



— Serving the Town Since 1890 —

# The Westfield Leader

OUR 108th YEAR — ISSUE NO. 21-98

USPS 680020  
Periodical — Postage Paid at Westfield, N.J.

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Published  
Every Thursday

232-4407

FIFTY CENTS



**LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU...**This youngster is entertained by a clown while attending last Saturday's arts and crafts show at Mindowaskin Park. All revenues from the show went to support the Center for Hope Hospice.

## BOE Okays Revised Curriculum; Technology Initiative is Reviewed

By RUSSELL R. WATKINS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

On Tuesday, the Board of Education approved the first reading of its revised Comprehensive Family Living, Health, Safety, and Drug Education Curriculum.

The revised curriculum, which addresses health and sex education issues, generated some controversy among board members and community residents regarding its treatment of birth control, abortion, and homosexuality.

The curriculum represents an effort by the board to implement a state-mandated health and sex education program. The program requires that any curriculum adopted

by a local school board address at least four areas:

- Health promotion and disease prevention.
- Health-enhancing personal and

clude drug abuse, hygiene, first aid, dieting, and eating disorders.

The responsibilities of parenthood and the personal impact of early sexual activity are also discussed. In



**A HIGH TECH WORLD...**Westfield Board of Education member Ginger Hardwick and Superintendent of Schools Dr. William J. Foley look on as student Sarah Lechner demonstrates her computer skills in the English Resources Room at Westfield High School. As part of the board's meeting Tuesday night, board members were given a chance to observe technology being taught at the high school.

inter-personal life skills.

- The affects of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.
- The biological, social, cultural, and psychological aspects of human sexuality and family life.

The state requires that all students be tested on this curriculum at the end of grades 4, 8 and 11. The board rejected a previous version of the curriculum in February of 1996.

The newly revised curriculum, which covers Kindergarten through 12th grade, addresses a broad range of topics and encourages discussion, a strong parental role, and an age-sensitive introduction of sexually-related topics.

According to Carol Joyce, Curriculum Director for Kindergarten through second grade, the revised program is "child driven," and emphasizes problem solving skills.

It deals with family health, as well as the subjects of death and responsibility, she explained.

Ms. Joyce told the board that at this stage in the curriculum, simple terms are used to discuss the reproductive system, and parental discussion is encouraged.

Similar topics are focused on in the third through fifth grades.

In the fifth through the eighth grades, topics are expanded to in-

clude the eighth grade, the topics of dating, marriage, birth control techniques, and sexually-transmitted diseases round off the agenda.

The high school curriculum focuses on personality development, relationships, and sexuality.

According to Margaret Teitelbaum, Supervisor of Health Education/Nurses for the school district, students are taught to ask themselves five questions when making choices: Is it safe? Is it legal? Is it healthy? Does it show respect to others? Does it agree with what my parents taught me?

In the 11th grade, students are urged to develop a "philosophy of life" and, particularly in the area of dating, are encouraged to ask their parents about their dating history and what dating rules are now. Alcohol and drugs are continuing topics of discussion, and stress management is introduced in the 12th grade.

The proposed curriculum was well-received by board members and the public. Board member Ginger Hardwick, who served on the Curriculum Committee, called the program "conservative," adding "I don't feel Westfield is going out on a limb with this curriculum."

Board member Anmarie Puleio

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**A BIT OF IRISH...**Dancers from the Deirdre Shea School of Irish Dancing in Cranford perform during Saturday's "Artists Celebrate Westfield" promotion in the downtown. The month-long event, featuring actors, actresses, musicians, poets and dancers, is being presented by Artslink.

## RESIDENTS TO BE ASSESSED A TOTAL OF \$123,138 FOR WORK ON FOUR STREETS

# Westfield Council Decides to Proceed On Assessments for Road Improvements

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Westfield Town Council opted Tuesday night to move ahead with a May 26 vote on a resolution to confirm tax assessments for improvements to Stoneleigh Park, Pearl, Wyoming and Pierson Streets.

The total amount of the assessments is \$123,138 and covers both shoulder work and the cost for curbing. The long-time policy of the town, up until a few years ago, had been that the municipality would not do

street reconstruction work unless curbing was included in the project.

In order to have a street paved, Town Administrator Edward A. Gottko explained, residents of a particular street had to petition the town which, in turn, would put the project out to bid. Residents were required to pay for new curbing and reconstruction of street shoulders.

Mr. Gottko noted that on average, under the previous policy, the town picked up two-thirds of the costs of the work, with residents assessed for the remainder. The town, he said, paid for the center strip paving of streets in addition to new sidewalk, drainage and sewer improvements.

On Wyoming Street, the total amount to be assessed for 25 property owners is \$33,703. On Pearl Street, 14 property owners will pay a combined \$22,144. The total assessments to be charged on Pierson Street comes

to \$36,571 for 30 property owners, with Stoneleigh Park home owners, totaling 20, receiving an assessment of \$30,720.

The Pearl Street and Wyoming Street projects date back to 1994, when the Town Council approved ordinances to appropriate funds to complete the work. The ordinance for Stoneleigh Park was adopted in 1993, with the Pierson Street ordinance approved in 1995. Residents are assessed an average of \$25 per running foot of the frontage of their homes.

The total assessment is based on total frontage of a home. Those homes whose side yards are along a street that is improved pay less for the work.

Assessments range from \$1,286 to \$2,572 on Pearl Street; \$454 to \$2,834 on Wyoming Street; \$797 to \$1,691 for Pierson, and between \$460 and

\$3,707 on Stoneleigh Park.

Mr. Gottko noted that the low costs assessed on some properties are because they are small strips of land, while the highest assessed property on Stoneleigh Park has a "huge frontage" of 350 feet.

A few years ago, the council changed the town's policy to exclude shoulder improvements from tax assessments. In addition, the council no longer requires that curbs be included in the street reconstruction projects.

If residents want curbing included in the project, they can present a signed petition to the council requesting such work, which they will be assessed for when the work is completed.

In the past, town officials had wanted the curbing included, fearing the condition of the pavement would

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## Parade to Begin At Monument Memorial Day

Westfield's annual Memorial Day Parade will kick off this Monday, May 25, at 9 a.m. with the sound of "Taps" and the traditional wreath laying ceremony around the Soldiers Monument to World War Veterans at the intersection of East Broad Street and North Avenue.

Following a welcome from Edward Renfree, who is this year's Westfield Memorial Day Parade Committee Chairman, Commander Peter Hogaboom of American Legion Martin Wallberg Post No. 3 will begin the ceremony. Mayor Thomas C. Jardim will also speak in honor of the veterans.

Arnold Resnick, Commander of the Westfield Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Robert Farley, Commander of the Mountainside VFW, will both make a few remarks before VFW members lay wreaths at the monument.

Kerry Stubbs, a tenor and voice teacher at The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA) Music Studio, will sing "God Bless America" a cappella during the wreath laying ceremony.

Then, Dr. Theodore K. Schlosberg, founder and Director of the NJWA, along with brothers Christopher and Matthew Velderman, will perform echo "Taps."

Fifth-grader Chris will lead off "Taps" from the base of the monument.

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**DEMONSTRATING GOOD CHARACTER...**Diane Hunsinger, coach of the Westfield "Y" synchronized swim team, left, is presented with the "Y's" Character Development Award during the organization's 75th annual meeting held last Thursday night at The Westwood in Garwood. Later in the evening, Carolyn Fleder, right, was presented with the "Y's" Golden Volunteer Award for "extraordinary service to the community."

## Westfield 'Y' Holds 75th Annual Meeting

The Westfield "Y" celebrated its annual meeting, last Thursday night, and 75th anniversary of service to the Westfield community, at The Westwood in Garwood. The meeting was attended by members of the Board of Directors, staff, "Y" members and

volunteers.

The evening's agenda included a welcome from Roger Love, the Master of Ceremonies, a report from the President of the Board of Directors, Lee M. Hale, and recognition of volunteers who have given extraordinary service to the "Y."

Several awards were presented during the evening. Carolyn Fleder, Vice President of the board, presented the Character Development Award to Diane Hunsinger, coach of the synchronized swim team.

Rick Coltrera, Chairman of the Youth Committee, presented the Youth of the Year Awards to Marie Cacace and Edwin Fladger both of the Westfield "Y's" Leader's Club.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the annual Golden Volunteer Award, which is presented to a person who performs extraordinary service to the community and the "Y." Darlelle Walsh, Secretary to

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## Mr. Nolde and Mr. Sanders Receive Optimist Awards

Westfield teachers Frank Nolde and Robert Sanders were named Outstanding Intermediate School Teachers for 1998 by the Optimist Club of Westfield at a dinner in their honor on May 13.

The Westfield Board of Education will likewise present resolutions to Mr. Nolde and Mr. Sanders honoring their accomplishments at the board's June 2 meeting to be held at 302 Elm Street.

They are the first recipients of the Optimist award, established this year to recognize the importance of teaching in the intermediate grades. Letters of nomination were invited from interested citizens, students and staff members.

Dr. James Fleming, President of the Optimist Club, indicated the award will be presented annually to two Westfield intermediate school teachers — one each from Edison

and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools.

A history teacher at Roosevelt since 1960, Mr. Nolde will be retiring this year. He holds both master's and bachelor's degrees in history from Middlebury College in Vermont and Columbia University in New York City, respectively.

A Westfield resident for 38 years, he and his wife, Carol, an English teacher at Westfield High School,

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**OUTSTANDING!...**Dr. James Fleming, right, President of the Westfield Optimist Club, presents a plaque to Robert Sanders, center, as one of the Outstanding Intermediate School Teachers for 1998 chosen by the club. A teacher at Edison Intermediate School, he was joined by Roosevelt Intermediate School recipient Frank Nolde.

## Public Schools Closed For Four-Day Weekend

The Westfield Public Schools will be closed tomorrow, Friday, May 22, through Monday, May 25. Monday, Memorial Day, is a Federal and state holiday.

Due to the fact that no snow days were needed during the school year, students have been given back one of the snow days which originally had been factored into the school year.

## Spring Fling Set for Third Try May 31

Following two rain outs earlier this spring, Westfield's fourth annual Spring Fling has been rescheduled for Sunday, May 31.

"This festival is just so incredibly popular that we thought we'd try for a third time. We didn't want to disappoint all the people who love this event," commented Debbie Schmidt, Executive Director of the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

Westfield's "Spring Fling" is free and usually features more than 300 exhibitors with a full array of crafts and art. This event also features nearly 20 food vendors.

A special Kid's Expo is planned along East Broad Street near Pro-

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## Deadlines Told For Submittals To The Leader

Those persons preparing press releases for submission to The Leader are reminded that copy should be e-mailed or faxed by 4 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. The Leader's e-mail address is press@goleader.com. The fax number is 908-232-0473.

Releases, pictures and letters to the editor can also be dropped off at our office located at 50 Elm Street or through our mail slot. To ensure that submittals reach our office prior to deadline, we encourage e-mail or faxed materials.

Sports stories which occur prior to the weekend must be in by the Friday deadline. Weekend sports events must be submitted by noon on the Monday prior to the publication date. Obituaries will be accepted up to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays.

All copy must be typed, double-spaced, upper and lower case, no more than 500 words in length, and include a daytime telephone number where the submitter can be reached.

For events which are planned months in advance, we encourage submission of stories as early as possible prior to the event.

Please note that in addition to making our deadlines, the publication of submittals may be delayed due to space considerations. All submittals are subject to being cut due to length, edited for style and clarification at the discretion of the editor.



**SUPPORTING THE SYMPHONY...**Rick Brownlee, proprietor of Richard Roberts, Ltd., left, and Nell Goodwin, proprietor of Beautiful Things, both of Scotch Plains, present a check to Patrick Gaines, Executive Director of the Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO), for funds received during Symphony Promotion Week in March. Mr. Gaines said "the symphony is excited to participate in joint projects with local businesses and hopes to expand its Promotion Week to include Westfield and Mountainside next season." Interested business owners may call the WSO office at (908) 232-9400 for more information.

## Mr. Nolde and Mr. Sanders Receive Optimist Awards

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have two children who graduated from the Westfield public schools.

Two former students, now attending Westfield High School, thanked Mr. Nolde for "teaching us important skills that could be used throughout our academic careers, such as careful note-taking and organization of group activities."

"Mr. Nolde's lessons went beyond the textbooks. Slides from his travels, games and anecdotes enhanced the students' learning and helped them conceptualize people and events in the past," added a parent.

Mr. Sanders, the Edison Intermediate School recipient of the Optimist award, is a 1971 graduate of Westfield High School. He earned a master's degree in learning disabilities and he is a certified instructor in Learning Strategies from the University of Kansas.

He returned to teach in the Westfield school district in 1980 in the Resource Centers of Westfield High School and later at Jefferson Elementary School.

Since 1987, he has been a teacher of the perceptually impaired at Edison School.

Mr. Sanders has been described as "caring, conscientious and determined" by Edison Principal Dennis Murphy. A parent nominating Mr. Sanders for the award said he has "an enthusiastic and positive attitude toward children."

"Understanding the social complexities of middle school students, Bob takes the time and energy to assist them in resolving conflict through many different channels. They like him, trust him, but more importantly, respect him as a teacher, a person and a friend," one intermediate school administrator noted.

Married and the father of three children, Mr. Sanders resides in Scotch Plains.

Members of the Selection Committee of the Westfield Optimist Club

included Optimist members David Judd and Michael Walsh; Superintendent of Schools Dr. William J. Foley; Westfield Schools Human Resources Director David M. Tuller; Roosevelt Principal Kenneth Shulack; Principal Murphy, and Sharon Reynolds, a teacher at Edison School.

## Spring Fling Set for Third Try May 31

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pect Street. Activities are featured for parents to share with their children. Pony rides and a petting zoo, to be located in the parking area of PNC Bank at North Avenue and East Broad Street, are among the featured attractions for kids.

A Moonwalk, temporary tattoos, face painting, and sand art creations are other family activities.

A marketplace of fine art and craft items will fill the streets of the fair. Several local merchants will be offering special sales during the event. Some of the original crafts for sale include designer and hand-painted clothing, toys, hand-thrown pottery, a variety of jewelry, porcelain dolls and puppets, handmade furniture, Teddy Bears, and one-of-a-kind decorative pieces for the home.

Traffic along Elm, Quimby, Prospect and East Broad Streets in the downtown will be detoured from noon until 6 p.m.

For more information please contact the event's promoter, The Advertising Alliance, at (908) 996-3036 or the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce at (908) 233-3021. There is no raindate for this event.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

**PNC CALLING BLITZ...**PNC Bank's Greater Westfield Town Council and Union County business bankers and product specialists recently conducted a "calling blitz" to introduce a new cross leveraging approach to banking to more than 50 local business clients and prospects. During one of the visits, William H. Turner, President, PNC Bank, New Jersey, right, and Daria Placitella, Vice President, PNC Private Bank, Westfield Office, left, met with Richard Ahfeld, President of Children's Specialized Hospital and nine-year old Claire Skowronek, a patient at the hospital,

**BRAMNICK  
2X4**

**J&M  
2X3**

## BOE Okays Curriculum For Family Living, Health

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described the curriculum as "enlightened" and praised the concept of phasing in discussion of sexual issues.

Controversy was evident, however, when discussion turned to abortion and homosexuality. Superintendent of Schools Dr. William J. Foley said that while abortion is not presented as a birth control option, it is discussed.

This prompted board member Carol Molnar to introduce an amendment striking any mention of abortion or its psychological effects from the curriculum. Her motion was not seconded, and so was not voted on by the board.

Westfield resident Kathleen Hunt likewise took issue with the curriculum over its use of the terms "embryo" and "fetus" to describe an unborn baby. Ms. Hunt argued that such words de-personalized the baby in discussion of abortions, making the procedure easier to accept.

She added that the curriculum seemed to be based on the premise that, "all children come to school emotionally ill and from homes where parents do not care."

She wondered why, in a district with a reputation of upholding diversity and tolerance, "those of us who opposed this program were not asked to give their input."

Board member Susan Jacobson objected to the cursory discussion of homosexuality and omission of the terms "gay" and "lesbian."

Ms. Jacobson remarked, "I don't know how realistic it is in light of what I think is going on with today's kids."

She felt that omission of such terms inevitably leads to a discussion that is not "100 percent honest."

The board approved the revised curriculum 8-0-1, with Ms. Molnar abstaining. A second reading has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, and further discussion of the curriculum will be held at the board's Tuesday, June 2 meeting.

Before addressing the revised health and sex education curriculum, board members got a first-hand look at their recently implemented technology initiative.

Members saw student demonstrations of pilot programs which were introduced last September. The initiative integrated computer technology into the English, social studies, foreign language and science departments.

All four departments received five computers, and have sought different ways to integrate the new technology into their curriculums.

Using a desktop publishing program, English Department students are publishing their own poetry. In the Social Studies Department, students use a program called "American Government: an introduction to Micro-case."

According to Maria Schmidt, Chairwoman of the Social Studies Department, the technology "adds another dimension" to the students' curriculum, allowing them to conduct genuine survey research.

Freshman students use a program called Inspiration, which allows them to visually graph information they learn in class. This translates into more effective test preparation and outlining, educators maintain.

The department, like the others, received five computers. Paula A. Roy, Chairwoman of the English Department and a teacher at Westfield High School for 27 years, noted that the new computers have "tightened space considerably."

However, she said the enthusiasm demonstrated by newer staff members for the technology initiative has contributed significantly to its success.

In the Foreign Language Department, students take advantage of the Internet and CD-ROM technology. Students regularly access the two major French daily newspapers, *La Monde* and *Le Figaro*, online.

An interactive audio CD-ROM program helps students enhance their pronunciation by taking a recording of the student's voice and then comparing it to a native voice.

In the Science Department, new technology has been introduced to the biology, chemistry, physics, and earth sciences classes. The new computers permit more powerful methods of data col-

lection, according to Dave Stoneback, Science Department Supervisor for grades 6 through 12.

Using an interface, students can more easily see patterns in accumulated data, measure heart rates, and calculate motion.

The new computers are a valuable asset which, according to Mr. Stoneback, "bridges the gap between university research and what is typically used in high school education."

## Parade to Begin At Monument Memorial Day

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ment while playing a Benge pocket trumpet. His older brother, Matthew, will follow on a Bach Stradivarius trumpet from another corner of the monument. Dr. Schlosberg will provide the final, second echo from a third corner of the monument. He will play the Renaissance-style Herald fanfare trumpet.

A repeat performance of echo "Taps" will be given at Fairview Cemetery on East Broad Street, at the conclusion of the parade.

Serving as Grand Marshal of the parade this year will be Robert Terivn, a Vietnam War veteran. He served five years in Vietnam and has lived in Westfield for 26 years.

He is a Past Commander of the Martin Wallberg Post and is a member of the Westfield Knights of Columbus.

Upon completion of opening ceremonies, the parade will march up East Broad Street, turn left on Elm Street, right on Orchard Street, then right onto Mountain Avenue.

The Sons of the American Revolution (S.A.R.) and the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) will break ranks at the Colonial Cemetery on Mountain Avenue to conduct services at the cemetery honoring American military personnel buried there.

More than 100 war veterans are interred in the cemetery. S.A.R. members post American flags at veterans' grave sites.

The cemetery is the final resting place of 70 Revolutionary War soldiers and over 25 servicemen of World War I and later conflicts. Veterans from the French and Indian War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War are also represented.

The Reverend Kevin Clark of the Bethel Baptist Church in Westfield will deliver the Memorial Day address at the Colonial Cemetery.

As in the past, the parade will include the Westfield Fire and Police Departments, as well as Volunteer Rescue Squad vehicles, antique cars, and the Westfield Town Bell.

The parade will feature five marching bands, including the Westfield High School Marching Band, Westfield Five and Drum Corps, the Westfield Community Band, the Bound Brook Drum and Bugle Corps, and a special Westfield Knights of Columbus band.

Other groups marching in the parade are representatives of the Bethel Baptist Church, the Miller-Cory House Museum, Eastern Star Ladies and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

The parade concludes at Fairview Cemetery in the veterans section, where memorial services will be conducted by Westfield and Mountainside VFW members.

Free soft drinks will be available at the entrance of the cemetery. All marchers are invited back to the American Legion Post No. 3 of Westfield.

In the event of rain, the ceremonies will be held at Roosevelt Intermediate School on Clark Street. For further information should weather conditions become a factor, please call the Westfield Police Department at (908) 232-1000.

## 'Y' Holds 75th Annual Meeting

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the board, presented this year's award to Ms. Fleder.

Ms. Fleder joined the Board of Directors of the "Y" in May of 1989. As an active board member, she headed up the "Kids Expo" project, which successfully attracted over 8,000 participants. Ms. Fleder was a major participant in developing the "Y's" partnership with the Moscow YMCA. She is also a major player in the First Night celebration on New Year's Eve.

Ms. Fleder has given her expertise in computers in helping the "Y" computerize operations. She continues to serve on several committees including the Long Range Planning, Executive, and International Committees.

She had a "hands on" involvement in implementing the "Y's" Teen Programs at Edison Intermediate School, and was a presenter on Teen Programs to the National YMCA General Assembly. She was a representative at the YMCA Key Leaders Conference and has been a hostess to

numerous international "Y" visitors.

In addition to devoting much of her time to the "Y," the award recipient has served as President of the Parent-Teacher Organizational (PTO) at Edison School, President of the Westfield High School PTO, and as Co-Chairwoman of the Westfield Service League Thrift Shop. She also is a board member of the United Fund of Westfield Allocations Committee, Chairwoman of the United Fund Residential Division and is Chairwoman of Long Range Planning for the Westfield Service League.

Ms. Fleder's volunteer work does not end there. She is active with The Presbyterian Church in Westfield where she serves as a Deacon, and is involved in the Family Life Programs at the church.

Ms. Fleder and her husband, Mark, and two children live in Westfield. Prior to working as a volunteer in the community, she was an executive with IBM and operated her own computer business.

## WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

TUESDAY, MAY 12

• Police reported that a lawn on Willow Grove Road was damaged by motor vehicle tires.

• Authorities investigated an incident of possible forced entry at a service station on South Avenue, West.

A garage window was broken at the facility but nothing appeared to be missing or disturbed inside, according to police.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

• A Ross Place resident reported the theft of clothes valued at approximately \$1,085 from a bedroom closet in her apartment.

• A resident of Prospect Street reported that a license plate on his motor vehicle was either stolen or lost.

• Two bicycles were reported stolen in separate incidents. The first was taken from a bicycle rack at the Westfield train station, and the second was removed from a rack at Westfield High School on Dorian Road.

• A camera was reported stolen from a motor vehicle which was parked in the Westfield train station lot.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

• A Morristown resident reported the theft of a necklace valued at \$1,000, which she said she had left on a chair while receiving service at a Central Avenue hair salon.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

• A Willow Grove Road resident reported an incident of criminal mischief,

authorities said. The victim's home was strewn with toilet paper and an assortment of items was scattered on the front lawn. The windows of a car there were also soaped.

• John Mollozzi, 20, of Westfield was arrested on South Avenue and charged with possession of an alcoholic beverage under the legal age, according to police. He was released on his own recognizance.

• Police reported that someone spray-painted graffiti on the playground of McKinley Elementary School on First Avenue.

• Robert E. Rice, 38, of Plainfield was arrested on Sherwood Parkway and charged with being an unlicensed driver, and on a contempt of court warrant out of Plainfield, authorities said. He was being held in lieu of \$725 bail.

MONDAY, MAY 18

• A Carleton Road resident reported an incident of theft by deception. She told authorities that someone stole 38 blank checks which were then used to obtain \$12,300 from various bank locations.

TUESDAY, MAY 19

• Police filed a theft report on behalf of a Westfield resident.

• Michael Blabolil, 31, of Clark was arrested on West Broad Street and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana, possession of a controlled dangerous substance in a motor vehicle, and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle, according to police. He was being held in lieu of \$725 bail.

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• Police reported that someone spray-painted graffiti on the playground of McKinley Elementary School on First Avenue.

• Robert E. Rice, 38, of Plainfield was arrested on Sherwood Parkway and charged with being an unlicensed driver, and on a contempt of court warrant out of Plainfield, authorities said. He was being held in lieu of \$725 bail.

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## Council to Proceed on Action On Improvement Assessments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

deteriorate along the corners of the street.

While stating he would like the town to fund the repair work on Stoneleigh Park, Pearl, Wyoming and Pierson, Public Works Committee Chairman John J. Walsh, representing the Third Ward, said he could not support using operating funds in the municipal budget for this purpose.

Mr. Gottko said the total expenditure for shoulder improvements for the four streets totaled \$50,000, or a quarter of a tax point. A tax point in Westfield equals \$180,000 in spending.

Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence A. Goldman said the issue of whether to proceed with assessing the property owners is a "matter of fairness," noting that if the governing body chose to fund the work, such an action could "open up a whole bunch of problems" for the town.

In fact, town officials explained that a number of inquiries have been received regarding previously completed projects. Residents have indicated that if property owners along the four streets do not have to fund repair work, they would seek refunds from the assessments they had previously paid.

Mayor Thomas C. Jardim, although questioning why the previous policy was ever adopted, said the council must have a starting point for when its new policy takes effect.

Pearl Street resident Al Schaefer, who attended the past two meetings of the council at which the issue was discussed, said "I don't think I should have to pay for (reconstruction of) the street which everyone else uses," he said.

He said he was not given the figure of \$25 per running foot for the assessments. However, when questioned, several other residents in attendance indicated they were aware of the figure.

First Ward Councilwoman Gail S. Vernick said the issue of whether the town should pay for the shoulder improvements presented a "difficult dilemma" for her as a council member.

In response to Mr. Schaefer's concerns, Mrs. Vernick said she will conduct her own investigation as to whether he may have received "misinformation" as to how much his total assessment would be.

Mr. Gottko noted that all future paving projects will be under the new policy, with residents only required to pay for curbs.

In a related matter, Councilman Walsh in his committee report released a list of those streets which will be improved this summer as part of a \$150,000 appropriation included in this year's budget.

Included are Prospect Street, from Madison Avenue to Trail's End; Forest Avenue, from Dudley Avenue to Edgewood Avenue; Eaglecroft Road, from Forest Avenue to Coleman Place; Kimball Avenue, from North Chestnut Street to Baker Avenue; Winyah Avenue, East, from Canterbury Lane to Wychwood Road; Canterbury Road, from house nos. 238-239 to Wychwood Road; Woodland Avenue; Windsor Avenue, from South Avenue to Grandview Avenue; Cam-

bridge Road, from Central Avenue to Boynton Avenue; Tudor Oval; Doris Parkway; Willow Grove Parkway; North Florence Avenue, and Warren Street, from Scotch Plains Avenue to Hyslip Avenue.

Additional roadwork totaling \$10,000 is also included, although those streets were not specified in a memorandum issued by Town Engineer Kenneth B. Marsh.

Councilman Walsh noted that streets included in the program have been evenly divided between the town's four wards. A council representative from each ward is included on the committee.

These street improvements will be the first ones completed without curbing with the total cost paid for by the town.

In other business, Sara E. Strohecker, Chairwoman of the BRAKES Group of Westfield, gave a brief presentation on the group's proposal for a Master Traffic Safety Mitigation Plan.

Ms. Strohecker explained that BRAKES, which stands for Bikers, Runners and Kids Are Ent