

SP Farmers' Market Begins New Season

SCOTCH PLAINS - Opening day for Scotch Plains Farmers' Marketplace season begins this Saturday. The annual outdoor event is held every Saturday from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. (rain or shine at the discretion of each vendor) until November 1. It takes place in the Municipal Parking lot on Park Avenue in the Towne Centre of Scotch Plains.

The Marketplace is sponsored and managed by the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association (SPBPA).

The Marketplace provides a venue for the community to gather, for kids to learn where their food comes from and for local producers to sell their fresh products - just picked, baked or made only hours before. It brings the farmers directly to our community. Many vendors have samplings, and most times, they can suggest ways to prepare their unique offerings.

"Every year, we invite a varied and limited number of top-quality, experienced vendors, who have a passion for what they do, and we have them provide an engaging variety of fresh grown produce, delicious handmade baked goods, and gourmet-style food products," said Jeff Stein, local marketing strategist and returning Marketplace manager.

This season's special attractions are no different. They include a variety of Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables, a delectable selection of fresh baked bread and goods, handmade granola and trail mixes, unique nutty confections, handmade hard Amish pretzels, pickled vegetables, jams, jellies, honey, fresh roasted organic coffees by the cup or pound, cut flowers, potted herbs, and much more.

"People like the homey feeling and

quaintness of our market, and our unique offerings," Mr. Stein said. "This year, we are planning additional activities such as live music, a blood drive, a barbecue and, perhaps, a pet adoption day."

The Marketplace was originally established in 1992 as a community service to help support local farmers and enable them to develop new markets for their fresh grown produce. In 1994, the SPBPA took over the management reign to attract and increase business activity in the Towne Centre.

WIC Coupons are welcomed by participating vendors at the Marketplace. Additional information can be found by visiting the SPBPA Web site at visitscotchplains.com. Mr. Stein can be reached at (908) 322-6774.

The SPBPA is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to assist and enhance the business community in the Township of Scotch Plains through its networking activities and community involvement.

WF BOE

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tile flooring.

The cafeteria addition will have eating tables that can be folded up and stored away so when the room is not in use it can be utilized for other means, Mr. Berman said. The cafeteria will also have air conditioning installed.

Edison Intermediate School has had the windows replaced per a bond project approved in January at a cost of \$213,343. Metropolitan Metal Window Company of Fanwood replaced the windows. Mr. Berman said he would like another \$200,000 to replace every window, but he needs to wait and see how the other projects move along.

Westfield High School will see new corridor lighting, ceilings and an auditorium lobby renovation. The electrical switchgear and air conditioning projects are in motion.

Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan said Washington School's first grade student enrollment increased and so the district needed to add a fourth section. Previously, the district had counted on having three sections with 23 students each, which Board President Ginny Leiz said is "on the border of acceptable" number of students in a classroom.

Resident Jim Neva of Mountain Avenue asked the board to reconsider his plea to the superintendent to transfer his youngest school-age child to the first grade at Wilson School where two of his other children attend. The board said they have never made an exception to the rule.

Mr. Berman also announced that the cafeterias in all schools would raise the price of milk from 50 cents to 65 cents because milk rates have increased 30 percent since the spring. School lunches at intermediate and elementary schools will also rise by 25 cents.

Agenda items included the appointment of Lossie E. Whitaker-Thomton to a ten-and-a-half month Special Education Supervisor role for grades 9-12 for the 2008-2009 school year, effective August 18. She replaces the interim supervisor, Paulette DeRosso. Her salary is \$113,000. Ms. Dolan said she was chosen because she is knowledgeable, enthusiastic and caring.

Anita O'Neal is no longer working on an interim capacity, officials said. She is now contracted for the permanent assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction under a two-year contract, effective July 1, at a yearly salary of \$145,000.

The board approved bids for refrigeration maintenance and service to Kelin Heating and A/C, Inc. of Colonia at the annual rate of \$2,950, plus hourly costs from \$50 to \$60. The board also approved the company to start-up and winterize the air-conditioning and heating units in the district at the same fee and an hourly rate of \$65 for the next two school years.

The board's next meeting is not until Thursday, August 22, unless the members have to vote on a bid.



David Samsky for The Westfield Leader
KICKER... Senator Tom Kean give his keynote speech to the class of 2008 at the June 19 Westfield High School graduation.

Chris Christie on Corruption

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"Invariable," he said. "We're not going to prosecute our way out of corruption. Given 566 municipalities, 611 school districts, 21 counties and a \$35-billion state budget, 128 convictions is a small number.

"Still, we've shined a very, very bright light on the problem, and now there is enormous discussion of this at every corner. Six to seven years ago, that was not the case."

About the message getting down to all other levels and special interests, he said, "I really do [think so], but that doesn't mean, I'm not claiming we've changed behavior across the board." He added the U.S. Attorney's office has a "zero tolerance" policy.

It takes two to three years to investigate a case and obtain a conviction. With his term coming to an end in a few months, he said we have a "very active" pipeline.

"Anyone who's breaking the law in Union County has to be nervous - and beyond that, I will not be making any comment about any particular individuals," Mr. Christie said.

Aside from political corruption, his office handles several other matters, such as drugs and organized crime. One area of particular concern to him is human trafficking - what he said is a "terrific tragedy." His office has prosecuted more such crimes than any other office in the county.

He said due to New Jersey's diverse culture; criminals from Mexico, Central America, Eastern Europe, Russia and Asia could find a community in the state where they would not be conspicuous - in contrast, say to Oklahoma.

His office put two women in Federal prison for the next 17 years for the sex enslavement in Plainfield, of four teenage girls from Mexico.

However, his stance on immigration is somewhat different.

"Being without proper documen-

Graduates

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Mumford; Crista Marie Fontana Ricci; and Erin Christine Sciallaba.

Mr. Fyffe attributed the "quality of this senior class" as one of the reasons this past school year had been so great. "I enjoyed seeing them every day," he said.

Before the diplomas were handed out, Mr. Kean stood up to the podium as the only thing between the students and their graduation.

He likened their journey to a road trip where they were constantly asking "Are we there yet?"

"As you know your trip is just beginning," he said. "You have not yet reached your destination."

Before ending his speech, Mr. Kean encouraged the graduates not to be afraid of trial and error or making mistakes because they can only learn from mistakes.

"Are you there yet?" he asked. "Certainly not. But don't be afraid to look ahead."

After the diplomas were handed out, and the commencement ceremony came to a close, part of Rachel's speech already began to ring true.

"Yes, today marks the end of our four years of high school," she said, "but it's also a beginning."

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Sunday, June 15, police arrested Jonathan Connor, 19, of Westfield, Drew Lambke, 18, of Rahway, Robert Scherer, 21, of Garwood and a 15-year-old female Westfield resident outside Washington Elementary School on St. Marks Avenue after several residents reported hearing screaming and breaking glass in the area.

All were charged with disorderly conduct. Additionally, Connor, Lambke and the 15-year-old were charged with possession of alcohol by an underage person, and the juvenile was charged with obstructing administration of law for allegedly interfering with an arrest.

Scherer also was charged with aggravated assault of a police officer for allegedly spitting on the officer, while Lambke had outstanding traffic warrants from Westfield, with \$91 bail, and Clark, with \$250 bail. Bail amounts for Scherer, Lambke and Connor were set at \$2,500, \$1,000 and \$500, respectively. The juvenile was released to her father.

Tuesday, June 17, Mitchell L. Brower, 18, of Westfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on an outstanding Newark criminal warrant. He was released after posting \$125 bail.

Wednesday, June 18, Scott Villa, 23, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding Garwood traffic warrant following a motor vehicle stop at Maple Street and Third Avenue in Garwood. He was released after posting \$89 bail.

Scotch Plains

Tuesday, June 17, a resident of Westfield Road reported that someone threw a brick at his house and broke a window.

Tuesday, June 17, Maria Cardonia, 38, of Elizabeth was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop for a violation. According to police, she was transported to headquarters, where she was processed and released.

Wednesday, June 18, a resident of Country Club Lane reported that someone made \$800 worth of unauthorized purchases online.

Saturday, June 21, a resident of Willow Road reported that someone entered her motor vehicle and removed her GPS system valued at approximately \$700.

Sunday, June 22, Chaka Nelson, 26, of Elizabeth was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop for a violation. According to police, he was transported to headquarters where he was processed and released.

Sunday, June 22, Leon Golding, 40, of Scotch Plains was arrested on an outstanding warrant. According to police, he was transported to headquarters where he was processed and released.

Sunday, June 22, Carlos Rios, 43, of Elizabeth was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) after a motor vehicle stop for a violation. According to police, he was transported to headquarters where he was processed and released.

Mountainside

Wednesday, June 18, police responded to a call from a resident of Long Meadow who stated that she allowed a family friend to stay in her home as a guest. According to police, the guest allowed his girlfriend into the house and she subsequently was video-

Garwood May See Increase In State Aid From NJ Budget

By RAYNOR DENITZIO

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD - The Borough Council said on Tuesday that the tax impact of its 2008 budget could decrease further if estimated restorations in the borough's Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Aid (CMPTRA) are approved.

Council President and borough finance chairwoman Kathleen Villaggio said that based upon her understanding of budget bills passed by the State Legislature on Monday, Garwood should receive about \$251,850 from CMPTRA this year. CMPTRA for towns with populations under 5,000 was eliminated in Governor Jon Corzine's initial budget.

Ms. Villaggio said this estimated aid, combined with budget cuts previously suggested by the finance committee, would result in a tax impact of \$326 per house assessed at \$100,000, down \$192 from initial tax estimates. The state budget has not been formally adopted by Gov. Corzine.

"The numbers that I gave are unofficial and it's only me reading the bills (pieces of legislation)," Ms. Villaggio said.

The council voted to allow the lowering of age restriction from 55 to 50 years old for 20 percent of the townhouses at the North Avenue West Redevelopment Project. According to Jeanne McManus, an attorney for the developer, the measure will now go to the current residents of the development for a vote, where it needs a 67 percent majority for approval.

The council voted to prohibit parking on certain sections of Maple Street and set parts of Maple Street and Chestnut Street as two-hour parking zones. An ordinance to modify portions of the fire prevention code relating to standards for inspections was also passed by the council.

During the workshop session of the meeting, Carol Kearney and Gene Jannotti, who own a travel agency in the borough at 207 Center Street, addressed the council. Ms. Kearney and Mr. Jannotti said that erosion related to the Garwood brook running in the back of their property threatens their parking lot and wanted to know who owns the brook and who to approach to fix the problem.

Borough attorney Robert Renaud said he was not aware of a title for the brook. Borough engineer Don Guarriello said that since the problem is on private property, the borough is not responsible. Mr. Guarriello said that adding curbing to the portion of the parking lot affected would likely alleviate the erosion since Ms. Kearney's driveway is above the brook. Currently, there is only a chain-link fence between the parking lot and the brook.

Ms. Kearney, who purchased the property in 2000, said improvements to the parking lot were done in 1980s under previous owners.

Local resident Michelle Heaton also addressed the council regarding summonses, which she received for failure to obtain a dog license. Ms. Heaton said that she no longer owns a dog and that she never received the initial correspondence regarding the summonses. Ms. Heaton said she had a similar issue with summonses for failing to cut a lawn at a property, which she no longer owns.

Borough clerk Christina Ariemma said that the summonses were issued because

taped removing prescription medication from the homeowner's purse. The incident led to the arrest of Charlotte Diamonte-Nabet.

Wednesday, June 18, Charlotte Diamonte-Nabet, 20, of Agoura, Calif. was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) after a field investigation.

Thursday, June 19, a resident of Globe Avenue reported that someone smashed the driver's side window of his vehicle and removed his laptop computer.

Sunday, June 22, a resident of Sawmill Road reported that someone threw a brick at his front door and dented his screen door.

Sunday, June 22, a resident of Darby Lane reported that someone removed 13 termite stakes from her yard and turned on her outdoor water faucet. According to police, the stakes were found next to the holes they were removed from.

Sunday, June 22, a resident reported that his wallet was either lost or stolen at a theater on Route 22. According to police, the wallet contained several credit cards, a New Jersey driver's license, Social Security card and \$1,600 in cash, all belonging to the victim.

Fanwood

Tuesday, June 17, Michael T. Sweeney, 37, of Scotch Plains was arrested after a field investigation on an outstanding Somerville warrant. According to police, he was processed and released after posting bail.

Tuesday, June 17, a resident of Oak Court reported that his wallet was stolen out of his unlocked motor vehicle while it was parked in the street.

Saturday, June 21, Alex E. Harris, 22, of Roselle was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Jersey City after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue. According to police, he was processed and released after posting bail.

Sunday, June 22, Leon T. Golding, 40, of Scotch Plains was arrested on multiple Scotch Plains warrants after police responded to a dispute at a South Avenue gas station. According to police, he was processed and turned over to the Scotch Plains Police Department.

Monday, June 23, Yofre Marcelo Chima-Navia, 30, of Elizabeth was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Newark after a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue. According to police, he was processed and released after posting bail.

Monday, June 23, an unlocked bicycle valued at \$100 was stolen from the driveway of a residence on Trenton Avenue.

Tuesday, June 24, Salmon T. Sheridan, 36, of Scotch Plains was arrested on a Mansfield Township warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Second Street. According to police, he was processed and released after posting bail.

Tuesday, June 24, Jaime E. Hargdes, 30, of Rutherford was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Clark after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue. According to police, she was being processed and is expected to post bail.

Tuesday, June 24, a resident of Woodland Avenue reported that someone broke the windshield of his motor vehicle while it was parked in the driveway.

Ms. Heaton previously registered a dog and did not inform the borough that she no longer had the animal. Mr. Renaud said that since the summonses were already issued, Ms. Heaton would have to go to court to settle them.

"Once they're issued the council can't do anything about them," Mr. Renaud said. "You'll have to go to court."

Resident Bruce Paterson asked the council if the multiple summonses received by Ms. Heaton were just a coincidence. Police Chief William Legg said the borough issued more than a dozen summonses for failure to register a dog and also regularly issues summonses regarding failure to maintain yards.

"If you violate town ordinances or state laws, you get summonses," Chief Legg said.

The council will hold a public hearing on an ordinance to create a fee for marriage and civil union licenses during its next meeting on Tuesday, July 8.

Pool Members Upset Over Palm Trees

By KATIE ROGERS

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD - Despite original plans for the Westfield Memorial Pool, which called for palm trees located on an island in the center of the main pool, the three misting trees have been removed.

In response, pool members drafted a petition and in three hours, received 136 signatures requesting the trees be re-installed.

Stephen Schoeman, a Westfield resident who helped collect signatures, said he is very disappointed at the removal of the trees, which he believed would have added a sense of the tropics to the community pool.

"I was told they were taken out because they weren't very 'Westfield,' which is ridiculous," Mr. Schoeman said. "The island is now constructed without palm trees and it looks ridiculous. No one knows why it's there."

Bruce Kaufman, director of recreation, said the trees were removed after a situation arose between members of the pool committee.

"The original proposal had the palm trees on the island," Mr. Kaufman said. "After a period of time, a discussion came up with the pool committee and they said they did not think it was a good idea."

Mr. Schoeman said he believes money was wasted during the removal process, and for that reason, the trees should be re-installed.

"Public pressure is needed to bring them back," Mr. Schoeman said. "If they're not put up, this wasted a lot of money - the cost of the labor, plumbing, the trees and the island."

Mr. Kaufman said money has not been wasted, because the palm trees can be placed in other locations at the pool.

"There are other options that can go on that island," he said. "There is no loss of revenue because the palm trees can still be used."

Currently, the Westfield Recreation Committee is handling the situation. Mr. Kaufman was unable to provide further comment, and new plans for the island and palm trees have not been made as of yet.



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TO ANY COMMUNITY.



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