

Area Young Man Treats Victims In London Subway Bombing

By CASSIE LO

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Westfield resident Sean Baran has always known for his willingness to help in any situation. So when he hopped off of a bus in London and immediately began treating victims of the tube bombings on July 6, it came as no surprise to his family and friends.



Sean, an EMT and a member of the Westfield Rescue Squad, saw the tragedy from atop a double-decker bus while trying to commute to his last day of work at British-American Business Inc. "I saw people coming out of the (Edgware Road) tube station with soot and smoke residue around their mouths and with cuts and burns. Everyone looked really dazed," Sean told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*.

He left the bus and identified himself as an EMT from America to a police officer, and was immediately put to work. Sean, along with a female British doctor and other volunteers, including off-duty doctors, nurses and firefighters, set up a medical center in the nearby Hilton hotel. During the three hours that Sean was present, the unit treated over 60 people. Sean personally dressed wounds, collected contact information and sorted people by the severity of their injuries. From the Hilton, victims were sent to their respective hospitals for further medical treatment if necessary.

"The British citizens handled themselves very well; it reflected their attitude towards the situation. Resources were able to flow as needed," said Sean.

Other than ambulances, he also mentioned how impressed he was with the amount of people and supplies that gathered at the Hilton. Sean observed that every person with a first aid kit or anything that could be used to help placed their items in a large pile that was used to triage the patients, which is a process of sorting and treating injured people that is commonly used when medical re-

sources are scarce.

As the activity at the Hilton wrapped up, Sean exited the building and went through police lines, taking off his rubber gloves in the process. Several reporters noticed him and started to ask him questions when James Hattori, a NBC news reporter, approached Sean. A few moments later, he was handed a cellular telephone and was told that the *Today* show's Katie Couric was on the other end waiting to do a phone interview.

"I didn't register it at first," said Sean. "I was standing in the middle of London just casually talking to Katie Couric."

The next several hours were a whirlwind of activity for Sean. The *Today* show bought him a plane ticket on a flight 14 hours earlier than his original one, and he was asked to be on the July 7 show to talk to Katie in person about his experience.

In addition to the *Today* show, Sean has been seen on other NBC news segments, as well as on CBS, UPN, CN8 and CNN. Sean was a guest on the *Larry King Live* show on July 7. He was also featured in newspapers from Toronto and Belfast.

During the interview with *The Leader/Times*, Sean said that he hopes that no photographs of him smiling will be published, as 50 people have died.

"I lived in a predominately Islamic area in London for two and a half months," said Sean. "They were very nice to us. London is a very cosmopolitan city; everyone really gets along because there is so much diversity. I don't think the British will cast an eye on anyone because of these bombings."

Sean received his EMT training at the Westfield Rescue Squad, where he still volunteers, and the Union EMT Academy. He has been an EMT since the summer before his senior year at Westfield High School (WHS). He was a member of the WHS varsity swim team, which won three state championship titles while Sean was

swimming for them.

"It's no surprise that Sean would pitch in and help like that. He spent years with the Westfield Rescue Squad, so he was well prepared for emergency situations. If there had been live terrorists, with live guns, I don't think that would've stopped Sean either. He did what he had to do," said WHS swimming coach Bruce Johnson.

"I knew Sean to be a standup guy when I swam with him my freshman year, and his acts in London just go to show it," said present WHS swimmer Kyle Murray.

Sean will be starting his junior year at the University of Richmond in the fall, where he has designed his own Entrepreneurship and Strategic Leadership major. He is also active in the Student Government and has been a Resident Assistant for the past two years.

"Sean is a very hardworking kid, he's very driven. He is a really nice guy, and I'm not very surprised that he went to these lengths," said University of Richmond student and Westfield resident Alex Crawford.

Sean started his second internship of the summer at Bear Stearns in New York City on Monday, and plans on spending some time at the beach with his younger brother Luke, who will start his junior year at WHS in the fall.

"I think the attention is nice, but Sean was just doing what he should have been doing," said Mrs. Tola Murphy Baran, Sean's mother. "If this inspires people to join services, help others or acquire new skills, then I think it's fantastic."



Benjamin B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader*

TRIAGE IN LONDON...Last Friday, Sean Baran of Westfield discusses treating the injured during the recent terrorist bombing of the London subway. Pictured above, from left to right, are: Mr. Baran, his mother Tola Murphy Baran and *Westfield Leader* reporter Cassie Lo.

Recreation Director Concerned Over Progress on Turf Project

By DON WILLIAMS

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Recreation Commission discussed field improvements and other business at its Monday evening meeting at the Memorial Pool Complex.

Recreation Director Bruce Kaufmann reported that work is continuing at Houlihan and Sid Fay fields. After visiting the site and the Memorial Park tennis courts with John Belle

of Kinsey Associates, Mr. Kaufmann expressed concern that the project is falling behind schedule. A large area under Sid Fay field was discovered to have been a Department of Public Works (DPW) dumping site for dirt and vegetation, and this material had to be removed before work could continue.

The removal would have cost \$64,000 but the DPW agreed to remove the material with its own trucks.

The material will be stored by DPW and used as fill for future projects.

A corner of the lot underneath Houlihan Field was discovered to have been retaining water. The lot was re-graded and the field now has no drainage problems, even in the recent rains, according to Mr. Kaufmann.

Mr. Kaufmann asked Town Administrator Jim Gildea if he knew if there were any structures on the lot prior to its use as a field. Mr. Gildea did not know of any, and there is no record of a structure at the site since 1938, when such records were initiated. Additionally, water has collected in a 3.5-foot deep hole in the center of Sid Fay Field, but Mr. Kaufmann assured the commission that the site is adequately protected by fencing and the hole will be filled as construction progresses.

Another issue has arisen with the lighting contractor, Lucas Electric Co., who won't return Mr. Belle's telephone calls, officials said.

An effort was made to coordinate the multiple colored lines on the Houlihan turf field with those on the new Kehler Stadium turf field, as different colored lines will apply to different sports on the fields. For example, both fields will have blue lines for boys' lacrosse.

Plans were made for weekly or semi-weekly communication be-

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Planning Bd. Postpones Decision On Rahway Avenue Subdivision

By KIM BROADWELL

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Because of the late hour and revisions needed, the planning board last Thursday night postponed a decision regarding a major subdivision at 1532 and 1538 Rahway Avenue.

The owners, Carl and Olga Teschke, are seeking to create three lots from two existing lots. They also want to demolish two existing houses and build three single-family homes. Their application does not require any variances.

Testimony regarding the storm water detention system for the three potential properties was heard from the project engineer, Edward Bogan, of Cranford. He noted that the prop-

erties would have a "series of underground polyethylene pipes to collect and flush rainfall." He added that the filtration system would be the responsibility of the three new property owners to maintain. He also noted that because of new storm water regulations mandated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) the filtration system must be implemented.

Mr. Bogan said that last month, the board did hear testimony from engineer Adam Sapp of Storm Water Management Inc., who was providing the system and had said that the NJDEP had made these new regulations because New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation.

Mr. Bogan noted that the filtration

system would have 11 filters in the system instead of the 37 that was originally reported. Mr. Bogan also said that the water would drain into the system from Rahway Avenue and also from a new cull de sac proposed for the new properties.

Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh asked Mr. Bogan if he could revise the plans to put in a protective apron for what he stated would be "eventual erosion from constant water run-off."

Board member Robert Newell asked Mr. Bogan if there were plans drawn for the design of the new houses proposed. Robert Kraus, attorney for

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Paul Vizzuso Removed as MS-BOE Administrator

By BETSEY BURGENDORF

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — Borough school administrator/board secretary Paul Vizzuso has been removed from his position, officials revealed at Tuesday night's board of education meeting.

Chief School Administrator Richard O'Malley told *The Westfield Leader* that Mr. Vizzuso's removal was recommended by Interim Chief School Administrator Walter Rusak.

When questioned further by *The Leader*, Dr. O'Malley would only say that Mr. Vizzuso did not resign from his position. He refused further comment, calling the issue a personnel matter.

Mr. Vizzuso had been with the district for the past four years.

Dr. O'Malley welcomed Roderick McLaughlin as the new business administrator/board secretary.

Mr. McLaughlin previously served as the Interim County School Business Administrator for the Union County Superintendent of Schools.

During the business portion of Tuesday's meeting, the board discussed in detail the policy requiring school districts to offer healthy lunch choices, which was signed into effect by Governor Richard Codey.

The model nutritional policy requires all districts serving food to begin to implement a healthy nutri-

tional plan by September of this year, with major changes to take effect by September 2006.

According to a study by the American Academy of Pediatrics, one in five American children under the age of 12 are 20 percent or more over their ideal weight. The statewide nutritional policy would require schools to eliminate unhealthy foods and offer healthy options in their place.

The districts contract with Dowling Food Service Management Inc. is up for renewal and the board has been working with representatives to incorporate healthier choices into this year's menu. The menu will not include French fries, hash browns or lil' Debbie snack cakes.

"I recommend that we lead the state in a model nutritional policy," Dr. O'Malley said. "I want to make sure students enjoy lunch, but make sure we have a healthy lunch for them."

Dr. O'Malley stated that 50 to 60 percent of MountainSide's nutritional program already meets the guidelines. "The a-la-carte items are not at that level and need to be addressed," Dr. O'Malley said. He said 100 percent fruit and vegetable juice would be offered, while Snapple would no longer be available.

Dr. O'Malley stated that a survey would be sent home to explain what the requirements of the state are and

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Horace Corbin for *The Westfield Leader*

NEW MOUNTAINSIDE CLOCK...Last Saturday, MountainSide officials dedicated the new borough clock located at the intersection of New Providence Road and Mountain Avenue. MountainSide Mayor Robert Vigianni praised the community for really coming together to make this landmark happen.



side entrance stairs to the Westfield train station platform.

The bag was spotted and reported to command authorities by Westfield Police Officer Frank Schmitz during a routine inspection of the train station shortly before 8 a.m. Within minutes, passengers were cleared from the platforms and police secured the area. Firemen used their trucks to block the entrances to the north side train station parking lot, and they remained on standby for support.

The Union County Bomb Squad arrived with instruments and equipment a dozen minutes later. As part of the equipment, an explosive containment sphere was brought on site should it had been necessary to place the bag within it.

The bag of concern was lodged behind a two-foot high wall next to the tracks and adjacent to the concrete stairs leading to the platform on the north side of the station. Upon



of the charge.

All spectators and personnel were cleared from the area for a distance across the street from the parking lot. At 9:15 a.m., the charge was detonated, yielding a sharp boom, but without further incident. The bag was shredded and the content was determined to be harmless.

Train service resumed by 9:20 a.m. and the area quickly returned to normal. For more information, please see www.goleader.com/photos.