



Parents Protest HS Open Lunch, Say Drug Use, Sexual Activity, Drinking Take Place

By ROBERT COAKLEY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The two new Westfield Board of Education members were sworn in Tuesday night. The meeting also hosted a debate between students and parents about the issue of how much freedom to give teenagers when safety is such a concern. In this case, the issue was the Open Lunch policy at Westfield High School, which allows juniors and seniors to have lunch off campus. The school board took no

action on the subject, but agreed that more in-depth discussion should take place in the future.

Before the meeting started, Alice Hunnicutt and William Ziff were sworn in as the newest members of the Westfield School Board. They had won election held on April 16. Mrs. Hunnicutt and Mr. Ziff are new to the school board, while Ms. Gardner started her third term.

Ms. Gardner was re-elected as president of the school board at the meet-

ing, and Anne Riegel was re-elected as vice-president.

The meeting was crowded with parents and students wishing to comment on the "Open Lunch" policy at Westfield High School. Superintendent of Schools William Foley explained how the open Lunch program started in 1989, allowing only seniors to take lunch outside of school. "In 1991, the junior class was allowed to take lunch off-campus as well," Foley said. The students have 40 minutes to eat lunch outside of school and then come back for their classes. According to the speakers, the students usually go to downtown restaurants or delis to eat.

Dr. Martha Kieczkowski presented a petition with over 300 signatures to the school board about the problem and impact of the Open Lunch program. The petition was circulated only last Thursday, and already had a strong response. She ex-

plained how the WHS Open Lunch policy is not being properly enforced: the high school doors are not watched, and students of all grades are leaving school premises during the school day. They listed problems of unsupervised activities including drug use, drinking and sexual activity.

"Students are aware that policies are not enforced, weakening respect for schools, teachers and parents," Dr. Kieczkowski said. "Too many of our children are becoming involved in dangerous and regrettable activities."

Dr. Kieczkowski went on to say, "a strongly enforced, redefined policy is needed."

According to the "Problem Statement and Action Items" that was given out, the Open Lunch policy should be limited to WHS seniors, and the 22 points of ingress and egress at the high school should be closely moni-

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SUCCESS TRAIN... The Westfield High School FedChallenge team prepared to board the train to Manhattan last week for their competition that placed them in the finals this coming Friday. Pictured, left to right, are: team members Rui Lu, Ravi Bharadwaj, Chris Urban, Jon Bender, Student Adviser Thom Hornish, and team member Dan Kagan.

Concerned Parents Raise Security Issues At WHS

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Three years after the shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. and over seven months after the terrorist attacks on The World Trade Center and The Pentagon, parents are raising concerns over the lack of security at Westfield High School (WHS).

A group of six parents have formed "PRESS", Parents for Responsibility in Ensuring Student Safety. The group believes that the current open lunch policy is not being properly enforced, citing that the entrances and exits at WHS are not properly monitored and that under classmen are leaving for lunch.

They also state that drug availability and use are notorious. PRESS adds that there is an increase of sexual activity during school hours, and that unsupervised homes are helping to

enable these activities. Their problem statement and action items states, that too many of our children are becoming involved in dangerous and regrettable activities.

PRESS has collected 300 signatures on their petition, which asks, "the Board of Education to limit the 'open lunch' privilege to senior students only, as of fall of 2002, and ensure that the Closed Campus policy is effectively enforced."

The WHS Open Lunch Policy began in 1989, allowing seniors to leave school property during their lunch period. In 1991, juniors were also permitted to leave. The originally policy was formed when the Parent Teacher Organization approached the principal on the interests of parents.

According to Robert Ratner, a PRESS member, there is a lack of security at the high school. He added

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Traffic Calming Work Starts on Rahway Avenue, Streetscapes Have Begun on Central Avenue

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Westfield residents are, and will continue, to see many new road construction projects this year.

Construction has already started for the Rahway Avenue traffic-calming project and the streetscapes project in downtown Westfield is set to start on Central Avenue on Mon-

day, April 29.

The Rahway Avenue project will cost \$240,000, but according to Town Administrator James Gildea, the project may come in under that price due to the scaling back of certain parts. The town received a state grant for \$210,000 to help fund this project. The project is expected to take approximately six weeks to complete.

It includes 100 feet across, three inch high, and six feet wide speed humps in front of Westfield High School and the field house at Kehler Stadium. It also includes raised intersections at Dorian Road and Grove Street and crosswalks that will be raised three inches at Willow Grove and Clifton Street to allow for better visibility to drivers cresting the hill.

There will be bump outs located at several locations. The bump outs are similar to those on South Avenue in Plainfield. There will be a three-foot bump out on Rahway Avenue across from Willow Grove Road to prevent drivers from passing on the right.

Bump outs will also be located at Max Place and Normandy Drive; Rahway Avenue will be 28 feet wide in these areas.

There will also be lights in the crosswalk at Kehler Stadium, although the lights will be similar to those on East Broad Street at Temple Emanu-El, it will have flashing lights in the crosswalk and down the center of the road, allowing drivers behind larger vehicles better visibility.

The bump outs and speed humps will be marked with signs and striping to highlight their visibility.

According to Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh, this is considered the

pilot project and the town could see more traffic calming projects in the future.

Rahway Avenue is the longest unbroken street in Westfield, meaning that it has no stop signs or lights. Rahway has a 25-mile an hour speed limit for the entire 2.2 miles. Rahway is entirely a municipal road, unlike many others in town, such as North and South Avenues, which belong to the county. Over a 10-year period, there have been 344 automobile accidents and more than 65 of those had injuries.

The worst intersections on Rahway for accidents are Rahway and Lamberts Mill Road, and Rahway and Shackamaxon, with 13 accidents with injuries each, and West Grove Street and Rahway, which has had 10 accidents with injuries, an average of one per year over the last 10 years.

The Westfield Board of Education and BRAKES (Bikers, Runners and Kids are Entitled to Safety) are in support of the traffic-calming project.

The streetscapes projects include decorative concrete sidewalks, colored asphalt crosswalks, and landscape improvements in the central business district as well as on Central Avenue between North Avenue and Cacciola Place. The work set to begin on Monday will take place on Central Avenue.

Councilman and Chairman of the Public Works Committee Lawrence Goldman has stated that there will be a published list of current and upcoming projects in *The Westfield Leader* starting in the Thursday, May 2, edition.



Top 10 Dangerous Westfield Intersections *

10. Central Ave. and Clifton St., 14 accidents.
9. Rahway Ave. and West Broad St., 14 accidents.
8. Central Ave. and Lenox Ave., 18 accidents.
7. East Broad St. and Springfield Ave., 24 accidents.
6. South Ave. and West Broad St., 27 accidents.
5. North Ave. and East Broad St., 37 accidents.
4. North Ave. and Central Ave., 41 accidents.
3. East Broad St. and Mountain Ave., 42 accidents.
2. South Ave. and Central Ave., 56 accidents.
1. Traffic Circle, 85 accidents.

* Statistics based on 2000 and 2001 from the Westfield Police Dept., Lieutenant John Parizeau

Garbage Disposal Remains Issue After Burners Experience Financial Challenges

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

How and where to dispose of the millions of tons of garbage generated by central New Jerseyans is a controversial matter, with cost, jobs, environmental and health concerns at the heart of this growing crisis. With the prospect of much more trash from New York City coming to Union County, the complexity of the issue is expected to grow.

Prior to a study commissioned in the 1970s, there was no regulation overseeing where rubbish was dumped in New Jersey. Dozens of legal and illegal landfills existed, many located in the 2,508 acres of Meadowlands wetlands, located off of the New Jersey Turnpike in Rutherford.

Viewed as an unusable breeding ground for mosquitoes, the prevailing thinking supported filling in the wetlands with debris and ash. Many hospitals, industrial sites and apartment buildings had their own, unregulated incinerators, which were not inspected for air quality or ash disposal.

In 1968, the Meadowlands Com-

mission was created. A study of the wetland area determined rubbish was eroding in an uncontrolled and unsafe manner. The study concluded that this was having a detrimental effect on the surrounding land, air and underground aquifers.

The study also concluded that incinerator ash, being dumped in the wetlands and at other landfill sites, was often toxic, emitting noxious fumes into New Jersey's air, ground and waterways.

Pressure from environmentalist and citizens groups resulted in the creation of the Clear Air Act of 1970, which forced the shutdown of many incinerators and precipitated the necessity of solid waste management and regulation in New Jersey. It was determined then by a joint task force that the best alternative to burying the refuse was to burn it.

From the time public meetings began in the mid-1980s, when the idea of having incinerators in 21 locations throughout New Jersey was introduced, grassroots citizens organizations voiced strong opposition.

While many government officials favored the incinerator concept, op-

position groups protested that the incinerators were a health risk, emitting toxins into the air and creating a disposal problem of hazardous ash.

Other objections focused on the financial viability of incinerators, as well as the political and financial connections between the parties, who stood to profit the most from these facilities.

Studies were implemented in more than a dozen counties, costing millions of dollars in planning, consulting and legal fees, to research and plan for the construction of incinerators. In the end, only five of the 21 incinerators ever made it off the ground. One was constructed in Rahway in 1996 and was operated by the Union County Utilities Authority (UCUA).

Each incinerator was constructed with an approximate price tag of \$250 million, floated in bonds by the county where it was located. The financial success of an incinerator's operation relied on a steady flow of refuse to burn around the clock.

The Rahway incinerator's capacity was 525,000 tons per year, or 1,440

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Mandatory Statewide Water Restrictions Are Imposed On Region and County

By HORACE CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

On March 15, mandatory statewide water restrictions were announced. A drought has been declared as a result of more than a yearlong lack of rain, which has created depleted reservoirs and caused a significant lowering of groundwater tables.

Recent rainfall has not alleviated the drought. According to authorities, it has only been a drop in the bucket in terms of what is needed to bring conditions back to normal.

The information within this report is a summary of the water restrictions and applies only to the New Jersey Central and Coastal North drought regions, including Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties, and parts of Hunterdon, Mercer and Morris Counties. Refer to <http://www.njdrought.org> for all details. Other regions of the state are more severely restricted.

Donna Gregory, a spokeswoman for the Elizabethtown Water Company, headquartered in Westfield,

which provides water to most of this region, told *The Westfield Leader* that the public must consult with the state and local governments for information on the specifics of the water restrictions.

She explained that the state government is the ruling authority, and it is posting updated information on its website as conditions change. The water company is distributing water conservation kits to the public at shopping malls throughout the area, to assist with conservation. The kit includes shower and toilet restriction devices.

The water company and *The Leader* and *The Times* will distribute free water conservation kits at SpringFest in Westfield this Sunday, April 28, in front of the newspaper office on Elm Street.

The following information was extracted from the state website:

At this time, it is okay to water your lawn if you live in Union County, but you may only water your lawn every other day. If your house number ends

in an even number, you may water only on even numbered days. If your house number ends in an odd number, you may water only on odd numbered days.

You may water a new lawn only if you have a commercial landscaper install the sod or seed. This applies to new lawns only. Overseeding (adding seed to bare or thin spots) has been done may not be watered. Once a new lawn is installed, you may water it only as follows:

You may water it only for the first 45 days after planting. You may water only in the morning and evening, between 6 and 9 a.m., and/or between 5 and 9 p.m. You may water each part of the lawn for no more than 45 minutes per day. If possible, reseed or resodding of existing lawns should be put off until after the drought is over.

Most lawns turn brown if not watered, not because they have died but because the plants go dormant. This enables the roots to survive for a long time, and the green color will be quickly reestablished when watering begins again.

Watering of athletic playing fields at schools and parks is allowed, but limits apply.

You may water flower and vegetable gardens. You may water shrubs and young trees. But, you must use only a watering can or a hose that does not leak and has a hand held nozzle that shuts off automatically when released.

In all cases, you must use as little water as possible, no puddling or runoff may occur, and you must not water any paved area.

Golf courses can be watered, but

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CONSERVATION IS KEY... Elizabethtown Water Company and *The Westfield Leader* will be giving away water conservation kits to be attached to your faucets at the Spring Fest on Sunday. Pictured, left to right, are: Lauren S. Pass of *The Leader*, President of Elizabethtown Water Company, Andrew M. Chapman, and Elizabethtown's Director of Corporate Communications, Donna M. Gregory.

WHS Fed Challenge Team Goes to Finals in New York

By SEAN WRIGHT
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

The Westfield High School (WHS) Fed Challenge Team advanced to the final round of the eighth annual Fed Challenge competition held by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on April 19.

The WHS team competed with 125 teams from the area that encompasses New York state, the 12 northern counties of New Jersey, Fairfield County in Connecticut, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The WHS team scored 43 out of a possible 50 points in the semi-final round. Westfield, in the previous three years of competition was eliminated in the semi-final round.

Team member Jon Bender said, "We are all very excited about moving on to the finals. Everyone has done their best, and hopefully we can progress all the way to the National Finals."

Westfield made it to the semi-final round with a score of 47 out of 50 points. Scores of all the teams from the semi-final round have yet to be released from the Federal Reserve Bank.

During the semi-final round, Westfield competed with six schools in the region. Schools that will be moving on with Westfield to the finals are: Bronx Science, Bronx, N.Y.; Pittsford-Mendon High School, Rochester, N.Y.; Rumson-Fair Haven High School, Rumson; William Cullen Bryant High School, L.I.C., N.Y.; and returning national champions, Montclair High School, Montclair.

Senior Dan Kagan said, "Our team seemed to be disjointed, but suddenly we all came together. Through hard work and effort, our team should have a good shot at competing with everyone else."

The winners of this round will proceed on to the national competition held in Washington DC. Junior Chris Urban said, "Although the competition has been getting

tougher and better, so have we. I have confidence that we can win the finals too."

Teams are made up of five people who take a specific sector of the economy and analyze it. The team then decides a monetary policy, which is presented to two judges selected from the Fed. Judges watch the team's presentation for 15 minutes, then follow up with a 15 to 30 minute question and answer session.

The WHS team members are Seniors Jon Bender, international economy; Rui Lu, demand-side domestic economy; Dan Kagan, The Federal Reserve Bank, juniors Chris Urban, supply-side domestic economy; and Ravi Bharadwaj, financial markets.

Coinciding with this year's Fed Challenge team, the students produce a business-financial newspaper named *Eye on the Economy*. This newspaper was started three years ago. The current staff consists of juniors Sean Wright and Keith Bodayla, senior Colin Davis, and community volunteer Pete Bilson. *The Westfield Leader* advises the students with newspaper publishing and lends material support.

Currently, the newspaper is used by the team as part of their presentation on monetary policy. WHS has decided to make their recommendation and presentation in the form of an editorial staff discussing which editorial to run for their paper, *Eye on the Economy*.

Adviser Thom Hornish said that he has faith in the team's, "ability and spirit to emerge victorious, a dream which has been elusive for the past three years."

Lu added, "I think right now we have a few minor problems to work on, but once we fix that, I feel we will have a strong presentation. Right now, I don't want to be too overly confident, but I do feel we have a strong chance. So let's all hope for the best."

Garbage Disposal in County Remains Complex Situation

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per day, which was required in order for the constantly burning, 2000 degree fire to be economical.

These incinerators were constructed with the presumption that each county could mandate that all county refuse be contracted with the incinerator. If all 21 municipalities and all private haulers in Union County were mandated to haul their rubbish to the Rahway incinerator, the facility could operate in the black, and pay back the bond to the county from its profits.

With a contractual monopoly on county garbage, the incinerator could also charge what it needed to in order to meet its bond obligation and profit margin.

In 1997, a Supreme Court case out of New York State dealt a lethal blow to the economic viability of the New Jersey incinerators. The case ruled it was unconstitutional for the counties to curtail free enterprise by mandating that private haulers must contract with a particular incinerator.

Many haulers preferred to drive their trucks just over the border into Pennsylvania, where gate fees for landfills were less than \$20 per ton.

With landfill prices so competitive, and the court ruling breaking up the incinerators' monopolies on county garbage, the incinerators in New Jersey were forced to lower their gate rates to stay in business.

In 1998, the Rahway incinerator lowered its gate rate to \$50 per ton, which enticed some haulers back to New Jersey. The UCUA also entered into a 25-year lease agreement with a private company, Ogden-Martin, to operate the facility.

Not included in the Ogden-Martin/UCUA contract were nine Union County towns that relied on private garbage haulers. Among them were Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountainside. Some private haulers have sincere-established private contracts with Ogden-Martin, which, in 1999, changed its name to Covanta Corporation. Corporate Communications spokesman Vincent Ragucci described Covanta as a multi-national corporation.

The Rahway incinerator is described as a Waste-to-Energy Resource Recovery Plant, which converts rubbish into electricity, which it sells for profit.

Despite lowering their gate rates, all five incinerators in New Jersey, operating at only 50 to 75 percent capacity, were unable to procure the necessary amounts of rubbish from their counties alone. To float their bonds and keep from going under, they had to contract outside their own counties to import garbage from other municipalities.

Currently, Union County supplies approximately half of the capacity to the Rahway incinerator. The balance comes from other counties.

About 30 percent of the charge for private residential garbage collection covers the incinerator's gate rate or tipping fee. Most of the private haulers charge similar monthly fees, ranging from \$22 per month to \$30 per month, depending on whether the service is curbside or backyard pickup.

Some towns, such as Westfield, do not permit curbside placement of cans, and prices for refuse collection in Westfield reflect this extra cost.

The Westfield Leader asked the UCUA to supply a breakdown of the county fees charged to the municipalities for garbage collection tipping fees and the cost of the county's contract with Covanta. Because of the complexity of the issue, the Union County Office of Public Information said it would provide that information later in the week.

Covanta told *The Leader* the fees it charges for contracts to private haulers were confidential, as well as the number of private haulers that contract with the corporation. It did admit its gate fee for non-contractual haulers was \$75 per ton.

Like several other incinerator operators, Covanta recently filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization, stating it was divesting itself of less lucrative holdings that were owned by Ogden-Martin, in order to concentrate on the more profitable business of waste management.

However, Kerry Blanchard of Concerned Citizens of Union County claimed this was not factual information and a distortion of the financial trouble the incinerator is really under. Ms. Blanchard claimed the incin-

erators are not financially viable and are all going under, asking to be bailed out by taxpayers.

There is currently a bill before the State Assembly proposing to bail out the failing New Jersey incinerators, which will be explored in more detail in the next article of this series.

Mandatory Water Rules

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special restrictions applying.

You may top off a swimming pool with water as necessary to make the filtration system work. You may fill a drained pool if it was drained prior to March 11, 2002. You may fill a new pool under construction. Pools may be refilled once. You may drain and refill a pool once for structural repairs. Municipal pools may be drained and refilled once if necessary for healthy operations.

As applicable, individuals and towns must obtain prior approval from the local municipal water purveyor before refilling pools. The rules for swimming pools also apply to outdoor hot tubs, spas and Jacuzzis. Small "kiddie pools" are exempt from the restrictions.

You may not wash your car at home. Cars may only be washed at commercial car washes. Commercial car washes must comply with limits and must conserve water.

Boats may only be washed at boat dealerships, marinas, and commercial boat/car wash businesses. Limits apply to how and when boats may be washed at these businesses. You may flush your own boat engine if flushing is needed to remove salt water, but you may not wash the whole boat yourself.

Washing of pavement is not allowed, except at restaurants for public health reasons, as part of road construction or repaving, and for street sweeping if non-potable water is used.

Opening of hydrants is a serious problem during times of drought, because it can waste gallons of water in a very short time. It can also be dangerous because it can lower the water pressure so that firefighters can't fight fires effectively. The police can fine people who open hydrants. Repeat offenders can even be sent to jail.

Restrictions apply for those with wells also. Your well may be lower than you realize. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has seen more than double the usual number of wells going dry in recent months, as compared with the same months last year. Even if your well is doing okay, it is fed by an underground aquifer that extends for miles. When you pump water out of that aquifer, you lower water levels throughout the area, so you may be causing other wells to go dry, and contributing to lowering of streams and rivers.

The state applies restrictions based on conditions in each drought region, but local conditions can be more severe due to localized rain showers and a town's existing water supply system. So it is important that you comply with the most stringent requirements that apply in your area.

Officials of the towns of Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountainside, plus the County of Union, told *The Leader* and *The Times* that no additional local water use restrictions have been imposed at this time. The public is advised to monitor local television stations, websites and the newspapers for updates on water use restrictions.

David Williams of Williams Nursery in Westfield told *The Leader* and *The Times* that "a drought is not a reason to give up on gardening. Southern California has been under a drought for the past 40 years, and gardening is still the number one hobby there. There are many drought tolerant plants that can be used and new soil amendments that can be added to the soil to increase water retention. Mulching existing beds will help protect existing plants."

Randall Miller, general manager at Parker Greenhouses Farm and Garden Center in Scotch Plains, told *The Leader* and *The Times*, "Avoid sprinkling the lawn. It will go dormant in a drought and 'regreen' when rains return. But, definitely deep water your deeply rooted trees, shrubs and plants every three days or so to keep them healthy and to conserve water at the same time. Dead plants are a problem, grass recovers quickly!"



USAF BAND CONCERT...The award-winning Heritage of America Band, pictured, above, from Langley Air Force base in Virginia will perform at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School auditorium on Wednesday, May 1, at 7 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

USAF Band Sets Performance At Scotch Plains-Fanwood HS

By BILL SHEPPARD
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS — The USAF "Heritage of America" Band from Langley Air Force base in Virginia under the leadership of USAF Major Larry H. Lang will perform at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) auditorium on Wednesday, May 1, at 7 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

Major Eugene Pearson of the N1821st Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps in Scotch Plains, whose group sponsors the

concert, told *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*, "The last time we were privileged to have a concert in our area by this award winning band was just after Hurricane Floyd. The upcoming concert has special meaning in light of the events of 11 September."

Tickets are required for admission and can be obtained by mail or in person at the SPFHS Main Office, Attention Concert Tickets, SPFHS, 667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains, 07076. The number of tickets is limited to a maximum of five for groups.

Parents Protest Open Lunch Policy at Westfield High

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tored through student identification. Her husband, Gerard Kieczykowski also spoke at the meeting about how students abuse the open lunch policy.

Sean Wright, a junior at WHS, said the high school has one of the most rigorous academic programs in the state. Having lunch off school property at a restaurant is a relief, he said. Also, drug abuse and sexual activity are issues that are limited that open lunch will not fix, Mr. Wright said. Mr. Wright continued to state that the WHS cafeteria is crowded. He also described the quality of the cafeteria food as "iffy" and said certain students have dietary concerns or are vegetarians, and the cafeteria does not have food for them.

Tom Dwyer, a parent, said the other parents attended because getting involved is very important. Changing the lunch policy will not change the situation if students break the rules, but you have to start somewhere, he said. "You have to close the little window of opportunity," he said.

Mark Felder, another parent, said there is more at hand than just the issue of open lunch, and that can cloud the issue. But when no one can control who leaves and arrives at the school during school hours, there is a problem. He said that enforcement has to be studied.

David Eisenberg, a high school junior, said 95 percent of the students appreciate the open lunch policy, and are just trying to use what liberties they have. The students have a valid concern when they are given privileges and then those privileges are taken away, he said.

Other students also spoke for the open lunch policy. Chris Aldridge said juniors would be given mixed messages about how the school trusts them to choose a college but not spend 40 minutes off campus. Erin McClellan said a poll should be taken of the juniors' and seniors' parents. Willie Masket said crowding in the cafeteria would get worse over the next few years. Carolyn Harvo said

the open lunch policy would be easier to enforce with different identifications for juniors and seniors.

Dr. Robert Petix, the principal of WHS, said the matter will go beyond the meeting, and discussions will have to be held. An intelligent study will have to be done to see if the open lunch policy is educationally good for the students, Dr. Petix said.

When the school board meeting went into private session, the adults and teenagers met outside the administration building to further discuss the matter. Everyone agreed that the open lunch policy had to be better enforced, and that more official discussion was needed. Both sides agreed there is a legitimate concern from everyone involved. At this time, it seems the matter will be discussed at length during the June meeting of the Westfield School Board, and no policy changes will start until at least September.

Also at the meeting, Business Administrator Robert Berman discussed the work around the schools. There was an official groundbreaking at WHS on April 9, and work has begun on the major areas of construction, Mr. Berman said.

The cafeteria, the guidance and the gym storage expansions were set to have concrete put down this week. The steel for the cafeteria is set to be erected this Saturday, and the bids on the field house will go out in next Thursday's *Westfield Leader*, he said.

Part of the meeting was an organization meeting, and the board passed various personnel items. Dr. Foley gave thanks to two retiring teachers: Rosemary Gagliardi from Washington School and Diane Russell from Franklin School.

Board member Kim Rhodes said that the May 7 board meeting will be held at Franklin School, since fourth grade teacher Carole Kling will be presented the Charles Philhower Award at the meeting. Also, the Spring Concert will be held at Edison School on May 9 at 7:30 p.m., Ms. Gardner said.

Westfield Student Competes at Roanoke

WESTFIELD — Bree Sherry, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sherry of Westfield, was one of 94 high school seniors who competed in Roanoke College's recent tri-annual Scholars Program.

Designed to recognize and support students superior academic and leadership ability, the competitive program will result in the awarding of the college's top scholarships, including full tuition, room and board; full tuition; and scholarships worth up to \$2,500 annually.

Finalists not qualifying for top awards will receive the Faculty Scholarship, worth \$1,000 annually. Selection is based on the candidate's completed admission and scholarship program applications; academic records; and performance in the scholarship competition, which consists of written and oral communication as well as faculty interviews.

Bree currently attends Westfield High School.



YOUNG AMBASSADOR...The Woman's Club of Westfield will sponsor David Urban, a Westfield High School student as a HOBY Ambassador. He will attend a three-day seminar this spring. HOBY's mission is to seek out, recognize and develop the leadership potential of high school sophomores. David is fluent in Hungarian and English, with German as a third language. He received the highest score on the National Standardized German test this year. David will spend three weeks this summer as an intern at the United States Embassy, in Budapest.

Concerned Parents Raise Security Issues At WHS

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that door alarms should be installed to limit student exits.

"With more than \$50 million (in the budget) you can find a few thousand for security," Mr. Ratner told *The Westfield Leader*. "Parents have the right to demand security."

WHS has 22 entrances and exits. Teachers and paraprofessionals are stationed in the hallways and on the grounds to supervise. There are currently signs in all of Westfield Public Schools, including WHS, asking visitors to report to the office upon entering.

However, on several occasions, two reporters for *The Leader* have entered the high school and not been questioned or stopped.

Mr. Ratner said that the reactions

from WHS Principal Dr. Robert Petix and Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley had not been overwhelmingly positive. He added that Dr. Petix indicated that the cost to monitor all of the doors would be too high.

Dr. Foley stated at Tuesday's school board meeting that, "safety and enforcement is a concern. We need a recommendation on how this will take place."

According to Coordinator of School and Community Relations for the Westfield Board Of Education, Lorre Korecky, Dr. Petix will be forming a committee made up of parents, students and teachers to review the current policy and make recommendations to the school board in June.

Bearded Iris

Perennial of the Week

- Fragrant Blooms
- Drought Tolerant
- Good Cut Flower

\$2 Off #1 pot
Reg. \$10.99

Save the World!

Earth Day & Arbor Day this week.
Plant a tree and Make a Difference.

Free Tree

Kids,
Stop in for your
Free Tree seedling.

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Plant a tree now
and enjoy the
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- Provides Summer Cooling
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Good Thru 04/30/02

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