

Borough Council Discusses Brook, Receives Update

By ANNA GITHENS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD - Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello brought the governing body up to date on various projects Tuesday night. "They've (the DOT) had the specifications for about two months and will have a letter out this week," said Mr. Guarriello with regard to the 2005 Department of Transportation (DOT) project. "We should be able to receive

bids by around the first of November." The project involves roadwork on Lexington Street and East Street.

A letter was also received this week for approval of a 2006 Second Avenue project, said Mr. Guarriello.

He discussed the state of the Garwood Brook and its need for repair in several areas, especially near Oak and East Streets. "I estimated about 5,500 square feet of work is needed."

He said the brook currently has grouted riprap for support, which is eroding in many sections. Mr. Guarriello estimates that it would take at least two years to get a permit for the approval of gabions from the DOT.

"Is there some way we could get a preliminary O.K. without going through a lot of paperwork?" asked Mayor Dennis McCarthy.

Mr. Guarriello recommended doing a pre-application and some remedial work to support the current structure in the interim.

Mountainside

BOE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Your (administrative) cost is one of the lowest in the county," Business Administrator Roderic McLaughlin stated. "We're well below what even the regional estimate is."

"None of us want to have more administrators; we would rather purchase more books," board member MaryBeth Schaumberg responded. "But with the paperwork required by the state, it is necessary."

Mrs. Schaumberg noted that several new programs had been added to the district, such as after-school care and the hot lunch program, necessitating a full-time accountant to handle the additional responsibilities. The motion was later approved, with Mr. Venes and Mrs. Knodel both voting against it.

Mrs. Schaumberg announced that residents of Berkeley Heights would vote on a referendum in November for work planned for the six schools in the district, including Governor Livingston High School. The scope of work is anticipated to cost \$25 million.

"This district may be asked to share a portion of the cost," Mrs. Schaumberg said.

Due to a conflict with the New Jersey School Boards Convention, the regularly scheduled meeting of the BOE, which was to take place on Tuesday, October 25, has been moved to Tuesday, November 1, at 8 p.m.

Plan Bd.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for the homes.

Planning Board President Jay Boyle, said, "We have had any number of applications from Villane Construction and they are always cooperative and do good work."

Neighbor Helen Meyers was "sad to see more green space disappearing" and hoped the new homes would be tasteful and Victorian in style. She expressed concern about the presence of construction vehicles and the safety of neighborhood children.

Neighbor Sabina Dowell said that there were no trees in front of the existing house but the two new homes would "fit better if trees were planted."

Neighbor Tom Shaffer was concerned about the Port O' Johns in the front of the property, saying it would be better if they were placed in between the two houses. Applicant David Villane responded, "I will do the best I can."

Mr. Villane noted that the bathroom units have to be accessible to the company serving them.

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Monday, October 3, a Hillcrest Avenue business reported someone broke slats in a fence and wrote with black magic marker on playground equipment on the premises.

Thursday, October 6, Westfield police arrested Robert Thorne, 34, of Roselle Park at Garden State Parkway Exit 135 in Clark on the strength of an outstanding contempt of court warrant from Westfield for \$500. He was released after posting bail.

Thursday, October 6, Jeffrey Crawford, 32, of Linden was arrested in the 300 block of Windsor Avenue on an outstanding \$500 traffic warrant from Ocean Township. He was released on his own recognizance as per the Ocean Township Police Department.

Thursday, October 6, Loretta Turnage, 41, of Plainfield was arrested at North Avenue and Broad Street on a robbery charge. The arrest stemmed from a July 15 incident that had been under investigation by the Westfield Police Department's Detective Bureau.

Turnage is alleged to have demanded money from a Woodmere Drive resident known to her at his home, and, when the victim refused, put him in a headlock and took his wallet. She was held in lieu of \$100,000 bail and transported to the Union County jail.

Thursday, October 6, Ronald Jackson, 45, of Plainfield was arrested at Orchard and Elm streets on traffic warrants out of Newark, for \$400, and Berkeley Heights, for \$165, as well as a no-bail Union County Sheriff's warrant. Jackson was turned over to the Union County Sheriff for transportation to the Union County jail.

Scotch Plains

Tuesday, October 4, Zollie Williams, 47, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with robbing a Route 22 service station. The robbery occurred on September 30. Williams was arrested by the Detective Bureau following an investigation and transported to the Union County jail.

Tuesday, October 4, a Magnet High School student reported the theft of an iPod from his locker. The value of the iPod was determined to be \$200. There are no suspects at this time.

Thursday, October 6, a Lake Avenue resident reported being the victim of fraud. The victim stated that she received a call from her bank requesting her social security number. She did not give the information over the telephone and when she called the bank, she was told no one had called her from there.

Saturday, October 8, a resident of King Street reported being the victim of fraud. The victim stated unknown suspects attempted to open a credit card in his name.

Mountainside

Friday, October 7, Dwight Weems, 43, of Scotch Plains was arrested for driving with a suspended license during a road check. He was searched, handcuffed and placed in a patrol car for transport to police headquarters for processing.

Once at headquarters, Weems was found to have been hiding what was believed to be a fold of heroin in his cellular telephone holder on his belt. The fold was stamped with a red "stop snitch" label on it. The evidence was bagged and tagged, and Weems was processed and placed in a cell.

It was later determined there was a \$5,000 ACS warrant from Newark issued for him under an alias. The incident is still under investigation.

Saturday, October 8, an abandoned 1984 Dodge Caravan was observed in the parking lot of the Gene Lord building on Route 22. The vehicle had a broken door lock and broken ignition. Two screwdrivers were found in the vehicle. A check of the Vehicle Identification Number confirmed the vehicle had been stolen from Plainfield the previous day.

Fanwood

Wednesday, October 5, Nathan G. Wilkerson, 34, of Scotch Plains was arrested on outstanding warrants following a motor vehicle stop at Hunter and Madison Avenues.

Thursday, October 6, Michell Rios, 37, of South Plainfield was arrested on outstanding warrants following a motor vehicle stop at Terrill Road and East Second Street.

Friday, October 7, Rashan M. Baker, 30, of Plainfield was arrested on outstanding warrants following a motor vehicle stop at Martine and Herbert Avenues.

Sunday, October 9, Peter Valentine, 30, of North Plainfield was arrested on Terrill Road at Mary Lane and charged with driving under the influence (DUI). He also was taken into custody on outstanding warrants.

Sunday, October 9, Francisco O. Urrutia, 20, was arrested on South Avenue at Shady Lane for obstruction following a motor vehicle stop.

Westfield Candidate Forum

Monday, October 17 at 8 p.m. at the municipal building. The public is invited. E-mail questions for the candidates by October 14 to editor@goleader.com. View it on TV-34 prior to the election.



PUMPKIN PATCH...On October 7, Tamaques School in Westfield held its annual Mum & Pumpkin Sale and the area was decorated in seasonal beauty for the enjoyment of the students.

PF Mayor Loses Appeal; GOP Supports Write-In

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

PLAINFIELD - The New Jersey Supreme Court denied an appeal by Plainfield Mayor Al McWilliams to an appellate court's decision disallowing his petition to run for reelection as a Republican.

Mr. McWilliams, seeking a third term as mayor of Union County's third largest city, sought to have the state Supreme Court hear the case and uphold State Superior Court Judge Walter Barisonek's ruling on September 29 that he could run under the Republican banner.

In June's Democratic primary, the mayor lost by 325 votes to Sharon-Biggs Robinson after the Union County Democratic Committee denied him the organization's line. Ms. Robinson is a member of the city's board of education.

The Union County Attorney General's office and the Democratic Committee all challenged Mr. McWilliams' efforts, citing a state statute known as the "Sore Loser's Law." The provision disallows municipal election candidates who lose in the primary to run for the same post in the general election.

Republicans argued that the provision only applies to independent candidates and not major-party candidates running in primaries.

Republicans had until 5 p.m. last Thursday to file a replacement candidate on the party's line for Plainfield mayor.

Union County Republican Chairman Phil Morin said the party would not put another candidate up for the mayoral election. Instead, he said the committee will focus on the write-in effort now underway for Mr. McWilliams in Plainfield.

Cheryl Arana, who ran unopposed for the Republican nomination for

mayor in the June primary, dropped out of the race in September citing personal reasons.

"The Republican Committee stands firmly behind Mayor McWilliams on this," Mr. Morin said. "We felt strongly that this law (Sore Loser's) was wrong," Mr. Morin said.

Assemblyman Jerry Green (D-22, Plainfield) accused Mr. McWilliams of trying to destroy the Plainfield Democratic Party, as well as the city itself. He told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that the mayor "has no respect for the law."

Both Union County and the state Attorney General's office joined the Democratic Committee initially in supporting Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi's rejection of the GOP's filing of Mr. McWilliams under the Republican banner in November. The Democratic Committee appealed the case to the appellate court where the three-judge panel released a short ruling on October 3 reversing Judge Barisonek's September 29 decision at the Union Courthouse in Elizabeth.

During what was deemed a campaign kick-off on October 2, Mayor McWilliams told *The Leader*, "I am not involved because I want to have a political career. This is about the city. We want to see Plainfield move forward."

Among the supporters for Mayor McWilliams was Elizabeth City Councilman Tony Monteiro who said, "When I read that his legs were cut out from under him in the 11th hour, I had to come out to support Mayor McWilliams."

"It's up to (Plainfield residents) to stop it personally and to take back the government from those who shouldn't have it," Mr. Monteiro said.

www.Andy2005.com



PROMISE KEPT: IMPROVE OUR PLAYING FIELDS

- Recently opened state-of-the-art artificial turf fields with lighting at Sid Faye and Houlihan Fields.
- Established a trust fund dedicated exclusively for improvements to local playing fields and parks.
- Trust fund monies come from the organizations that use the fields. NO LOCAL TAXES WILL BE USED FOR THE FUND.
- Initiated talks to have the Board of Education and The Town Council combine their resources to maintain BOE and municipal fields—again saving taxpayer dollars while improving our fields.

Mayor
Andy

SKIBITSKY

Listening. Working. Getting Results.

PAID FOR BY SKIBITSKY FOR MAYOR, 1121 PROSPECT ST., WESTFIELD, NJ, WILLIAM KELLY, TREASURER.