

Man on the Street: State Government Shutdown



Aden Toloui
Westfield business owner

"[The shutdown] was a waste...Raising the sales tax doesn't bother me. If it's necessary, raise it. I'd rather pay a penny more (on every dollar) than pay more property taxes."



Dan Pugliesi
Westfield resident

"Taxes are an evil thing. Governor Corzine did what he thinks is right, but there are other ways [to pay off the state's accumulated debt] than holding out until taxes are raised."



Carl Baron
Westfield resident

"From what I heard from Trenton officials, [the shutdown] was really unavoidable. Raising the sales tax is a good thing...we need to raise taxes to get the state out of debt."



Kim Traschtenberg
Matawan

"It's ridiculous. Things like this shouldn't happen. They need to plan ahead. It's almost like [the state is] broke in every way...Due to all the taxes, it's getting harder and harder to live here and buy a home. It also can't be good for tourism."



Sean Gallagher
Scotch Plains businessman

"I don't think [state agencies] should have been shut down. The government should have seen this coming and resolved its differences on time...Everyone is only talking about a one-cent increase [in the state sales tax]."



Mirajam Janvieratta
Fanwood resident

"It's awful. The shutdown didn't affect me, but the whole situation stinks... They've got to do something to stop raising taxes."



Bob Falgares
Somerset

"The shutdown is ridiculous. Legislators should have worked harder to avoid it. The sales tax is fair. Everyone has to pay—the rich and the poor. Hopefully, we can also take care of property taxes."

interviews by Don Williams, photos by Sarah Queller



Horace Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
CAMPAIGN SUPPORT...Well-wishers attend the fundraiser party at Ann and Larry Carey's Westfield home last Sunday evening for Asw. Linda Stender of Fanwood who is the Democrat Candidate for Congress (District 7) in this November's election. Joan Kennedy and Rob Ratner (left) chat with former Westfield Councilpersons Susan Jacobson and Larry Goldman.

Garwood Council Discusses Sidewalk Repair Delay

By KATHY MARQUES
Specially written for the Westfield Leader

GARWOOD - The Garwood Borough Council met Tuesday night for its only meeting scheduled for the month of July. Engineer Donald Guarriello spoke about the Second Avenue sidewalk repair project, which has been delayed by the contractor due to weather conditions.

Mr. Guarriello said, "Hopefully it will begin the first week of August and should be completed before school starts, since there isn't that much work to be done."

Westbound Second Avenue between Walnut and Maple Streets will turn into a one-way street. Resident Bruce Paterson said, "One way streets are safer."

The Garwood Chamber of Commerce requested that Center Street from South Avenue to Beech Avenue be closed on September 17 for a street fair.

Councilman Walter Tucker thanked Police Chief William Legg for his work on the emergency broadcasting system, which is to be used to advise citizens if any emergency arises.

Councilman William Schadewald

encouraged people to donate to the free public library. He spoke about the adult summer reading program.

In unfinished business, Allison Gillespie was chosen as a part-time accounts payable clerk. Chief Legg said there was a quote received from Mobile Techtronics to relocate the fire department antenna.

The next council meeting will be on August 8 at 7 p.m.

FW Car Show Set Tuesday, July 18

FANWOOD—The Fanwood Business and Professional Association and the Cougar Club of New Jersey are sponsoring "Cruise Night" on Tuesday, July 18 in the Fanwood Municipal Parking Lot. The entrance is on LaGrande Avenue just off Martine Avenue. Classic cars are featured and music will be spun by DJ "Hot Rod" Mike.

For additional information, contact Donald Wussler at (908) 889-1709.

"Movies in the Park" at LaGrande Park, also schedule, that evening will begin at sundown.



Horace Corbin for The Westfield Leader
IDEALIC SUMMER DAY...The serenity of Fairview Cemetery in Westfield glistens with beauty last Sunday during the wonderful summer weather.

Corzine Names Davy NJ Commissioner of Education

By KATIE NEWINGHAM
Specially written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

TRENTON - New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine named former Westfield resident Lucille Davy the permanent commissioner of the New Jersey State Department of Education on Tuesday, July 11. Ms. Davy had been serving as acting commissioner since last fall.

Former Governor James McGreevy appointed Ms. Davy to the education counsel in 2002, where she remained when Acting Governor Richard Codey took office. Her responsibilities included serving as the governor's representative to the State Board of Education, Commission on Higher Education and New Jersey Institute of Technology Board of Trustees.

Governor Codey appointed Mrs. Davy acting commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education on

September 12, 2005. It was speculated that she would only hold the position for a few months.

Mr. McGreevy appointed Ms. Davy's husband, James Davy, Human Services Commissioner in January 2004. In 1998, Mr. Davy worked under then-Mayor McGreevy as the business administrator for Woodbridge Township.

Mr. Davy served as operations manager for the successful 2001 McGreevy for Governor campaign.

When living in Westfield, Ms. Davy served on the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) at Roosevelt Intermediate School and held the organization's president position. She was involved in the first strategic planning committee for the Westfield Public School system.

After Mr. McGreevy won his bid for state governor, the Davys moved from Westfield to the Trenton area.

Westfield Council

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for more than 50 seats.

The council amended the general zone regulations with an ordinance limiting the height of freestanding fences and walls in front yards or, in the case of corner lots, in any portion of a yard that is closer to the street than either the principal building on the lot or the minimum sideyard setback, whichever is more restrictive.

With regard to construction sites, the council approved an ordinance that requires either the contractor or construction site owner to install a six-foot chain-link fence around the perimeter of the construction site or in a manner as a construction official sees adequate "to protect the health and safety of the public."

The council also approved ordinances to vacate a portion of a public right-of-way at 227 Harrison Avenue, which is located on the corner of Maple Street, and to add night hours to Parking Lot Number 9. According to First Ward Councilman Sal Caruana, this second ordinance "adds an additional parking lot to our night owl parking permit program." The ordinance allows residents of the town's central business district to purchase permits to park in the daytime permit lot behind stores on North Avenue between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The council approved a Finance Committee resolution authorizing the mayor to sign an inter-local service agreement that will allow Scotch Plains residents to purchase permits to use the Westfield Conservation Center. Fourth Ward Councilman Jim Foerst voted against the resolution, stating that it would place a "burden on residents of the Fourth Ward...from a traffic perspective."

Town Administrator Jim Gildea discussed the details of the inter-local service agreement. The agreement will allow Scotch Plains residents to purchase permits for "considerably more cost" than the price at which they are offered to Westfield residents, he said. He noted that Scotch Plains does not have a conservation facility.

According to Mr. Gildea, the resolution approves what he called a "pilot program" that will run until the end of the 2006 calendar year and will be monitored by the town. "The only reason to [continue the agreement into 2007] is if it benefits the town from a cost perspective," he said.

The council also approved the demo-

lition of single-family houses at 238 Canterbury Road, 645 Willow Grove Road and 168 Madison Avenue.

During the open discussion by citizens portion of the meeting, Thomas Dries and Jo Ann Carrington, both of First Street, approached the council to express complaints regarding the council's decision to turn one block of Linwood Place near McKinley School into a one-way street. According to Mr. Echausse, the change in traffic flow is part of a project that comes out of a "multi-year study." The area around McKinley School, as well as that around Franklin school, was identified as "one of eight (traffic) hot spots."

The residents claim not to have been notified before the change was made. Mr. Dries told the council that, from his conversations with neighbors, "no one has been told what's going on."

Mr. Dries added that the change has disrupted traffic in the area. "It's been a mess since April 29...when signs were put up," he said.

He said he believes that the traffic pattern change will give the neighborhood a more commercial and less residential character. "All you're missing are parking meters," he said.

Ms. Carrington said, "I was never notified of the change until it happened...I don't think it's really necessary to change [Linwood Place] into a one-way street."

"You're talking about a problem that's 20 minutes at the beginning of the school day and 20 minutes at the end," she added. "I'm disturbed by it."

Mr. Echausse responded to the citizens' first concern by stating that everyone in the neighborhood had been asked for their input in the initial study, and Mr. Foerst cited an occasion where he canvassed the neighborhood, providing information to those residents who were at home at the time.

Mr. Echausse noted that members of the McKinley School PTO and the school's principal, Claudia Andreski, had been "deeply involved" in the study, which he said was also advertised in *The Westfield Leader*.

Mr. Gildea said the street had been changed over on an "incremental approach," where signs and road paint had been changed at different points. He said that police had monitored the traffic flow for "over a month."

According to Mr. Gildea, the one-way designation is ordinance, but the placement of lines on the street is not fixed, should changes need to be made.

Recreation Commission

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WSA members acknowledged the "important responsibility" they have to the community and thanked the commission for the turf fields and "great facilities."

Director Bruce Kaufmann told commissioners that due to sand leaking into the Memorial Pool, "it is time that we seriously put together bid specs to replace our main pool."

He said that although they tried to isolate the problem areas using pipe scopes, the results were inconclusive, and officials cannot know what the problem is until the pool is drained at the end of the season.

He said that since the commission had already anticipated the 38-year-old pool would need to be replaced in the next few years, if the damage proves extensive, it would be more financially sound to move the construction process up.

Mr. Kaufmann said he wants to be prepared if this is the case so the project could potentially be completed by next summer. He asked for (and

Correction:

In an article appearing in last week's edition ("WF School Administrators Get Pay Boost from BOE," July 6), lines between the contracts of the Westfield Association of Administrators and Supervisors (WAAS) and those of the district's teachers and secretaries were unintentionally blurred.

The article stated, "As part of the contract, existing secretaries, administrators and teachers have the option to enroll their children for no cost in Westfield." Secretary and teacher contacts do include the tuition benefit, but their contract is separate from that of the WAAS. There are, as the article stated, 25 students enrolled at no charge; however, those students all fall under the other (teacher and secretary) contracts, not the WAAS contract.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader
CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING...Rep. Mike Ferguson (D-7) was at The Westfield Leader office last Wednesday to discuss national and international issues with the newspaper staff interns. See story on page 2. Pictured, left to right, are: Cassie Lo, Chrissy Hamway, Don Williams, Mr. Ferguson, Carolyn DiProspero, Bryan Krichinsky and James Diddell.

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Sunday, July 2, after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation, Antonio R. Martorino was arrested on a no-bail Sheriff's warrant and also an outstanding Edison warrant.

Sunday, July 2, Officers responded to the Cranford Police Department to take custody of George Macks, who was being held on an outstanding Westfield warrant.

Monday, July 3, Tanashia M. Johnson of Newark was arrested for contempt of court and was committed to the Union County jail in lieu of \$205 bail out of Westfield.

Monday, July 3, Daniel Wasama of Elizabeth was arrested on the 1000 block of Lambertsmill Road for contempt of court during a field interview. Defendant posted \$424 bail and was released.

Tuesday, July 4, a 17-year-old juvenile was arrested in Lot #5 for possession of a destructive device. The juvenile in question was released to his father.

Wednesday, July 5, Christopher Castro of Kenilworth was arrested at Nomahegan Dr. and Springfield Ave. for DWI and false reports to law enforcement. Suspect was released to a responsible party after providing an alcotest.

Wednesday, July 5, Todd Aurand of Cranford was arrested on an outstanding Westfield warrant (\$150 bail) in front of 545 First Street. He was released on bail.

Thursday, July 6, Ramone A. Jenkins of East Orange was arrested for possession of under 50 oz. of CDC and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was processed and released on two summonses.

Thursday, July 6, Robert Jumper of Roselle reported to Westfield Police Headquarters to satisfy three outstanding warrants issued by the municipal court, totaling \$155 bail. He posted bail and was released.

Friday, July 7, Peter G. Ward of Scotch Plains posted \$99 on an ATS warrant issued by the Westfield Court.

Saturday, July 8, Janis Richards of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding warrant for \$150. She posted bail and was released.

Sunday, July 9, Rasheem Moore, 27, of Westfield was arrested at Livingston St. and Sterling for an outstanding \$500 warrant.

Monday, July 10, Francis Zalenski, 35, of Jersey City was arrested at Central Ave. and Cacciola Pl. during a motor vehicle stop for outstanding (\$300) Jersey City warrant.

Mountainside

May 8, Michele Stambo, 41, of Mountainside was arrested for theft by deception. According to police, after an investigation, Stambo, an employee of Quality Portraits, was charged with stealing \$18,318 in photo packages, \$157 in petty cash, \$346 in U.S. postage stamps and \$639 in photo mats. The total amount stolen was \$19,460.

Sunday, July 2, Tabraz Mohammed, 25, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 for DWI. He was also charged with driving with a suspended license.

Tuesday, July 4, Oluwaremi A. Awogboro, 24, of New Brunswick was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 for an outstanding warrant out of North Brunswick for \$500.

Tuesday, July 4, Dorian L. Williams, 41, of Midway, FL was arrested after a motor vehicle accident on Route 22 for driving with a suspended license.

Tuesday, July 4, Luis A. Hernandez, 30, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Mountain Avenue for DWI. He was also charged with driving without a license.

Wednesday, July 5, Rakiem M. Mitchell, 31, of Newark was picked up at the Essex County Jail for an outstanding Mountainside warrant for \$350.

Friday, July 7, Almirido Gonzalez, Jr., 37, of Union was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Paramus for \$55 following a motor vehicle stop for driving too slow on Route 22.

Friday, July 7, a patron of a Route 22 theater reported being the victim of theft to his motor vehicle. According to police, unknown suspect(s) smashed the passenger side window and removed a navigation system worth \$500.

Saturday, July 8, Noel J. Chambers, 28, of East Orange was arrested for driving with a suspended license following a motor vehicle stop for having no inspection sticker. He was also charged with a warrant issued by East Orange for \$150.

Scotch Plains

Thursday, July 6, a resident of Jerusalem Road reported being the victim of fraud. She said unknown person(s) used

her debit card to make withdrawals totaling \$2,000 from various ATMs.

Friday, July 7, a resident of Church Street reported being the victim of theft. He stated that unknown person(s) entered his vehicle and removed items.

Saturday, July 8, a resident of Linden reported being the victim of aggravated assault. He stated that he was driving when another vehicle almost hit him.

According to police, after the victim confronted the driver of the other vehicle, the driver tried to run him over. The victim was able to get out of the way. Police are investigating the incident.

Saturday, July 8, a resident of Front Street reported being the victim of harassment. He stated unknown person(s) made several calls on his cell phone and left messages. The unknown caller used profanity on the messages, police said.

Sunday, July 9, several holes to the walls of the main room of the Scotch Hills Country Club were discovered after a party. According to police, the attendant discovered the damage. Police are investigating to determine if the damage was the result of criminal activity.

Fanwood

Sunday, July 2, Kashana L. Randall, 23, of Union was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue for an outstanding warrant issued by Newark.

Tuesday, July 4, Robert E. Chapman, 30, of Dunnellen was arrested on an outstanding Dunnellen warrant.

Wednesday, July 5, Sophie Nusek, 56, of Cranford was arrested for an outstanding warrant issued by Forked River following a motor vehicle stop on North Ave.

Thursday, July 6, Errol E. Singh, 32, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding North Plainfield warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Thursday, July 6, Mogul A. Ramos, 42, of Newark was arrested on numerous outstanding warrants from Elizabeth, Millburn and Newark after a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue.

Friday, July 7, Kenneth E. Boger, 23, of Westfield was arrested on outstanding Fanwood warrants after a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue.

Monday, July 10, Clayton C. Ferrara, 22, of Covington, La. was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue, which revealed outstanding warrants issued by Bridgewater.

Monday, July 10, Robert L. Piper, Jr., 35, of Linden was arrested for numerous outstanding warrants issued by Woodbridge, Elizabeth and Linden, as well as a no-bail warrant from the Union County Sheriff's Department following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Monday, July 10, Marcus Boykin, 25, of Bloomfield was arrested on an outstanding Newark warrant after a field investigation.

WF Jazz Set for Tuesday Night

WESTFIELD - Jazz Night Performances in downtown Westfield scheduled for Tuesday, July 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. include B. D. Lenz on Central Avenue, The Tone Masters at the North Avenue Train Station, Mary Ellen Desmond on the corner of E. Broad and Prospect Streets and Joel Chassen on Elm Street in front of the First Baptist Church.

Jazz performances take place downtown every Tuesday night through September 5. Rain dates are the following Wednesday evenings.

For more information, please call the DWC at (908) 789-9444.

MS Council

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He said that although people are adding onto their homes or buying bigger homes, it doesn't necessarily mean there are more people living within the borough.

In March, Mayor Vigilanti said he was frustrated with the "uncooperative attitude" from the borough's library. He said other libraries, such as Westfield's, were working with their town to find ways to help the budget problem, and Mountainside's library was not.

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



WARINANCO RESTORATION... Union County Freeholder Vice Chair Bette Jane Kowalski (left) works with Liz Crawford, a New Jersey Watershed ambassador, during the restoration of the shoreline of Warinanco Park Lake in Roselle. The \$99,000 project is funded by a grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.