



Lauren S. Pass for The Westfield Leader

**NEW CONSTRUCTION?...A three-story office building with a two-tier parking deck behind it is proposed to be built across New Street in Westfield. New Point Realty has already purchased surrounding properties and the town could vacate the street itself by the end of the year.**

## New Street Development Proposed

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Last Wednesday evening, the Westfield Town Council heard a presentation from Michael Zempsky of New Point Realty regarding New Street, which is located off of Central Avenue and connected with South Elmer Street to South Avenue.

The council has previously been going into closed session regarding the vacation of New Street.

New Point currently owns the vacant MRI building, the office building and a house on the northside of New Street and homes on the bend of South Elmer and New Street.

The proposed office building will span New Street, and have at least a two-tier parking deck behind it. The deck would span from Central Avenue and continue behind the building. South Elmer Street would become a cul-de-sac.

Mr. Zempsky said that the deck could be increased to a third level and that a "minimum of 50" commuter spots could be leased to the town. He added that he has been in touch with Conrail and that a walkway can be used on the bridge over Central Avenue for commuter access to the Westfield Train Station.

Mr. Zempsky added that the traffic pattern would not change, as the existing curb cuts will be used on Central and South Avenues. The existing New Street will become the ingress and egress with right turn only for the office building, as well as access to parking from South Elmer Street.

The proposed building is to be three floors with a brick facade and will be over 60,000 square feet and will be set back approximately 25 feet from the curb.

Third Ward Democratic Councilwoman Claire Lazarowitz asked if this was the final design for the building, and if the top of the building could be scalloped or set back in some way.

Mr. Zempsky responded that the building could not be set back further because of the parking geometry and because "gabbling" the third floor would make it inefficient for office space. He said that the current design would be consistent with the look of downtown Westfield as a gateway to the downtown.

First Ward Democratic Councilman Carl Salisbury questioned if the parking would be visible from Central and South Avenues.

Mr. Zempsky explained that because of the grading of Central Avenue and with landscaping the deck would be minimally visible, and that it will not be visible from South Avenue because of the grade of the parking. He also said that the facade of the deck could be done.

Town Administrator James Gildea said that the building will stop people from cutting through from South to Central Avenue which has caused traffic problems.

The town will be paid \$333,000 for the vacation of New Street. Mr. Zempsky will be required to appear before the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment in order for the project to be approved.

The council could approve the agreement to vacate by the end of the year. Discussion also took place regarding the reappointment of Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh for a three-year term.

Mr. Gildea, who makes the recommendation to the council, gave Mr. Marsh high marks for his work in reorganizing the Department of Public Works.

In other business, the council addressed a change in the fees for the Conservation Center from \$50 to \$60 as well as the possibility of a separate fee for senior citizens.

According to Fourth Ward Democratic Councilwoman and Chair of the Public Works Committee Susan Jacobson said that a lower fee for seniors would show that the council "understands" that they are being "taxed out."

Mr. Marsh said that he would be presenting a current cost analysis of the fees and usage of the Conservation Center.

Second Ward Republican Councilman Matthew Albano said that it was his feeling that the town should not be making a profit on the Conservation Center fees.

Mr. Marsh said that with disposal fees it is unlikely that the center would ever make money.

## Added Taxation On Area Business Discussed by MS

By MARY RONK  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

A major topic at The Mountainside Borough Council Work Session this past Tuesday centered around a possible municipal tax on hotel, restaurant and amusement facilities. This recommendation comes from Trenton, in the hopes of finding an alternative way of raising funds at the local level and to relieve property taxes. The bill can vary in each municipality.

Mayor Robert Vigilanti asked the council to consider forming a bill that would define the types of establishments that would incur such a tax.

The council discussed taxing other businesses aside from hotel, restaurant and amusement facilities. One suggestion was to tax self-storage facilities. These establishments serve to store property within the municipalities' borders, and are protected by the Borough Police and Fire Departments. The council voted down taxation of storage units and decided to give additional thought to the Mayor's request. It was decided to defer action on this bill.

An additional topic of discussion was the relationship between Atlantic Ambulance and Mountainside Volunteer Rescue Squad. Atlantic Ambulance has asked that their agreement with the Borough be revised. Specifically, Atlantic has asked not to be legally responsible for emergency calls from the time of 4 a.m. to 6 a.m. Atlantic Ambulance has checked into call volume at this time and found it to be "very light." The Mountainside Rescue Squad will now be on call for those hours. In the case of a disaster Atlantic will back up the Mountainside Squad. The council will review in

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## WF Council OKs Minutes from Oct. 15 Public Meeting; Porch Ordinance Read

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Prior to Tuesday's public session of the Westfield Town Council, Town Attorney Robert Cockren explained that the minutes of the October 15 meeting were on the agenda again for approval.

At the public meeting on October 29 there was heated discussion among the members of the council on occurrences after the meeting and the vote on the minutes was tied along party lines with one abstention from First Ward Democratic Councilman Carl Salisbury.

Mr. Cockren said that there was

nothing in the town code to provide for a tie on the approval of minutes. He said that, in reference to ordinances, the law states that an abstention would count as a "yes" vote, but he felt that that was illogical in this case because Councilman Salisbury abstained because he was not in attendance at the meeting.

The council could either vote on them again, said Mr. Cockren, or they could go into public record as "not approved."

Fourth Ward Democratic Councilman Lawrence Goldman said that he would be changing his vote to "yes," which would break the tie and ap-

prove the minutes.

Third Ward Democratic Councilwoman Claire Lazarowitz questioned if the council should wait for Fourth Ward Democratic Councilwoman Susan Jacobson, who raised the objection to the minutes on the October 29, to return from vacation.

Mayor Gregory McDermott said that it was irrelevant because Councilman Goldman was changing his vote.

The minutes were approved during the public portion of the meeting.

Also during the public portion, the council held public hearings on six community development block

grants, which will go to the county for approval.

Town Administrator James Gildea thanked The Westfield Community Center, The Westfield Neighborhood Council and Youth and Family Services, the three applying organizations, for having the "community's needs at heart."

Frances Terrace resident Christine Povalac spoke during the citizens' open discussion regarding petitions for and against a proposed traffic light at Clover Street and Central Avenue.

Mrs. Povalac said that at a previous meeting she had asked for a copy of the original petition for the light and was instead given a recent one. She said that upon examination of the petitions there were many illegible names, people from other towns, a child, and people who do not live in the neighborhood directly affected by the light.

She also said that she feels a letter should be written to the county to let them know that the petitions mentioned in a letter from then Town Administrator Thomas Shannon cannot be found.

Councilman Salisbury questioned the status of the light, and said that petitions are just a part of the process.

Second Ward Republican Councilman

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## Westfield Superintendent Cautions Impact of Escalating Enrollment

By CHARLOTTE LEDERMAN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The reputation of Westfield's public school system has been so successful in drawing young families to the town that it now faces challenges due to its very excellence.

With the constant influx of children, Superintendent Dr. William Foley has cautioned that annually increasing student enrollment has led to a trend of ever-increasing class size.

At the Tuesday's meeting of the Westfield Board of Education, Dr. Foley presented the members with the present and projected enrollment for Westfield schools at the elementary, intermediate, and high school levels.

In this official enrollment application for state aid, Dr. Foley projected what the class sizes will be in the next few years, presenting enrollment models up to the 2009-2010 school year.

Elementary enrollment is only rising modestly. The estimate for 2002-2003 is 2,656, while the projected enrollment for 2005-2006 is 2,763 students. An increase of approximately a hundred students over two years is nothing to be too concerned about, noted Dr. Foley.

At the intermediate level, Roosevelt School will continue to be the largest school, with approximately 70 to 100 more students than Edison School. For 2002-2003, Dr. Foley said that enrollment was 1,411 students, and expects that number to grow to 1,417 by the 2005-2006 school year.

Westfield High School (WHS) is where the greatest growth is expected. Ninth grade is currently considered the wild card in the enrollment equation; as close to 90 new students enter the school system at this time.

Projected enrollment shows no sign of decline, but rather a huge increase in the upcoming years. While the 2002-2003 enrollment is estimated at 1,501 students, by 2004-2005, Dr. Foley sees enrollment reaching 1,730 students. Although large, this increase is nothing compared to what Westfield anticipates as the WHS enrollment for 2009-2010; there will be an estimated 1,888 students in attendance at that time.

With such large enrollment in the not too distant future, Dr. Foley said, "We have to think about reorganizing the high school with these kinds of numbers."

He further cautioned that "kids get lost in a school of this size" and there will be "less opportunities for extra-curricular activities."

Dr. Foley concluded by remarking that the school system can make adjustments for the anticipated enrollment, but it is really the social issues and the level of student involvement that most concerns him about such growth.

In another part of the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Foley briefly outlined the 2001-2002 QAAR or Quality Assurance Annual

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## Randazzo Speeds Up Work on Beechwood

By NICOLE WINTERS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

After a 20-minute delay, Tuesday's public meeting of the Mountainside Board of Education began at the Deerfield School, with all board members in attendance.

After an approval of the minutes from the last regularly scheduled meeting and the special meeting held on November 4, there was a special presentation of the quarter final trophy from the Seton Hall Prep Pirate Open. After participating for the last several years in this quiz bowl comprised of 20 schools, this was the farthest that Deerfield School had ever received.

The school board heard a presentation by Richard Barre of Barre and Company, the firm that performed the audit of the board. Mr. Barre read the entire audit, which was delivered to the school board last week.



Benjamin Corbin for The Westfield Leader

**HONOR AND APPRECIATION...Members of the community turned out to express their gratitude to veterans during a ceremony on Monday morning, which included a parade of patriotic Marines and war heroes. Pictured, above, the procession travels down North Avenue.**



**STUDENTS SALUTE...In a special school-wide ceremony, which was coordinated by Social Studies teachers Elizabeth Hogan and Geoffrey Martin, with assistance from the Sharing Talents and Skills department of the Westfield Public Schools, Edison Intermediate School students joined members of the Marines, Edison Principal Cheryl O'Brien, retired Colonel Mary Jo Rice and retired Private First-Class Gerard Weiss in honoring veterans.**

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## Westfield Intermediate Pupils Pay Tribute to War Veterans

WESTFIELD — The entire student body at Edison Intermediate School (EIS) in Westfield attended a Veteran's Day assembly, which featured retired Colonel Mary Jo Rice and retired Private First-Class Gerard Weiss.

EIS Principal Cheryl O'Brien thanked the veterans for sharing their stories with the students and staff and presented the veterans with plaques of appreciation.

Assistant Principal Stuart Carey noted that this is the fourth consecutive year that EIS is conducting a formal observation of Veterans' Day. Members of the Marine Corps Sixth Motor Transport Battalion of Red Bank began the assembly with a presentation of colors.

The Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by seventh grader Kathryn Galasso, was recited by the student body and staff. The school orchestra, under the direction of David Shapiro, played patriotic songs. The school chorus, led by Kristine Smith-Morasso, sang the Star Spangled Banner.

Seventh grader Alexi Kuska explained the significance of Veterans' Day in a speech she made before the student body. She noted that 24 million veterans are living today, but that 650,000 military personnel have died in battle and another 1.4 million were wounded.

"The price of freedom is high," said Alexi. "We honor the veterans for keeping this nation the land of the free and the home of the brave."

Mr. Carey called for a moment of silence and Edison students Matthew Bogen and Matthew Leonard played "Taps" to remember those who lost their lives for our country.

Students Jonathan Holt and Charles Tripp introduced and recited the poem "Anthem for Doomed Youth." Colonel Rice, who served in the Vietnam War zone as an intensive care nurse and also served in active duty in the Persian Gulf War, thanked the staff and students for the special invitation to join the school's assembly. She also complimented the students on their hand-designed posters honoring veterans that adorned the walls of the auditorium.

Gerard Weiss, a World War II army veteran who received both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star, joined the 63rd infantry in Europe shortly after D-Day. He told the students that serving his country in the war "was one of the most momentous periods in my life."

The assembly program was coordinated by Social Studies teachers Elizabeth Hogan and Geoffrey Martin, with assistance from the Sharing Talents and Skills department of the Westfield Public Schools.

The veterans also visited Westfield High School in the afternoon, where they addressed students in the American Issues and Survey of American History classes.

Roosevelt Intermediate School held a special program on November 12 for all seventh and eighth graders. Parents were also invited to attend this tribute to veterans.

Each year, at Roosevelt's Veteran's Day Assembly, a veteran is honored. This year, the school honored H. Kenneth Osborne, the grandfather of Kim Meusel, Guidance Counselor at Roosevelt. Mr. Osborne served in

World War II and was the recipient of Roosevelt's Heroes Among Us Award.

Roosevelt's Veteran's Day Assembly also included remarks from seventh graders on the meaning of the holiday, as well as patriotic music.



SPRUNGING UP WILSON...The playground at Wilson Elementary School in Westfield received a facelift when parents and students spread mulch over the playground surfaces. The mulch was purchased by the Wilson School Parent-Teacher Association and is intended to make the playground safer.

## WF Council Gives Oct. 15 Mtg. Minutes Green Light

COUNCILMAN Rafael Betancourt said that the issue has not come before a committee yet and that it needs to be discussed before any letters are written.

Mrs. Povalac responded that she was upset by the petition for the traffic light because, in collecting signatures against the light, she and others only got signatures in the neighborhoods directly affected by the light.

Councilman Salisbury said that there may be many past studies that need to be looked at.

Mayor McDermott added that the town needs to find out where the county stands with the project, and then collect information and give an opinion.

Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh, who was unanimously reappointed to his post for a three-year term that evening, said that he will get in touch with the county to find out where they are in the project.

Mrs. Povalac said that she is "upset" that the original petitions cannot be found.

Mayor McDermott repeated that the town needs to talk to the county, and that "what happened is one thing, where we go is another." He said that data needs to be collected, residents need to be spoken to and that Chief of Police Bernard Tracy needs to be consulted.

Councilwoman Lazarowitz said to Mrs. Povalac that though it was "hearsay...you were quite forceful in getting your petition." She added that she collected 179 signatures approximately two years ago from people interested in a traffic light.

Mrs. Povalac responded that no one was "aggressively approached," and that people were provided with written material. She added that it was not a problem if people did not want to sign the petition.

In other business, Councilman Salisbury introduced an ordinance

## Randazzo Speeds Up Work On Beechwood School Site

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In addition there are screenings for scoliosis, sports physicals, tuberculosis testing in accordance with state guidelines, and voluntary monitoring of blood pressure for all staff. Ms. Woodruff is also responsible for creating a health record for all incoming

kindergarten students in addition to overseeing attendance and confirming with parents if a child is actually home ill.

The school nurse also coordinates presentations to students on fire safety and dental health. In addition there is a seminar on emergency situations, and how to safely handle a patient who is bleeding. A new policy is that the state requests that physicals be given by each child's primary care physician, rather than receiving a physical exam at school.

However, if a child does not have a doctor, or does not have access to a doctor, arrangements will be made for that child to have a physical through the school. There are also new guidelines to take action for children who are overweight or have high blood pressure.

Parental consent on their child's health information was also discussed, as was the emergency administration of epinephrine. Both Sue Hollenbeck, the Beechwood School nurse, and Ms. Woodruff addressed the need for a pool of substitute nurses, should the need arise.

After several presentations, the large audience of teachers and parents finally began to discuss the situation of the construction at Beechwood School.

Mr. Kress said that, "last week the board voted and gave seven days notice terminating services of Randazzo builders," but since notice was given, Randazzo has begun moving much faster and with increased manpower and with better safeguards.

The school board had a closed session previous to this meeting where they discussed option for the completion of this project.

The board may or may not consider discussing with Randazzo keeping him on the job. Currently, the board is waiting for the bonding company to assess if there has been a significant breach of contract. The bonding company estimates it will take 30 to 60 days to inform the board of their decision.

"Mr. Randazzo has taken the position that there has not been a breach of contract, which is not surprising," said Mr. Kress. For now, there will continue to be lawyers, meetings with Randazzo, and a constant monitoring of the work.

If the board is pleased, they can extend the seven days notice and additional seven days and proceed that way. If not, it could be back to bidding, that is if the bonding company does not step forward to complete this project. All involved are hoping that it does not go back to the bidding stage.

As board member Frank Geiger put it, "the next guy coming in will want first a price to clean it up and then a price to complete the job."

Mr. Kress summed up the situation best when he said, "when this school is done, regardless of who finishes it, this school will be beautiful."

## Daurio Earns Syracuse Dean's Scholarship

WESTFIELD — Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y. has reported that Robert Daurio of Westfield received a Dean's Scholarship, which acknowledges the student's outstanding academic achievement. Robert is enrolled in Syracuse University's School of Architecture.

## WF Superintendent Cautions Impact of Enrollment Surge

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Report for Westfield's public schools. The QAAR is primarily an opportunity to review and present all aspects of the school system.

On November 14, monitoring will occur by a state representative and will mostly consist of a review of the QAAR. The 2001-2002 report includes how the school system implements school level plans, achieves performance objectives, maintains the condition of school facilities, as well as reviews the status of mandated programs. Student performance at each school is also included.

In other news, the board briefly discussed the availability and use of athletic facilities owned by the school system. After students, members voiced difficulty in prioritizing which organizations should have access to fields and gyms. The primary concern, however, is the ability of the school system to supply custodial support. Without a specific school's custodian working overtime, the facilities are unable to be used.

Board President Arlene Gardner then reviewed the current status of the board's goals established in a retreat earlier this year. One of the items she voiced concern over was communication. It was agreed by most that the board was utilizing all outlets to reach out to the community, but that the open line was largely not reciprocated.

The next school board meeting will be held next Tuesday, November 19, when members will hear the findings of an annual financial audit currently being conducted.

A representative from the Westfield Y's Y's Men Club will address the board, requesting to use the Elm Street Field for the club's annual Christmas tree sale.

According to Lorre Korecky of the school district's Office of School and Community Relations, the board would like the club to move the sale to Memorial Field this year in order to "give the field a rest due to wear and tear."

## The Skin of Our Teeth to Be Presented By WHS Students

WESTFIELD — The Westfield High School (WHS) Drama Department will present Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth* this evening, November 21, at 3:30 p.m. and Friday, November 22 and Saturday, November 23, at 8 p.m.

Under the direction of WHS drama teacher and director Joe Nierle, the show features a cast and crew of over 40 students who have been in rehearsal for the past eight weeks.

*The Skin of Our Teeth* was first presented on Broadway in 1942 and earned the Pulitzer Prize in Drama. This comedy/drama follows a typical American family living in New Jersey as they face the world and daily intrusions of the ice age, floods and war. Actors will break character and address the audience as themselves, animals appear and talk, the time setting spans 5,000 years, and events become universal.

"The play speaks to us today in light of the terrorism, wars and other strange events of the world," said

Nierle. "Wilder tries to offer a reason for our going on in a chaotic existence and he finds it in the form of family and our eternal condition of always hoping for the better."

"This play is a diversion," said Nierle, "from our past two years of producing docudramas, but at the same time, it is a play that also addresses the human condition though in a sometimes comic way."

The cast includes J.D. Hyman, Samantha Hooper-Hamersley, Jenise Morgan, Josh Lerner, Jazelle Giresi, Ryan Maines, Nick Williams, Ryan Leonard, Betsy Paynter, Holly Dawson, Elliott Johnson, Chris Lynn, Ray Daly, Samantha Hermann, Emily Greenberg, Darcy O'Brien, Mara Ganz, Lyndsay Rose Sinclair, Jason Mesches, Sam Leib, Matt Toriello, and David Eisenberg.

Tickets, which cost \$6, are available at the door one half-hour before performance times. For more information, please call (908) 789-4549.

## WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5**  
 • Ethan Kelley, 29, of Union was arrested on Springfield Avenue and charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. He was released on his own recognizance.  
 • Kelley was also arrested on a contempt of court warrant out of the Municipal Court of Summit, for which he posted \$36 bail.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7**  
 • Gregory Yadowski, 31, of Linden was arrested at Central and Terminal Avenues in Clark and charged with driving while intoxicated. Released on his own recognizance, he was issued summonses for driving while intoxicated and for following too closely.  
 • Richard L. Young, 55, whose address is unknown, was arrested at an East Broad Street restaurant and charged with defiant trespassing after receiving numerous warnings against trespassing at the establishment. He was held on \$200 bail.  
 • An unknown person removed 41 bottles of Chanel products from a Central Avenue store. Police said there are no suspects in the case.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8**  
 • A resident of the 600 block of Arlington Avenue reported that her garage was broken into and that tools belonging to an Iselin contractor were removed. The value of the tools was \$3,100.  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9**  
 • One or more unknown individuals unlawfully entered a home on West Broad Street, spray painted a pentagram on the cellar floor and left burnt candles and an

unknown liquid at the scene. Authorities said there are no suspects in the case and no similar incidents have occurred.

• A Walnut Street resident reported that the driver's side mirror on her motor vehicle was shattered while the car was parked in front of her home.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10**  
 • The newsstand at the south side Westfield train station was vandalized by someone having thrown rocks against the siding.

• A Carleton Road resident reported that the driver's window on his motor vehicle was broken out while the vehicle was parked in front of his house.

• A Boulevard resident likewise reported that the driver's side window on his motor vehicle was broken out while the vehicle was parked in front of his home.

• A resident of Ann Arbor, Mich. reported the theft of a Zeon headlight from his BMW while the automobile was parked in the 1000 block of Central Avenue.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11**  
 • A wooden slat in a stockade fence was broken and removed. The incident occurred on a residential property in the 700 block of Coleman Place.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12**  
 • A Clark resident reported that while driving his motor vehicle down South Avenue, the driver of another vehicle began following him. The victim said a passenger in the suspect's car then exited that vehicle and threw a bottle at the victim's vehicle, breaking out a passenger side window.

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