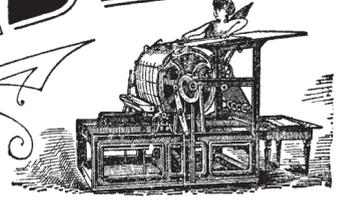




# WESTFIELD LEADER.



OUR 112th YEAR - ISSUE NO. 03-112

USPS 680020  
Periodical - Postage Paid at Westfield, N.J.

Thursday, September 27, 2001

Published Every Thursday  
Since 1890

(908) 232-4407

FIFTY CENTS

## Westfielder Tests Positive For West Nile

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

A Westfield woman is among three new confirmed cases of the West Nile virus, according to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

A department spokesman said the newly diagnosed cases include the 78-year-old Westfield woman, a 72-year-old man from Camden and a 66-year-old Edison Township man.

The new cases brings the number of cases to four detected in the state this season.

All three of the newest patients were hospitalized with symptoms consistent with the West Nile infection, including fever and altered mental status. They were released after their conditions improved.

The Westfield resident is currently receiving rehabilitative therapy. She had been admitted to Overlook Hospital in Summit on September 5.

Dennis McGowan, a Department of Health & Senior Services spokesman, said it was not known where the woman might have been infected. He did say the woman was recovering from the illness.

"My understanding is that she is doing well," he told *The Westfield Leader*.

"The best way to fight West Nile virus is through comprehensive, year-round mosquito control and surveillance," said State Environmental Commissioner Robert C. Shinn, Jr.

The state dispersed \$2.4 million in funds this year to assist counties in cleaning up scrap tires which officials have said can serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes if left untreated.

In addition, New Jersey Agriculture Secretary Art Brown, Jr. says New Jersey landowners need "to continue to be diligent in cleaning up sources of standing water that could serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes."

The Department of Health and Human Services has also indicated that the West Nile virus has been detected this season in one horse, and in birds and/or mosquitoes in all 21 counties in New Jersey. In total, 825 crows and 254 mosquito pools collected from across the state have tested positive for the presence of the virus this season.

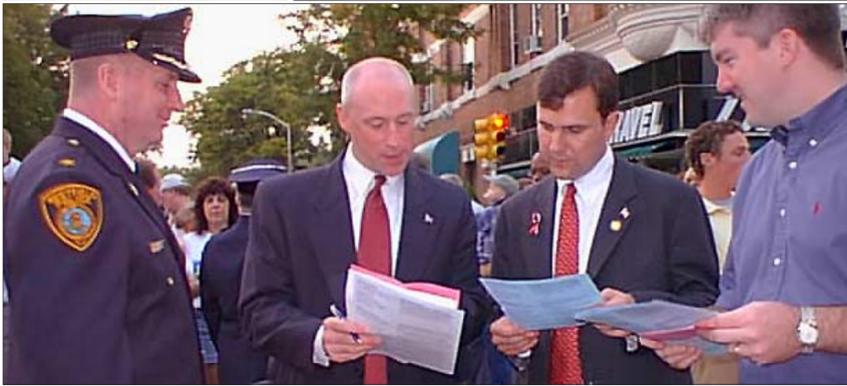
The state confirmed the presence of the virus in six New Jersey residents in 2000, along with numerous birds, mosquitoes and horses. New York City reported 14 cases including one death and Connecticut reported one case in 2000.

Of the six New Jersey cases last year, one person died of the illness.

West Nile, a mosquito-borne viral disease, is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. The virus is not directly transmitted from birds to humans or from person to person.

The virus causes just mild, flu-like symptoms. However, health officials

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

**ILLUMINATING HOPE...**Sunday evening's candlelight vigil included music from the Union County Police and Fire Pipes and Drums; Saint Columille United Gaelic Pipes and Drums from Kearny. Approximately one dozen pipers, two drummers and high school students also brought memorial melodies to the vigil. Westfield Police Chief Bernard F. Tracy joined Mayor Gregory S. McDermott, Assemblyman Thomas Kean, Jr. and Acting Town Administrator Jim Gildea in preparing to address the crowd. Also pictured, above, children dressed with American flag motifs participated.

## Vigil Brings Doves of Residents To Downtown for Local Victims

By STEVEN KRAKAUER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

With garbage still drifting about the streets of Westfield, remnants from the FestiFall street fair earlier that day, citizens crowded the corner of Elm and East Broad Streets for a candlelight vigil last Sunday evening to honor those residents who died in the September 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Towers.

Religious, government, and civic leaders came out to speak and support the crowd that gathered, many with candles and flashlights. Westfield Police Chief Bernard F. Tracy estimated the crowd to include 3,000 people.

The memorial vigil started with a performance of "Taps," a group of Bagpipe players, led by Chief Tracy down Elm Street, and such songs as "You'll Never Walk Alone" and "God Bless America."

Former Westfield Mayor and current State Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger attended and addressed the crowd first, followed by current Mayor Gregory S. McDermott.

Mayor McDermott said, "There's no better way than this to show how we are resilient. We have learned a most painful lesson."

He also noted that the United Fund of Westfield has created a specific

fund, the September 11 Fund, which will go directly Westfield families impacted by the tragedy.

After a speech and rendition of "This Land is Your Land" by Cantor Martha T. Novack of Temple Emanuel, EL, four local clergy members took the microphone for short speeches.

Reverend Dee Dee Turlington of the First Baptist Church of Westfield reminded residents, "You are not alone." She also spoke of the role of God during the September 11 tragedy. "God was in every victim that suffered," she said.

Next to take the podium was Dr. Christopher Atwood of the First Congregational Church. Dr. Atwood warned against an excessive retaliation by the United States against the terrorists.

"If there is to be any victory of good over evil, we must not become terrorists ourselves," he said.

He also mentioned the role of God in what action must be taken from here. "We serve our country best, when we serve our God first," he said.

Father Dimitrios Antokas of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church was the final clergy member to speak. He spoke of the unity the nation must now have.

"All of us are God's children, which

makes us all brothers and sisters," he said.

Congressman Michael A. Ferguson

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## Memorial to WTC Victims Is Planned Near Train Station

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Westfield Town Council took action last week to create a memorial to town residents killed in the terrorist destruction of the World Trade Center's Twin Towers on September 11.

The land is in a small park to the left of an area known as The Plaza, near the First Union Bank where commuters exit from the trains at North Avenue and East Broad Street. The area has been electrified in order to light an American flag that has been hung from an existing pole.

"It was something we could do in town to recognize these victims of what occurred on Tuesday, September 11," said Mayor McDermott.

A memorial will eventually be added as a tribute to the eight Westfield residents killed following the crash of two, hijacked commercial jetliners into the 110-story towers. A dedication ceremony will be held once the memorial is completed.

"The Town Council of the Town of Westfield deems it appropriate to honor the memories of those victims by declaring that certain public property owned by the Town of Westfield shall be dedicated as a memorial to the victims of this attack," according to the resolution approved by the council at its September 19 meeting.

Among the 6,500 names of persons missing in the Trade Center tragedy are Westfield residents An-

drew Alamo, 37, Michael A. Davidson, 27, Stephen M. Fogel, 40, Leo Russell Keene, 33, Richard B. Madden, 35, John S. Salerno, 31, and See-Wong Shum, 44, and Anthony M. Starita, 35.

Fourth Ward Councilwoman Janis F. Weinstein, who came up with the location for the memorial, said a large stone similar to the one used in the Bicentennial Square off of Mountain Avenue, will be used at the memorial. Mrs. Weinstein also donated an American flag to be flown from the pole.

"It just seemed like a very fitting place to put this," Mrs. Weinstein told *The Westfield Leader*. She noted the high visibility of the site combined with the fact the park area runs along the commuter passage-way.

The memorial will be known as "The Town of Westfield Memorial to the Victims who Perished in The Destruction of the World Trade Center."

Acting Town Administrator James Gildea explained that the town envisions adding a stone with a bronze plaque attached to it. The names of the Westfield victims will be included pending approval of the families. The stone will be placed within a memorial garden.

The council's action also commended "in the strongest possible terms the terrorist act of September 11, 2001." The resolution extended the council's "heartfelt condolences" to the friends and family of the victims.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

**AMID A SOLEMN GLOW...**Following FestiFall, the corner of East Broad and Elm Streets became the site of a solemn candlelight vigil. Town and religious leaders offered words of comfort to the crowd of thousands that Sunday evening.

## Mountainside Teachers' Union Seeks to Resume Contract Talks

By LAUREN PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The lack of progress in contract talks between the teachers' union and the local school board has caused some strain on the part of leaders of the Mountainside Education Association (MEA).

Reading from a prepared statement at Tuesday night's Board of Education meeting, MEA President Jeannette Maraffi asked the board to resume and settle contract negotiations.

The MEA, whose contract ended on June 30, and the Board of Education, have been in negotiations since February of this year. Though negotiations have gone into impasse,

they are set to resume with an appointed mediator on Monday, October 29. The MEA would like to see negotiations resume as soon as possible.

"The MEA is ready to negotiate any time, any where," Mrs. Maraffi stated. Though she declined to go into specifics on what the MEA is asking for, she did say that it included salary increases, benefit packages and requests for improvement in working conditions.

"We lost 20 percent of our teaching force during the past three years to higher paying districts with better working conditions. That cannot continue," Mrs. Maraffi told the school board. Mountainside is

rated the 16th top paying school district out of the 23 districts in Union County, putting them in the bottom third, she said.

In the 2000-2001 contract the starting salary for a teacher with a bachelor's degree was \$36,357; with a master's, degree, \$39,103, and \$40,663 for those with a master's plus 30 credits. The 2001-2002 Board of Education budget, which was passed by voters in April, included a \$94,554 increase over the previous year's budget for teacher's salaries.

Teacher salaries, along with home instruction make up nearly 30 percent of the overall budget. The MEA consists of 77 members, including teachers, teacher assistants, custodians and secretaries at Deerfield School in Mountainside. Fifty members of the union were present at Tuesday's meeting of the meeting.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

**FESTIVE DOWNTOWN...**Residents and visitors flocked to downtown Westfield for the 12th annual FestiFall Street Fair on Sunday. Sponsored by the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Quimby, Elm and East Broad Streets were filled to the brim with delicious foods, clever crafts, fine arts, and skillful musicians.

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**SELFLESS EFFORTS...** Four children recently sponsored a lemonade stand and raised \$300 which was donated to the American Red Cross, Westfield/Mountainside Chapter. Pictured, left to right, are: Volunteer Coordinator Jeanine Baum, Board Member Claude Fusco, volunteer Lauren Manmer, Executive Director Dennis Kinsella, and Bobby, Karaline, Joey and Jim Schenosky.

## WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**  
 •Two men were arrested on drug charges in the 300 block of Prospect Street. Robert Galati, 20, of Garwood was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and later released on his own recognizance.

Jonathan Singhbaba, 18, was charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and with possession of alcohol under the age of 21.

He was also taken into custody on an outstanding warrant issued by the Union County Sheriff's Department and subsequently turned over to authorities there.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**  
 •A veterinary facility reported that someone gained access through the rear of the building and removed approximately \$25 in currency.

•A resident of Summit Court reported the theft of a camera valued at \$199.97 from her residence. On September 20, Matthew Betau, 23, of Scotch Plains was charged with theft at Westfield police headquarters in connection with the incident. He was released on his own recognizance.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
 •A Westfield resident reported that the driver's side door lock of her 2001 BMW was pulled out while the vehicle was parked at an establishment on Springfield Avenue.

•Keith McArdle, 48, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated on Lamberts Mill Road near the Conservation Center. He was subsequently released to a responsible party.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**  
 •A propane tank valued at \$500 was reported stolen from a forklift in the rear lot of a business on South Avenue, West.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**  
 •Carl A. Ingram, 22, of Colonia was arrested at the south side Westfield train station and charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana after police received a call from NJ Transit regarding a disorderly person aboard a train.

•A Marlboro Street resident reported the theft of aluminum siding which was stacked in her yard.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**  
 •The owner of a local fur store reported that a man and a woman entered the establishment and threw two balloons at him that were filled with paint, causing damage to some carpeting.

## West Nile

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*  
 say the elderly and those with compromised immune symptoms are at a higher risk of a more severe reaction.

To prevent being infected by the virus, residents are urged to spray insect repellent on their clothing and exposed skin and to wear long-sleeved shirts and pants when outdoors.

Residents should eliminate standing water on their property that can serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Window screens should also be used and kept in good repair.

The West Nile Virus was first confirmed in North America in 1999.

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# Law for Residential Trash Pickups Mandates Starting Time At 5:30 A.M.

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*  
**WESTFIELD** — The Westfield Town Council agreed Tuesday night to push back the time for garbage haulers to begin collections in residential areas from 6 to 5:30 a.m. The restriction is part of an ordinance the town is set to consider Tuesday night.

Several haulers approached the governing body at its September 19 meeting and asked for several amendments to the ordinance that was introduced on first reading at that meeting.

At Tuesday's council conference meeting, Solid Waste Committee Chairwoman Claire Lazarowitz, who represents the Third Ward, said the committee also has opted against any exemptions in the ordinance. Some nine streets had been listed in the ordinance that proposed a later start time, with haulers seeking to add another two thoroughfares.

The debate over restricting collection times started in the early 1990s following complaints by numerous residents seeking an end to collections in the wee hours of the morning.

Led by then Solid Waste Committee Chairman Anthony M. LaPorta, Westfield adopted an ordinance in 1993, only to have the law overturned by a Superior Court judge, in a lawsuit filed against the town by Fanwood Disposal Service, Inc. Union County Assignment Judge Edward W. Beglin, Jr. ruled that only the state can make that decision.

With that in mind, former Westfield Mayor turned state Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger introduced a bill that would limit garbage and recyclable collection to specific hours as decided by local municipal governments.

That bill, A-1936, was signed into law on May 10 by Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco. The bill was co-sponsored by the late Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine of Scotch Plains.

Responding to the proposed

Westfield ordinance, Patrick Hamlette, President of Hamlette Disposal, Inc. of Westfield, called the starting time restriction "unacceptable, unreasonable and unsafe." The company starts collections at 1 a.m. for its industrial customers and then moves into the residential neighborhoods.

"In our view, we recognize that there may be a disturbance to some degree of the peace and quiet in neighborhoods when most residents are asleep," stated Mr. Hamlette. "However, that disturbance, while intrusive, is minimal and short-lived, at least with regard to our company." He said his company moves quickly through neighborhoods.

He cited reasons for needing early

pickups, including avoiding rush hour traffic, access to materials and the safety of school children.

"Between the issue of school children safety and the number of people on the roadways, the earlier solid waste collection starts, the quicker and sooner it can be completed to avoid these large disposal vehicles being immersed in rush hour and school hour traffic, the better," Mr. Hamlette stated.

Peter Furino of Cranford, one of the owners of RND Disposal, advocated for the 5:30 a.m. startup, rather than 6 a.m., at last week's meeting. While calling 1 or 2 a.m. pickups "ridiculous," he said regulations imposed on haulers are making it tougher to complete their routes in time.

He noted that the Union County incinerator in Rahway closes by 5 p.m. on weekdays and noon on Saturdays.

In other business, the town is removing Friday as an option for firms interested in bidding on the town's 2002 curbside recycling contract. That is the day the town's current vendor, Central Jersey Waste & Management of Hamilton, has been collecting recyclables.

Acting Town Administrator Jim Gildea told *The Westfield Leader* that the town will accept bids from prospective firms on Monday, November 5. Included in the bid specifications are options for both one-day and two-day collections, with no town-wide pickups allowed on Fridays.

# Westfield Gains \$25,000 DEP Grant To Refurbish Paths at Brightwood

By DEBORAH MADISON  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

**WESTFIELD** -- The 45 acres of wilderness and animal habitat, known as Brightwood Park on the outskirts of Westfield, off of Prospect Street, is receiving a much-needed face-lift.

Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and matching funds from the Town, Brightwood is in the process of being carefully renovated by the Town's Department of Public Works. Some of the Town's matching funds are in the form of manpower and equipment as well as a monetary contribution, Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Kenneth B. Marsh said.

In keeping with the wishes of concerned residents, who formed the Brightwood Association, the Town will not disturb the park's naturalistic setting during the renovation process. Members of the Brightwood Association have met with the Town's Department of Recreation and the DPW on several occasions over the past year to express their opposition to a proposal to develop some areas of the park into ball fields. Those joint meetings resulted in a consensus of renovations that were acceptable to all those involved.

Last month, Brightwood's one-acre man-made lake was equipped with two aerators, in order to improve the quality of the murky water for the fish and other wildlife that inhabit the pond.

Tamaques Park and Mindowaskin Park have similar aerators in their lakes. Thick, impenetrable underbrush was cleared from some of the trails and wood chips were added to prevent erosion and to make the trails more accessible to joggers and cyclists.

The grant will be used to further enhance the footpath by adding quarry-dust, a fine stone that is good for jogging, walking and bicycling, Mr. Marsh explained.

Two-foot bridges will be built by the DPW, where the trail crosses the stream and eight park benches will be added at various sites.

A geographical information systems (GIS) map is in the process of being designed, showing the topography of the park and many of its features. This computer-generated layout-map will be displayed at the Park's entrance.

"All of the renovations are in keeping with the residents' wishes to maintain the natural beauty of the park's setting," Mr. Marsh remarked.

After purchasing the park in the 1960s, the Town cleaned up the swampy area that had become an unofficial dumping ground. Old

refrigerators and tires had to be removed from the swamp in the process of constructing the man-made lake. Prior to the Town's purchase of the land, squatters occupied a makeshift shantytown in the woods surrounding the swampy area. Remnants of the foundations of those old cabins are still evident in some areas.

The park later drew the attention of the late naturalist and former Westfield High School teacher, Noel Taylor, who wrote a booklet, "Brightwood Park," about the ecology of the park. He documented more than 350 kinds of flora and fauna, including many unusual species of migratory birds and rare plants, which inhabit the park. In recent years, the park has become an outdoor ecology classroom for many local students, who visit the park with their teachers.

Work on the park will begin in the next two to four weeks and will take several weeks to complete, Mr. Marsh estimated.

The Recreation Commission will also meet with the Brightwood Association again to relay the final plans to them before the renovations begin.

## Candlelight Vigil Held

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*  
 (R-7<sup>th</sup>) was the last to speak to the crowd, calling the vigil "perhaps the best type of response we could have."

Following Congressman Ferguson's speech, a moment of silence was observed, and a bell was rung eight times, one time for each of the Westfield residents still missing from the World Trade Center.

Linda Maggio, Executive Director of the United Fund of Westfield, said, "To see us come together in such a community shows that the terrorists broke our buildings but couldn't break our spirit."

Westfield Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, as well as every other council member, was in attendance.

"I think this is a really special community. The feeling of community and unity is important, and we need to work to keep it growing," Mr. Sullivan said.

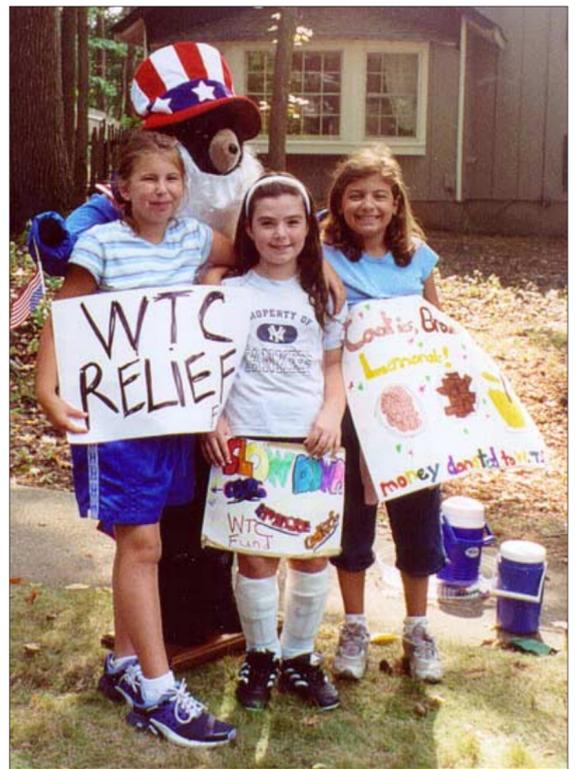
Chief Tracy noted the harmony of the residents in attendance.

"One thing that we all have in common is that we're all Americans," he said.

## September 11 Fund Donations Climb To Total of \$9,500

**WESTFIELD** — The September 11 Fund, created to raise funds for the families of Westfield residents who were killed in the World Trade Center tragedy, is now up to \$9,500, after only one week in operation, according to United Fund of Westfield Executive Director Linda Maggio, who is handling collections.

Donations should be made payable to the "September 11 Fund" and mailed to the United Fund of Westfield, 301 North Avenue, West, Westfield, 07090. For further information, please call (908) 233-2113.



**FRANKLIN FUNDRAISERS...** On Saturday, Franklin Elementary School fifth graders, left to right, Shelby Carlin, Kristen Leigh Caruana and Christiana Ricciuti raised \$900 after selling brownies, cookies and lemonade to thirsty and generous passersby. The students will donate the money to a special fund that helps victims of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

# Victories

## October 6, 2001

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**Union County Arts Center, Rahway • 8:00 PM**  
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**Rodgers:** *Victory at Sea*  
**Ravel:** *Piano Concerto for Left Hand*  
**Rimsky-Korsakov:** *Scheherazade*

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