

## WF Council

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provements have received positive feedback.

Recommendations included re-striping, re-signage and amended pickup and drop-off areas. The town has enacted temporary signage and striping. The police will then administer the changes and gauge results before making their own recommendations.

When discussing demolitions, the council determined three properties to be "questionable" for next week's agenda. Two are related demolitions on 430 and 500-512 Central Avenue, which the planning board recently approved. Asking for a deferral on the Central Avenue properties, Councilman Foerst said, "I don't think a time limit for an appeal has expired."

In addition, the council favored deferring a resolution approving demolition of a home and garage on 1020 Columbus Avenue. "Columbus appears to be two lots, which are being consolidated and then one house constructed," Town Engineer Ken Marsh said. Issues of common ownership arose, as did questions on the legality of the lots merging. The town will approve single-lot teardowns on 210 Lynn Lane, 1080 Lawrence Avenue and 54 Mohawk Trail.

Mr. Gildea updated the council on PSE&G's easement and right-of-entry requests to expand their substation adjacent to Houlihan Field. Their "extensive landscaping plan" will eliminate many mature trees. Therefore, PSE&G agreed to donate \$10,000 specifically earmarked for landscaping or future plantings in town.

After the conference meeting, the council discussed in closed session the matter of Kasko vs. The Town of Westfield. Officer Kasko filed suit last fall alleging he was retaliated against by former chief Bernard Tracy after reporting information per the town's "whistleblower" policy. Officer Kasko was also the subject of disciplinary hearing held earlier this year.



**TAKING OVER...**Richard Stender (center left), president of the Board of Trustees of the Union County Freeholder Chairman Al Mirabella with the key to the arts center during a ceremony on Sunday marking the county's purchase of the theater. Also pictured, from left to right, are Freeholder Angel Estrada, Rahway Mayor James Kennedy, Freeholder Deborah Scanlon, Freeholder Chester Holmes and Assemblywoman Linda Stender (far right).

### Correction

A page 1 story in last week's *Westfield Leader* incorrectly stated that Geraldene Duswalt was elected to the Mountainside Board of education.

The two open seats were won by incumbent Mary Beth Schaumburg and newcomer Joseph Tinnirella. Ms. Duswalt finished third followed by Cathy Jakositz.

## WF BOE

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Mr. Maczynski will attend the board's next meeting on Tuesday, May 2 at Jefferson School.

The board's curriculum committee reported that it is planning to conduct a "parent academy" on the Everyday Math program at the middle school in response to parents' request for further information regarding this program.

Ms. Leiz, chairwoman of the committee, said that no date has been finalized, but they hope to schedule this evening forum in the near future. Next week's meeting at Jefferson School will feature the report findings of the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Enrollment (CACE).

Public meetings on the report will be held on Tuesday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the WHS auditorium and Wednesday, May 17 at 9 a.m. at the Westfield Memorial Library community room.

## Garwood Council

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mit city council.

Councilwoman Villaggio, chairwoman of the committee on aging, said she was pleased with the increase in funding received by the borough for recreation and senior citizen programs.

The borough received a \$3,000 allotment for the senior handyman program, which will aid senior citizens with minor labor work around the house, such as fixing a leaky faucet. The program will begin after September.

The borough also will receive an additional \$5,000 from the Community Block Grant Board (CBGB). "We are very happy with the program since it will help out our senior citizens and it doesn't cost a lot of money," Councilwoman Villaggio said.

In other business, Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello spoke about the tree planting bids on the 100 and 200 blocks of Second Avenue. He also spoke about the section of sidewalk that had deteriorated around the 400 block of Second Avenue.

Other streets that had the same problem with their sidewalks, such as the 300-block area of Hickory Avenue and Walnut Street, have been rectified. Yet Mayor Dennis McCarthy said he would still like someone to assess the area and make sure the work has been done sufficiently.

The Garwood Baseball Little League will have its opening day ceremony on Saturday, April 29, since the scheduled date for last week was rained out. The league parade will begin at 9 a.m. at the Lincoln/Franklin School and conclude at the little league field. The grand reopening of the Garwood Library will be held on Saturday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

### SP Reaches Accord on Discrimination Lawsuit

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**SCOTCH PLAINS**—The township has reached a settlement with four township police officers who had filed a reverse discrimination lawsuit against the Scotch Plains Police Department, an African-American former police chief and the chief's white predecessor.

While declining to provide details of the settlement that was reached on April 13, Township Attorney Brian Levine told *The Westfield Leader* that the long-standing matter had been "amicably resolved." The settlement, he added, is subject to the approval of the township council. Mr. Levine said he expected to submit the proposed settlement terms to the council early next month.

The roots of the lawsuit date back six years, when police officers Kevin Lonergan, Brian Cheney, Matthew Fugett and Brian Garbinski were reprimanded by then-Captain Marshall Nelson for their performance during an April 2000 traffic stop involving four African-American men. The four officers alleged that Mr. Nelson, an African-American who served as police chief from 2002 to 2004, had improperly reprimanded them for their performance during the traffic stop, had said that excessive force had been used on the men being stopped and had made racially-biased comments regarding the manner in which the four white officers handled the stop of the vehicle.

The lawsuit claimed that, despite then-Chief Thomas O'Brien's awareness of Captain Nelson's alleged unprofessional conduct, no measures were taken against Captain Nelson.

In February 2004, retired State Superior Court Judge Edward Beglin in Union County said the officers had failed to prove they had been discriminated against and had failed to show any adverse effects on their employment in the aftermath of being reprimanded.

In a ruling last July, an appellate court concluded that Judge Beglin had erred in dismissing the officers' claim that Mr. Nelson's alleged disciplinary remarks had created a hostile work environment. The court said that the officers, to support a hostile work environment claim under the state Law Against Discrimination, had to show that Mr. Nelson's conduct occurred because the officers were white. The court concluded that this had occurred "because the facts and the legitimate inferences that may be drawn from those facts suggest that Nelson would not have reacted as he did if the officers in question were black."



**GREETINGS FROM PARK...**Representative Michael Ferguson visits Park Middle School in Scotch Plains on Monday. He spoke to the students about government's impact on everyday life. The students presented him with greeting cards that he will give to troops in Iraq when he travels there next month.

## MS BOE

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teachers who recently won awards.

First-grade special education teacher Maria McGrath received a full scholarship to a Fairleigh Dickinson University graduate program. K-8 enrichment teacher Elaine Fass was chosen, from 1,000 applicants worldwide, to attend the Honeywell Educators Space Academy this summer. She was one of 200 teachers selected.

Dr. O'Malley also announced that the borough has met all 184 state standards for special education.

"Another good thing to put our future on the right track," he said.

The next board meeting will take place Tuesday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Saturday, April 15, a customer at a store located in the 100 block of East Broad Street reported her pocketbook containing credit cards, a driver's license and personal information was stolen from a dressing room.

Sunday, April 16, Jennifer Conner, 18, of Westfield was arrested on Nomahegan Drive and charged with disorderly conduct. Police said she allegedly yelled profanities and attempted to strike an officer after another person called authorities to state that Conner was refusing to exit a motor vehicle in which both of them had arrived at the scene. She was released on her own recognizance.

Monday, April 17, after being arrested at Westfield police headquarters, Diann Gropp-Roth, 40, of Westfield posted \$235 bail on a traffic warrant issued by the Scotch Plains Municipal Court.

Monday, April 17, James Laskaris, 57, of Westfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on an outstanding traffic warrant from Elizabeth. He was released after posting \$110 bail.

Tuesday, April 18, Kevin Coleman, Jr., 20, of Piscataway and Keri Mauldin, 19, of Plainfield were arrested following a motor vehicle stop at Ross Place and Carleton Road and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and underage possession of an alcoholic beverage.

Coleman also was arrested on an outstanding traffic warrant from East Orange, for which he posted \$114 bail. He and Mauldin were both issued summonses on the Westfield charges and released on their own recognizance.

Wednesday, April 19, after being stopped in the 1100 block of Boynton Avenue during a police investigation of a suspicious vehicle, Gail Ellerbe, 37, and Rasheem Moore, 27, both of Westfield, were arrested and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, identified by police as suspected crack cocaine, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Moore was additionally charged with hindering apprehension for allegedly providing false information to police. He was held on \$2,500 bail, while Ellerbe was held on \$1,000. Both were committed on default of bail to the Union County jail.

Thursday, April 20, Elvira Vairinhos, 31, of Avenel was arrested in the 100 block of Central Avenue and charged with theft by deception for allegedly crediting merchandise from the store where she worked to her personal account. She was released on her own recognizance after being served with a summons.

Thursday, April 20, Darren Jenkins, 20, of Piscataway was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on a \$90 Bloomfield traffic warrant. He was released after posting bail.

Thursday, April 20, Howard Brown, 22, of Plainfield was arrested at the Boonton Police Department on an outstanding Plainfield criminal warrant for \$1,000 and two Westfield traffic warrants for \$500 each. Brown was committed on default of bail to the Union County jail.

Friday, April 21, Steven Jacobsen, 19, of Westfield was arrested at South Avenue and Elmer Street and charged with possession of fraudulent identi-

fication and underage possession of an alcoholic beverage. He was released on his own recognizance.

Friday, April 21, Kylie Taylor, 25, of Jersey City was arrested at Central and Elizabeth Avenues on two outstanding Jersey City warrants for contempt of court. Taylor was released after posting \$2,650 bail.

### Mountainside

Wednesday, April 19, Joseph Lynaugh, 35, of Mountainside was arrested for an outstanding warrant after police were summoned to a neighborhood where residents reported a suspicious male walking through their backyards. The suspect was taken to police headquarters where bail was posted.

Wednesday, April 19, a patron of a Route 22 indoor tennis facility reported that upon exiting the club she noticed the front windshield of her vehicle was smashed and several audiocassettes were taken from inside the vehicle. The victim's garage door opener was also reported missing.

Friday, April 21, Rosemarie Powel, 57, of Plainfield was arrested for an outstanding warrant in the amount of \$500 at the Plainfield Police Department.

Monday, April 24, Isaac Nickerson, 44, of Newark was arrested at the East Orange Police Department for an outstanding warrant. Bail was set in the amount of \$500.

Monday, April 24, Fonzo Wynn, 25, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle accident on Route 22 and charged with driving without a valid license. Robert Gilbert, 22, of Newark, a passenger in the vehicle, was arrested for an outstanding controlled dangerous subject (CDS) warrant in Essex County.

### Scotch Plains

Thursday, April 20, an employee of School One reported someone removed cash from her pocketbook, which had been left in an unlocked file cabinet.

Friday, April 21, David Carson, 19, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with eluding police after leading officers on a vehicle pursuit. According to police, officers attempted to pull Carson over for a motor vehicle violation, but the suspect continued driving without stopping. Carson reportedly crashed his vehicle into the woods on Route 22 at Westfield Road, at which time he attempted to run on foot.

An officer was able to arrest Carson without incident, police said. Carson had several outstanding warrants out of Essex County. He was transported to headquarters where he was processed and sent to the Union County jail on \$22,500 bail. No injuries were reported during the incident.

Friday, April 21, a Willow Avenue resident reported that he entered a store on East Second Street when several juveniles yelled at him.

Sunday, April 23, police reported that someone pried open the door of a donut shop on Route 22 and removed cash from the drawer.

Monday, April 24, Luis Cotto, 28, of Union was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). Cotto was stopped for a motor vehicle violation at which time officers detected a strong odor of alcohol.

After the investigation, he was arrested and transported to headquarters, where he was processed and released, police said.



**TAKING THE OATH...**Jane Clancy, Beth Cassie and Ann Riegel are sworn in to terms on the Westfield Board of Education by Board Attorney Richard Kaplow, right, as Board Secretary Robert Berman looks on.

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He's Back! The 5'11" Williams checking to see if David's late to work.

If you haven't started thinking about the garden, now is the time. For those that like to get an early start, and save quite a bit of \$\$\$ we are having our Impatiens Sale Saturday and Sunday April 29th & 30th. Over 2 truck loads of Impatiens will be here available for only \$9.99 flat. We will be opening our doors early on Saturday for those that want to get a really early start. (7am). Remember there is still a slight chance of Frost, so protect them if you hear of frost warnings on the news.

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