



Benjamin B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**CONSTRUCTION COMPLAINTS...**Prospect Street in Westfield is closed Tuesday as concrete trucks make deliveries to the Savannah construction site. Neighboring businesses complain of the disruption of their business over the last two years due to the construction. See letter to the editor on this page.

### Prospect Street is the 'War Zone of Westfield'

Nearly two years ago, plans had begun on what most thought would be a great addition to downtown Westfield. The benefits to local businesses was touted continuously, and seemed promising. However, the Savannah on Prospect Street has proven to be nothing more than a loss in profit, and a slow demise for all those within its radius. Continued road and parking lot closures have curtailed traffic, discouraged shopping and have made the day-to-day operations for surrounding businesses nearly impossible.

Local business is precisely what Westfield was built on, and we began our businesses with that as our mantra. Now we are faced with the difficulty of opening our doors each morning (literally). Employees find it difficult to come to work, and once loyal customers who choose to avoid the aggravation of construction, are turning to other, more accessible businesses. Our faith in what we thought Westfield would be, or could be, is no longer prevalent.

We are more dissatisfied and discouraged by the lack of support from local officials, the DWC and the Chamber of Commerce. Each has been approached and each has provided us with empty promises. At a recent DWC meeting, the undersigners met with town administrator Jim Gildea, town councilman Sal Caruana and board members. Our concerns were disregarded and we felt Mr. Caruana was rude. Mr. Gildea took all of our e-mail addresses with a promise to "keep us informed," yet to date, he has not e-mailed us with any information.

Calls to all of these officials have gone unanswered. Even after promises from DWC Executive Director Sherry Cronin and a letter from James Gildea that Prospect Street "would no longer be closed," the street has been closed. In fact, we are staring at a concrete truck through our shop windows as we write this.

Who is the voice of this town? Who has the power and pull to help local businesses like ourselves survive, especially in this crucial holiday shopping season? Prospect Street now resembles what we call, "The War Zone of Westfield." Re-

gardless of the aesthetics, our stores are virtually impossible to access.

Our registers show zero dollars for consecutive days, necessary deliveries are being turned away and outgoing deliveries are near impossible to make. Accessibility and aesthetics are a major draw for our businesses. Without that we have no chance of survival.

While the accommodations at the Savannah, are sure to be quite luxurious, by the end of construction, residents of this new facility might have no place to shop.

Wardens are notorious for their ability to pull strings when necessary, bend the rules when applicable and stroke the hands of those who stroke theirs. We ask them, "Who is the warden of Westfield?" Must the construction of one edifice be the demise of what defines the downtown district? How long will this continue? Will calls remain unanswered? Will local politicians continue stroking the hands of those who stroke theirs? Will the promises of town officials ever be trustworthy again? Soon we might not be able to pay the taxes that the town council, DWC and Chamber of Commerce thrive on. We sincerely hope the warden will be there for them as he has been for us.

Scott Edmonds, Maria Candida, Susan Auer, Ralph Bencivenga, George Brummer, Anna Mastrianni, Michaelangelo, Christina Brennan and John Robert

#### Editor's Note, RVSA

The Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority has instructed a Westfield Leader and Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times reporter not to bring a camera to RVSA public meetings until RVSA's personnel committee discusses a formal policy and commissioners approve it in January. Although we question the legality of this, we will comply until the matter is resolved.

Personnel Committee chairman Joan Papan of Scotch Plains said RVSA interim administrator Michael Brinker issued a ban on videotaping/photography at the plant after an individual videotaped employees without permission.

## Letters to the Editor

### Although Hurt and Angry, We Forgive the Christmas Thief

Peter and I have owned Vicki's Diner [Westfield] since 1999. Nothing like this has ever happened to us. Last Tuesday, a very expensive Santa was stolen from the front of the diner thereby ruining our Christmas. Not only was the Santa stolen, so was the spirit with which it was placed there stolen as well.

We spend a great deal of time, energy, not to mention expense, to foster the holiday spirit in and around our business. We wish each and every customer and friend a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. Our joy for the season has now been diminished by some childish act of thievery.

While we realize that this is not as cruel as desecrating religious symbols or displays (which happens all too often, even in "colonial Westfield"), the deed is still done.

Feeling incredibly angry about this event, my friend, Reverend Ray said to me that this is exactly the sort of person that Christmas is meant especially for.

So, in that spirit, may we wish you and yours a very merry and blessed Christmas as well as a happy, healthy and prosperous new year — you Christmas thief.

We'll forgive you; we hope you can forgive yourself.

Helen and Peter Rentouis  
 Mountainside

### Thank You to a Kind Person

I am a student at Westfield High School, and I wanted to take a moment to express my thankfulness. Recently I lost my wallet at the high school play and I thought it would never be returned. However, it was returned to me sometime later, with all the money included.

I just wanted to express my gratitude and appreciation to the kind person who turned it in. Thank you.

Parker Enix-Ross  
 Westfield

### Editorial is Misleading on Public Education Failing in Teaching English

As someone who immigrated to this country as a child and as one of the teachers and the coordinator of the ESL Program for Westfield School District, your editorial on December 13, entitled, "Without English, an Immigrant's 'Child Will be Left Behind'", caught my eye.

I totally agree with you that learning English is vital to an individual's success in this great country of ours. Since most immigrants choose to move here for a better life, it certainly is in their best interest to learn English. I have no problem with that message.

However, I object to your statement that, "Public education is failing in schools that teach English as a second language." Your reference to the low literacy rate of high school graduates from the city of Elizabeth as an example of this failure is very misleading. The instruction of English as a second language is precisely that, the teaching of English to students

whose first language is not English. Since their native language is their first language, they are being taught English as their second language (ESL). Even in school districts, such as Elizabeth, that offer a state mandated bilingual program due to a large population of one language group or another, ESL instruction is a required component of the bilingual program.

Westfield has offered an ESL program for about 30 years. Over the course of those years, the predominant native language of our English language learners (ELLs) has changed from Italian to Japanese to Korean and Spanish. As one of three ESL teachers in our district, I am very proud of the work we do every day to help our ELLs learn to understand, speak, read and write English in social and academic situations.

Nancy Liggera  
 Clark



From The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times



1940s GREATS...Westfield High School football greets from coach Freeman's single-wing attack meet to remember good times. See letter on page 4. Pictured, left to right, are the McGinley brothers: Gerry, Rick and Ed with Alice Brady Cooper.

### Marks Condemns Stender Vote to Abolish Death Penalty in New Jersey

Gov. Jon Corzine and the New Jersey Legislature have validated once again why our state is perceived to be one of the most liberal in the nation with the signing of the bill to abolish the death penalty for even the most heinous of criminal monsters. With her vote in support of this bill Assemblywoman Linda Stender, who is presumed to once again be the Democrat candidate for Congress in the Seventh Congressional District, has shown that on this issue she is out of step with the residents of our district.

The rationale used for eliminating the death penalty in New Jersey has been specious at best. The claim that capital punishment is not a deterrent to crime is impossible to practically back up as it has been decades since an execution has actually been carried out in this state. Our liberal judiciary and the long drawn out appeals process have thwarted the implementation of the sentence at every turn. With the advances in forensic science, in particular DNA analysis, we can be certain that those convicted beyond a reasonable doubt of a brutal capital crime will appropriately receive the punishment they

deserve. With this most ill-conceived bill, our Governor and the New Jersey Legislature have sent the wrong message not only to the most odious walking the streets, but, more importantly, to the law abiding citizens of our state. We, at the very least, deserve representatives in Trenton and Washington who will not kowtow to the liberal establishment that seem to be more concerned about the rights of the most vicious of predators rather than the most innocent among us.

Instead of enthusiastically signing this bill, Gov. Jon Corzine should have used his veto and then send the issue back to the Legislature so that whatever flaws are perceived to be in our present death penalty statute that have prevented it from being implemented for so many years, could have been addressed and remedied.

Martin Marks for Congress  
 Scotch Plains

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20% OFF

Any 12 bottles or more of wine

10% OFF

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Mix & Match is O.K. Sale items are excluded. 750ml only.

## Some of Our Best Wines For Your Holiday

**CHATEAU JEAN FAURE ST. EMILION GRAND CRU 2005 \$44.99**  
 A spectacular example of great right bank wine that at \$44.99 is selling at a price that is almost ridiculously low. Their neighbors (Ch. L'Evangile, Dominique and Cheval Blanc) get as much as 20 times more. Planted to near equal parts of Cabernet Franc and Merlot (almost the exact mix found at Cheval Blanc), the 2005 was a near perfect growing season for Jean Faure. Cassis, cherry, purple fruit, lavender and a kiss of oak

**TOROS PINOT GRIGIO \$38.99**

Let's be realistic. There are oceans of bad and overpriced & underflavored pinot grigios on the market. It is so much the case that serious wine people have forgotten how really great a small production pinot grigio can be. This will remind you. It has all of the clean fresh quality that one expects from the grape. It is the depth of fruit & mineral structure and floral tones in this that make it so astonishing.

**VILLEMARINE TOURAINE ROSE PINEAU D'AUNIS 2006 \$14.99**

A beautiful dry wine from the Loire Valley. The Pineau d'Aunis is an extremely rare red grape that can produce delightful pink wine. There are cherry and Christmas spice flavors that stay with you on the finish. This goes well with turkey, ham, and appetizers. Don't fear pink.

**PARCEL 41 NAPA VALLEY MERLOT 2005 \$18.99**

It is all too rare to find a merlot, let alone a Napa Valley merlot, that is worth drinking under \$20. There are no hard edges, just profound blackberry and currant fruit with touches of mocha and coffee. Beef or lavish game dishes will both work. If you have given up on Napa Merlot, this should give you a pause.

**REININGER CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2003 \$37.99**

While Washington State has built its reputation on merlot, our feeling is that syrah and particularly cabernet are where the real potential lies. The difference between night and day temperature provides the combination of full ripeness and good acidity that ensure balanced wine. There are deep cassis and berry flavors that linger on the palate. This is full and graceful at the same time.

**CLOS JULIEN CHARDONNAY 2006 \$14.99**

This wine is sourced from three of the finest chardonnay vineyards in the Central Coast region: Wolff, Cypress in Monterey and Talley's Oliver. Fermented in stainless steel, it is then aged in oak on its lees. The aging adds a creamy counterpoint to the bright acid & pear, apple and tropical fruit flavors.

#### Your Favorite Scotch

Dewars White Label	\$29.99	1.75L
Chivas Regal	\$57.99	1.75L
Johnnie Walker Black	\$57.99	1.75L
Johnnie Walker Red	\$29.99	1.75L
Clan MacGregor	\$16.99	1.75L

#### Your Favorite Gin / Rum

Bombay Sapphire	\$36.99	1.75L
Tanqueray	\$32.99	1.75L
Hendricks	\$28.99	750ml
Beefeater	\$29.99	1.75L
Gordons	\$15.99	1.75L
Seagrams	\$16.99	1.75L

Captain Morgan	\$25.99	1.75L
Bacardi Silver	\$19.99	1.75L
Bacardi Gold	\$19.99	1.75L
Malibu	\$25.99	1.75L



Smart Wines

From Everywhere, At Every Price

## Featured Special

### Villa Zarri Italian Brandy

\$64.99

Most often when people think of Brandy, they think of Cognac, Armanagac, or perhaps Spain. This will make you think of Italy when you think Brandy. Made from Trebbiano grapes that are fermented to only 10% alcohol, there is no harsh edge to this. Frequently, even high-end cognac will leave a burning sensation on the palate. This is all smooth, smoky, silky fruit. Blended from lots that have been in barrel between 10 and 15 years, the oak is seamlessly integrated. No artificial coloring, artificial sweeteners or added sulfites. This is pure pot-distilled brandy at its finest. Put another log on the fire.



## Gift Baskets

Our Gift Baskets make Holiday Shopping Easy!  
 Pick from our ready-made selections or let us design something special for you.

We reserve the right to limit quantities while quantities last. Not responsible for typographical errors. All prices do not include state sales tax.

**RAUEN DETZEMER MAXIMINER KLOSTERLAY SPATLESE 2006 \$18.99**  
 From the renowned Klosterlay Vineyard, this '06 is having a stunning youth. It is balanced and very long on the palate. There are all kinds of melon and peach tones as well as hints of citrus. It goes well with chicken, pork, turkey, light to medium cheeses, or perfectly on its own. It will age wonderfully for at least 10 years.

**IL COLLE BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO 2001 \$39.99**

Brunello is the ultimate expression of the sangiovese grape and 2001 was a terrific year. Minerals, tobacco and earth elements frame the dark berry and cherry fruits. In the midst of all that, there are leather, herbal and floral notes. Wonderful complexity. Decant for an hour.

**BRISEBARRE VOUVRAY DEMI-SEC 1985 \$29.99**

People tend to underestimate the ability of white wine to age. We don't mean every day white, but special white. Just a small touch of sweet, balanced by acidity, adds to the peach, mango and apple flavors. There are hints of nuts and flowers here. Great with fresh fruit, cheese, fish or light poultry. There are people of legal drinking age who weren't born when this was made. Think about that, note the absurdly low price.

**TIR NA N'OG OLD VINE GRENACHE 2005 \$28.99**

As vines age, they produce less grapes from a more extensive root structure. This leads to a concentration of flavors in the lower yield grapes. This is rich in black cherry, black berry, chocolate and earth flavors. There is plenty of spice and a surprising amount of balance for such a ripe wine.

**KARTHAUSEROF STEINTERRASSEN GRUNER VELTLINER \$15.99**

The Wachau is the greatest white wine region in the world that nobody talks about. Gruner Veltliner is the greatest white grape nobody talks about. It goes with everything really. Single vineyard wine filled with stone fruits, mineral, spice, flowers and more.

**LATITUDE 50 RHEINGAU PINOT NOIR 2006 \$14.99**

One of the rare examples of German red that finds its way to the states. Soft bing cherry flavor is balanced by good acidity and the mineral tones from the stony soil. Little bits of flower and spice come through as well. An amazing price for a quality pinot noir. It will go gracefully with turkey or ham.

#### Your Favorite Whiskey

Jack Daniels	\$37.99	1.75L
Jim Beam	\$25.99	1.75L
Seagrams 7	\$16.99	1.75L

#### Your Favorite Vodka

Absolut 80	\$29.99	1.75L
Ketel One	\$36.99	1.75L
Grey Goose	\$27.99	750ml
Smirnoff	\$19.99	1.75L
Stolichnaya	\$32.99	1.75L
Skyv	\$21.99	1.75L
Wolfschmidt	\$13.99	1.75L
Gordons	\$15.99	1.75L

#### Your Favorite Cordials

Baileys	\$18.99	750ml
Romana Sambuca	\$18.99	750ml
Kahlua	\$17.99	750ml
Southern Comfort	\$15.99	750ml
Amaretto Di Saronno	\$18.99	750ml