

### Suspended Police Officer's Hearing Delayed For Now

By BETSEY BURG DORF  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD — The hearing for Police Detective Sandra Chambers who was suspended for allegedly having a \$20 parking ticket "fixed" was postponed from May 11 until a later date, Town Administrator Jim Gildea said this week.

It was reported that Detective Chambers, a female as well as an African American, had allegedly filed charges of discrimination against the Westfield Police Department (WPD) as a result of the incident.

"Reporters have been calling us saying this is a juicy story, but it's really not. It is an interdepartmental issue," Mr. Gildea said. "Nothing has been filed whatsoever."

Hassen Abdellah, an attorney representing Officer Chambers, said that the department is seeking her removal from the force "primarily because of the parking ticket." Mr. Abdellah stated that it was actually Mrs. Chambers son who received that parking ticket but the car is registered to her.

"Right now everything is on hold," Mr. Adellah told *The Westfield Leader*. "I don't want to comment on anything at the moment."

Mr. Adellah said that no charges have been filed against the Westfield Police Department as of yet. "I don't want to speculate," he said. "Decisions have to be made on both sides," he said.

Mr. Gildea said the hearing was postponed because the lawyers need more time to discuss the issues related to the case.

"We are still proceeding with the internal affairs procedure," he said. "The hearing was adjourned to further consider the charges."

Police Chief Bernard Tracy declined to comment on the case beyond acknowledging that "there's an issue that needs to be resolved and it should be resolved in the proper course."

Mr. Gildea has said Detective Chambers has been suspended with pay pending the outcome of her case.



Benjamin B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader*  
**PACKED HOUSE...**The issue of the installation of lights at Houlihan Field on Lamberts Mill Road drew a large crowd to the Town Council meeting on Tuesday night. Residents turned out in support, as well as in opposition of the lights. The Council approved the installation of the lights 8-1.

## Westfield Council Awards Contracts For Houlihan As Neighbors Object

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD — The town council Tuesday night approved a resolution to award contracts for synthetic turf at Houlihan Field, to install lights at Houlihan and to resurface the Tamaques Park tennis courts by a vote of 8-1 despite objections from area residents.

Representatives of town sports league favor the Houlihan/Sid Fay projects. Council members indicated their support for the project but vowed to address traffic safety and how much later the lights would be turned off.

Currently, the Recreation Commission has a policy of lighting recreational facilities from May 1 through September 30 from dusk until 10 p.m., Town Administrator Jim Gildea told the governing body prior to the public meeting. He said there is no town ordinance, however, that specifies these hours.

Lucas Electric Company of Windsor was awarded the \$255,300 contract for installing lighting at Houlihan and Sid Fay and the Tamaques tennis courts.

Helecon, Inc. of Bridgewater was given the contract to resurface the Tamaques tennis courts at a cost of \$104,850. A. Juliano & Sons, Inc. of Sterling was hired to re-construct Houlihan Field to pave and triple parking capacity at the park as well as fencing Houlihan and Sid Fay Fields at a cost of \$770,000.

With \$1.1 million budgeted for the two projects, officials have noted that the town would be able to complete everything except the turfing of Sid Fay Field.

Recreation department officials are seeking funding through Union County government grants as well through donations through the various sports associations in town to pay for the project.

At Tuesday night's meeting, numerous neighborhood residents spoke in opposition to the lights, citing increased traffic, noise and traffic. Representatives of the various sports leagues in town supported the projects, stating soccer and lacrosse leagues are facing significant registration increases.

Barry Knapp, president of the Westfield Soccer Association, said half the town's population of children

## Council Passes Resolution For School Budget Cuts

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD — The town council approved a resolution Tuesday night to cut the school tax levy by \$714,543, which will reduce school taxes on an average homeowner between \$75 and \$80. The overall tax levy increase will drop four cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to 14 cents.

Westfield Voters rejected the \$66 million school tax levy by a tally of \$1,528 to \$1,463 on April 19. School officials had originally sought to reduce the levy by around \$360,000.

The proposed cuts contained some 28 different areas hitting all aspects

of the town's K-12 public school system. Town and school officials have said the cuts do not involve any current instructional staff, although several openings due to retiring educators and secretaries would not be filled. Also new purchases and programs proposed in the 2005-2006 school budget have been cut from the budget.

First Ward Councilman Peter Echausse, Finance Policy Committee Chairman, said it was important that no existing staff or programs were affected by the reductions. He said staff positions were instead reduced "through either attrition or consolidation of responsibilities or titles."

Councilman Echausse said it was important that any cuts were not at any particular school, but rather spread throughout the entire school system.

"The budget went down. It was within our control to pass it," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley. "It was voted down in most precincts throughout the town by parents as well as people on fix incomes."

"I'm not happy about these cuts but I accept these cuts," Dr. Foley said, blaming the budget defeat on residents being upset over rising property taxes and not because they are dissatisfied with the Westfield school system.

He noted that school enrollments, particularly in the first grade, are down and thus the numbers of classes would

likely be reduced. First grade enrollments are averaging between 22 and 23 students per class.

Several residents opposed the cuts, noting that small class sizes are particularly important for younger aged children.

Barbara Sullivan of Clifton Street,  
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### Two Bush Protesters To Be Tried in Spfld.

By BETSEY BURG DORF  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD — In a last minute decision by their attorneys, Westfield residents Emily Colvin, 18, and Jonathan Spitz, 41, will have their disorderly conduct charges heard in a Springfield courtroom rather than in Westfield Municipal Court. They were among nine protesters arrested during President George W. Bush's visit to the Westfield National Guard Armory on March 4.

Donald A. DiGioia, with the law firm of Weisman Hely DiGioia, is representing Miss Colvin.

"I had made a motion looking for outstanding discovery (release of documents to opposing counsel) is-

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## Dr. Richard O'Malley of Flemington Takes Helm As New Mountainside Chief School Administrator

By BETSEY BURG DORF  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

MOUNTAINSIDE — Dr. Richard O'Malley will be joining the Mountainside School District as Chief School Administrator on Monday, May 23. His impressive resume is almost overshadowed by his enthusiasm and dynamic energy that has the potential to put the district on top.

Interim Chief School Administrator Walter Rusak is credited with having breathed life back into the deflated district after scandal and construction woes divided the borough of

approximately 6,500 residents. "You got us out of choppy water two years ago," Board of Education

President John Perrin stated at the last school board meeting when Mr. Rusak said goodbye to students, parents and staff. But Mr. Rusak's stint with the district was only temporary and Mountainside was looking for permanent change.

"I think I bring to the district a higher academic standard," Dr. O'Malley told *The Westfield Leader*. He describes himself as a "dynamic education professional with a strong administrative, teaching and technology background and experience developing initiatives for new education pedagogy and curriculum."

He holds a New Jersey Chief School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility and graduated from Harvard University, Graduate School of Education.

He also holds an Ed. D from Seton Hall University. He received his Masters of Education from Monmouth, achieving a 3.9 grade point average. His credentials also include a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with a minor in Political Science from Clemson University.

He comes to Mountainside from the Branchburg Township School District where he served as Principal of Whiton Elementary School, a school housing Pre-Kindergarten through second grade students. He was responsible for a student body comprised of 700 students and a faculty of 102 staff members.

Dr. O'Malley was in charge of all the instructional and support operations at Whiton including enforcing school, district and state policies. He also maintained safety throughout the school environment and addressed

situations, problems and conflicts that could have a negative impact on the school, while developing school policies and implementing the vision and mission of the district.

"I utilized my leadership, supervisory, management and administrative skills so as to promote the educational development and preparation of each student and upheld a continued stan-

dard of excellence at the Whiton Elementary School," he said.

Prior to holding the position of principal at Whiton, Dr. O'Malley served as Principal of Stony Brook School, also in the Branchburg Township School District.

"To achieve academic excellence, I worked collaboratively with the stu-

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## DWC Highlights Main St. Conference; Examines Latest Goals and Objectives

By BETSEY BURG DORF  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD — At the Monday night meeting of the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC), Chairman David Martone discussed the highlights of the National Main Street Conference held in Baltimore, MD in the beginning of May.

"I am only sorry I didn't go to any other one (convention)," Mr. Martone said. "It was great to talk to other folks and see what they're doing. Getting to this point has been a tremendous amount of work."

DWC Executive Director Sherry Cronin announced that representatives from the Great American Main Street Committee are interested in speaking

at next spring's conference. Members of the DWC who attend the conference representing Westfield are among several hundred attendees. "Every one knows us," Mr. Martone said.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Main Street Organization, and they will be sponsoring a "25 Years of Celebration" event for all Main Street Communities, including Westfield. "They are bringing the celebration to the Main Street level," Mrs. Cronin said.

Mrs. Cronin noted that Chez Catherine is also celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and suggested highlighting the French restaurant in the celebration.

Mr. Martone noted the success of the downtown businesses stating, "We're

not competing with the malls, they're competing with us. People recognize us as a happy, welcoming place to be."

At a retreat held in the DWC offices on Sunday, board members "examined our goals and objectives and looked at our mission and our objectives," Mr. Martone said.

Three areas that the DWC will focus on are partnerships with the town council and other town departments such as the Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board, keeping Westfield clean and safe and downtown improvements. Members then took a walking tour of the downtown.

"When you actually take a walk through and go behind some of the buildings," Mr. Martone said shaking his head. "We want to attract people through Main Street, but the majority of folks park in the back and we want to keep those facades looking nice."

It's a work in progress," Mr. Martone said.  
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## BOE Begins Ratification Of Agreement with BH

By BETSEY BURG DORF  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Board of Education held a special meeting on Tuesday night to discuss the send-receive agreement the board has with Governor Livingston High School (GL) in Berkeley Heights. Mountainside students in grades eight through 12 attend GL as per an agreement the district has with the school board in Berkeley Heights.

The 10-year contract was signed in 1997 by the board and costs the district approximately \$3 million annually. State statutes require that agreements of this nature be ratified two years prior to the end of the contract. That date, July 1, is fast approaching

and the board met behind closed doors "to go over some language," Board of Education President John Perrin told *The Westfield Leader*.

The nature of contractual agreement is confidential and by law can be discussed in Executive session. Board Attorney David Rubin said that until the negotiations are complete and a contract is drawn up, the sessions will remain closed.

"We are responding to language incorporated into the contract," Mr. Perrin said. As soon as the board is satisfied with the language of the contract, the details of the agreement will be made public. "The send-receive agreement has been a really good one," Mr. Perrin concluded.



Horace R. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader*  
**PIE IN THE FACE...**Children are all smiles after the pie-eating contest, which was part of an event hosted by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School National Honor Society held on Saturday at the National Guard Armory in Westfield for families with loved ones serving in Iraq.

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### Meeting on Cell Towers Rescheduled to June 15

WESTFIELD — The Board of Adjustment has rescheduled its meeting on the Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC Applications to construct cellular communication towers on Springfield Avenue and South Avenue to Wednesday, June 15, at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building.

Cingular is seeking to erect an 85-foot-high cellular communications tower in front of the Wychwood Gardens co-op complex on Springfield Avenue, as well as a 52-foot-high tower on an existing building rooftop at 900 South Avenue.

According to Council President Glenn Mortimer, \$49,246.36 has been