

## Council Hears Concerns Over Widening of Road

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The Mountainside Council opened its meeting on Tuesday night with the swearing in of Officer Thomas Michael Norton. Fellow officers, family and friends looked on while Officer Norton pledged to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey.

Officer Norton's father, Patrick Norton, a police officer in the City of Elizabeth, pinned Mountainside Badge No. 11 on his son during the ceremony.

The new officer has two brothers who are also policemen. He recently graduated from the Union County Police Academy's Alternate Route Program.

This week's council meeting was the first for newly-appointed Borough Administrator Gregory Bonin, who began his new position on Monday.

According to Municipal Clerk Judith E. Osty, Mr. Bonin is working towards his Master's Degree in Public Administration from Rutgers University's Executive Program.

Prior to accepting his current position, Mr. Bonin was the Borough Clerk and Assistant Administrator in Hillsboro.

Under another matter, many residents voiced their concerns about the paving project for New Providence Road, which will result in the road being widened.

The project entails resurfacing the road through funding obtained from two different grants. These grants, totaling \$194,000, were awarded by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT).

Ted Zawislak of New Providence Road addressed the council as to when the work on the project will start. He also asked about the exact measurements of the new road.

Mr. Zawislak also expressed concern about widening the street because of the tendency of drivers to speed on that road. He stated that if the road were wider, drivers would have even more of an opportunity to speed.

Robert Wyckoff, Director of Public Works, commented that the road must be widened in order to meet with the specifications of the NJDOT funding.

Council President Keith C. Turner told Mr. Zawislak that he could direct any specific questions about the project to Borough Engineer Michael Disko, who has office hours on Thursdays from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

George Snell of New Providence Road and Sheffield Street, asked the council why officials were having

this road repaved. He commented that this was the third repaving of the road since he has owned his home there.

Borough Attorney John N. Post informed Mr. Snell that the road was being repaved because of excessive wear.

Sally Kempner, another New Providence Road resident, addressed the council about her concern over losing property due to the widening of the street.

She said the street had already been widened since she bought her home in 1964, adding that if three or four more feet of her property were eliminated, she would feel like her house was "sitting on the road."

Mr. Post told Mrs. Kempner that curbing was being added to assure that this repaving would extend the life of the road. He also told her that she should contact Mr. Disko to find out what the specific measurements were.

Carol Zawislak, of New Providence Road, told the council that excessive water from poor drainage was to blame for damage to the road, and said she felt curbing would not help the drainage problem.

She also proposed that the borough put in a three-way stop sign at the intersection of Central Avenue and New Providence Road, stating it was a dangerous intersection.

Finally, Walter Kempner, also of New Providence Road, commented that tractor trailer trucks and commercial buses should not be allowed on that road because they add to the wear and tear problems.

In other business, Zenon Morrak, of Deer Path, commented about the air traffic noise from new flight patterns at Newark International Airport. Mr. Morrak asked council members to help draft a letter to Congressman Bob Franks about the problem, or aid neighboring towns in their quest for noise reduction.

Mr. Bonin volunteered to help Mr. Morrak in addressing the problem.

Officials passed a resolution asking Comcast to switch high school coverage from Scotch Plains and Westfield to Berkeley Heights on Channel 35. The resolution points out that students from Mountainside attend high school in Berkeley Heights.

Lastly, the council gave authorization to the Finance Officer to purchase savings bonds for Deerfield School students. The governing body plans to award \$150 to the school valedictorian and \$100 to the school salutatorian.



MRS. PICOU RECOGNIZED...Westfield Foundation President Frank A. MacPherson presents a certificate of appreciation to Michele M. Picou, who served as President of the Board of Trustees for the past three years, at the foundation's annual meeting on May 5. Newly-elected officers, in addition to Mr. MacPherson, include Roberta K. Federici, Vice President; John D. Ketcham, Treasurer, and Barbara B. Ball, Secretary.

## Friends of Mindowaskin To Hold 'Party' June 7

The Friends of Mindowaskin Park of Westfield, a non-profit organization, will hold its fifth annual celebration and fundraising event for the park, known as the "Party in the Park" on Sunday, June 7, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Mindowaskin Park, located on East Broad Street in Westfield. The rain date is Sunday, June 14.

"This year's event has a nostalgic theme to commemorate the park's 80th birthday. We want to reflect on the park's history of service and pleasure to the town residents," said Karen Gorman Rea, Publicity Chairwoman for the Friends. "Everyone is invited to join in this celebration of the park's 80th birthday."

Mayor Thomas C. Jardim, with assistance of the Town Cryer, will announce the start of the celebration. There will be local musicians playing all day on the bandstand, food vendors and lots of fun activities for children, teenagers and adults.

Some of the activities will include pony rides, face painting, a silhouette artist, tarot card readings, a watermelon eating contest, and an old-fashioned baking contest.

There will also be Mindowaskin Park T-shirts and postcards for sale at the event. All proceeds generated from the items for sale will be utilized for the beautification and preservation of Mindowaskin Park.

The Friends of Mindowaskin Park is a non-profit organization formed in 1991. Its members are dedicated to the preservation and beautification of the park. The volunteer organization is devoted to ensuring the quality of the park's maintenance and improvements.

The Friends organization raises funds from citizens and businesses who support these objectives.

To date the organization has successfully spear-headed campaigns to install lamp posts, benches, memorial gardens and landscaping. Since its inception, the Friends have raised nearly \$300,000 to improve this town jewel of a park, according to Ms. Gorman Rea.

"This year we are focusing on raising funds to renovate the park's overlook, which is in major disrepair. The party is more of a celebration, however, the majority of our contributions come from business and caring residents of Westfield," she explained.

Those persons interested in supporting the Friends of Mindowaskin Park or would like to register for the baking contest are asked to call (908) 232-6100 or write to the Friends, P.O. Box 87, Westfield, 07091.

## Mendoza Federal Fraud Trial to Begin July 20

A Monday, July 20, trial date has been set for a 48-year-old Irvington resident, Eusebio Anthony Mendoza, who has been charged in a superseding indictment with allegedly defrauding two Mountainside banks, and using false names and addresses to conduct an unlawful business by means of the United States Postal Service.

Mendoza has also been charged with fraudulently using five unauthorized credit cards, and possessing mail that had been stolen from a post office and authorized mail depository, United States Attorney Faith S. Hochberg announced. The five-count indictment was returned May 8 by a Newark Federal Grand Jury.

If convicted on all five counts, Mendoza faces a maximum of 50 years in prison and a fine of \$1.5 million.

Mountainside police have described the high-tech scheme as perhaps one of the largest fraud schemes in Union County's history. Mendoza was arrested February 3 at his Irvington home during a joint raid conducted by Mountainside and Irvington police along with agents from the United States Postal Inspector's Office.

During the raid authorities reportedly discovered a photo imaging system along with blank New Jersey driver's licenses, Social Security cards and other false identification.

Conviction on each of first two counts of bank fraud carries a maximum of 30 years in federal prison and a \$1 million fine. The third count, using a fictitious name and address by means of the Postal Service to conduct an unlawful business, carries a maximum of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. If convicted on the fourth count of credit card fraud, Mendoza faces a maximum of 10 years in Federal prison.

The fifth count, receiving stolen mail, carries a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment and a

\$250,000 fine.

If convicted, Mendoza also would face an order of restitution, according to Assistant United States Attorney Paula T. Dow, of the United States Attorney's Criminal Division in Newark. Ms. Dow is representing the government in the case.

Undersentencing guidelines, United States District Judge William H. Walls would, upon conviction, determine Mendoza's actual sentence based upon a formula that takes into account the severity and characteristics of the offense and the defendant's criminal history, if any, Ms. Hochberg said.

Parole, however, has been abolished in the Federal system, Ms. Hochberg explained. She said that under sentencing guidelines, defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

In the first two counts of the indictment, Mendoza is charged with executing and attempting to execute schemes to defraud Fleet Bank of more than \$200,000 and the Mountainside branch of Summit Bank of \$90,000 by means of false pretenses and representations.

Officials said Mendoza used sophisticated technology to create phony identification for himself in order to gain access to the bank accounts of wealthy professionals, usually physicians.

Mendoza, having assumed the identity of a checking account customer at Fleet Bank's Brooklyn branch, opened a Money Market account at the bank's Mountainside office, then cashed a \$4,500 personal check and obtained a \$15,000 cashier's check against the customer's New York account, according to the indictment.

Mendoza caused approximately \$200,000 in electronic transfers from the New York customer's Brooklyn account to the unauthorized New Jersey account, according to the indictment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22