

# WFPD to Receive Federal Money from Ferguson

By MARTIN SWEENEY  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD—The Westfield Police Department received \$100,000 on Monday afternoon for the purchase of 70 hand-held radios and for upgrades to the town's emergency dispatch center.

Congressman Mike Ferguson (R-7) presented Police Chief John Parizeau and Mayor Andy Skibitsky with the check. "If we know we're helping the Westfield Police Department, we know we're helping surrounding communities," Mr. Ferguson said.

According to a house.gov press release, the annual appropriations bill, which the House is scheduled to approve this week, must still be reconciled with the Senate's version of the legislation before a final measure could be sent to the White House.

If the annual appropriations bill passes, the funds will be secured by the start of the fiscal year on October 1.

Other neighboring towns receiving similar federal money include Cranford and Summit.

The current radios in use by the police department are unable to communicate with Westfield's fire and emergency medical services. "You know they (the radios) are old when Motorola stops making spare parts for them," said Chief Parizeau.

The new multi-frequency radios will allow for direct communication with Westfield's emergency squads, as well as with those from surrounding communities and counties.

In addition to the handheld radios, a new base communications center will be installed at the police department's emergency dispatch center.

"These important funds would enable our entire department to make critical communications improvements that will ultimately lead to increased public safety," said Mayor Skibitsky.



Martin Sweeney for The Westfield Leader  
**UPGRADES COMING...** Westfield receives \$100,000 for upgrading police equipment. Pictured, left to right, are: WPD recruit Christopher Scuzzo of Clark, Police Chief John Parizeau, Third Ward Councilman Mark Ciarrocca, Rep. Mike Ferguson (R-7), Mayor Andy Skibitsky and WPD recruit Joseph Saunders of Westfield.



Courtesy of Sharon Stockwell  
**ANATOMY OF A TEARDOWN...**An aged home from the late 1800s is torn down last Wednesday at 700 Clark Street in Westfield to make way for the building of new homes on the site.

# Mountainside BOE Prepares For 2007-2008 School Year

By LIZA KATZ  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Mountainside Board of Education met Tuesday night to discuss plans for the upcoming school year.

After the board approved the Comprehensive Equity Plan from the New Jersey Department of Education, board president John Perrin discussed the board's June 26 meeting.

At that time, he created an ad hoc committee to attend borough council meetings and represent the board's position on building a community center on school property. The board viewed the council's idea as a positive change. So far, no council meetings have been scheduled concerning the proposed community center.

Chief School Administrator Richard O'Malley said in his report that

the summer school, enrichment and camp programs this summer were a success and noted that preparations for the 2007-2008 school year are ahead of schedule.

The schools are ready to be cleaned for the fall, and while the district is still looking for an occupational therapist, a baseball coach and a softball coach, all other positions have been filled.

Students have already received their school supply lists, which also are available online and in the main offices at Beechwood and Deerfield Schools.

The board amended the 2007-2008 school calendar. Parents' night at Beechwood School has been moved from September 12 to September 20 in observation of Rosh Hashanah on the night of September 12. Deerfield School's parents' night will remain on September 19.

# POLICE BLOTTER

## Westfield

Tuesday, July 17, Danny Robinson, 41, of Westfield was arrested on the 200 block of Grove Street and charged with two counts of burglary, two counts of theft and criminal mischief pursuant to an ongoing investigation. He was held in lieu of \$7,500 bail pending a July 20 court date.

Wednesday, July 18, Turrel Sutton, 22, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana following a South Avenue motor vehicle stop. He was released on his own recognizance with a summons pending an August 2 court date.

Thursday, July 19, Merih Yavuz, 21, of Westfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters after surrendering himself on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant. He was released after posting \$91 bail.

Friday, July 20, three bicycles were reported stolen from a residential property on the 400 block of Harrison Avenue. They were described as a red specialized hybrid bicycle, a blue and white Schwinn mountain bicycle and a maroon and purple mountain bicycle.

Saturday, July 21, Adolfo Plaza, 22, of Berkeley Heights was arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana during a Mountain Avenue motor vehicle stop. He was released with a summons.

Saturday, July 21, an incident of burglary and criminal mischief was reported on the 400 block of Roanoke Road. Responding to an alarm call at a residence, police officers noticed an open front door. After establishing a perimeter and searching the residence, they noted the presence of smoke in the house.

The Westfield Fire Department responded and located the fire's source—the alarm panel—and extinguished the small fire. The owner of the home told police that nothing appeared to have been stolen.

Monday, July 16, Anthony P. Mazzilli, 19, of Mountainside and Craig E. Campbell, 19, of Westfield, were arrested and charged with criminal mischief and theft for previously reported crimes at two gas stations and at a muffler shop.

Monday, July 16, someone attempted to break in to an unoccupied Mountain Avenue store by throwing a stone through a window. Police were unable to determine if anything was taken.

Monday, July 16, a disposal company employee was bitten by a dog while collecting garbage from a residence on Mountain Avenue. The Westfield Health Department was notified of the incident.

Monday, July 16, a Highwood Road resident said someone capped a drainage pipe on his property that routes runoff from the home's gutter to the rear yard. Police said the property owner said damage to the home was \$2,000.

Monday, July 16, Police reported that .22 caliber bullets were found in the roadway at Summit Road and Route 22 west. Police said passing vehicles ran over the bullets. Police responded to the scene after a call of suspicious items in the roadway.

Tuesday, July 17, John A. Silva, 48, of Mountainside was arrested and charged with aggravated assault and possession of a weapon for unlawful purposes. Police said the arrest was the result of an investigation into a June 2 altercation that resulted in the victim sustaining facial injuries.

Tuesday, July 17, Gregory D. Lewis, 23, of Newark, was arrested and charged with theft of movable property, receiving stolen property and driving while on the suspended list, police said.

Police stopped Lewis eastbound on Route 22 for driving a stolen vehicle following a report of a stolen 1996 Pontiac Bonneville from Second Street in Scotch Plains.

Tuesday, July 17, a resident reported that someone made a payment for a cell phone account with the victim's bank debit card.

Tuesday, July 17, someone broke into a motor vehicle, parked in a Long Meadow resident's garage. A GPS system and a set of golf clubs were reported missing, a value of \$1,250, as well as \$5 in loose change.

Tuesday, July 17, police received a call of a suspicious person on Mountain Avenue. Police responded and attempted to question the man, at which point he ran towards the driveway of the Mountainside Community Pool. When questioned, the man ran a second time towards Route 22.

at which point police lost sight of him. Police described the man as black, 6 feet tall and in his 20s. He was wearing a white T-shirt, blue jean shorts and a baseball cap.

Wednesday, July 18, Tyrone M. Ritter, 39, of Maplewood, was arrested and charged with driving on the suspended list following a motor vehicle stop.

Wednesday, July 18, a resident called police headquarters to report that someone called her home asking for money. The caller said the resident's son owed him money. The woman said her son no longer lives at the residence.

Wednesday, July 18, an Elston Drive resident reported receiving harassing calls from a male caller. The resident traced the call to Virginia.

Thursday, July 19, David Appleby Jr. of Lafayette was arrested for an outstanding warrant for \$750 out of Hanover Township. He was initially stopped for a loud muffler on Apple Tree Lane.

Thursday, July 19, a Route 22 East business reported a large sofa in its rear parking lot.

Thursday, July 19, a 13-year-old juvenile was found intoxicated on the softball field at Deerfield school. The youth was transported to police headquarters and later transported by the rescue squad to Overlook Hospital in Summit. The incident was turned over to the juvenile bureau.

Friday, July 20, police said a gas line on Summit Road was broken by a sewer service operating a backhoe on a lawn on a residence. Police closed Spruce Road and contacted Elizabethtown Gas Co.

Friday, July 20, Monica Vieramoscoso, 33, of Kearny, Raquel Viera, 20, of Newark, and Yareli Ramos, 20, of Union, were arrested and charged with criminal mischief per an investigation of a motor-vehicle keying on Sheffield Street. Viera was charged with theft of a registration card. They were released pending court dates.

Friday, July 20, a patron of a Route 22 movie theater said someone broke the passenger's-side door lock on his car. The owner said damage to the vehicle was \$650.

Saturday, July 21, police said a home on Standish Avenue was entered and that it appeared that a bedroom had been entered. Police said a jewelry box was found on the floor, as was an empty watch display. The homeowners were not home at the time.

Sunday, July 22, police responded to a report of dispute at a Route 22 east restaurant. Police said an employee reported that upon questioning a co-worker about a soup order, the co-worker used profanity and lunged across a kitchen counter at her.

Sunday, July 22, a patron at a Route 22 theater said while viewing a text message on her cell phone, a male patron in her row grabbed her hand and shut her phone. The victim said the patron said if she used the phone again, he would "tread on the phone." He was described as a middle-aged, slightly overweight Caucasian with glasses and a British accent. He drove a grey Volkswagen.

Sunday, July 22, Joshua L. Schmookler, 24, of Plainfield was arrested for an outstanding Mountainside warrant for \$1,000 and \$550 out of Elizabeth. Garwood police transported him to Mountainside.

Sunday, July 22, Blair McGuire, 32, of Newark, was arrested and charged for driving while suspended; police stopped him for driving erratically at a high speed on Route 22 East near Walnut Avenue.

**Scotch Plains**  
Friday, July 20, a resident of Maddaket Court reported being a victim of harassment. She told police she had received several phone calls over the last several weeks at all hours of the day and night.

Saturday, July 21, a resident of Sycamore Avenue reported being a victim of theft. He said someone removed a bicycle from his property that was left unlocked. The bike was valued at \$150.

Saturday, July 21, Malcolm Wade, 32, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a vehicle stop. He was transported to the Union County jail.

Saturday, July 21, Drew Miller, 22, of Scotch Plains, was arrested and charged with burglary. Police said he was seen entering Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School; police apprehended him as he was exiting a window with items belonging to the school. He was taken to the Union County jail and is being held on \$20,000 bail.

Sunday, July 22, Carle D'Angelo, 25, of Scotch Plains was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop. He was released after posting bail.

Sunday, July 22, Patricia Knechtel, 40, of Scotch Plains, was arrested and charged with DWI after a motor vehicle accident. She was released on a summons.

Sunday, July 22, a resident of Hill Road said someone scratched the window of his vehicle, which was parked in front of his house.

Monday, July 23, a resident of Lake Avenue reported that he received a phone call from an ex-client, who made threatening statements to him.

**Fanwood**  
Wednesday, July 18, a resident in the 100 block of North Avenue reported an attempted break-in. An active investigation is currently in progress, police said.

Wednesday, July 18, a resident of the 400 block of South Avenue reported the fraudulent use of their credit card to purchase an item delivered to California. Police are investigating the incident.

Thursday, July 19, Marcos W. Ferreira, 39, of Clarkburg was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Martine and North Avenues for an outstanding Union Township warrant. He posted bail and was released.

Thursday, July 19, Constance D. Collins, 32, of Plainfield was arrested after a Terrill Road motor vehicle stop for an outstanding South Plainfield warrant. She posted bail and was released.

# BHTS Reveals Com. Ctr. Plans, Honors Veterans

By WAYNE BAKER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — Tuesday evening's township council meeting was interrupted when most of the council walked across the street to Memorial Park to recognize six veterans who had returned from service overseas. Prior to the walkout, the council heard a description of the community center proposed for land at the northeast corner of the intersection of Snyder Avenue and the railroad tracks.

Mayor David Cohen emceed the ceremony recognizing the returned township veterans: Sergeant Jon Hawkins, Sergeant Jesse Nelson, Corporal William Fettes, Corporal Mark Neri, Petty Officer 3rd Class Matt Dwyer and Lance Corporal Michael Coletta. State Senator Tom Kean Jr. and Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (both LD-21, Westfield) and Union County Freeholder Dan Sullivan spoke at the ceremony.

Bagpiper Nancy Brown played prior to the event; the festivities kicked off with Jami LaMaita singing "The Star-Spangled Banner." Each serviceman received multiple citations. Members of the Berkeley Heights VFW invited the servicemen to come by and visit.

Most of the conference session of the council meeting focused on an explanation of the community center proposed for the town's portion of the Stanford Drive site. The county has purchased the site, which abuts the railroad line and Snyder Avenue, for

development as a park. The county will sell about four and a half acres to the township for the community center.

The proposal includes a portion dedicated to senior citizens, with other space dedicated to recreation use, including office space, officials said. Multiple portions of the building, including a meeting room, wrestling/aerobics/dance room, gymnasium and smaller spaces, are not yet dedicated for use.

James "Jim" Ramentol, of GRA Architects, the designer of the proposed building, explained the layout. He said the spaces would be constructed differently based on usage, with masonry walls in the athletic and teen areas and drywall used in the senior and office spaces. When questioned about possible future expansion, Mr. Ramentol said the varying ceiling heights required by the larger spaces limit the ability to expand the space, though area above the recreation offices could be used.

Parking at the site is "limited," and Union County plans to construct a lot capable of holding 100 to 135 cars, officials said, noting that the township would construct another lot capable of holding 32 cars. Construction of a second lot of similar size might be possible, depending on wetlands impact.

Multiple people questioned whether parking would be adequate during events using the county's fields.

Residents Joseph Valenti and Larry Rasmussen complained to the council about an erosion problem on their Riceman Road properties. They said the creek that lies alongside the rear of their properties has eroded to the point where it is now taking land away from them. They expressed concerns about safety issues and property values.

Council members said they were uncertain about their ability to take action due to state wetlands rules. The residents asked the council to look at the situation and report back to them.

Monday night's planning board meeting was cancelled. "There was a problem with notice given to residents," board secretary Ana Minkoff said.

A Leader reporter was there to cover the hearing for Prestige Mountain Homes' proposed three-home subdivision, slated to continue at the meeting. The next meeting regarding this proposal will be held on August 20.

# 'Mad Hatter' Robber

18 robberies.

Mr. Quinn said Madison did make an initial appearance in court Monday morning. "The next step is an arraignment, which is going to be Friday (July 27), and from there the next date will be set," he said.

According to The Star-Ledger, U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark Falk ordered Madison held without bail after Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark McCarren asked for the judge to do so because of his serious criminal record and violent past.

Madison has already served 18 years in prison for the bludgeoning death of his former girlfriend in 1986. He had stuffed her body into a suitcase before dumping it in the Passaic River.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

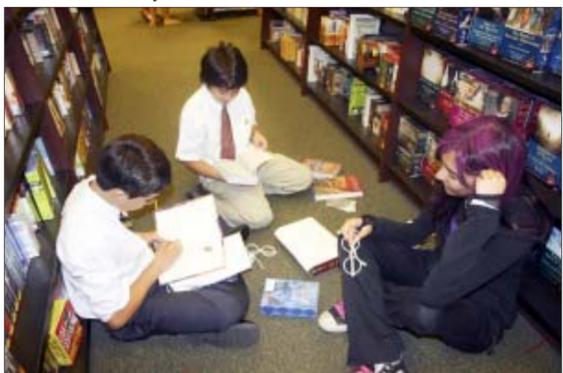
Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun also made a statement Monday: "My message to robbers and violent criminals of all types is that the old adage is true: 'crime does not pay.' Sometimes it may take longer than we would like, but we will catch you and justice will prevail."

Mr. Romankow credited the "Mad Hatter" Taskforce and the FBI with Madison's capture. The taskforce comprised detectives from Union, Morris, Essex and Middlesex County Prosecutor's Offices, as well as municipal police departments in the four counties.

"This is a perfect example of effective cooperation among federal and local enforcement," he said.



Kelei Browning for The Westfield Leader  
**A HISTORY OF MAGIC...**At Barnes & Noble in Clark on Friday night, a costumed baby and his mother await the highly anticipated release of "Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows" above. Below, a mix of young witches and wizards reacquaint themselves with the series' earlier installments before "The Deathly Hallows," the seventh and final "Harry Potter" novel, went on sale at midnight. Muggles across the United States bought more than 8.3 million copies of the book on the day of its release.



**MARIO C. GURRIERI, ESQ.**  
Chair of the Family Law Department of  
**DUGHI & HEWIT**

340 North Avenue ■ Cranford, New Jersey 07016

**DIVORCE QUESTIONS?**  
Specializing in all aspects of Family Law including divorce, custody, visitation, alimony, child support, division of assets, palimony, premarital agreements, domestic partnerships, restraining orders, post-divorce motions due to changed financial circumstances, residence removal from New Jersey, visitation modifications and transfers of custody.

- 35 years of continuous practice in Family Law
- Union County Early Settlement Arbitration Panelist 25 years
- Court-appointed Standing Master & Guardian
- Accredited Mediator
- Formerly Senior Partner at Snevily, Ely, Williams & Gurrieri, Westfield (1972-2000)

For More Information:  
**908-272-0200**  
www.dhplaw.net

**The Rubino OBGYN Group Welcomes**  
**Lisa Abeshaus, M.D., F.A.C.O.G**

We are pleased to announce Dr. Lisa Abeshaus, dedicated gynecologist and obstetrician, has joined the Rubino OBGYN group. Working in private practice for over 11 years and a mother of 4 young children, Dr. Abeshaus brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Rubino practice. Dr. Abeshaus is board certified, with impeccable credentials and an excellent reputation in the community.

Dr. Abeshaus received her M.D. from Dartmouth Medical School.

**Our practice specializes in:**

- Office based alternatives to hysterectomy
- Office based tubal ligation without incision
- Urogynecology
- Office ultrasound accredited by A.I.U.M.
- Advanced laparoscopic and pelvic surgery

101 Old Short Hills Road, Atkins Building, Suite 410, West Orange, NJ 07052  
tel: (973) 736-1100

33 Overlook Road, MAC Building, Suite 108, Summit, NJ 07901  
tel: (908) 522-4558

Robert J. Rubino, M.D., F.A.C.O.G. Assistant Professor OBGYN  
Audrey A. Romero, M.D., F.A.C.O.G. Specializing in Urogynecology  
Elizabeth Lucarelli, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

We are an Electronic Medical Records (EMR) Practice.

www.rubinoobgyn.com