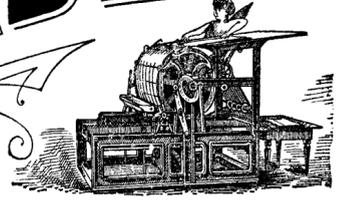




# WESTFIELD LEADER



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FIFTY CENTS

## Council Holds Off Consent On Broad, Springfield Project

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Town Council opted Tuesday night to delay action on a resolution consenting to improvements by the County of Union for the intersection of Springfield Avenue and East Broad Street.

Several council members indicated they wanted the Board of Directors of the Echo Lake Church of Christ, which had concerns over the original county project, to have the opportunity to comment on the new project before the town signs off on it.

County Engineer G. Bruce Connor stated in a letter to Town Administrator Thomas B. Shannon that the county has "developed an alternate plan for the intersection that will accomplish an acceptable level of improvement as the current plan without the need for an additional right of way."

Town Engineer Kenneth B. Marsh explained that the original county plan would have required the taking of land from the church of varying widths up to 10 feet and totaling 5,174 square feet along the frontage and side of the property.

Church members had expressed concern that they were only being compensated for the loss of land based on the assessed rather than the market value of the property. Town Attorney Robert W. Cockren described the negotiations with the church as "intense," as the directors made certain demands in order to approve the project.

Mr. Marsh said the new plan will eliminate the existing traffic island and add turning lanes to improve traffic flow at the intersection, which is often backed up during rush hours.

Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence A. Goldman said contacting the church on the new project should be done as "a matter of courtesy" on the part of the town. First Ward Councilman Carl A. Salisbury

said he was concerned the "county doesn't put the shovel in the ground" prior to the council officially endorsing the plan.

Mr. Marsh noted that a pre-construction meeting with county officials had already been held.

Both Acting Mayor Neil F. Sullivan and Second Ward Councilman Rafael Betancourt had expressed concern about delaying the project, given the tight timeline imposed by the county.

Mr. Connor had asked the council to provide "written concurrence" on the project by June 19. The letter, dated June 13, was received by Mr. Shannon just last Friday.

Upon a recommendation by Second Ward Councilman Matthew P. Albano, the council agreed to hold a special public hearing on the project beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 26, prior to the start of the conference meeting, which is scheduled for 8 p.m.

In other business, the council took action to increase salary ranges of non-union department heads and union staff members by an average of 4 percent.

Among them were employees who

are members of the Communication Workers of America Local 1040. For the union positions, the deputy town clerk and deputy tax collector posts will pay \$27,413 to \$39,838 a year, with the purchasing agent, deputy court administrator and recreation program coordinator compensated between \$30,827 and \$44,387.

In addition, the TV 36 director of communications, a part-time position and also covered by the CWA pact, will be paid \$26,988 this year, \$28,541 in 2002, and \$30,158 in 2003.

Mr. Shannon noted that the actual salaries in the contract, a final agreement which has yet to be signed, will be included for action at the council's Tuesday, July 3 regular meeting agenda.

The council also introduced an ordinance Tuesday night to raise the salary ranges of a number of town officials by an average of 4 percent, with the exception of several positions.

Among these are the recreation director, whose salary range rose from between \$38,813 and \$54,000 in 2000

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Horace R. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

**HOSING DOWN QUMIBY...**Westfield Firefighter Robert Dunlap cleans up Quimby Street Monday morning after spills from garbage truck pickup from a local restaurant caused quite a stench. The Westfield police quickly sniffed out the problem and enlisted the help of the Fire Department. Firefighter Dunlap was assisted by Lt. Peter Klebauer and Firefighter Mathew Pereira.

## Committee Recommends Changing From Iowa Basic Skills Test To New Jersey Proficiency Assessments of State Standards

By ADAM BERNSTEIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

A test study committee recommended Tuesday night that the Westfield Board of Education should change from the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) to the New Jersey Proficiency Assessments of State Standards (NJPASS). The panel also advised eliminating testing in the second, fifth and sixth grade — keeping only the third and seventh grades.

The major factors playing in this recommendation relate to the amount

of time spent preparing and taking the exams, and further, how the tests in those years are not useful to the school district for any practical purposes. The NJ PASS tests, which are similar to the state Elementary School Proficiency Assessment (ESPA) for fourth graders and Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA), would provide a good preparatory guide on students knowledge and are also more challenging than ITBS.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Janie

Edmonds headed the committee, which was comprised of a cross section of teachers representing each level of education from kindergarten through grade 8.

In making the presentation to the committee, she said the group looked at the tests the school district currently

uses for the second, third, fifth, sixth and seventh grades — the years that there are no state-sponsored exams.

There has been some dissatisfaction with the ITBS. The rationale behind the study is threefold: the exam is strictly multiple choice and

thus passé, it is not in alignment with New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards and, due to the relative ease of the test, student scores are clustered at the top, which limits the usefulness of the score reports.

The committee contacted 19 similar school districts for its study and found that only five were satisfied with their current standardized tests. Of the remaining 14, nine were actively seeking new testing. The trouble is not simply finding a new test; as the needs of each school district differ, the uses of a standardized test geared for the entire country becomes increasingly nebulous.

In addressing this dilemma, Dr. Edmonds said, "This is not an easy task to come up with a uniform solution."

Board member Kimberly Rhodes raised the concern that as the NJ PASS is designed for and only used in New Jersey schools, the school district would lose national comparisons.

Board President Arlene Gardner also questioned how specific the feedback would be from these tests.

Board member Dr. B. Carol Molnar was worried about a recent decline in fifth grade reading comprehension scores and how the elimination of standardized testing in fifth grade would inhibit the monitoring of said



**KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE...**Westfield Public School crossing guards were honored by The BRAKES Group (Bikers, Riders and Kids are Entitled to Safety), the Department of Education and the Westfield Police Department during the fourth annual Crossing Guard Recognition Ceremony. Police Chief Bernard Tracy led the event, while Superintendent of Schools Dr. William J. Foley, school principals and representatives from the Parent Teacher Association shared in the congratulations and appreciation for the guards' hard work and dedication to keep children safe while traveling to and from school. Sue Sullivan and Ginny Bucci of The BRAKES Group coordinated the event, which kicked off National Pedestrian Safety Month in May.

## Westfield Recreation Department's Staff Vacancies Almost Completed

By DEBORAH MADISON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Westfield Recreation Department is back on track with an almost full house of new employees. One of the first tasks for M. Bruce Kaufmann, the newly-hired Recreation Director, was to fill several vacancies in his office staff.

Last month, the previous recreation program director and two secretaries in the department moved onto other jobs.

Filling the position of Recreation Program Director, lifelong Westfield resident, Tracy Kastner has joined the department. Mrs. Kastner can also boast being a fourth generation Westfielder and a graduate of Westfield High School. She has a bachelor's degree from Springfield College in Massachusetts in therapeutic recreation and was the front desk assistant director at the Westfield Y for the past year before coming over to the Recreation Department.

"I am very excited about being a part of this team," Mrs. Kastner told *The Westfield Leader*. "We're all new to the department, which makes it a joint learning experience for all of us."

"It's really nice working in a town where I know so many people," said Mrs. Kastner, adding that she hopes to stay planted in this job for awhile.

Also joining the Recreation Department, Tracy Fooster is the new Recreation Department secretary. Ms. Fooster has lived in Westfield for over 40 years and is also a graduate of Westfield High School. Ms. Fooster has an associate's degree in computer science from Union County College and has had experience working in various office-related positions.

Finally, Joanne Cuppari has joined

the department as Secretary to the Director. She started out in this position as a part-time temp but was asked to stay on as permanent and full-time. Ms. Cuppari is a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and has had experience as a teacher's aid in the Cranford school district.

"All of our new employees are very competent and capable at working with the public," said Mr. Kaufmann. "We're all very pleased to have them on board."

The only slot that remains to be filled in the department is for Assistant Director, which Mr. Kaufmann said will be taken care of after he gets a feel for exactly what the department needs in order to better design a complete job description.

### INDEX

A&E.....Page 21	Editorial.....Page 4	Religious.....Page 9
Business.....Page 17	Education.....Page 11	Social.....Page 8
Classifieds.....Page 20	Obituary.....Page 10	Sports.....Page 13

## Master Plan Revision Considered to Address 'Shoe-Horning' of Lots

By JAMES FOERST  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Members of the Westfield Town Council this week announced efforts to enact an ordinance restricting over development.

The Westfield Planning Board met on Monday to amend the town's Master Plan. The informal meeting was attended by First Ward Councilman Carl A. Salisbury and Third Ward Councilwoman Claire Lazarowitz, as well as members of the public.

The Planning Board meets periodically to review and amend the Master Plan and take note of future planning efforts which should be prioritized by the board.

One of the main issues discussed was residential over development, a practice known as "shoe-horning." The term was dubbed to mean subdividing a one-family residential lot into two or more lots for the purpose of constructing additional houses within existing neighborhoods.

In an effort to combat this ever-increasing practice, Planning Board Chairman Robert Newell suggested that the Town Council should "change the land use ordinance to minimize the impact of 'McMansions' on existing neighborhoods by implementing height and size restrictions."

The term "McMansion" refers to new construction of oversized homes on small lots.

According to the Planning Board, the current ordinance requires new construction to be compatible with the existing neighborhood.

However, the Planning Board is limited in preventing this type of over development, because "there is no detail in the ordinance, there is only general language as to compatibility," said Board Vice Chairman Martin Robins.

He continued by stating that "neighbors would be satisfied so long as the new homes being built in old neighborhoods were compatible to those that presently exist in the area."

The Town Council is looking at taking steps to enact more stringent regulations limiting this type of development.

The council is "attempting to revise the municipal land use law to create consistency by increasing standards and broadening the discretion of the Planning Board to reject some

proposals," advised Fourth Ward Councilman Rafael Betancourt, Town Council Liaison to the Planning Board.

The council's actions were verified by Councilman Salisbury, who commented that the issue of "shoe-horning" is "currently being discussed in council committee and a recommendation on a more stringent ordinance is forthcoming."

When questioned by *The Westfield Leader*, Councilman Salisbury could not define an exact timeline for the passage of this more stringent ordinance.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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Courtesy of Adam Polinger

**SCREECHING HALT...**A downed powerline on Central Avenue in Westfield caused the street to close from Grove Street to Clifton Street last Thursday, bringing rush hour traffic to a dead stop. The powerline, which was in front of Westfield Fire Station No. 2, filled the air with fire and smoke.

## Planning Bd.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Planning Board also agreed to retain as part of the Master Plan language promoting a parking structure within the central business district.

Councilman Salisbury recommended that "the Planning Board should continue efforts to implement a comprehensive parking plan with a parking structure at its center."

The board also discussed traffic circulation in and around the town as part of the revision of the Master Plan. Town Engineer Kenneth B. Marsh advised the board that the town is reviewing the benefits of additional traffic calming devices on the municipality's busier streets, including Dudley and Central Avenues.

The town also plans on rehabilitating the train trestle on West Broad Street, as well as improving the intersection at the corner of West Broad Street and North Avenue. The town plans to construct fencing, new sidewalk patterns and lighting changes at the corner "to encourage the use of the crosswalk and avoid the current jay-walking problems," advised Mr. Marsh.

He noted that these improvements related to pedestrian traffic flow will occur simultaneously with the rehabilitation of the train trestle, as well as improvements to the traffic circle.

"We will maintain the existing circle," noted Mr. Marsh; however, the South Avenue and Watterson Street corner will be changed to promote greater traffic flow in and around the circle.

## Audra Majocha Earns Degree at Niagra Univ.

WESTFIELD - Westfield resident Audra E. Majocha received her undergraduate degree in English from Niagra University in New York during the 144th annual commencement exercises in May.

## Area Pupils Participate In Math League Contest

WESTFIELD - Seventh and eighth graders from Roosevelt Intermediate School in Westfield recently participated in the New Jersey Mathematics League 2000-2001 contest.

They were among seventh graders from 256 middle schools throughout the state and eighth graders from 240 middle schools who took part in the annual competition.

The top five student scores from each grade are combined to make the team score. The eighth grade team score ranked Roosevelt 23rd in the state and second in Union County. The seventh grade team score ranked third in Union County.

James Davy's individual score was ranked third among eighth graders in Union County.

The local contest was administered by the seventh and eighth grade math teachers. Over 1 million students in grades 4-12 from the country and Canada participate in math league contests each year.

## Westfield BOE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Superintendent of Schools Dr. William J. Foley, after more than a half an hour of intense discussion, reminded the board that a decision on the test was not to be made Tuesday night. He did indicate, however, that he would like a decision made by the end of September.

In other business, the possibility for the solar panels to be added to Westfield High School's addition was mentioned in the Superintendent's Report, as was a \$20,000 New Jersey State Systematic Initiative grant that was awarded to Math Supervisor for Grades K-8 Dr. Regina Kiczek.

The grant will be used for the Everyday Mathematics program, which will train 16 elementary teachers in the September.



A SIGN OF APPRECIATION...Westfield Social Studies Supervisor Dr. Maria Schmidt presents a plaque to Louis Miron, attorney and coach for the Law Adventure Club of Edison Intermediate School. Under Mr. Miron's guidance, the club won second place in the New Jersey Bar Association's (NJBA) school competition, which was entered by 290 teams. The students wrote and presented a mock trial which they presented to the NJBA. The NJBA will publish the Edison students' case in the fall.

## Franklin Elementary Accepts Principals Council Award

WESTFIELD - Franklin Elementary School in Westfield received the National Association of Elementary School Principals Honor Council Award for the third consecutive year.

The school was recognized particularly for its Student Council's organized Leadership Day and New Student Luncheon. The goal of Leadership Day was to broaden student understanding and appreciation for local and state leaders' roles and responsibilities.

The event also provided opportunities for Student Council officers and class representatives to further develop their leadership skills. A leadership committee of students was formed to plan an assembly for grades 3-5. The State Commissioner of Education and a city mayor

were invited to speak at the event.

Franklin School's New Student Luncheon was the culmination of a year-long effort to make new students feel welcomed. Initially, new pupils were provided with a buddy who they partnered with through the year. The luncheon was an opportunity for all new students to meet one another and participate in activities with their partners.

Student Council officers coordinated the events with teachers, parents and other pupils. They included: President Ben Walker, Secretary Scott Bernstein, Vice President Will John and Treasurer Kelly Seeger.

In addition to the Student Council officers, the following class representatives were also instrumental in ensuring the success of the award-winning programs: Christopher Salemm, Amanda Centrella, Justin Schwartz, Evan Rosenberg, Thomas McKeown, Felix Albrecht, Casey Jo Williamson, Nick Mavrogianis, Sam Rackear, Christine Hwang, Meghan Evans, Allie Kehler, Nick LiVolsi, Lauren Krilchilsky and Eric Zagorski.

## Town Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to between \$40,000 and \$70,000 this year. The salary range for the assistant recreation director will rise from between \$25,875 and \$42,435 in 2000 to between \$30,000 and \$55,000 in 2001.

The construction official, currently in the \$41,400 to \$63,135 pay range, will make between \$45,000 and \$75,000 this year.

The salary range for the town administrator will jump from between \$69,853 and \$111,750 in 2000 to between \$75,000 and \$116,252 this year.

All salary ranges are retroactive to January 1 of this year. Salaries for unclassified officials were approved. The town attorney will receive \$48,229; the judge, \$36,076; prosecutor, \$22,851; public defender, \$11,440, and planning board and zoning board attorneys, \$9,654 each.

# Towns Look to Enact Identical Ordinances On Underage Drinking

By FRED ROSSI

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS -- An effort is underway to work out compromise language that could enable both Scotch Plains and Fanwood to enact identical underage alcohol consumption ordinances that would satisfy the concerns of some who had feared constitutional problems with an original proposal.

Scotch Plains Township Attorney Douglas W. Hansen reported to the Township Council during a meeting held earlier this month with members of the Municipal Alliance Committee (MAC), a local group that works to prevent substance abuse, as well as Scotch Plains Police Chief Thomas O'Brien, Fanwood Police Chief Robert Carbo, and representatives from the joint school system.

Earlier this year, MAC had pushed for enactment of an ordinance that would permit local police officers to enter a private residence and take legal action if they witness the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by someone under 21 years of age.

Similar laws have been passed in several New Jersey communities, including a few located at the shore. At that time, the council held an animated discussion regarding the constitutionality of the ordinance.

Mr. Hansen had expressed his own opinion that the proposed law would violate the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures of properties.

Speaking at the council's conference meeting on Tuesday night, Mr. Hansen said that both police chiefs had also expressed some concern about the legality of the original draft ordinance. In an attempt to mollify those constitutional concerns, Mr. Hansen, in a letter to MAC's Cathy Cvetovich, put forth several suggestions regarding changes in the ordinance's language.

After consulting with Fanwood Borough Attorney Wilfred P. Coronato, the two attorneys agreed that "one way to clarify the possession issue is to eliminate the word 'possession' as being illegal and leave only the word 'consumption.'" "Therefore," Mr. Hansen wrote to Ms. Cvetovich, "if a police officer were to be able to observe actual consumption, he of course can enforce the ordinance. Possession can occur at any time an underage person is in the home with alcohol. While we would expect that the police would not

irrationally impose it, and the statute does talk about the word 'knowingly,' removing 'possession' alleviates any chance of misconstruction by either the police or anyone else."

Mr. Hansen also proposed the addition of other language regarding the right to a breathalyzer test and the level of reasonable cause on the part of a police officer suspecting underage alcohol consumption. Mr. Hansen told the council that another meeting is planned for July and that he expects to be able to report back to the council in August.

In another matter, the council also heard a report on last week's presentation by the state Department of Transportation (DOT) on ways to rectify the traffic situation in and around the intersection of the Route 22 bridge and Park Avenue and Bonnie Burn Road.

Councilwomen Paulette Coronato and Sharynn Porter, along with Mr. Hansen, had attended the forum, during which DOT presented a scaled-back proposal to widen the existing bridge and expand the northern and southern intersections in an effort to streamline the traffic flow.

Mr. Hansen said that if the council is interested in further studying DOT's proposals, the township government would need to formally inform DOT of that interest, which Mayor Martin L. Marks agreed to do.

The township will also organize a meeting of representatives from the township government, Fanwood, Watchung and Union County to help move the process forward.

Mayor Marks also said he wants to have township professionals closely examine DOT's plans.



VALUED EDUCATOR...Fran Holzapfel has decided to retire from the Westfield Day Care Center. In September 1968, just months after the opening of the facility, Ms. Holzapfel worked as a teacher of 2 1/2- to 3-year-olds at the original location of the facility on Madison Avenue. In the fall of 1969, she moved to the newly-opened location in the Presbyterian Church in Westfield to teach an after-school program for kindergartners. During her tenure at the center, Ms. Holzapfel has taught every age group, from 2 1/2 to 6 years. In the late 1980s, she took on the job of Head Teacher/Program Coordinator - a role she continues to hold.

## Steven J. Kapuscinski

### Honored for Math Work

WESTFIELD - Steven J. Kapuscinski of Westfield was honored with the Arthur F. Dershowitz Award in Mathematics at Fairfield University's College of Arts & Sciences Awards Ceremony.

The award is given to a student who has shown a curiosity and scholarship beyond classroom performance.

A math major, Steven took 66 credits in mathematics and computer science courses, well beyond the 47 that are required. At Fairfield, he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and served as vice president of Pi Mu Epsilon, the national mathematics honor society.

Steven graduated cum laude in May with a bachelor of science degree and has taken a position with PricewaterhouseCoopers.

## Wake Forest University Places Julie Iannazzone On Spring Dean's List

WESTFIELD - Julie Catherine Iannazzone has been placed on the Dean's List for the spring semester 2001 at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. She is a freshman.

## Matthew Hanas Named To Spring Dean's List

WESTFIELD - Matthew Hanas was named to the Dean's List at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison for the spring semester. He also received High Honors for outstanding academic achievement in the field of mathematics.

## Brian Christopher Osborn Placed on Dean's List

WESTFIELD - Brian Christopher Osborn of Westfield recently earned Dean's List status at Centenary College in Hackettstown for the spring semester.

Brian graduated Westfield High School in 2000. He is majoring in business administration with a concentration in sports management. He was the center fielder for the baseball team at Centenary.

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