

Mayor McCarthy Urges That Leaves Be Bagged

By KATHY MARQUES
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

GARWOOD — Mayor Dennis McCarthy said at the borough council's November 21 meeting that residents must collect and dispose of their leaves properly and effectively.

"There have been problems with residents not putting their leaves in bags to get picked up by the Department of Public Works. Debris that builds up in the drainage system could cause possible flooding, should it rain a lot. Plus, it's unsightly to see leaves on our streets," Mayor McCarthy said.

"This is a serious topic and residents must comply with the rules and regulations," he added.

The borough's leaf ordinance states that non-bagged leaves are not permitted to be placed curbside for more than seven days prior to the borough's scheduled leaf collection dates. The ordinance states that leaves must be collected in biodegradable bags or in open trash receptacles after December 10.

Councilman Charles Lombardo said, "The DPW has distributed over 3,500 bio-degradable leaf bags to residents so far this season. The bags are available daily at the DPW between 8 to 3, Monday through Friday."

A newsletter entitled "Just the Facts" was mailed to all Garwood residents in September explaining the curbside pickup. Residents can contact the DPW at (908) 789-1522.

Mayor McCarthy said, "For the size of our town, we're not in bad shape, but we all must follow the rules or else there can be mandatory bagging and warnings. It just makes the town look cleaner, can prevent flooding and is less work for the people cleaning the sewers."

The council also addressed multiple complaints from residents about stores having more than the allotted

amount of advertisements covering their windows. A signage ordinance passed by the planning board prohibits more than 25 percent of a store window from being covered by advertising signs.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud said, "Some people will argue the signs are clutter, while other retailers will say they need the ads for business."

Officials said the ordinance's goal is to protect the safety of the storeowners and the aesthetic value of the borough. Mayor McCarthy asked that the planning board to review the signage ordinance again.

The mayor said multiple residents have mailed letters to the council with concerns about the future of the former St. Anne's School property. Developer James Ward has proposed either 55-and-over housing or leasing the school to the Hillcrest Academy. The academy, operated by the Union County Educational Services Commission, currently located in Westfield, serves students who require a "structured learning environment."

Residents have voiced concerns over the disciplinary problems of students that attend the school as faced by Westfield, which opted not to renew the school's lease at the Lincoln School on Westfield Avenue.

Councilwoman Kathleen Villaggio, who serves on the planning board, said, "So far, there is nothing on the upcoming planning board agenda about this topic."

Ms. Villaggio also spoke about "numerous" complaints she had received from residents regarding the water tower on the Garwood Paperboard property on North Avenue near McDonald's. "It's unsightly and I don't even think it has any more water in it," she said.

Mr. Renaud said he would look into which department handles the tower to see whether it can be either cleaned or knocked down.

In other business, Councilman Damian Mitchell congratulated residents who won gift certificates in the Halloween House decorating contest. The Puree family on Myrtle Avenue won for "scariest house," the Stahnke family on Center Street won for "most unique house and the Steingina family on Second Avenue won for "most festive house." The Tondi family on Willow Avenue received an "honorable" mention.

Officials announced that Santa Claus will be present for the borough's Christmas tree-lighting ceremony on Saturday, December 2, at 4 p.m.



David and Horace Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
CITIZEN ON THE SIDELINES...Chris Santangelo of Scotch Plains supports Scotch Plains-Fanwood and PAL sports year-round with his camera and on the Internet at www.coachsanta.com.

Post Office Sets Guidelines For Christmas Mail to Troops

NEWARK — Military experts agree that one of the greatest morale boosters for the troops is to receive a letter or package from home, especially during the holidays. New Jersey postal officials encourage military families and friends sending packages and letters to servicemen and women over-

seas, as required by U.S. Department of Defense regulations. For more detailed information on tracking and military mail, please visit the Military Postal Service's website at hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa.

Express Mail Military Service (EMMS) is available to selected mili-

Military Mailing Deadlines for Christmas To Reach Troops Serving Overseas

Address	EMMS	First-Class	Priority	PAL
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 090-092	Dec 19	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4
APO/FPO AE ZIP 093	N/A	Dec 4	Dec 4	Dec 4
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 094-098	Dec 19	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4
APO/FPO AA ZIPs 340	Dec 19	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4
APO/FPO AP ZIPs 962-966	Dec 19	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4

Notes: EMMS is Express Mail Military Service; First Class letters/cards; Priority Mail; PAL is Priority Parcel Airlift

ties, including Iraq and Afghanistan, to mail early to ensure that packages reach their destination in time for Christmas.

All packages and mail must be addressed to individual service mem-

Roselle Park Health Bd. To Sponsor Rabies Clinic

ROSELLE PARK — The Roselle Park Board of Health will sponsor a free rabies clinic from 5 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5. The clinic will be held at the First Aid Squad building on Laurel Avenue. No appointments are required.

The board said that the public can follow some "simple preventative measures" to limit the possibility of exposure to rabies. All dogs and cats should be vaccinated against rabies, and family pets should not be left outdoors overnight, the board said.

Anyone bitten by an animal should consult his or her physician immediately and contact the local health department at (908) 789-4070.

itary post offices. Local Post Offices can determine if this service is available to an APO/FPO address. The information also is available by calling 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777).

Parcel Air Lift (PAL) is a special service that provides air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis. It is available for items not exceeding 30 pounds in weight or 60 inches in length and girth combined. The applicable PAL fee must be paid in addition to the regular surface rate of postage for each addressed piece sent by PAL service.

The U.S. Postal Service offers a Military Care Kit, or "Mili-kit" to make it easier for military families and friends to send care packages to their loved ones stationed overseas. Each kit contains two Priority Mail boxes, six Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes, eight Priority Mail labels, one roll of Priority Mail tape and eight customs forms with envelopes. This kit may be ordered by calling the USPS Expedited Package Supply Center at 1-800-610-8734. There is no charge for the kit.

Mountainside Community Pool Raises Rates for 2007

By JESSICA E. JASKULA
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MOUNTAINSIDE — Borough Councilman Keith Turner announced at the borough council's November 21 meeting that there would be a "modest increase" in 2007 pool fees for the Mountainside Community Pool as recommended by the recreation department. The new fees represent an increase of just over 4 percent.

According to the new fees, a resident family that paid \$245 in 2006 will now pay \$255, a \$10 increase, while fees for single residents, \$125 in 2006, and senior-citizen residents, \$85 in 2006, will increase by \$5. The fee for non-resident families will be \$480, up \$25 from last year, while fees for single non-residents, \$230 in 2006, and senior-citizen non-residents, \$190 in 2006, will increase by \$10.

As for initiation fees, a non-resident family will owe \$50, a \$15 increase from last year's \$35, and a non-resident single will now pay an initiation cost of \$25, up \$5 from last year. In addition to first-year members, initiation fees will affect those members currently returning to the pool after skipping a year of membership. Applications are available in borough hall's recreation department.

While the new rates will bring more money into the borough's coffers, the pool will also spend more due to salary increases, additional staffing and new equipment, officials said. In the 2007 season, pool employees, including the pool manager, two assistant managers, lifeguards and maintenance staff, will receive raises.

The pool recently spent \$140,000 to build two new slides and will pay \$8,300 in staff fees to hire lifeguards for both. "We thought the increase was rather fair — people are going to enjoy the new slides," Mr. Turner said.

Mayor Robert Vigilanti said another expense for the pool, "if not this

year, then next," would be the paving the pool's parking lot.

In other business, the borough has been notified that it will receive funding through New Jersey Department of Transportation's (DOT) Municipal Aid Program for work to be done on a section of Central Avenue in the amount of \$180,000.

The borough council agreed to release from an escrow account \$1,000 to Charles Pijanowski of 214 Pembroke Road for a sanitary sewer trench and \$800 to Kim and James Alexander of 360 Hedge Row for curb work.

The governing body agreed to a request from Our Lady of Lourdes Church to waive the borough's permits fees on the church's current renovation. Additionally, they authorized the advertising and public sale of a 1993 Ford Ranger, used by the recreation department, and a 1995 Chevy Caprice, used by the fire chief.

Mayor Vigilanti announced plans to renew the borough's contract with Commerce Risk Control Services for random drug and alcohol testing for 2007 commercial driver licenses, as well as a contract renewal with Associated Humane Societies in Newark for animal control services.

Under the renewal, the DOT would remain responsible for the pick-up of deer carcasses on state roads, such as Route 22, while the county would continue to handle any pick-up on private roads.

The mayor also announced a request from Chief Finance Officer Diane Marus for end-of-the-year budget transfers. "While we are in good financial shape, we do need some necessary transfers," he said.

The governing body went into executive session to discuss contract negotiations with Irvin Contractors, tax-appeal cases with HarMac Corp and Mars Electronics and personnel issues involving the borough's website coordinator and the public works schedule coordinator.

New Businesses Open In Downtown Westfield

WESTFIELD — The Downtown Westfield Corporation welcomes the following new businesses to Westfield's shopping, dining and service district:

Chico's just relocated to 76 Elm Street and is in the process of completing an historic restoration of the storefront working with the DWC Design Committee.

White House | Black Market will open soon at the former Chico's store at 206 East Broad Street.

Cosi, a new restaurant with more than 100 locations nationwide, will open soon at 102 East Broad Street.

EarthChild, children's clothing line, is opening at 111 Central Avenue.

Hi-5 Candy & Ice Café will be opening soon at 50 Elm Street in the former location of KaBloom.

Panoply, a new custom drapes, bedding and home furnishings store, is now open at 411 South Avenue West.

Bovella's Pastry Shoppe, 101 East

Broad Street, is under new ownership and has changes planned including an historic restoration of the storefront working with the DWC Design Committee.

Jerzey Cutz, a new barbershop, will be opening soon at 227 South Avenue.

Perla, a fashion and accessory store featuring contemporary designer collections, is now open at 241 North Avenue West.


Learning Express, a franchisor of specialty toy stores, is now open at 184 Elm Street.

Tutti Baci Café, an authentic Italian café, offering pastry, espresso, panini, gelato, soups and salads, is now open at 401 South Avenue.

The DWC is the management entity of the special improvement district. For more information, call Sherry Cronin at (908) 789-9444 or e-mail scronin@westfieldnj.com. The DWC website is westfieldtoday.com.



SUCCESS...Rahway Hospital Foundation ladies pose with raffle gift baskets at the Bridgewater Marriott on November 4, when their fundraiser netted \$67,000. Above, left to right, are Marie Galvin, Marla Lind, Peggy Ann Nicora and Marlene Lubinger.




December 2006 Events at the Westfield Memorial Library
Library Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:30 AM to 9:00 PM
Friday and Saturday 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Sunday 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM


ADULT PROGRAMS		
Dec 1	1:30 PM	TGIF: Irving Berlin
Dec 6	7:00 PM	Performance: Phillip Lester
Dec 8	1:30 PM	TGIF: Banjo Rascals
Dec 12	2 & 7 PM	Film: The Closet
Dec 15	1:30 PM	TGIF: Walt Disney
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS		
Dec 7	3:45 PM	Art History Adventures
Dec 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	10:00 AM	Chess

Restrictions regarding pre-registration or age may apply to some programs.


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