

MS BOE OK's K-4 Science, Changes School Hours

By GINA LEVINE-LEVY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE—On Tuesday, the borough's board of education (BOE) adopted two new science curriculums, one for kindergarten and first grade and another for grades two to four.

Assistant Principal and Curriculum Coordinator Michael Craver presented both programs to the BOE. He said the search "for programs to get kids involved in science, rather than read about it" began back in January, and several vendors were invited to present their programs.

Mr. Craver stressed the importance of finding "inquiry-based" programs where students will have the chance to explore in a "hands-on, minds-on" environment.

The K-1 program, called Delta FOSS, will focus on three categories for each grade. Kindergarteners will learn about "Animals Two By Two," "Wood" and "Paper and Trees." First graders will learn Air and Weather, Balance and Motion and New Plants.

The program aligns with a "proven theory," according to Mr. Craver, that "students should explore fewer topics in depth, not skim many superficially."

He said Delta FOSS encourages "inquiry followed by discussion of discoveries." He said it fosters "student interaction," as well as "reflective thinking, reading and research."

The New Jersey State Systemic Initiative (NJSSI) recommended the program, which was selected after being tested in classrooms this year, he said.

He said the program meets the district's goals of scientific literacy, instructional efficiency and systemic reform. "We are laying the foundation they need for an ever-changing 21st century," he said.

The Houghton Mifflin science program for grades two through four follows a philosophy similar to FOSS, according to Mr. Craver. He said this program is more suitable for older grades because it is "more efficient in terms of materials, management and prep time."

Teachers who volunteered to pilot the program found that it "focused on the essential questions," had "quality integration of literacy and math skills," was the most accurate of the programs tested and could be customized according to the district's needs, officials said.

Mr. Craver said flexibility in the program is important in order to eliminate redundancy between grades.

"By having the flexibility to choose the modules of this program, we can make sure there's a spiral" so that subjects are reiterated, but not "overdone," Mr. Craver said.

The specific subjects have not yet been decided. The coursework will be divided among smaller books rather than one large textbook, which Mr. Craver said would be "more manageable" for students. "I look forward to this being as successful a program as the new math," he said.

The board made a slight change to the hours of operation for the 2006-2007 school year. Beechwood Elementary School will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:10 p.m. Deerfield Elementary School will begin at 8:20 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

Chief School Administrator (CSA) Richard O'Malley, recommended the staggered times to help alleviate teachers' concerns about tardiness.

Board member Mary Beth Schaumburg said the new starting times would help accommodate parents with children in both schools who have been asking for the change.

Prior to the change, teachers and parents were surveyed about their preferences. Fifty-five percent of parents who responded were in favor of the change, officials said.

Ms. Schaumburg said that the change could be "undone in future years if it is not effective."

Mr. O'Malley said that there would be no changes to bus schedules, recreational activities or the cost of childcare as a result.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 25 at 7:30 p.m.



HATS OFF...Members of the WHS graduating class of 2006 toss their mortarboards into the air in celebration at the conclusion of last week's ceremony.

WHS Graduation

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and Samantha Mooney was never absent from kindergarten through senior year of high school.

Ten members of the Class of 2006 earned perfect 4.0 academic averages through their high school careers. These students are: David Ackerman, Dana Barrasso, Miriam Becker-Cohen, Lindsay Elbaum, Sarah Godfrey, Rachel Leopold, Rachel Louie, Jonathan Maimon, Jennifer Metz and Yuchen Zhang. The Women's and Men's Clubs gave awards to Erica Greene and Jonathan Maimon for being the male and female with the highest academic average.

Mr. Petix then recognized Detective Ron Allen and WHS Assistant Principal Bob Eyre, who will be retiring at the end of the 2005-2006 school year. Detective Allen will be retiring this year, while Mr. Eyre will remain at the high school until December.

Senior members of the WHS Concert Choir sang "Hail Alma Mater," written by Marcia Bauer, WHS class of '54, and "You'll Never Walk Alone" from the Broadway show *Carousel*.

Mr. Petix addressed the class in his last graduation speech before retirement. Mr. Petix began his speech by saying, "tonight's ceremony marks the beginning of the rest of your life." After concluding, he introduced Harold "Butch" Woolfolk,

who delivered the commencement address.

"I respect WHS more now that I left it," said Mr. Woolfolk, who was a football running back for the University of Michigan, the Houston Oilers, the Detroit Lions and the New York Giants before settling in Texas.

Mr. Woolfolk challenged the Class of 2006 to make a difference. "Each and every one of us is born with a purpose," said Mr. Woolfolk.

An especially heartfelt moment came when Mr. Petix announced that an honorary diploma would be awarded to Greta Schoenemann, who died in a tragic accident four years ago on the first anniversary of 9/11.

Greta would have been a member of this graduating class. In honor of her memory, students and teachers wore pink ribbons on their gowns.

Mr. Petix, Westfield Board of Education President Anne Riegel and Superintendent of Schools William Foley presented diplomas to the graduating class.

The class exited the armory to "Westfield Victorious," which was arranged by David Shapiro.

Later that evening, the Class of 2006 attended the BASH post graduation party, hosted by the Optimist Club of Westfield, at the Ricochet Health and Racquet Club in South Plainfield.

Improvement Projects Move Ahead In Garwood

By KATHY MARQUES
Specially written for the Westfield Leader

GARWOOD—Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello announced Tuesday night that several improvement projects are either underway or will soon commence.

"The Second Avenue tree-planting project is pretty much on schedule and should be completed by the end of July," Mr. Guarriello told the borough council.

Around 30 new trees were planted and 13 removed, about a 2-to-1 ratio. Sidewalk curb repairs should be completed by the end of August and the Gabion Wall project will be worked on sometime in late August or early September.

Council members voted to approve an ordinance to prohibit the erection, alteration or enlargement of any buildings unless adequate parking is provided.

Council President and Chairperson on the Committee for Aging Kathleen Villaggio said she was "pleased" with the turnout for the senior picnic last Friday. "Over 80 people attended, and it was a very nice event."

The Committee on Aging will host a senior dinner show on Saturday, July 15 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus.

Councilwoman Villaggio congratulated the Lincoln School eighth-grade graduating class and Arthur L. Johnson High School seniors. She said 39 seniors from Garwood graduated from the Clark high school, three of whom were ranked in the top 20 of their class and seven of whom were named to the National Honor Society. "We wish all graduates much success in their future," Councilwoman Villaggio said.

Mayor McCarthy welcomed newly appointed Kelly Dunn to her position on the borough's recreation commission, an unexpired term from June 27

to December 31.

Officials announced that neighboring borough Kenilworth will celebrate its 100th anniversary on June 18, 2007.

Officials also announced that Verizon FiOS Cable TV (fiber optic services) is one step closer to operating in Garwood after it was granted municipal consent to operate in the borough.

WF Council

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Road and 168 Madison Avenue, at its next meeting on Tuesday, July 11.

Town Attorney Robert Cockren discussed the use of Jeff's Landscape Design and Construction on Myrtle Avenue, which was brought to the council's attention last November. Residents of Myrtle Avenue claimed Jeff Scotti's company, which operates out of a garage and lot on 125-127 Myrtle Avenue was involved in large landscaping projects and used dump trucks, trucks with trailers carrying excavators and numerous employee vehicles, exceeding the accepted usage level for the neighborhood.

Mr. Cockren and Zoning Officer Kathleen Neville compared the business's current use to its grandfathered "pre-existing, non-conforming use" and believe there's been expansion. As a result, Ms. Neville has issued a violation notice.

Prior to conducting council business, Luke Hammond gave a presentation on his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. The project entails the restoration and repair of the brick "Manor Park" sign monuments at the Central and Elizabeth Avenues entrance to Manor Park and the education of the Westfield community about the park's existence by setting up a website to provide public information.

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Wednesday, June 21, Kenneth W. Pope, 29, of Newark was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on a Newark warrant. He was released on his own recognizance by Newark in lieu of \$132 bail.

Wednesday, June 21, Tyisha Cunningham Higgs, 27, of East Orange was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on a Newark warrant. She later was released on her own recognizance in lieu of \$500 bail.

Wednesday, June 21, Brian S. Van Horn, 45, of Brick posted \$89 at Westfield police headquarters on a Mountainside warrant.

Wednesday, June 21, Kelli C. Carter, 29, of Westfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on a no-bail Union County Sheriff's Department warrant.

Thursday, June 22, Juan J. Gutierrez, 37, of Westfield was arrested in front of his residence on two Garwood warrants. He was released after \$1,261 bail was posted.

Friday, June 23, a resident of the 1100 block of Prospect Street reported an act of criminal mischief in which his home and motor vehicle, which was parked in his driveway, were defaced by eggs.

Friday, June 23, Jesse J. Sanders, 60, of Elizabeth was arrested at the Somerset County Correctional Facility in Somerville pursuant to a contempt of court warrant issued by the Westfield municipal court. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and held on \$165 bail.

Friday, June 23, a resident of the 10 block of Barchester Way reported that someone caused damage to a family member's motor vehicle by throwing eggs at it while it was parked in the roadway in front of the residence.

Friday, June 23, Christina Glover, 37, of East Orange was arrested after being turned over to Westfield police by Springfield authorities on contempt of court warrants issued by Westfield, for \$166; East Orange, for \$153; Orange, for \$149, and Newark, for \$95. Glover was released after posting \$563 bail.

Friday, June 23, Jessica Cortijo, 18, and David Samsonia, 20, both of Plainfield, along with two juveniles, were arrested following a motor vehicle stop at West South and Scotch Plains Avenues.

All were charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana. Additionally, one of the juveniles, a 16-year-old Plainfield male, was charged with possession of a prohibited weapon, identified by police as a knuckle knife. Cortijo and Samsonia were released with summonses, while the juveniles were released to their parents, police said.

Saturday, June 24, Chakei Chavies, 21, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and Tuttle Parkway and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana. He was released on his own recognizance.

Fanwood

Tuesday, June 20, owners of two businesses in the 30 and 40 blocks of South Avenue reported that someone overnight someone spray painted the rear of both their buildings.

Wednesday, June 21, a South Avenue grocery store manager reported that a black male attempted to shoplift \$75 worth of gum. Police said the suspect was observed putting the gum into his backpack when he was approached by the manager, police said. The suspect reportedly dropped the backpack and fled the store through the entrance, breaking the glass in the door. He was seen fleeing the scene on a bicycle, police said.

Thursday, June 22, Brian Busardo, 35, of Kendall Park was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Martine Ave. revealed a \$90 Lawrenceville warrant.

Thursday, June 22, Chrisno Widhiatmodjo, 37, of Fanwood was arrested and charged with child endangerment after an anonymous call alerted police to a child left in a motor vehicle. According to police, the five-year old was in the back seat "sweating profusely" when officers arrived at the scene. The Union County Prosecutor's office was notified and approved the charges.

Thursday, June 22, a business in the 200 block of South Avenue reported that upon closing out the register, the manager noticed a counterfeit \$50 bill in the register. The clerk who accepted the bill said that a tall, black male in his late 40s gave her the bill to pay for merchandise, police said. The bill was confiscated by police.

Thursday, June 22, Roy Baskerville, 33, of Elizabeth was arrested on a \$150 warrant out of Elizabeth following a field investigation.

Friday, June 23, a juvenile reported that he parked his bicycle in the 30 block of Martine Avenue and when he returned the bicycle was missing. The bicycle was valued at \$100.

Saturday, June 24, a 17-year old juvenile from Fanwood and a 16-year old juvenile from Scotch Plains were arrested for possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) at the Fanwood Nature Center.

According to two police, an officer observed the juveniles cutting through private property adjacent to the center, while smoking a marijuana cigarette. The suspects were charged and released to their parents.

Monday, June 26, an employee of a

South Avenue bank reported her purse was stolen sometime between June 15 and 16 from behind the counter of the bank. According to police, the victim was waiting for bank security to review surveillance tapes before filing a report.

Monday, June 26, officers were canvassing the 180 block of South Avenue alerting businesses owners to the fact that counterfeit money was being used for purchases at which time a business owner stated that approximately three months ago he received a counterfeit \$20 bill for payment of merchandise.

According to police, the counterfeit bill was still in his possession and was turned over to police.

The Secret Service was contacted by the Scotch Plains police and were faxed a copy of the counterfeit bills. According to police, the Secret Service has been tracking counterfeit bills with similar serial numbers, which have been used in Essex and Union County for the past several months.

Scotch Plains

Tuesday, June 20, a student at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School reported that someone removed jewelry from her locker. The jewelry was valued at \$200.

Wednesday, June 21, a resident of Rahway Road reported that someone removed a lamp from the front of his property. The lamp was valued at \$70.

Thursday, June 22, an attendant at a Route 22 gas station reported that two individuals in a white van yelled obscenities at him and then drove off.

Friday, June 23, the owner of an East Second Street convenience store reported that someone removed bread from the outside delivery spot.

Sunday, June 25, John Checchio, 48, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with possession of a CDS. Police said they responded to his house on a 911 call and discovered cocaine in his possession. Checchio was transported to headquarters and processed. He was then transported to the Union County Jail and held on \$6,000 bail, police said.

Mountainside

Monday, June 19, an employee of a Sheffield Street business reported someone gained entry to the vehicle by breaking the driver's side window. Reported stolen from the vehicle was a global positioning system (GPS) prescription sunglasses and \$5 in toll tokens.

Thursday, June 22, a Mountain Avenue bank manager reported that someone damaged the front of the ATM machine located in the foyer of the bank. Police said the suspects broke the faceplate off of the machine, where the card would be inserted. The unit behind the faceplate was then pushed in, police said.

An ATM card was determined to be stuck in the unit and was confiscated by police. No monies appeared to be missing at the time, police said.

Tuesday, June 20, a resident of Saddlebrook Road reported that a neighbor noticed a SUV parked in the victim's driveway with a white male in the driver's seat. She stated that she saw a beam of light from a flashlight in an upstairs bedroom. The neighbor notified police and witnessed the SUV driving away. The homeowner, who was out to dinner, arrived home and surveyed the house along with police. The victim reported that jewelry belonging to his wife was missing and several rooms were ransacked. The detective bureau is investigating the incident, police said.

Friday, June 23, a Charles Street resident reported upon arriving at their house, which is under construction, they discovered that the doors were open. The victim reported that a 24-foot section of aluminum scaffolding and a Dewalt compound miter saw were missing. The value of the property stolen was \$1,100.

SP Farmers Market On Saturdays

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association (SPBPA) said the outdoor Farmers' Marketplace, held in the municipal parking lot on Park Avenue in the Towne Centre of Scotch Plains, began this Saturday, June 24 and will run every Saturday through October 28. The hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain or shine).

The marketplace features a variety of fresh produce, homemade-style baked goods and gourmet food products.

Jeff Stein, the SPBPA event manager, said "We have been successful in attracting customers from all over who look forward to coming each and every Saturday. "We continue to grow each year. Our vendors tell us that it is their most successful market. The residents tell us they look forward to Saturday shopping."

A Farmers' Marketplace Hotline has been established. Starting next week, patrons can call (908) 322-1777 and listen to event information and updates.

The Farmers Marketplace is looking for two more experienced, top-quality vendors. Interested vendors can contact Jeff Stein, Marketplace Manager at (908) 322-6774.

Memorial Park Renovations

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creating a safety hazard.

The problem with the park's design, they said, was that park users did not want to walk the distance from the existing parking lot near Memorial Pool to the fields, preferring instead to park along North Scotch Plains Avenue. The possibility of erecting a fence along the north-easterly side of the park would encourage field users to park in the Memorial Pool parking lot instead, residents suggested.

Other concerns voiced by several neighboring residents included moving the tennis courts closer to some residential houses and the positioning of the baseball diamonds.

North Scotch Plains Avenue resident Joseph Penczak, who participates in one of the town's adult baseball leagues, pointed out that the baseball diamonds were not positioned

correctly and could result in numerous foul balls flying into residents' backyards or potentially hitting bystanders watching other games.

The committee for these plans has been meeting bi-weekly for several months, Mr. Kaufman said.

Several years ago, the recreation commission introduced renovation plans for the park to the public, but was met with opposition. Due to public objections, they scrapped the plans to redesign the park, at that time, and only renovated the Memorial Pool area.

Mr. Kaufman told the residents that they could contact his office with any other concerns or comments they may have. The final plans will become the Memorial Park Master Plan and will be presented to council as a capital budget item in June 2007.

BOE Assesses Kindergartens

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\$100,000. In comparison, the northside/southside "pod" option has an operating cost of \$205,000 per year.

During the opportunity for public comment, former board president Arlene Gardner of Carleton Road addressed the board, and expressed her enthusiasm about the Lincoln School option.

"Need produces opportunities...we need Lincoln now, let's use it," she said. She also said that it was important to educate the public on the importance of this proposal.

Regarding the Roosevelt overcrowding issue, the board accepted the options presented by the CACE.

Superintendent Foley explained the three steps to be taken by the district during the 2007-2008 school year. The first part of the solution calls for all students who opt for busing to be automatically sent to Edison. The second involves the creation or expansion of a magnet program at Edison.

The last portion of the plan is to revise the fifth grade orientation program district-wide, letting students know that their school choice is optional. "If we could move 120 stu-

dents, we would be fine," Supt. Foley said. "People have to recognize that sending your child to an overcrowded school has an impact," he said.

The board also approved estimates from an architect to be obtained for the "facelift" of Roosevelt, which could cost the district around \$2,000,000. This would involve the enlarging of the cafeteria, additional lighting, and improved stairwells.

In other news, Assistant Principal Robert Eyre has submitted his retirement, to begin January 1, 2007. "Bob Petix is the leader of the high school, but Bob Eyre is the heart," Foley said.

Superintendent Foley told *The Leader* that even if the UCESC obtains emergent relief from the state and remains in the Lincoln school facility for another 12 months, that it will not affect plans for the early childhood center.

Correction

A headline for a letter on the editorial page last week should have said, "Parent says BOE Patronized Parents, Teachers at Mountainside Meeting."

Don't Forget Your Bloomers

Bring this Ad in for an extra *\$5 in Blooming Bucks

It's Blooming Buck Time again at Williams. From June 29th thru July 9th you can redeem your blooming bucks. Blooming bucks can be used for up to 50% of your purchase on any items at our nursery including those in our gift shop.

We've stocked the benches with thousands of colorful annuals, perennials, and summer blooming plants for this promotion.

Even if you haven't collected any blooming bucks yet, you can use this ad for \$5 worth of them. (*Sorry only one ad per person and only from 6/29 - 7/9).

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