

Fireworks in Local Towns Salute Independence Day

Thursday, July 2
Westfield

The Westfield Community Band, under the direction of Thomas Connors, will perform its traditional town-wide Independence Day Celebration tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Mindowaskin Park. The Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution will join the band for their traditional ceremonies.

The intermission of the program will highlight Westfield's Town Crier sharing local news stories with concert attendees and an Independence Day address.

The event is free to the public; audience members are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will

be held in the community room in the municipal building.

Plainfield

Plainfield's 86th annual Independence Day Celebration will be held tonight at 9:30 p.m. at Cedar Brook Park, located off Park Avenue. The city's annual Independence Day Parade will be on Saturday, July 4, beginning at 10 a.m. on East Front Street.

Friday, July 3
New Providence

The borough will close South Street from Springfield Avenue to Gales Drive at 8 p.m. and hold its fireworks at 9:30 p.m. in the downtown. The rain date is Sunday, July 5, at 9:30 p.m.

Summit

The city will host a TEA Party by the Taxed Enough Already (TEA)

organization from 3 to 6 p.m. on The Village Green, located at Maple and Broad Streets across from the Summit train station.

Saturday, July 4
Clark

The township's annual Independence Day celebration at Arthur L. Johnson High School on Westfield Avenue will have rides and food vendors from 3 p.m. until the fireworks display at dusk.

Cranford

The township's annual celebration at Nomahegan Park, located across from Union County College on Springfield Avenue, starts at 8 a.m. with canoe races by the Cranford Canoe Club followed by the Cranford Jaycees-sponsored Firecracker Fun Run at 9 a.m. at Nomahegan Park and, later in the day, by bicycle decorating, an egg toss, and fireworks, which begin at 9:15 p.m.

Morristown

The town will host a TEA Party by the Taxed Enough Already organization from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on The Green at 10 Park Place.

Mountainside

The borough will hold its fireworks at Our Lady of Lourdes School, located on 300 Central Avenue beginning at 8:30 p.m. The show is presented in conjunction with the borough's volunteer fire department and the Mountainside Police Athletic League. The rain date is Sunday, July 5.

Scotch Plains

Marty Marks and Bo Vastine, Republican state Assembly candidates, will hold a community reading of the Declaration of Independence at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains followed by a picnic barbecue. The event, to be held from 1 to 4 p.m., costs \$40 for each adult and \$20 for anyone under 16.

Summit

Summit's 62nd annual Fourth of July event will be held at Soldiers Memorial Field. The festivities start at 9:15 a.m. with a flag-raising ceremony followed by the Children's Decorated Bicycle Parade. There will also be rides, games, amusements, a Polka Dot Children's Performance, the annual Emergency Services softball game and music by the Summit Stompers Dixieland All Stars. The evening's entertainment will feature a "Party Dolls" concert at 7:45 p.m. followed by the fireworks display at 9:15 p.m.

Union

The township's annual fireworks show will begin at dusk at Bietuempfel Park on Winslow Avenue. The rain date is Sunday, July 5.

Roselle Park

The borough's Independence Day activities begin at noon at West Webster Avenue in front of the Roselle Park High School and continue until 11 p.m., highlighted by an evening fireworks show beginning at 9:15 p.m. behind the high school with an entrance on West Colfax Avenue. This is part of a carnival, which includes rides, games, light music and food vendors, held from July 1-5; hours vary.

Springfield

The township's annual July 4 festivities kickoff at Meisel Park at 5 p.m. and will have food and beverages, a petting zoo and rides. Musical performances, which begin at 7:30 p.m., will include the Fruitigum Company and Terry Sylvester, formerly of the Hollies. The township's fireworks display begins at dusk. Donations of \$5 per person are requested with children under 2 admitted for free.



Evan Falk for The Westfield Leader

ROBIN HOODS... Jeron Calderon and Jim Cuevas demonstrate their archery skills during the opening of the new Union County archery range, Friday, at Oak Ridge Park in Clark. Mr. Calderon and Mr. Cuevas are members of the Spinal Navigators, a championship winning team organized in 2007. The archery range opened this week at the former golf course.

Flag Waves for GW Family Due to Neighborly Help

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — The Sullivans of Willow Avenue may let freedom ring in the comfort of their own home this Fourth of July, six months after losing their house of 44 years to a fire that spread through the entire residence, destroying many of their precious belongings. But most of all, they will observe the generosity of their neighbors in Garwood who proved invaluable in restoring the house.

"The whole town is just amazing," said Kathi Sullivan, who lived with her mom, Dolores, at the house. She said she received donations from her hometown as well as from Westfield and as far out as Bridgewater.

"After the story had ran in the paper, we had received a lot of response. I think we collected over \$12,000. That paid for the windows, the roof, the two outside doors and a sink," said Barbara Tweedle, a neighbor that has been there for Ms. Sullivan through it all.

At 2:45 p.m. on January 31, a two-alarm fire took hold of the Sullivans' home at 307 Willow Avenue in Garwood, damaging the structure. The family lost their cat, Lucky, and most of their possessions, with the exception of a few photos and a wedding band and engagement ring, remarkably preserved by candle wax. The items were sitting inside a candleholder at the time of the fire, and the wax melted to form a protective shell around the set.

"The only thing left standing was the foundation and the sidewalk," Ms. Tweedle said, plus some exterior walls.

The Sullivans had planned to move in Memorial Day, but weather restrictions have pushed back their anticipated move-in date to Fourth of July weekend. "We could still use a few hands over the Fourth of July weekend," Ms. Tweedle said.

As of Friday, walls are up; floors were going down; electrical and plumbing were installed. Now all that is left to complete is the finishing work — from installing cabinetry, plumbing and lighting fixtures, to painting and trim work.

With Mrs. Sullivan's Alzheimer's disease, Ms. Sullivan said her mom needs the stability of living in her own home after staying at a friend's house during the reconstruction. Before the blaze, Mrs. Sullivan was living on the top floor of the two-family home and her daughter below.

"Since she is no longer able to process information, she is going to live with me," Ms. Sullivan said. "We

will rent the upstairs."

Demolition began on March 5, then local craftsmen volunteered their time to replace the roof, windows and siding, reframing the interior and exterior.

"I don't know how I can repay them," Ms. Sullivan said.

Garwood PBA No. 117 gave the family a dumpster. Joe Moore of Garwood, an electrician from Venture Electric, did all of the electrical work gratis. Cooper Electric, an electrical supply company, donated all of the wire. Lou Petruzelli of Accent Electric also pitched in.

"Our plumber, Bruce Paterson, did all of the plumbing work; he worked a lot of hours on the house," Ms. Tweedle said.

Raymond, a contractor from Payless, donated a garden window for the kitchen.

"It's like \$1,000. Kathy really wanted one" for displaying her plants, Ms. Tweedle said.

"J.R. Taylor of Insurance Restoration Service, he deals with the fire restoration. He told us how to get rid of smells and what to do to preserve her things," she continued.

"Fortunately, they donated pretty much everything," Ms. Sullivan said.

The bulk of the expenditures for the rebuild came from the Sullivans' savings account because the homeowners insurance lapsed as a result of Mrs. Sullivan's memory loss. "We spent \$150,000, and we built a \$300,000 house," she said.

Ms. Sullivan, who is due to give birth to her first child next month,

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Christina M. Hinke for The Westfield Leader

NEIGHBORLY HELP... Kathi and Dolores Sullivan of Garwood, front left to right, with the help of their neighbor and close friend Barbara Tweedle, top right, and many members of the community, hope to move in to their rebuilt home by July 4. They lost their house of 44 years to a fire that broke out January 31.



Benjamin B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

'NO CAP AND TAX'...Mila Chejok of Stirling, left, and conservative blogger Colonel Manly Rash of Somerset, center, were among some two dozen protestors picketing the North Avenue office of Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th Congressional District) on Monday for Mr. Lance's "yes" vote on the global warming/"Cap-and-Trade" bill.

Protestors Rip Leonard Lance's 'Yes' Vote on Cap-and-Trade Bill

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Nearly two dozen protestors converged on Rep. Leonard Lance's North Avenue office in Westfield on Monday. They were opposed to the congressman's affirmative vote on the 1,600-page American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (H.R. 2454), better known as the cap-and-trade or global warming/climate and energy bill. Opponents called the bill, which supporters say is the first legislative action to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, a national energy tax.

The House of Representatives passed the legislation, 219 to 212, with eight Republicans joining Democrats to pass the bill. Mr. Lance, Rep. Chris Smith (R-4th, Mercer) and Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-2nd, Salem) supported cap-and-trade. Forty-four Democrats voted against the bill.

According to a *New York Times* article, cap-and-trade "sets a limit on overall emissions of heat-trapping gases while allowing utilities, manufacturers and other emitters to trade pollution permits, or allowances, among themselves."

The bill requires electric utilities to meet 20 percent of their electricity demand through renewable energy sources and energy efficiency by 2020 and reduces carbon emissions from major U.S. sources by 17 percent by 2020 and over 80 percent by 2050 compared to 2005 levels. It also states that it protects consumers from energy price increases.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that, on average, a household would pay \$175 a year net in energy costs in the year 2020 as a result of the legislation.

"I think it (cap-and-trade) will be good for New Jersey. We are already subject to limits on greenhouse gas emissions from powerplants based upon a 10-state regional greenhouse gas initiative. This bill, over time, would reduce the emissions, particularly from the states in Middle West, and that would be good for the environment," Mr. Lance told *The Westfield Leader*.

"I believe there is climate change that is occurring, and I think most scientists agree with that," he said.

Among those who lobbied Mr. Lance in favor of the legislation were former Governor Thomas H. Kean and Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G).

"While there is a broad support for reducing our dependence on foreign oil, increasing energy efficiency and encouraging greater production of electricity from renewable sources, this investment simply will not occur on a sustained basis absent a price signal for carbon," according to a letter from PSE&G Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ralph Izzo obtained by *The Westfield Leader*.

"Our state, region and country stand to substantially benefit from the job creation that will result from a clean energy future," Mr. Izzo stated.

Mr. Lance said the legislation would also reduce America's dependence on foreign oil by increasing energy efficiency.

"I think it is going to create jobs in New Jersey. Green jobs. And I am a strong environmentalist," Mr. Lance said. The congressman said he voted with Republicans on a House amend-

ment "to have a more open process" with regard to last-minute additions, but that effort failed and a 350-page amendment was added to the legislation.

Americans for Limited Government (ALG) President Bill Wilson said the legislation "will deliberately increase the costs of gasoline, oil and coal at a

time when the American people can ill afford it."

"The legislation, HR 2454, would force carbon-emitting industries — coal, oil, gasoline and natural gas — to purchase carbon permits that would reduce in supply over the next decade," he said.

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MS BOE OKs Salary Cut For Summer Enrichment

By MAGGIE DIGGORY
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — Suzanne Jenks, Mountainside Education Association (MEA) president, addressed the board of education at its June 25 meeting about its pending decision to approve a salary rate reduction for the district's upcoming summer enrichment program.

The program is scheduled to run from June 29 through July 27 and has been under-enrolled, according to Jeanette Baubles, the Chief School Administrator (CSA). The cost for

attending is \$40 per week per student. The board later approved appropriations from its Enterprise Fund budget in the amount of \$17,495 during its vote on budget agenda items.

"Incorrect information was given to the parents. So, I'm here tonight to clarify the facts. On Wednesday, June 17, I received a phone call at my home from Dr. Baubles. At that time, I was informed of the reduction of summer enrichment salaries, and she asked for my input as the president of the Mountainside Education Association."

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Tunnel to Provide Westfield Transfer-Free Ride to NYC

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — At last week's public meeting of the Westfield Town Council, the council heard an update on NJ Transit's Mass Transit Tunnel Project, slated for completion in 2017, which will provide a one-stop ride to an extended Penn Station in midtown Manhattan.

Alan Weinberg, senior director of NJ Transit's Tunnel Project, attended the meeting and said the tunnel project will double the rail capacity between New York and New Jersey for NJ Transit and Amtrak.

At present, the entire commuter rail system connecting the two "skinnies down" to a congested 100-year-old two-track railroad tunnel and

overcrowded Penn Station New York. Currently, the tracks can accommodate 23 trains an hour at peak times; at the project's conclusion, capacity will more than double to 48 trains during the same time frame.

Crews broke ground two weeks ago on the \$8.7-billion project, which will be an "incredible benefit to the region," said Mr. Weinberg, a resident of Westfield.

He said the current rail tunnel is at capacity and is not equipped to handle the growth in ridership, which is expected to double in 20 years. New Jersey residents, he said, bring home \$50 billion in "real personal income" from jobs in New York State and that if the transit system failed to expand,

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David Corbin for The Westfield Leader

CLASSIC... The DooWop girls, Estrella Munoz and Tara Beelitz, dress up Larry Darrow's classic red 1986 Mercedes convertible during his DooWop party on his birthday Monday night at 16 Prospect Bistro in Westfield.

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