



**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 Times reporter Cassie Lo.

## Mountainside Dedicates New Community Clock

By KIM BROADWELL  
Specially Written for The Times

**MOUNTAINSIDE** — Greeting Mountainside residents and visitors, a new borough street clock, located in front of Valley National Bank on Mountain Avenue, was unveiled Saturday afternoon at a ceremony led by Mayor Robert F. Vigilanti.

According to the mayor, the clock, which looks very similar to the clocks in Fanwood, Garwood and Clark, has been donated to the borough from over 100 Mountainside businesses and/or residents.

"This is truly a community clock," said Mayor Vigilanti during the ceremony.

Over 100 people participated in this clock getting here. Our local businesses, friends and neighbors all contributed between \$250 and over \$5,000 making this a gift from these people to our community.

The mayor stated that he and Borough Engineer Michael Disko had been looking for a place to install a community clock since 1994, when Borough Hall had been going through its renovation. He noted that during that time the clock location was at Friendly's restaurant.

He stated that he had approached Valley National Bank, who took over the former Friendly's property, with the idea of placing the clock at its present location a year ago. He said that the bank not only gave its permission to use their property, but also pledged a substantial amount of money for the project.

According to Mayor Vigilanti, the labor and the materials needed to install the clock were also donated by

local businesses and residents. He noted that resident Walter Heckle was instrumental in laying the new foundation, after the first effort was determined to be incorrect. United Crane Rental gave free use of their equipment, Weldon Concrete gave free concrete and S & W Electric donated their services to the project.

The mayor also noted that the clock patio and granite base were provided by Melo Contractors, owned by Mike Melango and his family. He added that the bench was provided by the Maxwell family, owners of Maxwell's Furniture and Restoration, who have been living in Mountainside since 1907.

The mayor also mentioned that Danny Bliwice made a generous contribution in memory of his family, who the mayor noted had been a part of Mountainside since 1914.

The mayor added that the clock project could not have been completed without the efforts of Mr. Disko, and thanked him by presenting his son, Kenny, with a collectible miniature of the clock. Mr. Disko could not attend the ceremony due to illness.

Other contributors of the clock include Gene and Audrey Lord; the Cioffi family; Vincent and Lauren Ferraro and family; the Picolli family, the law firm of Post, Polak, Goodsell, MacNeill and Strauchler PSE&G; Elizabethown Gas; Suplee Clooney & Co.; Comcast; Print Tech; L'Affaire Fine Catering and the mayor and Mountainside Borough Council.

Also, a portion of the clock stem was honored in memory of Captain Todd B. Turner of the Mountainside Police Department who lost his life in a car accident last year.



**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 Vigilanti said it's just like the Fanwood clock, but without the chimes.

## Area 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 American 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, observing 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 resources 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 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 origi-

nal 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 (Ireland).

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 Baran, Sean's mother. "If this inspires people to join services, help others or acquire new skills, then I think it's fantastic."

## Paul Vizzuso Removed as Bd. Secretary/Bus. Admin.

By BETSEY BURGENDORF  
Specially Written for The Times

**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 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that Mr. Vizzuso's removal was recommended by Interim Chief School Administrator Walter Rusak.

When questioned further by *The Times*, 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 also to determine what children prefer on the lunch menu.



**RADIANT BLOOMS...** It's a difficult but pleasant choice for this lady in selecting her flowers last Saturday at the Scotch Plains Farmers Market.

## SP/FW BPA's Co-Sponsor July 19 Networking Night

**FANWOOD** — The Scotch Plains Business & Professional Association (SPBPA) and the Fanwood Business & Professional Association (FBPA) will be co-sponsoring a Networking Night for area businesses on Tuesday, July 19 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Sun Tavern located at 15 South Avenue in Fanwood.

The meeting will be held in the private room on the first floor of the restaurant. The event is free for individuals who are paid members of

either organization or \$5 for each additional member, guest or non-member. Area businesses are encouraged to attend the gathering for fun, food, drinks and networking.

Pizza, appetizers and beverages will be served.

Please RSVP to SPBPA board member Jeff Stein at 908-322-6774 or send an e-mail to info@visitscotchplains.com.

All attending can look forward to a relaxed summer evening of fun.

## Former Resident Sues Lab Over Flawed Test

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According to Mr. Peters, the initial tests done by ToxMed were performed incorrectly using faulty methodology and materials. He also said that the investigators "jumped the gun" arresting Mrs. Mignano on just the toxicology reports.

"In most cases of first degree murder charges, the information would go to a Grand Jury, and they would weigh all of the evidence before making an arrest," Mr. Peters said. This case was not handled properly, he said.

However, District Attorney Mike Taylor told *The Times* that the case was handled properly. Mr. Taylor said that if the investigating officer felt that there was enough evidence, he could arrest a suspect without a warrant and without further evidence. He said that Mrs. Mignano's case was handled according to proper procedures.

"If the investigator felt that there was enough evidence, it was within the boundaries of his duties to arrest Mrs. Mignano. As soon as contradictory evidence surfaced, the charges were dropped and she was released. There was nothing out of the ordinary about the procedures," Mr. Taylor said.

The \$750,000 suit names ToxMed lab, Meharry College and two lab officials for the faulty results. Dr. Harlan is not named in the suit because he is protected from liability by his position, Mr. Peters said. However, Dr. Harlan's medical license was revoked on unrelated charges, alleging that he covered up evidence and falsified reports in another case.

"When Dr. Harlan was charged with these other allegations, the police should have demanded more of an investigation and more evidence before accusing me," said Mrs. Mignano.

"It was a horrible experience to be sitting in jail while grieving for my daughter," she said. She related how just four days prior to her daughter's death, she had to hand pump Ashley's respirator equipment for 90 minutes during a blackout to keep her daughter alive.

"If I wanted to kill my daughter, all I had to do was do nothing," Mrs. Mignano said.

Jill Scoggins, spokesperson for ToxMed issued this statement, saying, "Meharry Medical College is

fully investigating this matter. ToxMed has operated at Meharry for five years and has provided a fully professional level of accuracy in conducting thousands of clinical tests."

Mrs. Scoggins could not be reached for an interview.

Mrs. Mignano also said that due to the notoriety of the case, she has not been able to get a job in Tennessee. Additionally, because her family's bank accounts were frozen during her arrest she and her husband were forced to foreclose on their Scotch Plains house.

"I have been terribly wronged by this ordeal," Mrs. Mignano said. "As soon as prospective employers find out who I am, job offers vanish," she added. Mrs. Mignano was an assisted-living administrator prior to these events.

No court date has been set for the case yet, Mr. Peters told *The Times*. He expects the case to be heard sometime next year.

Mrs. Mignano said that she is suing not for the money, but to hopefully prevent a similar situation from happening to anyone else.

## Fanwood Street

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ment rights (TDR) is still being analyzed. TDR is a crucial element to the redevelopment of Fanwood; when redeveloping, new zoning must be established, officials said, noting that this can be a long process, especially since it's a fairly new concept to the borough.

"TDR is in its early stages right now," said Councilman Andrew Calamaras. "We're waiting for surveys to be completed," he explained. Resident Joe Hardgrove expressed his concern with speeding on Shady Lane, and asked what how the problem can be solved.

Officials noted that speed bumps can be a good solution, but by law, a certain percentage of the neighbors have to agree to have the bumps to avoid the problem of removing them if residents are dissatisfied.

"It becomes a complicated issue, but certainly an important one to address," said Councilman Jack



**A SMART BUY...** A young man is content with his purchase last Saturday at the Farmers Market in Scotch Plains.



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