



CAMPAIGN TIME...GOP officials and candidates meet the public in Scotch Plains last Saturday at the Farmer's Market. Pictured, left to right, are: Mountainside Councilman Glenn Mortimer, seeking office as Union County Freeholder; Scotch Plains Councilwoman Carolyn Sorge, seeking reelection, and Representative Mike Ferguson of the 7th Congressional District, also seeking reelection.

Back to School

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teachers to have easier access to Internet resources, high-speed digital media and the ability to share resources over a district-wide network.

The district will continue its "Leaders Project," a program developed to help motivate targeted students in grades six through eight by offering additional help after school as well as planned activities at the Westfield YMCA. With the help of local organizations such as the Westfield United Way and the contribution of 16 laptops from Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, the program will continue this year due to positive feedback from the students and teachers involved.

This year, the board of education (BOE) plans to continue the Citizens Advisory Committee on Enrollment that it established last year to develop recommendations on enrollment issues. Working with Mr. Foley and the long-range planning committee, the BOE plans to propose a solution concerning the overcrowding at the elementary schools to the voters of Westfield. Ideas include renovating an older school building to accommodate kindergarten and pre-K disabled students.

In the Scotch Plains-Fanwood district, Margaret Hayes has assumed the duties of superintendent, replacing Carol Choye, who retired after leading the district for the past 13 years.

Additional hires include 52 "highly qualified teachers and administrators" who will greet 5,300 students, according to Barbara Roskin of the SP-F BOE's human resources department.

"There are major changes in the central office, as each new superintendent brings [her] own style," said Kathy Meyer, spokeswoman for the district.

Taking over in April, Thomas Thorp, the assistant principal at Park Middle

School, will begin his first full year as an administrator.

Construction projects throughout the district have focused on increasing the availability of parking.

"The main push was for increasing parking at Brunner and Evergreen Elementary Schools and at the high school," Ms. Meyer said. "There was a parking study done last year, and, as a result, additional parking spaces were added."

The department of special services and nursing wing at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, as well as Evergreen School, has undergone asbestos removal.

No new improvements have been made to the athletic facilities yet, but discussion continues on the replacement of the high school's football field with artificial turf. Ms. Meyer said. Freshman boys and girls soccer teams have been established, as well as a varsity ice hockey team.

Curriculum changes throughout the district include the addition of a philosophy course and revision of the sociology course at the high school, changes to the language arts literacy curriculum for grades six to 12 and extensive revisions to the social studies curriculum.

Social studies programs for grades four and five have been revised, and the middle-school geography curriculum has received new textbooks. The eighth-grade world history and cultures curriculum has been revised and has received a new textbook.

New textbooks for the high school's AP science program will offer web support features, and new materials for the anatomy and physiology course have been purchased. Technology improvements for the school district include \$60,000 for new laptops and upgrades of older laptops.

MS, GW School Districts Prepare for Opening

BY CALEB ZIMMERMAN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE - Mountainside School District Chief Administrator Richard O'Malley has outlined multiple improvements and changes for the 2006-2007 school year, set to begin September 7.

With 11 new staff members, a new assistant principal and curriculum coordinator (Thomas Conroy) and supervisor of technology (Michelle Savvides), the school district hopes to better serve its 704 students.

A new science curriculum for kindergarten through fourth-grade students, a new spelling program for first and second graders at Beechwood Elementary School and new honors English and science classes for eighth-grade students will be among the changes for the upcoming year. Mr. O'Malley said three classrooms have been equipped with multi-media hardware including projectors, smartboards, DVD players and laptop computers.

"The smart boards look like white boards in that they can be written on, like the screen of a laptop," he said.

New wireless laptop carts will add 40 new computers at the Deerfield Elementary School and 48 new computers in middle-school classrooms.

"We bought laptops for the child study department so they can generate reports in a more efficient manner," Mr. O'Malley said.

New lights were installed on the Deerfield athletic fields.

The Mountainside School District website has been newly redesigned; more information can be found at mountainsideschools.net.

The Garwood Board of Education, serving more than 400 students, has faced few changes this summer, as the major renovations of Lincoln/Franklin (grades one through eight) and Washington Schools (pre-kindergarten and kindergarten) were completed during the 2005-2006 school year.

"The construction was quite an expansive change over the school year," said William Murphy, superintendent of schools. Mr. Murphy also noted the adoption of the Everyday Math program for students in fourth grade and the new Full Option Science System (FOSS) for fourth and fifth grades.

New hires for the coming school year included Fran Florio, second-grade teacher; Anita Livesey, registered nurse; Jean Deluca, teacher aide, and fifth-grade teacher Linda Edmundo.

Clark Circle

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Bruce Connor, senior highway engineer with the NJTA and project manager for the traffic circle project, told *The Leader* that both the NJTA and the Rutgers Intelligence Transportation Systems Laboratory conducted analyses for the project. He said turnpike officials selected the current plan out of five conceptual plans because it addresses the "(traffic) capacity of the intersection" and offers cost-effective improvements to solve existing traffic backups at the intersection.

He described the metered signals as a "modern battery backup system" that continues to operate up to 12 hours following a power failure and can be connected to a generator. Mr. Connor said metered signals are like a "platoon type of system." He said, for example, a motorist approaching the circle from Westfield who receives a green signal should be able to swing around the circle and access the Garden State Parkway northbound lanes without stopping. He said multiple vehicles would be able to access the circle simultaneously.

Mr. Connor, who was previously employed by the County of Union as its engineer, said, "By doing this we should be able to effectively deal with (the) intersection for the next 20 years."

Westfield Mayor Andrew Skibitsky told *The Leader*, "At some point, we should accept what the experts say. I would hope they've done their homework. We've had a lot of complaints about the circle and something needs to be done."

Mr. Palmer said metered traffic signals could cause a worsening of traffic delays if not done correctly. However, he said, the traffic consultants are cognizant of this and have designed the timing of the signals so that the traffic delays will be improved, not worsened, at the circle.

"I understand their concerns that traffic lights might cause delays," Mr. Palmer said. "But when coordinated properly, they improve traffic flow."

Mr. Palmer said officials looked at several designs and chose this one as the best. Officials said the new plan will be studied for efficiency and tweaked if necessary.

"We don't do these projects in a vacuum," Mr. Orlando said.

Mr. Connor said exit 135 would be open during construction.

"I'm not going to say that there won't be some inconvenience (for motorists)," Mr. Connor said.

The NJTA will fund the entire cost of the project. It approved the \$400,000 contract for the initial design of the project in June.

Dunlap Trial for Stabbing Lib. Director Set for Oct. 16

By NORDETTE ADAMS
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD - Barring a plea agreement, the trial date for Rosemary Dunlap, 55, of Westfield, has been scheduled for Monday, October 16 before State Superior Court Judge William Wertheimer in Elizabeth. Dunlap has been charged with the attempted murder of her ex-husband Dan Weiss, 55, the Fanwood Memorial Library director.

Last year Union County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow assigned Assistant Prosecutor Maureen O'Brien to represent the prosecutor's office in the case. This week Executive Assistant Prosecutor Robert O'Leary said Dunlap is out on bail, which was set last year at \$150,000. She has been charged with attempted murder and unlawful possession of a weapon, a knife, Mr. O'Leary said. She faces up to 30 years in jail if convicted - 10 to 20 years for the attempted murder charge and an additional 10 years for possession of a weapon with unlawful purpose, Mr. O'Leary said.

Her attorney, Richard Lehrich, was on vacation this week and unavailable for comment.

According to previous coverage of the case by *The Westfield Leader*, Fanwood police said Dunlap allegedly stabbed Mr. Weiss on August 1, 2005, as he left work, wounding him in the neck. The incident occurred five days before the library director was to be married. He'd planned to

marry Mary Olive "Mo" Smith, a singer with his band, Reckon So, on August 6. Instead the two married two weeks later.

"We've been married now for about a year," said Mr. Weiss, who has recovered from his neck wound and spoke to *The Leader* this week from his office at the library. "We were married August 19, last year, in a civil ceremony," he said, and the band, which plays acoustic and bluegrass music, is working again. "We play around quite a bit, mostly in New York City."

He said his 20-year-old son, who used to live with Dunlap, is "doing very well."

Following the stabbing the Fanwood rescue squad rushed Mr. Weiss to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark, the state's trauma center. There he underwent a tracheotomy. His voice has recovered completely, but he said, "Losing (his singing voice) was never really a concern."

Declining to speak in depth about the upcoming trial, Mr. Weiss said he would not comment yet on how the stabbing has changed his life, but he did say he hopes a trial can be avoided. "That would be the best resolution. We'll just see what happens as we get close to that (the trial date)."

According to Mr. Weiss, Dunlap has been out on bail since approximately six weeks after her arrest.

"I really rather not say too much, but I do want to thank everyone again who's been so supportive," he said.

Judge Halts Car Sale

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was obtained by *The Westfield Leader*. Mr. Coon was awarded a BMW E530i, a Porsche 911 and a Volvo XC90 for the default cost of \$300 after a second bidder declined to purchase the vehicles at the auction. According to *The Star-Ledger* report, Judge Malone awarded Mr. Coon the 2003 Mercedes-Benz E500 that he had originally purchased.

The dealership's complaint alleges that Hillside's president, Raj Srivastava, was the highest bidder at \$110,600 but that "for unknown reasons" Chief Lester Sargent of the Union County Sheriff's Office, who presided over the auction, "refused to wait for the delivery of Srivastava's payment" from Mr. Srivastava's "colleague," who was waiting at a nearby bank to get a certified check for the exact amount of the sale.

After Mr. Srivastava's bid was rejected, Mr. Sargent offered the vehicles to the second bidder, who opted not to purchase them, according to court records.

Mr. Toscano claimed in Hillside's complaint that the second bidder, representing Certified Motors, "appeared to function as a 'stalking horse' that made bids with the intention of driving up the price."

In response, Mr. Furst said the second bidder "was not a stalking horse for me or, to my knowledge, anyone else. [The second bidder] bid according to his interest as far as I know."

Mr. Furst offered a bid of \$100 per car on behalf of his clients and, "shockingly," the offer was "accepted" by Chief Sargent, Hillside's complaint states.

In his response to Hillside's show cause motion, Mr. Furst said he was the first bidder, making a bid for his clients.

"There was spirited bidding on all three cars between the only two bidders (the unnamed bidder and Mr. Srivastava)," Mr. Furst's brief stated.

"Raj Srivastava has now admitted that he did not have the funds available immediately at the conclusion of the auction and had to obtain them from someone off site. This violated the terms of the auction," Mr. Furst stated, explaining that "cash, a certified check or approved money order" were requirements of the auction and that the bidders were "not permitted to leave the bid site to obtain funds."

"Froehlich and Coon were under no obligation to wait for funds to arrive," Mr. Furst said. He further stated he was "concerned that the bids (by Hillside), including the posting of the bond (\$150,000) or the delivery of the titles had proven to be false." Mr. Furst claimed "numerous requests by e-mail and letter" to Hillside representatives on May 5, 11 and 18 were made "to have Hillside comply with the written agreement" Hillside had signed on May 2 when sheriff's officers executed a levy, arranged by Mr. Furst, on Hillside's property.

"Neither sought nor received any special treatment (in garnering a levy on Hillside's property)," Mr. Furst said in

his statement.

Because Hillside had failed to post a bond per the February 17 judgment, the county sheriff's office was given permission by the court "to seize Hillside's assets in satisfaction of the judgment," according to Hillside's complaint. Sheriff's officers and Hillside police arrived May 1 at the dealership, at which point Mr. Furst "ordered" Chief Sargent to "seize all of Hillside's property, including office furniture, computer files and approximately 50 luxury vehicles," according to Mr. Toscano's brief.

Mr. Furst said the seizure of Hillside's property was ordered per a levy he "arranged for" through the sheriff's office on the dealership's property after Hillside failed to post the bond.

During the seizure, "Hillside closed the security gate at the entrance of the property to prevent any cars from being removed," Mr. Furst said. He said Chief Sargent contacted Hillside police "to assist in quelling Hillside's illegal activity."

Mr. Toscano's brief states that an attorney for Hillside Auto later arrived on the scene and argued that the seizure "would be in extreme excess of the judgment." Mr. Toscano said Hillside agreed (as part of a written agreement with the sheriff's office) to turn over the BMW, Volvo and Porsche for the sheriff's auction on May 2 "under duress."

Mr. Furst said in his brief that the agreement, signed by Hillside representatives, includes language stating that Hillside "knowingly and voluntarily and with the advice of counsel" entered into the agreement.

"(Hillside) had at least two opportunities to challenge this agreement in court. Yet they allowed the court to enter orders enforcing its terms without objecting. As a result, Hillside waived any claim that the agreement was the product of unlawful duress," Mr. Furst stated in his brief.

Mr. Furst said, "The fact the judgment is on appeal does not impact the propriety of the auction." As per the trial when Judge Malone rendered his decision, Mr. Furst said, "Hillside did not seek a change of venue" and "did not object to proceeding to trial before Judge Malone."

The County of Union has said the sheriff's sale was legal.

"The county counsel's office has reviewed all materials and tapes in conjunction with the auction and has determined the execution of the sale was thorough and conducted in accordance with the law," said Union County Director of Public Information Sebastian D'Elia in a prepared statement. "The Sheriff's Department executed the order of the court, as it was charged, in the highest and professional manner."

A call by *The Leader* to Judge Malone's chambers for comment was transferred to the court's Civil Division in Elizabeth but was not returned by press time.

Reeve House

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are currently underway by a rehabilitation committee, society members said. There are varying ages of different areas of the house because some of the rooms were added on years after the house was built. Some of the restoration needs include updating the plumbing and electrical wiring, installing an elevator to make all three floors handicap-accessible and replacing some of the exterior architectural features that have decayed.

The foundation is structurally intact, Ms. Priest said. Society members discussed the possibility of documenting the entire rehabilitation process and publishing their progress on the Web.

Fire Causes 'Moderate' Damage to WF Duplex

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD - A fire at a South Avenue duplex on August 23 caused "moderate" damage and has displaced two adults living in the residence, Westfield Fire Chief Dan Kelly told *The Westfield Leader*.

The chief said a portable gas grill located on an exterior backyard patio caused the fire, deemed "accidental in nature." Flames spread through a first-floor window and the dining room.

"The fire extended to the exterior siding of the two-story occupancy," Chief Kelly said.

The chief said the fire caused structural damage to the rear of the duplex and smoke and water damage to the interior of the home. He said there were no injuries to firefighters or the occupants of the duplex.

The displaced residents are staying with friends in Cranford.



STEPPING UP ENFORCMENT...Scotch Plains police are participating in the state's crackdown on drunk drivers. Pictured above is Patrolman David Lavery.

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Saturday, August 19, a resident of the 200 block of Golf Edge reported that his home was burglarized. It was undetermined what had been taken. The front door lock on the home was visibly damaged.

Sunday, August 20, Iesha Loyal, 28, and Angela Garrett, 42, both of Newark, were arrested and charged with theft in the 100 block of Central Avenue. The pair allegedly shoplifted more than \$300 worth of perfume from a Central Avenue business. Loyal and Garrett were held on \$5,000 and \$7,500 bail, respectively.

Loyal was released on her own recognizance on criminal warrants from Elizabeth, for \$110, and Newark, for \$850. Garrett was released on her own recognizance on a West Orange criminal warrant for \$200.

Monday, August 21, a bicycle valued at \$400 was reported stolen from a residence in the 400 block of East Dudley Avenue. Monday, August 21, a Mountain Avenue resident reported the theft of his bicycle from the north side Westfield train station. The bicycle is valued at \$600.

Monday, August 21, two bicycles owned by residents of Clifton Street were reported stolen from the south side Westfield train station. Each bicycle was valued at \$200.

Tuesday, August 22, Raymond Warrell, 19, of Westfield was arrested in the 300 block of East Dudley Avenue and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). He was released to a responsible individual.

Tuesday, August 22, a Westfield resident reported an apparent unlawful use of her credit card during a period of approximately one month. A total of \$1,214 in unauthorized charges was placed on the account.

Tuesday, August 22, a Central Avenue resident reported that his house was burglarized during the day on August 22. One or more individuals apparently removed a screw and entered the residence through an unlocked window. A television valued at \$300 was the only item reported taken at the time, although several items of jewelry also may have been removed.

Tuesday, August 22, Christopher Gallego, 18, of Westfield was arrested and charged with providing alcohol to underage persons and maintaining disorderly premises. Police had responded to a report of a loud party at his Woodbrook Circle residence. He was released with a summons.

Wednesday, August 23, a resident of the 700 block of East Broad Street reported a burglary at her residence. Entry was gained through a basement window. Several rooms had been ransacked, although it was unknown if anything was missing.

Wednesday, August 23, a Tuttle Parkway resident reported the theft of numerous pieces of jewelry from a private storage area. The items were discovered missing when the victim returned from vacation. There were no signs of forced entry.

Wednesday, August 23, Linda P. Wyatt, 55, of Plainfield was taken into custody at a North Avenue store and charged with shoplifting \$160 worth of jewelry and clothing. She was transported to Westfield police headquarters, where she was processed and later released with a summons.

Wednesday, August 23, a resident of the 900 block of West North Avenue reported that his home was burglarized. One or more individuals gained access to the premises by breaking and then entering through a first floor window. Jewelry valued at \$500 was removed from the residence.

Wednesday, August 23, a resident of the 1100 block of Boulevard reported that his bicycle was stolen from the south side Westfield train station sometime between 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. that day. The bicycle was described as white with blue lettering.

Thursday, August 24, Thomas McDonough, 23, of Rahway was arrested and charged with DWI following a motor vehicle stop at Central and Ayliffe Avenues. He was released to a responsible individual.

Thursday, August 24, James Gockel, 18, of Westfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on an outstanding warrant for a traffic violation out of Mays Landing. He was released after posting \$300 bail.

Thursday, August 24, a Piscataway resident reported that his motor vehicle was the target of criminal mischief while it was parked in the area of Kimball and Lawrence Avenues. The windshield on the vehicle was cracked in two separate places.

Thursday, August 24, Corey Miller, 19, of Parsippany and two juveniles were arrested following a motor vehicle stop at Central Avenue and Quimby Street. All three were charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Miller was released with a summons pending a September 6 court date. The juveniles - a 17-year-old Cranford female and a 17-year-old Westfield male - were released to their parents.

Friday, August 25, Terrell Shaw, 18, of Westfield and two male juveniles, also from Westfield, were arrested and charged with underage possession of alcohol fol-

lowing an investigation in the 500 block of Dorian Road. Shaw was released with a summons pending a September 6 court date. The juveniles - a 17-year-old and a 16-year-old - were released to a parent.

Saturday, August 26, Pierce Gaynor, 19, Nicholas DeRosa, 19, and Jeffrey Meierdierck, 18, all of Westfield, along with three Westfield juveniles, were arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana following an investigation in the 400 block of Birch Avenue.

All three adults were released with summonses pending a September 6 court date. The three juveniles - a 17-year-old female, a 16-year-old female and a 17-year-old male - were released to their parents.

Scotch Plains
Tuesday, August 22, a contractor reported that several pieces of equipment were stolen from his truck. The truck was parked at a job site on Plainfield Avenue. The items were valued at \$525.

Wednesday, August 23, a resident of Mountain Avenue reported being the victim of theft. He said one or more unknown individuals removed his bicycle, valued at approximately \$350, which was left in front of a friend's house on Elm Court.

Thursday, August 24, a resident of Westfield Road reported being the victim of criminal mischief. He said one or more unknown individuals damaged his motor vehicle by scratching words on the trunk.

Thursday, August 24, a resident of School Place reported being the victim of theft. He stated that one or more unknown individuals entered his garage and removed his motorized scooter. Entry to the garage was gained by pushing in a window.

Friday, August 25, the manager of a Route 22 fast food chain reported that a jug of money for a fundraiser was removed from the counter. It is unknown how much money was in the jug.

Fanwood
Wednesday, August 23, Thomas J. Ferro, 19, of Scotch Plains was arrested after a field investigation and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) and drug paraphernalia.

Thursday, August 24, Edwin H. Christian, 39, of New Brunswick was arrested after a foot chase that ensued when he allegedly fled from a field investigation. He was charged with obstruction of justice, possession of burglary tools, possession of stolen property and providing police with false information.

Friday, August 25, Carol A. Ganczewski, 41, of Scotch Plains was arrested after a field investigation on outstanding warrants issued by Scotch Plains and Springfield. Ganczewski also was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

Sunday, August 27, George Mosley, 51, of Linden was arrested and charged with numerous outstanding warrants out of Plainfield, Paramus and Irvington following a motor vehicle stop on Martine Ave.

Sunday, August 27, Lisa D. Minder, 33, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with an outstanding warrant out of North Plainfield following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue. She also was charged with providing police with false information.

Jamie J. Johnson, 29, of Bangor, Pa., a passenger in the vehicle, was arrested on an outstanding Fanwood warrant. She also was charged with providing false information to police.

Mountainside
Tuesday, August 15, James V. Raymond, 3rd, 50, of Berkeley Heights was stopped on Route 22 for failure to maintain a lane and later was arrested for allegedly having an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle and driving with a suspended license.

Tuesday, August 15, Gordon R. Barber, 65, of Mountainside was arrested and charged with simple assault. He also was charged with unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose.

Thursday, August 17, Enllibe L. Garcia-Martinez, 20, of Newark was arrested at the Newark Police Department on an outstanding warrant.

Tuesday, August 22, David Schmidt, 37, was arrested at the Hudson County jail on an outstanding warrant.

Tuesday, August 22, a resident of Rising Way reported being the victim of fraud. The victim stated that one or more unidentified individuals successfully opened an E-Trade account in her name. The individuals then attempted to withdraw approximately \$100,000 from her bank account. The incident is under investigation.

Tuesday, August 22, Eric Mayfield, 45, of Orange was arrested for allegedly driving with a suspended license following a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 for failure to observe a red traffic signal. He also was charged with an outstanding West Orange warrant in the amount of \$500.

Wednesday, August 23, Raymond F. Heiss, 39, of Mountainside was stopped for speeding on Deer Path and charged with driving with a suspended license. He also was arrested on an active warrant out of Summit in the amount of \$145.

Thursday, August 24, John H. Scott, 48, of Bloomfield was arrested at the Berkeley Heights Police Department on an outstanding warrant in the amount of \$415.

Friday, August 25, Maria J. Gutierrez, 30, of Mountainside was arrested and charged with DWI following a motor vehicle stop for failure to maintain a lane on Route 22.

Monday, August 28, Charles E. Polard, 43, of Plainfield was arrested at Cranford police headquarters on an outstanding warrant in the amount of \$1,035.



SHARING IS CARING...Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs Susan Levin, second from right, presents a COUNT grant of \$104,500 to Freeholders Bette Jane Kowalski and Chester Holmes, right, and State Senator Raymond Lesniak. The county will use the grant to fund a shared services coordinator.