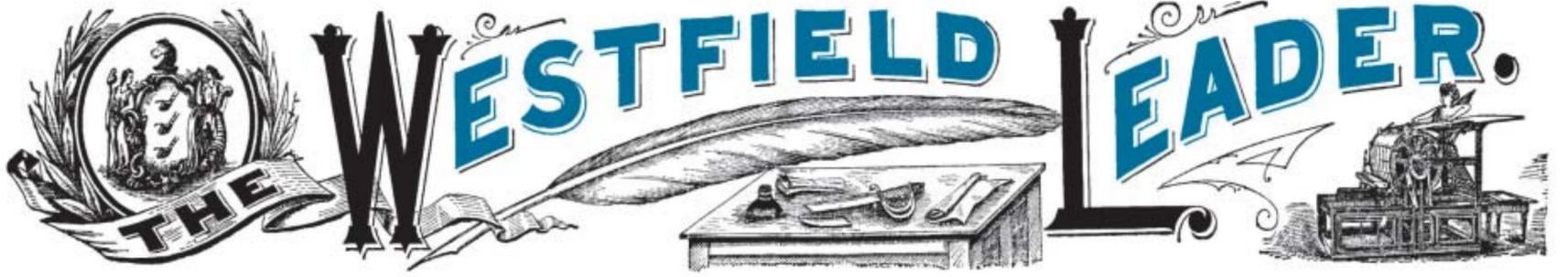




Elvis Presley Dies August 16, 1977  
Friendship Week Begins August 18



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## Parking Deck Project Updated; Costs, Plans to Be Seen By Nov.

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Westfield Town Council appointed itself as redevelopment agency in February and chose The Atlantic Group to lead them through the redevelopment process for lot 3 and lots 1 and 8 at the April 9 council meeting.

During the April meeting, The Atlantic Group presented a 29-week

plan. Currently, they are a week or two behind because of the Planning Board Schedule.

The Westfield Leader recently sat with Town Administrator James Gildea to discuss the status of the projects.

"Truthfully, this process we're in right now, is really the farthest we've ever been," Mr. Gildea said. The Atlantic Group, represented

by Patrick Henry, Robert Goldsmith and Lawrence Houston, are guiding the town through the legal process of declaring the lands as areas in need of redevelopment.

Atlantic has had meetings with the Project Review Committee, whose members consist of Sherry Cronin, Charlie Wiedman, Claire Lazarowitz, Rafael Betancourt, Lawrence Goldman, Gregory McDermott, Mr. Gildea and Ken Marsh.

On September 18, there will be a meeting of the Westfield Planning Board, during which the parking lots will be on the agenda to be designated as areas in need of redevelopment.

In the first week of September the RFQ's (request for qualifications) will be available for potential developers to pick up. Once those are returned the town will decide which of those developers will get RFP's (requests for proposals).

According to Mr. Gildea the town will then narrow it down to a few candidates. They will interview the candidates and then choose one.

By November the town should have plans and actual costs for both lots.

The council will then decide whether they have the funds in place to be able to build one or both decks in the year 2003.

According to Mr. Gildea, he and Patrick Henry feel that they will have a large response to the RFQs based on the fact that 20 developers have already made inquiries into the projects.

The cost of the project, depending on how many retail and resi-

time of operation.

There was boisterous opposition to this proposal from various members of the Board, most notable Mr. Trzesniowski. In response to the Chairman's suggestion, Mr. Trzesniowski commented that, "this is a new form of taxation which we have no authority to enforce."

He continued by stating that, "the Planning Board has no taxing authority and requiring business to obtain municipal parking permits to overcome parking variances amounts to taxation."

The board has no statutory authority to impose taxes on applicants, according to Mr. Trzesniowski.

Martin Robins, Planning Board Member, agreeing with Mr. Trzesniowski, noted that the board was, "legislating without authority from the Town Council."

Planning Board member Jay Boyle, disagreeing with both Mr. Trzesniowski and Mr. Robins, countered by stating that this was a, "cre-

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## Planning Bd. Imposes Tax on Area Businesses

By JAMES FOERST  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

According to Westfield Planning Board member Victor Trzesniowski, the board's August membership meeting included the approval of a controversial new "tax" on downtown businesses.

The controversy arose when Robert Newell, Planning Board Chairman, suggested that an applicant, Teriman Associates, be required to purchase municipal parking permits for its employees to overcome a deficiency in the municipal parking requirement.

Teriman Enterprises, Inc. of Elizabeth had requested a parking variance in connection with establishing a new beauty salon at 110 Quimby Street.

The land use ordinance requires that the business maintain three parking spots for each barber/beautician, which according to William Butler, attorney for the applicant, would constitute between 9-24 parking spaces depending on the day and

## WF Teachers Come Out on Top In Comparison Between SP and MS

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

In a comparison of teacher contracts between Westfield, Scotch Plains and Mountainside; Westfield teachers' starting salaries comes out ahead of the other two towns.

The Westfield teacher contract The Westfield Leader was given was from 1999 to 2002. They recently renewed their contract through June 30, 2005.

The new contract, which is not available yet, came into effect on July 1. It includes a salary increase of 3.9 percent for 2002-2003, 3.9 percent for 2003-2004 and 4 percent for 2004-2005.

The starting salary for a new teacher has been increased from \$43,031 in 2001-2002 to \$44,831 for 2002-2003. The new contract also includes an increase in in-service time and an increase in tuition reimbursements.

Health care stipulations for the 1999-2002 contract lists Cigna for major medical, at a rate of \$600 per year, plus \$200 deductible for individual and \$400 per family. Dental coverage provides for no more than \$1,500 per year.

Retiring teachers can have the same coverage, if they have served more than 15 years and notify the school board within 30 days after retirement that they wish to maintain it.

Teachers with 15 to 20 years of service receive a \$700 longevity in-

crease; those with 20 years or more receive \$1,050.

For the year 2001-2002, salaries ranged from \$43,031 to \$73,018 for teachers with a bachelor's degree, depending on their length of time within the district.

For teachers with a master's degree, salaries range from \$45,834 to \$77,190; master's degree plus 30 credits, \$48,275 to \$81,523, and doctoral degree, \$51,187 to \$86,011.

Advisors and coaches receive extra stipends, ranging from \$431 to \$7,941, depending on the activity and the teacher's length of service.

In the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district, health insurance is provided by Connecticut General Life Insurance Company. The contract provides for 100 percent coverage after \$2,000, with a \$1 million life maximum; radiation therapy up to \$560 maximum; 70 percent for outpatient mental and nervous problems, and, if the insured party dies, surviving family receives two years coverage.

As of January 1, 2003, the major medical deductible is \$300 per individual and \$600 per family per year.

Retirees receive 100 percent coverage for the first year, coming down by 10 percent each year, ending at the sixth year with 50 percent.

Delta Dental is the provider for preventive and diagnostic services, providing 100 percent coverage.

Sixty percent of remaining basic dental care is covered. In addition, 60 percent coverage is offered for crowns, inlays and gold restorations. Fifty percent coverage is provided for prosthodontic care, as well as orthodontic care, for children.

The contract is good from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2005.

The starting salary in 2002-2003 for teachers with a Bachelor of Arts Degree is \$39,625; Bachelor of Arts Degree plus 30 credits is \$42,445; Master of Arts Degree, \$44,000; Master of Arts plus 30 credits is \$46,920, and doctoral degree, \$50,500.

In the 15-step pay scale, top salaries range from \$55,577 to \$71,977. The top salaries at level 25L range from \$71,560 to \$92,653.

As of 2001, teachers paid at level 15 or above will now fall into the 20L or 25L categories. Those within the 15-step scale will receive a 3 percent increase for 2002-2003, 3.25 percent for 2003-2004 and 3.69 percent for 2004-2005.

Additionally, coaches and co-cur-

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Lauren S. Pass for The Westfield Leader  
DIG WE MUST...Elizabeth Town Gas Company has been laying new pipe on North Avenue, between East Broad and Central Avenues, which has caused many traffic delays.

## Mountainside Writer, Artist Wende Devlin Dies at 84

By MICHELLE H. Le POIDEVIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

On November 25, 2001, Wende Dorothy Devlin bid farewell to her partner in both life and art, Harry A. Devlin, as he succumbed to cancer.

Nearly 10 months later, early Tuesday morning at her Mountainside home, the prolific artist and author, Wende, passed away peacefully while surrounded by the family she and Harry lovingly nurtured and inspired for decades.

A mother of seven children, a grandmother to 20 and a great-grandmother to two, 84-year-old Wende, who was struggling with a long illness, maintained her role as motivational matriarch to her family, a welcoming friend to neighbors and strangers and a lover of the arts right up until her death.

"She was an inspiration to her children, as well as artists and writers all over the country," said her daughter, Wende Devlin Gates, during an interview with The Westfield Leader and The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood. "She was a mentor, not only for her art..."

Wende Devlin's son, Brion Devlin, chimed in, "She was a mother to people outside of her family as well. Mother had such a great sense of humor. She just

Arts Degree in 1940. She wed Harry one year later. They lived in Elizabeth before moving to Mountainside,

and Margie" comic strip and scripted "Beat Poems of a Beat Mother" for Good Housekeeping magazine.

In one of her poems, "A Price," Wende depicts the translation of a child seeking some money from his/her mother for the ice cream truck:

"Bells herald a running boy.

His rush of love emblazons an ember pink within my heart.

Such dearness makes one's sense soar like floats of pigeons wild and high - and yet I know love, ever fragile, lies ablance on a silver coin."

Wende also penned the beloved "Cranberry" series of children's books, such as "Cranberry Thanksgiving" (1971). The great "Old Black Witch" adventures came to life through her words in titles such as "Old Witch Rescues Halloween."

Daughter Wende counted nearly 26 "imaginative, humorous and entertaining" children's books to her mother's credit.

"I tried to write stories that I would enjoy," Wende Devlin told The Leader/Times during an interview in February of 1999. She had stated that combining, "personality, color and all of the elements which would make a story unforgettable," were vital ingredients

Wende Devlin

where the couple miraculously managed to raise Harry, Jr., Wende, Jeffrey, Alexandra, Brion, Nicholas and David, all on the income of their work as freelance artists.

"Mother would stand at the easel with a brush in one hand, while nursing one of her babies in the other," recalled Ms. Devlin Gates, whose



All photos courtesy of The Devlin Family  
Matriarch, Master of the Arts...Wende Dorothy Devlin, renowned artist and author, died early Tuesday morning at the Mountainside home she shared with her late husband, Harry A. Devlin, who passed away on November 25, 2001. At 84 years of age, Mrs. Devlin left behind seven children, 20 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a multitude of admiring friends and relatives. Mrs. Devlin is pictured, above, with two of her works, "Portrait of Girlie Benou," left, and "Winter Flowers."

seemed to understand people."

When Wende was a youngster, drawing in class one day, the teacher ran to get the principal of the school to show him her work, according to Ms. Devlin Gates.

"Look at what she's done" the teacher told the principal. That event shaped her entire life," said Ms. Devlin Gates.

The daughter of Dr. Bernhard Phillip Wende and Elizabeth May Buffington, the young student went on to Syracuse University, where she received a Bachelor of Fine

childlike innocence was captured in one of her mother's hauntingly realistic portraits.

While living in the Mountainside home, which also included a farmhouse and several farm animals like Eliza Doolittle, the donkey, Wende blended her sense of humor and creative skill, to create the comic strip "Fullhouse," which became "Raggmopp," from 1954 to 1957.

The comic strip characters were based upon her children, as well as a poodle, based on the Devlins' dog.

In addition, Wende drew the "Amy

for her volumes.

During Tuesday's interview, Ms. Devlin Gates added that her mother had one of her books, "Hang On, Hester!," distributed to hospitals all over the world in order to encourage the youngest of patients to stay strong and persist despite their illnesses.

Known for her work as a striking portrait artist in pieces such as "Portrait of Girlie Benou," Wende also created several vibrant and intricately detailed floral paintings,

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## Mountainside Borough Council Decides to Amend Occupancy Fees; Receives Municipal Alliance Grant

By MICHAEL POLLACK  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Mountainside Borough Council's work session on August 13 featured a lengthy discussion concerning the amending of fees for certificates of occupancy on residential and commercial property.

Currently in Mountainside, when a homeowner transfers title, the borough sends an inspector to complete a certificate of occupancy on behalf of the new buyer. The seller pays for the bill confirming the condition of the heating, electrical, plumbing, and structural soundness of the house. The current costs are \$75 for residential and \$100 for commercial property.

"Our fee is kind of ridiculous as far as residential and commercial properties go," said Mayor Robert Vigilanti. "I would like for us to at least break even on the borough's costs."

Mayor Vigilanti continued, "I firmly believe that when we create a fee we should at least pay the borough back what it costs us for performing that service. Here are two instances where it's not even close to giving the borough back what it's entitled to."

The council will decide with the Buildings and Grounds Department on an appropriate fee.

In other business, the council agreed on several issues; laying the groundwork for next week's regular public meeting.

The council will honor the request from the Court Administrator to return unclaimed bail to Willie Smith in the amount of \$250.

The council also agreed on a request from the finance officer for the insertion of a special item of revenue into the 2002 budget: a Municipal Alliance Grant in the amount of \$15,285. The grant is part of a fed-

eral program in which money gets filtered down first to the counties and then to municipalities for the procurement of devices, services, and aids for the elderly and the handicapped in the area.

The borough will extend its janitorial contract for one additional year as provided for in the contract.

The council will also approve the appointment of Jason Parish to the Mountainside Volunteer Fire Department. Authorization will be given sanctioning the Borough Clerk Judy Osty to advertise and receive bids for the sale of two surplus police vehicles.

Mountainside will renew its membership with the Suburban Muni-

pal Joint Insurance Fund for a period of three years.

The borough will make public the liquor license lapse of Carl Simoni of Winston's who had special requirements he had to meet in order to maintain his liquor license following its renewal last year. Because the license was not actively used by June 30, and the conditions were not met, Mr. Simoni's license will be lost indefinitely.

The borough will issue a redemption of tax sale certificate for 380 New Providence Road in the amount of \$3,098.98.

The borough will be receiving a 1998 BMW motorcycle compliments of JMK Automotive for use by the police department.

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