



Courtesy of Cheri Rogowski

**LADIES CAMPAIGN...** Seeking votes for the June Primary Election, ladies reach out to the voters Sunday at the Westfield Spring Fling. Pictured, left to right, are: Diane Barabas, Kelly Hatfield of Summit, GOP Candidate for the 7th Congressional District, and Westfield Councilwoman Vicki Kimmins.

## Westfield Town Council

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Mr. Caruana said those who believe that income from parking tickets is a major revenue generator are "clearly wrong" and said their beliefs are not "supported by the numbers or the facts."

He said, "The town doesn't make money; it loses money [on enforcement]."

Responding to why the town continues its enforcement practice if it is a losing proposition, the first-ward councilman said, "The town, its' businesses and its' downtown property values have a far greater economic interest in a system that encourages compliance and supports turnover."

Mr. Caruana said there are benefits to the town's enforcement practices; namely, he said it leads to a "highly efficient parking system that discourages overtime parking and meter feeding."

The town, when adding together meter and pay station income, made \$958,000 in 2007.

"That revenue stream is used in the municipal budget, and it benefits all property-tax payers, including those who own business properties," Mr. Caruana said.

Since "enforcement improves parking," Mr. Caruana considered local businesses to be "significant beneficiaries of this strategy."

Last week, the action group said the town, through its policies, could make Westfield into a "ghost town."

Disputing that notion, according to the councilman, town meters and pay stations, on average, are used 125,000 times per month — "that's a hell of a lot of traffic."

He also said critics of the town's enforcement policies "have been very quick to characterize the town as 'anti-business'" and have ignored the "many parking-friendly features implemented to support shoppers and businesses," citing the 10-minute free parking and free holiday parking at meters as examples.

Mr. Caruana said it was "shocking and unusual" to hear criticism from the Westfield Action Group, the members of which failed to request information on parking statistics and enforcement trends.

"If you don't know the numbers, you don't know nothing [sic]," Mr. Caruana said.

Commenting after Mr. Caruana's presentation, first-ward councilman Frank Arena said the town asks its police officers "to enforce laws, not interpret them. We wouldn't want them [to interpret the law]."

Third-ward councilman David Haas refuted claims that the town is raising the overtime parking penalty to \$50, calling it a "gross mischaracterization."

Fourth-ward councilman Jim Foerst said he "shared the frustration" with those objecting to the town raising the rate but said state government, which takes \$11.50 from a \$20 ticket, is the "crux of the problem."

He encouraged critics of the increase to "get in their cars, take their frustration, drive to Trenton and try to find a space near the statehouse. It's impossible to park... certainly, their frustration is the same as all of us have. It's a situation where our hands are tied."

In another matter, second-ward councilwoman Vicki Kimmins said a "temporary solution" has been reached that will allow Verizon FiOS customers to see Westfield High School's Blue Devil TV, which is broadcasted from the school itself. Other TV-36 programming is run through town hall and can already be seen by FiOS viewers.

Until a full interconnectivity agreement between Comcast and Verizon is reached, Ms. Kimmins said this plan would suffice.

She said FiOS customers would see Blue Devil TV "hopefully by June" but "definitely by August." Ms. Kimmins stated that a lot of work took place behind the scenes between herself, Jim Gildea, town administrator; Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (LD-21, Westfield), Jamie Lynn Drohan, TV-36 director of operations, and the board of education, saying she wished to thank all parties.

Next Tuesday, the council is scheduled to approve a resolution to demolish a commercial building and detached garage at 751 Central Avenue. Westfield Planning Board Chairman Vince Wilt owns the property, located at Central and Myrtle Avenues, which eventually will be home to a bank, according to Town Engineer Ken Marsh.

The council also is expected to approve the demolition of county-owned garages, adjacent to the Ralph Froehlich Public Safety Building on North Avenue, paving the way for a new county facility. Once the county's plans are completed, the new structure will feature a combination of office buildings and rooftop parking. (See article on page 1).

During public comment, Matt Sontz of Vernon Terrace said that his home was burglarized two weeks ago; thus far, the intruder has not been caught.

He thanked the police department for its efforts and encouraged residents to call the department if they see anything suspicious.

Police Chief John Parizeau reiterated that citizens should "call us for anything... Crimes are solved by neighbors helping neighbors."

(See page 5 of last week's paper for column by chief, which includes possible description of burglar.)

Mr. Sontz ran for a third-ward council seat last year.

### Shred Documents in WF

WESTFIELD — On Thursday, May 8, residents can shred confidential materials during a mobile paper shredding event. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Westfield Memorial Pool, the public can shred all sensitive materials on the county's shredding truck. Magazines and non-confidential papers should be recycled.

## Student Stabs Classmate At SPFHS, Last Tuesday

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — A stabbing occurred at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS), last week, leaving one student with multiple wounds.

Last Tuesday, April 22, at 2:20 p.m., Scotch Plains police received a 911 call from SPFHS that a freshman boy had stabbed a fellow classmate.

Reached this Tuesday, Scotch Plains Detective Lieutenant Brian Donnelly said an argument that began in art class "escalated way too far."

According to Lt. Donnelly, one student spilled paint on another, and a verbal disagreement ensued, leading to a "pushing and shoving match."

As the altercation grew more heated, one student picked up an Exacto knife from a table in the classroom, stabbed the victim, 15, once in the arm and slashed him across the stomach.

Lt. Donnelly said the victim suffered "serious injuries" and lost a significant amount of blood.

The rescue squad transported the victim to University Hospital in Newark, where he was released the same day.

Police apprehended the suspect, who remained in the classroom, and charged him with assault and a weapons offense.

The assailant, a Scotch Plains resident, was taken to the juvenile detention center in Elizabeth, and the case has been handed over to the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

"We take the safety of all students seriously," Lt. Donnelly said.

He said this marks the first and only incident of the 2007-2008 school at SPFHS.

Executive Assistant Prosecutor

## Norm Greco: 'Caruana Ruining Downtown WF'

By MICHAEL POLLACK  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**WESTFIELD** — The Westfield Community Action Group reconvened, Tuesday, before it shows up en masse at the next town council public meeting.

The citizen's action group, founded by downtown merchant and former town councilman Norman Greco, is demanding that the town cease plans to increase ticket charges for overtime meters from \$20 to \$32. The group also requests that the council reduce hourly parking rates from 50 cents to a quarter.

"We're asking them to keep their word," Mr. Greco told *The Westfield Leader*, Tuesday morning.

Between 55 and 60 people attended the action group's meeting, Tuesday, which focused on hiring an attorney, getting citizens more involved and planning for speakers at the upcoming council meeting.

Mr. Greco envisions between 50 and

Eileen Walsh told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, Tuesday, that the SPFHS student is no longer being held in Elizabeth.

The boy, 14, has been placed on "home detention," according to Ms. Walsh, meaning he "can't be roaming the streets."

He is allowed to leave home only to see a doctor, go to church or attend school, she said.

Ms. Walsh said it is up to the individual school to ban a student.

"Typically," she said, "a student is suspended and on home instruction."

Calls to SPFHS have not been returned to confirm if the student is receiving home instruction.

The boy faces charges of aggravated assault and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose; both are crimes of the third degree.

Ms. Walsh said she does not believe he has to wear a wristlet to monitor his movements, but said he will receive random visits to make sure he is obeying the terms of his detention.

He has a court date on Friday, May 16, to assess his progress.

Lt. Donnelly said, despite rumors to the contrary, the knife was not brought into the school. He also said the incident was not "gang-related."

He also added, in order to refute false claims being spread, that "this was not a random act" and that "no one got jumped... it was a one-on-one encounter."

Reached Tuesday afternoon, SPFHS Principal David Heisey told the newspaper that the victim has returned to school and that the administration is "taking appropriate action" concerning the incident. When asked to elaborate, the principal would not offer any more information.

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100 people showing up at the next public council meeting to voice concerns.

At Tuesday's council conference session, Finance Policy Committee Chairman Sal Caruana said that the amount of parking violations issued has been consistent over the last five years — ranging from 27,931 in 2003, to 27,444 last year.

In response, Mr. Greco said he sees a trend; according to him, since Mr. Caruana took office in 2003, the town has turned parking into a "business."

Mr. Greco went on to say, "Sal Caruana is single-handedly ruining the downtown shopping district. He is the bad guy, the [f]ly in the ointment. You can quote me on that."

While Mr. Caruana has served on the finance committee for his entire tenure on council, former councilman Peter Echausse had headed the committee until this year.

## WHS Principal

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Roosevelt School, are both on schedule.

The Early Childhood Learning Center was also added to the school organization chart.

Ms. Hunnicutt said that during final examinations, WHS students are not required to attend classes when they do not have a test to take. She said classes, such as art and gym, would remain open to students if they wish to work on a project or work out at the gym. Board members also noted that parents do not need a note for their child's absence in class in these cases.

Homeroom periods are also eliminated during final exams as atten-

dance will occur at exam time.

Mr. McCready, board member, said that an ad hoc committee is considering a new phone system for the schools that would operate over the internal IP system. He said the system would save "several thousand dollars per year."

The board also announced that Catherine McGary, first grade teacher at McKinley elementary school, received the Westfield Rotary Club's Phillower Fellowship for her "outstanding" teaching. The ceremony took place Tuesday afternoon. She will be honored at a 7:30 p.m. board reception in the McKinley School auditorium prior to the BOE's Tuesday, May 6 meeting.



John Maguire for The Westfield Leader

**RE-ORGANIZING...**The Mountainside Board of Education re-organizes Tuesday with newly elected board members.

## Mountainside Bd. of Ed.

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Vigilanti, in keeping with tradition, would donate trees for Beachwood and Deerfield schools in honor of Arbor Day.

The board unanimously approved the 2008-2009 school tax for the Borough of Mountainside. The school tax for the year will be \$12,162,524. The budget was passed by voters last month.

The board discussed holding a planning retreat, and the floor was turned over to the public for questions and comments.

The meeting quickly took a personal turn with several attendees rising in support of 7th grade social studies teacher Rick McCarrick who has worked for the district for the past three years. Mr. McCarrick had recently been informed that he would not be asked back next year and will effectively be denied tenure.

Several teachers and members of the community spoke glowingly of

the impact the teacher has had on students as an educator, mentor and coach. Mr. McCarrick was described as a teacher who goes out of his way for his students, a good man and someone who goes "above and beyond."

With Mr. McCarrick sitting silently among the crowd, fourth grade teacher Lee Kline implored the board "to take the time to consider what a fine person he is."

Mrs. Kline added how hard it was for her daughter, a student of Mr. McCarrick's, to adjust to the fact that her teacher may not be coming back next year. "I would hate to see another fine teacher get away," she said.

After the last person spoke, the board thanked those in attendance and withdrew to another closed-door executive session.

Future board meetings will take place on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month.



Courtesy of Jim O'Connor

**THE DEATH PENALTY...**New Jersey State Senator Raymond Lesniak (LD-20) signs copies of his new book, "The Road to Abolition - How New Jersey Abolished the Death Penalty," at Kean University last Tuesday. Governor Jon Corzine lends his support.



## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Monday, April 21, Kristina Haddad, 19, of Cranford was arrested on the 600 block of Central Avenue on an outstanding criminal warrant from Cranford. She was processed and released after posting \$443 bail.

Monday, April 21, Albert Blair, 3rd, 30, of Plainfield was arrested at Carteret police headquarters on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant. He was processed and released after posting \$300 bail.

Tuesday, April 22, Danielle Fortunato, 28, of Cranford was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) after police found her to be operating a motor vehicle that had been involved in an accident. The accident, in which the vehicle struck a parked van, occurred on the 100 block of Clover Street.

According to police, Fortunato was transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway, where she consented to give blood samples. Afterwards, she was taken back to Westfield police headquarters. She was processed there and later released to a responsible individual.

Tuesday, April 22, Leona Sinclair, 63, of Garwood was arrested at Garwood police headquarters on a traffic warrant issued by Westfield. She was released after posting \$500 bail.

### Scotch Plains

Monday, April 21, a resident of Allenby Lane reported that he received several harassing phone calls from an unknown person asking about his personal business and then hangs up.

Monday, April 21, a student at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School reported that someone removed his bike valued at \$150 from the outside rack.

Tuesday, April 22, a gas station on Route 22 reported that someone ordered \$30 worth of gas and then fled without paying.

Wednesday, April 23, a resident of Chip-lou Lane reported that someone broke into his vehicle while it was parked in his driveway and removed several items from inside.

Friday, April 25, a resident of Westfield Avenue reported that someone removed his bicycle valued at \$300 from the outside of his house.

Friday, April 25, Tania Rios-Coca, 19, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with obstruction after police responded to a motor vehicle accident where one of the drivers reportedly fled on foot from the scene. According to police, Rios-Coca

was found hiding a block away.

Police said it was determined she was the driver of the vehicle and was placed under arrest and transported to headquarters where she was processed and released with a summons.

Saturday, April 26, Gary Brown, 53, of Scotch Plains was arrested for an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop. According to police, he was transported to headquarters where he was processed and released.

### Mountainside

Wednesday, April 23, Ruben Cancio, 28, of Onedia, Pa., was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS). According to police, he was also issued summonses for having an unregistered vehicle, failure to exhibit documents, being an uninsured motorist, and for driving after expiration of his non-resident driving privileges.

Wednesday, April 23, Randy M. Lutz, 21, of Union was arrested and charged with driving with a suspended license. According to police, he was also charged with an outstanding warrant out of Springfield.

Wednesday, April 23, a resident of Bayberry Lane reported that a neighbor's dog bit her on the abdomen and behind her right knee.

According to police, the owner of the dog stated that the dog is up to date with its rabies shots and that the owner would be more assertive with measures to secure the pet.

### Fanwood

Tuesday, April 22, Michael G. Magnus, 47, of Fanwood was arrested for violation of a court order after a field investigation on Debra Way. According to police, he was turned over to the Union County Sheriff's Department.

Thursday, April 24, Sean Vorndran, 34, of Kenilworth was arrested on an outstanding Linden warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue. According to police, he posted bail and was released.

Thursday, April 24, Dennis G. Delossantos, 32, of North Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Newark warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Midway Avenue. According to police, he posted bail and was released.

Sunday, April 27, James R. Neal, Jr., 40, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Newark. According to police, he posted bail and was released.

## D.A.R.E. to Hold 'Iron Chef' Cook-off Dining Competition

WESTFIELD — D.A.R.E., in conjunction with TOP LINE Appliance Center in Westfield, is hosting its first D.A.R.E. to Dine event to help raise money for D.A.R.E., an organization that gives kids the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs and violence.

This is an "Iron Chef"-type cook-off, with chefs from local restaurants competing for the title of D.A.R.E. to Dine's "top chef." Chefs will be judged on presentation, creativity and taste.

The first cook-off features three chefs competing on Monday, May 12, followed by a second set of three chefs battling on Monday, May 19. The winner will challenge TOP LINE's "top chef" John Cucollo on Monday, June 2.

Tickets will entitle diners to sample appetizers, entrees and desserts of each participating chef and vote for their favorite overall chef at the end of the night. Beer, wine, soda and hors d'oeuvres are also included. Attendees must be at least 21 years old.

Tickets are \$30 per person for one night (May 12 or 19), \$50 per person for the first two nights and \$100 per person for all three nights.

For more information and tickets, contact Naomi McElynn at (908) 233-3021 or visit the Chamber of Commerce, located at 173 Elm St., third floor. People can also visit TOP LINE Appliance Center, located at 576 North Ave., East, or call the store at (908) 232-5200. For all other inquiries, call David Weinman at (908) 654-7200 or visit his office, located at 522 East Broad Street.

## Genological Society Program Set May 8

WESTFIELD — The Genealogical Society of the West Fields will present a program on Thursday, May 8, on genealogical websites. It will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the community room of the Westfield Municipal Building on East Broad Street.

Dick O'Malley, a family history researcher, will present it. He will outline his experiences in developing a website for genealogical research. The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

For additional information, please call Elizabeth Yolungas at (908) 276-7104.



**TREE CITY USA...**The Park Middle School Environmental Club is joined by Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr and state Assemblywoman Linda Stender (LD-22, Fanwood) at the Fanwood Arbor Day program, sponsored by the Fanwood Shade Tree Commission, held at Carriage House Park last Friday. The club gave a presentation on how planting trees helps to combat global warming.

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