

Mayor Takes Responsibility For Poll; Ethics Questioned

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Democratic Councilman John J. Walsh, who is seeking reelection in the Third Ward, said that while he thinks that Democrats were responsible for the survey, he failed to see how the survey could affect any law that might be passed by the council in the future.

His Republican challenger, Noreen Lund of Tudor Oval and a 43-year Westfield resident, said she finds it "quite offensive" that local political campaigns "have gotten to this level."

Sharon H. Rodgers of Everson Place, another person who received a survey call, said the poll "rapidly turned into a 'pro you (Mayor Jardim) anti-Vernick' with statements and questions 'that were intended to be derogatory.'"

Ms. Rodgers said she found the whole thing "appalling." "I found it...unnerving. I mean, we are all used to seeing this kind of sleazy stuff on the national level. But we don't need it in Westfield," she said.

Beatrice Scully of Washington Street said she strongly objected to a question asked about her ethnic background.

"I feel this was an insult to me and everyone else who was polled," she said. "You (Mayor Jardim) owe the people of Westfield an apology."

Mayor Jardim responded that, "it is not in my being and not in my constitution" to use material from the survey in his campaign materials.

Karen Mortinson of Sinclair Place, press secretary for Mrs.

Vernick's campaign, said to Mayor Jardim, "You've done your damage." She called the poll "disgraceful."

When questioned as to her roll in the Vernick campaign by Councilman Walsh, she shot back, "I don't share the shenanigans of the Democrats of this town and when you people clean your act up, I'll support you." Mrs. Mortinson revealed that she was a Democrat.

Councilman Lawrence Goldman, Chairman of the town's Democratic Committee and a candidate for reelection in the Fourth Ward, said in a statement to *The Leader* that he had a "distaste (for) negative campaigning of any kind." Asking the council to move on with town business, he said the Democrats would not use council meetings as a "political forum."

Making a comment on the poll separately, Mr. Greco said, "If what was stated is factual, I am disappointed to see the direction that this race is taking. However, I choose to focus on the important issues that face our town."

Ken Rotter, Campaign Manager for Mayor Jardim and a candidate last year for the Democrats in the Third Ward, described the poll as a "small, random sampling of Westfield residents."

"Questions tested the issues which I perceived to be the strongest positives and the strongest criticisms of both Mayor Tom Jardim and his opponents," said Mr. Rotter through a prepared statement issued to *The Leader*.

He said the poll "tested opinions concerning some of the criticisms leveled by Republicans against Mayor Jardim as well as some potential criticism of his Republican opponent."

"What must be remembered is that this was a poll - a survey of opinion. In my view, a poll that tests potential criticisms, can not be equated with the scurrilous and factually untrue literature published by the Republican Town Committee about our Mayor in last year's election."

Ad Hoc Committee Differs On Best Use of County Grant

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back to square one as far as making a joint recommendation to the council."

Councilman McDermott said in a report to the governing body that he would like improvements funded at Sycamore Field and Tamaques Park, as well as an open picnic shelter at the park.

The council, he said, has allocated half the funding for the \$120,000 Sycamore project in the 1998 municipal budget. The balance would be provided through \$60,000 in matching county grant funds.

The project would include re-grading, seeding and sprinkler systems.

The picnic shelter, estimated to cost between \$50,000 and \$55,000, would consist of a roof and a floor with tables and seats added.

Councilman Walsh noted that the project was included in the town's capital budget this year.

According to Councilman McDermott, "The council has already allocated \$27,500 into the 1998 budget. The additional \$27,500 will be from the county money."

"Both Sycamore Field and the Tamaques shelter are ideal projects for this type of county funding because the council, during its 1998 budget meetings, did not specifically allocate 100 percent of the project costs. The matching funds are now available," said Mr. McDermott.

Mr. Walsh said he had "a great deal of difficulty agreeing to \$120,000 for Sycamore, when I realized that the proposal does not include a fence or a playground."

"In short, it gives a great deal of money to soccer, with nothing to baseball or to the surrounding neighborhood, and is a lopsided allocation of precious resources," he said.

Based on this reasoning, Mr. Walsh said he believes the funding of

Tamaques improvements should come from grant funds allocated to Sycamore, "and not the little projects" such as bathrooms at Gumpert Park.

Mr. McDermott said the balance of the funds, \$25,000 split from town and county funds, could fund field improvements at Tamaques. The fields are used for baseball, softball (both men's and women's leagues), and football.

"By improving these fields, we restore pride back into a community which is demanding better playing facilities," said Councilman McDermott.

Mr. Walsh and Mr. Antonelli support the Sycamore proposal, along with the planting of trees, benches, shrubs and plaques at Clark Park, at a cost of \$5,000.

They also are supportive of a "touch and scent" garden for the handicapped and wheelchair-bound at the corner of Rahway Avenue and Shadowlawn Drive, at a cost of \$20,000, as proposed by the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield.

They also favor spending \$5,000 for a small "pocket park" on Central Avenue, as recommended by former Mayor Ray Stone, and \$5,000 for creation of a park in honor of performing artist and human rights advocate Paul Robeson at the corner of Watterson Street and Rahway Avenue.

Another \$50,000 would be used to fund new bathrooms at Gumpert Field, as sought by the Westfield Baseball League.

Proposals on how to spend the grant funds were received at a fact-finding session held early last month.

Mayor Jardim said he would like to get a final report or reports by the council's next conference meeting this Tuesday, October 6, so that governing body members can begin discussion on the committee recommendations.



WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

• A Wyoming Street resident reported that someone threw a large cobblestone through the front window of his home, smashing wood and glass. No one was injured.

Neighbors reported seeing a large, light-colored vehicle with a New Jersey license plate outside the house around the time the incident occurred. A young, white male was witnessed entering the passenger side of the automobile before it left the scene, according to police.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

• Menotti Lembo, 66, of Westfield was arrested at Barchester Way and charged with driving while intoxicated and possession of an open container in a motor vehicle, authorities said. He was released on \$600 bail.

• Nicholas Sheikovitz, 18, and a 16-year-old male, both from Staten Island, were arrested at the intersection of South Avenue and Boulevard and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana, according to police.

Sheikovitz was released on \$250 bail. The juvenile was turned over to a responsible adult, authorities said.

• A Summit Avenue resident reported that someone forcibly entered his car and stole a T-top and a radar detector.

• The facade of a Central Avenue business was damaged with spray paint, according to police.

• Authorities revealed that someone spray-painted the McKinley Elementary School building on First Avenue.

• An Edgar Road resident reported the theft of a portable cellular telephone valued at approximately \$50 from a vehicle parked on South Avenue.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

• A Cranford resident reported the theft of an \$800 bicycle which had been locked at the north side Westfield Train Station.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

• A New York City resident reported that someone scratched the entire right side of her car with an unknown sharp object while it was parked on Jefferson Street.

• A woman was injured while driving south on Mountain Avenue after a large object was hurled at her vehicle from a parked car on Kimball Avenue, authorities revealed.

The object broke the upper left corner of her windshield, causing the victim to be sprayed in the face and eyes with flying glass. She was transported by the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad to Overlook Hospital in Summit, where she was treated and released.

Authorities are investigating the incident, although no arrests had been made as of press time.

• A woman reported the theft of her purse, which she discovered was missing after she returned from an Elm Street supermarket.

The purse, minus \$115 in cash, was later recovered at the Cranford Post Office, authorities said.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

• A convenience store on Central Avenue was burglarized, during which a cash register, \$700 in cash, and \$1,000 in cigarettes were stolen. Entry was gained by smashing the front door of the premises, authorities said.

• A Mountinside resident reported the theft of a bicycle valued at approximately \$400, which had been locked at the north side Westfield Train Station.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

• A cash register, lottery machine, and two cartons of cigarettes were reported stolen from a convenience store on North Avenue, East, according to police.

The lottery machine was later recovered in the vicinity of the railroad tracks near the store.



WESTFIELD FIRE BLOTTER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

• Eight hundred block of Shadowlawn Drive - odor investigation.

• Three hundred block of Orenda Circle - odor investigation.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

• One hundred block of New Providence Road - system malfunction.

• Twelve hundred block of Boulevard - system malfunction.

• Twelve hundred block of Boulevard - system malfunction.

• Nine hundred block of Kimball Avenue - carbon monoxide detector activation.

• Two hundred block of Scotch Plains Avenue - lock out.

• Five hundred block of Clifton Street - tree branch on wire.

• One hundred block of Tudor Oval - smoke and odor removal.

• Two hundred block of Cowperthwaite Place - system malfunction.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

• Four hundred block of Roanoke Road - unintentional alarm.

• One hundred block of New Providence Road - unintentional alarm.

• Five hundred block of Pierson Street - power line arcing in tree.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

• Six hundred block of Kimball Avenue - system malfunction.

• Eight hundred block of Embree Crescent - standby at demolition.

• One hundred block of Elm Street - odor investigation.

• Eight hundred block of North Avenue, West - power line down.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

• Four hundred block of North Avenue, West - system malfunction.

• Six hundred block of Knollwood Terrace - system malfunction.

• Central Avenue and Sycamore Street - automobile accident.

• Nine hundred block of Boynton Avenue - power line down.

• Six hundred block of Lawrence Avenue - power line down.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

• Four hundred block of North Avenue, West - system malfunction.

• Four hundred block of West Broad Street - gasoline spill.

• Franklin Avenue and Putnam Avenue - gas odor investigation.

• One hundred block of East Broad Street - structure fire.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

• Two hundred block of Clark Street - electrical short.

• Two hundred block of Grandview Avenue - wire down.

• Two hundred block of North Avenue, East - mulch fire.

• Two hundred block of GolfEdge - water evacuation.

Officials Hope to Expand Art and Music Programs

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space was used to dry art projects or to keep them stored, according to Mrs. Walsh.

The school board President said the crisis of non-existent classrooms for art and music was broached during discussions of projects to be included under the Strategic Plan.

Linda King, Fine Arts Director for the Westfield public school district, agreed that planning for dedicated classroom space for art and music education "was raised as a priority."

When asked by *The Westfield Leader* about the possible expansion of classrooms during the next five years, pending approval of a proposed \$11.7 million referendum, Ms. King stated, "We are hoping that the fine arts programs will be included in that."

She stressed that "art in a cart" or "music in a cart" is "not going to give you as much as a classroom, but our teachers are outstanding and, in fact, they are doing more right now in this situation by trying to provide instruction under these circumstances."

Ms. King explained that the music program includes a teacher who has music on a compact disk/record player, and stores books in classrooms or on the carts, and walks into classrooms ready to instruct students.

She added that instrumental instruction is often conducted in a school hallway, kitchen, behind stages or curtains in auditoriums, or while physical education classes are taking place. She noted that, at times, "the class will get bumped from one place to another."

She revealed that in the last school year, only two elementary schools - Wilson and Tamaques - had regular, dedicated classroom space. These schools have since lost this space, however, due to increased enrollment, she said.

Dr. William J. Foley, Superintendent of Schools, explained that exactly 12 classrooms would be needed for both music and art programs, in order to provide adequate, dedicated classroom space.

"I think there is a better chance of being able to add classrooms if the referendum is passed," stated Dr.

Foley, adding that without the referendum, "it's not going to happen."

He said he hoped classroom space could be made available sometime after 2003 if the referendum was passed.

Concerning the art program, Dr. Foley observed that "teachers place their supplies on a cart. This limits the mediums that they (the students) can work in. There is not a lot of painting, not a lot of work with clay or fancy projects. It is mostly paper...simpler mediums." He described it as a "shorter, prescribed program."

The Superintendent noted that, with the music program, "teachers can only bring in instruments that are very portable," such as bells and recorders, along with offering vocal instruction.

He said that keyboards would be made available if a regular classroom was provided, adding that musical notation is also not taught as extensively as it could be.

"Kids with an interest in art will still be able to expand their interests in after school programs," Dr. Foley explained. "We live in a community where our parents provide a supplement to what the schools provide."

When asked about the cultivation of these programs at the elementary level, as a prelude to instruction at the intermediate schools and the high school, where regular classrooms are available, Dr. Foley stated, "We (the schools) provide a basic program, but it is limited."

At Westfield High School, students may choose Art 1, 2, 3, or 4, Crafts or Ceramics for art enrichment. The high school's music program includes Marching Band, Color Guard, String Orchestra, Symphonic Orchestra, Choir, Mixed Chorus, Writing and Arranging 1 and 2, Freshman Chorus, Wind Ensemble, Choraleers and Chorale.

Several of the elementary schools' Internet web pages feature artwork by elementary students. Jefferson, McKinley, Wilson and Tamaques Elementary Schools are just a sampling of those which provide Internet "art galleries" where students and parents can view their "masterpieces."

CDC
2x4

Elm Tree
2x3

FOLD

Westfield Foundation's Efforts Benefit Community

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ment committee that meets bi-annually to oversee how Merrill Lynch is investing the money.

According to Ms. Chance and Mr. MacPherson, there are currently 10 new funds which have recently been established by the foundation. The new unrestricted funds include the Charles W. Anderson Fund, the Lee and Anne Hale Fund and the Sitzer Family Fund. These will be added to existing non-restricted funds to benefit local programs and projects through the grants award program.

Three funds which have been established to benefit local programs are the Nancy McElroy Memorial Fund to benefit the Youth and Family Counseling Service; the Rivett Rescue Squad Fund, set up to provide income to the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad, and the Santoriello Family Fund, which will help meet emergency needs in Westfield.

The two new scholarships being managed by the foundation are the Helen Bell McMartin Scholarship Fund and the Liesja Tortorello Memorial Fund to benefit graduating seniors of Westfield High School.

Lastly, the Woman's Club of

Westfield and the Westfield Lacrosse Club have established endowment funds which are currently being managed by the foundation.

This past Monday, trustees of the Westfield Foundation awarded their fourth quarter grants in the amount of \$53,100 to area groups, including the Youth and Family Counseling Service for a continuation of parenting skills workshops; Visiting Health Service for upgraded computer equipment; Union County College for sponsorship of three adult education classes held at the Senior Citizens Housing; the Alzheimer's Association for in-home therapy sessions for Westfield area residents; the Cranford Dramatic Club for roof replacement, and the Westfield "Y" Black Achievers program for sponsorship of its annual banquet.

"The Westfield Foundation is still the best kept secret in town," stated Ms. Chance.

"Even though we have been managed for almost 25 years, some people don't know we are here," added Mr. MacPherson. "We want the community to know that we are here, to continue to help meet the needs of Westfield," he concluded.

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Westfield Art
2x5 1/2