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Scotch Plains Fanwood School Board Election Results 97apr15 Russo Larkin Ruggiero Win Budget is Yes!

Budget

Yes = 1,965

No = 955

Russo = 1019 (elected to School Board)

Larkin = 970 (elected to School Board)

Ruggiero = 964 (elected to School Board)

Dettmar = 819

McAllister = 782

Gonzalez = 464

Paparella = 413

Ross = 336



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All Union County Girls Basketball 97apr3

Majchrzak Named to First Team All Union County List, Williams, Bethea and McDonald Make Third Team

By David B. Corbin

Recently, four local high school girls were named to the All Union County Girls Basketball list. Lauren Majchrzak of Union Catholic High School was named to the First Team list while teammate Devin McDonald, Amy Williams of Westfield High School and Kim Bethea of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School were selected to the Third Team list.

In her four years of varsity basketball, Majchrzak has compiled remarkable numbers. The most remarkable being her 1,320 career points scored. Majchrzak broke the 1,000 point mark on December 27 during a game against Oak Knoll which the Vikings won 40-36.

As a freshman, while playing for Roselle Catholic, Majchrzak averaged 18 points per game, was selected as the Most Valuable Player of the team and was named Third Team All-Union County.

After transferring to Union Catholic during her sophomore year, Majchrzak had to sit out for 30 days but still averaged 14.2 points per game; then, after the season, played for the Lady Monarchs New Jersey State A.A.U. 17-and-under championship team coached by Karen Fucello and, later, competed in Texas.

In her junior year, Majchrzak averaged 17.2 points per game and shot 84 percent of her free throws. At one point, against Mater Dei, Majchrzak hit 21 of 21 free throw attempts. She was named First Team All-Union County and was selected Third Team All-State Parochial.

This year, Majchrzak totaled 345 points, shot 81 percent from the foul line and pulled down 115 rebounds.

Majchrzak has been a recipient of the Edward J. Blaustein Award for Academics and will be attending the United States Naval Academy where she will be playing basketball under Head Coach Joe Sanchez.

McDonald, a junior for Union Catholic High School, pulled down a team-leading 200 rebounds, led the Vikings with 50 steals and was

second in scoring with 210 points.

Senior forward Williams was the most active player on the court as she led the Blue Devils in virtually every offensive and defensive category. Williams scored 260 points, grabbed 70 steals, pulled down 152 rebounds and hit 74 of 111 free throws to lead Westfield High School. Williams, also, was second on the team with 28 assists.

Bethea, a senior, played as a guard and was a Co-Captain of the Raiders. Bethea also displayed her leadership numerically by leading the Raiders in scoring with 258 points, in steals with 61 and in assists with 48. Bethea hit 64 of 93 free throws for 69 percent and pulled down 75 rebounds.

Each of the girls performed well for their respective teams this year and each had remarkable careers in basketball.

Lauren Majchrzak, Union Catholic

Amy Williams, Westfield

Kim Bethea, Scotch Plains-Fanwood

Devin McDonald, Union Catholic



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Westfield School Board Election Results 97apr15 Taylor Molnar Kessler Budget Yes Yes

Budget Results

Question #1 - 2726 Yes; 1041 No

Question #2 - 2700 Yes; 1069 No

School Board Election

Taylor - 2128 (Elected to the Board)

Molnar - 2021 (Elected to the Board)

Kessler - 2002 (Elected to the Board)

Keenoy - 1536

Madaras - 1479

Kabakow - 793



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Westfield Girls Basketball versus Linden and Conference Final Standings 97apr3

Lady Devils Cagers Tame Tigers in Sectionals, 64-54

By DAVID B. CORBIN

The Blue Devils girls basketball team avenged an earlier season loss to Linden High School at the right time by knocking the Tigers out of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 tournament, 64-54, in Westfield on March 3.

Senior Amy Williams played a major role in the Blue Devils' victory by sinking 21 points and grabbing eight rebounds.

Westfield got out in front of the Tigers immediately and stayed out in front for the remainder of the game. With a 19-12 lead at the end of the first quarter, the Blue Devils increased their edge by the half, 34-23.

The lead stretched even more when Williams pumped in seven points to incite an 18-9 third quarter scoring run to put Westfield well-ahead of Linden, 52-32.

Not only did Williams have the Tigers spinning but sophomore Liz McKeon and senior Jen Kemps kept the momentum going by sinking 16 points and 14 points respectively. Vicki Nusse put in four points and Megan Devitt added three points while Nicole DeSantis, Tara Douglas and Katherine Ball had two points apiece for the Blue Devils.

"The last time we played Linden, we shot only 21 percent from the floor and they had a high shooting percentage in their 47-45 win," stated Westfield Head Coach Kathy Hauser. "We pressed them a lot more this time to cause more turnovers. Also, their three-point shooting was effective and we had to stop the outside shooting by getting a hand in their face."

"They out hustled us the last time and almost out hustled us again," added Hauser. "We had to hold them to only one shot at a time by getting the rebounds."

The Blue Devils collected 35 rebounds this time, led by McKeon and Williams who pulled in eight. Devitt grabbed seven rebounds followed

by Nusse and Kemps who had four each. DeSantis added three rebounds and Douglas contributed one.

In addition to the high rebounding count, Westfield got devilish with the steals, swiping a total of 13 led by the chief thief, Kemps, who stole five.

When asked about her feelings about the next Section 2 game with Bloomfield, Hauser stated, "I believe they only have one loss. They have a great press and you will have to beat their press or they will beat you to the ground. Bloomfield is a well-coached team."

This was the first time in 15 years that the Westfield High School girls basketball team qualified for the states. The Blue Devils faced the second-seeded Bloomfield High School team on March 5.

WATCHUNG CONFERENCE GIRLS BASKETBALL FINAL STANDINGS

National Division

W-L (Pct.)

Shabazz 11-1 (.917)

Union Catholic 9-3 (.750)

Cranford 9-3 (.750)

Scotch Plains 7-5 (.583)

Rahway 6-6 (.500)

Kearny 0-12 (.000)

American Division

W-L (Pct.)

Elizabeth 12-0 (1.000)

Westfield 8-4 (.667)

Linden 7-5 (.583)

Union 6-6 (.500)

Plainfield 3-9 (.250)

Irvington 1-11 (.083)

East Side 1-11 (.083)



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Fanwood Board of Adjustment Okays Sign Changes For Presbyterian Church 97mar27

By ALEXANDRA JELKES Specially Written for The Times

On Thursday, March 20, the Fanwood Board of Adjustment held its regularly scheduled meeting. After Board Secretary Ruth Page called the meeting to order, the minutes from the last meeting were approved. The members present were board Chairwoman Kathleen Rice, Cynthia Swindlehurst, Edward Ryan, John Celardo and Jeffrey Strauss.

The first order of business dealt with the First Presbyterian Church of Fanwood, which is located on Block No. 87, Lot No. 2, on Martine and La Grande Avenues. The church had made an application and requested a variance on an attachment to enlarge one of its signs to 10 square feet. The second variance was requested to enlarge another sign to 16 square feet.

The board debated the issue of the size of the existing signs and the proposed changes. The representative for the First Presbyterian Church was George Zhelnik. Mr. Zhelnik addressed the board and explained the church's purpose for the sign changes.

"There is no sign to identify our church and no present sign to identify the Westminster School, which is part of the church property," he said.

He told the board that the church had correspondence from various boards, including the Board of Health, and there was no objection to the proposed replacement of the old signs. Mr. Zhelnik explained that the church had followed the legal procedure for the variance application.

Mr. Zhelnik explained the church's mission behind the sign changes, stating that "in recent years our membership has declined and surveys show that signs attract new members.

"Our current sign is not obvious enough, it needs larger letters of an increase to 16 square feet," he continued.

The second sign is needed, according to the church representative, because when someone is approaching the center of Fanwood, there is no sign indicating the denomination of the church. The old sign was erected in 1959.

A third sign would be installed at the church playground to identify the Westminster School. This school is only a year old and needs a sign to designate its location, Mr. Zhelnik said. The school used to be called the Acorn School but because the church felt the name did not indicate a Christian background, the name was changed to the Westminster School.

The first sign will announce the name of the church, the pastor, and the schedule of services. The part that says "Family Presbyterian Church" will be internally illuminated and slightly larger. Board attorney Charles H. Brandt asked Mr. Zhelnik if the school is part of the church. Mr. Zhelnik replied that it is part of the church and that the Planning Board gave it a conditional use permit last year.

The old Acorn School sign has since been replaced with the Westminster sign. There are also signs designated for parking. The church is trying to minimize cost and not destroy the sign but expand it, according to Mr. Zhelnik.

Once the public part of the meeting was closed, the board voted in favor of granting the First Presbyterian Church of Fanwood its variance.

The board also memorialized a resolution of its February 20 approval of variances for Igor and Elena Kruglyak, allowing them to create an addition onto their home and to widen their driveway.

The board briefly discussed its budget, which had been approved, and found it was about 3 percent higher than last year's spending plan.



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Deer hunt Investigation Launched Regarding Violations Of County Rules

By PAUL J. PEYTON

Following some 30 complaints from residents, Union County Police Chief Richard Mannix announced at the March 13 Board of Chosen Freeholders meeting that he has launched an investigation to determine if sharpshooters had violated the rules of the county's deer hunt. The hunt, which began January 4, ended on March 14.

Chief Mannix explained that his office is looking into whether sharpshooters went beyond the boundaries and time schedules set by county officials. These guidelines were hand-delivered by a county courier to all residences within the Watchung Reservation where the hunts have been conducted the past three years.

Residents have alleged that the marksmen got too close to homes in the Watchung Reservation.

The Freeholders approved the first hunt in the history of the 2,000-acre reservation in 1993. Hunters, which were picked through a lottery system, conducted the first hunt in the winter of 1994. Sharpshooters, many of which are law enforcement officers, were utilized the following year in an effort to reduce the overall cost of the program.

Following the recommendations of the Watchung Reservation Deer Management Subcommittee, which was formed to address deer overpopulation in 1993, a five-year program of controlled shooting was approved by the Freeholders in 1993.

The deer management program, the first of its kind in the state, was approved to help restore "a balance in the park's ecology in order to preserve it for future generations," according to a letter distributed to the 1,500 homes in the reservation this winter.

Patricia Bryden of Mountainside, a mother of two children, said the deer hunts have a harmful impact on the "quality of life" of her children. She said her children are afraid to be driven through the reservation.

"Your guidelines have been broken chronically," she said, noting that the most recent violation occurred on March 7 along West Tracy Drive

in the area of the Prospect Street water tower.

Mrs. Bryden said that, according to the county guidelines on the hunt, the water tower was one of the areas listed as a non-shooting area. However, she said as she drove down the two-lane roadway gun shots were fired "over our heads."

She noted that a number of pedestrians were walking in the area at the time "because we thought your guidelines were gospel."

Mrs. Bryden said the shots have caused dogs to bark as well as the activation of house alarms. She asked the board to change the county law to forbid hunting in the reservation. The Freeholders amended that county ordinance in order to hold the first hunt. The change remains in effect today.

Denise Suskie, also of Mountainside, informed the board of another violation of the guidelines which occurred on February 28.

She said while driving with her mother-in-law and 4-year-old, she observed hunters crossing Summit Lane near the Watchung Stables -- another area listed as off limits for marksmen.

According to the guidelines, it would be "rare" for shots to be fired between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Mrs. Suskie said when she questioned the hunters, they informed her that Parks and Recreation officials had told them "rules and regulations had changed" from those sent to residents.

She said shooting had been occurring behind the homes of residents. County guidelines state that hunters may not come closer than 600 feet of homes.

"We are being terrorized in that park. This has to stop," Mrs. Suskie said.

Freeholder Chairwoman Linda d. Stender said an aerial survey was slated to be completed last week to determine how much the deer herd was reduced by the hunt.

Mrs. Stender said the board will wait for county police to gather information regarding the allegations made concerning the deer hunt before discussing the issue further.

She said she expected the board "to take a close look at the whole program" once all the information regarding this winter's program has been released by county parks officials.

William Russell of Scotch Plains, whose wife serves on the Deer Management Subcommittee, suggested that the hunt be held constantly for one week to help reduce the impact on residents the three-month

hunts have caused.

Due to the shots in the reservation, Mr. Russell said his wife has spent the past two winters out-of-state. He said he saw non-hunters, possibly county employees, going into the reservation off Glenside Avenue, in the vicinity of the Bowcraft Amusement Park on Route 22, trying to "flush out" the deer into the reservation for the hunters.

Diane Beeny of Westfield said the county's system for deer counting is inaccurate. She called the plan for this year's hunt to kill 189, "a disgusting goal."

"A park should be a place where people go to find peace and to experience nature. It should not be a place where you find blood and gunfire and dying animals," she told the board.

She asked the board to end the program stating, "We have to stop this violence now."

The county's deer management program was supervised by Union County Police and representatives from the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife.



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Westfield Lacrosse Blue Team Victorious Over Chatham 97mar27

The Westfield Blue seventh- and eighth-grade lacrosse team won its second straight game this season, this past week by defeating Chatham, 12-4.

In a play set up by J.H. Flood and Connor Mulvee, midfielder Mike Farley fed the ball to attack man Chris Dodge for the opening score. Chatham retaliated with brutal attack force but was no match for the Westfield wall built by defensive players Jacob Dupont, Jim Mitchell, Glenn Hurley and Matt Hall.

Attackman Mulvee scored for the Blue on a sweet feed from Dodge on the fast-break. Mulvee ripped past the Chatham defense on a play set up by Westfield goalie Dan Morrissey and midfielder Brad Gillen. Mulvee's goal was assisted by attackman Jack Kane.

Dupont displayed determined defensive strategy allowing Tom Wade to fire a goal past the overwhelmed Chatham goalie. Attackman Greg Elliott and midfielders Jon Graham and Gillen kept the Chatham defense occupied while Mulvee took advantage of this opportunity and fed Evan Molloy for a quick goal. Elliott, Graham and Gillen continued to stand up to serious physical pounding by Chatham to position the Blue to score.

The Chatham attack was unable to get around the Blue defensive wall as Hurley and Hall relentlessly protected their goal. Flood sped the ball to Dodge who rocketed it past the Chatham goalie with only a minute left in the first half

Chatham came back at the half determined to control the game. Matt Simone explained who was boss as he knocked the Chatham midfielder out of bounds. Simone's move allowed Flood to fire a difficult left-handed shot and score for the Blue. Flood then assisted Mulvee as he tore a shot into the Chatham goal, completely frustrating the Chatham team. Midfielder Gillen was relentless in his shots-on-goal. His tenacity worked for the Blue as Gillen scored on a feed by Simone who took a nasty hit from the Chatham defense.

An offensive drive pitted Hurley against a huge Chatham Attackman but it was no problem as Hurley took the ball away and passed it to Mulvee who moved the ball into position. Dodge quick-sticked in

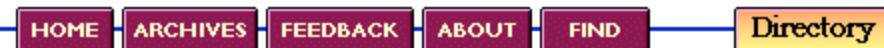
another shot to score again for the Blue. With 30 seconds left in the third quarter, Farley followed suit with a hard shot unmatched by the Chatham goalie. The fever was high with only 15 seconds left to the game and Flood flew past the weakened Chatham's defense to Farley. Farley cranked the last shot on goal moving the final score, 13-4.

Chatham did manage to squeeze in four goals during the course of the game, but they were hard won. Goaltenders Dan Morrissey and Tim Mansfield were spectacular in defending the cage with repeated tough saves.

The Westfield Blue will meet a tough Chester team at the Black River Field in Chester on Wednesday, April 2, at 4 p.m.

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Scotch Plains Police Nab Suspect In Three Burglaries 97mar27

Scotch Plains Police Chief Thomas O'Brien announced yesterday that as a result of a three-week investigation that was initiated by the arrest of a burglary suspect by the Plainfield Police Department and an extensive investigation conducted by Detective William Schultz of the Scotch Plains Police Department, charges of burglary, theft and possession of burglary tools were filed against Craig S. Urquahart, 29, of Elizabeth.

Urquahart was charged with burglarizing three residential homes within the township during the period of January 28 through February 26. Numerous items of stolen property were recovered along with a quantity of other property which detectives are attempting to identify as being associated with other burglaries within the county, according to the Chief.

Urquahart was remanded to the Union County Jail in lieu of \$22,000 bail.

Chief O'Brien stressed that "the exceptional working relationship between the Plainfield, Westfield and Scotch Plains police was the catalyst for the successful outcome of this investigation."



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Scotch Plains Fanwood Swimming Wrap-up

97apr3

Conference Title Tops List for Raider Swimming Season

By **DAVID B. CORBIN**

This season's accomplishments will be memorable ones for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School coed Swimming team. The Raiders became the Watchung Conference Champions and defeated arch-rival Westfield High School for the first time in the history of the program.

In addition, Raiders second year Head Coach Jessica Hulnik enjoyed seeing her team finish the season with an excellent 12-2 record and place second in the Union County tournament. Individually, Hulnik had several swimmers turn in outstanding performances in key meets.

This season's standard of excellence was spearheaded by senior Captains Sherri Hamlette, Jeremy Koscielecki, Stephanie Miller and Jenine Ruiz.

Hamlette, who specializes in the butterfly and freestyle events, qualified to swim on the 200-yard freestyle relay team at the Meet of Champions.

Koscielecki skimmed through the water with his personal best time of 1:06 in the 100-yard backstroke to place in the top 10 at the Union County Championships.

Showing versatility, Miller did everything from 50-yard to 500-yard events. Miller was a member of the 200-yard freestyle relay team at the Meet of Champions.

Competing in the diving events and displaying the agility of a high-class gymnast, Ruiz barely disturbed the water as she made her entry, placing in the top six in every meet.

Junior Ian Doebber took second place in the 100-yard backstroke at the Union County tournament and placed 14th in the state in the same event. For his outstanding achievements, Doebber was named to the All-Area team by the Courier News.

Sarah Milligan, a junior, was very competitive in the 50-yard freestyle and in the 100-yard backstroke throughout the season. Milligan was

named to the Courier News All-Union-Middlesex team.

A large impression was made by sophomore David Russ when he captured first place in the 50-yard freestyle at the Union County tournament. That victory gave notice to opposing coaches that Russ would be a force to be reckoned with for the next two years.

Sophomore Missy Canniff, who specialized in distance events, qualified for the Meet of Champions in both the 200-yard freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle. Canniff gained recognition from the Courier News by being selected to the All-Union-Middlesex team.

In the butterfly event, sophomore Jeff Wagner gracefully finished fourth in the Union County tournament. Wagner also competed on the 200-yard medley relay team at the Meet of Champions.

Freshman Annie Espinosa won the 100-yard butterfly event at the Union County tournament and was selected to the All-Union-Middlesex team.

It's always good to have someone who is willing to swim any event and freshman Steven Berkowitz did just that when asked and played a major role in many of the Raider meets this season.

Freshman Katie Feighner competed in the freestyle events and anchored the girls 200-yard medley relay at the Meet of Champions.

"The key to our success this season was our depth and versatility." Claimed Hulnik. "Our second and third lane swimmers who consistently placed third, fourth and fifth helped us clinch many of our close meets." Added Hulnik.

As to what Hulnik considered as being high points to her season, Hulnik stated, "The girls 200-yard medley relay team of Milligan, Jess Zentmeyer, Espinosa and Feighner going 1:57.4 at the Meet of Champions and competing against Pequannock High School at the State Sectionals." Hulnik continued, "The Pequannock meet was the best and most competitive meet of the year."

As to the outlook for next year, Hulnik said, "It looks real good; we have many swimmers returning."



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New Jersey Governor Christie Whitman



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Scotch Plains Zoo Hearing is Postponed as Owner is Fined By Municipal Court Judge

97mar27

By SUZETTE STALKER

A hearing regarding the embattled Scotch Plains Zoo, which had been scheduled for last Thursday in Superior Court in Elizabeth, was adjourned until Thursday, April 10, in order to give a court-appointed attorney and an independent veterinarian additional time to prepare reports regarding conditions at the 6.5-acre facility.

Zoo owner Harold Kafka, meanwhile, pleaded guilty Monday in Scotch Plains Municipal Court to charges related to the housing of some of the animals at his establishment, which is located three miles south of Route No. 22 on Raritan Road. The zoo is home to approximately 150 animals, including a number of exotic or endangered species.

The penalties imposed on Mr. Kafka are expected to be either reduced or dismissed, however, if he meets conditions which were previously agreed upon between him and the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife by Monday, April 14, according to Municipal Court Clerk Yvonne Rude. The division opted not to renew Mr. Kafka's operating permits in January, citing multiple violations concerning public safety and animal welfare.

The division issued summonses to Mr. Kafka following a March 12 inspection by a conservation officer and a zoologist, who found the zoo's orangutan house unheated due to a lack of oil and the lights turned off, according to division spokeswoman Sharon Southard. Heat was restored to the unit, which houses several primates, as well as alligators, after an anonymous benefactor offered to have the oil tanks replenished.

Mr. Kafka also was issued a summons for failure to repair cages which house wolves at the zoo, and another for failure to properly house an otter at the facility, the Court Clerk said.

Scotch Plains Municipal Court Judge Joseph Perfilio fined Mr. Kafka \$5,000 plus \$30 court cost for failure to have the orangutan unit heated. The fine will be reduced to \$250 on condition that the zoo owner makes arrangements for the orangutan to be transferred to another location by April 14, the Court Clerk confirmed.

Mr. Kafka was issued the same penalty for the charge involving the wolf enclosure, which will be totally abated if the zoo owner meets agreed-upon conditions, the Court Clerk said. She confirmed that the zoo owner was fined \$200 plus \$30 court cost for failure to adequately house the otter, which will be reduced to \$50 if he fulfills the necessary requirements.

On March 5, Superior Court Judge Frederick C. Kentz, Jr. appointed attorney Martin O'Connor, 2nd, of the Union law firm of O'Connor, Morss and O'Connor, as legal custodian to examine the financial records of the zoo, which was bought three years ago by Mr. Kafka and his wife, Deborah, of Watchung. The facility, formerly known as the Terry Lou Zoo, was previously owned by Frank and Louise Terry, who now live in Florida.

At the upcoming hearing, Judge Kentz is expected to review written reports from Mr. O'Connor, veterinarian Dr. Kathy Jamison of Pennsylvania, and reptile expert Bill Boesenberg of Elmwood Park. Dr. Jamison was scheduled to tour the Scotch Plains Zoo yesterday, March 26, to inspect conditions at the site. Among the zoo inhabitants are elephants, giraffes, large cats, primates, llamas, deer and birds.

According to Ms. Southard, the Fish, Game and Wildlife Division declined to renew the Kafkas' permits after inspectors found that the zoo owners failed to provide "adequate shelter, food and water, as well as sufficient heating and ventilation" for some of the animals. Mr. Kafka has filed for a hearing before an administrative law judge to appeal the charges. No date has been scheduled yet for the hearing, Ms. Southard acknowledged.

Mr. Kafka recently told The Times that he was confident that he would be able to work out any problems with the state and denied that any animals at the zoo were mistreated. He said several weeks ago that he still plans to upgrade the facility pending final approval of his site plan by the Scotch Plains Board of Adjustment and emphasized that he intends to keep the zoo open.

Last year, Mr. Kafka was fined \$1,700 for failure to file annual or quarterly reports and an additional \$4,000 for other problems. Mr. Kafka also owes \$3,300 to the Elizabethtown Gas Company, which shut off natural gas service to the facility February 24 because of non-payment. Service was restored to the zoo the following day after the New Jersey Associated Humane Societies, based in Newark, offered to pay the zoo's heating bills for the duration of the winter.

On February 25, Judge Kentz issued an injunction at the request of the Terrys, who still hold the mortgage on the facility. The injunction called for an independent veterinarian to inspect the condition of the animals at the zoo and prevented the Kafkas from relocating any of them. Mr. Kafka said he remains on good terms with the Terrys and that his

predecessors have been supportive of his efforts to improve conditions at the establishment.

Richard M. Cohen, the Scotch Plains attorney representing the Terrys, said his clients became concerned about conditions at the zoo after Mr. Kafka had fallen behind with his mortgage payments and his permit to possess the animals had not been renewed. He said that although Mr. Kafka had made his mortgage payments with interest through February, there were indications that animals from the zoo had been relocated.

According to Mr. Cohen, Judge Perfilio's decree that the orangutan be relocated by April 14 does not violate the injunction against removing any animals from the zoo as long as the Terrys and Judge Kentz agree to the move.

However, the attorney confirmed that he recently learned from the Fish, Game and Wildlife Division that a monkey had been transferred from the zoo to a farm in Pennsylvania and that a Burmese python belonging to the zoo was discovered in a pet shop on Route 22.

Mr. Cohen said that the monkey will remain at the farm, and veterinarians from the Fish, Game and Wildlife Division were to examine the python. Mr. Kafka could not be reached for comment earlier this week.

At the hearing next month, according to Mr. Cohen, the judge is expected to determine whether or not Mr. O'Connor should continue as legal custodian or whether Mr. Kafka should continue to operate the zoo on a day-to-day basis. He commented that Judge Kentz "needs to get a feeling of where we are and what we should do from here on out."



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Westfield School Board Candidates Night 97apr07

On Monday, April 7th, 1997, at 7:45pm, in the auditorium at Roosevelt Intermediate School (Clark Street), the Westfield Parent-Teacher Council held its Candidates Night for the Westfield Board of Education elections,

A spokesperson said, "We have six candidates running for three three-year terms. We are eager for people to come and meet them".

The moderator was Dorothy Dawson of the Hillside League of Women Voters. The audience took their turns at the microphone and put their questions directly to the candidates. (The leader's report will be posted shortly).

The Candidates are, in ballot order: Thomas P. Madaras, (inc), B. Carol Molnar (inc), Thomas Taylor, Patrick Keenoy, Michael J. Kessler and Mark Kabakow.

For those who didn't make it on the night, the event has been taped by the Westfield High School Television for Broadcast on channel 36, as follows:

April 8 at 6pm.
April 9 at 7pm.
April 10 at 10pm.
April 11 at 9pm.
April 12 at 2 & 10pm.
April 13 at NOON & 8pm.
April 14 at 9pm.



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Scotch Plains-Fanwood School Board Elections 97apr15

**Fate of \$36,935,929 Tax Levy Reflected By 1997-1998 School Budget
ALSO WILL Be Decided**

**Mrs. Dettmar, Mr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Larkin Face Five Newcomers In
Race Tuesday for Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education SP BOE**

By SUZETTE STALKER for The Times

Scotch Plains voters will elect three representatives to the Board of Education next Tuesday, April 15, while in both the township and Fanwood voters will decide the fate of the proposed 1997-1998 school budget. According to Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi's office, there are 13,907 registered voters in Scotch Plains and 4,679 in Fanwood.

In the school board race, incumbents Lillian M. Dettmar, August A. Ruggiero and Theresa Larkin, all Scotch Plains residents, are being challenged by newcomers Frances Gonzalez, Jean McAllister, Kristen Croag Paparella, Norman A. Ross and Thomas Russo. Each vacancy is for a full, three-year term. There are no Fanwood seats available this year.

Listed on the ballot also will be the \$36,935,929 tax levy for the school budget. It calls for a 1.64 percent tax increase for Scotch Plains property owners and a 2.47 percent increase for those in Fanwood.

The proposed budget would increase the tax bill in Scotch Plains by \$57.50 on the \$115,000 average assessed value. In Fanwood, the budget would increase the tax bill by \$74.70 on the average assessed value of \$83,000, according to school officials. If voters reject the budget, it will be turned over to the township and borough councils, which would have 21 days to take action.

The total \$41.8 million spending plan reflects a 2.64 percent increase over last year's budget.

Mrs. Dettmar, who is Vice President of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, currently is seeking her sixth term. She and her husband, both retired teachers, have lived in the township for 37 years. They have two grown children who were educated in the local school district.



Lillian Dettmar
Ballot Position #8

During her campaign, Mrs. Dettmar has cited her experience as a 15-year member of the school board. She has been elected Vice President of the board seven times and is the former Chairwoman of the board's Policy, Athletic, Community Relations, Staff Appreciation and Legislation Committees.

Mrs. Dettmar also has been a member of the Negotiations, Finance, Buildings and Grounds, Budget Advisory and Grievance Committees. She has served as President of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Council and as board Liaison to the PTA Council. In addition, she has been a member of several PTA executive boards in the district.

The candidate has stressed her role as Legislative Liaison to the New Jersey School Boards Association as particularly relevant, in that she is able to keep the school board informed about such issues as school funding legislation.

Mr. Ruggiero, who has lived in Scotch Plains for 24 years, also is running for his sixth term. The veteran school board member and his wife have two grown children, both of whom graduated from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district. He is a full professor of mathematics and physics at Essex County College in Newark.

(Photograph not Available)
August Ruggiero
Ballot Position #7

He has been President of the school board five times and is the former Chairman of the Policy, Budget, Curriculum and Instruction Committees. He currently chairs the Administrative Negotiations Committee and is a member of three other committees. In addition, he has served on the Community Relations, Finance, Buildings and

Grounds and Negotiations Committees.

Mr. Ruggiero is a member of the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains, where he is Superintendent of the Adult Sunday School and a member of the Coordinating Committee, which arranges for homeless families to stay at the church.

The candidate, like Mrs. Dettmar, has emphasized his lengthy experience as a board member while maintaining that he remains open to new ideas. According to Mr. Ruggiero, his goals include improving education in the district, while demonstrating fiscal responsibility in formulating school budgets and strengthening relationships between the board, school district employees and the community.

Mrs. Larkin, who currently is winding up her first term on the board, has three children. As a member of the Negotiations Committee, the candidate represented the board during contract talks last year with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association. She is also a member of the board's Policy Committee.



**Theresa Larkin
Ballot Position #6**

She additionally serves as Liaison to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood PTA Council and the Municipal Alliance Committee, as well as with community relations. She is a member of the Coles Elementary School and Terrill Middle School PTAs, as well as the Terrill School Music Boosters.

Mrs. Larkin has stated during her campaign that she remains committed to ensuring that school tax dollars are spent to promote academic excellence; to maintaining current class sizes by regularly

reviewing student enrollment trends and to keeping the lines of communication open among board members, administrators, staff and the community.

A lifelong resident of Scotch Plains, Mrs. Gonzalez was educated through the local school system and has two children who are recent graduates of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Her professional background includes 16 years of corporate experience and nine years in management.

**(Photograph not Available)
Frances Gonzalez
Ballot Position #5**

The candidate currently is employed by Middlesex County Collge as a Youth Coordinator, teaching students between the ages of 14 and 21 skills which will make them employable. She has stated that her main reason for running for the school board is to help give all students an education which will prepare them for the social and technological challenges of the next millenium.

Among her goals, Mrs. Gonzalez explained, is that all students will view themselves as a vital part of the education community. She stressed the importance of meeting the educational requirements of every student, including those with special needs, with input from all aspects of the school district.

Mrs. Gonzalez has maintained that the district needs to support educational programs which will provide students with the flexibility to compete in an increasingly complex society. She argued that students should be able to think both creatively and critically, and that they should graduate with a sense of direction and self-esteem.

Mrs. McAllister and her husband have lived in Scotch Plains for four years and have two young children. Prior to leaving her job to raise her family, Mrs. McAllister was employed as a marketing and sales executive in Manhattan. While living in New York she was also a literacy volunteer.



**Jean McAllister
Ballot Position #1**

The candidate said her experience working with trusts and investments has trained her to see the value of every decision which affects financial resources. She added that her professional background also has given her expertise in translating highly technical data into language easily understood by the public.

Mrs. McAllister's stated objectives include providing district students with the most effective teaching methods and materials available; improving communication between the board and the community; stressing academic excellence, developing guidelines concerning accountability of staff and students, achieving more family involvement in the education process and maintaining a safe environment for teachers and students.

Mrs. Paparella grew up in Scotch Plains and, after living in Illinois for more than a decade, returned to Scotch Plains in 1993. The married mother of two has a son enrolled in the ninth grade at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and is a member of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Music Boosters. She also was active in various church and community activities while living in Illinois.

**(Photograph not Available)
Kristen Croag Paparella
Ballot Position #4**

The candidate, who has worked as a bookkeeper and credit analyst for more than 15 years, currently is employed as a full-charge bookkeeper with RJM in Scotch Plains. Calling for a fresh perspective on the school board, Mrs. Paparella has argued that members need to objectively study all available options before making choices, without letting past decisions or other commitments influence their actions.

Mrs. Paparella also has advocated a close partnership between the board and community to ensure that the academic success of every student takes top priority. She has stated that her financial background makes her particularly qualified to deal with the challenge of maintaining educational programs with limited funding.

Mr. Ross, a retired Rahway High School teacher who has lived in the township for five years, has three grown children who were educated in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district. He has severely criticized the current board during his campaign for what he has charged is officials' rubber-stamp approach to administrating the school district.

(Photograph not Available)

**Norman J. Ross
Ballot Position #3**

The candidate, who teaches adult school courses in various New Jersey municipalities, has characterized the Scotch Plains-Fanwood adult school program as inadequate and also has lamented the amount of time allowed for public comment at school board meetings. He has extended kudos, however, to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Reserve Officers' Training Corps and to the district's music program.

Mr. Russo has lived in the township for more than 30 years and was educated through the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district. He and his wife have two sons who attend Brunner Elementary School. The candidate, a self-employed attorney in Scotch Plains, serves as counsel to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Alumni Association.



**Thomas Russo
Ballot Position #2**

Mr. Russo has been a member of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public

Schools Citizens Budget Committee, Strategic Planning Team, and the Scotch Plains -Fanwood School Funding Task Force. He is also a Past President and Vice President of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club and is a former Vice President of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Jaycees, among various other affiliations.

The candidate, while commending the service of long-time board representatives, has argued in favor of term limitations and the need to bring "new blood" on to the board. Mr. Russo noted that if the board were to retain its present makeup, only two of the seven members next year will have children enrolled in the school district next year. He stated that parents with children currently in school should play a larger role in shaping educational policies.

In addition, Mr. Russo also has called for greater public accessibility to the school board and administrators and the need for board members to reach out to the community for input on policy making. The candidate stated that his reason for seeking a seat on the board was to help maintain quality education, adding that his long-time residency gives him a historical perspective on where the district has been and what its needs will be in the future.

In Scotch Plains, the voting locations are as follow:

- **District Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Park Middle School, Park Avenue.**
- **District Nos. 4 and 5, Scotch Plains Library, 1927 Bartle Avenue.**
- **District Nos. 6, 7 and 8, Evergreen School, Evergreen Avenue.**
- **District No. 9, Scotch Plains -Fanwood High School, Westfield Road.**
- **District No. 10, Brunner School, Westfield Road.**
- **District No. 11, St. John the Baptist Church, 2387 Morris Avenue.**
- **District Nos. 12 and 13, McGinn School, Roosevelt Avenue.**
- **District Nos. 14 and 15, Union Catholic Regional High School, 1600 Martine Avenue.**
- **District Nos. 16 and 21, Union County Vocational Technical Schools, 1776 Raritan Road.**
- **District Nos. 17 and 18, Terrill Middle School, Terrill Road.**
- **District Nos. 19 and 20, Coles School, Kevin Road.**

In Fanwood, polls will be open at the following sites:

- **District Nos. 1 and 2, Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue.**
- **District No. 3, Children’s Specialized Hospital, 330 South Avenue.**
- **District Nos. 4 and 5, Terrill Road Bible Chapel, 535 Terrill Road.**
- **District Nos. 6 and 7, Fanwood Memorial Library, North Avenue and Tillotson Road.**

Polls will be open from 2 to 9 p.m.





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Westfield Board of Education Election 97apr15 POLLS TO STAY OPEN FROM 2 TO 9 P.M.; A TOTAL OF 19,146 PERSONS ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE

**Six Candidates Vie for Three Seats on BOE in Election Tuesday; Two
Budget Questions Face Electorate on Ballot for Tax Levy**

By PAUL J. PEYTON for The Westfield Leader

The six candidates vying for the Westfield Board of Education are coming down the home stretch this weekend. Voters will head to the election poles this Tuesday, April 15. In addition to the school board race, voters will decide the fate of not one but two questions regarding the 1997-1998 school budget. There are 19,146 registered voters in Westfield.

Seeking reelection to the board are Thomas P. Madaras of Surrey Lane and Dr. B. Carol Molnar of Wychwood Road. Also seeking election are Thomas Taylor of Madison Avenue, a former school board member himself; Michael J. Kessler of Park Street, Mark Kabakow of Orenda Circle and Patrick Keenoy of Harrow Road.



Thomas P. Madaras
Ballot Position #1



Dr. B. Carol Molnar
Ballot Position #2



Thomas Taylor
Ballot Position #3



Patrick Keenoy
Ballot Position #4



Michael J. Kessler
Ballot Position #5



Mark Kabakow
Ballot Position #6

In terms of the school budget, voters will be asked to vote on a tax levy of \$42 million in the first question with an additional \$1.59 million sought in the second ballot question. The total spending, however, of \$50.61 million represents the lowest increase in 15 years.

The budget has been supported by the entire school board as well as those candidates seeking seats on the board. Due to new state regulations imposed this year, a spending formula has been designed which is based on the spending of the state's 28 special needs districts -- the least affluent and generally lowest achieving districts in the state.

Westfield's second question includes \$800,000 for computers and training

in technology, new textbooks, an expanded intermediate school sports program, and the automation of libraries in the district's six elementary schools.

Westfield is one of five districts in the county which will have a second question on the ballot. The last school budget to be defeated was in 1994. The overall budget increase that year was 2.7 percent over the 1993-1994 budget. The tax levy proposed by the school board represented an increase of 6.4 percent.

By contrast, the total increase in this year's tax levy (including both questions) is 2.45 percent. If the voters should reject either or both questions, the budget would be turned over to the Town Council which would have 21 days to take action. This could include cutting the budget, keeping it the same, or even increasing the spending plan. In 1994, the council chose to cut the budget by \$765,000.

The total tax levy of \$44.45 million, if approved by voters, would increase taxes on a home in Westfield assessed at \$174,000, the average for the town, by \$104.

If the second question is defeated and the council decides to make a cut, the school board will not be able to appeal that decision. They will, however, be able to appeal cuts to the first question. According to published reports, roughly one-fifth of the state's 606 school districts will have two questions on the ballot.

At a press conference last month, school officials noted that the board has yet to appeal any cuts imposed by the council. While not opposing the cuts in 1994, the board did reject the line items recommended for reduced funding.

Mr. Madaras was first elected to the board in 1994 while Dr. Molnar is seeking her third term on the board.

Mr. Madaras is employed as a Vice President and Financial Consultant with Smith Barney in New York City. He currently chairs the Long Range Planning Committee on the board. He also serves on the Curriculum Committee.

The candidate said during the campaign that he has repeatedly questioned officials to ensure that the intermediate school mathematics and science curriculum, which was reviewed this year by the Curriculum Committee, exceed the state's new core curriculum standards.

Candidate Kessler's background is in the area of management, accounting, and finance. Employed by Lucent Technologies, Mr. Kessler holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Rutgers University. The candidate has served on the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad and on the Parent-Teacher Council's (PTC) Budget Task Force,

Legislative Committee and Executive Board. He currently is the Recording Secretary for the PTC.

Mr. Kessler, a town resident since 1991, has three children in the local public school system. His daughter is an eighth grader at Edison Intermediate School while his son is a junior at Westfield High School.

The Kessler family has hosted children from Northern Ireland during the summer. They also have hosted foreign exchange students spending the year in the United States.

Mr. Kabakow, who moved to Westfield in 1965 as a child, graduated from Westfield High School in 1979. The candidate's son will enter Kindergarten in the fall at Franklin Elementary School.

He has a degree in finance and economics. He currently operates the Expansion Finance Group, a company which helps finance business expansion, and Enterprise Finance Advisors, a firm which creates and manages municipal loan programs.

The candidate stated earlier is a member of the Board of Trustees for the YM-YWHA of Union County and the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Kabakow also volunteers his time as Treasurer for the Westfield "Y."

The candidate favors having computer skills taught beginning in the first grade. He also states that all text books should not be used longer than three years.

Another issue Mr. Kabakow said he would investigate, if elected, is providing optional busing for those students who live far from school and are willing to pay for the added service. He also favors maximum usage of classrooms. Mr. Kabakow said he would like to have school buildings available to students on the weekends in order for them to be able to use the various reference materials available.

Mr. Keenoy is a product of the Nutley public school system. He has resided in Westfield since 1979. The candidate is Supervisor of Special Education for the East Brunswick Public Schools.

He was formerly employed as school psychologist and guidance counselor in Roselle Park public schools, and as a middle school social studies teacher, and a high school history, psychology and sociology teacher for the Elizabeth school district.

The candidate's son is a freshman at Westfield High School while his wife is a substitute teacher who previously was employed as a school librarian in Berkeley Heights.

The candidate has coached and served as a referee in the Westfield and St.

Helen's basketball leagues and coaches in the Westfield Baseball League. He is also an Assistant Scout Master at Jefferson Elementary School.

Mr. Taylor graduated from Westfield High School in 1968. He is a practicing attorney with offices in Paterson. He is a former New Jersey Deputy Attorney General.

He served on the school board from 1984 through 1987. While on the board he chaired the Staff Relations Committee. Mr. Taylor co-chaired the Citizens Search Committee, which was established to hire a School Superintendent in the 1980s. The board eventually hired Dr. Mark C. Smith who resigned last year to take a position in Massachusetts.

The board went through a similar process last year when it hired Dr. William J. Foley to head the school system.

Mr. Taylor's oldest child graduated from Westfield High School. His other three children will be enrolled at the high school and at Roosevelt Intermediate School and Franklin Elementary School as of the 1997-1998 school year.

The candidate's mother, now retired, was a librarian at the Westfield Memorial Library. The candidate's parents still reside in town. His wife is a nursery school teacher at the Presbyterian Nursery School.

The candidate said that if elected, he will promote cooperation between the school board and residents, and within the board itself. Mr. Taylor said Roosevelt Intermediate and Westfield High School may not be able to handle increased student enrollments.

Mr. Taylor said he would like the board to consider the use of the Elm Street Administration Building and the former Lincoln School as possible solutions to solving the overcrowding problem.

Dr. Molnar is a native Westfielder who has served on the board since 1988. A former Planning Board member, she has served on the Board of Directors of the Youth and Family Counseling Service since 1977 and the Westfield Community Center Board, and as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Friends of Mindowaskin Park.

The candidate, a practicing attorney, has two daughters who currently are students in the local school system. During the campaign, Dr. Molnar said she was concerned over the balance between the use of computers and other technological advances and that of the "human element." The candidate has also emphasized the need to stress character building and values in the public schools.

As was the case in last year's school board races, the Town Clerk's office will tally the election results as they come in from the voting districts. The County Clerk's office is overseeing the races as is the case with the

primary and general elections.

Polling places, which will be open from 2 to 9 p.m., are as follow:

**First Ward, District Nos. 1 and 2 -- Roosevelt Intermediate School;
District Nos. 3, 5 and 7 -- Franklin Elementary School; District Nos. 4 and
6 -- Westfield Memorial Library.**

**Second Ward, District No. 1 -- Union County Clerk's Annex (North
Avenue); District Nos. 2 and 3 -- Washington Elementary School; District
Nos. 4 and 5 -- Wilson Elementary School, and District No. 6 --
Washington School.**

**Third Ward, District No. 1 -- Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad
Headquarters; District Nos. 2, 3, and 4 -- Edison Intermediate School;
District Nos. 5, 6 and 7 -- Jefferson Elementary School.**

**Fourth Ward -- District Nos. 1 and 2 -- McKinley Elementary School;
District Nos. 3 and 4 -- Westfield High School, and District No. 5 --
Jefferson School.**



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Cape Cod Email Chatter 97apr15

Subj: Keep Up the Good Work!

Date: 97-04-15

From: rkroth@capecod.net (Ron Roth)

To: GOLEADER@aol.com

I have to chuckle... you were writing your note just about as I was "hitting the hay!" Well, all I can say is that there's no grass growing under your feet, Horace! Best wishes for success in all your ventures, whether it be publishing or mining!

I did, btw, return to the Leader page using MS Explorer 3.0 and had NO DIFFICULTY with the ARCHIVE BUTTON. It worked flawlessly. To hopefully nail down the fact that there exists some yet inexplicable glitch in the use of Netscape 3.0, I needed to return one more time with IT to see if the ARCHIVE BUTTON would balk yet a second time.

This I did, and I must now say this has been "Much Ado About Nothing" as the ARCHIVE BUTTON this time..... USING NETSCAPE 3.0..... worked equally as well as it had using MS Explorer and we need to silence the alarm! Evidently, there was some transient cause for the failure I had reported earlier and I apologize if my initial report raised false concern.

After viewing and reviewing your superb effort in developing this website, Horace, I can only say "well done!" If there is a suggestion box available I would add two items which are probably too luxurious to consider in light of the work that would be needed to make them a reality.

(1) As an ex-resident of our fair town I would like to access the archive

which would cover the decade or so following my WHS graduation year for the purpose of following any notable incidents affecting my classmates and their post-graduate well-being. This, of course, would probably be a feature most enjoyed by those, like myself, who have been "incommunicado" for these many years! I'm aware of the effort it would take to make everything in the archives accessible.

(2) If there were a "log-in" chart categorized by year, where all graduates of WHS could notate it would afford the potential for great renewal of old friendships which might otherwise be nearly impossible. I would imagine many current residents would be able to form a nucleus for such a "CLASSMATES" display. The I-net certainly does offer us opportunities for procurement of information never practically possible prior to its existence.

Just think, Horace....if it hadn't been for the Net I would not have been so reassured concerning the survival of the Leader after these 105+(?) years and its future so bright for "serving a town that's deserving"....that certainly fits Westfield! So much for the "Rah-Rah" chatter....you can be sure we'll be checking in often to see what's brewing in what I'll always consider to be.... my "hometown!"

Best regards, Ron

PS. I intend to forward funds to cover a subscription to the LEADER. Thanks for the info...I ultimately found it elsewhere in the website.



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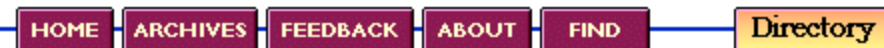
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Scotch Plains Fanwood School Board Election Results 97apr15 Russo Larkin Ruggiero Win Budget is Yes!

Budget

Yes = 1,965

No = 955

Russo = 1019 (elected to School Board)

Larkin = 970 (elected to School Board)

Ruggiero = 964 (elected to School Board)

Dettmar = 819

McAllister = 782

Gonzalez = 464

Paparella = 413

Ross = 336



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Scotch Plains Fanwood School Board Elections 97apr16

By SUZETTE STALKER

Specially Written for The Times

Scotch Plains chose a combination of experience and "new blood" Tuesday by electing incumbents August A. Ruggiero and Theresa Larkin, along with newcomer Thomas Russo, to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education. Board Vice President Lillian M. Dettmar lost her bid for a sixth term on the board.

Sixty-seven percent of the voters in Scotch Plains and Fanwood supported the \$36,935,929 tax levy for the school budget with a vote of 1,965 to 955. The total \$41.8 million spending plan represents a 2.64 percent increase over last year's figure. In the township, property owners will see a 1.64 percent increase in the school portion of their tax bills, while Fanwoodians will see a 2.47 percent increase.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood budget was among 14 out of 19 school spending plans in Union County to be approved by voters. In Scotch Plains, voters supported the budget by a vote of 1,429 to 536. In Fanwood, the budget was approved by a vote of 657 to 298. Assistant Superintendent for Business and Board Secretary, Richard J. Marshall, confirmed that the last time a school budget was defeated in Scotch Plains-Fanwood was in 1994.

A total of eight candidates had sought the three available seats held by Mrs. Dettmar, Mr. Ruggiero and Mrs. Larkin, all from Scotch Plains. Besides the three incumbents, they included newcomers Frances Gonzalez, Jean McAllister, Kristen Croag Paparella, Norman J. Ross and Mr. Russo. There were no Fanwood vacancies this year.

According to unofficial tallies, Mr. Russo garnered the most votes, with 1,019; Mrs. Larkin received 970 and Mr. Ruggiero captured 964. Of the other candidates, Mrs. Dettmar received 819; Mrs. McAllister, 782; Mrs. Gonzalez, 464; Mrs. Paparella, 413 and Mr. Ross, 336. The final results, including absentee ballots, were expected to be certified by Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi's Office by early next week.

During his campaign, Mr. Russo had called for the need to bring a fresh perspective to the board, and said that if elected he would serve no more than three terms. Although he commended veteran board members for

their years of service, the father of two young sons maintained that residents who currently have children enrolled in school ought to have a greater say in how the district is administered.

Mr. Russo, who practices law in Scotch Plains and has lived in the township for more than 30 years, has served on the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools Citizens Budget Committee, the Strategic Planning Team and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School Funding Task Force. He also is counsel to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Alumni Association.

Mr. Ruggiero, who was elected to his sixth term, had argued the importance of having experienced representatives on the board, particularly as the district faces such challenges as maintaining quality education in the face of reduced non-restricted state aid.

The professor of mathematics and physics at Essex County College in Newark has been a member of the board since the 1970s and has been elected board President five times. He focused his campaign on the need for fiscal responsibility and improving education while strengthening ties between the board and the community.

Mrs. Larkin, who was elected to her second term, also had advocated responsible use of tax dollars as part of her campaign platform. She additionally stressed the need to maintain current class sizes and to keep the lines of communication open between the school board and the public.

Last year, she represented the board during contract negotiations with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association and is board Liaison to the district's Parent-Teacher Association Council and the Municipal Alliance Committee.

Mrs. Dettmar had also based her campaign on her lengthy experience, including having been elected Vice President of the school board seven times. She had particularly emphasized her position as Legislative Liaison to the New Jersey School Boards Association, which she said enabled her to keep the school board directly informed about such issues as funding to local school districts.

Mrs. McAllister, a former marketing and sales executive in Manhattan, and Mrs. Paparella, a bookkeeper, had both cited the importance of a strong financial background in the development of budgets and curriculum. Mrs. Gonzalez, a Youth Coordinator at Middlesex County College, had promoted the concept of corporate sponsorships and other community resources to help support education.

Mr. Ross had centered his campaign on his dissatisfaction with the current school board, frequently lambasting officials for what he described as their rubber stamp approach to policy making. He was also

critical of the district's Adult School program and the amount of time allocated for public comment at Board of Education meetings.



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Westfield Voters Pass Both Budget and Molnar Taylor and Kessler Win Board of Education Seats 97apr16

By PAUL J. PEYTON

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Westfield school officials are probably breathing a sigh of relief after town voters approved both parts of the \$44 million school tax levy during Tuesday's election. Voters also reelected Dr. B. Carol Molnar of Wychwood Road along with Thomas Taylor of Madison Avenue and Michael J. Kessler of Park Street to the board.

Twenty percent of Westfield's 19,149 registered voters took part in the election. The second question, which was required under new state guidelines, includes the automation of the district's school libraries as well as a number of capital projects.

Officials had expressed concern over the second question, believing most voters might believe this was "excessive" spending.

First-term incumbent board member Thomas P. Madaras of Surrey Lane, who finished fifth among the six candidates, was defeated by some 660 votes. Patrick Keenoy of Harrow Road, who finished fourth, missed a board seat by 471 tallies, the closest among the three candidates who were not elected. Mark Kabakow of Orenda Circle finished 1,235 votes short of a seat.

Board Vice President John M. Toriello did not seek reelection.

The first question, which asked voters to approve \$42.94 million to be raised in taxes, was supported by 72 percent of the voters. The tally was 2,756 to 1,064. The second question did nearly as well with 71 percent, 2,733 to 1,089, voting in favor of the additional \$1.59 million to be raised in local property taxes.

One glitch was reported during the election at the Franklin Elementary School in the Fourth Ward where long lines were reported. School officials said there were some problems with the keys on the voting machines.

The machines were delivered by the office of the Union County Clerk which has overseen the school elections the past two years. The Town

Clerk's office was in charge of tabulating the results of the election.

Also, officials said voters appeared somewhat confused as to where to vote since school elections are now conducted the same way as the general and primary elections with 11 polling places. In the past there were four polling sites, one for each ward.

In winning her fourth term on the board, Dr. Molnar became only the fifth board member since 1871 to accomplish the feat of serving more than nine years. Terms on the board run for three years.

Susan Jacobson, currently the board President, has served since 1987. Former board President Susan H. Pepper served from 1985 to 1995. Robert Snevily was on the board from 1922 to 1932 while Blanche Sourbier served for 11 years from 1928 to 1939.

The top vote getter Tuesday was Mr. Taylor with 2,160, followed by Dr. Molnar with 2,051, Mr. Kessler with 2,031, Mr. Madaras who garnered 1,502 and Mr. Kabakow who received 796 tallies. Mr. Kabakow operates firms specializing in financing business expansion and managing municipal loan programs.

Mr. Taylor, an attorney, served on the board from 1984 to 1987. He co-chaired the Citizens Search Committee which was formed to hire the previous schools superintendent, Dr. Mark C. Smith. He also chaired the Staff Relations Committee.

The newly elected board member is a 1968 graduate of Westfield High School. He has children who will be in the high school and Roosevelt Intermediate School, come September.

Mr. Kessler, a resident since 1991, has children enrolled in the local school system at McKinley Elementary School, Edison Intermediate School and at the high school. Employed by Lucent Technologies, his background is in the area of accounting and finance.

Dr. Molnar is an attorney and former Planning Board member. She also has children in the local school system.



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GOP Looks to Youth Dems Look Outside Party

By PAUL J. PEYTON

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Last year's upset by Democrats in November's general election has been felt in both political parties this year. While the Republicans are looking to regroup, the Democrats hope to gain a majority on the council for the first in the town's history, although they admit party-line votes are not the norm at the municipal level of government.

The Republicans will field younger candidates with varied backgrounds in an attempt to erase the "old guard" label put on them in the past, while the Democrats looked this year for persons not necessarily active within the local party. The Democrats hold four seats on the governing body, including the Mayor's office, for the first time in their history.

Heading the Republican slate this year will be first term council members Matthew P. Albano of East Broad Street, and Neil F. Sullivan, Jr, of Sycamore Street, representing the Second and Third Wards, respectively.

They will be joined this year by Gregory C. McDermott of Lawrence Avenue, in the First Ward, the son of Union County Republican Party Chairman and former State Senator, Frank X. McDermott, and Christian A. Sepe, an attorney, who is running for the Fourth Ward seat.

Mr. McDermott was named in place of Norman N. Greco, last year's Republican Mayoral contender, who decided not to seek a fourth term. Council terms run for two years.

Mr. McDermott will face Marc A. McCabe of Clark Street, an Assistant Vice President with Acordia Northeast in Morristown, a firm which specializes in insurance brokerage and risk management counseling. Mr. McDermott, a member of the Union County Improvement Authority, is a Vice President of a commercial printing business.

Kenneth Rotter of Green Place will vie for Mr. Sullivan's seat. The candidate is a member of the Westfield Democratic Town Committee and has been active in the recruitment of young Democrats in the political process, according to Fourth Ward Councilman and Town Democratic Committee Chairman Lawrence A. Goldman.

Mr. Sullivan joined the council early in 1995 upon the resignation of Kenneth N. MacRitchie. He was elected to a two-year term that November after being unchallenged in the election.

He headed the Laws and Rules Committee last year and is in his third year as the Council Liaison on the Planning Board. He is a Senior Vice President with a major financial services firm.

His opponent, who has lived in town two years, was a full-time member of the Congressional Campaign of Larry Lerner last year. Mr. Lerner was defeated by veteran Congressman Bob Franks.

The Democrats did not run anyone in the Second Ward, which is considered to be a stronghold for the Republicans. Mr. Albano was unopposed in 1995 when he first ran for the council. He took the seat of Margaret C. Sur who decided not to seek reelection after several terms on the governing body.

Councilman Albano currently heads the Building and Town Property Committee.

Donnell Carr of Hort Street rounds out the Democratic ticket in the Fourth Ward. He was recently appointed to the council by his party to fill the vacancy left when veteran Councilman James Hely resigned in March.

Mr. Carr, an electrical engineer, is a 15-year resident who has been long active in community affairs. He founded Concerned African-American Parents (CAAP). He ran two unsuccessful bids for the local Board of Education and has degrees from Oxford and Rutgers Universities.

Both Mr. Carr and Mr. McCabe were not active in the local Democratic Party, but Mr. Goldman said he feels both are strong candidates as is Mr. Rotter, who is active in the party.

In putting together the Republican slate, the party was looking for both youth and a nice rounded ticket, in terms of their employment and business backgrounds. Robert W. Cockren, Chairman of the Westfield Republican Town Council, noted that the ticket includes a businessman (Mr. McDermott), an attorney (Mr. Albano), a Certified Public Accountant (Mr. Sepe, who just passed the certification), and a banker (Mr. Sullivan).

"I think we are putting forth a very strong ticket," said Mr. Cockren.

He said that Mr. McDermott and Mr. Sepe would bring a "blend of experience" along with "fresh ideas" to the council, should they be elected. He said Councilmen Albano and Sullivan have gained the respect of their peers on the governing body.

While Mr. Sepe is active on the committee, Mr. Cockren explained, Mr. McDermott has been more involved in the county politics. Mr. Sepe is an officer in the Westfield Republican Club, a separate group from the town committee which chooses candidate slates.

The party Chairman said Mr. McDermott's understanding of the financial workings of government as a member of the improvement authority would be an "asset" to the council.

He also pointed to the candidate's family's long-time involvement in government. Frank McDermott is an official with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

The improvement authority works to save money for local municipalities through joint purchasing arrangements such as the purchase of police cars and equipment.

On the other hand Mr. Goldman, who was elected in last year's surprising sweep by the Democrats, said he was happy with the ticket put forward by the party this year.

"I would characterize the three candidates as three energetic personable individuals who I anticipate will be well-received by the residents of their respective wards during the fall campaign," said Mr. Goldman.

He noted that a candidate could still be selected to challenge Mr. Albano during the write-in process in the June Primary.

Just as the Presidential race headed last year's election season, the Governor's race will top this November's campaigns. Voters will also choose three members of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and their State Assembly and Senate representatives, as well.



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Mr. Greco Announces Decision Not to Seek Fourth Council Term

By PAUL J. PEYTON

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Community involvement has always been foremost in the life of Norman N. Greco -- whether it was founding the men's softball league in town, his efforts at stopping construction of a shopping mall on Route No. 22 in the 1980s, or his leadership during the same decade on the local Chamber of Commerce.

Through these involvements Mr. Greco decided to go for the gusto by running for elected office in 1991. He ran against the odds by challenging veteran First Ward Councilman W. Jubb Corbett in the Republican Primary. Mr. Greco not only surprised Mr. Corbett but the Republican Party as well which endorsed the incumbent that year.

Mr. Greco was unopposed in the general election that November and was reelected in 1993 and 1995 before last year's stunning defeat to newcomer Thomas C. Jardim in the Mayoral election.

Now in his sixth year and third term on the council, Councilman Greco announced this week that he needs a breather from public office and thus will not seek reelection this November.

In his years on the council, Councilman Greco served on the majority of council standing committees. He chaired the Solid Waste Committee and served on the Public Works, Public Safety (which he chaired), Parking, Transportation and Traffic and Laws and Rules Committees, just to name a few.

He currently chairs the Personnel Committee. He also has served as Council Liaison to the Board of Education and the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilman Greco was also Acting Mayor and later Deputy Mayor, a position which no longer exists in the town charter.

He said he decided to seek public office in order "to give back to the community." Mr. Greco said, although "there are many things that are still left undone," he believes it is time to let other people serve on the

governing body.

Mr. Greco plans to spend the free time he will have come January with his wife of eight years, Carol, and his grandchildren. He is also involved in several businesses which takes up a considerable amount of his time.

Mr. Greco has not closed the door on seeking elective office in the future -- it just will not be this year.

Among the issues he is most proud of, he said, were his involvement in the town's decision to seek and later be accepted into the MainStreet program. The Councilman was also very supportive of the council's decision to create a Special Improvement District (SID) to manage and promote Westfield's downtown shopping district.

One of the areas that gained the Councilman a good deal of support was his stand against the construction of a ShopRite supermarket on North Avenue. He was one of the leaders on the council in attempting to rezone the area around the Westfield Lumber and Home Center, where the store was proposed for, in an attempt to halt the plans.

As a result of a legal action filed by the applicant, Village Super Markets, a Superior Court judge found that Mr. Greco should step aside on the issue due to the perception of a conflict of interest since his in-laws own commercial real estate in the downtown business district including the former A&P building which was still in operation at the time.

There is still pending litigation against the town regarding that application, which was denied by the Planning Board.

A number of residents involved in an attempt to stop the ShopRite were critical of the judge's decision, including former Democratic foe and Mayoral contender himself, Anthony M. LaPorta, since Mr. Greco's vote was necessary given the fact the ordinance failed to pass by one vote.

Mr. Greco said he continues to believe construction of the 58,000-square-foot store would be "detrimental" to the downtown business district.

"I've always believed a strong downtown increases the value of our homes," he stated during an interview Thursday in the offices of *The Westfield Leader*.

Councilman Greco said the downtown is an asset people look for when deciding to buy a home in Westfield. Its an asset just as the local school district is an asset.

Mr. Greco spearheaded the "Stop the Mall Campaign" while serving as

President of the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce. The mall, which was to be built on the Springfield border with Westfield, was going to be anchored by a Macy's department store.

Mr. Greco noted that he played on Westfield's first Little League team. He also founded the Westfield Men's Softball League in 1964 and served as a volunteer on the rescue squad.

He noted that he was involved behind the scenes in the effort to save Westfield's last remaining movie house, the Rialto. He said due to the fact it was an election year in which he was running for Mayor, he decided not to publicize his efforts in the movement to save the theater.

He said he was proud to have gained the Republican Party's support to run for Mayor.

Mr. Greco explained that he did not expect to gain any additional rewards from the office, but only wanted to serve the town as its chief elected official. Mr. Greco's "political" career actually began to formalize as a freshman at Roosevelt Junior High School (now Roosevelt Intermediate) when he served as President of the Student Council.

"One of my goals in life, having lived here all my life, was that I always aspired to be Mayor of Westfield. I at least had the opportunity to run for Mayor of the town and I feel very proud that I got that far," Councilman Greco explained.

He said he believes residents have a "vested" interest, as he does, in a "viable" downtown. He said he believes some residential financial support is necessary for the SID, about \$15 a year per household, to help business development in the downtown. Mr. Greco said the \$150,000 these monies would raise could help solve the town's parking dilemma.

He said he has always been involved in the community and, "looks forward to serving the people of the Town of Westfield in the future."

Councilman Greco promised to keep himself involved in town affairs in the future.



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Council Set to Introduce Redrafted Liquor Law

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Nearly four months after last year's Town Council decided not to move ahead with the town's liquor license ordinance as it applies to bars in restaurants, the governing body is set to introduce a redrafted ordinance this Wednesday night, April 23.

The ordinance addresses those establishments which hold what is defined as a "conditional restaurant license." These licenses currently do not provide for a bar area. All alcohol must be sold at tables in either the lounge or in the food service areas.

The ordinance includes specifications regarding the number of seats in a bar/lounge area. The maximum number of stools at a bar and/or seats in the lounge would be 20 for restaurants of 125 seats or more.

Dining establishments with 75 to 99 seats in their restaurant area would be able to have a combination of 12 seats/bar stools, with restaurants with 100 to 124 seats, 16 lounge seats and/or bar stools would be allowed.

Under the current town code, only restaurants with full bar licenses are permitted to have bars. Currently, there are four active full bar licenses. These are held by the Jolly Trolley, Wyckoff's, The Towne House, and the Echo Lake Country Club.

Conditional licenses are held by Ken Marcotte, Ferraro's, and B.G. Fields. In addition, two of these licenses are pocketed (not active at that time) by the owner of the former Raymond's restaurant, Raymond Kostyack; and Henry W. Kopp who purchased the license held by the former Sinclair's seafood restaurant. La Petite Rose holds the only hotel conditional license in town.

At least two members of the council continued to express their disapproval of an amendment to the town's liquor license clause. Both First Ward Council members, Norman N. Greco and Gail S. Vernick, stated that in essence the change would increase the number of bars in town by five (including the pocketed licenses).

Fourth Ward Councilman Donnell Carr also said he has some concerns as to how residents might react to the change in the ordinance. Although

he said the wording itself seems to be in order but he still has some personal concerns about the change.

PANDA (Preventing Alcohol, Narcotic and Drug Abuse) has also opposed any change in the existing liquor ordinance. The Westfield/Mountainside Ministerium Associates opposed the ordinance last year. Fourth Ward Councilman and Chairman of the Laws and Rules Committee Lawrence A. Goldman said he has advised the clergy of the most recent changes. He emphasized that the number of liquor licenses within the municipality would not be increased by the change.

Mrs. Vernick said, currently, the conditional licenses require that all alcohol beverages are accompanied with the consumption of food.

"This (the ordinance) is going to change the concept we now have in Westfield," she stated.

Councilman Greco objected to the characterization by Mr. Goldman that the ordinance would "level the playing field" with regard to the competition of the holders of restaurant liquor licenses.

He said it would actually be unfair to the three holders of full bar licensees who paid in excess of \$150,000 for those licenses. He said the new law would decrease the value of the licenses. Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr. said the intent was never to create equal competition since this would create an increase in bars such as that at the Jolley Trolley.

Third Ward Councilman John J. Walsh indicated that he did not think the issue was over the worth of the licenses. He said the ordinance may actually help the sale of two pocketed licenses since their worth would now increase.

All of these establishments hold plenary retail consumption licenses which are renewed annually by the Town Council at \$2,000.

The revised ordinance, as explained Tuesday night by Councilman Goldman, would reduce the space in the bar/lounge area to avoid standing crowds which are common at bars. Also, the hours for closing for the bars is spelled out in the new ordinance.

Only the full menu as offered in the restaurant could be given to patrons in the lounge/bar area. He said this also would help cut down the possibility of crowds looking for a bar type menu.

Councilman Goldman noted that a provision has been added which limits the bar itself not to exceed two feet multiplied by the number of bar stools. The maximum stools permitted will be eight.

The actual area provided in the bar and/or lounge area may not vary,

according to the ordinance, by more than 10 percent. This area does not include the bar structure itself or what is defined as the "back bar."

Councilman Goldman noted that the ordinance specifies that the bar areas must close when the food service end of the restaurants shuts down for the evening. Restaurants must close by 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Councilman Sullivan, who worked on the ordinance last year when he was Laws and Rules Chairman, said the idea of the ordinance is not to allow the bar area to become a "focal" part of the establishment itself.

"I think this gets as close to our objective as possible," he said in support of the ordinance.

Councilman Greco suggested that the issue be put before the voters as a referendum.

The council agreed to put the item on next Wednesday's agenda, indicating they will wait to see the response from the public.



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Candidates

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Two Republican and two Democratic candidates will run uncontested in the June 3 primary for two available seats on the Fanwood Borough Council, one of which is currently held by Republican Councilman Dr. Chester R. Lindsey, who opted not to seek reelection this year. The general elections will take place on Tuesday, November 4.

Councilman Lindsey said last week that he decided not to seek a third term in order "to give Fanwood residents the benefit of other Republican opinions and ideas and to broaden representation of areas of Fanwood not currently represented on the council." The councilman, who has lived in Fanwood nearly 40 years, served on the governing body from 1989 to 1992 and was reelected to a second, three-year term in 1994.

The Democrats presently have a 4-3 majority on the governing body, including the Mayor's position, which the Republicans hope to reverse by acquiring an additional council seat in November. In last year's general election, Republican Councilman Louis C. Jung and his runningmate, Stuart S. Kline, defeated their Democratic challengers, with Mr. Kline winning the seat held by former Councilman Andrew J. MacDonald, who did not seek reelection.

Councilman Lindsey, who ran unsuccessfully for Mayor in 1995, currently chairs the council's Education, Health and Welfare Committee and also is a member of the Public Safety and Public Works Committees. He has served three terms as President of the Fanwood Lions Club and has been active in other community organizations as well. He has had an optometry practice since 1958.

The Democratic slate includes Councilman William E. Populus, Jr., who is seeking a second, three-year term on the council, and newcomer Patricia Plante. Mr. Populus was elected to his first full term in 1994 after having been appointed to fill a vacancy in 1993. The married father of three has resided on La Grande Avenue for almost 27 years, and is the founder and President of Populus and Associates, a real estate appraisal firm, which has offices in Westfield.

Councilman Populus is Chairman of the council's Administration and Finance Committee and is a member of the Public Safety and the

Recreation and Community Services Committees. He also serves as Fire Commissioner for Fanwood, and in January of last year he was named as Fanwood's first representative to the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority, where he is Chairman of the Engineering Committee.

A resident of Fanwood for nine years, Mrs. Plante lives with her husband and 6-year-old daughter on Oakwood Court. The candidate is a real estate agent with Burgdorff Realtors' Westfield Office, and is currently a member of the Fanwood Board of Health. She also was a member of the borough's Centennial Committee, which organized Fanwood's 100th anniversary celebration in 1995.

Mrs. Plante, who attended Kean College and Union County College, spent 18 years working for the federal Social Security Administration, with her last position having been operations supervisor. She is a member of the National and New Jersey Association of Realtors, the New Jersey Association of Realtors' Million Dollar Club and the Burgdorff Realtors' President's Club.

In addition, she assists the Parent-Teacher Association at Brunner Elementary School and is active with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood YMCA.

On the Republican ticket this year are David Trumpp of Arlene Court and Joel Whitaker of Marian Avenue. A lifelong resident of Fanwood, Mr. Trumpp is the son of Fanwood Republican Municipal Chairman and former Mayor Ted Trumpp, who served three terms between 1972 and 1983. The candidate is a member of the Fanwood Republican Club and the Union County Young Republicans.

Mr. Trumpp graduated from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and Alfred University in Alfred, New York. He currently is employed as a marketing/customer services specialist with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority in East Brunswick. He also was involved in various humanitarian projects for eight years as a member of the United Way of Union County, and is a member of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Whitaker, who has lived in the borough for 18 years, is married and the father of two daughters. The candidate, who lost his bid for council in 1994, served on the Fanwood Planning Board from 1981 to 1985 and was Chairman of the board from 1983 to 1985. He was a member of the Downtown Development Commission from 1984 to 1986.

The candidate holds a master's degree in journalism from Indiana University and a Juris Doctorate from the Temple University Law School. He was a Dean's List graduate of the United States Army Command and the Army Intelligence School, and retired from the United States Army Reserves in 1985. In recent years, Mr. Whitaker has been a member and Chairman of the Union County Local Advisory

Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.



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Horace and Gail Corbin
of Westfield are celebrating
their 20th wedding anniversary
today
(April 23, 1997)

[Send Them Your Wishes](#)

Dear Gail,
All my love - and thank you for everything over our 20 years together.
It's hard to believe time goes so fast. Hopefully, we'll have many more
decades together.

I love you,

Ho

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Mindowaskin Park 97apr24 - [Next Photo](#)
by Dave Corbin



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Sportsweek Highlights 97apr25

Baseball

MONDAY, APRIL 21

Union Catholic 11, Shabazz 6

The Vikings got their first win of the season by mounting a 12 hit attack against Shabazz, defeating them 11-6 in Scotch Plains.

Ed Goworek drilled two doubles and drove in two runs for the Vikings while teammate Chris McPherson blasted a double and a triple. John DaRocha also had a double for the Vikings.

Union Catholic scored in every inning but the sixth, keeping Shabazz off balance throughout the game.

Cranford 17, Scotch Plains-Fanwood 1

The fifth-ranked Cranford Cougars blasted their way to their eight victory and demonstrated their awesome pitching strength by holding the explosive bats of the Raiders to only one run and six hits in Cranford.

Cranford scored 14 runs in the first two innings, eight in the first and six in the second. Pat Pepe hit a triple and two singles while teammate Fionn Fitzgerald clouted a three-run homer and two singles for the Cougars.

Kyle Atkins doubled and scored the Raiders only run when Mike Pudlak singled him home in the third inning. Pudlak had two singles in the game.

Cranford improved to 8-0 while Scotch Plains-Fanwood slipped to 5-2-1.

Westfield 6, Rahway 5

The Blue Devils scored three runs in the first inning, two which were a result of junior shortstop Bob Baykowski's two-run single, and added two more runs in the bottom of the second to take a 5-4 lead.

Rasheed Hawks added the winning insurance run in the bottom of the fourth when he ripped a double, raced to third on a wild pitch and scored on another wild pitch.

Senior Bob Meyer had two doubles, a single and drove in three runs for the Blue Devils.

Charlie Crowell crushed a three-run homer for Rahway in the top of the second inning to give the Indians a temporary lead.

Matt Williams got the win and Craig Hilyard suffered his third setback.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

Scotch Plains-Fanwood 15, Shabazz 6

The Raider bats exploded early and often in Newark as Co-Captain Mike Pudlak went three-for-five, driving in four runs and Jack Todaro poked a single and drilled a double which netted three RBI's.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood jumped to an immediate 3-0 lead after the first inning and expanded the lead to 10-3 by the end of fourth.

The Raiders totaled 12 hits and pitcher Doug Bishop got his first victory against no defeats. Scotch Plains-Fanwood improved to 6-2-1.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Cranford 9, Westfield 6

The Blue Devils gave the powerful fifth-ranked Cougars a run for their money as they carried a 6-6 tie into the seventh inning in Westfield. A three-run seventh, spurred by Eric Messner, who hit an RBI single, gained the victory for Cranford. Messner also blasted a three-run homer in the first inning.

Senior Marcus Mattielli and junior Bob Baykowski had two hits apiece for the Blue Devils. Rasheed Hawks smashed a two-run homer in the second.

Pitcher Pat Pepe helped his own cause by crushing a home run. Pepe got his fourth victory for Cranford, now 10-0. Westfield slipped to 7-3-1.

Summit 4, Scotch Plains-Fanwood 3

The Raiders lost a tough one in Scotch Plains when Peter Torres hit a double and scored on a throwing error in the top of the eighth inning for Summit.

John Luciano slapped two singles and drove in two runs while junior pitcher Dave Gerwitz had a run-scoring double for the Raiders who had seven hits on the afternoon.

Summit upped its record to 7-3 as Scotch Plains-Fanwood slid to 6-3-1.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Roselle Catholic 7, Union Catholic 0

Roselle Catholic held the Vikings to only two hits while collecting nine hits and scoring seven runs in Roselle during the preliminary round of the Union County Tournament.

Chris McPherson scratched out both hits for Union Catholic (1-8-1). Roselle Catholic improved to 2-5.

Watchung Hills 6, Scotch Plains-Fanwood 3

John Luciano had the only extra base hit for the Raiders as winning pitcher Jason Hoynowski slammed a three-run triple in the second inning.

The Raiders scored one run in the first inning and two in the seventh. The Raiders had seven hits while giving up nine, four which were for extra bases.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood fell to 6-4-1 while Watchung Hills improved to 8-3.

Westfield 5, Hoboken 1

A five-hitter pitched by Matt Williams combined with RBI singles in the first inning by Phil Orsini and Bob Meyer was all that was needed for the Blue Devils to defeat eighth-ranked Hoboken High School in Westfield.

Senior first baseman Bill Sweeney added a two-run single in the three-run Blue Devil third. Westfield collected nine hits on the afternoon.

Williams got his third win of the season for Westfield, now 8-3-1 while Hoboken, now 9-1, received its first loss of the season.

Castellano Scatters Seven Hits to Record Devil Victory

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Senior Tri-Captain John Castellano, in his first pitching appearance, started off in the right direction by recording an 8-0 shutout and holding the Union Catholic High School boys baseball team to seven hits, not allowing them to put more than two together in any given inning in Westfield on April 23.

In the Viking portion of the second inning, the Blue Devils' defense temporarily got a little shaky with a few throwing errors, which included an errant back pick-off attempt from the catcher to first base, which put runners in scoring position. The Blue Devils regained their senses and prevented the Vikings from scoring when they turned a double play to end the inning.

Another Blue Devil Tri-Captain, Bob Meyer helped Castellano's cause by hitting a double and smashing a triple while driving in a run and crossing the plate once himself. Teammate Rasheed Hawks added to the attack by slapping two singles and scoring two runs. The Blue Devils had nine hits on the afternoon.

Marcus Mattielli and Bob Baykowski had one double each for the Blue Devils. Carlos Jefferson had the only extra base hit for the Vikings when he hit a double. Chris McPherson and Scott King collected two singles each for the Vikings.

Westfield High School lifted its record to 7-2-1 while Union Catholic High School dropped to 1-7-1.

SOFTBALL HIGHLIGHTS

MONDAY, APRIL 21

Rahway 9, Westfield 8

Becca Brendler's grand slam home run in the top of the seventh inning gave the Blue Devils an 8-5 lead and visions of a dramatic victory in Rahway; however, the Indians scored three in their half of the seventh to send the game into extra innings.

In the eighth, Rahway held Westfield scoreless then scored the winning run when Flo Steinman scored on a single from Tonya Galezewski.

Sides got her fifth win for Rahway, now 7-1 while Shannon Wagner got the loss for Westfield, now 4-4.

Cranford 6, Scotch Plains-Fanwood 4

Sophomore Jen Stewart ripped a two-run double, Co-Captain Michelle Evans drove in a run and Wendy Underwood tied the game with a

sacrifice fly in the bottom of the seventh, sending the game into extra innings.

In the top of the ninth, Jen Sands of the Cougars singled to drive in two runs to go ahead 6-4. Cranford held the Raiders to no runs in the bottom half of the ninth to collect the hard-earned victory.

Cranford upped its' record to 7-1 and pitcher Diana Dollard gained her fifth win.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Cranford 8, Westfield 2

The Cougars lifted their record to 9-1 as they erupted for five runs in the bottom of the first inning and pitcher Samantha Morano allowed only five hits while striking out three Blue Devils and walking only two. Morano won her fourth game against no defeats.

Rachel Brendler and Colleen Ryan blasted triples for the Blue Devils, now 5-5.

Raider Softballers Out-Slug Elizabeth and Bayonne

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Sophomore Jen Stewart exercised her raw power by crushing a solo home run, smashing a triple and finishing three-for-three at the plate to help the Raiders outlast the Lady Minutemen, 11-8, in Scotch Plains. Stewart also scored four runs.

Jillian Mazzagetti doubled and drove in three runs while teammate Amanda Podlas blasted two triples and scored three runs for the Raiders who amassed a 12-hit attack.

For defensive purposes, Raider Head Coach Frank Butz moved Podlas from her normal position at first base to the catching position and moved sophomore Lauren Schwartz from the outfield to first.

Mazzagetti got the win for Scotch Plains-Fanwood and Amy Paul got the loss for Elizabeth.

In Bayonne, the game took eight inning to complete, but a sacrifice fly by Diana Mendez brought in sophomore Christine McPartlan, scoring the winning run for the Raiders.

Neither team could put together any big scoring innings as each scratched out one or two runs in a given inning.

Left fielder Chrissy Romeo, who was moved from the catcher's spot, went three-for-four at the plate, drilling two doubles and driving in three runs for the Raiders. Junior Wendy Underwood had two hits, including a triple, and scored one run.

Continuing to search for the best defensive combination, Coach Butz brought senior Marcie Steinberg in from the bench to cover center field. "Marcie is a good fielder and can cover a lot of ground," stated Butz.

Mazzagetti allowed only two walks in eight innings while striking out three and giving up eight hits.

"Two things which have made the difference this week are Jillian cutting down on the amount of walks given up and our team starting to hit more," said Butz.

The two victories lifted the Raiders' record to 3-5.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

UNION COUNTY GIRLS SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Westfield 9, Roselle Park 3

Strong hitting by Sue Phillips, Becca Brendler and Colleen Ryan, who had two hits and two RBI's apiece, advanced the sixth-seeded Blue Devils to the second round of the Union County Tournament.

Westfield improved to 6-4 while Roselle Park dropped to 4-6.

Cranford 11, Scotch Plains-Fanwood 1

The second-seeded Cougars got out quickly against the Raiders when Jen Sands hit a bases-loaded triple and Lauren Porter kept the second inning alive with a single which helped Cranford score two more runs.

Cranford lifted its record to 11-1.

Governor Livingston 9, Union Catholic Regional 0

The top-seeded Highlanders took advantage of nine walks, two passed balls, four errors and two wild pitches from the Vikings to register a 9-0 victory in the first round of the Union County Tournament. Governor Livingston could only get two hit off Viking pitcher Lauren Majchrzak.

Highlander pitching ace Felicia Turturiello struck out nine batters,

walked only three and allowed only one hit en route to her seventh victory.

Great Defensive Play Lifts Devil Girls Over Vikings

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

On April 23, in Westfield, a tight, defensive struggle between the Union Catholic Regional High School girls softball team and the Blue Devil girls was determined in the bottom of the fifth inning when the Blue Devils snapped a 3-3 tie with an RBI single from senior designated hitter Lindsay Greenwald followed by an RBI double from senior power-hitter Rachel Brendler.

The Blue Devils struck first when pitcher Shannon Wagner drew a walk to start the bottom of the first and moved to second on a fielder's choice from Greenwald. Rachel Brendler, hitting in the number three spot, crushed a triple up the middle to drive in Wagner. From there, Viking pitcher Lauren Majchrzak struck out shortstop Coleen Ryan and got catcher Sue Phillips to ground out.

Westfield earned its second run when senior left fielder Lynda Hoesly was walked and moved to second on a fielder's choice by senior Kate Tracy, the next batter struck out and McKeon blasted a triple to right-center field to score Hoesley. Brendler attempted to stretch her triple to a home run but was nailed at the plate on a fine relay from the right fielder to the second baseman who, in turn, fired a perfect toss to the catcher.

In the top of the third inning, the Viking bats came to life. Junior center fielder Katie Santo slapped a single up the middle and moved to second on an error. The Blue Devils committed two more errors on hard hit balls to allow the first Viking run; then, junior catcher Jen Britton ripped a single to left field to drive in the second run.

The Blue Devils responded when Wagner led off the bottom of the third by smashing a triple to right field and scored on a wild pitch from Majchrzak.

Both teams failed to score in the fourth. The Vikings tied the game in the fifth on a leadoff single in which the runner moved to third on two ground ball outs and scored on a wild pitch.

After the Blue Devils went ahead with their two runs in the fifth, the Vikings were not about to give up. The Vikings led off with a single to right followed by a double from third baseman Heather Vogel which

placed runners on second and third with no outs.

Now, the Blue Devils responded with the crucial defensive plays. Majchrzak hit a high foul ball down first base line which was brilliantly snagged by Blue Devil first baseman Stephanie Flynn. Right fielder Becca Brendler made a successful stab of a line drive which appeared to be in the gap; then made another great catch from a drive hit by Santo to close the inning.

The Blue Devils threatened in the bottom of the sixth when Hoesley led off with a single, was moved to second on a sacrifice by Tracy and advanced to third on a single by Becca Brendler. The Viking defense held firm, getting the next two outs.

Still, more excitement was yet to come. With two outs in the top of the seventh, and one runner on, Britton pushed a single to left field. The bases became loaded when Wagner yielded a walk. Vogel stepped to the plate and drilled the ball to right field, but Becca Brendler was there to make the final out and sew up the victory for the Blue Devils.

Westfield upped its record to 5-4 and Wagner got her fifth win of the season. Union Catholic dropped to 0-7.

TENNIS HIGHLIGHTS

MONDAY, APRIL 21

Westfield 4, Scotch Plains-Fanwood 1

SINGLES:

1st: Dan Matro (W) d. Mike Bostwick, 6-2, 6-1

2nd: Dan Aquila (W) d. Jared Duvoisin, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2

3rd: John Phillips (SPF) d. Tom O'Connell, 6-1, 6-1

DOUBLES:

1st: Jon DiGiovanni and Pete Lau (W) d. Rex Lee and Dave Hassan, 6-1, 6-1

2nd: Graig Cameron and Adam Kendler (W) d. Jim Ray and Mike Bertha, 6-2, 5-7, 7-5

Cranford 4, Union Catholic 1

SINGLES:

1st: Chris Mason (UC) d. Jeff Tierney, 7-6 (7-5), 7-5

2nd: Kevin O'Donnell (C) d. Ken Soriano, 6-1, 6-1

3rd: Brett O'Malley (C) d. Tom Werner, 6-2, 6-2

DOUBLES:

1st: Conor Leddy and Derrick Brooks (C) d. Dave Koremba and Julian Mejia, 6-1, 6-2

2nd: Beau Macksoud and Todd Mariano (C) d. Bill Charles and Martin Fleming, 6-0, 7-6 (7-4)

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

Scotch Plains -Fanwood 4, Summit 1

SINGLES:

1st: Mike Bostwick (SPF) d. Andrew Stranoulsky, 7-6 (7-5), 6-1

2nd: Jared Duvoisin (SPF) d. Jessie Stern, 6-3, 6-7 (6-8), 6-3

3rd: John Phillips (SPF) d. Scott Lane, 7-5, 6-3

DOUBLES:

1st: Tim Lamb and Andrew Stevenson (S) d. Rex Lee and Dave Hassan, 6-2, 1-6, 6-4

2nd: Jim Ray and Chris Schlegel (SPF) d. Chris Johnson and Simon Sheridan, 2-6, 6-1, 6-1

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

Westfield 5, Rahway 0

SINGLES:

1st: Dan Matro (W) d. Celso Arellano, 6-0, 6-0

2nd: Chris Camuto (W) d. Jimmy Trematerra, 6-0, 6-0

3rd: Jeremy Chilnick (W) d. Jay Bealoyut, 6-4, 7-5

DOUBLES:

1st: Graig Cameron and Adam Kendler (W) d. Sam Temme and Jose

Bedoya, 6-0, 6-4

2nd: Chris Benson and Sam Fleder (W) d. Israel Joseph and Alex Maldonado, 6-0, 6-0

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Westfield 5, Shabazz 0 (Game 1)

SINGLES:

1st: Chris Cammuto (W) d. Denard Cooper, 6-2, 6-0

2nd: Jeremy Chilnick (W) d. Edward Otchere, 6-0, 6-4

3rd: Tom O'Connell (W) won by forfeit

DOUBLES:

1st: Josh Warren and Sam Fleder (W) d. Isaac Falladay and Julius Robinson, 6-0, 6-0

2nd: Chris Benson and Brett Kahn (W) won by forfeit

Westfield 5, Shabazz 0

SINGLES:

1st: Dan Aquila (W) d. Denard Cooper, 6-2, 6-0

2nd: Jeff Diamond (W) d. Edward Otchere, 6-0, 6-2

3rd: Tom O'Connell (W) won by forfeit

DOUBLES:

1st: Josh Warren and Sam Fleder (W) won by forfeit

2nd: Chris Benson and Brett Kahn (W) d. Isaac Falade and Julius Robinson, 6-0, 6-0

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Pingry 3, Westfield 2

SINGLES:

1st: Dan Matro (W) d. Michael Chang, 6-1, 6-0

2nd: Heath Freeman (P) d. Dan Aquila, 7-5, 6-1

3rd: Lance Lin (P) d. Chris Camuto, 7-5, 6-1

DOUBLES:

1st: Chris Parsons and Dave Rothschild (P) d. Jon DiGiovanni and Peter Lau, 6-1, 7-6, (7-5)

2nd: Graig Cameron and Adam Kendler (W) d. Krishna Amuluru and John Brescher, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2

Union Catholic Regional 5, Rahway 0

SINGLES:

1st: Ken Soriano (UC) d. Jimmy Trematerra, 6-0, 6-0

2nd: Tom Werner (UC) d. Jay Bayolut, 6-3, 6-2

3rd: Bill Cuartes (UC) d. Sam Temme, 3-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2

DOUBLES:

1st: Dave Koremba and Martin Fleming (UC) d. Jose Bedoya and Alex Maldonado, 6-3, 6-0

2nd: Mike Maggi and Julian Mejia (UC) d. Israel Joseph and Johnathan Ferrell, 7-5, 6-2

Raiders Out-Serve Vikings, Cougars in Boys Tennis

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood boys tennis team easily aced the Union Catholic Regional High School squad, 5-0, at LaGrande Park in Fanwood on April 23 and followed with an easier than expected, 4-1, victory over a tough Cranford High School team on April 25.

At first singles, against Chris Mason, his Union Catholic opponent, Bostwick had a rough time as Mason hung tough in the second set. With the set tied at six games apiece, neither player could gain the significant advantage needed to capture the set until Bostwick finally came through winning 11-9.

Bostwick found it much easier against Jeff Tierney of Cranford, defeating him 6-1, 6-2.

Senior Jared Duvoisin of the Raiders breezed through his matches at second singles, beating Ken Soriano of Union Catholic, 6-2, 6-1, and Kevin O'Donnell of Cranford, 6-1, 6-3.

At third singles, senior John Phillips easily defeated Tom Werner of the Vikings, 6-2, 6-2, but found himself in a very competitive match with Brett O'Malley of Cranford, winning, 6-4, 6-4.

First doubles partners senior Rex Lee and sophomore Dave Hassan were taken to a third set by Dave Korimoa and Martin Fleming of the Vikings when they dropped the first set, 2-6, and had to battle their way back, taking the second set, 6-0, and the third set 6-1.

Against Union Catholic, Raider Head Coach Dave Blackman mixed the pair of senior Jim Ray and sophomore John Garozzo to beat Mike Maggia and Bill Cuartas, 6-1, 6-0.

Ray combined with freshman Chris Schlegel to defeat Beau Macksoud and Todd Mariano of Cranford, 6-2, 6-4.

With the two victories, Scotch Plains-Fanwood upped its record to 6-2, losing only to powerful Westfield High School twice. Cranford slipped to 6-3.

GOLF HIGHLIGHTS

Kashlak and Devils Finish Third in Golf Tournament

Devils Edge Raiders in Dual Match

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Westfield High School High HiH Hsophomore golfer Ron Kashlak put together a nine-over par 81 at the Watchung Conference Golf Tournament held at Shackamaxon Golf and Country Club in Scotch Plains on April 21 to finish in a tie for third place with Cranford High School senior Josh Evans.

Rob Tortorici from Union High School claimed first place, shooting a five-over 77 while teammate Jerry Chen finished second with an 80.

Cranford High School won the team championship with a combined 332, three strokes better than defending champion Union.

The Blue Devils placed third with a total score of 346. The top four scores on each team were recorded to decide the outcome. Along with Kashlak's 81, senior Bryan Houston shot an 86, junior Doug Brandley had an 87 and senior Rob Jessup a 92.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School finished fourth with a team total of 348. Senior James Anthony, who won the tournament last year, did not make the top list this year.

On April 24, the Blue Devils hosted the Raiders at Echo Lake Golf Course and squeezed out a knee-knocking 171-173 victory.

All the scores were very close with Kashlak of the Blue Devils leading the pack with a 41. Seniors Andy Regenthal and Anthony of the Raiders finished one behind with 42 followed by Rick Martinelli and Houston of the Blue Devils at 43. Brandley of the Blue Devils tied with Raider Jim Tomson at 44 while Tom Klock of the Raiders finished with a 45.

Westfield High School lifted its dual meet record to 7-0 as Scotch Plains-Fanwood fell to 4-4.

LACROSS HIGHLIGHTS

MONDAY, APRIL 21

Westfield 7, Mendham 5

The Blue Devils took a 6-2 lead by the half and successfully defended it in Mendham. Attacker Kevin Mansfield and midfielder Drew Stotler fired in two goals each in the first half to lead the early charge.

Mike Baly, Bryan Gates and Mark Juellis flicked in one goal apiece for Westfield. Mansfield had two assists and Stotler added one. Goalie Steve Abeles had 15 saves.

TRACK HIGHLIGHTS

Raider Boys Breeze Past Shabazz, Rahway in Track

The Raider boys picked up two victories and improved their record to 4-0 by pulling off lopsided wins over Shabazz High School and Rahway High School in Scotch Plains on April 22.

Lau'Renn McDaniel finished first in the 100-meter and 200-meter with times of :11.2 and :23.3, respectively. McDaniel, along with Ryan Kelley, Nick LaCosta and Jovan Clarke, combined to record the winning time of 3:46.5 in the 1,600-meter relay.

Individually, Kelley placed first in the 800-meter run, timed at 2:09.4 and LaCosta took first in the pole vault with a height of 13 feet-six inches.

Tom Stein captured a first in the javelin with a toss of 157 feet-seven inches and a first in the shot put with a heave of 46 feet.

Karl Jennings took first in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of :15.3 and had a tie with teammate Blair Woodward in the high jump, clearing 5 feet-six inches.

Adam Bowser leaped 20 feet-two inches to win the long jump and Brian Sincavage hurled the discus 137 feet-nine inches to take first in that event.

Jennings had the second-best time among the three schools in the 400-meter hurdles, coming in at :57.9, just behind Quaran Ellis of Shabazz who was clocked at :57.7 and Rob Niedzwiecki placed second in the 400-meter with a time of :55.4, also behind Ellis who crossed the line at :51.7.

Morgan Wins Three Sprint Events

Raiders Speed by Rahway, Shabazz in Girls' Track

Raider sprinter Shawna Morgan raced past all opposition to win the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash and the 100-meter hurdles during a tri-meet against Shabazz High School and Rahway High School in Scotch Plains on April 22.

Morgan crossed the line in :12.7 in the 100-meter, :26.5 in the 200-meter and :16.8 in the 100-meter hurdles.

Karen Haight placed first in the 800-meter with a time of 2:44.2 and Andrea Maggi captured first in the 1,600-meter event, coming in at 6:13.

Holly Oatis took first in the 3,200-meter run, finishing in 13:47 and Amy Citrano aced the 400-meter hurdles in 1:14.2.

Christine Hillman surged forward 15 feet-four inches to win the long jump and Melissa Hicks surged upward and over to win the high jump with a height of four feet-10 inches. Sherri Hamlette took first in the shot put with a push of 32 feet-one and one-half inches.

Kate Vanderheyden tossed the javelin 81 feet-11 inches to win the event and Kari Whitney hurled the discus 70 feet-seven inches, taking first in

that event.

Raiders Place Second at Randolph Relays

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys track team leaped to a second-place finish at the Randolph Relays on April 26 while grabbing first in three events.

Adam Bowser, Chris LaCosta, Blair Woodward and Karl Jennings ran their way to first in the shuttle hurdles with a time of 1:04.3.

In the team high jump, Woodward, Bowser and Jennings combined to reach a total of 17 feet 10 inches which was good enough for first.

The superb threesome of LaCosta, Pat Dempsey and Pete Kane cleared a total of 39 feet 3 inches to capture first in the team pole vault.

The Raider boys finished with a team total of 69 points behind Randolph High School with 81. The Raider girls placed ninth with a score of 16.

VOLLEYBALL HIGHLIGHTS

Devils Turn Back Indians, Vikings in Girls Volleyball

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Senior Megan Devitt had four kills and three blocks as the Blue Devils out-served Rahway High School, winning 2-0, on April 21 in Westfield. The Blue Devils won the first game with a competitive 15-11 score and squeezed out the second game, winning 15-13 to improve their record to 7-1.

On April 24, the Westfield High School girls traveled to Scotch Plains and won a highly contested, 2-1, battle with a good Union Catholic Regional High School squad.

The Blue Devils dropped the opening game 17-15 and barely pulled out the second game, winning 16-14. After winning the second game, the Blue Devils' spirits were high and the emotions of the Vikings were low. As a result, the Blue Devils won big, 15-6.

The Blue Devils recorded 25 kills and had two blocks. Senior Megan Sheehy led the assault with 10 kills. Junior Suzanne Vinegra followed with seven kills while Lauren McGovern added five kills, three aces and served 14 points.

Amy Coccaro served 11 points for the Blue Devils while Heather Simpson contributed 11 assists and Margaret Kostro added six assists.

With the victory over Union Catholic, the Blue Devils lifted their record to 8-1.

MONDAY, APRIL 21

Union Catholic 2, Shabazz 0 (first)

Union Catholic 2, Shabazz 0 (second)



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Fanwood Adjustment Board Memorializes Church Resolution

By SUZETTE STALKER

Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Board of Adjustment convened briefly last Thursday evening to memorialize one resolution and review correspondence concerning activities sponsored by New Jersey Planning Officials (NJPO), an organization of which the borough is a member. No new applications were scheduled for a public hearing by the board this month.

The resolution confirmed the board's March 20 approval of an application by the Fanwood Presbyterian Church at Martine and La Grande Avenues for use variances for three signs on the property. George Zhelnik, a church representative and Elder, testified last month that the signs were necessary to identify the church and the Westminster Preschool program there.

Mr. Zhelnik told board members during the public hearing for the application that church administrators wanted to replace two old signs and install a new one in an effort to attract new members to the parish and to designate its preschool program. The new sign, measuring 14.5 square feet, was approved for the church's front lawn. Its purpose is to identify the church for people traveling west on Martine Avenue.

Officials also gave the church the green light to enlarge an existing sign located on the corner of the property facing east which identifies the church and lists the weekly schedule of services and speakers. The church sought permission to enlarge the sign from 12.3 square feet to 16.3 square feet.

In addition, a sign designating the Westminster Preschool will be erected adjacent to the parking lot to replace the sign for the former Acorn School, which was the previous preschool program operated at the church. Last August, the Fanwood Planning Board gave conditional use approval for the new preschool program at the church as well as a permit for playground equipment.

The Westminster Preschool, a non-profit, weekday program, is held in the church's Christian education building in the same classrooms which were used for the Acorn School, which had leased the space from the

church for many years. The current preschool program enrolls children between the ages of 2 1/2 and 4 years old and features activities such as arts, crafts and music, as well as playground recreation.

Under correspondence, board members turned their attention to two upcoming events presented by the NJPO. They include an educational meeting titled "Reform and Reality -- Site Standards and Other Matters" which is planned for Tuesday, April 29, at the Lincroft Inn in Lincroft, as well as membership and courses for secretaries and land use administrators.



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Former Westfield Airport Was Once a Major Selling Point for Town In 1930s; Was Located in Clark Just Off the Garden State Parkway

Airport Story

Editor's Note: The following is an edited down version of the talk on the former Westfield Airport given by former Mayor Garland C. "Bud" Boothe, Jr., at a recent meeting of the Westfield Historical Society. A photograph of the airport, taken by Carl Frank of Clark, recently was added to the art collection displayed in the Community Room in the Westfield Municipal Building. The airport closed in 1956 to make room for a housing development.

* * * * *

Many residents in Westfield may not realize that the town once had an airport. It also had a casino (a social club) and a race track for that matter. After construction of the airport, built in the late 1920s, town officials saw the new facility as a major selling point for the town to go along with having a United States Post Office, a railway station on a main train line, a baseball team, a band, and at a later point, night and daytime telephone service.

Following the transcontinental flight of Charles A. Lindbergh from New York to Paris May 20 and 21, 1927, communities throughout the United States began realizing the importance of having their own air fields.

This was the case in Westfield which debuted its airport, which was actually located in neighboring Clark, on October 21, 1928, although some newspaper clippings indicate the airport opened on March 31, 1929. The airport was located on farmland which has since been developed with homes.

Mr. Boothe recalls the airport as a location along Garden State Parkway in the 1950s. He used to pass the airport on the way to college or the Jersey shore.

E.R. Crow, the owner of the former Westfield Ford agency on North Avenue, helped select the site for the airport during the summer of 1928. He served as the Westfield Airport Corporation's first president while Alan Bruce Conlin served as the airport's lawyer.

Prior to its opening there had been discussion by the Town Council that the airport should be located on the tract of land which was being used at the time for a sewage disposal plant. The council believed the site could be used after the Rahway Valley trunk sewer line was completed, thus making the town's maintenance of the sewer plant unnecessary.

The area covered by the plant was used instead for what is today Tamaques Park -- the largest municipal operated park in Westfield.

At a third anniversary dinner held for the airport in 1931 at the Echo Lake Country Club, State Senator Arthur N. Pierson said at the time they now boast of having an airport.

Mr. Boothe explained that the airport was fairly large. It had three runways, the longest of which was 2,700 feet and located parallel to the Parkway. The facility also had two hangers located across the Clark Township and Union County line in Woodbridge, located in Middlesex County.

"The airport was typical of the day, grass strips, biplanes and loud authoritative piston engines," Mr. Boothe explained to those in attendance.

There was no air traffic control at the airport or at any other airports at the time. The main runway was located behind Madison Hill Road in Clark. The area is located just south of the Clark interchange on the Parkway.

The hangers were located in the area on the highway which has the marking "Entering Middlesex County."

During his talk, the former two-term Mayor explained that the first pilot to land a plane at the airport was the late Cap Smith, a Westfield realtor for many years, who had been a shipboard wireless operator and later operated a plane based at the Hadley Airport in South Plainfield.

Mr. Smith landed periodically at the airport, including a stop in May of 1938 to pick up some letters as part of a celebration to mark the 20th anniversary of air mail.

Bob Buck, formerly of Trinity Place and who used to fly a glider at the airport with a friend, set an altitude record out of Westfield Airport of over 15,000 feet while using oxygen.

This flight almost became a tragic one, however, when the pilot could not find his way down through storm clouds.

Mr. Buck finally found a hole in the clouds over Summit and returned home with a realization that flying that day, which had been against the advice of others at the airport, had not been such a good idea.

The pilot later acquired his own plane and, in the fall of 1930, set transcontinental flying records, both east to west, of 28.5 hours and west to east of just under 24 hours. Then he set a record flying back from Havana just under 28 hours in February, 1931.

Mr. Buck tested his rubber life raft for this trip in the Westfield "Y" pool. For his Havana trip, he was invited to meet President Herbert Hoover at the White House in Washington, D.C. Mr. Buck is said to have given President Hoover a foot-long Cuban cigar.

During World War II, Mr. Buck was an air transport pilot and researched weather. He joined Trans World Airlines in 1937, and was chief pilot for the airline until he retired in 1974. Today, he lives in Vermont. When he was just 17, Mr. Buck wrote a book about his accomplishments in 1931.

Westfield Airport hosted parachute jumps, one of which resulted in a fatality, air races and aerobatics as well as rides. A big air meet was held in June of 1931, co-sponsored by the Westfield real estate board, which included warbirds and planes from World War I.

According to an audio by Walter Cronkite (which was played during the presentation), Westfield Airport was fondly remembered by Steve Pisanos, a Greek who flew with the American Eagle Squadron. Mr. Pisanos was the first person to gain citizenship by serving with American forces. He saved his pennies he earned shucking oysters in New York to buy a flying lesson.

He joined the squadron in order to learn how to fly for free at the recommendation of staff at the airport. They advised him to join the Royal Air Force (RAF) at which time he wound up with the American Eagle squadron.

The squadron wound up going overseas during World War II and was later taken into the United States Air Force. As a member of the squadron, Mr. Pisanos was one of the first fighter pilots over Berlin.

Mr. Pisanos shot down 10 German planes and was, himself, shot down. Mr. Cronkite explained that Mr. Pisanos evaded capture for six months and fought his way back to the squadron. He gained United States citizenship for his service and retired years later as an Air Force Colonel.

The Colonel, in speaking to Mr. Boothe in a telephone conversation, said he lived in the old Park Hotel in Plainfield while going to Westfield Airport for his flying lessons. He spent two years in the RAF, 30 in the Air Force and two more with TWA.





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School Members Have Wide Range of Responsibilities to Address

Last week voters went to the election polls at which they supported the school spending plans in Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood as well as making their selections known for the local school boards.

Westfield voters, who supported both parts of the \$44 million school tax levy (representing an increase of 2.45 percent over last year), voted incumbent Dr. B. Carol Molnar to a fourth term along with former board member Thomas Taylor and newcomer Michael Kessler.

In Scotch Plains-Fanwood voters supported the \$36.94 million school tax levy (which calls for tax increase of 1.64 percent in Scotch Plains and 2.47 percent in Fanwood) while electing incumbents Theresa Larkin and August A. Ruggiero along with newcomer Thomas Russo.

We congratulate the winning candidates and wish them well over the next three years. With the constant changes regarding school funding and the importance of keeping property taxes under control, this is definitely one of the most difficult periods of time to serve on local school boards.

The Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood districts differ in the way they operate in that the Westfield school board has seven standing committees while Scotch Plains-Fanwood operates under the Committee-As-A-Whole system.

At the Westfield organizational meetings, school board members will be assigned to the board committees which include Budget and Finance, Policies, Negotiations, Long Range Planning, and Curriculum, Instruction and Programs and the Liaison Committee with the Town Council.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood has two subcommittees of its Committee-As-A-Whole: Negotiations and Policies. The former includes a separate committee for bargaining with each employee unit. These committees are necessary since they are less than a majority of the board and thus do not require the board to sunshine the meeting for public participation.

Since these committees deal with personnel information, the committees need to work in private before reporting their findings to the full board

for action.

Under the area of finance, the Committee-As-A-Whole and the Westfield school board Finance Committee work with their administrations in preparing the annual school budget as well as overseeing business, planning and budgeting during the year. Negotiations committees represent the boards during contract negotiations with employee bargaining groups.

Under Long Range Planning, the board members are charged with updating and developing the district's long range plan as it applies to the district's goals and objectives. The Curriculum, Instruction and Programs Committee of the Westfield school board is responsible for reviewing new curricular offerings as well as existing classes, reviewing the professional development of the board and staff.

In Scotch-Plains-Fanwood, the full school board receives regular reports on instructional and curriculum policies from the administration. Under the area of facilities, board members review the condition of the district's facilities, security issues, and community use of school buildings.

The Westfield board and Staff Relations Committee reviews grievances brought by any employee group, and meets with professional staff members to discuss issues.

This review of school board committees and Committee-As-A-Whole shows just some of the important responsibilities school board members are entrusted with throughout the year.

Voters did their part by approving what we believe are sensible school tax levies. Now it is up to the boards to provide the leadership necessary to ensure students are well prepared to enter the next millennium.



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Planning Board Approves New Tenants on Elm Street - Former A&P, Burgdorff Sites to Be Filled by Trader Joe's, Cigar Lounge

By ANNA MURRAY

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Two long-time vacant buildings, prominently located in the heart of downtown Westfield, soon will be occupied by retailers offering their specialty goods and services to the municipality. Trader Joe's East, Inc., to be located at 163 Elm Street, and a still-to-be-named cigar café at 43 Elm Street, were granted final site plan approvals by the Westfield Planning Board at a special meeting held the evening of April 17.

The first application heard was that of Trader Joe's. Prior tenants to lease the property at 163 Elm Street were the A&P supermarket, and Foods 'N' Things, a purveyor of vitamins and a limited variety of food stuffs.

The A&P decamped four years ago, and Foods N' Things has been gone for about a year and a half. The dormant building has been termed by many Westfield residents as an "eyesore," with the property a frequent target for spray painted graffiti. Also troubling to officials, the parking lot has become a safe haven for skateboard riders and motorists seeking a free parking locale.

Bob Langone, Vice President of Operations for Trader Joe's, gave a brief history and description of the chain. He also detailed aesthetic enhancements planned for the existing structure.

"Trader Joe's is a mix of supermarket, grocery store and international gourmet shop, with wholesale club pricing," explained Mr. Langone. "We search for our products all over the world and buy to our specifications. We stock items you can't purchase any place else."

There are currently 92 stores in the Trader Joe's chain which was started in 1958 on the west coast. The chain recently has expanded to the east coast by opening six new stores in such upscale communities as: Darien and Westport, Connecticut; Cambridge, Massachusetts; Scarsdale, Commack and Oceanside, New York.

Typically the store will stock about 2,000 items.

"We carry frozen foods, vitamins, produce, swordfish, scallops from Argentina, shrimp from Thailand," said Mr. Langone.

The store will not have a delicatessen counter, but a variety of fresh cheeses will be offered and sliced to order on the premises.

Scheduled hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. Mr. Langone anticipates a workforce made up of 10 to 15 full-time employees and 25 to 35 part-time employees.

Mr. Langone stated that there would be 10 truck deliveries per week to the store, with rigs scheduled to be at the loading bays in the early morning or late evening hours.

"There will be no middle-of-the-day deliveries," said Mr. Langone.

In an effort to upgrade the building facade, Trader Joe's intends to install new entry doors, open up the brick arches, and dress up the asphalt shingle and plaster with imitation stucco finish. On the wall facing Elm Street, there are cutouts for billboard signage. These will be removed and two windows installed.

The site requires minimal variances, officials noted. Board member Neil F. Sullivan, Jr., the Town Council Liaison to the board, did express some concern over the parking variance which would allow the pre-existing, non-conforming stall size of eight feet by 10 feet instead of the nine-foot by 20-foot size required by the town Land Use Ordinance.

The applicant's attorney observed that the municipal lot directly adjacent to Trader's Joe's lot still maintains eight-foot by 19-foot stalls. The applicant's attorney reminded the board that Trader Joe's willingly added another handicap parking space as per the suggestion of town zoning official Jeremiah P. O'Neill.

He noted that in order to increase the parking, stall sizes would decrease the 62 available parking spaces by six more stalls.

"This in a town where parking space is already at a premium," said Michael Tobia, planner for the applicant.

Trader Joe's does not intend to use all of the building space. It plans to divide off a portion of the building, and rent to two unspecified business concerns. Renovations could begin in three to five months, at which time the lot will be roped off to traffic and pedestrians. The board unanimously voted to approve site plans and variances for the applicant.

The site approved for Westfield's first cigar café was previously leased to Burgdorff Realtors, and has been vacant for a year and a half. The shop will primarily be a retail cigar store, also offering pipes, tobacco

and tobacco accessories. The applicant proposes to serve specialty coffees and desserts at an Espresso Bar, however, all food items will be brought in as there will be no kitchen on the premises, the café's representatives told the board.

The café will feature a smoking lounge where customers can settle in and sample from a variety of high-grade cigars.

Customers will be able to walk into an 11-by-14-foot humidor with glass windows and door, where the store's highest grade smokes will be showcased in a climate-controlled storage area.

Paul Femiah, one of the store's four proprietors, explained that all cigars would be kept in controlled storage areas, not only those featured in the walk-in humidor.

Acting Chairman of the Planning Board, Robert L. Newell, asked the applicants what precautions they intended to make to prevent the typically strong odor of cigar smoke from traveling outside and offending passers-by.

Maggie Subhas, architect for the applicants, explained that two air-filtration systems would be used to counteract the smoke. Air will be filtered through the air-conditioning system in the ceiling. Because cigar smoke is heavy and has a tendency to sink, an additional system will filter air at ground level. That system will magnetically ionize the smoke particles causing them to stick to the filter.

Ms. Subhas circulated a mock-up of what the building's facade would look like after renovations. The rendition was of a quaint Dickensian-like structure. Above the entranceway, as shown on the applicant's plans, in gold Old-English lettering was the proposed store name: Tips & Ashes Cigar Café.

"I hope this name is some sort of joke," remarked Mayor Thomas C. Jardim, a member of the board.

Board members were unanimous in opinion that the name would be offensive to some townspeople. The applicants stated repeatedly that it was not their intention to be offensive and quickly agreed to withdraw the name.

The board granted site approval only under the condition that the name Tips & Ashes Cigar Café not be used. Another condition of the approval requires that the applicants purchase for the manager of the shop, a parking permit for a space in the municipal lot.

The applicants are planning to employ one full-time manager and two to three part-time employees. Business hours will be 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. during the week and until 11 p.m. on weekends. The applicants said

they hope the café will be open for business within three months.



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Scotch Plains School Board Winners Reflect On Success of Their Campaigns And Prepare to Address Issues

By SUZETTE STALKER

Specially Written for The Times

The two incumbents and one newcomer elected April 15 to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education reflected this week on their campaigns, along with issues they felt would be particularly important to administrators, staff and parents in the district over the next three years. They also discussed some of their goals in maintaining quality education for the district's 4,254 students.

Board members August A. Ruggiero and Theresa Larkin were both reelected to three-year terms, as was first-time candidate Thomas Russo. All three represent Scotch Plains. In both the township and Fanwood, voters approved the tax levy for the \$41.8 million school budget for 1997-1998, which represented an increase of 2.64 percent over the 1996-1997 spending plan.

The school board race this year featured eight candidates altogether, including outgoing Board Vice President Lillian M. Dettmar, who lost her bid for a sixth term, and newcomers Frances Gonzalez, Jean McAllister, Kristen Croag Paparella and Norman J. Ross.

Mr. Russo, a township attorney and a resident for more than 30 years, was the top vote getter in the school board race. He attributed his victory primarily to having lived in the community for so long and having been involved with a variety of local organizations.

The father of two young children said he also believes that his support for allowing more input by citizens and staff members in board decisions struck a chord with voters. During his campaign, he had advocated giving people with children currently enrolled in the school district a greater say in the shaping of district policies.

"My primary objective is to involve as many people as possible and to elicit as much input as possible from the public and staff regarding issues which come before the board, whether they be curriculum, budgetary or whatever," Mr. Russo stated, adding that he felt that greater accessibility will promote greater credibility for the board.

"I want citizens and staff to feel the board is accessible and that there are people on the board who want to listen, and that they will be treated with respect even if board members don't agree," Mr. Russo continued.

The newest member of the board said that he is "looking forward to getting started," and reported that he has already received a batch of calls from people eager to discuss education concerns with him. "I hope to remain available to as many people as possible even if I may not agree with them on every issue," he said.

Among the issues Mr. Russo said he expects to concentrate on during his first term on the board are maintaining educational programs in light of reduced non-restricted state aid and other limitations. He described the task of controlling costs in order to preserve programs and services as one of the "primary challenges" which the board will be facing.

Mrs. Larkin said she believes that "people like what has been going on for three years and they want it to continue." The board member based her campaign platform on maintaining class size, providing high quality education at the lowest possible cost and keeping the lines of communication open between the board and the community.

Mrs. Larkin noted that, through her own family, she is personally involved in each level of education in the district. She has a son who will be a freshman at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School in September, a daughter who will be in the sixth grade at Terrill Middle School and another daughter who will be in the third grade at Coles Elementary School.

During her first term, Mrs. Larkin served on the board's negotiating team during contract talks last year with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association (SPFEA). She is also the board's Liaison to the district's Parent-Teacher Association Council and the Municipal Alliance Committee. She is also a member of the Coles Elementary School and Terrill Middle School PTAs and the Terrill School Music Boosters.

The board member said she believes a key concern for the district is the pending Supreme Court decision, expected in September, on whether Governor Christine Todd Whitman's Core Curriculum Standards provides a "thorough and efficient" education for students in the state's 28 special needs districts as well as suburban districts such as Scotch Plains-Fanwood.

Among her goals for her second term, explained Mrs. Larkin, are to continue the "infusion of technology" into classrooms in order to prepare students for careers in the next millennium, and to maintain "consistent high standards across the district," as well as a "continuation of all the good things which are going on right now."

According to Mrs. Larkin, these things include such concepts as the mini-grants program. The board allocates funds in its annual budget for the program, which allows any teacher in the district who has an idea they may want to use in the classroom to apply for a mini-grant. If the proposal is approved, the money is granted for the project. "Some wonderful programs have come out of it," Mrs. Larkin commented.

She noted that some of these programs are the weather station at Evergreen Elementary School and the "Accelerated Reader" program involving elementary-level software designed to boost youngsters' interest and skills in reading. "It's been so successful in helping kids to learn better, to read better, and to comprehend better what they're reading," the school board member observed.

She predicted that there would be a "smooth transition" on the board as she and Mr. Ruggiero begin their terms and Mr. Russo embarked on his first term as a member of the board, and she anticipated that board representatives would "work together as well as we did in my first term."

Mr. Ruggiero has played many roles during his tenure on the board, including having been elected board President five times. Mr. Ruggiero, who currently heads the board's Administrative Negotiations Committee, is the former Chairman of the Policy, Budget, Curriculum and Instruction, and Superintendent's Evaluation Committees. He is also a past and present member of various other committees.

He chalked up his most recent victory to his long experience on the board, and stated that his priorities continue to be the education of children and careful attention to how taxpayers' money is spent. Mr. Ruggiero said he believed that uncertainty regarding state funding, and its potential impact on educational programs and class size, are of major concern to the district right now.

Among the issues the board will be focusing upon in the coming months, according to Mr. Ruggiero, are contract negotiations with the SPFEA which are scheduled to begin in the fall, as well as pending staff retirements.

In October, Assistant Superintendent for Business Richard J. Marshall is expected to begin a two-year reduced role in preparation for his eventual retirement, according to Mr. Ruggiero. He said that Mr. Marshall, who will continue to be involved in administrative duties on a limited basis during this transition period, has consistently demonstrated "excellence" in carrying out his responsibilities to the district.





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Westfield Zoning Board Votes Against Used Car Lot

By Anna Murray

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

At the April 14 meeting of the Westfield Board of Adjustment, board members denied the application of Westfield Car Rental on South Avenue, West, to sell used automobiles at its facility.

According to town officials, the Westfield Land Use Ordinance does not allow used automobile lots in town, and the testimony heard at the meeting by the applicant did not persuade board members to grant a use variance.

If board members had agreed to zone the property as a used car lot, it could be used as such forever, officials revealed. However, that weighty precedent was not the only reason the application was denied. Board members cited increased traffic and a lack of parking as other compelling reasons to deny the application.

Application by the Westfield Food Service Corp., owners of the Westfield Diner on North Avenue to erect a free-standing sign, was withdrawn by the applicant, according to Jeremiah P. O'Neil, the town's zoning officer.

The diner had sought to erect a free-standing sign and a second wall sign on the exterior of the building. The application had been postponed by the board at the March 10 meeting.

The board adopted several resolutions from action taken at its March meeting. These included the granting of an addition to a home on Marlboro Street owned by John and Susan Ciufu, and an addition on a home owned by Robert J. and Jennie Jordan on Maryland Street.

Resolutions also were issued for two building additions and a deck to a residence on Nancy Way owned by Ronald and Gwen Brachman, and a two-story addition to a home on Nancy Way owned by Jon and Debbie Skolnick.





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Hearing Is Set for May Regarding Zoo Permits

By SUZETTE STALKER

Specially Written for The Times

An administrative hearing has been scheduled for next month concerning the state's recent decision not to renew operating permits for the Scotch Plains Zoo on Raritan Road, after the owners were cited for multiple violations related to public safety and animal welfare, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced on Tuesday.

Zoo owner Harold Kafka of Watchung is expected to appeal the state's denial of his animal exhibitor and zoological permits when the hearing takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 13 and 14, before Judge Edith Klinger at the Office of Administrative Law in Newark. The proceedings, scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., will be open to the public.

Mr. Kafka requested the hearing after the state Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, an arm of the DEP, declined to renew his permits for the 6.5-acre facility, which is home to approximately 150 animals, including some rare and endangered species. Mr. Kafka and his wife, Deborah, purchased the zoo three years ago from former owners Franklin and Louise Terry.

A statement issued by the DEP on Tuesday said that permits for the zoo were denied "based on a number of current and past failures of the owners to comply with state regulations governing the possession of wildlife. The failures include "problems affecting public safety and animal welfare which were uncorrected despite repeated warnings, failure to file mandatory quarterly reports on animal deaths, births, acquisitions and disposals, and acquiring animals without a permit."

State officials have also charged the Kafkas with ignoring "numerous verbal and written directives by Fish, Game and Wildlife to correct violations involving caging, and have had 11 convictions or guilty pleas in municipal or superior court in the last two years concerning violation or wildlife possession regulations."

According to the DEP, state regulations prohibit the Fish, Game and Wildlife Division from issuing a permit "when there have been court convictions or guilty pleas within specified time frames."

Judge Frederick C. Kentz, Jr. in Superior Court in Elizabeth appointed Union Township Attorney Martin B. O'Connor, 2nd, as permanent custodian of the zoo on April 14 after the latter submitted a report on the financial status of the zoo as well as the condition of the animals there. Mr. O'Connor, who had been appointed as temporary custodian on March 5, had compiled his information between that date and April 10.

According to Mr. O'Connor's report, which included evaluations from several animal experts, there were "varying degrees of deficiencies with respect to the animals. However, it is important to note that none of the reports directly outline willful or gross negligence on the part of Mr. Kafka." Mr. O'Connor reported last week that Mr. Kafka has been cooperative since the attorney was appointed as custodian, and will continue to be involved in the running of the zoo.

Following the administrative hearing, Judge Klinger will have 45 days to hand down an initial decision, after which DEP Commissioner Robert C. Shinn, Jr. will have 45 days to issue a final decision in the case, according to the statement by the DEP. If Judge Klinger and Commissioner Shinn uphold the decision to deny renewal of the Kafkas' permits, the couple will have 15 days to notify the state of their plans for relocating the animals.

The DEP reported that "several endangered species at the Scotch Plains Zoo, including birds of prey, are under federal ownership" and, in the event that Mr. Kafka loses his appeal, "transfers of these animals will be supervised by and at the discretion of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife."



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Intent to Expand Liquor Licensing by Westfield Town Council Draws Strong Dissent from Public Interest Groups

By PAUL J. PEYTON

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Over the pleas of representatives from the Westfield Municipal Alliance/PANDA (Preventing Alcohol and Narcotics Abuse) and the Parent-Teacher Council (PTC), the Town Council last Wednesday night introduced the newest version of the town's liquor license which would allow more restaurants in town to have bars in their establishments. The ordinance was introduced by a 5-2-1 vote.

Also objecting to the change in the town code is the Reverend Darla Dee Turlington, President of the Westfield/Mountainside Ministerium Associates.

The ordinance involves restricted liquor licenses as opposed to those that are unrestricted or traditional bar licenses. The town approved the conditional license in the 1960s in an effort to attract restaurants to Westfield.

Operators of these establishments say they need a bar area not only to compete with restaurants in town but with establishments out on Route No. 22, as well.

Conditional licenses allow for the service of alcoholic beverages at tables in the food service area but do not allow bars. Lounges were added a number of years ago to allow restaurants to serve beverages to patrons waiting for a table for dinner.

The Jolly Trolley, Towne House, Wyckoff's, and Echo Lake Country Club hold unrestricted licenses. Ken Marcotte, Ferraro's, and B.G. Fields hold restricted licenses. Two additional licenses are not currently active (defined as pocketed).

These are held by Raymond Kostyack, the owner of the former Raymond's Restaurant, and Henry W. Kopp who purchased the license of the former Sinclaire's seafood restaurant.

Mr. Kopp purchased the license at an auction run by the State Division

of Taxation due to back taxes owed by Sinclair's.

The ordinance now before the council first came to light last year at the request of an operator in town who holds one of the restricted liquor licenses (defined as restaurant conditional licenses) in town.

The council was unable to gain enough support to bring the ordinance forward for a final vote due to a lack of support on the governing body.

Lucy Van Iperen of North Chestnut Street, Director of Westfield Municipal Alliance/PANDA, said the group is against the amendment to the liquor ordinance. She said PANDA includes representatives of schools, law enforcement officials, religious organizations, civic groups, and other community organizations.

Ms. Van Iperen said PANDA believes that the town "has a balance of restaurants that provide choices for its residents.

"There are many quality restaurants in town that provide a healthy family atmosphere and a social and professional business environment for their clientele. Our fear is that a loosening of the current restrictions would change this balance and create a potential for higher risk," she told the council.

Under questioning from Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence A. Goldman, Ms. Van Iperen said the PANDA board includes 24 members.

Third Ward Councilman John J. Walsh asked whether PANDA was against any liberalization of the town's liquor ordinance. Ms. Iperen said PANDA wants the ordinance to stay as it currently reads.

Christine Foley of Jefferson Avenue, corresponding secretary for the Westfield PTC, read a letter to the council announcing the PTC's opposition to the amendment to the liquor ordinance. The PTC is made up of representatives of all of Westfield's nine schools.

"Allowing more restaurants in Westfield to have bars where liquor can be consumed without ordering food can only have a negative impact on our town," said Mrs. Foley, noting that approval of the new ordinance would "clearly send the wrong message to our children."

"The dangers from the proposed amendment far outweigh any benefits," she added, noting that the PTC has 45 representatives -- five from each school. This number includes Presidents of all the Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) and Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTOs).

Gordon Specht of Normandy Drive, a resident since 1954, said he believes the town needs to set standards so that the youth "know what our priorities are."

"What kind of signal do the adults of this community send to our youth if Westfield decides its a good idea to double the number of bars in this town?" he asked the council.

He said such a change would send the wrong message to youth in the community. Mr. Specht said he doesn't see the "urgency" or driving force behind the change in adding more bars in restaurants.

Karen Mortenson of Sinclair Place, speaking as a parent, said there is a strong relation between alcohol and crime. She said the change in the liquor ordinance would result in more lawsuits from alcohol-related accidents.

She said added revenue from the restaurant bars would not come back to the town or police department but go in the restaurant operator's pocket.

"If we are here to represent the people of Westfield, the downside looks pretty bad -- the upside looks pretty bleak," Ms. Mortenson told the council.

Norma Hockenjos of Summit Avenue, a member of the ministry at the First United Methodist Church, said the provisions to the town's liquor ordinance does nothing to enhance the existing requirement that alcohol must be accompanied by a meal.

Mercedes Okamoto of Boulevard said adding more bars within the restaurant community is a "step in the wrong direction for Westfield." She said the council should try to make the town more "family oriented."

Lynn McCabe of Montauk Drive, the PTC representative for PANDA, said she was "appalled" that the issue of adding more bars in restaurants has even been discussed by the council.

"I don't understand the reasoning except for greed," she said. Mrs. McCabe said she does not know what benefit the addition of these bars will have on the community.

Dr. Theodore K. Schlosberg , Jr. of Scudder Road, Director of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, said he believes the issue is whether changing the liquor ordinance is in the best interest of families of Westfield.

"I hope that you will do nothing to jeopardize what was built by the fathers of this town and by those of us who care about the children of this town," he said.

The ordinance was amended several times while under consideration by the Laws and Rules Committee which was chaired in 1996 by

Councilman Sullivan.

This year Councilman Goldman, just elected this past November, is chairing the committee which includes Councilman Sullivan.

At last week's meeting Mr. Goldman said the public has been "misinformed" by information circulating around town.

He emphasized that the ordinance will not increase the number of liquor licenses in town -- that number has been set by the state and has been reached by the town.

Councilman Goldman said the change in the town code would not allow street entrances into the bar/lounge area, would require the same menu and prices be offered to bar patrons as those in the restaurant, discounts on drinks would not be permitted thus eliminating the possibility of "happy hours," and restrictions would be placed on the space for the bar area including the number of bar stools and/or lounge seats.

First Ward Councilwoman Gail S. Vernick, in voting against the ordinance, said the amendment to the town code "would allow eight more restaurants with bars, all within walking distance from each other, in our central business district.

"If this ordinance is passed it is irreversible. Liquor licenses are privately owned, and once the bar is constructed, there is no moving it," she stated.

Councilman Goldman said enforcement of liquor license are on a per operator basis. He said if a particular establishment has a history of not following the ordinance, the council has the option of rejecting the restaurant's request for renewal of its license. Renewals for liquor licenses, which cost \$2,000 a year, are granted on an annual basis.

Mr. Goldman said the intent of the ordinance is to improve the ambiance of restaurants by enabling those with conditional licenses to have bars.

He said restrictions placed on conditional licenses would ensure Westfield will not develop into a "bar town."

"I think we have taken responsible steps to maintain the tradition in Westfield to categorize licenses which is so unique in this state," he explained.

He said restaurants which do not have liquor licenses but allow patrons to bring their own alcohol is perhaps an even greater problem in town.

First Ward Councilman Norman N. Greco, a member of the Laws and Rules Committee the past two years, questioned why the council is in

"such a rush to this.

"Once you do this you change the face of this town forever," he said, noting that the holders of the licenses will likely come back before the council seeking even less restrictions.

He said the additional restaurant bars will end up having a strong economic impact on those establishments with unrestricted licenses.

"I don't think we need more bars in this town," he emphasized.

Mr. Greco said later that he intends to push for a non-binding referendum on the ballot in November.

Mayor Thomas C. Jardim, in voting for the amended ordinance, said he wouldn't support the ordinance if he thought it would harm the character of the town.

Councilman Walsh argued that the law says that moderate alcohol consumption is permitted. He said the amendment to the town code will not add to the abuse of alcohol in Westfield.

He said it is the parents' role to teach their children about alcohol consumption and abuse, not the government's. Councilman Walsh said he believes the change may lead to more restaurants coming to town.

According to the ordinance, the maximum number of bar stools allowed would be eight. The maximum number of seats in the lounge including bar stools would be 20 for restaurants of 125 seats or more.

Restaurants of 100 to 124 seats would be allowed to have 16 seats in the bar/lounge with an establishment of 75 to 99 seats allowed total seating in the bar/lounge area of 12 seats.

The total length of bar would be figured by multiplying each bar stool by two, thus creating a maximum of a 16-foot bar. Operators would be required to provide eight square feet for each bar stool and lounge seat. Councilman Goldman said the space restrictions would help prevent the bars from becoming a "gathering place."

Also, the ordinance increases the number of seats in the restaurant area to 75. Currently, restaurants with 25 seats can obtain a liquor license. Restaurant bars would not be allowed to be open when the food service area is closed.

Under the town code, restaurants must stop food service by 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursdays, and 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The public hearing on the ordinance is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6.





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