



IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE...Sarah Bellman of Westfield, pictured above, will start her tour of duty with the U.S. Foreign Service in Jakarta, Indonesia.

WF Resident Sarah Bellman Sworn into Foreign Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Secretary of State Colin Powell recently swore in Sarah Bellman of Westfield as a Junior Officer in the United States Foreign Service.

Ms. Bellman was sworn in with the 109th Class-A Junior Officers at the Department of State. She will serve her first tour of duty in Jakarta, Indonesia.

She is the daughter of the late David and Mary Bellman. She graduated from Westfield High School in 1970. She continued her studies at the University of Denver, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1974; a Master of International Management degree from the American Graduate School of International Management in

1976; and a Master of Social Work degree at Columbia University in 2000. Ms. Bellman said that joining the Foreign Service brings together her educational and work experiences, and a passion for travel.

Junior Officers serve their first two-year tour in one of 162 countries where the United States has representation around the world. The first tour strengthens and tests the abilities of each officer for future career promotions in the Foreign Service.

Foreign Service Officers provide assistance to American tourists and business interests overseas, support U.S. foreign policy and promote awareness of American culture in foreign countries.

Paid Bulletin Board

Current Real Estate Market Mirrors Last Year

Since the Fall began, my clients have remarked that there are more "For Sale" signs on homes than we have seen in some time. While the inventory of available homes in the Westfield area is almost double what it was in May of this year, it is very close to the number we had at the same time last year.

Home sale figures for the year are ahead of last year's record pace - both on a national and local level. Our office reports an increase in the total number of new transactions reported this year as compared to last. The most dramatic increase has been in the average sale price where we have experienced an 18% rise.

The market appears to have balanced in that there is an attractive inventory of homes for buyers to choose from, yet sellers who have properly positioned their homes are still obtaining excellent prices.

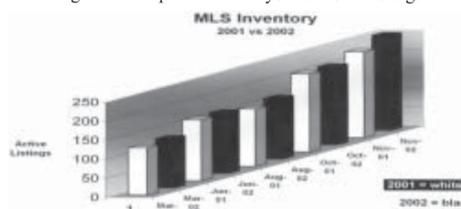
Market conditions may vary, but certain basic principles remain true. Location remains a top priority for buyers and certainly low interest rates increase affordability. A home "Dressed For Success" will sell faster and for a better price than one where the over-

all feeling is that the house has not been cared for.

To learn more about market conditions and how to make an educated decision in Real Estate, log onto ColdwellBankerMoves.com/BarbaraCallahan or call (908) 301-2886 for a free interactive CD, which will explain our services and give you the local listings.



Barbara Callahan



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Election Discussed; Mayor Talks about 2003 Projects

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood

WESTFIELD—Just one year after taking control of the council for the first time in Westfield's history Democrats lost their 5-3 majority this election day.

Chairman of the Westfield Democratic Committee Kenneth Rotter told *The Westfield Leader and The Times* that the role of the Democrats on the council in the next year depends on how the mayor makes his committee assignments next year. He said that they "look forward to continuing to work with the mayor and the republican majority."

Mr. Rotter said that everyone has the best interest of the town at heart and that they want to keep Westfield great.

As for future elections, Mr. Rotter said that the party will "continue to work hard" and find "hardworking community leaders...who want to share their talents with the town council."

Mr. Rotter said that he was happy about Councilman Lawrence Goldman's reelection in the Fourth Ward. He said that all of the candidates had worked hard, and complimented Republican Chairman Jon Brannick for having "done a fine job running the Republican campaign this past year."

He also feels that the people of Westfield are glad to have choices on Election Day. Mr. Brannick told *The Westfield Leader/Times* that Westfield voters are "extremely knowledgeable and extremely involved." He added that residents do not typically vote along party lines, which "shows they are watching and listening." He said that he feels residents look more at the candidate than at the issues.

He said that he is "ecstatic" about the GOP majority on the council, adding that he "didn't like the atmosphere on the council" and he hopes that will change. Mr. Brannick said that "we can disagree, but we don't have to be disagreeable," adding that, "the tone of voice in discussion is more important than the substance." He

added that he "hopes that the republicans will continue to be respectful."

Mayor Gregory McDermott, who was reelected last week, told *The Westfield Leader/Times* that he is "very happy with the outcome" of the election.

Mayor McDermott said that he is pleased to have Second Ward Councilman Matthew Albano and Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence Goldman as the senior members of the council. He is glad to have them both for their experience and "institutional knowledge."

Mayor McDermott also discussed the major tasks he sees for the coming year. He said that the council needs to continue with the parking redevelopment project. The mayor said that the final decision on the redevelopment will "determine what Westfield will look like 20 to 30 years from now."

The mayor said that the council committees have become more active, and complimented Councilman Goldman for and the Public Works Committee in completing their entire list of projects for 2002. Mayor McDermott said that the goal is to "get more for what we have." He said that employees are being given more job ownership and thus have become "more responsive," and he feels that this allows the residents to feel good about the services.

Mayor McDermott said that the fields need to be improved and that overuse can no longer be an excuse for their poor condition, pointing out that the public golf courses in the county are highly used and well maintained.

The mayor also said that the roads and sidewalks still need improvement. He said that residents have been taking advantage of the sidewalk improvement program. Mayor McDermott said that the council would be looking at how to improve more roads in town. He said that a lot of the "big roads" have been done, and that parts of some roads may be able to be resurfaced rather than the whole road. Mayor McDermott said that on the whole he wants to improve the town.



MARCHING ON...Members of the Westfield High School Marching Band Color Guard, under the direction of Michael Fackelman, lined up at last Saturday's football game in town. The band, which plays at the football games and town events, competed in six events this year. On Saturday, November 16, they will compete at their last event in Allentown, Pa. On November 10, the color guard won first place while the entire band won third place at a Sayreville contest. This year's musical selection is "The Odyssey."

More Letters to the Editor

Writer Revisits Parking Ticketing Issues at Tamaques Park Sport Events

There was surprisingly large response to my Letter to the Editor in the November 7 edition regarding receiving a parking ticket at Tamaques Park. Some people said good letter. Some said crybaby, nobody likes receiving a parking ticket. Some people suggested that I should have parked in another lot and walked (not possible, they were full also).

A representative of the town even sent a response to the mail I sent to the Chief of Police about the ticket. While the response was quite official and non responsive, at least it was a response.

Then there were the people who either didn't read the letter carefully or didn't fully understand it. They said things like, well you shouldn't park on the road. The Letter to the Editor from Rita Gutman of Scotch Plains falls into this latter category. Somehow Ms. Gutman missed the point of my letter, which was that I and others were parked on the grass along the side of one of the paved parking lots - not anywhere near the road and not parked "all over the place" so that she had to leave.

I acknowledged in my letter that road-

side parkers should be ticketed. My point was that safely, although illegally parked, residents attending town sponsored sporting events should not be ticketed.

Ms. Gutman had some good solutions to the parking problem. One was that I should drop my 10-year-old off and come back in 90 minutes to see if he survived the soccer game. Another was to park on one of the nearby side streets and walk in. No to the first suggestion and as for the second one, I'm sure the people who live on the nearby streets would be thrilled. Maybe Ms. Gutman would like to volunteer her street to be the designated Tamaques parking overflow area?

In the absence of providing adequate paved parking lots or having some common sense when administering the law, why not designate temporary safe parking areas on the grass to deal with the parking imbalances that occur on a regular basis. That way everyone wins; adequate temporary parking, no costs to build new lots and the park maintains its bucolic feel.

Richard T. Sauerwein
Westfield

More Letters to the Editor

Lazarowitz Discusses Campaign, Thanks Her Many Supporters

As a proud Westfield Democrat, I can tell you that I value truth above all else. Some people value "winning at any cost" as their creed. I have experienced that creed personally in the meanest-spirited campaign tactics to hit our town in my thirteen years of living here. Is this Westfield or is this Washington — false accusations thrown out to the media without proof, and no apologies from the accuser? It is something that we all need to make sure never happens again. I say that sadly, because it seems to have infected our entire country. It seems to be acceptable as long as you achieve your goal of winning!

I hope that I have stoked some fires of people who also stand for truth — people who also believe that the way you play the game is the most important part of winning or losing.

I want to make a special point of saying what an honor it has been to be Councilwoman of our Third Ward and what a

privilege it has been to serve you all.

Now to the beautiful news of thanking all the wonderful people who made voting a priority and came out to support me. I spread those thanks to my family and to my friends, who I adore. Special thanks go to Tony and Stephanie LaPorta who are always there for me whenever I've run, to Terry Tainow, Ken and Bethany Rotter, John Salerno, Bill and Heidi Ziff, Joe Ascione, Carl Salisburly and Casey Chandler, Susan and Ron Jacobson, Kevin Walsh and his wonderful wife, Tom and Karen Jardim, Sal and Pat Antonelli, Tom and Kristin Fuccillo, Mark and Margaret Kuehn, David and Cathy Owens, Carolyn Klingner-Keuter, Rosemary Millet, Lisa and Schuyler Quackenbush and to Mary Ruotolo.

A toast to all the winners (you know who you are). With love, light and gratitude.

Claire Lazarowitz
Westfield



PLAYGROUND RECEIVES HELP...The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club presented a check towards the playground being built behind Evergreen school. Pictured from the left are Kim Palmer of the Rotary Club; Randi De Brito, Principal of Evergreen Elementary School and Pat Crema, PTA President.

Westfield Grand Opening Celebration, November 16, 9a.m. - 1p.m.



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