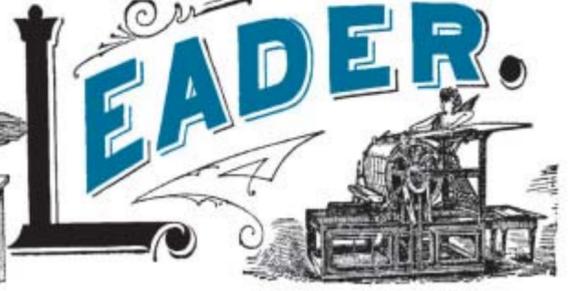




Welcome Summertime!



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FIFTY CENTS



THE PAST GREETS THE PRESENT...During Monday's Memorial Day Parade in downtown Westfield, the Westfield Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution greeted residents and revelers, while wearing vintage costume, down East Broad Street.



MEMORIAL MARCH...Donning red, white and blue, members of the Westfield Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution toted their banner and waved American flags on East Broad Street during the Memorial Day Parade.

Council to Consolidate Debt, Discusses Salary Changes

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader
On Tuesday night the Westfield Town Council held its regularly scheduled conference session, which included discussion of the upcoming bond sale by Bond Council Attorney, Steve Rogart.

Two bonds will be sold, one for the project at the Memorial Pool Complex and the other to consolidate \$7.5 million of un-funded debt.

The un-funded debt is a combination of 45 ordinances passed from 1993 to 2001. The bond will be sold for a 15-year period.

Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence Goldman said that rather than rolling the debt over, the council is timing it out while interest rates are low.

According to Town Administrator Jim Gildea, the town currently has an AAA rating, which allows them better interest rates on bond sales.

The council also discussed changes in salary ranges for non-union town employees.

Mr. Gildea stated that some of the salary ranges had not been changed in four years, and that there has not been a system since 1991.

Though some ranges were not changed, salary ranges under \$70,000 have been increased by 6 percent and all ranges over \$70,000 have been increased by 4 percent.

Finance Committee Chairman and Second Ward Councilman Matthew Albano suggested that the personnel committee should discuss the salary ranges and that other municipalities' ranges should be looked at.

Mr. Gildea stated that he did not want to get handcuffed where they could not fill a position should someone leave.

Councilman Albano stated that when Mr. Gildea sends his letter out in September, asking the departments for their budgets, that the letter stresses that the council makes the final budgetary decisions and that these departments should not tell employees what their salary increases or budgets are before that time.

The full list of salary ranges will be presented at next week's public meeting.

In other business, Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh said that the application is going to the Department of

Transportation (DOT) for funding for next year's road projects.

The town is submitting for funding for five roads on a priority basis. Prospect Street is a top priority with Rahway Avenue, Elm Street, Boulevard and South Chestnut Street behind it.

Mr. Marsh stated that the DOT gave the town its top priority for the last two years.

The council will also have an ordinance to make the final payment to Spring Valley Monument. The town's portion of the Mindowaskin Pond Overlook is complete, and the dedication is set for Saturday, June 15. The remaining work and landscaping is being funded by the Friends of Mindowaskin Pond.

The town will also be passing a resolution to petition the county to lower the speed limit on West Broad Street from Pierson Street to the Town Line. The speed limit is currently 35 miles per hour, and the town is asking for a 25 miles per hour limit.

Mr. Gildea said that it is a bad section of the road because the 35 miles per hour zone begins just after McKinley Elementary School, and goes past the community center and the entrance to Memorial Pool.

Second Ward Councilman and Chair of the Transportation, Parking and Traffic Committee Rafael Betancourt stated that residents of Brightwood Avenue have been asking for speed control. In Scotch Plains, the speed limit is 40 miles per hour and drops to 25 miles per hour at the Westfield town line.

The price for the Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program (SLAP) with the Union County Sheriff's Department has been raised from over \$10,000 to \$11,500 for this year. SLAP provides low-profile offenders with manual labor. This is the last year of the town's contract with SLAP.

Mr. Gildea stated that there have been times when the town has to find

work to give them, and that the program will be reviewed this year.

Mr. Marsh said that the town could hire three summer workers at the same cost and that the times don't always coincide with the work the town has to do.

The council will vote next week on the renewal and new applications for sidewalk cafes.

The council got into a lengthy conversation as to whether or not to pass a resolution to ask the state legislature to vote no on Bill S1044A1926.

The bill permits the town, under certain criteria, to enter into contracts with organized labor and skip the competitive bidding process. The League of Municipalities has asked for opposition on this bill because it precludes competition.

First Ward Councilman Carl Salisbury stated that he did not see anything wrong with the bill, and would be against protesting it because it only permits this practice, but does not mandate it.

Councilman Albano said that he would be against the bill because it allowed for cutting corners, and he would rather see the town promote competition.

Mayor Gregory McDermott stated that the council should read the enclosures over the week and decide whether to vote on it or not.

In other business, the council discussed changes in fees for Memorial Pool.

The Recreation Department would like to add a new category of membership when the new lap pool opens. The new membership would be for an early bird lap swim from 6 to 8 a.m.

The department would also like to begin charging for the long course swimming. The Westfield Y uses the pool Monday through Friday before the pool opens, and the Berkeley

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Town Parking Permit Waiting Lists Fluctuate, Three Permits Available

By SETH AUGENSTEIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

In an effort to curb parking problems in downtown Westfield, various parking permits are available to needy commuters, employees and residents in the area.

Commuters are defined as the group of Westfield residents that need spaces to leave their car in during the workday, mostly because of the commute into New York City by train.

The employees that are eligible for permits are those who come into Westfield from out of town to work in the downtown area, and need ensured spaces for their cars.

These two kinds of permits are designated by the lot number. There are two lots that are open to commuters. Lot number three at the Westfield Train Station's south side holds approximately 469 cars. Lot number six at Watterson Street is much smaller, holding 104 cars.

There are also two lots available to employees. The "Citgo" parking lot, which is named for the gas station that used to be there, is lot number eight, and it has roughly 88 spaces. The bigger employee lot is number nine, which is called the "Shell" lot for the former gas station. It holds about 162 cars.

The fees for lots three, eight and nine are the same. All the rearview mirror tags cost \$540 annually, and \$300 semiannually. The Watterson commuter lot is considerably cheaper, at \$360 annually and \$180 semiannually.

Additionally, there are permits designated to provide parking for residents who live in the downtown area. By placing one of the residential decals in their back window,

residents become exempt from the two-hour parking downtown that would so often otherwise call for a horrid game of "musical parking spaces."

Residents are eligible for this decal according to their address, which are fairly well-established for most apartments in the downtown area. Each of these residential permits costs \$10 in administration fees.

There is a waiting list that is continually fluctuating to accommodate the equally fluctuating needs of commuters and employees in the Westfield area. (Residential parking permits are sorted through for eligibility more quickly).

In order to streamline this constant cycle of parking permits and tremendous amounts of paperwork, Westfield created the Office of Parking Services, which is headed by Barry Sommers.

The first-come, first-serve lapse of the waiting list cannot be predicted, but Mr. Sommers ensures that every action has been made immeasurably more efficient since the office's creation in February.

"It's a computer-driven operation, and everything here that we do is driven by ordinances, and that is why people have their permits and documentation. Everything is done to the letter of the town code, and will be done in an efficient, competent and expeditious manner," he stated.

The creation of Mr. Sommers' self-described "diligent operation" was timely, considering that three times the amount of spaces are planned to be created in the next two years.

Memorial Day Celebration in Downtown Recalls the Past In Light of the Present

By TRACY EVANS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

"Regrettably, this year we can add 3,000 more names to the list of those we remember today," began Mayor Gregory McDermott, bringing Monday's parade into focus for the crowd donned in red white and blue. "Most were not soldiers, but all died on September 11 and were the first casualties in the War on Terrorism."

Mayor McDermott added, "The tragedy of 9/11 serves to underscore the meaning of Memorial Day, not just a day to remember our veterans, but as a day to reflect on the meaning of their sacrifice."

The juxtaposition of a new memorial for September's tragic losses with background of the Veterans

Memorial monument gave new meaning to the annual celebration. Emcee Peter Hogaboom, the American Legion chaplain, joined the mayor and commanders of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

in reflecting upon the heroes of the past as well as those fighting for our country today.

Mr. Hogaboom opened the ceremony by addressing the large showing of local citizens, who sat

in lawn chairs, strollers, and on the curbside. He reminded the crowd that everyone assembled for the day is a patriot of our country. As heads were bowed in prayer and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Brick Layers Union Walks Out at WHS, Workers Claim Wage Law Violations

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

On Wednesday morning, the Brick Layers Local No. 4 walked off the construction job at Westfield High School.

Though the workers were still running the heavy machinery on the north side of the building, no other work was being done.

Ken Simone, a representative for the Local No. 4, stated that the workers have chosen to walk out because of a violation in the prevailing wage laws.

According to Mr. Simone, it is not a union versus non-union issue. The problem, he added, is that workers on the site are supposed to be paid the same wages whether they are union or non-union, and non-union workers are not being paid properly. These allegations came to light through conversations between the workers on site.

Mr. Simone added that general contractor, Cram Construction, has contracted with Vistula Masonry, who is then sub-contracting the work out.

"(There are) residents that live in this town, that are members of this organization, who can't get a job on

this project," Mr. Simone said.

He went on to say that even apprentices to the union from Westfield High School have not been able to work on the job.

Mr. Simone stated that the problem

is money, and that sub-sub-contracting was cheaper labor than having to deal with legitimate business.

The State Department of Labor has been notified by the union and will be looking into the matter.



WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE...Workers from Brick Layers Local No. 4 walked off their job at Westfield High School on Wednesday, citing a violation in the prevailing wage laws.

Westfield Board of Ed. Will Receive Report On Open Lunch Policy

During the next Westfield Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, June 4, a report on the Open Lunch Policy at Westfield High School (WHS) will be presented by a special committee that was formed by WHS Principal Dr. Robert Petix. Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley recommended the formation of a committee in response to concern raised by parents regarding possible abuse of the Open Lunch Policy, a privilege intended for only juniors and seniors, that permits them to leave the school campus during their lunch period.

The meeting will commence at 8 p.m. in Cafeteria B at WHS, located at 550 Dorian Road.

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Lauren S. Pass for *The Westfield Leader*
CIVIC MINDED ENTREPRENEURERS...Brothers Eric and Kevin Sokol started a lemonade stand outside their Westfield home. They donated all of the proceeds to the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad for the annual fund drive. The brothers made two donations, and inspired another family to do the same.



Lauren S. Pass for *The Westfield Leader*
RESCUING THE RESCUE SQUAD...The five third grade classes at Franklin Elementary School collected \$1,500 and donated it to the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad for their annual fund drive. The third graders made posters saying, "Rescue the Rescue Squad", and hung them around the school to raise funds, as well as doing chores at home. Pictured is Ms. Michelle D'Fabio's third grade class on a tour of the Rescue Squad building with member Lisa Carle.

WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

TUESDAY, MAY 21
 • Clinton R. Priliszh, 19, of Roselle Park was arrested at Lenape Park and charged with unlawful possession of a weapon, described as a pellet gun. He was released on his own recognizance with a summons.
 • Michael M. Driscoll, 42, of Scotch Plains was arrested at West Broad and Pierson Streets and charged with driving while intoxicated. He was released on his own recognizance.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22
 • Brian Brodersen, 23, and Kevin Schenk, 20, both of Scotch Plains, and Peter J. Mosko, 19, of Fanwood were arrested at Brightwood Park and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and with possession of drug paraphernalia. All three were released on their own recognizance.
FRIDAY, MAY 24
 • Joseph Rodriguez, 18, of Kendall Park was arrested at the south side

Westfield train station and charged with possession of a prohibited weapon, described as a switchblade, and with possession of a weapon for unlawful purposes. Bail was set at \$10,000.
SUNDAY, MAY 26
 • Tomas Castillo, 21, David Rodriguez, 21, and Armando Castillo, 19, all of Westfield, were arrested and charged with simple assault following an incident outside a Cacciola Place residence. All were being held in lieu of \$2,500 bail.
MONDAY, MAY 27
 • A Roselle Park resident reported that someone pried a Port Authority badge from his son's headstone at Fairview Cemetery on East Broad Street.
 • Two Westfield residents reported that their locked bicycles were stolen from the bicycle rack at the Westfield train station by unknown persons who cut through their combination cable locks. The total value of the bicycles was \$420.

Vandals Caused Sewage Spill in SP; Water Supply Was Uncontaminated

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader
SCOTCH PLAINS -- According to Earl Jackson, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works (DPW) in Scotch Plains, a small sewage spill in Kramer Manor Park on Saturday afternoon was caused by vandals who intentionally clogged a sewage pipe.
 Rocks and debris had been thrown into a sewage pipe, after someone removed a locked manhole cover in a wooded area of the park. Mr. Jackson said that it may have been kids who broke the lock and threw the debris into the pipe.
 The DPW was notified by the Scotch Plains Police Department about an odor coming from the park, said DPW Director Walter DiNizio.
 The sewage pipe carries raw sewage from residences to a sewage treatment plant, Mr. DiNizio explained. The spill leaked raw residential sewage up the pipe and onto the ground, covering an area approximately 10 square feet, Mr. DiNizio reported to

The Westfield Leader. A small amount of the sewage spilled into a stream that is a tributary of the Rahway River.
 Mr. DiNizio said that the DPW removed the rocks and debris from the pipe and spread limestone on the ground to contain the spill.
 "This was a very small spill and there was never any threat to public health," Mr. DiNizio told *The Leader*.
 The police Media Communications Officer, Sergeant Brian Mahoney, told *The Leader* that a resident saw the sewage spill and reported it to the police. The police report had no other information on the cause of the spill, according to Sergeant Mahoney.
 Donna Gregory, Director of Corporate Communication for Elizabethtown Water Company, issued a press release confirming that the sewage spill did not contaminate any of Elizabethtown's water supply.
 The sources of Elizabethtown's water supply are the Raritan and Millstone Rivers, not connected to the Rahway River, the press release stated.

WESTFIELD FIRE BLOTTER

FRIDAY, MAY 17
 • In the evening, fire officials responded to 515 Trinity Place on report of a structure fire. Smoke conditions were found on the second and third floor. The fire was caused by construction being done on the roof of the home.
SATURDAY, MAY 18
 • In the early morning fire officials responded to 515 Trinity Place to per-

form salvage work from damage caused to the compromised roof by heavy rains.
SUNDAY, MAY 19
 • In the afternoon fire officials responded to 356 South Avenue East, after residents were alerted by smoke detectors. The fire, which was started by unattended candles, was contained to one room on the first floor of the two-story home.

Memorial Day Celebration Reflects on Past, Future

remembrance, the meaning of "never forget" grew strong within the hearts of all gathered for the parade.
 This year, speakers drew upon great figures of our past as a way of understanding the holiday and its significance in our lives. From "In Flanders Fields," to the speeches of Lincoln, the valor of our soldiers remains a principle element of how we define and defend our country. Mayor McDermott recognized the importance of the veterans on this day, as "democracy's torchbearers, illuminating the way to liberty."

Continued from page 1
 The New York Lambs Artillery fired three rounds, preceding the presentation of wreaths commemorating those who gave their lives in war. A series of musical tributes followed, including Westfield High School Marching Band's "Star Spangled Banner," Echo Taps, played by Christopher Velderman, Dave Heinhardt, and Dr. Theodore Schlosberg, added a somber remembrance of the fall, when Dr. Schlosberg and his students returned to the monument to play during each September day of mourning, as the flags were held at half-mast. "God Bless America", performed by Kerry Stubbs, rang clear, not only in song, but in the conclusion of many of the speeches offered for the day.
 Following the ceremony, the bell at the United Methodist Church rang out nine consecutive times, followed by eleven as a final remembrance of the important date in our nation's recent history.
 Grand Marshall Richard Marrodt was accompanied by the police and National Guard, who led the parade down East Broad Street. The mayor and the Town Council joined the Veterans' Contingent in the loop around Elm Street and Mountain Avenue.
 The Westfield Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and local civic and youth organizations were represented as well, all adding to the enjoyment and anticipation of the street-lining spectators. Continuing along East Broad Street, the parade paused at the Revolutionary War Cemetery, as well as the World War II Memorial Plaque in front of the Municipal Building, before concluding at Fairview Cemetery.
 James Brennan, commander of the Martin Wahlberg Post No. 3 American Legion, drew upon the words of the poet Robert Orr: "They are not dead who live in the hearts they leave behind."
 The familiar sign of American pride, the flag, flaps in the wind on porches and is plastered in nearly every store window and car. This Monday in Westfield, flags were found in abundance once more, merging a present awareness of our nation at war with a Memorial Day remembrance of the past bravery this country has shown on the battlefield.

Residents in SP Debate Ordinance To Curb Underage Drinking

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader
SCOTCH PLAINS -- Scotch Plains residents spent nearly two hours Tuesday night expressing their opinions about a proposed ordinance aimed at curbing underage drinking.
 The future of the proposal remains unclear for the time being, pending another public forum on Tuesday, June 11.
 More than half of the Township Council's meeting on Tuesday night was spent discussing the proposal, which, as currently being considered, would permit local police officers to enter a private residence and take legal action if they witness possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by someone under 21 years of age.
 Eleven residents spoke on the matter during what Mayor Martin Marks called "an informal public hearing," with four individuals expressing support and seven registering their opposition. He admitted that, before any final decision can be made, certain questions still need to be addressed, including whether such an ordinance would be enforceable and whether it would have the desired results.
 Offering a brief review of state legislative actions that allowed towns to enact such an ordinance, the Mayor said he wished lawmakers had enacted a state law in this regard rather than "punting" it to local officials.
 Calling teenage drinking "a major issue in this community," Dr. Richard Sharrett said he did not see a constitutional violation in permitting police officers to enter a private home — a major concern among opponents of the ordinance. He characterized the proposal as "fully appropriate."

Georgine Berg, a former MAC coordinator, said there has "been a lot of misrepresentation of this ordinance." She cited government findings on ties between adolescent drinking and future alcohol problems, as well as the risks of binge drinking. "I'm afraid of doing nothing," she told the council.
 Speaking in opposition to the proposed ordinance, Kristen Paparefla said underage drinking has been a problem for generations and felt the ordinance would not stop such behavior.
 She called the proposal "a major violation of our civil rights" and added that, "we cannot expect the township to be the parents to our children."
 Maria Sartor described the proposed ordinance as "a Big Brother problem" and called for increased education efforts instead of legislation.
 Ray Pardon said he didn't favor the ordinance and said he feared other opponents were reticent to speak publicly out of fear of being labeled as favoring underage drinking.
 He called for increased support of the MAC's activities rather than incurring legal costs involved in potentially defending the ordinance against lawsuits.
 Geraldine Keogh gave council members a package that included a multi-part questionnaire regarding the proposal's ramifications and also discussed several scenarios in which she felt enforcement and prosecution could be difficult.
 Donald Gaynor said he opposed the proposal "because a parent's primary responsibility should not be delegated to anyone else."
 Thomas Russo, an attorney, said he had several concerns about the ordinance, noting that in his practice, he had had experience with similar laws in other towns, where he found it "to be the subject of abuse."
 He questioned whether such an ordinance would be a deterrent, point-

ing out that there are existing laws and regulations that are ignored.
 Elmer Terry, in opposing the ordinance, said, "Big Brother is becoming more and more in evidence."
 No timetable was given for any possible introduction of the ordinance; instead, the council will give the public another opportunity to speak on the proposal at its June 11 meeting.
 In a related matter, Mayor Marks set aside the initial public comment time at Tuesday night's meeting to allow residents to discuss a political cartoon that appeared in the May 16 edition of *The Westfield Leader*.
 In the cartoon, Adolf Hitler was depicted reading a newspaper headline about the proposed ordinance and gloating that he was "back in business."
 All five council members wrote letters of protest to *The Leader*, as did the chairmen of the local Democratic and Republican parties in a joint letter. In last week's *Leader*, Publisher Horace Corbin offered an apology for the cartoon.
 At Tuesday's meeting, three individuals spoke about the cartoon. Terri Warmbrand of the Union County Committee Against Hate said her initial reaction to the cartoon was "how stupid it was" and urged increased responsibility on the parts of both adults and journalists.
 Dr. Sharrett said he was "chagrined at the abuse of the freedom of the press that has taken place." Bruce Yakre said he was offended at the inclusion in the cartoon of the swastika symbol and said the image was an insult to war veterans who died fighting to eliminate that symbol.
 Mayor Marks said Mr. Corbin's "small written apology in last week's issue" consisted primarily of "an explanation of why the paper did what it did."
 Noting that he had invited Mr. Corbin to address the council and that *The Times*' Publisher had failed to attend, the Mayor said that, "speaking for myself, the apology is not accepted."

Syracuse Univ. Names Recipients of Degrees

The S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University has announced that Timothy O'Shea of Westfield and Jason Grunberg of Mountainside will receive their Bachelor Degrees.
 Timothy will receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in broadcast journalism, while Jason will receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in magazine journalism.

Pupils Earn National Merit Finalist Standing

WESTFIELD — The National Merit Scholarship Corporation named Westfield High School seniors Robert Freundlich and Anura Patil as finalists for Merit Scholarship awards.
 To reach finalist standing, semifinalists' high school academic records, SAT scores and school principals' recommendations are considered. Each semifinalist and a school official also must submit a scholarship application.
 The application includes a self-descriptive essay and information on participation in school and community activities.
 Finalists who become Merit Scholarship winners are chosen on the basis of academic skills, extracurricular accomplishments and potential for success in college.

Town Council Discusses Salary Range Changes

Continued from page 1
 Aquatic Group uses it on Sunday mornings.
 Mr. Gildea explained that the charges being proposed would cost the Y upwards of \$3,000 for the summer and that the Y was not anticipating these costs. He added that the recreation department also wished to charge each person from the Y and Berkeley the fee for the early bird lap swim.
 Mr. Gildea expressed his feeling that the Y should not be charged because they are an in town group and that they had not charged the town for activities such as, First Night Westfield and The Blast. He added that the Y allowed the use of their facility while the Teen Center was being revamped.
 He said that the fees would go into a surplus and would ultimately be rebudgeted for new lane guides and other equipment.
 Councilman Salisbury stated that he felt the Y would be happier to make a donation to the pool to fund replacement equipment.

First Ward Councilman Peter Echausse stated that the recreation department has the authority to change their fees and that it is not the council's job to micromanage. He added that making the fees for this season were unfair because the organizations have already charged their program fees and would not have the monies for this new cost.
 The council went into private session to discuss a personnel matter.
 The next meeting of the Westfield Town Council is Tuesday, June 4.

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Notebook Computer Grand Prize For WHS Project Graduation

WESTFIELD — A Dell Inspiron 2600 notebook computer with internet access will be the grand prize for the Westfield Project Graduation — Bash 2002, the all-night substance-free party for Westfield High School (WHS) seniors on their graduation night.
 "The monies for the computer, a \$1,500 value, which will be awarded at the breakfast at the end of Bash, came from donations by the Westfield Service League (\$1,400) and the Optimist Club," noted Project Chairman A. Donald Pray.
 The Optimist Club was one of the founding co-sponsors of Project Graduation in Westfield, along with the WHS Parent-Teacher Organization and the Westfield Recreation Department.
 "This is the 13th year for Westfield's graduation party and we are delighted to again have a computer as the grand prize. A notebook computer is an ideal gift for a college-bound graduate to use at both school and home," noted Mr. Pray.
 Registration for Bash 2002 began on May 23 at WHS and it is anticipated that over 90 percent of this year's 335 graduating seniors will attend the event. Graduation will be held on Monday, June 24, and the party will take place after graduation from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. at Ricochet Racquet Club in South Plainfield.
 The theme for this year's party is "Scooby Doo."