



WHS PROM...Among the attendees of the 2007 Westfield High School Senior prom at the Pines Manor in Edison on Saturday were (from left to right) Julia Korn, Aaron Eisenberg, Kristen Dilzell, Greg Nelson, Ann-Marie Valentine, Chris Chou, Patricia Caruana, Phil Anton, Brittany Reyes and Luke Baran. PAPAZZI...Below, parents and friends snap photos of WHS prom-goers at the pre-prom party.



Board Carries Cowperthwaite Application to Next Meeting

By MARYELLEN PALERMO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD – The town planning board meeting Monday night drew a group of residents who gathered to object to applicant Charles Pijanowski's preliminary plans to replace an existing single-family residential structure at 37 Cowperthwaite Place with a conforming three-story mixed-use structure that would hold two offices on the first floor and two apartments on the second and third floors.

Board members shared concerns with neighbors regarding the building's lack of on-site parking and the idea that there could be a more appropriate use for the building.

Town Planner Judy Thornton received applause from residents when she asked, "Is it possible you are trying to do too much on too little?" Representatives for Mr. Pijanowski argued that their attempt to put up a building in accordance with zoning compliance outweighs parking ordinances and issues future tenants will face.

Without a testimony from the applicant's architect, the board opted to carry the application to its next meeting on Monday, July 2.

Edward and Dina Orr received approval for a minor subdivision on 754 and 760 West Broad Street involving a boundary-line adjustment that would accrue 20 feet from one lot and reduce the street frontage on the second lot by 20 feet. After learning that the property in question originally belonged to the homeowners, board member Vincent Wilt said it was a "hardship that the town took it away."

In its application for the extension of a final major site plan, Weldon Materials, Inc., of 141 Central Avenue received approval "as is" for what would be their third and final extension. The planning board granted approval for a third floor addition to Weldon Materials in March 2003.

Developer Michael Mahoney sought approval to demolish an existing two-story frame structure at 250 Hyslip Avenue. The applicant proposes to divide the presently oversized lot of 12,750 square feet into

GW BOE Discuss Goals, How to Fill In for Murphy

By KATHY MARQUES
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD – The borough's board of education met Wednesday night for a goal-setting meeting that lasted four hours.

Ray Pinney, advocacy coordinator with the New Jersey School Boards Association, assisted the BOE members with implementing goals and concepts that can be used throughout the school year.

"This BOE is dealing with a unique situation. Superintendent [William] Murphy is out on medical (leave) until further notice, so you have Principal Teresa Quigley as acting superintendent. Also, Garwood is a small town with big issues that need to be resolved," Mr. Pinney said.

Although the meeting was open to the public, no residents were present. Board members came up with some qualities to describe the Garwood education system and the borough itself, such as continuity and consistency of staff.

"Some staffers have been here for over 15 to 20 years," said BOE member Christine Guerriero.

But some board members also viewed it negatively because "it's good to have new and younger teachers as well," said newly elected BOE member Jack Sullivan. Board members said the district's students are mostly well behaved; there is a strong early childhood program and a new building with a tech laboratory.

"The students love it and it's working out wonderfully," Ms. Quigley said. Board members also said it is good that various organizations such as the Parent Teacher Association, Veterans

of Foreign Wars and the Educational Foundation Committee always lend their support to the BOE and the parents who are involved with their children's activities.

But BOE members were discouraged that parents and residents were not involved with the budget sessions and do not attend board meetings.

"We want to see more residents attend meetings so they know what's going on. This is their kids' future," said newly elected board member Sandro Villaraud.

Some members said it was a "double-edged sword" that board members are also borough residents. "It's nice that everyone knows each other, but it makes it hard if you have to make a decision on your neighbor," board member Gary Maher said.

Board members said areas that need improvement are: middle-school math scores and communication between board committee representatives, board members and residents, especially in areas concerning the school budget and the security at the schools during after-school events.

Mr. Pinney said board members should help Ms. Quigley in her role as acting superintendent.

"At first, I thought I would do this until the end of the school year. But we don't know when Dr. Murphy will be back. Clark's superintendent has reached out to me with support and if I stay longer, I will accept the help," Ms. Quigley said.

Board President Adele Lewis said she will look at forming a bi-school board committee that would meet with Clark and Garwood school boards to discuss shared-services issues.



PROUD PARENT...A father snaps a shot of a Westfield High School senior couple at a pre-prom gathering on Saturday night.

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield
Tuesday, May 29, Emily Taylor, 43, of Westfield was arrested on the 500 block of Trinity Place on outstanding warrants from Westfield and Carteret, with bail amounts of \$50.50 and \$1,000, respectively. She was held at Westfield police headquarters pending posting of bail.

Wednesday, May 30, Joseph Kabutu, 32, of Fords was arrested at the Woodbridge Police Department on an outstanding Westfield warrant, with bail set at \$2,500. Kabutu was unable to post bail and was committed to the Union County jail.

Thursday, May 31, Thomas Kent, 19, of Westfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) following an investigation subsequent to a suspicious vehicle check at a commercial property on the 700 block of South Avenue, West. He was released to a responsible individual pending a June 7 court date.

Robert Berton, 19, of Westfield, a passenger in Kent's vehicle, also was arrested. He was charged with obstruction of the administration of law and disorderly conduct after he allegedly interfered with the police investigation of Kent for DWI.

At Westfield police headquarters, Berton additionally was charged with hindering apprehension for allegedly providing police with false identification. He was released on his own recognizance with summonses pending a June 7 court date.

Friday, June 1, Charles Pollard, 44, of Elizabeth was arrested at Cranford police headquarters on an outstanding Westfield warrant. He was held at Westfield police headquarters in lieu of \$300 bail.

Friday, June 1, an East Broad Street clothing store reported the theft of approximately 300 pairs of cotton underwear valued at \$2,400.

Saturday, June 2, James T. Craggan, 18, of Colonia was arrested on West South and Summit Avenues and charged with DWI subsequent to a motor vehicle stop. Craggan was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released to a responsible individual.

Saturday, June 2, a business on the 400 block of West South Avenue reported its large front glass window was damaged as a result of an apparent act of criminal mischief. Police said there were several large cracks in the glass. The cost of the damage was unknown.

Saturday, June 2, John Thomson, 20, of Westfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on a Clark warrant. He was released after posting \$275 bail.

Saturday, June 2, Francis Koczon Jr., 43, of Westfield was arrested and charged with possession of cocaine at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway.

He was taken to the hospital after contacting authorities for medical assistance, saying he had ingested several small bags of the drug, which police said were later recovered.

The Westfield Rescue Squad transported Koczon to the hospital, accompanied by police. He later was released on his own recognizance with a summons.

Sunday, June 3, Shannon Seawright, 21, of Plainfield was arrested at the Route 28 traffic circle during the course of a traffic investigation. Authorities discovered an outstanding Plainfield warrant with bail of \$500 for Seawright, who was turned

over to the Plainfield Police Department. Sunday, June 3, police received a report that an unknown individual used a fraudulent ATM card to make purchases at a business in the 100 block of Central Avenue. The value of the theft was \$216.10.

Mountainside
Wednesday, May 30, John W. Cain, Jr. was arrested at the Somerset County jail on an outstanding warrant in the amount of \$810.

Wednesday, May 30, Ayda L. Franco-Osorio, 25, of Roselle was stopped for driving on the shoulder of Route 22 and later arrested for driving with a suspended license.

A homeowner on Pembroke Road reported that sometime between May 25 and May 28, someone entered his house and broke into two filing cabinets. Police said there was no evidence of a forced entry.

Friday, June 1, a homeowner on Nottingham Way reported that someone threw eggs and maple syrup on her front door. According to police, the homeowner recently had a dispute with her babysitter, who reportedly sent her disturbing text messages.

Scotch Plains
Monday, May 28, a Richmond Street resident reported someone had used her debit card to make unauthorized purchases. According to police, the victim lost her card earlier in the day and the purchases were made before she cancelled it.

Wednesday, May 30, a school official at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools reported that someone took a laptop valued at approximately \$1,500 from a classroom.

Thursday, May 31, a student at the Academy for Information Technology reported that someone removed approximately \$100 from his wallet, which was left in an unlocked locker.

Friday, June 1, a resident of Hunter Avenue reported that someone removed an air conditioner valued at approximately \$1,000 that had been left on the side of his house.

Friday, June 1, a Hunter Avenue resident reported someone stole scrap metal valued at approximately \$700 from his driveway.

Friday, June 1, a custodian at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School reported that someone damaged part of the bleachers at the field behind the school.

Sunday, June 3, a resident of Haven Avenue reported that someone removed a bicycle valued at approximately \$400 from his front lawn.

Fanwood
Thursday, May 31, Keith R. Monsell, 33, of South Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Bridgewater warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Montrose Avenue.

Friday, June 1, a teacher reported that sometime between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., someone hit his vehicle with eggs while it was parked on Tillotson Road.

Saturday, June 2, Reginald J. Lane, 18, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with DWI after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. He also was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Edison, police said. Authorities said he was processed and released to a responsible adult.

Monday, June 4, Gleice L. Figueiredo, 31, of Harrison was arrested on an outstanding Union warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Oakwood Court.

'Mad Hatter' Robberies

not believe any of the dye wound up on the robber.

Ms. Walsh said while there are various theories regarding the hatter, "I don't think anybody really knows." She said authorities have not received any recent tips.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is also involved with the investigation into the string of robberies, as banks fall under federal jurisdiction.

"We've been involved in all of the (robberies) just from our course of business," Special Agent Sean Quinn said. In general, the FBI is allowing the local police departments to handle the investigations, Mr. Quinn said.

"It's business as usual," he noted. Ms. Walsh confirmed that local departments are conducting the investigations.

"The local police departments are really the ones doing most of the investigating," she said.

There also are investigators within the Union County Prosecutor's Office available to help the local police within their jurisdiction, Ms. Walsh said.

Commerce Bank managers were not allowed to comment on this story. David Flaherty, senior vice president of media relations, said, "Commerce makes it a policy not to comment on matters that are under investigation."



An image captured by Montclair Commerce Bank shows the 'Mad Hatter' in action.

The Mad Hatter's Robbery Spree

Bank	Address	County
Sept. 22, 2006 Commerce	Union Ct., Springfield	Union
Oct. 7, 2006 HSBC	Millburn Ave., Millburn	Essex
Oct. 22, 2006 Commerce	Morris Ave., Springfield	Union
Oct. 28, 2006 Chase	Main St., Chatham	Morris
Nov. 2, 2006 Washington Mutual	Main St., Chatham	Morris
Nov. 5, 2006 Commerce	Morris Ave., Union	Union
Dec. 16, 2006 Commerce	Summit Ave., Summit	Union
Jan. 6, 2007 Commerce	Madison Ave., Morris	Morris
Jan. 18, 2007 Commerce	James St., Florham Park	Essex
Feb. 2, 2007 Commerce	Springfield Ave., Berkeley Heights	Union
Feb. 10, 2007 Commerce	S. Livingston Ave., Livingston	Essex
March 17, 2007 Commerce	St. George Ave., Roselle	Union
April 19, 2007 Commerce	Chestnut St., Union	Union
May 3, 2007 Commerce	Ridgedale Ave., Cedar Knolls	Morris
May 16, 2007 Commerce	Middlesex Ave., Metuchen	Middlesex
May 20, 2007 Commerce	St. George's Ave., Woodbridge	Middlesex
June 1, 2007 Commerce	Bloomfield Ave., Montclair	Essex

Assistant Prosecutors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

could move up multiple times on the salary scale in a given year. The new system will allow all assistant prosecutors to move up once in salary each year until they reach maximum pay.

In addition to annual increment increases across the board, assistant prosecutors who are on-call for cases concerning domestic violence and child abuse/sex assault and who work with the Narcotic Strike Force will receive additional annual and/or weekly stipends.

"They can't double up (on stipend assignments)," Mr. Salemme said. He said the stipends include around 10 assistant prosecutors.

Starting salaries will increase to \$50,613 from \$48,500 and will remain in place for the length of the contract. Mr. Salemme said the county has also put a cap on assistant prosecutor salaries, which will equal 95 percent of the salary of the county prosecutor for a maximum of \$133,950.

When Union representatives and assistant prosecutors attended freeholder meetings last year, they said Union County assistant prosecutors' salaries ranked 13th out of the state's 21 counties.

Mr. Fernandez said the new contract would put Union County assistant prosecutors sixth in the state in salaries.

Mr. Salemme said the new contract increases salaries of newer assistant prosecutors with the hope of retaining them in the prosecutor's office. "We hope this keeps them around," he said.

In terms of the lifetime benefits, according to a copy of the memorandum of agreement obtained by *The Westfield Leader*, retirees under 65 will receive \$189.67 per month, and retirees 65 and over will receive \$138.39 per month. Married couples will receive \$540.50 per month if under 65, or \$276.77 if 65 and over.

The health-insurance plan will change to HealthNet POS, with Horizon HMO, Traditional and POS plans eliminated. The direct-access plan will replace Horizon PPO as of July 1 of this year, with employees paying for this plan "at their expense" if they wish to continue it, according to the memorandum of agreement.

The freeholders approved the contract by an 8-0 vote; Freeholder Deborah Scanlon was absent.

Primary Elections

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

candidates filed for the seats.

Because the State Senate and General Assembly candidates in district 21 ran unopposed, all primary candidates became the official candidates for November. Incumbent Republican Tom Kean Jr. of Westfield and Democrat Gina Genovese, a Long Hill Township Committeewoman will face each other in November in the State Senate race, while incumbent Republicans Eric Munoz of Summit and Jon Brannick of Westfield will face Democrats Bruce Bergen of Springfield and Norman Albert of Cranford in the race for the district's two seats in the General Assembly.

In Union County municipal primary competitive races, Roselle Mayor Garrett Smith, a Democrat, got the nod to run for re-election in November with about 54 percent of the vote, or by 264 votes, according to the Union County Clerk's website. His challenger, councilman Clarence Cunningham, lost with 45.74 percent of the vote.

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a concert to benefit the William & Nicholas Walsweer scholarship fund

the play trains nate brown group the brothers band and friends

crossroads

21 North Avenue, Garwood, NJ 07032-2324

saturday june 9

music starts at 8pm

for more information email walsweers@crossroads.net \$10 donation

Crossroads Hosts Walsweer Benefit

WESTFIELD – The Crossroads in Garwood will host a benefit concert this Saturday, June 9, at 8 p.m. to benefit the children of Jonathan and Regina Walsweer of Westfield.

On March 16, Mr. Walsweer passed away while scuba diving the Spiegel Grove in Key Largo, Fla. along with two friends. "The William and Nicholas Walsweer Scholarship Fund" was set up for the family's two sons, ages 5 and 7.

Mrs. Walsweer's brother-in-law, Tim Glynn, a former Westfielder, will perform at the Crossroads to benefit the fund. A \$10 donation is suggested for admission.

Mr. Glynn's three brothers will also perform. Mr. Glynn's band, The Play Trains, performed locally for many years before the members started other careers and families. They reunite every few years.