

NEW YORK CITY - On September 11, 2001, at approximately 9 a.m., Muslim terrorists murdered 2,993 people. Most of those murdered were civilians at the World Trade Center. Many were from New Jersey and our neighboring towns, including 13 Westfielders and one from Scotch Plains. We shall never forget.



Courtesy of Ed Zazzali - September 11, 2001

Health Officer Says H1N1 Vaccine Will Be Available in Fall

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Regional Health Department will receive a vaccine for the H1N1 virus this fall, Health Officer Megan Avallone told the

Westfield Town Council Tuesday. "We don't know how much or when, but we do know the target population [that will need the treatment]," she said, before stating that pregnant women, caregivers of children 6 months or

younger, people 6 months to 24 years old and those individuals between 25 and 65 with "underlying chronic health conditions" such as diabetes or asthma would be encouraged to receive the vaccination.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says on its website that it "does not expect that there will be a shortage" of vaccine but that "availability and demand can be unpredictable." Therefore, it is recommending that the target population receive the vaccine before others.

"The target population also includes every child in our school system," Ms. Avallone said. "We believe we will be able to go to every school in our eight towns [covered by the regional health department, including Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Springfield, New Providence, Roselle Park and Summit]...It's a massive vaccination campaign."

She said the vaccine calls for two shots, three to four weeks apart. The vaccine is voluntary, and parents will have the option to allow their children to be vaccinated or not, and to specify where the vaccination should take place - at school or by a private pediatrician.

Simultaneously, Ms. Avallone said, the health department will run public clinics for other high-risk groups such as pregnant women and the elderly.

Ms. Avallone said the federal government wants every dose of vaccine to be tracked in "real time." This requires filling out an online registration form immediately before administering a shot to someone.

She postulated that if 50 percent of the Westfield population wanted the vaccine, it would take 40 hours of clinic time with 12 nurses.

"And remember," she said, "each person needs two doses to be immunized, so that would be 80 hours just for

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Benjamin B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

DAVY VISITS WESTFIELD...New Jersey Education Commissioner Lucille Davy, a former Westfield resident, meets with students in an autistic class at the Westfield Early Childhood Learning Center during Wednesday's first day of school. The class is funded through a federal stimulus grant.

MS BOE Hears Concerns About Busing and Safety

By MAGGIE DIGGORY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE - On the evening after the first day of school Tuesday, parents of Mountainside students who ride the bus to the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools (UCVTS) and the Union County Magnet High School (UCMHS) asked that the route include six stops instead of the current four. The bus stops at Borough Hall, Echo Lake boathouse, Deerfield School and Beechwood School.

Marion Jennings, one of two parents who addressed the BOE, said, "we (some of the parents affected), mapped out where every child lives in relation to the current bus stops. No child should have to walk more than a half-mile."

Irwin Greene, another parent, said the current bus route has "very little regard" for the current needs of parents and children. He noted a particular place of need for a stop is on Summit Road where students have to cross a busy street to get to the closest stop, Deerfield School.

Chief School Administrator

Jeanette Baubles said she crossed one student herself Tuesday morning on Summit Road and waited 30 minutes for more to come.

In addition to the bus stop request, Mrs. Jennings stated her concern about one bus driver's unsafe driving practices, as she's been told by her child and other parents whose children are aboard. "It is a dangerous situation with Carl. He's told the kids to slap their belts over the seats instead of fasten them so it's easier for him to return the bus at the end of the day."

"He also takes one hand off the wheel when making a turn to hold on to an iPod docking station he has on the dashboard. When that kid was left on the bus last year, Carl punished him by making him sit up front for the rest of the year because he was smaller and couldn't be seen in the back of the bus."

"I will ask Business Administrator (Roderic McLaughlin) to reach out to the UCVTS and the bus company. We are all appalled by the behavior of the bus driver. We will take your infor-

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AS THEY WERE...The World Trade Center twin towers in New York City are pictured prior to the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

Energy Focus of Governor's Race During Library Forum

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD - Mark Elliot of Environment New Jersey, a non-profit environment group, chaired an event Tuesday night at the Westfield Memorial Library to invite the state's gubernatorial candidates to discuss their positions on renewable energy. Independent candidate for Governor of New Jersey Chris Daggett was joined by Rick Dovey of the Atlantic City Utilities Authority, who represented Republican candidate Chris Christie, and Assemblyman John McKeon (D-27, West Orange), who represented Governor Jon Corzine. Asm. Jon Bramnick and Senator Tom Keane, Jr. also were in attendance.

Members of the public packed the meeting room to ask questions and hear

WF 9/11 Ceremony To Be Held Fri. Evening

WESTFIELD - The Town of Westfield will observe the eighth anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks with a community gathering tomorrow, September 11, at the 9/11 Memorial site on North Avenue at East Broad Street. The ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the ringing of the First United Methodist Church bells.

Mayor Andrew Skibitsky will deliver the opening remarks, to be followed by a reading of Commemorative Litany by the Reverend Edward Carl of the First United Methodist Church. Monsignor William Harms of St. Helen's Church and Rabbi Douglas Sagal of Temple Emanu-El will then offer prayers of commemoration. A wreath will be presented by an honor guard, and taps will be performed by Ted Schlosberg of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts.

The ceremony will conclude with a period of quiet contemplation as, according to Mayor Skibitsky, "we stand together as a community to support each other and those who lost loved ones." In the event of rain, the ceremony will be moved to the Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street. All are welcome.



Michael Pollack for The Westfield Leader

WHAT'S IN A NAME?...The Jolly Trolley in Westfield, long a landmark, has been renamed The Office Bar & Grill and is currently undergoing renovations. The staff, however, will remain the same. Pictured, from left to right, are: Lauren Bianco; Alexandra Gill, general manager; Margaret Carr, the original founder of the restaurant; Aliya Robbins and Heather Pizzella.

Clark Sues Sewerage Authority Over User Charge for Sewage Flow

By WAYNE BAKER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

AREA - The Township of Clark has brought a lawsuit against the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) and the RVSA's other 10 member municipalities. The suit is one of a string of actions Clark has taken to try to avoid the costs caused by the closing of US Gypsum's (USG's) Clark plant.

Clark faces these costs as a result of a user charge program established by the RVSA as part of an agreement adopted by the member municipalities, including Clark, in 1995. Clark had passed a pair of ordinances earlier this year establishing termination fees for various types of customers, and was sued by US Gypsum as a result.

The 1995 agreement sets forth the use of a five-year rolling average to minimize year-to-year fluctuations in usage of RVSA's facilities, making budgeting by member municipalities easier. In the lawsuit, Clark claims that US Gypsum accounts for about 150 million gallons, or 20 percent of

Clark's sewage flow. According to the RVSA, Clark represents about 16 percent of the authority's total sewage volume. Thus, US Gypsum represents slightly more than 3 percent of the sewage processed by RVSA.

Clark claims the 1995 agreement contains "a provision for an upward assessment adjustment in the event a new user which contributed significantly to the RVSA entered a member municipality."

In its suit, Clark claims that it will be overcharged by \$296,554 in 2009, \$824,937 in 2010, \$643,862 in 2011, \$411,215 in 2012 and \$167,277 in 2013. Clark claims a total overcharge of \$2,343,847 will be made during the period until the five-year rolling average brings the adjustment into line with actual flows. In its suit, Clark asks the court to reform the contract to allow for large downward adjustments.

Alternatively, Clark is seeking to have the court void the 1995 agreement, going back to the assessment methodology of the earlier 1951 agreement based on annual metering. The township also claims the RVSA billing methodology violates New Jersey's Local Fiscal Affairs Law, most notably citing the law requires that a party claiming payment from a

municipality certify that the amount billed is correct and accurate. Finally, Clark claims that the 1995 agreement is "unconscionable," as it allows upward changes to charges for large flows, but not similar downward changes.

Clark is currently facing a suit filed by USG seeking to void a pair of ordinances passed earlier this year by the Clark Township Council. These rules set out user charges and termination fees. Gypsum claims the regulations are "arbitrary and capricious," and violate New Jersey Law, which it said specifies that rates must "be uniform and equitable for the same types and classes of use and service of facilities."

According to the USG suit, Clark is the only member municipality that charges a large termination fee, in this case 300 percent of their annual sewage charge. USG alleges that Clark, its council and the Clark Sewerage Utility violated USG's civil rights and the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution's Equal Protection Clause.

US Gypsum is seeking to have the ordinances voided, a declaration that the termination fee is unenforceable, reimbursement of attorney's fees and court costs, and both compensatory and punitive damages.

Green Acres Releases Funds For Athletic Field Project

By RAYNOR DENITZIO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD - Councilman Stephen Napolitano said Tuesday that the state's Green Acres program has released more than \$750,000 in funding towards the borough's athletic field complex project.

The funds are comprised of a \$179,084 grant and a \$576,916 loan. Green Acres released the funds after reviewing the findings of recent soil testing at the site, which revealed elevated levels of historic fill.

"That means [Green Acres] is not going to hold back any of our funding because of the contamination," Bor-

ough Clerk Christina Ariemma said.

According to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) website, historic fill is "non-indigenous material placed on a site in order to raise the topographic elevation of the site," which may contain contamination. Ms. Ariemma said historic fill is common in New Jersey and poses no health risk.

It is unclear what cleanup, if any, will be required by the DEP. Borough officials said the fill is covered by two feet of clean soil, a standard remediation technique. The contaminant was also found in areas of the

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Fred T. Rossi for The Westfield Leader

LABOR DAY FUN...The rides and great food are enjoyed at the 35th Annual Saint Bartholomew Italian Festival last weekend in Scotch Plains.

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