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Westfield Mayor and Town Council Inauguration 97



Taking Oath (left to right)

Jack Walsh, Mayor Tom Jardim, Gail Vernick, Larry Goldman, Jim Gruba
(not shown)

NEW MAYOR URGES BIPARTISANSHIP RELATIONSHIP WITH REPUBLICAN MAJORITY

By PAUL J. PEYTON

*Mayor Jardim Takes Oath as Westfield's First Democratic Mayor In Eight
Decades; Mr. Goldman and Mr. Walsh Join Town Council.*

A standing room only crowd of over 300 helped Westfield usher in a new era New Year's Day when Thomas C. Jardim took the oath to become Westfield's first Democratic mayor in 85 years when J. Allston Dennis sat on the dais. The sweep in the election by Mr. Jardim and his runningmates Lawrence C. Goldman and John J. Walsh, reduces the Republican majority from 8-1 to 5-4, the slimmest margin the GOP has ever had in Westfield's history. The party held three seats at one time in the 1970s.

Throughout the Democrats speeches the theme was the near "miracle"

Westfield witnessed when Mr. Jardim, a long shot and two-year resident, defeated life-long Westfielder and veteran First Ward Councilman, Norman N. Greco. Also victorious that day was Mr. Walsh and Mr. Goldman over Anthony N. Palumbo and then incumbent Janis Fried Weinstein, respectively.

Mayor Jardim urged a bipartisanship working relationship with the Republican majority to ensure that the opportunities faced by the council to improve the quality of life of residents and solve the "malingering problems of the past." He said council members from both parties must "put aside politics, party and partisanship," avoid ego and self-interest and "forge a government and a Westfield of which we can all be proud."

The 3 p.m. ceremony was witnessed by numerous dignitaries from the two major political parties including former Mayors Garland C. "Bud" Boothe, Jr., who Mayor Jardim succeeds; H. Emerson Thomas, Raymond W. Stone, Alexander Williams, and Richard H. Bagger, now a State Assemblyman, and Ronald Frigerio. Also attending were former Westfield Democratic Councilmen Thomas C. Pluta, Michael Diamond, Arthur C. Fried and Anthony M. LaPorta, and former Republican Council members W. Jubb Corbet and Betty List. Board of Education President Susan Jacobson and board members Dr. Carol B. Molnar, Ginger Hardwick, and Arlene L. Gardner were also in attendance along with former board member William Sweeney.

Representing the county were Democratic Freeholders Carol I. Cohen of Westfield, new Freeholder Vice Chairman Daniel P. Sullivan of Elizabeth, new Freeholder Donald Goncalves, also of Elizabeth, and Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi.

Among Mayor Jardim's agenda is the vibrancy of the downtown, keeping municipal spending under control by holding the "municipal bottom line," and trying to find a solution to Westfield's parking woes which currently has commuters waiting three years for a permit at the South Avenue train station parking lot.

In terms of parking Mayor Jardim once again announced his intention to push for through-service to New York City on New Jersey Transit's Raritan Valley line. He said this service would increase property values and improve the quality of life for Westfield commuters. In terms of municipal taxes, Mayor Jardim said he would support a "comprehensive management audit of how and why each municipal dollar is spent" if necessary.

Mayor Jardim said municipal government must become more "user-friendly and responsive" to both businesses in town and residents. He said this must include a more efficient and quicker process of issuing permits for home and business improvements. Commenting on the Special Improvement District, which recently unveiled its proposed 1997 budget, Mayor Jardim said the council must review budget "with an eye on eliminating the potential for administrative waste." Mayor Jardim said the council "must aim to make a deep and lasting impression which will endure in Westfield for years to

come."

He was sworn into office by his uncle, former State Senator and current Union County Superior Court Judge, Alexander J. Menza of Hillside. In attendance was a number of friends who helped him during the campaign including fellow Democrats, Perth Amboy Mayor Joseph Vas, and Elizabeth Councilmen A. Tony Monteiro and Manny Grova, Jr. The inauguration was the first in Westfield in some 25 years. Traditionally the town has sworn in its new council members and mayors at the reorganization meeting, traditionally held the first Tuesday of January.

The Democrats had asked the Republicans to set the meeting for New Year's Day. However, when it was learned two members of the governing body could not attend, the majority party declined the Democrats request but agreed to have the inauguration on New Year's Day so out-of-town friends and family of the newly sworn officials could attend.

Also taking the oath were Democrats Lawrence C. Goldman and John J. Walsh and Republican First Ward Councilwoman Gail S. Vernick. Mrs. Vernick was re-elected to a second term after facing no opposition in the fall election. Mayoral and council terms run for two years in Westfield.

Prior to Mayor Jardim swearing in, Mr. Walsh and Mr. Goldman took the oath. In using the Hebrew word, "nes godol hayah poh," which translates to "a great miracle happened here," Councilman Walsh said the newly-elected Democrats pledge "to create an open government, forge new alliances, try creative solutions and develop a can do attitude towards our governmental problems." Councilman Walsh said, in speaking to those who did not support the Democratic ticket and are concerned over the change, the Democrats "intend to keep, preserve, protect and maintain all those traditions, customs, and practices" of the town.

Councilman Goldman thanked Freeholder Cohen for efforts in keeping "the flame of a Democratic Party in Westfield, often a mere flicker." He also said Mayor Jardim "shattered the notion that a Democrat cannot be elected as Mayor of Westfield." Councilman Goldman said the Democratic sweep in this past November's election brings a "true two-party government to Westfield for the first time." Councilman Goldman said this will mean opening the various boards and commissions to a "broader and more diverse membership by persons who care deeply about this community, want to participate, but have been shut out." He said he sought office because of his "life-long commitment of volunteer service to my community and a desire to get involved and try to make a difference rather than sit on the sidelines and complain."

During her speech, Councilwoman Vernick pledged a "spirit of cooperation" with Mayor Jardim and Councilmen Goldman and Walsh. She said Westfield has a tradition for "leaving politics and partisanship on the steps outside the municipal building." The councilwoman said she feels confident this will continue in the future.

The oath of offices were observed from the dais by Second Ward Councilman Matthew P. Albano, Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr., all Republicans, and Democratic Fourth Ward Councilman James Hely who emceed the festivities. Following the inauguration and speeches which lasted almost an hour, a reception was held in the Community Room of the Municipal Building.

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Revised: 08/06/97.



Developer Abandons Option to Purchase Rialto Theater (1/30/97)

By SUZETTE STALKER

Developer Herman "Hy" Carlinsky has pulled out of his option to purchase the Rialto Theatre from United Artists, *The Westfield Leader* learned early Wednesday morning, and supporters of the downtown landmark are now preparing to deal directly with the Denver-based film conglomerate in their effort to preserve the 75-year-old landmark.

David Owens, a spokesman for the "Save The Rialto" Committee, confirmed that Mr. Carlinsky, the President of Armstrong Management Corporation of Long Island, notified him during a telephone conversation at 4-30 p.m. Tuesday that he was walking away from the project. Committee members had been working with Mr. Carlinsky since last year on development concepts for the East Broad Street theater. The developer had been scheduled to meet with the group tonight.

"He told me he was dropping out of the deal because United Artists was getting much too fussy in terms of their agreement with him and so he was stepping away."

Last week, Mr. Carlinsky reported that United Artists had granted him an open-ended extension on his deadline for purchasing the Rialto, which he said was issued in order to **give** him more time to work with the community on proposals for the building. The developer had received several previous extensions on his original deadline, including one which ended on January 15.

However, Mr. Owens said that the committee learned from a local source who had been in contact with United Artists that the developer had not received a further extension following the January 15 deadline. He added that United Artists was nevertheless willing to give, Mr. Carlinsky until the end this week to come to an agreement with the committee on a development proposal for the theater.

Mr. Carlinsky had attempted to negotiate a lease agreement last year with The Gap, Inc., which had been interested in opening a Banana Republic store on the Rialto site. The clothing chain backed out, however, in the face of widespread public opposition to converting the theater to retail.

The spokesman for "Save the Rialto," which was organized last fall through Westfield MainStreet to keep the town's last remaining movie theater alive, said that the committee now anticipates working with United Artists in helping them to find an "appropriate buyer, for the theater. He defined an appropriate buyer as one who can "work with contractors, architects and engineers to develop the theater in a way that's financially viable and will keep a theater on the site."

Michele Picou, . Westfield MainStreet Program Manager, said that the committee will likely continue to pursue a plan to combine retail and a movie theater at the Rialto site, noting that "Save the Rialto" members believe the mixed use concept represents "the only practical solution" for keeping the local theater in business. She said it's possible The Gap, Inc. could once again become a candidate for the retail portion of the building under the new proposal.

Mr. Owens said that United Artists has been entertaining offers for the Rialto property from other prospective buyers, adding that the committee has not been informed of who the other bidders are. He maintained that the town's participation would be a major factor in the conglomerate's ability to sell the Rialto. "We as a community can help them to sell what they want to sell," he commented.

United Artists announced early last year that it was selling many of its theaters with one, two or three screens, including the Rialto and the Bellevue Theatre in Upper Montclair, in order to concentrate on larger multiplexes which can generate greater profits. Mrs. Picou observed that many national film distributors are "getting out of the small theater business because they can do better with multiplexes."

Local residents immediately rallied around the Rialto, claiming the corner theater not only symbolizes Westfield's historic heritage but also is a safe and comfortable place for families and children to see a movie. They have also argued that the theater, because of its close proximity to restaurants and stores, is an integral part of Westfield's downtown economy.

Mr. Owens reported that although several members of the committee met Tuesday night following Mr. Carlinsky's revelation that he was abandoning his purchase option, the organization has not yet scheduled its next formal meeting. He noted, however, that "we are in the process of planning our next move with United Artists."

(1/27) **Despite Upoar, Developer Persists - [Continued](#)**

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Dr. Foley, Superintendent of the Westfield Public Schools

To Give Address Feb. 5, 1997 on:

"The Role of Technology in Public Education Today"

Dr. Foley to Address Town Historical Group

Dr. William Foley, Superintendent of the Westfield Public Schools, will be the guest speaker at The First Wednesday Luncheon of the Westfield Historical Society at noon on February 5, at B.G.Fields restaurant in Westfield. Dr. Foley's topic will be "The Role of Technology in Public Education Today". He will discuss how, over the years, technology and schools have not always been "perfect together," and how each generation has felt that the tools and methods of their student days were inadequate in later years, a spokesman for the society said. He also will discuss the importance of the use of computers in the schools as well as at home to aid them in keeping up with the "rapid changes" being made in society today.

Regular attendees at the First Wednesday Luncheon will be contacted by a committee of the historical society to verify their reservations. Space permitting, others are welcome to attend by calling 233-2930 before noon on Monday, February 3, for seating information.

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To: The Westfield Leader

Dear Sirs,

These pictures of the Excellent Diner, now located in Germany, may be of interest to your readers. They came to me by a circuitous route, from a WHS classmate, Marshall Howard, who sent them from Saratoga, California.

Marshall had sent Leader articles about the impending move of the diner to another classmate, Roland Hall, who lives in Ottsville, Pa. Roland in turn sent the articles to his sister Judy who was heading for Germany. Judy took these pictures when she visited the old Westfield hangout.

Business wasn't exactly booming in the interior shot. She offered no insights on the quality of the food but anyone conversant in German can try to read the menu.

[See Menu Photo, click here](#)

Judy's pictures went to Marshall's sister who sent them to me since I still live in town. See how far the Leader reaches!

Joan Lowell Smith

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Union County Clerk

Joanne Rajoppi

Reports \$660,000

Increase in Revenue Over 1995

The Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi reported that 1996 was one of the highest revenue generating years in the history of the office.

More than \$3,372,000 in revenue for the county was realized, which is more than \$560,000 than was projected for 1996 and represents a 20 percent increase from 1995. This is the highest revenue generated by this office since 1988, she said.

The County Clerk attributes the increase to the more than 10 percent increase in property and business recordings along with an Increase in public access hours.

One of the clear motivators in terms of increases in other document recordings can be attributed, the Clerk reports, to the additional resources made available to the public to process their documents.

"We extended our public access hours," Ms. Rajoppi reported, "another 20 percent at no extra cost. This stimulated a tremendous increase in passport application processing."

More than 16,500 passports were processed by her office in 1996 compared to 14,500 in 1995.

Overall, there was a 15 percent increase in the filings of documents in 1996 compared to 1995.

In addition to the consolidation, the County Clerk was given additional

mandated duties in 1996. Previous to 1996, the County Clerk had election responsibilities for two elections each year, the Primary and General Election. In December of 1995, legislation was signed mandating that the County Clerks' duties expand to include school board elections, both regular and special, including the preparation and mailing of sample ballots.

Ms. Rajoppi said the cost of the school board elections were reimbursed to the county by the school boards.

Additionally, Miss Rajoppi saved \$20,000 in postage costs through initiation of a new type of mailing permit used for sample ballots in 1996. It is estimated that the use of this mailing permit in 1997 for the school board, primary and general elections will generate savings in excess of \$45,000.

Last April the Office of the Register was merged into the Office of County Clerk by legislation signed into law by Governor Christine Todd Whitman. Ms. Rajoppi had served as Register of Deeds for 12 years prior to 1996. As Register, her responsibilities included the recording and filing of all land documents within the 21 municipalities of the county. By merging the two offices of Register and County Clerk, the responsibilities now include the recording of land documents previously handled by the Register along with the duties of the County Clerk which include business and trade name filings, processing passport applications, the issuance of A.B.C. identification cards, and the election responsibilities. The merger of the two offices increased staff level responsibility from 26 to 39; document transaction types processed increased from 18 to 33, the Clerk noted.

The consolidation of the two offices has permitted the Clerk to initiate a streamlining of procedures and efficiency of filings along with cutting some costs. Ms. Rajoppi reported that more than \$200,000 in salaries was saved in 1996 through the consolidation of dual offices (Register and County Clerk; Deputy Register and Deputy Clerk), and downgrading of two positions and vacancies which were not filled for part of the year.

The merger permits the cross-training of staff between the recording functions of the former Register's office with the business functions of the Clerk's staff. This cross-training will assist with staff deployment in times of shortages due to illness, vacation and/or family leave, the County Clerk stated.

While the merger has realized concrete dollar and cents savings to taxpayers, other less noticeable but equally important savings have been initiated, the County Clerk reported. Prior to the merger, the Offices of Register and County Clerk necessitated two separate record rooms where important copies of property and documents were kept to be accessed by the public and to conduct property searches for the orderly transfer of property. These documents are the official resource and repository for each property in the county and are utilized by property owners, attorneys, title searchers, genealogists and others.

Ms. Rajoppi has initiated the merger of one centralized record room where all records dealing with property are stored. By mid-1997 one centralized location for records will be completed "realizing a substantial savings to taxpayers and customers," she said.

The County Clerk initiated a two-part merger of the Register's and County Clerk's computer index records. The first, completed in December of 1996, permits customers and title searchers to access both kinds of records from one location. The second part, which will be completed by December, will include a merger of both computer records at one location including records from the period of 1977 to the present.

"Quick, accurate accessibility to records is critically important to the public and to the integrity of their property ownership," the Clerk said. "One central system will afford greater efficiency and save costs."

The Clerk said the new combined maintenance costs of the computer program will save \$6,000 this year, compared to 1996 maintenance costs previously needed for the two separate systems.

Merger also means a savings in the administration of the office. With similar functions merged, such as recording of documents, the functions can be streamlined to create a more efficient process, Ms. Rajoppi said. There are 18 different land documents recorded in the Office of County Clerk; 15 documents in the Office of County Clerk. In 1996 an initiation of merging the accounting systems was begun which will provide greater consistency, accuracy and uniformity in recording.

Also initiated in 1996 was an organizational plan to house the two separate offices under one centralized location. In 1995 the Offices of Register and County Clerk housed their functions in five separate locations which decreased service delivery for customers wishing to perform multiple recording tasks in one central location.

Ms. Rajoppi formulated a plan last year to reorganize present space used by the once separate offices into one central location for staff and records. The first part of the plan to relocate records was begun in 1996 and will be completed by mid-1997. The second part to redesign space for staff was begun in 1996 and completion is estimated to be finalized by fall of 1997.

The revised Clerk's office will be a working reality of one-stop shopping housing elections, recording, passports and all documents in one central location. A satellite office will continue to be maintained in Westfield.



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"Deliverance"? or "Singing Councilman"
James Hely

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The Leader's Kathleen Norman becomes a Mother 2/06/97!

Erika Paige Norman, 7lbs, 4 oz. is born on 2/06/97

Mother and Daughter are fine; Father Jim is recovering.

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[Paris, France to Westfield](#)

Fun Learning Email! (Name withheld, we all go through it!)

Date: 97-02-17 14:45 EST From: Yikes! To: goleader1@aol.com

Dear Horace,

I am still working on e-mail. For some reason, I can not figure how to add names to the address book. When I get into the address book where obviously, it is blank, I can't get any farther. It does not give me any directions to add names to it. Any suggestions, please let me know.

Regards, Yikes!

Date: 97-02-17 14:55 EST From: Yikes! To: goleader1@aol.com

Dear Horace,

Here I am again! I found out how to add e-mail addresses! Yeah, me. I would like to install "aol" and I need two telephone numbers to use. When you get a chance, could you let me know what local numbers you use and I'll be able to get started.

Thanks. Yikes!

Date: 97-02-17 15:25 EST From: Yikes! To: goleader1@aol.com

Dear Horace,

Still playing with my computer. Just wanted to send one more message to see if it works. Sorry to be a pain. Let me know if you receive it.

Regards, Yikes!

Editors' Note: We're having fun running Internet Classes at the Downtown Technology Club, as you can see above. Classes are free for all by appointment Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 7-9 pm. Come join us and meet a lot of great people. Call for an appointment (908) 232-4407

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Westfield, NJ 07090

(If you Email us, we'll draft you as an Instructor!)

Subj: Subscription out of state
Date: 97-02-12 19:45:51 EST
From: Todd Melka tmelka@ossinc.net

To: goleader@aol.com

I grew up in Westfield, I am now currently living in Colorado. I would like to have the Westfield Leader delivered to my residence in Colorado. What is the process? How much does it cost?

Thank you in advance, Todd Melka

Editors' Note: Dear Todd, Our subscription rate in the U.S. outside of Union County is \$24 per year. (The Union County rate is \$20 per year). We would love to have you with us. Just send your name and address with a check for the above amount to:

The Westfield Leader
50 Elm St.
Westfield, NJ 07090

You will be added to our mailing list as soon as payment is received. Snail mail may take about 3 days to reach you.

Subj: ADVERTISING
Date: 97-02-13 21:59:05 EST
From: 4paws@webspan.net

To: goleader@aol.com

Do you know how I would add my business to the Westfield business on line? Abigail Wester

Editors' Note: Dear Abigail,

We are nearing completion of formulating our advertising programs. The Leader will be offering comprehensive newspaper and Internet advertising services, Email, FaxBack, Telephony and direct mail; assisted by our partner, ATT Research. We will assist businesses with planning and implementing long term marketing tailored to customer needs in our region.

For now, please contact Joanna at (908) 232-4407.

We will be posting details shortly on this site. Thank you very much for your interest.

Subj: Locating Missing and Loved Ones
Date: 97-02-04 12:23:29 EST
From: Occas@aol.com

To: GOLEADER

Dear Editor:

Recently, I came into your office in Westfield and was surprised to learn that your paper has a Technology Department on the Internet. So, I found out your Internet address and worked with your technology people. I was able to find a very good friend of mine that I have not seen in 23 years!!!

This was like a great weight off my shoulders, and I can't begin to thank-you enough for your papers' help in locating this person. The reason for the letter was as a thank-you and also to help your readers. If they're looking for an old friend or loved one, drop me an E-Mail. I'll help any way I can.

Jim

Editor's Note: Jim lost touch with an Air Force friend (they met in San Francisco). His friend was last known to be in the Pittsburgh area. After searching the Internet, his friend's father was located. Jim has a reunion scheduled with his friend now in Long Island, N.Y.

Subj: Letter to the Editor
Date: 97-02-06 16:41:52 EST
From: Susanpep To: GOLEADER

Dear Editor:

I would like to set the record straight regarding comparing Westfield High School SAT scores from 1972 to 1996, referred to in the February 6 "Letter to the Editor" by John Jaruzelski. The comparisons of SAT scores were made by the Westfield High School Guidance Department based on conversion tables provided by Educational Testing Service for the purpose of comparison. Any comparison that is made between scores using different scoring systems are converted so that real comparisons can be made. Mr. Jaruzelski noted, an 800 in 1996 in math converts to a 730 in the old system, etc.

Mr. Jaruzelski is correct that the Educational Testing Service made a decision to change their scoring system in 1995 and "recenter" the test scores. I'm not taking a position on whether that was a wise decision on their part or not. Nevertheless, the statistics that were reported in THE WESTFIELD LEADER in the discussion of SAT scores on the State Report Card, and the statistics that I quoted in my letter on January 2, compare "apples to apples." A note on the State Report Card also calls attention to the fact that any SAT score reported before 1995 had been converted for comparison.

Susan H. Pepper

Subj: Subscription Date: 97-01-11 00:01:18 EST

From: Tay1960@aol.com

To: GOLEADER@aol.com

I am interested in getting your newspaper delivered to me down here in D.C. I think of my hometown all the time and would like to see how things are going.

Regards, Scott Wythe

Subj: Correction Date: 97-01-15 11:36:06 EST

From: Midl cfs@aol.com

To: GOLEADER@aol.com

Dear Horace and Paul

I was thrilled to be able to read about things Westfield without having to wait for the Thursday paper! One minor correction regarding my term on the Planning Board - I have only been on the Planning Board one year. I was an alternate on the Board of Adjustment in 1994, and a member briefly in 1995. I resigned to assume my council seat in early 1995 to serve the remainder of Ken MacRitchie's term.

Mike Panagos was the council's representative prior to 1996.

I may be sending my first electronic press release out soon. I may also approach you and your friends at Quintillion about EMail communication for the council. Keep looking in your mailbox

Again, great to read about Westfield on more than just Thursday.

Neil Sullivan

Subj: First Night-the forgotten volunteers

Date: 97-01-16 10:43:39 EST

From: Clockmeister@postoffice.worldnet.att.net

To: goleader@aol.com

Dear Editor,

I agree with your editorial in the 1-9-97 issue regarding First Night. It WAS a success. I realize you cannot mention every single event when you write about a celebration of this sort. BUT...perhaps there is one exhibit that you should have mentioned-one that was overlooked by even the First Night Committee.

The First Night Committee asked the Westfield Historical Society to place the Westfield

Town Bell at Broad and Elm Streets for the evening of December 31, 1996. The request went from Ralph Jones, Historical Society Curator, to me, the Town Bell Master. I, in turn, contacted Ken Marsh, Westfield Town Engineer at the Department of Public Works. Mr. Marsh asked Marvin Stith, Supervisor, to arrange with Richard Edge and Mark Mecca, DPW employees, to have the bell in place by 6pm.

No one can forget that New Year's Eve, 1996, was one of the coldest nights of the year, with the temperature dropping to twelve degrees with a chill of -9 degrees. The Broad and Elm intersection was rather desolate that night, save for an enclosed food vendor, spotlights, and the playing of some recorded carols. People walked through on their ways to various venues. The parade came through-twice-early in the evening. The Town Bell was rung vigourously to announce their marching. Children loved it!

The sole source of entertainment and liveliness at Broad and Elm for a solid six hours was the Town Bell. Perhaps we were the ONLY display or event to be OUTSIDE for the entire evening. The Town Bellmaster and DPW employees were standing in that cold air for six hours...with only occassional periods when we could try to keep warm in a truck or bank lobby. Many First Nighters stopped by to inspect, touch, and ring the bell. Several complimented us on our tenacity to remain in the freezing temperatures in order to provide some degree of activity and fun in an area where basically nothing was happening.

Dressed as warmly as possible, we were glad to be a part of the celebration, even when feelings in our toes and fingers became almost non-existent. We were happy to welcome the Mayor, Garland "Bud" Boothe, and his wife, Gail, both of whom give the Town Bell a good tolling. Other notables visited, as well. While Mr. Edge and Mr. Mecca rang the Town Bell for midnight festivities, the Town Bellmaster proceeded to the Town Clock at the Methodist Church to ring in the new year from the tower. This also a request from the First Night Committee.

Volunteers and talent made Westfield's First Night a success. We froze! The memory of that night will remain in our minds for some time to come. But, as always, town residents should recognize and be thankful that the Westfield Historical Society, the Department of Public Works, and the Town Bell Master are all willing to be a part of any celebration in colonial Westfield.

Regards, John R. Panosh, Westfield Town Bell Master & Restorer/Curator of the Westfield Town Clock (visit the hyperlinks below, The Editor).

<http://www.westfieldnj.com/history/clock.htm>

<http://www.westfieldnj.com/history/townbell.htm>

<http://www.wwwebsite.com/ss>

From: Clockmeister@postoffice.worldnet.att.net

Subj: Misquote, I hope!

Date: 97-01-16 11:05:05 EST

From: david.haas@alliedsignal.com

To: goleader@aol.com

I'm sure that Gail Vernik said that the current municipal judge was apolitical not a "politico". Although I didn't hear her, from the context of the paragraph it seems clear that apolitical fits.

(David Haas)

Subj: Downtown Technology Club

Date: 97-01-16 15:44:28 EST

From: bielen@turnaround.com

To: goleader@aol.com

Hello:

I recently visited your web site and saw the article discussing the Downtown Technology Club. I'd like to know if you have any additional information available or a calendar of events.

Any info would be appreciated.

Thanks

Mike Bielen

The Turnaround Team, Inc.

123 South Avenue East

Westfield, NJ 07090

Subj: hello

Date: 97-01-21 13:47:11 EST

From: Joe.Ambrose@worldnet.att.net

To: goleader@aol.com

Hi Horace: Here we are across the street and viewing your terrific website.

Thanks alot from art lucy and joe.

(Joseph Ambrose)

Subj: Tuesdays headlines

Date: 97-01-22 09:19:35 EST

From: MMogielnic@aol.com

To: GOLEADER@aol.com

For the first time this morning I accessed your website. Actually, Mayor Jardim who also is a fan of email suggested that I link into your site. I was amazed to see my picture and headline as the new judge of Westfield. Please feel free to call upon me with any questions in the future.

Thank you.

Judge Mogielnicki

Subj: Your reply+more

Date: 97-01-24 02:51:34 EST

From: Clockmeister@postoffice.worldnet.att.net

To: goleader@aol.com

Dear Mr. Corbin,

Thanks a million for your prompt response to my 1-16-97 e-mail. Just received, in the snail mail, yesterday-1/21/97-the 1/16/97 edition of THE LEADER! No thanks to the Post Office!

I read through the FIRST NIGHT ad on page 2, along with some letters to the editor. Even had a call from a member of the Westfield Historical Society inquiring about the apparent absence of any mention of the Society and the fact that we were "on duty" with the bell on New Year's Eve. Another "follower of the Bell" called and wondered why there was no mention of our "volunterism" since the FIRST NIGHT org. did ask us, through the DPW, to participate. She asked if we thought the organizers were in the crowd at Broad and Elm to ring in 1997. If so, they would have seen and heard the bell.

I suppose you could say that the Westfield Historical Society, the DPW guys, and the Bellmaster still feel just a bit slighted. I don't want to belabor this to great proportions, but the consensus is that a little appreciation is always welcome.

Thanks for your interest and attention by way of the LEADER.

Regards, John R. Panosh, Westfield Town Bellmaster

Subj: Re: Your paper

Date: 97-01-26 08:54:35 EST

From: Occas@aol.com

To: GOLEADER@aol.com

HiHo,

It's much too simple to figure out who I am. Yes, the internet paper is what I was having trouble with, but even with my limited brain capability I was able to figure it out!!! And what are you doing up at that hour of the day? I thought I was an early riser.

Thanks for your swift reply,

Occas

Subj: Re: Great Meeting, Great Future

Date: 97-01-26 12:11:57 EST

From: edgarslb@webspan.net

To: GOLEADER@aol.com

GOLEADER@aol.com wrote: "Thanks for your time Saturday. I'm 150% behind you. We'll kick this into gear in next two weeks."

It was great meeting with you also. I think your idea is really going to take off and am really impressed at your commitment. I look forward to being a charter member of "The Downtown technology Club" and doing whatever I can to further it. A few things I have thought of since we met:

- When (if?) you do get the T-1 and server to establish a Westfield ISP I know someone (also a Westfield resident) who would probably be willing to act as a SYSOP for the system. Let me know if you will be in need of such a person.

- I assume you will be needing a sign for the club's entrance, furniture etc. I would be willing to trade my Web Site design services to someone willing to provide these items. I don't know if this is helpful but maybe in conjunction to some free publicity it may be an enticement. As you can tell I am always thinking of the cheap way out! :-)

- If you think it is worth pursuing a Master Westfield Home page I would be willing to contact the different parties to see where they stand on the issue.

Goleader writes: "Do you have expertise in Win 95 network setup to help the girls downstairs with the newspaper before I get "run out" of the office?"

I don't think you could call it "expertise" because I do not do it day in and day out but I am familiar with the software. I doubt if I could do over the phone "tech help" for complicated problems but certainly would be more than happy to give whatever assistance I can via phone or in person and I do not foresee a need to charge for these services. Just assure your staff that this is just "growing pains" and (really) it will be sorted out soon enough.

I didn't get a chance to offer one more solution to your AOL problems. Try setting up a new location using your ATT Worldnet phone number as the phone number and setting the drop down box to ATT Worldnet. I am not sure this will work for you (because of your special account) but it is worth a try to avoid the busy signals and the worst that will happen is it just will not let you log onto AOL.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and working with you to establish to first successful community technology club in Union County!

Pete Billson

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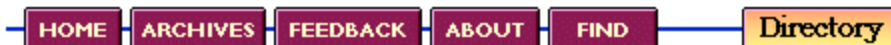
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SCHWABISCHE POST

SCHWABISCHE POST
Tageszeitung für den Ostalbkreis im Altkreis Aalen
28.000 Exemplare. 88.537 Leser
Marktführer mit 70% Marktanteil bei lokalen Tageszeitungen



Anzeigenzeitung im Altkreis Aalen (65.000 Auflage)
Reichweite 129.960 Leser. Marktführer

Friday, January 24, 1997 (Jeff Becker to Westfield Leader)

Subject: Re: The Excellent Diner in Aalen

Date: Fri, 17 Jan 1997 09:08:26 +0100

From: Rainer Haegele <rhaege@rzws.fh-aalen.de>

Reply-To: 141.18.212.100@rzws.fh-aalen.de

Organization: FH - Aalen

To: jeffb@clientsfirst.com

Hi Jeffrey,

Thanks for visit(ing) my homepage.

It is not very beautiful but I am working really hard on it :

You have luck, I know the Excellent Diner where you can taste the American life stil(style).
You can find the Excellent Diner in the area "Industriegebiet" near Aalen.

Aalen is a small town with about 60000 citizen. The city is located 60 km north from the city
Ulm and 100 km east from the city Stuttgart.

The information from The Westfield Leader is wrong, because Aalen is not 200 km northerly
from Munich.

The information you need is simple. The only newspaper in Aalen you can find in Internet is called "Schwdbische Post". The location is: [http://www *schwaer\)o.de](http://www.schwaer)o.de)

You can contact them via e-mail with <mailto:sdz-aalen@t-online.de>

Greetings

Rainer Hdgele

rhaege@nocws.rzws.fh-aalen.de.rzws.fh-aalen.de

Subject: RE: The Excellent Diner (Jeffrey Becker)

Date: Mon, 27 Jan 97 09:23 +0100 (sdz-aalen)

From: sdz-aalen@t-online.de

To: jeffb@clientsfirst.com

Dear Jeff!

Thanks for mailing us!

We are the lokal newspaper here in Aalen, but having no Contact to the exellent diner (there is a new owner, i have know the old one as well, but haven't contact to the new one.)

I send you by snail mail one copy of our local newspaper.

Please let me know, if i can do more for you! If you need more help, we can start an story in the newspaper to help you.

Greetings Uli

Ulrich.Stettergt-online.de

mailbox:/Macintosh%20HD/System%20Folder/Pref

Subj: How are you? Date: 97-01-18 13:39:57 EST

From: Zip 07090@aol.com

To: GOLEADER@aol.com

File: DINER.JPG (12808 bytes)

Dear Horace,

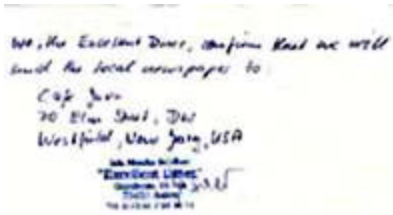
How are you?

The Westfield Leader online looks great! I have received several e-mails asking for its address and I have been referring people to <http://www.quintillion.com/leader>

I decided to take the challenge and enter your Excellent Diner contest. It wasn't easy, [doing it entirely over the Internet (in English)] but I managed to receive confirmation via e-mail yesterday. Please see the attached "image document".

If I am one of the 5 winners, I would like to donate my free membership in the Downtown Technology Club to an aspiring teenager in Westfield who does not have Internet access from home. I miss the Excellent Diner and the family who owned it...we used to eat there every week and the poster would preserve some of those memories.

Speak to you soon, Darryl



Words in the image: "We the Excellent Diner confirm that we will send the local newspaper to Cafe Java, 70 Elm St., Westfield, NJ 07090 USA" - included is the Excellent Diner receipt rubber stamp. The Editor

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Westfield School Board Okays Renovations to District's Administration Building on Elm St.

FACILITIES UNIT RECOMMENDS SALE OF LINCOLN SCHOOL

by Anna Murray for *The Westfield Leader*, 01/23/97

At Tuesday evening's public meeting of the Westfield Board of Education, Facilities Committee Chairwoman Darielle M. Walsh presented committee recommendations for the renovation and upgrade of the Elm Street administration facility. The board approved these recommendations by a 7-1 count, with Vice Chairman John M. Toriello as the lone dissenting vote.

The 81 year-old building is classified as being in good condition and currently houses all the district administrative offices as well as a maintenance garage. However, because the Elm Street School was built in 1914, it is not a code compliant, handicapped-accessible building.

M. Disko Engineering, a company contracted to provide professional expertise to the district, estimated the cost of bringing the building up to code and safety standards to be \$550,000. Disko has also recommended restoration and repairs to the building that would include sidewalks, entrance, foundation and fire control detectors at an additional cost of \$465,000. The Disko recommendations also included an estimate to provide a suitable community meeting room in the existing auditorium for \$280,000.

The former Lincoln School, located at 728 Westfield Avenue and currently utilized by the Union County Educational Services Commission, was rejected as a possible relocation site for the administrative offices. "There are several objections to moving the board's administrative offices from Elm Street to the Lincoln School site," said Mrs. Walsh. "An estimated investment of \$1.57 million for necessary alterations is required," according to the Disko report. "Since the Lincoln site does not have a maintenance facility, one would have to be constructed, causing possible resistance from area residents. Moving and relocation expenses are estimated at an additional \$98,000.

Recommendation of the Facilities Committee was approved to make necessary renovations to the Elm Street building and provide approval and authorization to the administration to prepare specific plans for bids to address code and safety requirements, building repairs, renovations and improvements.

The Finance Committee has been asked to prepare a report by Tuesday, February 25, detailing how expenses for the renovations will be funded. The Facilities Committee put forth a recommendation that the Lincoln School be sold to fund the renovations at Elm Street. The 1996 appraised value of Lincoln School was \$ 1.1 million. Currently, the facility is rented to the Union County Educational Services through June of 1998. Although the board receives \$122,000 annually in rent, projected operating and maintenance costs will result in a \$28,000 drain to the budget yearly for the next 20 years, officials indicated.

The final decision will now go to the Finance Committee, including the recommendation on how to pay for the renovations to the Elm Street building.

Commenting from the audience was Alice Hunnicutt who said, "I applaud your efforts to refurbish the building. The community and future employees will benefit from improved accessibility to the facility."

Earlier in the evening, Darlene Nowak, Director of Technology for the Westfield public schools, presented a detailed report evaluating the use of Dream Writers in the elementary schools. The Dream Writer is a small laptop device used as a word processing tool, calculator, world clock and calendar. According to Ms. Nowak, the Dream Writer fits the district's needs for increased computer access at the elementary level while dealing with space and electricity constraints.

One hundred and forty elementary school teachers have been trained in the use of the Dream Writer, mostly during summer months. Ms. Nowak's report indicated that after four months, 390 lesson plans incorporating the devices were presented to district students. In follow-up sessions with teachers, Ms. Nowak has received positive comments on the use of Dream Writers. "Teachers have reported that when students use the Dream Writer they have a high rate of success immediately and are therefore motivated to continue. Both students and teachers find relief on how quickly projects can be completed. Everyone can write and print in the same day, allowing time for editing and sharing," she said.

Other positive indicators on the impact Dream Writers have had are increased skill levels in keyboarding and increased length of first draft writing issues from students. According to Ms. Nowak, the significance of a longer first draft is that a child has "more ideas on paper and more clay to work with in the revision process."

Teachers have also reported that the Dream Writer gives students a chance to exercise "real-world" problem solving skills. They are learning how to save reports, the vocabulary of the computer and different computer functions that challenge adults every day.

Despite the success of the Dream Writer there are some challenges that will be addressed by administrators, principals and Ms. Nowak. Introducing an

entire school community to the devices in one semester was a challenge," said Ms. Nowak. "We will need to devise a plan to help early grade teachers introduce the device to their classes and paraprofessionals to help younger students become comfortable with the keyboard." Currently, only 30 Dream Writers per school are available.

Later in the evening, the board approved a resolution to appoint Andrea Kahn of the Law firm McManiman & Scotland to provide specialized legal services necessary in connection with the financing of school building programs and the issuance or sale of temporary notes or bonds. The board action is related to the possible technology bond referendum presently under board consideration.

Long Range Planning Committee Chairman Thomas P. Madaras announced that on Thursday, January 30, the public is invited to attend a working meeting where the committee and six Parent-Teacher Organization representatives will discuss redistricting. No formal plans are presently slated for discussion. The meeting will be held in the Elm Street meeting room at 8:30 p.m.



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In Spite of Public Opposition, Developer Acquires Open-Ended Extension for Purchasing Rialto Theatre from United Artists

by Suzette Stalker for *The Westfield Leader*, 01/23/97

Developer Herman "Hy" Carlinsky, the President of Armstrong Management Corporation in Long Island, was granted another extension last week on his deadline to purchase the Rialto Theatre from United Artists, while supporters of the theater continued to investigate prospects for preserving the 75-yearold East Broad Street landmark.

Mr. Carlinsky, whose most recent deadline for closing the deal with the Denver-based conglomerate had been January 15, confirmed to The Westfield Leader on Tuesday that he has now been given an "open-ended" extension on his option to buy the Rialto. United Artists announced last year that it was selling many of its smaller theaters and is now concentrating on multiplexes which can generate greater profits.

The developer said the latest extension was issued in order to give him additional time to work with the community on proposals for the theater building. He had been granted several previous extensions last year while he pursued a lease agreement with The Gap, Inc., which has since scrubbed its plans to open a store on the Rialto site.

A local "Save the Rialto" committee, organized through Westfield "MainStreet", has been working with Mr. Carlinsky on proposals for retaining the beloved theater, which has stood in the heart of Westfield's downtown since the vaudeville era and continues to show first-run feature films on its three screens.

One concept which the committee and Mr. Carlinsky are currently considering is for the second floor of the Rialto to be developed as a four- or five-screen theater, with the first floor to be converted into retail. A ground floor lobby on the East Broad Street side of the corner building would allow movie patrons to enter and exit.

"I would think that long-term, that's a very real solution, even though we want to have a movie theater," remarked Westfield MainStreet Program Manager Michele Picou, who added that details of the proposal are still under discussion. Citing the Rialto's prime location in the business district, she noted that "most of the healthy downtowns are going toward a mix of shopping and entertainment".

According to "Save The Rialto" spokesman David Owens, Mr. Carlinsky's original proposal had been to develop only the first floor of the building. Supporters of the theater, however, favor having him renovate the entire building, with the new second-floor cinema space to be leased to a movie theater operator. He said prospective theater operator tenants have already expressed interest in the proposed arrangement.

Although the Rialto faces tough competition from the Sony Theaters 10-plex on Route 22, East, in Mountainside, Mr. Owens maintained that "there are theater operators who have a niche market in theaters like ours." Its supporters argue the Rialto is still economically viable and could attract new audiences offering such specialty fare as foreign films and children's movies; using innovative booking techniques and by supplying refreshment alternatives to the usual popcorn and soda.

Mr. Carlinsky acknowledged officials at The Gap, Inc.'s corporate offices in San Francisco recently notified him that they were no longer interested in putting a retail store on the Rialto property because of widespread public opposition to the plan, including threats to boycott existing Gap stores if the theater was converted into retail. The Gap, Inc. already has two stores in Westfield.

Officials at The Gap, Inc., reportedly made their decision after a representative from their corporate real estate department quietly paid a visit to the town in early December to personally gauge the feelings of residents concerning the retail proposal and to inspect the theater site. The company representative found that public sentiment appeared to be unanimous in support of preserving the theater, Mrs. Picou said.

Mr. Carlinsky indicated he would pursue another lease agreement with a retailer if the proposal for combined use of the building turned out to be the "ultimate plan". He explained that "it's the retail that will make the deal work financially," unless another alternative could be found whereby the site could successfully remain exclusively a movie theater.



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County Manager Unveils \$276.5 Million Budget With Zero Tax Increase Over 196 Spending Plan

by Paul Peyton for *The Westfield Leader*, 01/23/97

Union County Manager Ann M. Baran unveiled the county's executive budget of \$276.5 million last week which shows no increase in the county tax levy. Last year's executive budget of \$274.1 million contained an increase of 1 percent (which was reduced to no tax hike in the budget adopted by the Republican majority).

Control of the board reverted to the Democrats on January 1 for the first time in six years. During the campaign, Democratic Freeholder candidates said the board should have actually delivered a tax cut last year.

Democratic Freeholder Finance Committee Chairman Walter D. McNeil, Jr. said last week that he would like the Freeholders to adopt the 1997 budget by the end of March. The budget will now go to the committee, which will make any changes it foresees before presenting it to the full board for introduction. A public hearing will then be set for public comments and a vote by the board.

In her report dated January 15 to the board, Mrs. Baran noted that since 1990, when she was appointed County Manager, the county's reliance on property taxes to pay for its budget has been reduced 17.9 percent. In fact, she estimates that by 1999, the county may actually witness a 2 percent tax reduction, based on current projections. The reliance on property taxes has dropped by 5 percent of the total budget over the past six years. The tax levy was 3.50 percent in 1994 and 2.99 percent in 1995.

A total of \$152.5 million, or 55 percent of this year's proposed budget, would be supported by taxes. Other county revenue sources would chip in an additional \$80.2 million (29 percent of the budget), with state and federal aid accounting for \$23.7 million, or 9 percent of the total spending plan.

The largest percentage of the budget, \$87.7 million, or 32 percent, is for health and welfare followed by general government, which accounts for \$51.6 million, or 19 percent of the total budget.

A total of \$22.3 million, 8 percent, is slated for maintenance and repair of roads and bridges, while \$13.7 million is destined for education and recreation costs.

In an effort to save dollars, Mrs. Baran said the county has encouraged department managers to keep positions vacant "when immediate replacements are not critical" to the daily operation of their offices. Also, programs are now funded based on a careful analysis of program requirements and its level of priority." In the past, funding was based on the previous year's expenditures.

One area the county has seen a reduction in costs is the courts. Under the Judicial Unification Act, which became law in January of 1995, this cost has been reduced over the past three years. Funding for the county courts this year is slated at \$8.6 million, a reduction of \$2.2 million from last year's budget. This is the last year the courts will be included in the county budget, as the state will assume the complete costs in 1998 following approval of a referendum by voters state-wide several years ago.

Among the major capital projects which the Freeholders need to make final decisions on this year are the proposed Juvenile Detention Center, improvements to the Trap and Skeet facility in Cranford, construction of a new clubhouse at the Oak Ridge Golf Course in Clark, development of a driving range on the Galloping Hill Golf Course in Union, and a Magnet High School in Scotch Plains.

Last year the Democrats, which held four seats on the Freeholder board, managed to defeat the juvenile detention center project. They stated at the time that the estimated \$45 million cost was too steep. They wanted the project scaled down with the proposed parking garage and cogeneration plant eliminated.

The existing detention facility was built in 1968 over a parking garage in Elizabeth and designed for 27 juveniles. The current population is 55 detainees. The county was directed last year by the State Department of Community Affairs to retrofit the existing facility to meet safety codes and other requirements.

Under the Republican majority in 1994, the board decided to build a new facility. The county purchased an existing building on Rahway Avenue in Elizabeth for the site of the new complex. The plan, developed with recommendations from various county departments, called for a facility with 72 beds.

The Public Safety Building, estimated at \$10 million, has been proposed at the county's complex on North Avenue in Westfield. The new facility would house the county police headquarters, the Prosecutor's forensic crime laboratory, and the communications network for the county's 911 emergency system, along with the Office of Emergency Management.

The Magnet High School, for intense study of science, mathematics and technology, is proposed to open this fall, although action will be required by the Freeholder board. The school, to be located within the Vocational-Technical Schools in Scotch Plains, would accept up to 240 students. The

initial freshman class would include 60 students.

In terms of the Oak Ridge clubhouse, Mrs. Baran has recommended that the board approve the final design and specifications for a new clubhouse. An architect was retained last year to develop conceptual plans for the facility. The board decided to "mothball" the existing clubhouse due to its historic significance.

She also has recommended that the board reach an accord on remediation plans for the Trap and Skeet facility at Lenape Park in Cranford. The renovation project calls for reconstruction of the existing field house with a large deck for field observation, nature study and other non-shooting recreational activities. Four existing fields will also be reconstructed in their current location.

The board will be asked to make a final decision on the selection of a conceptual design for the driving range at Galloping Hill. The proposed facility would feature a year round area consisting of 40 stalls with a new facility.



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Union County Freeholder

Linda Stender



Insert Stender Bio and Statements here.

Update her statements as required

Contact Freeholder Stender by Email below

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <i>WCA Engineers</i> | Assisted Living | |
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Union County Freeholder

Carol Cohen



Insert Cohen Bio and Statements here.

Update her statements as required

Contact Freeholder Cohen by Email below

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Westfield Judge:

Marion S. Mogielnicki

Takes Oath as Town Judge

Marion S. Mogielnicki, a 13-year resident of Westfield and life-time resident of Union County, was recently appointed to a three-year term as Westfield Municipal Judge. She was sworn in by Union County Superior Court Judge Edward W. Beglin, Jr. last Friday.

Ms. Mogielnicki is a 1982 graduate of Seton Hall University School of Law in Newark, where she was awarded the Seton Hall University Centennial Scholarship and was elected Assistant Editor of the *Seton Hall Law Review*. Following law school she served as law clerk to Judge Louis H. Miller, Jr., Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division. Thereafter, she was associated with law firms in Linden and Westfield, where she worked as a general practitioner and commercial law litigator.

In 1989, Ms. Mogielnicki was the Democratic candidate for the Westfield Town Council from the Second Ward. In addition, she has been involved in the town community as a former member of the Westfield Rotary Club and the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce. In 1990, after serving on the Board of Directors for three years, Ms. Mogielnicki was elected President of the Union County chapter of the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners. She has also been active in the Westfield-based support organization Women for Women, primarily by performing pro bono legal services for women in crisis.

As an attorney in private practice with offices located on Lenox Avenue in Westfield, Judge Mogielnicki has concentrated her practice in the area of family law, including the issues of divorce, child support, alimony, equitable distribution of property, visitation and custody. She also practices in the areas of real estate, estates and wills. Judge Mogielnicki is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association, Family Law Section, as well as the Union County Bar Association.

Prior to attending law school, Ms. Mogielnicki served as staff assistant to United States Senator Harrison A. Williams, Jr. in Washington, D.C. and from 1974 to 1977 worked as Special Assistant to former Governor Brendan T. Byrne, at the State House in Trenton.



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Megan Sheehy Honored As Soccer All-American



AMERICA'S FINEST

Megan Sheehy of the Westfield High School girls' soccer team was selected New Jersey Player of the Year and was named an All-American by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Westfield High School girls' soccer player, Megan Sheehy, was honored, along with a select number of girls throughout the country, at a dinner on January 18 as an All-American Soccer Player.



The dinner was part of the National Soccer Convention which was held in Nashville, Tennessee from January 16 through January 19.

Sheehy was selected as a high school All-American midfielder by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. In addition, Sheehy was named New Jersey Player of the Year.

The 1996 Westfield High School girls' soccer team, which finished with a 20-3 record, ranked as the 20th best girls' high school soccer team in the nation.



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"Vietnam to Desert Storm"

Thanks, Stan for Serving Your Country

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Popcorn™

Movie Review by Michael Goldberger

"Evita"

[3 Popcorns](#)

(1-Poor 2-Fair 3-Good 4-Excellent)



It is amazing how so very little about something can prove so hugely entertaining. Even when it's saying absolutely nothing, the powerfully pleasant "Evita" is revving its tuneful engine. Screaming its mythic gospel.

Chalk it up to uncanny mood evocation by director Alan Parker, a deft perpetuation of the folklore surrounding Eva Peron by the screenwriters, and peerless production standards. Oh, and then there's the matter of acting. After much hype and endless ballyhoo, the jury is in. Madonna, the self-proclaimed material girl, the virtual princess of in-your-face stardom, is tops in the title role.

To call "Evita" a musical is a misnomer. Virtually all the dialogue is sung, irrepressibly hitched to the music originally composed for the stage by the ubiquitous Andrew Lloyd Webber. Hence, this spirited work based on the lyrics originally penned by Tim Rice is, more correctly, a rock opera a la "Tommy." (Robert Stigwood, who produced the movie "Tommy," is aboard here)

But, save for the imbedding strains of "Don't Cry For Me, Argentina," the bulk of this show's songs are less stand-alone numbers than they are musical accompaniment for a series of very emotive images. The exception that proves the rule is "You Must Love Me," a worthy new addition to the original score.

"Evita" can be likened to an attractive puff pastry, evanescent in its impact, and not to be taken seriously. It's the fear that viewers will accept this popular chronicle as truth that sends shivers up the collective spines of historians. Naturally, it reads like a fable.

In rural Argentina, in the mid 1920s, a poor little girl is denied entrance to her father's funeral. Her mother was not married to the man, and the abashed widow refuses the child admittance to the ritual. Little Eva Duarte has chutzpah, as they may be apt to say down Argentine way. She crashes the funeral. As the story goes, it's this kind of determination that leads Eva to her destiny. After sleeping her way to moderate success as a radio actor in Buenos Aires, she similarly climbs a few more rungs of status and becomes the wife of President Juan Peron.

To the backdrop of political unrest and governmental cataclysm exploding around every corner, which is always good reason for song, Eva eventually wins the unqualified love of the people. A self-immortalizing mystique soon surrounds her.

In the movie's most novel bit of dramaturgy, Antonio Banderas excels as Che, the beguiling narrator who does double duty as the representative soul of Argentina. He sets the tone, establishes the meter, and points the way to every desired emotion. He is absolutely aces. And if it weren't for Madonna's death-grip hold on this career plum of a role, Banderas's picaresque everyman would surely steal the show.

A series of tightly-tied, lickety-split vignettes, directed with formidable fluidity by filmmaker Parker, serve to emphasize something or other about Evita. Just what, it's never quite clear. Maybe that's a metaphor for the whole shebang. Or, maybe it's all just a lot of colorful bunk. Hazy can often be mistaken for mystifying.

Doubtless, in the more scholarly accounts of this page in history, there are contravening opinions on the much adored wife of Argentina's fascist dictator. But while director Parker's script, co-written with Oliver Stone, may pretend a legitimate account, its real forte is in romanticizing the sights and sounds of history. The pageant of time in sound-bites. In Kodak moments.

Madonna's saintly Evita visits the peasants, kisses babies, listens to an old woman's concerns in beautifully framed sepia hues; at the center of a labor union protest, Evita as Joan of Arc addresses the people, promising whatever it is that living legends promise.

Close-ups of the downtrodden, now given hope, show thankful eyes welling with tears of adoration. And on and on.....the camera shamelessly canonizes its subject. While there is no substance, Madonna supplies the mother lode of wonderfully extravagant texture.

It takes a paradigmatic legend to know one. Taking her cue from Alan Parker, from Broadway, from Hollywood and, ultimately, from her own great sense of ego, Madonna is indeed "Evita." Maybe they deserve each other. "Evita," rated PG-13, is a Hollywood Pictures release directed by Alan Parker and stars Madonna, Antonio Banderas, and Jonathan Pryce. Running time: 131 minutes

ALSO SEEN: "Mother"(PG-13)(3 popcorns)-Albert Brooks's latest psycho-babble, this time about mother-son relationships, is witty, wise, and off-the-wall enough to cause belly laughs along with chortles and titters. A man in his 40s (Brooks as sci-fi writer John Henderson) has just concluded his second divorce and figures a refresher course on his upbringing may give him the insight he needs to move on with his life. So he decides to move back in with Mom (Debbie Reynolds in a dynamite performance) and claim his old room. Expect the expected as well as the unexpected as Brooks does Freud and the Baby-Boomer, adroitly applying his funny bone to the subject at hand.

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Paris, France to The Leader:

Subject: Great Web site

Date: 97-01-16 03:19:10 EST

To: The Westfield Leader on the Internet

Congratulations on a marvelous new web site. As Westfielders spending a year overseas for job and family health reasons, we have already found the Leader's new web page to be a wonderful way for us to stay in touch with the news back home. Since we discovered the page a week ago, our three year old, who misses Westfield enormously, asks on a daily basis to "go to Westfield" to see the photogallery.

Keep up the great innovation.

Sincerely,

Joel, Pascale, David and Jeremy Reidenberg

(PS-- Hope you put up more sections of the paper like the Editorials and Letters to the Editor.)

Joel R. Reidenberg Visiting Professor 1996/97, Universite de Paris I (Pantheon-Sorbonne)

Email: reidenberg@sprynet.com

--



Christmas Ice Art for David and Jeremy from your Leader friends at Elm Street, Westfield

Subj: Re: Hello from Westfield Leader
Date: 97-01-24 10:58:20 EST
From: reidenberg@sprynet.com
To: GOLEADER@aol.com

Hello Joel,

Did you get any mail from Westfield? I had calls about how neat your letter was. I'm trying to get going on posting Letters and Editorials as you suggested. Shortly, we'll be regular and more prolific. Hope you stay tuned.

Regards, Horace
Westfield Leader

Bonjour,

I did indeed get one e-mail message from the Leader posting! I'll check to see if I saved the copy. It had a great quotable quote-- something like "I can't believe how wonderful this world is getting to be". I'll definitely be staying tuned.

Regards.

Joel

[Return to Letters to the NetEditor](#)



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Contest - Our Excellent Diner (There are Winners!)



[More Photos Submitted!](#)

The Excellent Diner, formerly of Westfield and pictured above now in Germany, is located about 200 kilometers north of Munich in the southernmost portion of the town of Aalen.

The Westfield Leader wishes to send a subscription to the Excellent Diner in exchange for their local paper being sent to the Cafe Java, 70 Elm Street, Westfield 07090. This is the basis for the Contest.

Anyone making the above newspaper exchange arrangements by using the Internet will receive a full size color poster printout (20" by 30") of the photograph above plus a one year free membership to the Downtown Technology Club. Up to 5 winners will be awarded; first come basis; all issues and judgements are subject to the sole discretion of the Editor.

[See some of the Results! Click Here.](#)

There are winners! If you tried hard without success, submit an E-mail to the Leader describing your efforts. We will judge the letters received to determine the remaining winners.



Jeff Becker of Westfield Wins, January 31, 1997

Sponsored by

Cafe Java, 70 Elm St.

The Downtown Technology Club, 52 Elm St.

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High School Wrestling - Tezucar and Friedman Win as Kearny Tops Westfield 45-26

By DAVID B. CORBIN for The Westfield Leader and The Times



Onur Tezucar exhibited versatility and Nick Friedman displayed determination as each posted victories for the Blue Devils last Friday in Westfield. The Kardinals got off quickly to a 21-0 lead, winning by fall at the 103-pound class, by forfeit at 112, by fall at 119 and by close decision at 125.

Dann Todd of the Blue Devils lost a very close decision at the 125-pound class to Santiago Almeida by a score of 7-6. A five-point third period for Almeida snatched the victory from Todd. Westfield's first win came at the 130-pound class when Friedman edged Israel Ormaza, 8-7. Friedman scored four times on two-point reversals, one of which was in the final period, to pull out a come-from-behind victory. The win put the team score to 21-3.

Jarrett Kamins, last week's upset winner over Jay Smith of Rahway, lost a heart breaker to Mike Gonzalez of the Kardinals in overtime at the 135-pound class by a 7-5 decision to make the team score 24-3. Kamins took advantage of a missed headlock attempt by Gonzalez in the first period to score a two-point takedown but was the victim of a successful tight-waist tilt which gave Gonzalez points in the second period. The match was tied at the end of the third period, 5-5, which then sent the match into overtime when Gonzalez scored a takedown on Kamins to win the bout.

At 140, sophomore Onur Tezucar used a multitude of moves to stun Marco

Leiva, out-pointing him 20-5 and winning by technical fall which added five team points for the Blue Devils. Tezucar used his leverage to take Leiva to the mat and put him on his back in the first period. By the end of the first period, Tezucar commanded a 7-2 lead. Further superiority was displayed when Tezucar accumulated two more near falls and a reversal in the second period. Finally, Tezucar put Leiva out of his misery by adding another near fall and a takedown to end the match.

Senior Brian Joffe, at 145, also suffered an overtime loss losing to Danny Aravjo, 8-6. Although Joffe battled back from a 5-0 first period deficit and executed a fine standing-forward roll escape move, it wasn't enough as Aravjo took the initiative in overtime to score the winning takedown.

Kearny increased its lead 33-8 when Les Glazewski pinned Avi Goldman in 0:31 at the 152-pound class. Westfield added 12 more team points when John Jones decked Dave Polaski in 1:38 at 160 and Mike Baly won via forfeit when the Kardinals avoided sending a wrestler to the mat at the 171-pound class.

At 189, sophomore Blue Devil Rich Hatfield brought the team score as close as it would get at 33-26 by flattening Sean Courter in 3:18. The Kardinals put the finishing touches on the match when Anthony DiStano pinned Brian Williams in 2:37 at the 215-pound class and Anthony Luaces received a forfeit in the Heavyweight class. Junior Baly remains undefeated and sophomore Tezucar has only one blemish to his record.

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Westfield Republicans, Democrats End Stalemate

Marion Mogielnicki Named Municipal Judge, Replacing Judge Edward Hobbie

Assistant Attorney Named; Expected to take Charles Brandt Position Next Year

By PAUL J. PEYTON

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The stalemate between the Republican majority and their Democratic counterparts on the Town Council over proposed appointments by new Democratic Mayor Thomas C. Jardim ended late Monday night following almost three hours of closed door negotiations intended to "clear the air." Negotiations had been held throughout the week including a two-hour session Sunday night to no resolve.

Both sides of the aisle continued to pass a list of appointments back and forth, according to Third Ward Councilman John J. Walsh who represented the Democrats along with Mayor Jardim during the process. Councilman Walsh called Tuesday night's marathon private session just the "tip of the iceberg" in terms of all the previous meetings which began December 15.

Mayor Jardim admitted at one point in the evening he did not think an agreement would be worked out. He said he was close to moving ahead with the appointments and let the Republicans voting against them if he chose. He credited Republican Second Ward Councilman James J. Gruba, he referred as a "class act," with refusing to give up on the negotiations despite the pressure he was getting from both Democrats as well as his own party.

"We stuck with it in a very difficult time," the Mayor said. "It was a good win for everyone."

The stalemate caused the Board of Health and the Westfield Recreation Commission to cancel their monthly meetings. The Recreation Commission did not have a Chairman since that position is appointed annually by the Mayor, while the Board of Health did not meet since four seats on the nine-member had yet to be filled.

Mayor Jardim and his running mates Mr. Walsh and Fourth Ward Lawrence A. Goldman swept Republicans Norman N. Greco, the Mayoral contender, and his running mates Anthony N. Palumbo and Janis Fried Weinstein. Mayor Jardim is the first Democrat in 85 years to serve in the role. The four seats in the town government are the most the Democratic party has held at any one time.

Among the changes agreed to were the appointment of Marion Mogielnicki as Westfield Municipal Court Judge over current Judge Edward J. Hobbie who has held the post for the past 12 years. The appointment is for three years. She was described by Mayor Jardim as "a real good lawyer" who knows the Prosecutor and the new Public Defender who will serve under her.

"It is good to have a female face" on the court, the Mayor explained. He said she comes "highly recommended" by members of both political parties.

Councilman Walsh said Mrs. Mogielnicki "will make an excellent judge." He said now that an agreement has been struck, the council can get on with "running the government."

Councilman Gruba said the new judge's experience as an attorney in the community make her satisfactory to fill the post. "She will be judged on how she conducts herself as a jurist," he explained.

Town Attorney Charles H. Brandt was re-appointed in what is expected to be his last year serving in that role. This is his 20th year as Town Attorney.

An Assistant Town Attorney position was approved with the intention of allowing this person to be an apprentice before taking over for Mr. Brandt next year. Also re-appointed was Rick Danzer as Labor Attorney. That post was also rumored to have been sticking point.

A practicing attorney with an office in Westfield, Mrs. Mogielnicki has filled in as Public Defender. The new Judge, who will be sworn later this week or early next week by a Superior Court judge, ran an unsuccessful bid against former Mayor Garland C. "Bud" Boothe, Jr. for the Second Ward council seat in 1989.

Mrs. Mogielnicki, a 13-year resident, said she was "very excited" to have the opportunity to serve the town as judge. She called Judge Hobbie "very well respected" by his peers. She will sit in on this week's court sessions before taking over on Tuesday, January 21.

First Ward Councilwoman Gail S. Vernick, who represented the Republicans along with Mr. Gruba, said she was "very happy" both sides were able to come away with an agreement where both parties on the council are "somewhat happy." "We came to a meeting of the minds. We both came away with something we can live with," she added. She credited Fourth Ward Councilman James Hely for helping to end the impasse.

Although saying she wished Judge Hobbie could have been re-appointed, Councilwoman Vernick said the Republicans decided they had to move off their stand in order for Westfield's government to become functioning again. She referred to the effort made by the Democrats during the negotiations as "taking two steps forward and 10 steps backward". She said it was a shame that he was being removed by the Democrats for "partisan" reasons. She called him "apolitical," adding that has done a "admirable" job for the town.

Mayor Jardim, during his brief comments during the meeting, credited Councilman Gruba and Council woman Vernick for their efforts in reaching the accord.

After the long session, council members of both parties could be seen walking the hallways together in an attempt to reach an accord. Finally, at about 11:15 p.m. the council poured into the dais to take their seats.

Another change was the appointment of Pam McClure to the Planning Board over former Councilman and Mayoral contender Anthony M. La Porta who had been proposed by Mayor Jardim.

Councilman Walsh said the Republicans made it clear they would reject any list of Mayoral appointments that included Mr. La Porta's name for a seat on the Planning Board. Mr. La Porta captured 48 percent of the total vote in losing to Mr. Boothe in the 1994 Mayoral race. He served as First Ward Councilman in 1993 and 1994.

Ms. McClure previously served on the Board of Adjustment as an alternate in 1990, 1991, and 1993, and ran unsuccessfully in the 1991 Republican Primary against former Councilman Kenneth L. MacRitchie in the Third Ward.

Town Engineer Kenneth B. Marsh was re-appointed for one year. In Westfield, the Town Engineer is a voting member of the board.

Ms. McClure's term will expire at the end of the year 2000 as will that of William Brennan who was also named to the board. Martin Robbins was appointed to the First Alternate spot. The two-year term expires at the end of 1998.

In terms of the Town Attorney post, Republicans agreed with the Democratic proposal to create the position of Assistant Town Attorney for this year. Mr. Hely, the senior Democrat on the council, said the intention is to provide a transition before Paul Strauchler assumes the post next year.

Mr. Strauchler, a member of the law firm of Post & Pollak of Roseland, "was immediately acceptable to the Republicans", said Councilman Walsh. Post & Pollak represents the Borough of Mountainside. John N. Post, a partner in the firm, has held the Borough Attorney position for years.

Also, Robert Goodsell, another member of the firm, is General Counsel for

the Warren Township Sewer Authority, according to Mayor Jardim. The Mayor said he is happy with the appointment of Mr. Strauchler, adding the firm itself has additional resources which could aid the town in the future.

The Mayor said he did not to deprive Mr. Brandt of his full 20-year pension and also wanted Mr. Strauchler to learn from his experience.

In viewing the Town Attorney as the "personal attorney" for the Mayor, Councilman Walsh said Mayor Jardim put forward Mr. Strauchler's name. A Westfield resident, he specializes in real estate although he does has have a handle on municipal government.

One position that was agreed to sometime last week was that of the Public Defender. Former Democratic Councilman Michael Diamond was appointed to a one-year term. He replaces Christine Nugent who was recently named to a full-time post of Deputy County Counsel by the new Democratic controlled Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. She held a part-time position last year.

The full-time county post opened up upon the resignation of Henry Ogden, the son of former Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden.

Councilman Walsh said the agreement the Democrats thought they had ironed out with Republicans prior to last week's council meeting changed when Ms. Nugent declined to be re-appointed thus throwing that position into the mix.

Councilman Hely was named Acting Mayor with new Democratic Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence A. Goldman appointed Alternate Acting Mayor.

Councilman Gruba said the negotiations were "conducted on a progressive basis" but moved forward nonetheless. He emphasized that there was a "spirit of cooperation and a desire to reach an understanding" by each member of the council.

He said a number of persons were penciled into positions and than taken off the table during the negotiations.

"I believe there was a strong intent on everyone's part from the beginning to put appropriate people in the positions," he said, explaining that by "appropriate" he means people qualified to serve in the role they were being put forward for.

Lawrence C. Mannino was re-appointed to a full four-year term on the Board of Adjustment. Due to the fact he had not been re-appointed as of Monday night, the board's Vice Chairman, G. Graydon Curtis, was forced to fill in as Chairman during the board's first meeting of the year. Also appointed to the board was David Haas. His term will expire at the end of next year.

Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan was re-appointed to the Planning Board as the council representative. This marks the fourth consecutive year he will serve on the board. He was an alternate in 1994 and has served last year as the Class No. 3 member. Court Administrator Linda Chieffo and Prosecutor Rafael J. Betancourt were both re-appointed by the governing body. Both are annual appointments.

Drew Harris, Lawrence Budnick, Town Administrator Edward A. Gottko, and Ellen Pollack were named to the Board of Health. The terms of Mr. Harris and Mr. Budnick are for four years while Mr. Gottko and Ms. Pollack were appointed to alternate seats which expire in two years.

Sal Antonelli was re-appointed to a full seat on the Recreation Commission. He had been the First Alternate. Former Fourth Ward Councilwoman Janis Fried Weinstein was appointed to a full seat. Both terms expire December 31, 1999. Melvyn Coren, who had occupied a full seat, was appointed to First Alternate, also a two-year appointment.

Florence Malcolm and Elizabeth H. List were re-appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission. Also appointed were Carolyn Klinger-Keuter, four-year seat; and Pamela McClure and Jane Stoner, both alternates. Alternate seats are for two years.

Carol Ginsberg, who served as an alternate of the Board of Adjustment last year, was named to the Board of Architectural Review along with James DeMarco who was named an alternate. Richard Elbert was re-appointed. Ms. Ginsberg and Mr. Elbert will serve for three years while Mr. Demarco's terms is for one year.

Arnold E. Resnik, currently Vice Chairman of the Westfield Memorial Library Board of Trustees, was re-appointed to a new five-year term.

Ellen Anderson and Terry Tainow were named to the Local Assistance Board. Ms. Tainow's term is for four years. Mayoral appointments that do not require council consent, included the Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee. Newly appointed were Joseph Stoner and Thomas Higgins. Donnell Carr was re-appointed to his seat. These seats are for one year.

William Kravic and Thomas O'Neill were named to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, both annual appointments. Mr. O'Neill will serve as the alternate. Keith Firestone was re-appointed for a three-year term on the Insurance Advisory Board.

Appointed to the Union County Transportation Advisory Board were Marvin Gersten and Mark Millet. Clair Lazarowitz and Jonathan Spitz were named to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board. Jeremy Feeder and Rosemary Millet were re-appointed to the Air Traffic Noise Advisory Board. All these seats are annual appointments.

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Blue Devil Hockey - Battle Toms River North Skaters to 4-4 Tie; Lose to Clifton 6-2

By Steve Dennis Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times



FACING OFF...Derek Fisher of the Westfield High School ice hockey team faces off against his opponent from Clifton High School. The Blue Devils had to face the music when they lost to a strong Clifton team, 6-2, on January 10.

WHS Hockey Devils Battle Toms River To 4-4 Stalemate.

It was a goal-for-goal fight on the ice for the Westfield High School hockey team on January 8 when they played against Toms River North. Quick action from both sides left the first period tied up at two points each.

Goalie Bryan Graye fell ill between periods, giving Brian Garrison time in the net. Garrison's solid performance, including a breakaway save, held Toms River North in check while Derek Fisher and Ronnie Kashlak fought for a 3-2 lead. Christian Fagin completed the offensive trio at left wing. After switching pairs, the Blue Devil defensemen showed much more effective net coverage.

Despite a more aggressive game than the team has played previously, Toms River slipped through to tie it up at 3-3. Later, the Blue Devils punched through for another goal, only to end the game with a 4-4 stalemate, when Toms River added another goal.

All around the Devils were a stronger physical presence on the ice. More aggressive defense and the usual powerhouse offense promise the Devils improvement in future games.

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Westfield Town Council Deadlock

Council Republicans Seek Further Input on Mayoral Appointments

By PAUL J. PEYTON Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

There is definitely a change in the makeup of the Westfield Town Council. Many appointments by Mayor Thomas C. Jardim, including both employee and various board and commissions, were postponed until this Monday after the Democrats failed to convince the Republican majority on the governing body to favor the recommendations.

Frustration was shown on the faces of the Mayor and council members during Tuesday's meeting which started a half-hour late. Several former Republican Mayors conferred in private with Republican council members over the appointments. It later was decided by the Mayor to postpone the meeting until this Monday, January 13, rather than take action at the next public meeting on Tuesday, January 21.

The Democrats now hold three of the eight seats on the council in addition to the Mayor's seat. The four seats on the governing body are the most the party has held at one time in the town's history. By Town Charter, paid official appointments by the Mayor must be confirmed by the Town Council. These include the Town Attorney, Prosecutor, Public Defender, Emergency Management Director and Municipal Court Judge. The latter two are three-year terms, while the others are appointed annually.

The Mayor, however, makes appointments to a number of board committees and boards, including the Planning Board, without confirmation from the council. The council, though, makes appointments to the Board of Adjustment. This year its current Chairman Lawrence J. Mannino's term is up for re-appointment.

Republican First Ward Councilman Norman N. Greco confirmed he had heard the Democrats are in favor of replacing Mr. Mannino who assumed the chairmanship last year upon the sudden death of James J. Kefalonitis. The terms of Mr. Mannino and fellow board member Carol Ginsburg expired December 31.

When reached by telephone yesterday afternoon, Mayor Jardim said he has proposed that Mr. Mannino be re-appointed and expects the council to

approve this appointment. Councilman Greco confirmed that former First Ward Councilman Anthony M. La Porta and council contender William J. Brennan, both Democrats, have been put forward by Mayor Jardim to serve on the Planning Board. Councilman Greco called both "excellent appointments." The Mayor also will serve on that board as mandated under state law.

A number of appointments which must be cleared up before Monday include the positions of Town Attorney and Municipal Court Judge. Councilman Greco said the Democrats are now proposing to replace long-time town official Charles H. Brandt, a former councilman himself. He said Mayor Jardim also has presented a candidate to replace Municipal Court Judge Edward J. Hobbie. Judge Hobbie has served in the role for some 12 years. The Republicans are believed to be seeking another year for Mr. Brandt.

Although not commenting on the individual appointments themselves, both Mayor Jardim and Councilman Lawrence A. Goldman emphasized that those persons under consideration are highly qualified to serve the town. Mayor Jardim said Republican council members had agreed to the changes he outlined in both paid official and committee appointments.

Councilwoman Gail S. Vernick, however, said there was never an agreement, saying her party's proposals for appointments were "always left up in the air" during negotiation sessions." She said Republican members simply cannot make those appointments proposed without further information and discussion. A meeting between Republican and Democratic council members is set for tonight.

Councilman Greco, agreeing with Mayor Jardim that politics should stay out of the appointment process, questioned why Judge Hobbie was being removed when he has served the town well. He also questioned the proposal to bring in a new labor attorney. Rick Danzer has served in that role over a decade.

Other vacancies up this year which will be filled by the Mayor with council consent include two seats on the Board of Architectural Review, two seats on the Local Assistance Board, four seats on the Board of Health, three seats on the Recreation Commission, one on the Westfield Memorial Library Board and four on the Historic Preservation Commission. Mayor Jardim also will appoint all three seats on the Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee, and one on the Insurance Advisory Board. These appointments do not require council confirmation.

The Mayor, according to Councilman Greco, has indicated he wants to combine the Public Works and Solid Waste standing council committees. Republican members, who hold the majority on the nine-member governing body, have indicated they will not approve the complete list of appointments as written.

Mayor Jardim blamed the delay on the appointments on "politics." He said

representatives of both parties sat down for the first time on December 15 when he let them know the names of persons he wanted to appoint. A second meeting was held before Christmas with the most recent session held just Tuesday morning.

He said he believes Republican leaders in Westfield and perhaps at the county level got involved in the process, accusing them of having, "too many cooks in the kitchen." He said he wanted to move forward on those appointments Tuesday night where there was a consensus. He said the Republicans, however, requested a postponement to which he concurred.

Mayor Jardim and Third Ward Councilman John J. Walsh represented the Democrats while Republicans were led by First Ward Councilwoman Vernick and Second Ward Councilman James J. Gruba. Councilwoman Vernick called the appointment process by the Democrats in "disarray." She said the council was asked to confirm both town officials and appointments to various boards without submitting resumes and other pertinent information regarding these people. She also said she would like the process more organized.

Mayor Jardim said the sessions were intended to provide a "smooth transition" between the former administration of Garland C. "Bud" Boothe, Jr. and his administration. Mayor Jardim said a list of the formal appointments were included in council members packages which were sent to their homes this past Friday.

The Mayor indicated he thought from Tuesday morning's meeting that a consensus had been reached. He apologized to both members of the public in attendance and to his colleagues on the council for the failure to bring about an agreement on those appointments at this time. He repeated his remarks from his inaugural address on New Year's Day by stating he hopes council members can put aside "partisan politics and partisan personalities."

Councilman Walsh said the Republicans displayed an "utmost good faith" at the sessions with the Democrats. He said there was an agreement up until the last moment when the "circumstances changed."

Mayor Jardim said he is always available by telephone for any other information requested by the majority party. He repeated that the names he has proposed were discussed well in advance of Tuesday's meeting. He said the council as a whole did not present a good forum in its first meeting as a two-party unit.

In terms of appointments, Town Administrator Edward A. Gottko received a three-year appointment last January. That appointment in the past had been done annually. The council in December approved a new three-year contract for Kenneth B. Marsh as Town Engineer and Public Works Supervisor. The positions of Town Clerk, currently filled by Joy C. Vreeland; and Tax Assessor, Robert Brennan, have both been tenured. Tenure for these posts requires five years of service.

Mayor Jardim also is set to make council committee assignments for the year. The key committees are Finance, Laws and Rules, and Transportation, Parking and Traffic. Also expected to be an important assignment this year is Solid Waste (or Public Works/Solid Waste if they are combined) where the Democrats have proposed bidding solid waste collection so residents can deduct the services in their federal taxes.

There are currently eight committees in total. The Mayor also makes liaison appointments such as those to the Board of Education, Planning Board, and Chamber of Commerce. Council approval is not required.

When contacted by The Leader, Councilman Goldman said he was optimistic the two political parties could resolve their differences in time for Monday's meeting. Although he did not release the names of those persons under consideration for Mayoral appointments, Councilman Goldman did acknowledge that those persons proposed are all Westfield residents.

In terms of appointments for boards and commissions, Councilman Goldman said Mayor Jardim has proposed several "new faces" as well the re-appointment of some current board members who have expressed a desire to serve again. Councilmen Goldman and Walsh both said they were confident a bipartisan agreement on the appointments could be reached.

On the Planning Board, the terms of Elizabeth H. List, and Joseph P. De Alessandro expired December 31. Mayor Jardim will also serve on that board. The board has been chaired by the past four years by Douglas T. Schwarz. The board is scheduled to reorganize tonight at 8 p.m.

The Mayor also makes appointments for Acting Mayor and Alternate Mayor. The council members act serve in the role of Mayor when the chief town official is unable to attend meetings. Last year, these posts were deemed Deputy Mayor and Alternate Deputy Mayor.

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Mayors Past and Present Comment on the Internet

Message from Outgoing Mayor Garland "Bud" Boothe

Dear friends at the Leader,

My best wishes to you and your publications as you embark on electronic publication and interaction for the Westfield community in 1997!



The Internet, with accessibility from all points of the world and, I assume, even in space, will provide new opportunities for the universe to learn more about Westfield. Also, our residents will learn more about themselves, Westfield organizations and events, and their world.

It is very appropriate that The Leader, the primary source of Westfield area news for over a century, should be in the forefront of this development.

The startup and growth of electronic publishing will be remembered in future years as an event of significance along with the invention of moveable type and the computer itself.

Garland "Bud" Boothe
Mayor, Town of Westfield 1992-1996

Westfield Mayor Tom Jardim Speaks about the Internet

"Much has been said about the promises of the Internet - about its potential to link people worlds apart, to put unlimited sources of information at one's fingertips and to provide new generations with an educational, interactive

alternative to television.



Whether or not these promises, and others, will be fulfilled remains to be seen. What the Internet surely does deliver, however, is the opportunity for citizens to be better informed about their towns in which they live; to be able to communicate more effectively with their local governments; and to provide a shared understanding of the values and direction of their towns. In short, the Internet has the potential to create stronger and more vibrant communities.

"By launching its Internet project, the Westfield Leader is demonstrating its commitment to a stronger and more vibrant Westfield. On behalf of the Westfield Town government, I congratulate the Leader on taking this bold step into the future and for continuing to display its long-standing dedication to this community. I look forward to "surfing the Net" from the Leader's new Internet Center and interacting (virtually and otherwise) with the residents of this great community."

Tom Jardim, Mayor of Westfield

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Freeholder Linda Stender Chairman's Message

Union County Board of Freeholder's Reorganization Meeting January 5, 1997

Members of the Freeholder Board, Distinguished Guests, Friends and Family again Good Afternoon and Happy New Year to you all.

On behalf of Vice Chairman Sullivan and myself I want to begin by thanking the members of the Freeholder Board for the faith you have placed in us to serve as your leadership team.

In a world that increasingly demands each of us to deal with complexity and ambiguity, 1997 will be a year of challenges and hard work. My vision for the coming year is based on the expectation that as a board we will work together to provide Union County with the strong leadership necessary to meet the needs of today while building for the future. I have been honored to work with each of you, be you in the majority and minority members... while I recognize that there will be times that we may disagree on issues of policy I know that we can and must achieve bipartisan support on those issues of vital concern for the residents of this county.

As we focus on our tasks during the final stages of this millennium, clearly a new age of technology, information and global competition has taken hold. The impact on our culture has already reached dramatic proportions.

The changes of the new era, create new opportunities and present awesome challenges. The Truth dictates that regardless of the era people still want decent jobs and decent wages and the opportunity for a better life. From these facts emerge fundamental questions which must be answered by identifiable and quantifiable results.

The issue of improving the Union County economy and the need for the creation of good jobs must influence our efforts in all regards, the goal to which we direct our energies. The budget we adopt, the quality of life issues we address all must be evaluated within the context of how our actions will

impact on our ability to improve our economic standing. We are, after all the Gatekeepers of our Gateway County.

The past three years has served to incubate the issue, bringing people and key constituencies together through the Union County Alliance, hosting round tables and adopting a strategic plan. We know that after the decimation which has occurred from the loss of manufacturing a key to turning the Union County economy around is the investment in our transportation infrastructure.

In partnership with the private sector, state and federal government the port must be dredged; and the rail and road systems improved to ensure the mobility of goods. Those investments are essential if we are to make the transition into the new global economy of international trade.

This year for the first time I will ask that our capital budget be reviewed and careful scrutinized to work in consort with economic development planning and the policy priorities of the board.

Attracting jobs... converting the dormant assets of vacant industrial sites into distribution centers for the goods which can easily flow through our port or other productive use. These are all priorities of this freeholder board.

I propose two initiatives in addition to those already in the planning stages. The first one is an internal but substantive change. I am proposing that the existing standing committees of the Freeholder Board be changed. Policy and Administrative code should be combined and a new committee defined to focus on the counties role in economic development. At our first agenda session I will refer this issue to policy for review and ask them to report on the initiative within 30 days . It is my intention to appoint Freeholder Goncalves as the Chairman of the newly defined standing committee.

Additionally I propose that we host a Financial Summit to bring our financial leaders together to secure their input on how we achieve the financing necessary to move our economic agenda forward. The goal of improving Union County's economy must work in tandem with our other actions and policies.

One of our first responsibility is to adopt a management plan. We in government call it a budget, the resources that drive the budget ... our taxpayers dollars become our road map and directs our energies to accomplishing the goals that our residents fund.

And notice I say our residents... for in order for any road map to be responsive to the priority of our county's taxpayers, I believe that we have to make a commitment to study and to ask our residents not only what they want but what they need from county services.

This past fall we said that the challenge in 1997 would not be to keep the budget flat but to cut it... the only responsible way to do more with less is to

prioritize our services to meet our taxpayers needs and wants. There are some 500,000 residents of UC. It is our job to assure that their voices are heard.

Freeholder McNeil will chair the Fiscal Affairs Committee and lead our efforts to achieve cost savings in our budget. Clearly hard choices will need to be made,... as a responsive government, we will make sure that we understand our "people's priorities as we scrutinize the budget and allocate our resources. Establishing a continuing dialogue with county residents to guide us in our decision making for the coming year is clearly a priority.

In concert with our budget goals, I am also going to direct the County Manager to place more emphasis on seeking grant dollars from public and private foundations.

Within the county's jurisdiction of public safety there are three specific areas in which the discussions of last year must be revisited. The need for a Juvenile Detention Facility has never been disputed. In 1997 I believe we will we will move forward on a project that meets the county's needs and ability to pay.

The problems of the Union County Jail have been well documented by the press. 'the first step of hiring a top notch professional administrator and deputy administrator has been accomplished by the administration in 1996. In the coming year I look forward to the Jail Task Force Committees active interaction and oversight as we work to address the deficiencies noted by the National Institute of Corrections reports.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders will also revisit the proposed expansion of the Police Academy, as our integral part of providing well trained police officers to our residents.

As a citizen, as a Mayor and as a Freeholder I have long been an advocate of shared service as a means of reducing costs and improving services. Building partnerships with the 21 municipalities and expanding it to our school districts can and must make our operation leaner and more efficient.

Three years ago the county hosted a shared services forum as a means of opening the dialogue. This year we will reconvene the forum to evaluate the results and seek consensus for the creation of new shared services. I know that cost savings to our residents will be the result.

Again, we know we must continually seek to do more with less. No where is that more evident than in social services. Funding has been cut by both the state and federal government. No matter how the positives or negative of reform are to be judged, the fact remains that county government now has the responsibility of devising solutions to meet those needs.

I believe we must revisit the JTPA funding to evaluate how we can better use those dollars. My goal for this year is to implement a pilot program

which would use JTPA dollars to train welfare mothers as day care providers. Working with our economic development agencies and our financial institutions, a day care center would be established which provides jobs and expands availability for needed affordable day care. Structured as a business cooperative, workers would have the option of paying for services or earning the services based on the time they contribute.

Union County must prepare to handle the imminent solid waste crisis created by the combination of old state mandates, recent Supreme Court decisions and a disinterested majority of the US Congress. Let me be clear. All steps will be taken by this board to ensure that the costs of county solid waste disposal will remain competitive in an arena that is ever changing. And let me assure you that the goal of this board will be to set into place policy which will result in reduced solid waste costs for every home owner and commercial business within the borders of our 21 towns. We will be reviewing all alternatives to lower costs and ensure a economically viable facility.

Meeting the responsibilities of our stewardship of this county to protect, preserve and restore our environment is every bit as much an economic development issue as it one of quality of life.

This year as part of our commitment to our environment and in our role as Gatekeepers of this county we will look to reallocate our resources to clean our roads of trash and improve our appearances through the adoption of a tree planting plan which will focus on making our County more attractive to visitors and residents alike.

As we begin our year the work we undertake is serious business for this board and for our residents. We have a full agenda Somewhere it is written that "the past is prologue" which I like to think means the best is yet to come.

I look forward to working with all the residents of Union County, the employees the members of the Board, and other elected officials. Together there isn't any challenge we cannot meet.. I believe that and hope you do too. Have a wonderful day. Thank you for attending and for your attention.

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