



**TOP NOTCH...**The WHS Marching Band competed in Verona on Saturday and won five first places for ensemble music, individual music, percussion, music emphasis and visual emphasis. Pictured, from left to right, are: Front row, drum majors Samantha Avis, Stephanie Musat and Danielle Tepper, and back row, guard members Cara Paulan and Jessica Harmer.

## Mountainside Council

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In other business, the mayor said he would voice his disapproval of a new state tax law to Governor Jon Corzine. The new law requires sales and use tax on municipal services such as parking.

In Mountainside, where there are 52 parking spaces at \$30 per permit, the tax will equal about \$105. Mayor Vigilanti said that amount does not justify the burden on the borough and the taxpayers.

The council supported the mayor in sending a complaint letter to the Governor.

Mayor Vigilanti also proposed fixing up three of the "Welcome to Mountainside" signs, which he said are in "bad shape." The signs, on Route 22 East and West and outside borough hall, will cost about \$350 each to prime and paint.

The signs were raised 25 years ago. "These things are massive," said the mayor, saying it would be too dangerous for the public works employees to dismantle and fix them. If the borough hires a company, the signs will be painted on site.

## Planning Bd.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

providing site plans for construction at 208 Lenox Avenue. The applicant, again Needle Point Homes, LLC, intends to expand the existing structure, creating a three-story building with retail space on the first floor and two apartments on each of the second and third floors.

The applicant sought variances including one against a land use ordinance requiring eight parking spaces for the proposed property. Needle Point Homes has secured four spaces from nearby Fresco Realty at 220 Lenox Avenue. Residents at the proposed building could use these spaces at night and on weekends, the applicant said. During the business day, according to Mr. Needle, there is ample street parking on Lenox Avenue.

Mr. Wilt said the existing building at 212 Lenox, also a Needle Point property, "turned out to be a nice addition to the neighborhood."

Mr. Needle said the new home at 208 Lenox would be a similar construction.

The council passed a motion allowing the Red Cross of Westfield-Mountainside to hold an upcoming 50/50 draw raffle.

The borough council will meet again Tuesday night at 8 p.m.

## WF Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and now are endorsing this measure to increase the cost of parking to our residents. You can't have it both ways."

Mr. Haas "made the point" that by voting against passing the resolution, he and Mr. Bigosinski are "not endorsing the tax increases," saying "it's the form of protest that we are objecting to."

Mr. Haas told *The Leader* that "numerous studies conducted under both parties' leadership, as well as a study from the League of Municipalities, as well as many others, all cite the need to remove part-time employees from the pension roles as one of the key issues in reforming our pension system."

"I would hope that State Senator (Tom) Kean, who cited the lack of pension reform as a basis for his opposition to this year's budget, would support immediate pension reform in Westfield. I would expect him to encourage his fellow Westfield Republicans to enact these reforms today. Actions, such as town ordinances, not words, as in the meaningless resolutions, are what is required for real property-tax reform," he said.

In separate business, the council unanimously passed on second reading an ordinance amending the town's land-use ordinance to permit six-foot fences in the front yard when a property is under construction as determined by the construction official.

## Erratum

The captions on photographs on page 9 of last week's paper accompanying a story about a party for Children's Specialized Hospital were accidentally transferred. The lower picture was actually Larry Darrow with Peter Weinstein, 8, of Chatham, who is in the fire engine. The top picture was magician Will Fern performing for the children.

A story in last week's Arts and Entertainment section was continued from page 26, not page 1 as indicated.

## Mirabella Interview

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stepson of Sheriff Ralph Froehlich purchased three luxury cars for \$300 to satisfy a \$242,000 court judgment. Hillside Auto Center had been found guilty of selling a Mercedes Benz with a defective radio, a violation of the lemon clause of the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act.

"Obviously, in the end, it was decided to return the vehicles to the leasing company. In the end, it worked out the way it should have probably worked out in the beginning," Mr. Mirabella said. "Was the legal process followed? Yes. Does that mean the legal process needs to be changed to make it fairer? Probably yes."

"It is one thing to make whole. It is a totally other thing to make doubly whole," Mr. Mirabella said.

Mr. D'Elia said Sheriff Froehlich's office was required to uphold the judge's order for seizure and auction of the cars despite the involvement of the sheriff's family in the case.

"He is who we all aspire to kind of work towards. To have something like this pop up, I think he was frustrated with how it played out," Mr. Mirabella said.

In terms of reducing county taxes in future years, the freeholder chairman pointed to sharing services, such as equipment and bulk purchases, with other municipalities and surrounding counties as an avenue the county was investigating. He mentioned a county animal shelter as one service the county is looking to establish to save towns money on animal-control services.

The county recently sponsored a forum on shared services per a \$104,000 state grant it received. Eleven of the 21 municipalities in the county participated. Mr. Mirabella said he wants to hold another forum with school districts. He is also working to establish a coalition of North Jersey counties similar to ones in the southern and western parts of the state through the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC). He said northern counties have a good deal of "buying power" that they could take advantage of by working together.

He reasoned that fire services and school-administrative services could be regionalized, as is the case with ball fields and sports leagues in Scotch Plains and Fanwood, not to mention the school system. "(SP-F) is a model for how things should work," he said.

Another area Mr. Mirabella said the county has worked at is an early retirement program for county employees, which he said "is going to

save significant dollars in the next couple of years."

He said the county has frozen the jobs of employees who took the plan until officials determine the need for filling the vacated position. He said only emergency positions, such as public safety and mandated positions, have been filled since the county instituted a hiring freeze.

A state Division of Pensions and Benefits' report in *The Sunday Star-Ledger*, published after *The Leader's* interview with Mr. Mirabella, indicated that in the long run, the program would cost the county \$9.3 million when benefits, including to persons over age 65, are factored. The county has disputed that claim. County officials and some of its unions have agreed to 0-percent increases in the first few years of a contract in exchange for retiree benefits beyond what Medicare offers.

On communications with the state, Mr. Mirabella said he had a good working relationship with Democratic and Republican members of the legislature. He said that County Manager George Devaney also directly calls the Governor's Office and commissioners when county issues arise.

On school safety, he said the county was charged with generating emergency plans for all schools in the county. Union County, working with local police departments and school superintendents, was the first to create the plans in the state. "With two young children in the school system, I take that very seriously," he said.

Mr. Mirabella said he was proud of the county's Open Space Trust Fund effort to work for a compromise of open space at the former Sevell Ponderosa Farm property in Scotch Plains, which will contain soccer fields instead of a children's farm, and the purchase of the Esposito Farm in Clark, which is being developed for baseball and soccer fields, tennis courts and skateboarding. The county also has purchased the Clark reservoir and is in the process of cleaning up the 150-acre property.

He said the newly expanded Trailside Nature and Science Center is "unbelievable. That is a tourist stop now."

When asked what he wanted to convey to county residents, he said, "We are working hard to provide the right services and the best services we can from the county level at the best cost, and we are looking at ways to do better."



**TEN YEARS OF THRILLS...**John and Rose Simons of Summit Avenue in Westfield prepare their home for Halloween thrills. This is their tenth year installing the castle fun-filled facade with fright tours inside. As in past years, children are expected to wait in line for hours.

Paid Bulletin Board

## An Open Letter to the Citizens of Westfield From New Jersey State P.B.A. Local 90

Where do you turn when you have an emergency? Whether it's responding to urgent calls for assistance, investigating criminal activity or simply helping a lost child, the men and women of the Town of Westfield Police Department are committed to providing a high level of service to the community. The police force, nearly sixty members strong, works 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year, to ensure the safety and security of Westfield's growing population. These men and women are proud to serve the people of Westfield, and New Jersey State PBA Local 90 is equally proud to represent these officers and detectives.

### Now, Your Police Officers Need Your Help

For nearly a year now, the police force in the Town of Westfield has been working without a contract. At meeting after meeting, PBA Local 90 has tried to persuade the town to make a reasonable offer to settle the contract, without success. While our contract issues will never diminish the level of service that these officers are prepared to provide, the ongoing struggle to win fair compensation has undermined officer morale and created a great deal of anxiety for members of the force. Seeing no light at the end of this dark tunnel, we are now compelled to turn to our most important and valued constituency - the citizens of Westfield - for help.

### Called To Step Up, But Falling Behind...

As police officers, we each swore an oath to serve and protect, even at the cost of our own lives, and we live by that oath every day. But, like you,

we also have more mundane concerns - paying the bills, raising our children, and planning for retirement. According to the latest data, the cost of living has gone up by 3.8 percent nationally from August 2005 to August 2006, and in the New York/North Jersey region, the one-year cost of living increase is a staggering 4.7 percent.<sup>1</sup> If these trends continue, the cost of living over the next four years can be expected to increase by nearly 20 percent.

Remarkably, the town has demanded that many officers go without a cost-of-living increase for the next four years! Even where increases are proposed for certain officers, the town's offer falls far short of keeping pace with the rising cost of living in New Jersey.

### Planning For The Future...

Equally troubling is the town's stance on salary for newly hired officers. The town is proposing to increase starting salary by a paltry \$1,723 over the next four years! This means that the starting salary for a Westfield Police Officer would remain at less than \$35,000 until 2009! How can the town expect to compete for top-flight candidates for its police department if the starting salary is kept at this depressed level? We have posed this question to the town, but there has been no answer.

Please join us on Tuesday, October 24 at 8 p.m. at the council meeting, Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, to show your support. Let Mayor Skibitsky know of your support. E-mail - mayor@westfieldnj.gov.

<sup>1</sup> Data Source - Bureau of Labor Statistics - www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.t03.htm

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Sunday, October 1, Erika Lytell, 23, of Plainfield was arrested during a motor vehicle stop in the 300 block of Hyslip Avenue and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was released on her own recognizance with summonses pending an October 11 court date.

Monday, October 2, Gordon Novak, 42, of Westfield was arrested on Coddling Road on a no-bail Union County Sheriff's Department warrant. He was processed and transferred to the Union County jail.

Monday, October 2, a motor vehicle belonging to a resident of North Euclid Avenue sustained damage as the result of criminal mischief. Dings and scratches were discovered on the roof of the vehicle. The damage occurred while the vehicle was parked in the owner's driveway.

Monday, October 2, Amari Simeon, 18, of Piscataway was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant. She was processed and released after posting \$91 bail.

Monday, October 2, Kunwar "Eddie" Baba, 22, of Westfield was arrested at St. Paul Street and Tremont Avenue on an outstanding Scotch Plains criminal warrant. He posted \$466 bail and was released pending a court date.

Monday, October 2, Kasaidme Barlow, 29, of Plainfield was arrested at Plainfield police headquarters on an outstanding Westfield town code warrant. Barlow posted \$151 bail and was released pending a court date.

Tuesday, October 3, Juan Balbuena, 32, of Westfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at West North Avenue and Clark Street and charged with driving while intoxicated and refused to submit to an Alcotest. He was held until sober or released to a responsible individual.

Tuesday, October 3, Raymond Walsh, Jr., 43, of Westfield was arrested at his residence on an active no-bail Union County Sheriff's Department warrant. Further investigation revealed an outstanding Elmwood Park traffic warrant with bail in the amount of \$516. Walsh was turned over to the Union County Sheriff's Department and committed to the Union County jail.

Wednesday, October 4, William D. Beraw, 34, of Westfield was arrested at the south side Westfield train station and charged with theft of services for allegedly failing to pay his taxicab fare. Beraw was processed and released with a summons.

Wednesday, October 4, Richard L. Franko, 46, of Westfield was arrested and charged with obstructing justice during an incident in the 100 block of Prospect Street. Police said Franko, who was in his motor vehicle, failed to obey a traffic officer's direction to stop. He is alleged to have then screamed profanities at the officer and refused to comply with the officer's order to pull over. Franko was subsequently released with a summons.

Wednesday, October 4, Eliana Tobar, 35, of Elizabeth was arrested on an outstanding Wall Township criminal warrant following a motor vehicle stop at

South and Summit Avenues. She was released after posting \$451 bail.

Thursday, October 5, a North Avenue resident reported the theft of his blue Schwinn men's three-speed bicycle, which had been locked at the north side Westfield train station.

Friday, October 6, Dean Kalamaras, 47, of Westfield was arrested during a motor vehicle stop at Prospect and East Broad Streets on a contempt-of-court traffic warrant from Fanwood. He was released after posting \$500 bail.

### Mountainside

Tuesday, October 3, Manuel M. Merchan-Silva, 42, of Newark was stopped for displaying passenger plates on a commercial vehicle and subsequently was arrested for driving with a suspended license and for an active warrant from Orange in the amount of \$371, as well as hindering apprehension.

Wednesday, October 4, Gavid G. Zamora, 23, of Angier, N.C. was stopped for improper passing and arrested on an active Bound Brook warrant in the amount of \$250.

Wednesday, October 4, Tamir Q. Leake, 19, of Mountainside was stopped for a headlight violation and driving with tinted windows. He later was arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana and with hindering apprehension. He also was arrested on an active warrant out of East Orange in the amount of \$114.

### Fanwood

Tuesday, October 3, Renee Lucas, 35, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Green Brook after a motor vehicle stop at LaGrande Avenue.

Tuesday, October 3, Bradford E. Scher, 31, of Blairstown was arrested and charged with shoplifting at a South Avenue grocery store. According to authorities, a store employee alerted police to the crime and a county alert was put out on the suspect's vehicle. Cranford police apprehended the suspect and transported him to Fanwood headquarters for processing.

Wednesday, October 4, Quajerah M. Charles, 26, of Elizabeth was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on LaGrande Avenue, which revealed a Union County no-bail warrant.

Thursday, October 5, Kennard E. Naipaul, 30, of Brooklyn, N.Y. was arrested and charged with an outstanding Hackensack warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Midway Avenue.

Friday, October 6, a 17-year-old juvenile from Westfield was arrested and charged with driving without a license.

Friday, October 6, Carlos A. Martinez-Sorian, 33, of North Bergen was arrested on an outstanding North Bergen warrant after a field investigation.

Friday, October 6, Kerry Ann C. Clarke, 28, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Watchung warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road.

Monday, October 9, Joseph M. Annicchiarico, 40, of Clark was arrested on an outstanding Union County Sheriff's Department no-bail warrant after a motor vehicle stop on LaGrande Avenue.

## Westfield Town Road

### Construction Status Report

WESTFIELD - The Town Engineering and Construction Department reported the status of the following road projects:

Karen Terrace (entire length): Work scheduled to begin early November.

Boulevard (Clifton Street to Clover Street): curbing and resurfacing complete.

Hyslip Avenue (West Broad Street to Dartmoor): work scheduled to begin late October.

South Chestnut Street (East Broad Street to town line): construction in progress.

Terrace Place sanitary sewer replacement: contract complete.

Tuttle Parkway (North Avenue to Clark Street): contract complete.

North Chestnut Street (Mountain Avenue to East Broad Street): contract complete.

Terrace Place (entire length): construction in progress.

Forest Avenue (Channing to Longfellow): construction in progress.

Webster Place (Lincoln Road to Clark Street): construction in progress.

Lenox Avenue (South Euclid to Stanley Avenue): construction in progress.

Highland Avenue (Hillside Avenue to Birch Avenue - state aid project): contract complete.

Kimball Avenue (North Chestnut Street to Lawrence Avenue): contract complete.

North Euclid Avenue (East Broad Street to Mountain Avenue): contract complete.

Boulevard (Grove Street to Clifton Street): contract complete.

Hillside Avenue (Lawrence Avenue to Mountain View Circle): contract awarded. Work scheduled to begin October.

Scudder Road (entire length): contract awarded. Work scheduled to begin October.

Northside train station roof replacement: contract complete.

Springfield Avenue sanitary sewer (Springfield Avenue to Mohican Drive): contract complete.

For more information, contact Kris Macaloon by e-mail at [asstengineer@westfieldnj.gov](mailto:asstengineer@westfieldnj.gov) or call (908) 789-4100, extension no. 606.

## Take a bite...

### Apple Tasting This Weekend

They're sweet and juicy fresh from the orchard. We have over ten types of locally grown apples for you to taste. Some of the newer varieties include Honey Crisp and Cameo. We also will have Stamen Winesap.

Grab a bottle of fresh cider while you're here.

Hayrides, Kids Haunted House and pumpkin picking Thu & Fri 3-5pm, Sat & Sun 10am-4pm. Weather Permitting. (Apples are already picked at a farm an hour from here).

Hours 7 days 9am-6pm

**WILLIAMS NURSERY & The Gift House**  
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**COSTUME CONTEST OCT 28TH 2PM**

## CONGRATULATIONS THE CHELSEA AT FANWOOD

Recipient of AHCA and NCAL Quality Award



The Chelsea at Fanwood received this prestigious award for their achievements in:

- Continually striving to improve resident's quality of life
- Continually improving the quality of care provided to their residents
- Positive and effective management
- Creating a better work environment

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