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# THE WESTFIELD LEADER

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FIFTY CENTS

## WF Council Argues Over Secret Meeting With Police

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader  
At Tuesday night's conference session members of the Town Council got into a heated argument when it was revealed that two members of

the council had met with members of the Westfield Police Department to discuss the police contract currently in negotiation.  
First Ward Democratic Councilman Carl Salisbury was not present at the

meeting.

Mayor Gregory McDermott began with a statement that the entire council has given direction to Town Labor Attorney Frederick Danser, 3rd. He reminded the members of the council that they had met with Mr. Danser on February 5, April 30 and June 11. Prior to the June 11 meeting, each member of the council had received a copy of the proposed police contract for their review, and to discuss at the meeting.

The mayor then addressed Third Ward Democratic Councilman Kevin Walsh, citing his letter to the editor in the July 25 issue of *The Westfield Leader*. Mayor McDermott specifically took issue with Councilman Walsh's statement that, "the Mayor has not yet presented the police contract to the Town Council. Furthermore, the Mayor has not informed the council as to what specific direction, if any, he has given to our labor attorney during the past eight months."

"The entire council meets, discusses it, and we then give him (Mr. Danser) the direction," Mayor McDermott said. "So the question I have to ask is why was it put in the paper?"

Councilman Walsh's response was that he needed to, "set the record straight."

According to Councilman Walsh, police officers have been saying that

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## Library Bd. Relates Staffing Quandaries to Town Council

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The regular conference session of the Westfield Town Council began with a presentation from the Westfield Memorial Library Board. Board member Betty Barcan explained to the council that for the past year and a half the library has had a serious problem hiring and retaining staff. She explained that there is a shortage of qualified applicants and that the library needs to offer competitive salaries. She added that this is a universal problem.

The board would like to create a new fulltime Reference Librarian position with a starting salary of \$36,503, as well as raise the salaries of all employees except for the positions of Director and Assistant Director. They will also be deleting the part-time

Reference Librarian position.

Board member J. Hershey told the council that the money for the raises exists in the current budget.

Cynthia Cockren explained that the board had done a lot of research and that they had looked at the minimum salary standards put forth by the New Jersey Library Association as well as other towns. She explained that a professional librarian must have a master's degree.

"We can't have a library that isn't staffed by trained people," Ms. Cockren told the council.

Third Ward Democratic Councilwoman Claire Lazarowitz brought up the concern the council had earlier in the year regarding the salary of the Library Director, and questioned if the board had

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POLITICIANS IN THE PARK...On Tuesday afternoon in Mindowaskin Park in Westfield, U.S. Senate candidate Doug Forrester officially announced that former Governor Tom Kean will lead his campaign. Pictured, above, left, Mr. Forrester and Mr. Kean shake hands, while Assemblyman Tom Kean, Jr. looks on. Photographers and members of the media, pictured above, right, were on hand to capture the moment.

## Former Governor Kean Named As Chair of Forrester Campaign

By JENNIFER PINTO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

At a press conference on Tuesday in Mindowaskin Park, U.S. Senate candidate Doug Forrester announced that former Governor Tom Kean would become Chairman of Forrester's campaign to unseat Robert Torricelli.

Mr. Forrester praised Governor Kean as one of the most influential

and popular leaders in New Jersey history.

"This is the man who is in politics for the right reasons," stated Governor Kean.

*The Westfield Leader* asked Governor Kean if he plans on running the whole campaign. He responded that he would be the campaign chairman but that he wouldn't be part of the daily details of running a campaign. *The Leader* also asked if he would rely on his son, Assemblyman Tom Kean, Jr. to help with the campaign. Governor Kean answered with a smile, "I always rely on my son."

Mr. Forrester released the following statement: "Governor Kean was a great leader of this state. I was honored to have been a part of his administration, where I fought to protect the pensions of over 500,000 New Jersey teachers, policemen, firemen and public employees.

"Governor Kean is a man of integrity and honor, and I am extremely proud that he has agreed to serve as Chairman of my campaign. Governor Kean will be a tremendous asset to this campaign, and I look forward to his counsel and support during the next few months - and as a member of the United States Senate.

"Our campaign continues to gather momentum. Last week, a poll indicated that this race is a dead heat. It is clear that the people of New Jersey have had enough of Mr. Torricelli's poor conduct and poor voting record. And last night, the Deputy Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Jack Oliver, came to New Jersey and told New Jersey leaders that the national party is fully committed to this race.

"Enthusiasm is clearly building in our campaign. Though it is only July,

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## HEALTH RISKS, AESTHETICS ASSOCIATED WITH ANTENNA QUESTIONED Fire Chief Wants Antenna For Communication; DWC and Historic Commission in Opposition

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Westfield Fire Chief John Castellano has been in communication with Verizon to install a cell antenna atop the Northside Westfield Firehouse.

The antennas are proposed to be installed as louvers that would cover the windows on the tower. Also proposed is a 6-foot by 10-foot pad on the east side of the firehouse which would be fenced in and surrounded by trees. The machinery on the pad will take the signal from the antenna and feed it into the phone lines.

The North Side Westfield Firehouse is a historic building; listed on the local, state and national registry. Due to this designation, Chief Castellano appeared before the Westfield Architectural Review Board so that its members could make aesthetic recommendations to the changes.

Also present at the meeting were Nancy Priest, Chairwoman of the Historic Preservation Commission and Town Historian, and Executive Director of the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC), Sherry Cronin.

According to Chief Castellano, the building will look the same and no bricks will be moved.

The Westfield Fire Department has been having communication problems throughout town. They carry multiple radios, and sometimes neither of them will work in these "dead spots" in town. These dead spots include Lamberts Mill Road and inside Genesis Elder Care, downtown Westfield along North Avenue, and inside Children's Specialized Hospital. The proposed antenna would allow for communication in the downtown area.

"We have a viable downtown business center, if we can't protect it, we're in a world of trouble," Chief Castellano said at Monday night's meeting.

The Chief also made it clear that safety of the firemen, residents and the buildings are the reason he has asked for the antenna. He explained to the board that one third of the fireman that were killed on September 11 died because they lost communication. He explained that according to laws put forth by OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), the fire department has to provide communication inside and outside the buildings.

Chief Castellano added that he was also speaking on behalf of Westfield Police Chief Bernard Tracy, as the police department will also use the antenna.

Mrs. Priest told *The Westfield*

*Leader* that the commission is against the antennas going in as they will impact the fabric of the building. She added that it would require drilling into the building.

Mrs. Priest said that the louvers are, "just going to look awful." Adding that it was not just aesthetics that she was concerned about, but safety

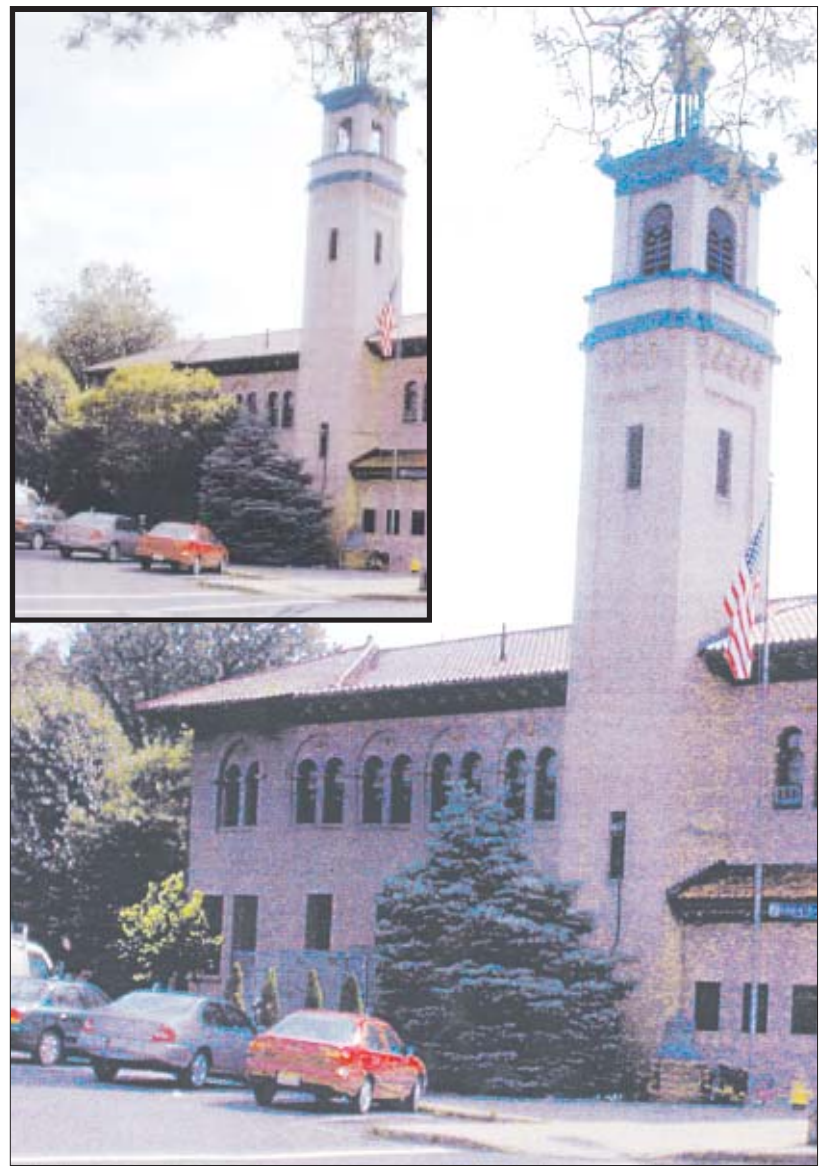
the louvers would close off the bell tower, and then there would be a chain link fence.

Mrs. Cronin also wrote a letter to ARCH, the firm which represents Verizon, on June 21, questioning the prudence of looking into other locations, the fact that according to the zoning laws cellular antennas are not

permitted in the central business district, among other concerns.

Mrs. Priest and Mrs. Cronin echo

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BEFORE AND AFTER...Westfield Fire Chief John Castellano provided *The Westfield Leader* with images depicting the current façade of the firehouse and how it would appear with the addition of the cellular antenna.

issues regarding cell antennas as well. Currently, chicken wire exists across the openings in the tower to keep birds out. The tower was originally used to hang and dry hoses.

Mrs. Cronin told *The Leader* that there are many questions to be answered. She cited a publication from the national historic trust, which explains how to conceal cell antennas in historic buildings. She said that this plan calls for a large canopy, and

## Town Tax Collector Extends Office Hours

The Office of the Tax Collector will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2002. Our normal office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. will resume on Friday, August 2, 2002.

The due date for the August taxes is August 20, 2002. Interest will be charged beginning on August 26, 2002 and will revert back to August 1, 2002 in accordance with the New Jersey State Law.

## Borough BOE Hears Construction Updates and Academic Action Plan

By TRACY EVANS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Mountainside Board of Education gathered in last Thursday evening at the Mountainside Public Library, its temporary home. The change in venue was the result of one of many aspects of the board's Long Range Facility plan which is quickly preparing the Deerfield and Beechwood Schools for the fall opening.

The former home of the school board meetings, Deerfield School, had begun its own process of asbestos abatement for what will be nearly a two-week period of establishing critical barriers and intensive demolition.

As both schools undergo massive interior and exterior construction efforts, the board has become increasingly concerned as to whether or not the work will meet the fall deadline.

Joining the board was Ciro Randazzo, of Randazzo Builders, Inc., as well as James Ruban, representing the Musial Architectural Group, which is controlling the project.

Mr. Ruban provided a detailed update on the progress made to date. Classroom extensions at Beechwood School are nearly complete, with the vinyl siding and masonry showing signs of development. Interior work has already taken place, accommodating the enlarged spaces. Outstanding materials for both sites, however, still need to be ordered.

"There is a good amount of site work that needs to be done," continued Mr. Ruban, describing the state of the reopening Beechwood School, "It's not extensive but it's important."

School Board Vice-President Sally Riveccio attempted to find out exactly how extensive the remaining work will be. Despite the finishing date set on the current contract, which was projected to be on or around August 29, Mr. Ruban offered his, "professional opinion," and advised the board to, "prepare for the worst."

The next step for the board to consider was how this possible delay will affect the students.

Mr. Randazzo stressed that the builders are prioritizing with this in mind.

"The students won't be displaced. Areas that need to be open will be," he said.

The major areas of construction that remain are the school board of-

fices and the library and media centers, while the classrooms and cafeterias promise to be complete.

Board members Frank Geiger and Peter Goggi both persisted in questioning the guests, expressing their concern for the children's safety

among the presence of construction work. While the construction would be confined if continued into September, Mr. Ruban stated that one of the primary questions of a smooth opening to the school year, "is ultimately

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## Seniors Pose Medicare Queries to Congressman

By JENNIFER PINTO and BILL SHEPPARD  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Senior citizens from Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside and surrounding communities packed the Community Room of the Westfield Town Municipal Building on Monday, July 29, for a question and answer discussion on Medicare.

The forum was arranged to update seniors about Medicare and the House of Representatives' vote to create a comprehensive drug prescription benefit. The event was held by Congressman Michael Ferguson and Tom Scully, Administrator of the Federal Center for Medicare and Medical Services (CMS).

Mr. Scully said that the public has had a bad perception of Medicare, just like the Internal Revenue Ser-

vice. Now, they are working to change that perception.

Congressman Ferguson addressed issues ranging from his own experiences to issues regarding social security, pharmaceutical companies, health research and affordable and acceptable prescription drugs.

Marian Kosler of Westfield stated that she is extremely thankful for the research achievements of the drug companies in New Jersey, because they have enabled her to live.

Jack Potashkin, a veteran from Springfield, asked Congressman Ferguson and Administrator Scully, "Why can't Medicare take care of the Veterans instead of shortchanging them?"

Seniors had the opportunity to ask a variety of questions during the public forum. Both Mr. Ferguson and

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AIRING ISSUES...Senior citizens from various communities came to air issues of particular importance to them during Monday's seniors town meeting with Congressman Michael Ferguson and Administrator of the Federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Tom Scully.

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A DAY AT THE RACE...James Foerst, Westfield resident and reporter for *The Westfield Leader*, enjoyed the energy and excitement of the 5K Race in downtown Westfield last week.

## Four Scotch Plains Teenagers Face Sentencing in Sexual Assault Case

By DEBORAH MADISON  
Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader*  
SCOTCH PLAINS -- Sentencing for the four Scotch Plains teenagers who sexually assaulted a 13-year-old girl out-

### Mountainside BOE

Continued from page 1  
mately in the town inspector's hands."

While the students may be able to move about the building safely, there is an imminent hazard of fire alarms not extending to those parts of the schools that are incomplete and under construction.

Mr. Randazzo estimated that, if delayed, all construction work will conclude by the end of September at the latest possible date.

Chief School Administrator Dr. Gerald Schaller proceeded with the preliminary report of the board's Action Plan in response to the GEPA (Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment) testing results.

Working with a curriculum coordinator, the board hopes to establish in-service programs that will utilize staff input and address particular academic areas of interest. The complete breakdown of testing results will be made available to the board in September.

Due to the high scores on the GEPA testing, which place the Mountainside school district in the 75 percent and above tier, a prioritized state evaluation is scheduled for early this fall. The state's assessment will cover such topics as school level planning, the curriculum connection to core academic standards, pupil behavior and staff development as well as school board ethics.

The final discussion of the evening was related to the second reading of a newly revised policy of zero tolerance for fighting and assault within the schools. The board recently sought to define the term "zero tolerance" and its implications more specifically.

In addition, Mr. Goggi recalled how the policy was re-crafted to reflect, "the chain of command" with respect to the multiple school buildings that will be active beginning this fall.

The policy states that the Chief School Administrator, or his designate, is responsible for disciplinary actions toward the student body. Since Dr. Schaller will assume the role of full-time principal at the Beechwood School, the principal of Deerfield, Mrs. Church, will assume the role as his designate at her respective office.

Board member John Perrin addressed the possibility of another individual serving as designate in outstanding circumstances, which the board decided was lawful if such an individual was appointed by the acting principals in either school in their absence.

On a bittersweet note, the board bid farewell to School Administrator and Board Secretary Florence Shukis, who will be officially retiring this fall to spend more time with her family. She will remain, however, through the fall audit and to witness the completion of the Long Range Facility Plan projects.

side of Park Middle School in January has been scheduled to take place in Elizabeth County Courthouse before Judge John Malone on September 13.

All four of the boys, students at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and underage at the time of the incident, have pled guilty as adults to separate charges but will be sentenced at a joint hearing according to a Clerk at the Courthouse.

Two of the teenagers, Mark Russell, 17, and Jesus Gonzalez, 16, in addition to being charged with aggravated sexual assault are also being charged with kidnapping.

They admitted in separate court hearings, in May, that they dragged the girl from the school to a creekbed behind the school, where the incident took place.

Both Gonzalez and Russell are being held at the George W. Herlich Detention Center in Elizabeth in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

By pleading guilty, Gonzalez and Russell face a minimum of 8 1/2 years each in jail and up to a maximum of 10 years for their roles in the attack.

All four of the co-defendants could have faced up to 20 years in prison had they been convicted at trial.

The other two boys, Bryan Soriano, 16, and Manuel Batista, 16, previously pled guilty in March; Soriano to aiding and abetting a sexual assault and Batista to aggravated sexual assault.

In a plea agreement, they each face up to five years in jail according to press

releases from the Union County Prosecutor's Office. Soriano and Batista were released to the custody of their parents.

A fifth boy who was 14 at the time of the attack faces a hearing next month when a judge will decide whether he should be tried as an adult.

Thomas Manahan, who was serving as Union County Prosecutor at the time of the incident, said in the press release that his office sought to prosecute the boys as adults, "in light of the physical injuries and emotional trauma inflicted on the girl."

Prosecutors said in the press release that the girl was forcibly dragged from the school in a headlock, then pushed and slapped in the face several times during the assault.

Gonzalez faces a second count of aggravated sexual assault for following the girl back into the school and sexually attacking her again after she left the creekbed.

The four boys were arrested several days after the attack, after an investigation by the Scotch Plains Police Department.

The four co-defendants now face evaluation at the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Avenel to determine if they are compulsive and repetitive sex offenders. They are also subject to life-long registration as sexual offenders under New Jersey's Megan's Law and subject to the state's "No Early Release Act" if they commit any other violent crimes, the press release stated.

## Library Bd. Relates Staffing Troubles

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researched that aspect.

Ms. Cockren explained that the Library Director and the Assistant Director's salaries are in the middle.

Mayor Gregory McDermott said that the Westfield Library Director and Assistant Director are paid less than those in Summit, Millburn and Ridgewood.

First Ward Republican Councilman Peter Echausse said that he applauds the efforts of the board.

Town Administrator James Gildea reported that the annual audit was completed and that the most important thing that needs to be rectified is a backlog in the court not reconciling bail. He added that the auditor sees this as a "simple fix."

Next week, there will be a first reading of an ordinance for revised salary ranges. Mr. Gildea explained that this change is because the treasurer, Liy-Huei Tsai, has taken over the responsibilities as the purchasing agent, and will be receiving a salary increase for that. In addition, a secretary at the Westfield Fire Department was changed from part-time to full-time status.

There will also be a resolution to pay Management Learning Laboratories \$24,000 to work with the Recreation Committee to conduct a recreation needs assessment study. According to Mr. Gildea, focus groups will begin meeting in September.

The council will also see a resolution for a change order and payment for improvements to municipal parking lots 2A and 5.

Town Engineer Ken Marsh explained that there was additional base paving and grading that had to be done in lot 2A, near the train station, and additional trenching needed to be done in lot 5, behind the Rialto Theater, in order to connect the pay stations.

There will also be a fully revised Tree Preservation Ordinance on the agenda for next week.

Mr. Gildea reported that the bond sale had gone well and that the town had received favorable rates.

The \$7.556 million bond was sold to Commerce Capital Markets for a 15-year period. The first payment of \$395,000 plus 2.75 percent interest will be made in 2003. The interest rates range from 2.75 percent for the first year to 4.3 percent for the fifteenth year. The total interest cost over the life of the bond is 3.789 percent.

Last week, the town received the senior citizens bus they purchased with a state grant. This bus, as well as the Seniors In Motion bus, which was provided by the county, will be run by the Red Cross. The Red Cross will enter into an agreement with the town, and the town will pay for gas and maintenance of the vehicles.

Mr. Gildea suggested that an advisory committee be set up to make sure the program is running properly.

Mr. Gildea recently met with representatives from The Atlantic Group, Blais Brancho and Robert Newell to discuss the redevelopment of the parking lots. The Parking Review Committee and the members of the council will be receiving the area in need of redevelopment report. The redevelopment issue is on the Planning Board's meeting agenda for September 18.

Mr. Gildea also reported that the tax bills went out late, and the letter that was enclosed was the same as last year, except that it had a pie chart.

He also brought up the recent change in the hours that the building and zoning offices are open. The new hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. but employees will continue to work until 4:30 p.m. in order to boost productivity and keep a backlog from occurring.

According to Mr. Marsh, the hour changes have served as a great morale boost.

## Former Prosecutor Manahan Named New Director Of State Police Affairs; Remembers Fruitful Career

By DEBORAH MADISON  
Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader*

SCOTCH PLAINS -- Union County Prosecutor Thomas Manahan told *The Westfield Leader* that he has been appointed Director of the Office of State Police Affairs by Attorney General David Samson. He began his new term of office on July 29, after finishing up his five-year term as Union County Prosecutor last week.

Mr. Manahan was replaced by Westfield Attorney Thomas Romankov, who took over as Prosecutor on July 26.

The Office of State Police Affairs was created in 1999 to ensure compliance with racial profiling reforms required by federal decree. Mr. Manahan replaced Interim Director, Edward Neafsey.

As Director of State Police Affairs, Mr. Manahan's duties will include reporting on State Police activities and implementing discrimination reforms in hiring, training and other internal police affairs.

In a press release published by the State Attorney General's Office, Mr. Manahan

said that he looked forward to carrying out the two important objectives of promoting public safety and protecting civil rights, which "need not be in conflict."

As Union County Prosecutor, Mr. Manahan was previously involved in discrimination reforms for the county's 21 police departments. He was also responsible for initiating many innovative crime prevention programs in the county.

Mr. Manahan established the High-Tech Task Force to investigate computer crimes and the Save a Life Today (S.A.L.T.) Program, which joined together citizens and law enforcement in a community-based approach to combating crime.

Reflecting on his most memorable achievements as Prosecutor, Mr. Manahan told *The Leader* that several programs, which he initiated, had a significant impact on drug abuse and drug-related crimes in the county.

He also emphasized the need for continued vigilance in the areas of drug abuse and gang prevention through education and community-based alternatives.

Other programs implemented by Mr. Manahan include Family to Family, a peer-to-peer drug abuse counseling program and Project Pride, which offers students an opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of the pitfalls of drug abuse from inmates.

"I've gotten very positive feedback from high school students telling me how this program had changed their life," Mr. Manahan said.

"We must continue to give young people alternatives to joining gangs and experimenting with drugs," Mr. Manahan commented. He said that although the success of prevention programs was difficult to quantify, he observed decreasing crime statistics after implementing these programs.

One of the most significant observations Mr. Manahan said that he has made while Prosecutor is that "you're not saved from drugs by your address," referring to the increasing numbers of young adults with drug problems from upscale communities.

Quoting Ex-Health Secretary Joseph Califano, Mr. Manahan said that it's not whether or not your kids will be thrown into a sea of drugs, but whether or not you teach them how to swim."

### Tax Letter Addressed To Westfield Citizens

Editor's Note: The following letter, which is signed by Mayor Gregory S. McDermott and members of the Westfield Town Council, has been enclosed with the 2002-2003 tax bill for Westfield residents.

Enclosed please find your 2002-2003 tax bill. The average tax bill for a Westfield residence is now \$8,866, of which \$1,352 (or 15.2 percent of the total tax bill) is allocated to the municipality, \$1,807 (20.4 percent) to the county, and \$5,707 (64.4 percent) to the school district. Overall, the tax rate is now \$4,926 per \$100 assessed valuation.

The tax rate for municipal purposes is up 4.5 cents and equals a \$112 increase for the average residence in Westfield. The comparative increase in the Westfield School District tax is 12.2 percent equaling a \$618 increase to the average residence. In addition, the increase in the County tax is 14.3 percent equaling a \$226 increase to the average residence.

As you can see from the graphical representation (included in the letter), the smallest tax allocation is for municipal purposes, however we continue to seek ways to provide the best municipal services to you at the lowest cost.

As always, you are invited to contact the Tax Collector's Office at (908) 789-4050 should you have any questions or visit the official Town website at [www.westfieldnj.net](http://www.westfieldnj.net). Tax bills are due 25 days from date of mailing.

## WF Council Argues Over Meeting

Continued from page 1  
he and Fourth Ward Democratic Councilman Lawrence Goldman

were holding up the contract negotiations; he felt that this was "not fair" and "dirty pool."

Councilman Walsh added that he did not feel that these statements had come from the Mayor, First Ward Republican Councilman Peter Echausse or Second Ward Republican Councilman Matthew Albano. Third Ward Republican Councilman Rafael Betancourt asked Councilman Walsh why he was not mentioned, to which Councilman Walsh responded, "I don't know about you Rafael, you know a lot of cops."

Mayor McDermott said that the Personnel Committee, of which Councilman Walsh serves as Chairman, never negotiates contracts, and that if Councilman Walsh wanted a meeting of the committee, as the chairman, he could have called one. The Mayor also stated that the council must have "a trust amongst each other," adding that what goes on in closed session stays there.

Councilman Betancourt questioned Councilman Walsh's actions for making statements based on "hearsay." Councilman Betancourt also asked Councilman Walsh if he had spoken with any police officers regarding the contract negotiations; to which Councilman Walsh said, "no."

Councilman Albano said that the nature of Councilman Walsh's letter was improper in that he went after Mayor McDermott, when he should have gone after the political spin.

Mayor McDermott then questioned a rumor that he heard that Councilmen Walsh and Goldman met with Westfield police officers on a Saturday to discuss contract negotiations.

"You have bad information," Councilman Walsh said.

The Mayor said that he had heard from individuals on date, time and place; but that it didn't need to be discussed if the meeting did not happen.

Councilman Goldman then said, "I'm not going to deny that any meeting took place," adding that it was, "hurtful to me to have the suggestion that the Democratic major-

ity (on the council) is causing the delay."

Mayor McDermott stated his concerns that he did not know what they talked about at this meeting, and that this could compromise the negotiations.

He asked why they did not ask these officers to appear before the council.

Councilman Goldman responded that all they did at the meeting was inform the two police officers about the process of contract negotiations.

"I assure you there was nothing said of substance," said Councilman Goldman. Councilman Walsh concurred.

"You just said five minutes ago that you didn't meet with anyone," Councilman Echausse said to Councilman Walsh. He went on to question if Councilman Walsh was present for the three meetings where the contract was discussed.

Councilman Walsh said that he was present for two out of the three meetings.

Councilman Betancourt stated that even though he believes that they did not discuss the particulars of the contract at the meeting, the fact that the meeting was held looks bad.

Councilman Goldman said that, a member of the council, "who is not willing to fess up, went out there and said things to the police department that are flat, out and out lies."

Councilman Walsh echoed this statement.

Mayor McDermott disagreed with that statement. He also asked that the political parties be ignored.

Councilman Walsh explained that the reason behind the letter to the editor was, "political, not personal."

"It mystifies me that on January 1, 2002 the police department didn't have a contract," Councilman Walsh said. "Kevin Walsh did not pick this fight."

Mr. Danser explained that contracts are often not immediately settled. As an example he said that it took seven months to negotiate the last Westfield Fire Department contract due to an issue with retirees.

Councilman Betancourt spoke of the need to preserve the integrity of the negotiation process, and said that Councilmen Goldman and Walsh should have picked up the phone to contact the rest of the council.

"You should not have had the meeting," said Councilman Betancourt.

Third Ward Democratic Councilwoman Claire Lazarowitz said that though the members of the council get along very well, there will always be a political divide among them. "Let's just honor each other and be respectful," she said.

Upon questioning by Councilman Betancourt, Councilwoman Lazarowitz said that she was not invited to the meeting with Councilmen Goldman and Walsh.

Fourth Ward Councilwoman Susan Jacobson cited the late hour of the meeting, and said that everyone on the council wants a contract for the police.

"We don't know what went on, (at the meeting) and I hope that it doesn't happen again. What it does, strictly divides us," Mayor McDermott said. "We need to represent the entire town."

At press time, Councilman Betancourt asked *The Leader* to transcribe their audio tape of the meeting for publication. *The Leader* is currently reviewing the tape.

## Senior Meeting

Continued from page 1  
Mr. Scully answered the questions by referring to the comprehensive drug prescription benefit.

The audience, including Arthur Guarriello of Union, asked several questions. Mr. Ferguson was asked why drug companies advertise, and if this raises the cost of drugs. They then asked Mr. Ferguson if he was a lawyer. He responded by stating that he is not a lawyer, but is a teacher by education. He stated that he has taken "Economics 101" from which he learned that if advertising can increase the volume of sales, then the cost for prescription drugs could be reduced accordingly.

Mr. Scully said, "CMS has a budget of \$560 billion." The budget is roughly split in half to equally accommodate Medicare and Medicaid.

According to Mr. Scully, a minimal portion of the \$560 billion dollar budget goes to advertising for CMS. One of the programs mentioned by Mr. Scully was the 24-hour toll-free number for assistance on Medicare related issues. This number is (800) MEDICARE.

Congressman Ferguson stated that on October 15, as part of the Medicare awareness advertising, he plans on running one-page newspaper ads with extensive information regarding local senior citizen housing and nursing homes.

Westfield Mayor Gregory McDermott told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*, "It's really important to know that Congressman Ferguson and Administrator Scully picked Westfield - given the state of high taxes today. It is important that seniors can know how to pay for prescription drugs without having to worry about their meals."

Following the public session, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Scully and members of their staff individually answered the seniors' questions on Medicare.

## Take a step back... To banking the way it used to be.

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That's about to change. At Enterprise Bank, we're willing to work hard to get to know our customers. We make the time to listen because we believe that a banking relationship should be built and maintained on mutual understanding and trust.

Like other banks, Enterprise Bank offers a wide range of products and services—but that's where the similarities end. Looking for a business loan? Getting a decision won't take weeks because we make decisions locally and not in another state. You'll find a local phone number and have your call answered by a live person.

We admit it. Banking at Enterprise Bank may take some getting used to. But give us a try. You'll be pleasantly surprised.

Enterprise Bank opening this Summer in Kenilworth.

**ENTERPRISE**  
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