



**RIPPIN' IT UP...**A construction crew tears apart a portion of Elm Street in front of Planet Smoothie and Feast Catering, Inc. yesterday morning. They were fixing a broken sewer line that is as estimated to be as old as the building it comes from.

## Planning Board OKs Woodland Subdivision

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**WESTFIELD**—The planning board last Thursday unanimously voted in favor of two ordinances introduced by resolution from the town council concerning development in town.

Board member and Councilman James Foerst said the first ordinance would enforce that all new construction of houses, after an existing house has been demolished, be surrounded by a six-foot high chain link fence. This, Mr. Foerst said, was to "protect the neighbors from holes in the ground and from construction debris." He said the fence would only be in existence "for the time of construction."

The second ordinance would amend the town's land use ordinance to clarify regulations for through lots, various yard regulations and amend lot coverage for porches. According to Planning Board Chairman Vince Wilt, these changes would "lessen the applications that would have to come before the board of adjustment."

In other business, after multiple opposing comments from neighbors, Rosegate Associates, LLC was granted a minor subdivision to demolish an existing house on 119 Woodland Avenue and subdivide the lot into two single-family lots.

According to Kevin Page, engineer for the project, the two new houses would not face Woodland Avenue but would face Scutter Road. Mr. Page testified that as an engineer, he felt it would be safer to have the houses face Scutter Road because Woodland Avenue has more traffic as it is a "more heavily traveled road and is sometimes used as a cut-through to get to other areas."

Westfield Town Engineer and Planning Board member Kenneth Marsh told the applicant that Scutter Road was due to be paved soon so he wanted all of the wiring and piping for the project to be done as soon as possible in order to get the paving done in a timely manner.

Multiple neighbors spoke out against the project, saying that there are children in the neighborhood who play on Scutter Road and thought the new houses would be dangerous.

Neighbor Ben Jacobson said he was concerned for the impact new houses would have on his home's water pressure, which he said is bad now.

The second witness to testify on behalf of the applicant was James Ramentol, who designed the house that was planned for the first lot in the subdivision. He said his house, which would be located at the left of the property, was planned to be a two-story center hall colonial. He testified the home was planned to include five bedrooms with four of them located on the first floor. When asked by the board why he didn't design both houses he stated that he was not asked to.

Board member Robert Newell asked the applicant, Dan Reichert, why he had two different architects for the houses. Mr. Reichert said he already had a house drawn for the second property that he "pulled out of his library."

Mr. Newell said he had concerns regarding the materials used for the second house. He then asked Mr. Reichert to come for a site plan review committee meeting before constructing the second house. Mr. Newell went on to say he would then vote in favor of the application because it is conforming and that there are no variances needed.

Mr. Foerst said he did have concerns with issues neighbors brought up such as safety, water pressure and controlling the size and scope of the homes but that zoning laws make their (the board's) "hands tied." He cited the recent example of State Superior Court Judge Walter Barisonok overturning a board rejection of a subdivision in April of 2005.

Mr. Wilt disagreed, saying, "I think that our zoning laws are what they are." He said that the application was conforming and that the homes submitted are "not too high or too close to the neighbors."

Board member Matt Nilson asked if the existing house was already demolished. After hearing that it was, he asked if the six-foot chain link fence could be put up "as soon as possible."

The board's next meeting will be on Monday, September 7, at 8 p.m.

## MVC Probes Estrada's Role In AG's Boyfriend's Ticket

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**TRENTON**—The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) has launched an investigation of the actions of its employees in assisting state Attorney General Zulima Farber's boyfriend to reactivate his driving privileges, which had been suspended for an alleged unpaid parking ticket on May 2, 2005.

Ms. Zulima resigned effective August 31 following the release of Special Deputy Attorney General Richard Williams' report on August 15 that determined she violated the state ethics code of the department of law and public safety by going to the scene of the May 26, 2006 motor vehicle stop of her boyfriend, Hamlet Goore, who was found to be operating a vehicle with a suspended license and an expired registration. Mr. Williams, a retired judge, said Ms. Zulima's actions "creates a serious risk of raising public suspicion about the legitimacy of those decisions."

In addition to the attorney general's resignation, *The Record of Bergen County* reported last week that Mr. Goore would not be returning to his \$82,000 per year job as director of community development for the City of Irvington. The two reportedly had combined salaries of \$222,000.

Among the MVC employees whose actions are under review is Angel Estrada, a Union County freeholder who manages the Elizabeth Motor Vehicle Agency. Mr. Estrada, according to Mr. Williams' report, contacted the court's suspension unit, which determined Mr. Goore paid the fine for the parking ticket in question but the courts had not contacted the suspension unit to reactivate Mr. Goore's license.

"It is clear that the attorney general and Hamlet Goore sought out Angel Estrada to help in expediting the resolution of Goore's problems concerning his driver's license and registration," Mr. Williams reported. "In light of that longstanding friendship, it does not appear that the attorney general was using her official position to secure Estrada's help."

In terms of Mr. Estrada's involvement, Mr. Williams said, "Mr. Estrada's handling of this matter before Hamlet

Goore arrived at the MVC agency raises questions about the propriety of his practices and whether they were in compliance with MVC procedures."

"Although Goore had neither signed the certification on the application nor provided payment for the \$137 fee, Estrada instructed Susan Brito of his staff to renew the registration in the MVC computer records," according to Mr. Williams' report. He said the license was reactivated at 11:04 a.m. on May 26, although Mr. Goore did not arrive at the MVC Elizabeth office until 12:09 p.m. when he submitted the payment.

"The attorney general did not need to call Mr. Estrada. There is no reason to believe that Mr. Goore could not have addressed this matter himself," Mr. Williams reported.

MVC Executive Director Sharon Harrington in announcing the investigation of MVC staff said in a prepared statement: "Upon completion of Judge Williams' investigation, the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) began an internal investigation into commission-related issues covered in the Judge's report. MVC is working expeditiously to complete this investigation. At the end of this process, MVC will take action, if warranted."

Phil Morin, chairman of the Union County Republican Committee, said in a letter dated August 16 to MVC Executive Director Sharon Harrington.

"The report raises serious questions about Mr. Estrada's actions that day, including his instructions to a subordinate to renew Mr. Goore's registration in the MVC computer and record that a payment had been made. The report, however, unequivocally demonstrates that Mr. Goore had not arrived at the Elizabeth office and had not signed the necessary documents or submitted a check in payment of the registration."

Mr. Estrada was elected to the freeholders in 1999 and reelected in 2002 and 2005. He previously served six years on the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Mr. Estrada said he has been instructed not to comment about the investigation. The county spokesperson, when contacted by *The Westfield Leader* said the county would not comment because it was not a county matter.



Angel Estrada



**PEACE AND QUIET?...Improvements by the town to the railroad crossing on Rahway Avenue adjacent to the Houlihan Field have been completed. The town is now waiting for the Federal Railroad Administration to approve the quiet zone in order to stop freight trains from blowing whistles during overnight sleep hours.**

## Mountainside Board of Ed. Appoints New Asst. Principal

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According to the AAAS website, the project is "a long-term AAAS initiative to advance literacy in science, mathematics and technology."

Mr. Craver, who worked closely with seventh-grade science teacher Laurie Maier to write the curriculum, said the program would allow students to "experience what it's like to be a scientist."

He called it a "discovery approach" where students can get involved.

One main goal, Mr. Craver said, is to "reduce the amount of material to be covered" and "increase the depth of the material to be uncovered."

Other goals include focusing on "key ideas," filtering out "needless details," modeling "how ideas can be used to explain phenomena" and making "real-world discoveries and connections."

He said students will "transfer what they know" to relevant subjects, like social studies and math. The curriculum incorporates other subjects "to connect what they're learning and transfer it to the real world."

Topics to be covered are structure of atoms, properties of matter, motions and forces, conservation of energy, matter and charge and water and the environment.

Mr. Craver said there would also be self and peer performance assessments so students have "input on how they're being evaluated."

Mr. O'Malley said, "This is another good example of how we're going to use curriculum to challenge kids."

Mr. Craver added, "These programs are a model for the direction we'd like to go in."

The textbook for the honors program will be available on CD-ROM and in hard cover.

Mr. Craver said the program goes beyond state standards. He said Mr. O'Malley encouraged him to design

an "innovative and progressive" program that "will get people excited."

The eighth-grade honors language arts literacy program, written with the help of district literacy specialist Liz Raes, was designed from scratch, according to Mr. Craver.

The presentation defined the curriculum as a "literature-based course of study" that "allows the learner to search for answers of universally significant questions through quality literature."

Mr. Craver said one goal is to enhance the child "as a person through literature."

Some other goals are to "assist" students "with shaping of identity through relevant big ideas," make students "aware of (their) personal frame of reference," "improve communication skills," "learn values, citizenship and social skills" and "integrate technology in the learning process."

Mr. Craver said, "We wanted this to be a model of active learning." He said for that reason, there are not a lot of units to study. "We were hoping to do more with less."

He said the teacher would be the "guide on the side" to take students in the direction they are "supposed to go."

The class, which will have 16 students, will also include personal assessments.

In other business, Mr. O'Malley reviewed the 2006-2007 District Goals listed on the district's website ([www.mountainsideschools.net](http://www.mountainsideschools.net)).

The CSA said each of the six goals is assigned to an administrator to oversee. Mr. O'Malley will report back to the BOE in December on the district's progress. Mr. O'Malley said the district is in talks with neighboring Union County school districts to discuss cost-sharing benefits.

The next board meeting is Tuesday, September 12 at 7:30 p.m.



**STEPPING UP ENFORCEMENT...**Westfield police are participating in the state's crackdown on drunk drivers. Pictured, left to right, are: Officers Michael Walsh and Robert Bartkus and Sergeant Chris Battifloro.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Tuesday, August 15, a Kimball Circle resident reported the theft of four wrist-watches from the master bedroom of his home. Three have since been returned, but a Frank Muller Chronograph watch has not been accounted for.

Tuesday, August 15, Shanae L. Major, 20, of Plainfield was arrested at Elm Street and Dudley Avenue on a traffic warrant issued by the Scotch Plains Municipal Court. Major was released after posting \$482 bail.

Tuesday, August 15, a North Avenue-based real estate agency reported receiving a counterfeit postal money order for rental payment on property owned by the agency located in North Plainfield.

Tuesday, August 15, Michael Ruiz, 19, of Edison was arrested at Rahway Avenue and Montauk Drive and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana. Ruiz was processed at Westfield police headquarters and later released with a summons.

Wednesday, August 16, Craig Ritchwood, 45, of Roselle was arrested at East South Avenue and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). He was released to a responsible individual pending an August 23 court appearance.

Wednesday, August 16, Kimberly Charlesworth, 27, of Scotch Plains was arrested at Central and Lenox Avenues and charged with DWI. She was released to a responsible individual pending an August 23 court appearance.

Wednesday, August 16, Sonya Vinson, 35, of Irvington was taken into custody at the Essex County jail on an outstanding criminal warrant issued by the Westfield Municipal Court. She was released on her own recognizance.

Wednesday, August 16, Kevin Cabell, 43, of East Orange was taken into custody at the Essex County jail on an outstanding traffic warrant issued by the Westfield Municipal Court. He was released on his own recognizance.

Thursday, August 17, Thomas Toye, 26, of Scotch Plains was arrested at North Avenue and Crossway Place and charged with DWI. He was released on his own recognizance to a responsible individual pending an August 23 court appearance.

Thursday, August 17, Catherine Kerr, 20, of New Hope, Pa. and Allison Mandell, 20, of Yardley, Pa. were arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia following a motor vehicle stop at North and Central Avenues. Both were released on their own recognizance with summonses pending an August 30 court appearance.

Thursday, August 17, George Nowicki, 4th, 27, of Scotch Plains was arrested on an outstanding criminal warrant issued by Elizabeth for \$210 following an accident investigation on Springfield Avenue. He was released after posting bail. No injuries were reported as a result of the accident.

Thursday, August 17, Christopher M. Gallego, 18, of Westfield was arrested and charged with providing alcohol to underage persons and keeping a disorderly premises following investigation of a drinking party at his Woodbrook Circle residence. He was subsequently released to a responsible individual.

Thursday, August 17, Thomas Taylor, 18, and Andrew Demos, 18, both of Westfield were arrested and charged with hindering apprehension following a police investigation on Woodbrook Circle. The pair allegedly provided police with false information regarding their identities and where they were coming from. Both were released with summonses pending an August 30 court date.

Friday, August 18, Cedric Roach, 21, of Westfield was arrested in the 100 block of Brightwood Avenue on a criminal warrant issued by Westfield. He was committed on default of bail in the amount of \$500.

Friday, August 18, Andrew Streaman, 19, Walter Lau, 19, and Joseph Geissler, 19, all of Westfield were arrested during a motor vehicle stop at Sunnywood and

Woodmere Drives and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and underage possession of alcohol.

Geissler additionally was charged with possession of fraudulent identification. All three men were released on their own recognizance with summonses pending a court appearance.

### Scotch Plains

Tuesday, August 15, a Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School student reported his bicycle was stolen while he attended track practice. The bicycle was valued at \$300.

Tuesday, August 15, a customer at an East Second Street business reported being the victim of theft. He stated that one or more unidentified individuals entered his motor vehicle while it was parked and removed his cellular telephone. The telephone was valued at \$140.

Tuesday, August 15, a resident of Swans Mill Lane reported being the victim of criminal mischief. She said one or more unidentified individuals damaged her mailbox. It appeared that a vehicle struck the mailbox and fled the scene.

Thursday, August 17, a resident of Orchard Drive reported being the victim of criminal mischief, saying one or more unidentified individuals threw eggs at his house.

Thursday, August 17, a resident of Portland Avenue reported being the victim of criminal mischief. She stated that one or more unidentified individuals broke the glass on the driver's side door of her car while it was parked in front of her house.

Friday, August 18, a resident of Perth Amboy reported being the victim of criminal mischief. He stated that while driving on Park Avenue, he got into an argument with another motorist when the unidentified male exited his vehicle and struck the victim's window with his fist, causing it to crack. The suspect then drove off.

### Fanwood

Wednesday, August 16, Lawane D. Mosley, 31, of Virginia Beach, Va. was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue on an outstanding Teaneck warrant.

Thursday, August 17, Jesse Brooks, 40, of Fanwood was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue on an active body warrant out of South Carolina.

Thursday, August 17, three cars parked in the vicinity of Montrose Avenue and Birch Street were vandalized. Witnesses saw a group of unidentified juveniles running from the area at approximately 11:30 p.m. Authorities have asked anyone with information to call the police department at (908) 322-5000.

Friday, August 18, Gihad S. Reese, 28, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop for allegedly driving with a suspended license, hindering apprehension and providing false information to police. He was charged with hindering apprehension after he allegedly fled on foot following the stop.

Sunday, August 20, Regina Ayler, 45, of Plainfield was arrested on an active Pleasantville warrant following a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue.

Monday, August 21, Kenneth L. Hardin, 40, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding body warrant out of Monmouth County after a field investigation.

### Westfield Downtown Repairs This Week

Downtown Westfield was busy Tuesday night. The town was filled with people attending the popular Jazz Night, a gas leak was being repaired in the vicinity of Central Avenue and Quimby Street and PSE&G was performing electrical upgrades underground near Prospect and Broad Streets. First thing Wednesday morning, a broken sewer line was repaired on Elm Street across from Quimby Street, necessitating closure of the street for a few hours.

## Westfield PD to Conduct DWI Enforcement

**WESTFIELD**—The Westfield Police Department announced the town will participate in a statewide impaired driving enforcement program, "You Drink and Drive, You Lose," through Labor Day, September 4.

"The end of the summer season is traditionally a time of social gatherings, which often include alcohol. The goal of the program is to raise awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving through high-visibility enforcement and to arrest motorists who choose to drive while impaired by drugs or alcohol," a press release submitted by the police department said.

According to the release, impaired drivers kill nearly 18,000 people on American roads each year. In New Jersey, 31 percent of motor vehicle fatalities are alcohol-related. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports nearly 97 percent of Americans view drinking and driving by others as a threat to their families and themselves.

"Indeed, Americans support tougher enforcement and rank drunk

driving ahead of healthcare, poverty, the environment and gun control as an important social issue," according to the press release.

Law Enforcement agencies participating in the "You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2006" campaign offer the following advice:

Be responsible and don't risk drinking and driving. If one plans to drink one should choose a designated driver before going out. Take mass transit, a taxicab or ask a sober friend to drive you home or spend the night where the activity is held.

Other drivers are urged to report impaired drivers to law enforcement and to buckle up — "it's your best defense against an impaired driver," police said. "We have come a long way in the past 20 years in terms of drunk driving, but the work is clearly not finished," said Roberto Rodriguez, director of the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety. "The law enforcement community of the state is committed to eradicating impaired driving from our roads once and for all."

## Westfield Seeks Quiet Zone

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Town council members, along with Town Attorney Robert Cockren, are researching what the final steps to what Mr. Gildea described as a "confusing, lengthy and tedious process" will include. "The bottom line is we're doing everything we can to complete what we need to, to get the whistle blowing stopped to improve the quality of life (for the residents)," Mr. Gildea said.

Third Ward Councilman Mark Ciarrocca told *The Leader* he has spoken with the mayor and they have been working with Rep. Michael

Ferguson's office "if there are problems with the FRA."

As a resident of Connecticut Street, located approximately three quarters of a mile from the Rahway Avenue crossing, Mr. Ciarrocca said while he and his fellow residents are "concerned with how (the whistle blowing) affects the quality of life (we) can appreciate the progress the town has made" towards developing a quiet zone.

The council will discuss the issue at its Tuesday, September 12 meeting. Meetings begin at 8 p.m.



**FORT KNOX...**Now that new Westfield ordinances are in place, construction sites around the town have been fortifying their fences.

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