



Susan M. Dougherty for The Westfield Leader

RED, WHITE AND BLUE...The Garwood Memorial Day Service, held at the Knights of Columbus, honored 22 men who lost their lives in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War collectively. Lighting the red, white and blue candles and presenting flowers are former councilman Walter Maszczyk, Annie Leonard of the fire department and Lena Cummings of the VFW Ladies' Auxiliary.

MS Parents Support Lang. Teacher; Admins. Get Raises

By MAGGIE DIGGORY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — Deerfield School parents approached The Westfield Leader prior to the start of Tuesday evening's Board of Education (BOE) meeting to discuss the board's decision in executive session to not renew the contract of Jan Macha, an eighth-grade Language Arts Learning (LAL) teacher.

In accordance with the state's Sunshine Laws, Mr. Macha was entitled to a hearing before the BOE to discuss his termination. According to parent Kim De Fronzo, Mr. Macha and his supporters were given 30 minutes to address why they feel he should have his contract renewed for a second year.

"We asked (Chief School Administrator) Dr. (Jeanette) Baubles what her decision was based on. We want it based on an objective measure. We want them to wait until the New Jersey Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (NJ ASK) results for Mr. Macha's classes are measured," Mrs. De Fronzo, who was waiting with four parents for a chance to address the BOE, told The Leader.

Mr. Macha was present during the discussion, but did not add any comment.

Mrs. De Fronzo showed The Leader

RVSA

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attention."

The board was also informed of efforts to negotiate with the DEP regarding air permitting. The negotiations are intended to provide the authority with flexibility to handle start up and adjustment of its cogeneration facility without violating the terms of the authority's agreements and mandates from the DEP.

BOE to Hold Meeting On Wash. Temp Closing

GARWOOD — The Garwood Board of Education will hold a special meeting on Monday, June 8, in the multi-purpose room of the Lincoln school, located at 400 Second Avenue.

The agenda will include the board's annual goal-setting meeting at 6 p.m. followed by a public discussion at 8 p.m. regarding the possibility of taking Washington School "off-line" for the 2009-2010 school year. All community members are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Health Dept. to Close June 25 for Training

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Health Department and Office of Vital Statistics will be closed on Thursday, June 25, so that the department's staff can participate in a public health emergency response training exercise.

Library to Present Tale of Despereaux

GARWOOD — On Saturday, May 30, at 10 a.m., the Garwood Public Library will screen Kate DiCamillo's Newbery Award-winning *Tale of Despereaux*. Registration is required and limited to 30 children. To register, call the library at (908) 789-1670 or sign up at the Circulation Desk. The library is located at 411 Third Avenue, at the corner of Third Avenue and Walnut Street.



Michael J. Pollack for The Westfield Leader

'MET' THEIR MATCH...Brothers Jack and Ryan Pettit of Westfield meet Mr. Met at Westfield's Citibank on Friday as part of a fan-appreciation day.

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Monday, May 18, Sanal Badma-Goryaev, 27, of Baltimore, Md. was arrested and charged with receiving stolen property after being stopped at Central and Sycamore Avenues operating a motor vehicle that exhibited a stolen license plate. He also was arrested on a contempt of court from Howell Township in the amount of \$140. Badma-Goryaev posted bail and was released on a summons with a June 4 court date on the Westfield charge.

Tuesday, May 19, the theft of a cell phone valued at \$200 was reported in the 100 block of Elm Street.

Wednesday, May 20, Brian Delsol, 22, of Elizabeth was arrested after a motor vehicle stop at West Broad Street and Rahway Avenue on active contempt of court warrants from Roselle Park. He was released after posting a total of \$246 bail and was released.

Wednesday, May 20, Elizabeth Rodriguez, 48, of New York was arrested and charged with possession of false government documents, exhibiting false government documents and uttering a forged instrument after she allegedly attempted to pass a bad check at a local bank. She was committed to the Union County jail in lieu of \$20,000 bail.

Wednesday, May 20, Deshawn Robinson, 25, of Roselle was arrested at Roselle police headquarters on outstanding contempt of court warrants from Westfield and Edison in the amounts of \$160 and \$89, respectively.

Wednesday, May 20, Kim M. Buotempo, 40, of Westfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated after a motor vehicle stop at East Broad and North Chestnut Streets. She later was released on her own recognizance.

Thursday, May 21, a resident of the 1000 block of Rahway Avenue reported a lost Chinese passport. The item has been missing for approximately the past two weeks.

Friday, May 22, Juan Murciadiaz, 27, of Elizabeth was arrested after responding to Westfield police headquarters to satisfy an outstanding traffic warrant from Westfield in the amount of \$99. He was processed and released after posting bail.

Friday, May 22, Ronald Kolacki, 44, of North Plainfield was arrested at Plainfield police headquarters on outstanding contempt of court warrants from Westfield and South Plainfield in the amounts of \$750 and \$194, respectively.

He was committed to the Union County jail in lieu of bail.

Friday, May 22, Kevin Paccione, 24, of Manalapan was arrested on North Avenue at Elmer Street on an outstanding contempt of court warrant from Westfield in the amount of \$500. He was released after posting bail.

Saturday, May 23, police arrested a 15-year-old male from Roselle for possession of alcohol underage on the 400 block of East Broad Street. The juvenile was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and turned over to a responsible individual.

Adam Gartenberg, 42, of Springfield was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance (less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana) and possession of drug paraphernalia after a motor vehicle stop at East Broad Street and Karen Terrace. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released with multiple summonses.

Sunday, May 24, Victor Mendez, 20, of Roselle was arrested and charged with hindering apprehension for allegedly failing to properly identify himself during a motor vehicle stop on East South Avenue near Windsor Avenue. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released with a summons.

Monday, May 25, Jamar McMillon, 27, of Scotch Plains was arrested on an outstanding contempt of court warrant from Scotch Plains after a motor vehicle stop on Brightwood Avenue just into Scotch Plains. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released after posting \$89 bail.

Monday, May 25, a resident of the 900 block of Willow Grove Road reported that the windshield on his motor vehicle was broken in an incident of criminal mischief. There are no suspects at this time.

Monday, May 25, police officers secured a clear, Ziploc-style bag containing suspected marijuana while on an unrelated call in the area of 800 Forest Avenue. The item was placed into the evidence locker at Westfield police headquarters for safekeeping.

Monday, May 25, a citizen found a black change purse containing earplugs in the area of East Broad Street during the Memorial Day Parade. The item was placed into the evidence locker at Westfield police headquarters for safekeeping.

Monday, May 25, Nicholas S. Matamoros, 18, of Kenilworth was arrested on a \$200 Union Township traffic warrant as the result of a motor vehicle stop on the 500 block of North Avenue. East. He was released after posting bail.

Mountainside

Tuesday, May 19, a resident reported that her wallet was removed from her motor vehicle. The victim suspected that a friend who she dropped off at work prior to the disappearance of the wallet was responsible. According to police, the victim returned to the suspect's place of employment and asked to search her purse. The suspect went into a back room alone to retrieve her purse, and when the victim searched it, she did not find her wallet, police said. The wallet contained \$724 in cash and identification cards.

Tuesday, May 19, Oscar O. Lopez, 38, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated after police received a tip from a motorist on Route 22 regarding a possible drunk driver. According to police, a patrol car followed Lopez and observed him swaying in and out of lanes, police said. Lopez failed all sobriety tests given at the scene and was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and released to a responsible adult.

Thursday, May 21, a resident reported that someone made fraudulent charges on his credit card without his authorization. The victim closed the account and a fraud investigation has been filed with the detective bureau, police said.

Friday, May 22, Rita P. Azzi, 27, of Hillside was arrested for allegedly driving with a suspended license after being stopped for use of a cell phone while driving. She also was charged with outstanding warrants out of Riverdale Borough and Bernards Township.

Saturday, May 23, Mentor G. Altamirano, 33, of North Plainfield was arrested for allegedly driving with a suspended license after a motor vehicle stop. He was processed and released.

Monday, May 25, a resident of Egan Court reported that while she was away for the weekend, someone entered her residence by forcing open the back door. According to police, the master bedroom was ransacked and a safe was removed.

Tuesday, May 26, Lisa M. Gigantino, 34, of Hillsborough was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 for allegedly driving with a suspended license. She was processed and released.

Scotch Plains

Monday, May 18, a business on Birch Street reported that someone entered the trailer of a work truck and removed several hundred dollars worth of tools.

Tuesday, May 19, police investigated a hit-and-run accident that occurred on Martine Avenue. According to police, the victim's motor vehicle was legally parked when an unknown vehicle struck it, causing damage to the rear of the vehicle.

Wednesday, May 20, Brian Pugaczewski, 26, of Clifton was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop. He was processed and released.

Friday, May 22, Peter Solano, 26, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop. He was processed and released.

Friday, May 22, a resident of Portland Avenue reported that he purchased and paid for an item online and that the seller never sent him the item.

Saturday, May 23, a student at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School reported that someone removed her iPod, valued at \$200, from her unlocked locker.

Saturday, May 23, a resident of Terrill Road reported that her former boyfriend has been harassing her by sending multiple text messages to her even though she has asked him to stop.

Fanwood

Wednesday, May 20, a resident of the 200 block of South Martine Avenue reported that someone entered her home through an open window. According to police, nothing appears to be missing at this time.

Thursday, May 21, Vincent C. Canahui, 29, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue and charged with obstruction of justice. He was processed and released.

Thursday, May 21, Joseph D. Clark, 25, of Westfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on the 20 block of South Avenue on an outstanding Newark warrant. He was processed and released.

Sunday, May 24, Leonard M. Arce, 38, of Rahway was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue on an outstanding warrant out of Rahway. He was processed and released.

Monday, May 25, Lisa C. Wiegandt, 29, of Bayonne was arrested on an outstanding Metuchen warrant after a motor vehicle stop on the 400 block of LaGrande Avenue. She was processed and released.

Tuesday, May 26, Lance D. Timpanaro, 26, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Plainfield warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. He was processed and released.

Tuesday, May 26, Jennifer Marshall, 29, of Rahway was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Rahway after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. Nathaniel Leonard, 29, of Plainfield, a passenger in the vehicle, was arrested on outstanding warrants out of Union, Essex and Middlesex counties. Marshall was processed and released. Leonard was processed and turned over to the Union County Sheriff's Department.



Greg Ryan for The Westfield Leader

READY...AIM...John Lamb's Artillery Company fires the opening volleys at the start of Westfield's Memorial Day Parade.

Residents Oppose PILOTs For New RP Development

By LAUREN S. BARR
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

ROSELLE PARK — Tuesday night's special meeting to discuss the possibility of Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for the proposed Avalon Bay development on West Westfield Avenue in Roselle Park brought several residents out in opposition. While many of the residents voiced their concerns over the PILOTs and, more specifically, their lack of contribution to the school system, some did speak in favor of the project.

Roselle Park VP, LLC, a joint venture between Avalon Bay and property owner Israel Braunstein, under "builder's remedy," are currently suing the borough. Avalon Bay is seeking to build rental apartments, which would include the legally required number of affordable housing units. "Builders remedy" lawsuits enable developers to try to force municipalities to allow for development in order to accommodate affordable housing quotas.

Bill Northgrave, a partner with McManimon and Scotland who the borough hired for his expertise in PILOT agreements, said the borough's share of the property taxes for the site amount to \$60,000 a year with the remainder going to the school board and Union County government.

Under the PILOT program, the borough would collect 10 percent of the gross profits of the project, meaning rent and any other fees Avalon Bay would charge to residents; 5 percent of the amount collected would go

to the county, with no money being received by the local board of education. Assuming a 96 percent capacity of the building with 215 rental apartments, the borough would receive \$554,000 a year. That figure has the potential to grow over the 30-year agreement as rents and fees rise. According to Mr. Northgrave, if the project were to go forward with regular property taxes, the borough would collect \$277,000 a year, with the remainder being split as normal between the board of education and county. This contract would remain in place for 30 years, at which time the property would revert to regular tax status.

While all of the specifics of the current settlement negotiation are not being released due to a court-imposed "gag order," Mayor Joseph DeLorino said the borough has "tried to keep the public as informed as possible." He said the developer's request for PILOT is "key component of settlement agreement" and he is looking for guidance from the public as to whether the litigation should continue or if the borough council should enter into a settlement agreement.

The mayor said the borough has spent \$300,000 in legal fees so far, and said that PILOTs are being "imposed upon" the borough in what he described as "not a very fair negotiation."

Resident Joseph Accardi said that, "30 years from now, my son is going to be paying for your project."

"We want to develop the...property, we want to welcome Avalon Bay," but that he said the PILOTs are unfair to residents. Mr. Accardi said some people move to Roselle Park because they have an "excellent" special needs program in their schools and that, if some moved into the new development, it would be "very expensive" for the borough.

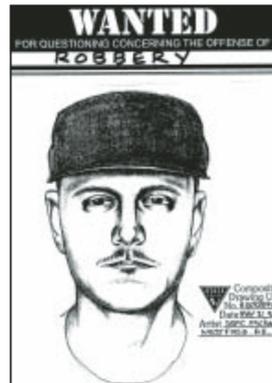
While Mr. Accardi was speaking, Avalon Bay Vice-President Ron Ledell began interjecting and was told to keep quiet by court-appointed Special Master Elizabeth McKenzie. At one point, Mr. Ledell became so agitated, he leapt from his seat, ripped off his jacket and sat back down at the far end of the room. Though it was offered to him as a possibility, he declined to address the residents at the end of the question-and-answer session.

Resident Kevin Murphy said if the builder's-remedy lawsuit were successful, "you're going to get a whole lot more roof tops than what's on the table now."

Resident Saul Qersdyn questioned what recourse the borough would have if the Limited Liability Corporation (LLC), who would be responsible for making the PILOTs, were to go bankrupt or dissolve. Mr. Northgrave said the only asset the borough could go after would be the property itself.

A joint meeting of the planning board and council will be held on Monday, June 22 at 6:30 p.m. in Roselle Park council chambers to present and possibly ratification of the settlement agreement. Because the public hearing on the issue may go long, the borough has set aside Tuesday, June 23 to continue the meeting if needed.

Mr. Ledell also expressed his objections to the meeting being two nights and stated he wanted his opinion "on the record."



WANTED by the Westfield Police Department for questioning concerning the offense of Robbery. May 9, 2009 at 1:30 p.m., the above subject and two black males approached a man as he walked near Rahway Ave. and Norwood Dr.; demanded cash and cell phone. The subjects fled in a green vehicle, possibly a Chevy with a spoiler roof. Description: Male, 5'10"; White, 180 to 200 pounds; mid 20s; medium build. Call (908) 789-4000 with any information.

Lonegan-Christie, Primaries

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and focusing on smart investments to improve quality of life on the other," according to his campaign website.

In the race for state Assembly in the 21st District, Assemblyman Jon Bramnick is seeking a fourth term with his new running mate, Nancy Munoz of Summit. Mr. Bramnick, who serves as Republican whip, has pushed for a number of initiatives including "performance audits" to identify waste in government spending.

Mrs. Munoz is the wife of the late Eric Munoz, who died of a heart condition in April after serving in the Assembly since 2001. A nurse, she said in a letter to District 21 delegates in April that she has developed a "passion" for education and human services issues "both from the personal and fiscal perspectives."

She has worked as a surgical intensive care nurse at Yale-New Haven Hospital in Connecticut and has held nursing positions at Massachusetts General, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York and Overlook Hospital in Summit. Mrs. Munoz has also served as a PTA/PTO president at three schools in Summit, including Summit High School.

"While the issue of access to healthcare is a high priority, there are many challenges taxpayers in New Jersey are facing," Mrs. Munoz said in a press release issued by the Assembly GOP office. "It is my goal to help find solutions to these problems."

Upon her swearing-in last week to the Assembly, she was named to the Health and Senior Services and Human Services committees.

Assembly Republican candidate Bruce Meringolo, a member of the Long Hill Township Board of Education, has made state education funding his core campaign issue. He has called for the elimination of Abbott districts in order to redistribute funds among urban and suburban districts.

"Fair school funding will reduce the burdens we face in our property taxes and help schools maintain the high quality of education we expect in our community," Mr. Meringolo said in a

letter to delegates.

In terms of the Mountainside council race, Mr. Venes has said the borough should consider partnering with the County of Union to offer shared services such as bulk pick-up services and garbage pickup.

He said municipal taxes in the borough are too high, as are building permit fees, which Mr. Venes said, "discourages residents and local businesses from undertaking improvements to their properties."

Mountainside Mayor Robert Vigilanti and council members issued a statement (see page 5) in response to Mr. Venes' comments (page 2, May 21 issue).

"Demagoguery and misleading statements will not make Mountainside a better place," according to the press release. "Mountainside's effective municipal taxes are lower than any of the towns in [Mr. Venes' press release.]"

Union County Democratic Freeholders Al Mirabella of Fanwood, Deborah Scanlon of Union and their running mate, Mohamed Jalloh of Roselle, face only a token challenge in the Democratic Primary from Harry O. Wyatt, Jr. and James E. Moore, Sr., both Roselle residents. GOP freeholder candidates Anthony Sytko of Garwood, Nicole Cole of Fanwood and Modesto Miranda, Jr. of Roselle Park are unopposed in their primary campaigns.

Incumbents Linda Stender of Fanwood and Jerry Green of Plainfield, incumbents in the Assembly for District 22, are challenged by Rick Smiley of Plainfield in the Democratic primary. Former Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks and his running mate, Bo Vastine of Scotch Plains, face no opposition in the Republican Primary this Tuesday for the party's choice of candidates in the November General Election for Assembly in District 22.

Polls will be open on Tuesday, June 2, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Registered voters may only vote in the Primary for the party in which they are registered. Unaffiliated voters become affiliated upon voting in the Primary.

Garwood Riders Appeal for Increased Local Train Stops

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right ears and we can get something done here," Mayor Dennis McCarthy said.

In other business, the council said it would investigate a possible ordinance regarding the removal of trees in the borough. The New Jersey State Supreme Court recently reversed a lower court ruling that had invalidated such a law in Jackson Township.

Residents John Conlin, Bruce Paterson and Anne Leonard said they would like to see an official ordinance requiring builders to replace trees removed during construction and a permit system to govern tree removal on private property. Mr. McCarthy said the planning board does regulate tree replacement when construction is done, but was unsure

if there is a specific law on the books.

The borough will also explore a replacement garbage truck for the Department of Public Works. According to Councilman Jonathan Linken, the primary vehicle used for trash pick-up is more than 23 years old and requires \$10,000 in yearly maintenance. He said new vehicles cost in the range of \$150,000 to \$180,000, while a used vehicle costs between \$50,000 and \$70,000.

Mayor McCarthy and the council held a three-and-a-half-hour closed-door executive session on Tuesday night to discuss a personnel matter related to the borough's volunteer fire department. Officials were unable to comment on the proceedings because the issue is still ongoing.