



**RESCUED...**Ken and Evelyn Troy of Fanwood count their blessings in appreciation after Mrs. Troy was saved from a heart attack by the rescue squad and police department, on April 16, in her home. See story at right.

## Health Director Robert Sherr

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

respected health officer in the state," according to Mr. Corbet, by being a "very good financial manager, very good with other boards of health and town councils, and having the ability to bring in and train capable and hard working employees."

Megan Cornish will replace Mr. Sherr as the new health director. Ms. Cornish is currently the public health nursing supervisor and has worked in the department since last June.

Mr. Corbet said he expects to see an increase in the involvement of the board of health, which is made up of nine members, when Mr. Sherr leaves. In addition to assisting Ms. Cornish and reinforcing Mr. Sherr's past work, there will be "more of an outreach by

the board members when we have health fairs and flu shot clinics," Mr. Corbet said.

Mr. Sherr, who will pursue private consulting after leaving the department, will be available on an hourly basis to assist Ms. Cornish as she transitions into the position.

"We will get Bob's input...particularly in the fall, as we prepare budgets for Westfield and the other towns we service because it is an extremely complicated process," said Mr. Corbet, who has worked closely with Mr. Sherr on the budget in the past.

In the long term, Ms. Cornish said she wants to continue to "attract more towns to the regional health department to make it strong."

## Westfield Bd. of Adjustment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The board heard other applicants and approved each variance application.

David and Kim Gibson of 606 Dorian Road were approved to build a seven-foot-high shed on a side lot because their house is situated on a corner lot.

Karen and William Frey of 111 Scotch Plains Avenue were approved to construct a second story addition. Lot coverage is set at a maximum of 20 percent and the Freys proposed 22.5 percent, due to their lot size and the "nature of the house," which included a sloped ceiling in a nine foot by 11 foot.

Kevin and Leslie Stock of 570 Lawrence Avenue were approved a variance of front yard setback to build a front porch as was original to house built around 1913.

### Diesel Fuel Spill Causes Route 28 Traffic Jam

By MICHAEL POLLACK  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**WESTFIELD** — A diesel fuel spill caused the closing of Route 28 from the traffic circle to East Broad Street, last Thursday.

Shortly after 8:30 a.m., Westfield police officers responded to the spill, located by the South Avenue side of the traffic circle.

After the situation was assessed, the fire department was notified and responded.

Fire Chief Dan Kelly told *The Westfield Leader* that the puddle of diesel fuel was traced up North Avenue toward the East Broad Street business district.

The fire department worked to "dike" the storm drains, so the material did not spill into the sewers, and used sand to cover the fuel.

Police Captain David Wayman told *The Leader* that a "small trail [of oil] traveled up East Broad Street, heading toward Springfield, and dissipated after Elm Street."

The carrier has not been located yet. Chief Kelly said cars were "not able to traverse from the south side to the north side" via the circle, having to travel east or west. This backed up traffic on Route 28, which did not reopen until 3:25 p.m.

State Police, the Union County Hazmat team, officials from the state Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Transportation arrived at the scene.

Capt. Wayman said Hazmat and DEP continue to investigate the event.

## A Fanwood Life Saved – The Human Face of EMS Week

**FANWOOD** — Ken Troy is not a huge fan of television. So, when his wife Evelyn watches in the living room, he usually goes elsewhere and leaves her alone in her chair. But on the night of April 16, he decided to stay in the living room, a random change of routine that probably helped save his wife's life.

Mrs. Troy suddenly slumped in her chair and became unresponsive. Mr. Troy called 911 immediately, and a minute later, Fanwood Police Officer Kevin Stomber and Corporal Ron Greco raced into the home carrying a life-saving defibrillator. They immediately began the steps of CPR and attached the defibrillator pads to Mrs. Troy's chest. Within two or three minutes of their arrival, they had already administered the first shock.

After another minute or so, the first EMT from the Fanwood Rescue Squad arrived to assist. The automated defibrillator voice announced it was time to shock again and Corporal Greco did so. Within a minute of the second shock, Mrs. Troy started breathing again. Officer Stomber felt a pulse on her carotid artery, and EMT Tom Kranz felt a strong radial pulse.

Almost at the same moment, the rest of the cavalry arrived — more members of the rescue squad and paramedics from Muhlenberg Hospital. By six or seven minutes into the event, Mrs. Troy was breathing, and her heartbeat returned. She was transported to Muhlenberg in the rescue squad ambulance with the paramedics monitoring her heart rate and respiration during the six-minute trip.

"I don't remember a thing," said Mrs. Troy, three weeks later, back home and doing well with her new best friend, an implanted defibrillator/pacemaker. "I guess God decided it wasn't my time yet. We are so grateful."

Quick action, trained responders and a little bit of luck all came together to keep Mrs. Troy alive a while longer.

Those responding from the Fanwood Rescue Squad were EMT's Patty Buckridge, Jim Drewes, Tom FitzGibbon, Tom Kranz, Melissa Padulsky and first responder Bob Hoyer. Mr. Kranz and Ms. Padulsky are both CPR instructors who are running free classes during EMS Week, May 18 to 24, at the Fanwood Rescue Squad building on Watson Road.

## Local Attorneys Nominated For Judgeships by Corzine

By RAYNOR DENITZIO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**WESTFIELD** — Governor Jon Corzine nominated local attorneys Kenneth Grispin, James Hely and Ellen Bass for positions on the bench. Mr. Grispin and Mr. Hely received nominations for Union County Superior Court judgeships, while Ms. Bass is a candidate for administrative law judge.

Mr. Grispin, Mr. Hely and Ms. Bass were unable to comment on their nominations, which still await review by the state Senate Judiciary Committee. Jim Gardner, a spokesman for Governor Corzine, was unable to discuss specific candidates but spoke of the general criteria used to select judicial nominees.

"Certainly, [the governor examines] their track record as an attorney and the types of cases that they have either heard as a judge on a local level or as a practicing attorney," Mr. Gardner said. "[The candidates nominated are] those that have a thorough understanding of the law and that we believe would make good jurist on the bench."

Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (LD-21, Westfield) spoke highly of Mr. Hely, citing both his work as a civil-trial attorney and as a former councilman in Westfield. He said that Mr. Hely has "always acted in a non-partisan way," and is "respected by both Democrats and Republicans."

"I give the Governor an A-plus-plus [on Mr. Hely's nomination]," Mr. Bramnick said. "If the Governor could do the same things on his budget, we'd be in good shape."

Mr. Gardner said the next step in the nomination process involves review by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The committee will conduct interviews and vote on the nominees. If approved by the committee, the nominations will go before the full Senate for approval. Mr. Gardner said there is no set timetable for approval.

"It varies," said Mr. Gardner. "It can just be a matter of a few weeks depending on

how busy of a schedule the Senate Judiciary Committee has."

"It is so important that we put qualified professionals on the bench in Union County and throughout the judicial system. And while I do not know all of these nominees personally, I am confident that they have been nominated for their experience and unique expertise. I look forward to having the opportunity to review their credentials as part of the Senate's advise and consent responsibility," Senator Tom Kean, Jr. (LD-21, Westfield) said.

Mr. Grispin is a partner at the law firm of Grispin and Roth located in Scotch Plains. He is a graduate of Rutgers University and Rutgers School of Law-Newark. He joined the firm of Read, Leib, Shear and Kraus in 1973 and also served as a pool attorney with the Union County Public Defender's Office. According to Mr. Gardner, Mr. Grispin is being nominated for the position previously held by Judge Barbara Byrd Wecker.

Mr. Hely is a partner at Weisman, Hely and DiGioia, a law firm located in Mountainside. A graduate of Westfield High School, Mr. Hely attended Gettysburg College and Rutgers School of Law-Camden. A county Democratic committee member, he is a former Westfield councilman and was the party's nominee for Congress in the 7th District in 1988.

Ms. Bass is currently the in-house counsel for the South Orange-Maplewood School District. Ms. Bass attended Wesleyan University and Mount Holyoke College and is a graduate of Boston University School of Law. Prior to her position with the school district, Ms. Bass was an attorney with Algeier Woodruff from 1984 until 2003.

She also served in the law firm of Aron and Salsberg from 1982 until 1984, and as assistant counsel to the New Jersey Association of School Administrators from 1980 to 1982.

## WF Council – Vacant Buildings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Despite the council and the town attorney's response, Mr. Berman said it sounded as though the houses can stay "indefinitely."

First Ward Councilman Frank Arena requested that the town contact the board of health to check for the condition, noting that kids walk by the area when going to Franklin Elementary School.

When reached by telephone late Tuesday night, Mr. Rapuano said he did not know why his name continues to be connected with the Prospect Street homes. He said if all goes as scheduled, the homes would be demolished within 10 days.

"The fact is — I own neither of the properties," he told *The Westfield Leader*. Calls to the tax assessor's office revealed that Allan Chrono owns the Prospect properties.

Mr. Rapuano said he has spoken on behalf of the owner, and for this reason, he continues to be linked to the property. Because he is not the owner, he is not responsible for addressing issues related to the property-maintenance code. He did acknowledge receipt of a violation but informed officials that he is not the owner.

Mr. Rapuano said he "couldn't agree more with the residents" that the homes should be demolished but said that the town's policies stood in his way.

He said he wanted the homes demolished two years ago, but because the town stipulates that a house cannot be demolished while going through the subdivision process, the houses stayed.

"Who would want the homes to sit there like that?" he asked. "The owner doesn't want to accumulate carrying costs associated with the property. It should be demolished, but we're moving as quickly as the town allows us."

Ultimately, he said it is "ridiculous" that his name continues to be "badmouthed." He said the council members "should know who the owner is before speaking about it."

Separately, Patricia Lee of Cacciola Place also asked if the neighboring single-family dwelling, once infested with raccoons and now boarded up, can be demolished.

Mr. Cockeran said the owner, identified last year as Joseph Penyak, Sr., had been prosecuted and fined for health and property-maintenance violations. As recently as

Monday, the board of adjustment denied Mr. Penyak's latest attempt to build a two-family dwelling.

Mr. Cockeran said if the owner does not appeal the decision, it "goes back to square one."

He added that an "extraordinary remedy" does exist whereby a municipality can force a demolition of a property and charge the owner. He said this occurs only after a "very detailed legal process," and as of last year, the town "probably did not have the facts that the law requires."

Ms. Neylan told Ms. Lee that although it is "frustrating," the laws are "very much in favor of the property owner." She said an owner is "king of his castle," and the council "can't dictate that someone take down a house...you can only dictate so much."

Fourth Ward Councilman Jim Foerst said, "The town has to view the poor little old lady who is behind on her bills in the same light that we view Mr. Rapuano and the owner of Cacciola."

Ms. Lee responded, "We're not talking about a little old lady. We're talking about a businesswoman who bought the property for profit. If it was a little old lady, I'd be compassionate for her."

Mr. Foerst replied that, "In the eyes of the law, they are viewed the same."

Ms. Lee said she comes home everyday and has to look at the neighboring house. She said friends and family also witness the neighboring property's state.

"It's not fair to me," she said. "Be fair to me. Do what you would want me to do for you. It's just not right."

Mayor Andy Skibitsky said that would happen "in a perfect world...but we can't tell an owner to tear a house down."

Mr. Berman interjected into the conversation, asking if the town, in the future, could take stricter actions.

Mr. Cockeran said, "What the people in this room (Mr. Berman and Ms. Lee) would have us do, tonight, would be to overstep our bounds...and take more radical steps. You're potentially [treading] on the private rights of a private-property owner."

After Mr. Berman responded to a subsequent statement, Mr. Cockeran said, "You're not a lawyer, sir."

## Jury Convicts Michael Nelson of Scotch Plains on Drug Charges

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — Michael Nelson, 44, of Scotch Plains is facing up to 10 years in prison after being convicted of possession of 22 pounds of marijuana with the intent to distribute, and possession of the drug with the intent to distribute it within 500 feet of the Egbert playground in Union. Both are second-degree crimes. The jury in Superior Court Judge Joseph Donohue's courtroom came to the unanimous verdict yesterday after a four-day trial.

According to Union County Assistant Prosecutor Joshua McMahon, the defendant was having the drugs FedEx'ed to him from Arizona. "A heavy box was delivered to the Sears Auto Center on Route 22 in Union that was addressed to a

former employee," Mr. McMahon said. "The manager of the store noticed an unusual odor coming from the box. He opened it and called the police."

Union Police Department detectives Kevin Kalendek and Tom Ronan removed the marijuana from the box, replaced it with 22 pounds of packing material and put it back in the store. They kept the package under surveillance until Nelson arrived at the store, picked up the package and put it in his car. Nelson, a former employee of Sears, was arrested in the parking lot.

Nelson has one prior drug-related felony conviction in New York State. He will be sentenced on June 27.



**LIFE SAVING...**The Westfield Fire Department uses the Jaws of Life to extricate a seriously injured woman who crashed her vehicle into a wall on North Avenue last week.

## POLICE BLOTTER

**Westfield**  
Wednesday, May 7, Jonathan R. McKay, 27, of Newark was arrested at the Union Police Department on a Westfield traffic warrant. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, where he was processed and held on \$500 bail.

Wednesday, May 7, Alexandra Cortese, 19, of Westfield was arrested on Sunnywood Drive and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, described as less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana. She was transported to Westfield police headquarters, where she was processed and released on her own recognizance.

Wednesday, May 7, Damian L. Washington, 31, of Roselle was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on outstanding traffic warrants. These included three from Roselle, with total bail of \$650, two from Manalapan, with total bail of \$102, and one from Westfield, with bail of \$500. Washington posted bail on all the warrants and was released.

Wednesday, May 7, Anthony Husser, 37, of Plainfield was arrested on two outstanding traffic warrants following a motor vehicle stop at South and Windsor Avenues. These included one from Newark, with \$264 bail, and another from Plainfield, with \$300 bail. Husser was turned over to the Plainfield Police Department.

Saturday, May 10, Ricardo Bradshaw, 41, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding Newark motor vehicle warrant following a motor vehicle stop at West Broad Street and Rahway Avenue. He was released after posting \$300 bail.

Saturday, May 10, James Moloney, 54, of Cranford was arrested on the 200 block of East Broad Street on an outstanding Scotch Plains criminal warrant with \$600 bail. He was released to the Scotch Plains Police Department.

Saturday, May 10, after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation, Adam Reinisch, 37, of West Millford was arrested on Rahway Avenue near West Broad Street on an outstanding Belleville traffic warrant. He was released after posting \$63 bail.

**Scotch Plains**  
Wednesday, May 7, a resident of Winchester Drive reported that someone removed a valve valued at \$225 from her sprinkler system.

Thursday, May 8, James Moloney, 54, of Cranford was arrested for an outstanding warrant after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation. According to police, he was processed and released.

Thursday, May 8, a resident of Church Avenue reported that someone entered his vehicle and removed items valued at \$50. Friday, May 9, a business on Jerusalem Road reported that someone removed scrap metal valued at \$150 from his back yard.

Saturday, May 10, Daniel Petreko, 27, of Garwood was arrested for an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop. According to police, he was processed and released.

Sunday, May 11, David Smith, 28, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation. According to police, he was processed and released.

Sunday, May 11, Michael Cummings, 20, of Rahway was arrested for an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop. According to police, he was processed and released.

**Fanwood**  
Tuesday, May 6, Garfield A. Woodhouse, 25, of Plainfield was arrested for providing police with false information after a motor vehicle stop. According to police, he was processed and released.

Wednesday, May 7, Jason B. Parish, 36, of Westfield was arrested and charged with DWI after a field investigation into a motor vehicle accident on Midway Avenue. According to police, he was also charged with three counts of possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS), one count of possession of drug paraphernalia and three counts of possession of prescription drugs. He was transported to the Union County jail where he is being held on \$17,000 bail, police said.

Wednesday, May 7, Barry D. Smith, 34, of Plainfield was arrested on outstanding warrants out of Summit and Scotch Plains after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue. According to police, he was processed and released.

Wednesday, May 7, Edward B. Layaou, 44, of Dallas, Pa. was arrested in the 50 block of South Avenue on an outstanding

warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue. According to police, he was processed and released.

Wednesday, May 7, Edward B. Layaou, 44, of Dallas, Pa. was arrested in the 50 block of South Avenue on an outstanding

warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue. According to police, he was processed and released.

Wednesday, May 7, Edward B. Layaou, 44, of Dallas, Pa. was arrested in the 50 block of South Avenue on an outstanding

warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue. According to police, he was processed and released.

Wednesday, May 7, Edward B. Layaou, 44, of Dallas, Pa. was arrested in the 50 block of South Avenue on an outstanding

warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue. According to police, he was processed and released.

Wednesday, May 7, Edward B. Layaou, 44, of Dallas, Pa. was arrested in the 50 block of South Avenue on an outstanding

body warrant out of Morris County. According to police, he was turned over to the Morris County Sheriff's Department.

Thursday, May 8, Quinton Rawls, 50, of Plainfield was arrested on La Grande Avenue for an outstanding Union County body warrant after a motor vehicle stop. According to police, he was turned over to the Union County Sheriff's Department.

Thursday, May 8, Richard G. Hunt, 49, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Plainfield warrant after a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue.

Thursday, May 8, Ricky S. McGowan, 50, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Plainfield warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Friday, May 9, Michael J. Howard, 24, of Hillsborough was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana after a motor vehicle stop on Midway Avenue. According to police, he was processed and released.

Friday, May 9, Nathan L. Jackson, 42, of Trenton was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Elizabeth after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. According to police, he was processed and released.

Saturday, May 10, John M. Perricone, 24, of Colonia was arrested on an outstanding Woodbridge warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue.

Saturday, May 10, Marcos A. Ventura, 34, of New York, NY was arrested on outstanding warrants out of Warren, Cresskill and Jersey City. According to police, he was processed and released.

Saturday, May 10, Richard A. Peguero, 45, of North Plainfield was arrested on outstanding warrants out of East Rutherford and Kearny. According to police, he was processed and released.

Sunday, May 11, Charles Vayda, 57, of New Providence was arrested and charged with DWI after a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue. According to police, he was processed and released.

**Mountainside**  
Tuesday, May 6, a resident of Central Avenue reported that someone damaged her mailbox valued at approximately \$300.

Tuesday, May 6, Christian Valencia, 23, of North Plainfield was arrested for an outstanding warrant out of Scotch Plains in the amount of \$89.

Wednesday, May 7, Juan C. Alvarez, 30, of Elizabeth was arrested for driving with a suspended license after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation.

Thursday, May 8, Gerard Fenelus, 33, of Elizabeth was arrested at the Elizabeth Police Department for an outstanding Mountainside warrant in the amount of \$349.

Thursday, May 8, Keith A. Briggs, 30, of Mountainside was arrested for disorderly conduct after a 9-1-1 call from his residence on Upland Road. According to police, he was transported to Muhlenberg Hospital for evaluation.

Thursday, May 8, a resident reported that someone made unauthorized credit card purchases in the amount of \$2,460.98. According to police, the credit card has been cancelled.

Sunday, May 11, police responded to Grouse Lane on a report of a dog bite. According to authorities, the victim was jogging when a yellow Labrador chased her down the sidewalk and subsequently bit her. The dog's vaccination records are being checked and the victim refused medical treatment at the time, police said.

**Garwood**  
Julio Duran, 34, of Elizabeth was arrested after a police officer observed a green Ford station wagon driving erratically on South Avenue and stopped the vehicle.

His investigation resulted in the arrest of Duran for driving while under the influence of alcohol (DUI). He also was charged with having an open container of alcohol inside his vehicle while he was driving, as well as other motor vehicle complaints.

Duran's motor vehicle was impounded. He later was released to a family member pending a municipal court appearance, according to police.

### Prospect Street Fire Displaces WF Family

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**WESTFIELD** — A structure fire has temporarily displaced one Westfield family.

The fire occurred at 750 Prospect Street, near the Franklin School district, last Saturday, at 7 p.m.

Firefighters had the flames under control within 15 minutes.

According to Fire Chief Dan Kelly, the fire was contained to the room of origin — the first-floor living room.

Because the power could not be restored, the Westfield/Mountainside Red Cross had to relocate the family to the Westfield Inn.

### Ticketing Campaign To Occur May 19 to June 1

**COUNTY** — Law enforcement officers in Union County towns will be on special patrol, May 19 through June 1, to issue tickets to motorists not wearing their seats belts. In New Jersey, the ticket fine is \$46. Last year, police agencies in Union County issued 2,811 seat belt citations.

As part of the National "Click It or Ticket Campaign," there will be zero tolerance.

In 2007, the seat belt usage rate in New Jersey was 91.4 percent. New Jersey law enforcement and safety officials say they will not rest until there is a 100 percent compliance rate and tickets are a strong deterrent.

**LAWRENCE A. WOODRUFF**  
Counsellor at Law  
Accredited Divorce Mediator

Real Estate  
Wills & Estate Planning  
Divorce & Divorce Mediation

201 South Avenue East  
Westfield, New Jersey  
908 654-8885