

Democrats Seek to Take Majority on Council; Contested Races Seen in Three of Four Wards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

resurface and repair roads in town.

Councilman Sullivan, of Sycamore Street, now in his third year on the council, said he has been a leader on a number of issues, including working behind the scenes to ensure the safety of children at school crossings since redistricting was instituted in the Westfield public schools in September.

Mr. Sullivan, a member of the Planning Board, said he has been working with the rest of the council on a new zoning ordinance to help eliminate loopholes which, he said, have allowed developers to "shoehorn new developments in established neighborhoods."

Councilman Sullivan also has been pushing for a Shade Tree ordinance which would be aimed at eliminating the practice of clear cutting of shade trees in town for construction of new homes.

Mr. Rotter, raised and educated in Sussex County and a Georgetown Law School graduate, said he moved to Westfield for its culture, its vibrant downtown, fine school system, and easy access to mass transit.

In terms of why he is seeking office, the candidate said for the past several years property taxes have continued to rise while streets and sidewalks in the Third Ward "have continued to deteriorate."

Mr. Sullivan noted that over the past five years the town has spent \$2 million on paving streets, 70 percent of which were located on the south side.

Mr. Rotter said Westfield has the second highest property taxes in Union County. He promised to work to develop a "comprehensive road improvement program" if elected to the council.

As a member of the Raritan Valley Line Commuter Commission in Westfield, which is seeking direct service on the NJ Transit Raritan Valley into Manhattan, Mr. Rotter has vowed to push this proposal if elected.

Mr. Rotter cited Summit as an example of how such a service could benefit Westfield.

He said through direct service into New York City, bypassing Hoboken and the Path Trains, Summit has witnessed a 15 percent rise in local property values. He said, if elected, he will work to make such a service a reality in Westfield.

Mr. Rotter said he supports a property maintenance code which will force commercial landlords to clean up their properties.

Councilman Carr, who resides on Hort Street, said citizens in Westfield want good housing, quality schools, safe neighborhoods, clean streets, a vibrant downtown, stable property values, and safer parks.

During a question-and-answer period during the Candidates Night forum, Councilman Carr noted that as Chairman of the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Committee, he has worked with residents of Dorian Road, and Shackamaxon and Shadowlawn Drives to address the problem of speeding cars and the danger imposed on young children.

He noted that the committee has been working to install speed humps to slow traffic down. This traffic calming device is less jarring on motorists, in terms of slowing traffic, rather than speed bumps.

Also, humps are allowed on municipal streets while speed bumps are only permitted on private property.

Councilman Carr is a founding member of Concerned African-American Parents (CAAP) and a Director of the Community Center.

If elected, the former school board candidate has vowed to develop and implement an improved parking plan for the downtown, work with "sister" towns as part of a multi-town conference, and begin discussion on in-town transportation for seniors and other residents who need it.

He also said, as part of his platform, that he will propose that the town get a grants specialist to explore financial opportunities including grants from government, corporate and private sources.

Mrs. Weinstein, of Knollwood Terrace, who was not present at Candidates Night due to the illness of her father, former Councilman and County Freeholder Arthur C. Fried, is a life-long resident. Her opening statement, however, was read by the moderator of the forum.

In addition to her experience last year, Mrs. Weinstein is a Past President of the McKinley Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization. She said during her tenure, over \$45,000 was raised through fundraising efforts to acquire personal computers for each classroom at McKinley, thus making it the first school in the district to receive such equipment.

She also fought for and received support from the council in the early 1990s to replace deteriorated concrete curbing surrounding the school with Belgium Block curbing.

As a current member of the Westfield Recreation Commission, she has initiated an effort to have public telephones placed in town parks. In addition, she is working to have the baseball fields at Gumbert Park improved through private funding.

On the issue of parking in the downtown, Mr. McDermott said he would propose short-term parking — possibly for half-hour periods — on streets, with long-term parking a little further away at two hours. The furthest spaces from the downtown would be utilized for long-term parking.

Mr. McCabe said he believes the council needs to at least consider the possibility of looking at the construction of a parking deck as a long-term solution to handle the problem. He proposed that a referendum be placed on the election ballot next year on this issue.

On the issue of the maintenance code, Councilman Carr said while he supports the proposal, he wants to see the town apply for Community Development Block Grant funds through the state, county and federal government to assist residents who are financially unable to repair their homes.

He said funding for this category is known as multi-jurisdictional housing.

In terms of the issue of downtown vacancies, Mr. McDermott proposed the

establishment of an ombudsman who would work with realtors, the building department and town government to help potential new businesses overcome obstacles they may face in getting started.

Mr. McCabe said he would like the town to help the Downtown Westfield Corporation, which runs the Special Improvement District, to obtain funds for capital projects that could be used for sidewalk repairs, benches, new trash receptacles, and new lighting.

On the issue of public safety, Mr. Sullivan, who chairs the Public Safety Committee on the council, said he has helped work with parents and town and school officials to increase the number of crossing guards, additional pavement markings and signs. He also supports putting back pedestrian crossing signs in the town now that the state has approved them.

Mr. Rotter said he wants to shut down what he calls the "Central Avenue speedway." He favors additional police monitoring, especially at rush hours and when school children are crossing the thoroughfare.

In response to a question from the audience on paying for improvements to town parks, Mr. Rotter said he believes the cost should be shared by all residents. Mr. McDermott said, as a coach, he believes users, such as parents of kids in the baseball and soccer programs of the parks, should pay the bulk of the cost.

Mr. Sullivan said he supports "creative partnerships" between the town, residents and local businesses to repair or create new fields.

Mr. Carr's solution to fund town park improvements would be the issuance of a bond that would cover not just the parks but the entire infrastructure in town. This bond would be issued when the current bond on the town library is paid off.

In terms of the \$6 million library bond dating back to the mid 1980s, Mr. Sullivan said the bond represents two tax points and not the zero increase in taxes that the Democrats have claimed since Third Ward Councilman John J. Walsh proposed the plan a few weeks ago.

On pedestrian safety, Mr. Rotter said he would move to take steps to stop aggressive drivers in town. Mr. Carr, an electrical engineer employed on a contract basis, said he supports the efforts of the BRAKES group, which has been working to educate the community on this issue. He also favors more signs and crosswalk markings and more concentrated enforcement by the police of existing traffic laws.

Election polls will be open Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



CONTEST WINNERS...Four Westfield High School students were recently awarded prizes in the inaugural Columbus Day essay contest sponsored by the Westfield Chapter of UNICO National. The essay topic was "The Meeting of Two Cultures." First place winner Jennifer Woodbury, received a \$200 bond and a certificate. Runners-up Danielle Fay Bauk, Kristen Salmond and Melissa Tirone, each received a \$100 bond and a certificate. All are in the 10th grade. Pictured, left to right, are Westfield UNICO President Manny Carlino, award winners Kristen, Jennifer, Danielle and Melissa, and Anthony Buosico of Westfield UNICO.

FIRE BLOTTER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

- Three hundred block of Clark Street — system malfunction.
- Eight hundred block of Summit Avenue — water evacuation.
- Eight hundred block of Summit Avenue — carbon monoxide detector activation.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

- Seven hundred block of Prospect Street — unintentional alarm.
- One hundred block of Kirkstone Circle — carbon monoxide detector activation.
- Three hundred block of First Street — unintentional alarm.
- Five hundred block of Bradford Avenue — service call.
- Two hundred block of Baker Avenue — lock out.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

- One hundred block of North Euclid Avenue — hazardous condition.
- Eight hundred block of Pennsylvania Avenue — unintentional alarm.
- Three hundred block of South Avenue, East — system malfunction.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

- Seven hundred block of Central Avenue — electrical short.
- Seven hundred block of Central Avenue — system malfunction.
- Four hundred block of Mountain Avenue — mattress fire.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

- One hundred block of East Broad Street — unintentional alarm.
- Three hundred block of First Street — system malfunction.
- Fourteen hundred block of Pinegrove Avenue — carbon monoxide detector activation.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

- Ten hundred block of North Avenue, West — power line down.
- One hundred block of Mountain Avenue — system malfunction.
- Two hundred block of Clark Street — water evacuation.
- Two hundred block of Orchard Street — system malfunction.
- Two hundred block of Orchard Street — system malfunction.
- One hundred block of Manitou Circle — power line down.
- Four hundred block of Springfield Avenue — hazardous condition.
- One hundred block of Barchester Avenue — carbon monoxide detector activation.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

- The theft of cigarettes was reported from a convenience store on South Avenue, according to police.
- A Mountainside resident reported that her sunglasses were stolen while she was at a clothing store on North Avenue.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

- A North Avenue resident reported that someone poured white paint over her automobile while it was parked in her driveway. It was uncertain how much damage was done to the vehicle, according to police.
- A Rahway resident reported that someone broke the rear view mirror on her automobile while it was parked on Summit Avenue.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

- Sandra Digiaco, 24, of Fanwood, was arrested and charged with possession of heroin with intent to distribute; possession of under 50 grams of suspected marijuana with intent to distribute, and with providing an inmate with contraband, authorities said.

- The suspect had allegedly attempted to smuggle the narcotics to her husband, Anthony Digiaco, 27, of Fanwood, who was being held in the Westfield municipal jail. He was charged with possession of heroin and possession of suspected marijuana, according to police.
- The couple was being held at the Union County Jail, police said. Bail for Sandra Digiaco was set at \$10,000. Her husband was being held on \$5,000 bail.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

- A music store on Quimby Street reported the theft of a cardboard display, according to police.

John's PRIME Meat Market

John, Vinnie & Nick Losavio
Old Fashioned Custom Cuts & Personalized Service

- Stuffed pork roast w/herbs & sausage
- Seasoned pork roast w/our special spices
- Seasoned veal roast wrapped in bacon
- Stuffed roasts w/our famous stuffings w/ sundried tomatoes & olives
- Our American natural fed leg of lamb
- Pennsylvania Dutch Chicken Outlets..... \$2.99/Lb
- Nature Uncaged
- Veal Chops..... \$9.99/Lb
- NY Strip Steaks (whole or 1/2)..... \$5.99/Lb
- Extra Lean Hamburger Patties (Box of 20)..... \$9.99

USDA Prime

- Prime Beef: Aged Beef to Perfection
- Fresh Penn. Dutch All Natural Poultry
- Ocean Fresh Seafood
- Free Range Organic Poultry

CONSISTANT QUALITY TIME AFTER TIME

FREE HOME DELIVERY

Our Meats Are Not Just Prime...
They're The Prime of The Prime!

USDA Prime is the finest grade. Don't be fooled! See our stamp - Taste the difference!

Your Family Deserves Only The Best
Order Your Fresh Holiday Turkey Now!

John's Famous Extra Lean
Ground Beef 3lbs - \$4.99

- Spring Leg of Lamb
- Smoked Ham • Prime Rib Roast
- Crown Roast, Lamb or Pork
- Fresh Brisket • Filet Mignon • Fresh Turkeys, Capons, Ducks, & Geese
- Turkey Breast • Kiebas

SEE & TASTE THE DIFFERENCE

NEW BIRDS EYE GOLD FROZEN FOODS DEPT.

NEW! Pate's, Mousses & Terrines
NEW! Foie Gras
NEW! Farm Raised Venison
NEW! Smoked Duck Breast
NEW! Demi Glaze
And much more!

Phone: 908-322-7126 • 389 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey • Fax: 908-322-2561
www.goleader.com/johns johns@elbnet.com

Mayor Awaits Recommendation From Commission on Lease

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

more than \$6 million worth of bond, used to pay for the Westfield Memorial Library, by the year 2001.

Officials said Westfield spends an average of \$325,000 per year on road improvements. The council said it will also look at sewer system repairs and maintenance.

On a separate matter, Third Ward Councilman John J. Walsh, Chairman of the Solid Waste and Public Works Committee, said the committee wants to alert the neighboring Borough of Garwood that it will recommend that the Westfield council barricade the end of Myrtle Avenue at the Garwood border.

Garwood has already barricaded Myrtle Avenue on its side of the border, officials said, leading to complaints by Grandview Avenue residents of increased commercial traffic.

Westfield Town Attorney Charles H. Brandt advised the council that the town could vacate several feet at the end of the road to serve as a barricade.

Councilman Walsh insisted, "I do think we need to engage Garwood at some point on this issue."

The council decided to wait until next year to include a request for \$20,000 of playground equipment at the former Lincoln School as part of a Community Development Block Grant.

Councilman Walsh called the decision to delay "a mistake." He said members of the Westfield Board of Education informally indicated to him an interest in the plan; however, other council members thought a November deadline for preparing the specifics of the deal put the project on a "fast track" that was too fast.

Mr. Walsh said the Board of Education could give the playground property to the town or simply put the equipment on the school property. Town officials

said insurance liability for the municipality may play a role in such a deal.

The former Lincoln School is now Centennial High School, run by the Union County Educational Services Commission for special needs students.

In other business, Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr., encouraged the council to move on a section of the proposed new zoning laws dealing cellular or communication towers, since a delay would leave the town legally unable to make any other changes until February of next year.

Cellular communications companies have requested permission to erect these towers in the town, Mr. Brandt said. The zoning law proposals aims to limit these towers to certain areas of town or place on roofs of five-story structures in town, officials said.

Second Ward Councilman Matthew P. Albano said AT&T has requested a tower but added that the proposed sites for towers in the town are inadequate for their purposes.

Publisher's Note

At the beginning of this election campaign, this newspaper published that it would not endorse candidates, preferring instead to promote the informed judgment of residents.

The Westfield Leader published all constructive views and discussions of issues from all the candidates. The candidates, for the most part, conducted themselves with a high degree of honor; and for that we commend them.

In our view, negative campaigning and the spreading of misinformation has no place between neighbors and friends. We find it extremely discouraging that some recent campaign literature from a candidate stoops to an unacceptable low level in wrongful personal attacks of opponents and contains incorrect information concocted to mislead voters.

While we can't predict what will happen in the last remaining days of the campaign, we strongly oppose this type of literature and ask those persons responsible to please cease distribution of further misinformation.

Polling Locations - Westfield		
Ward	District	Location
1	1 & 2	Roosevelt Intermediate School Gymnasium
1	3, 5 & 7	Benjamin Franklin School Auditorium
1	4 & 6	Westfield Memorial Library Program Room
2	1	Union County Clerk's Annex 300 North Avenue, East
2	2, 3 & 6	Washington School Auditorium
2	4 & 5	Wilson School Auditorium
3	1	Westfield Rescue Squad
3	2, 3 & 4	Edison Intermediate School Gymnasium
3	5, 6 & 7	Jefferson School All Purpose Room
4	1 & 2	McKinley School Auditorium
4	4 & 5	Westfield High School Lobby

Erratum

In last week's issue of *The Westfield Leader* in a front page story on applications to the state's Community Development Block Grant program, the story incorrectly stated the application by the Westfield Community Center for a continuing grant of \$20,580 would be used to pay 75 percent of the salary of a juvenile program coordinator. The money will actually be used for the salary of the senior citizens coordinator at the Center. *The Leader* apologizes for any confusion the error may have caused our readers or the Center.

NOVEMBER 1st-9th
THE ORIGINAL SNOW VILLAGE® OR DICKENS' VILLAGE®

"START A TRADITION" Sets

EVENT PRICE: **\$75*** Regular \$100
Manufacturer's Suggested Retail

*Event price available November 1-9, 1997

FREE GIFT
with this ad while supplies last.

Lancaster, Ltd.

76 ELM STREET
WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY
(908) 232-2232

3 Convenient Locations

Westfield
251 North Avenue W.
Formerly Homeward Bounty

- **Gourmet To Go**
- **Restaurant**

Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner

- **Gourmet Entrées, Sides, Salads, Desserts**

Opening This Fall!

Complete Party Planning & Rentals!