting, the mayor and council met in an executive session to discuss issues relating to collective bargaining agreements and "matters relating to public safety and property."

## Westfield Rescue Squad Member Receives Award

WESTFIELD — Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad (WVRS) member Drew Fleyzor has received the Overlook Hospital EMT Excellence Award. The award, presented on May 30, was given in recognition of Mr. Fleyzor's "Outstanding service to EMS."

Mr. Fleyzor is an emergency medical technician with five years experience and has been a member of the WVRS for three years. He serves as lieutenant in charge of the squad's three ambu-

lances and is usually on duty Tuesday nights.

"This was quite an honor and it is a pleasure to serve the community of Westfield as an EMT and squad member," he said.

Prior to joining Westfield's squad, Mr. Fleyzor was a member of the Clark Volunteer First Aid Squad for two years. He works at On Time Ambulance in Roselle as an EMT dispatcher and recruiter.

## Westfield DPW Worker Plays Good Samaritan

By RAYNOR DENITZIO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — A longtime member of the Westfield Department of Public Works became a reluctant hero during his vacation when he came to the aid of a fellow traveler having a heart attack.

Arthur Brown, who has been with the department of public works for 38 years, was on a cruise recently to Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and St. Martin. While the ship was stopped in port, an elderly female passenger had what appeared to be a heart attack. The woman's husband began calling for help and Mr. Brown said that he, along with fellow passenger Stephen Briggs, went to the woman's aid and began performing CPR.

The ship's doctor soon arrived and took over treatment. Mr. Brown said the fact that the boat was in port also helped save the woman's life since she was able to be transported to a local hospital for treatment.

"We were lucky we were in port where the ambulance could come and take her to the hospital," Mr. Brown said.

Mr. Brown did not know the woman's name, but said he has received word that she did recover from the episode.

"That's all I was concerned about," he

## Garwood

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May 20 meeting. The board approved the appointment of full-time, part-time and special education paraprofessionals with a 3 percent pay increase. The board also approved 3 percent pay increases for a security staff member, members of the secretarial, clerical and custodial staff, the supervisor of buildings and grounds, the technology coordinator, treasurer, and a part-time nurse.

The board also discussed increasing stipends for BOE members. During the votes, board members Christine Guerriero and Linda Koenig raised questions about the increases, saying it was their understanding that the board agreed to freeze stipends during discussions.

Alan Schnirman, serving as board attorney for the evening, said that since the resolutions were introduced, members should vote as they saw fit on the matter.

The board approved the stipend increases for the substitute coordinator, Right to Know Officer, supervisor of special services and Thomas Spera for his Black Seal License.

During the public hearing, resident Bruce Paterson inquired about landscaping around Lincoln School. Earlier in the meeting Building and Grounds Committee Chairman Lisa Marano discussed possibilities for preventing erosion and promoting grass growth at areas around the school at an estimated cost of \$5,000.

Mr. Paterson asked if landscaping was addressed during the schools construction and if the contractor was responsible for the current issues. The board informed Mr. Paterson that landscaping was not part of the construction.

Mr. Paterson also inquired about the BOE website, which he said was out of date. The board said they are in the process of redesigning the website to make it easier to maintain.

The board will hold a special meeting this Tuesday, June 24, at 6 p.m. to discuss budget matters. Finance Chairperson Susan Groning said that the board would discuss transferring funds for capital improvements, among other matters.



Katherine Vowell for The Westfield Leader  
BECOMING AWARE...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School displays a wrecked car to remind students not to drink and drive as graduation approaches.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Tuesday, June 10, the apparent theft of an Apple iPhone, valued at approximately \$400, was reported at a Stoneleigh Park residence.

Wednesday, June 11, Marcus Rawls, 40, of Newark was arrested on the 100 block of Prospect Street on a shoplifting offense and an outstanding Rutherford criminal warrant with bail of \$130. Bail on the shoplifting offense was set at \$1,000. Rawls was held at the Westfield Police Department pending the posting of bail.

Friday, June 13, police arrested Christina Wichoski, 18, Suzanna Cross, 19, Joshua Newberg, 21, and Mark Boyle, 21, all of Westfield, on charges of possession of more than 50 grams of suspected marijuana, possession of cocaine, possession of a controlled dangerous substance in a school zone and possession of drug paraphernalia. The arrests occurred on the 500 block of Cumberland Street during the investigation of a suspicious motor vehicle. All four were released after processing.

Saturday, June 14, after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation, Lamar Ingram, 20, of Linden was arrested at North and South Euclid Avenues on an active warrant out of Linden.

### Scotch Plains

Tuesday, June 10, a resident of Spruce Lane reported that someone used his credit card without authorization to purchase \$700 worth of merchandise.

Wednesday, June 11, a resident of East Second Street reported that someone has been calling her during the day and night but just yells and hangs up.

Thursday, June 12, a resident of Highlander Drive reported that someone entered her vehicle and removed several items valued at \$200.

Thursday, June 12, a resident of Aberdeen reported that someone entered her vehicle and removed approximately \$100 worth of items.

Sunday, June 15, Tajah Bacot, 18, of Middlesex was arrested for obstruction of justice after police responded to a report of a rowdy group in front of a store on Route 22. While dispersing the crowd, Bacot became loud and refused to leave the area, police said. According to police, he was processed and released after posting bail.

Sunday, June 15, police responded to a report of a disturbance at a Route 22 gas station. Upon arrival, police discovered a customer arguing with an attendant over how much gas was pumped and the price to be paid, police said. According to police, the officer settled the dispute and the customer agreed to pay the money.

Sunday, June 15, Lamont Moseley, 23, of Hackensack was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation. He was transported to headquarters where he was processed and released with a summons, police said.

Monday, June 16, Albert Hopkins, 46, of Brooklyn, NY was arrested and charged with DWI after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation. He was transported to headquarters where he was processed and released with a summons, police said.

### Fanwood

Wednesday, June 11, Robert Roy, Jr., 28, of Roselle was arrested on a Union County Sheriff's Department no-bail warrant after a field investigation on Martine Avenue. According to police, he was turned over to the Union County Sheriff's Department.

Saturday, June 14, Zzykirrah M. Casado, 23, of Plainfield was arrested for obstruction of justice for providing police with false documentation after a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue. According to police, she was processed and released after posting bail.

Saturday, June 14, Nyeesha S. Coleman, 19, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue for an outstanding warrant out of Minehill. According to police, she was processed and released after posting bail.

Sunday, June 15, Santiago Z. Vidal, 48, of Westfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue for outstanding warrants out of Bordentown and Newark. According to police, he was processed and released after posting bail.

Sunday, June 15, a resident in the 100 block of Westfield Road reported that someone removed a 10-foot dingy valued

at \$4,000 from his property between the hours of 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Sunday, June 15, a resident of Woodland Avenue reported that someone knocked down their free-standing mailbox.

Monday, June 16, a resident of Scotch Plains reported that someone keyed their vehicle while it was parked in the 100 block of Pleasant Avenue.

Monday, June 16, a resident of the 100 block of Chetwood Place reported that sometime between midnight, Friday, May 30, and noon, Sunday, June 15, someone attempted to enter their residence through a side door. Police said entry was not gained.

### Mountainside

Friday, June 13, Victor A. Soria, 48, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with driving without a license after being involved in a motor vehicle accident on Route 22. He was also charged with multiple outstanding warrants, police said.

Friday, June 14, Ferdinand Maysonet, 52, of Jersey City was arrested and charged with driving with a suspended license after being stopped for allegedly being involved in a motor vehicle crash.

Saturday, June 14, Michelle C. Lee, 28, of Plainfield was arrested for an outstanding warrant in the amount of \$165 after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22.

Sunday, June 15, Michael P. O'Connor, 22, of Westfield was arrested and charged with DWI after being involved in a one-car motor vehicle accident.

Sunday, June 15, Trevorall Parrish, 19, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with driving with a suspended license and leaving the scene of an accident after being involved in a motor vehicle accident on Route 22, which he is suspected to have been the driver.

According to police, officers noticed a car behind a business on Route 22 that had crashed through a fence. While turning around to inspect the scene further, police noticed three individuals inspecting a car parked in a closed service station, authorities said. According to police, the three individuals stated that their car was sideswiped by the vehicle that they witnessed crashing in to the fence.

Parrish was apprehended approximately a mile down Route 22 along with a juvenile and Asion K. Harris, 19, of Scotch Plains, who was arrested and charged with leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident and failure to report a motor vehicle accident after he was apprehended by police in the vicinity of the accident.

## WF Council

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for attendees in a single day, last Saturday. Roughly 2,700 people came to the pool on its opening day, surpassing the previous record of 2,220.

Under the Finance Policy Committee, the council passed a resolution awarding the purchase of a D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) vehicle. With the help of the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Officer Gary Moore, "D.A.R.E. to Dine" events, functioning as "Iron Chef"-like cook-offs helped raise \$18,000, which was used toward the purchase of a 2007 Chevy Tahoe. Westfield's New Norris Chevrolet contributed the remaining \$29,000 for the buy.

The council unanimously approved the purchase, with Mr. Ciarrocca abstaining as he has represented the dealership in the courtroom.

Former First Ward Councilman Peter Echausse will fill an unexpired term on the recreation commission, to end December 31, 2010.

Mayor Andy Skibitsky urged those watching on TV-36 to read a Sunday *Star-Ledger* article that focused on Westfield making a relocateamerica.com list of the top-100 places to live nationwide. Westfield was the only New Jersey town chosen, and the mayor wished to acknowledge the "prestigious award."



Katherine Emire-Nieves for The Westfield Leader  
WELCOME ABOARD...Newly appointed Deerfield Middle School Principal Robert Phillips was introduced at last week's board of education meeting. Mr. Phillips, pictured above with his wife, Lisa, replaces Jeanette Baubles. Ms. Baubles now will serve as the district's chief school administrator.

OUR STAND

EVERYONE DESERVES TO  
MAKE THEIR MOVE.

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