

## Mountainside to Act on Stormwater and Leaf Reg's

By **KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL**  
*Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

**MOUNTAINSIDE**—Tuesday night at its monthly agenda-setting meeting, Mountainside Council discussed extensive stormwater and leaf regulations to be voted on next week, appointed a new assistant recreation director, approved a volunteer recognition day and issued commendations for youth sports.

To comply with state-mandated stormwater regulations, Mountainside must adopt several ordinances at next week's regular council meeting, including control of litter, prohibition of illicit connections, prohibition of yard waste in streets, requirement of leaves and grass to be containerized and prohibition of dumping into the stormwater system.

Mayor Robert Vigilanti and all council members voted to start an annual Volunteer Appreciation Day to recognize those serving on boards, commissions, the rescue squad and

the fire department.

It was proposed to close the community pool one Friday evening next August to provide a catered meal and a 'DJ' for the event. All those volunteering for the borough and their spouses would be invited.

Adam Leib was appointed assistant recreation director, effective October 24. Kevin Donnelly was appointed to this position on August 15 but resigned a few days later.

A bid of \$4858 was approved for the 2003 Crown Victoria owned by the borough.

Resolutions of commendation for the 11-year-old Boys Baseball All-Stars who placed first in the Roselle Park Tournament and for the Mountainside PAL Girls Softball Team that captured the Elmora Youth League Title will be read at next week's meeting.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18, at 8 p.m.

## PF Mayor Loses Appeal; GOP Supports Write-In

By **PAUL J. PEYTON**  
*Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

**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 Barisonok'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 Barisonok'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 Times*, "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.

## Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountainside

# 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.

Saturday, October 8, a resident of King Street reported being the victim of fraud. The victim stated that 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 screws 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.

**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.

## SP Council

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

ers to participate, and also noted that local emergency management coordinator Paul Malool, who also works for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, had recently returned from the Gulf region after a five-week stint.

At the start of the council's meeting, the mayor issued a proclamation declaring this week to be DECA Week and urged residents to support the high school's DECA students. The mayor issued another proclamation declaring this week to be Fire Prevention Week and urged residents to participate in fire prevention activities at home, school and work.

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**Fanwood Candidate Forum**

Tuesday, October 18 at 8 p.m. at borough hall. The public is invited. E-mail questions for the candidates by October 14 to editor@goleader.com. View it on TV 35 prior to the election.

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.