

Rescue Squad Honors Crosby, Kruthers for 50 Yrs. of Service

FANWOOD — In 1957, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation had just been introduced. Cadillacs were state-of-the-art in ambulances and Bill Crosby and Bob Kruthers joined the Fanwood Rescue Squad. Fifty years later, on June 3, 2007, the squad honored Mr. Crosby and Mr. Kruthers for five decades of service with a brunch and speeches at the squad headquarters they helped build.

"When I first started," recalled Mr. Kruthers, "I thought gee, look at me. Look at what I'm doing. But as the years went by, I came to realize I was doing God's work."

Mr. Kruthers has been the squad's chaplain and treasurer since 1967.

Mr. Crosby, who has been in poor health, was not present. He was the squad's president and captain at various points through three decades, and he trained and mentored dozens of new members. In 1977, he was one of the ground-breakers for the squad's current headquarters building at 123 Watson Road. His wife Marie and daughter Carol Baker represented him at the brunch.

"The rescue squad was like my dad's second child," said Mrs. Baker. "Between the squad and the fire department, he was constantly in and out."

Fanwood Borough Council President Katherine Mitchell and Council-

woman Donna Dolce presented Mr. Kruthers and Mr. Crosby with commemorative plaques made from the Fanwood Oak. The massive oak tree had to be cut down for safety reasons in 1996, but it is still a symbol of the borough and its wood has been preserved.

"We don't give too many of these out," Ms. Mitchell said. "We really appreciate all you've done for our town."

In addition to current members of the squad, life members Harry Mee, Jim Russell, Jim Spencer and Jim Stewart attended the brunch.

"My father really wanted to be here," said Mrs. Baker, who had just come from visiting her father at Overlook Hospital. She told a story that she said summed up Mr. Crosby's commitment to the squad.

"On my wedding day in 1977, a rescue squad call went out. It was during the reception. Suddenly, about half the guests disappeared to respond to the call. It was at a house somewhere in Fanwood. The members all showed up in their formal wear. Dad had on a tuxedo with a ruffled shirt. The patient asked, 'Do you guys always show up in tuxedos?'"

The group wished Mr. Crosby a speedy recovery.

Mr. Kruthers made 116 calls last year and is up to 43 calls this year.



Fred K. Lecomte for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
THE BEST TIME OF THEIR LIVES...Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students and friends gathered at John Mains' residence before going to the Senior Prom. Pictured from left are: Mike Goland, Lauren Mains, Allie Zazzali, Jeff Alisio, Allie Hambleton and Robert Laraway. PAPA RAZZ!...Below, parents and friends snap photos of SPFHS prom-goers at the pre-prom party.



'Mad Hatter' Continues To Rob Area Banks

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gentleman's preference for that," he said.

Patrols around all of the banks in the area, however, have been increased, he said.

Westfield — much like Cranford and Fanwood, which also have Commerce Banks — is taking as many measures as possible to ensure the robberies do not continue.

"Officers have been directed to park in the lot during quiet times," Chief Parizeau said, lending a greater police presence outside of Commerce Banks.

Surrounding counties also have been communicating any information they receive through a task force, Union County Assistant Prosecutor Eileen Walsh said.

"Everyone is supposed to be sharing," Ms. Walsh said. Chief Parizeau said the WPD does receive information from a multi-county task force that was established to catch the Mad Hatter.

In total so far, the robber has netted around \$65,000, Ms. Walsh said. "Sixty-five thousand (dollars) for 17 robberies isn't that successful," she said.

On average, the robber has netted \$3,823.53 for the 17 robberies, but most of his hits have only gotten him around \$2,000, authorities said.

Other attempts have been made to catch the Mad Hatter, including the use of dye packs and security cameras. Thus far, he has mostly managed to avoid the security cameras, authorities said.

The dye packs were more successful; in the two most recent robberies

in Woodbridge and Montclair, dye packs exploded as he escaped.

In the Montclair case, the Mad Hatter was forced to dump some of the money soaked in red dye down a storm drain. Ms. Walsh said she did 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) also is involved in 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 the Montclair Commerce Bank shows the Mad Hatter in action.

Primary Elections

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dates 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 Republicans Eric Munoz of Summit and Jon Bramnick of Westfield, also incumbents, 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.

The November election for council seats in New Providence will feature Republicans Julia MacDermott, an incumbent, and Michael Gennaro running unopposed, as the Democrats failed to produce an official candidate in the primary.

In Mountainside, where voter turnout was about 3 percent, Mayor Robert Vigilanti ran unopposed in the primary to win the Republican seat in the General Election and run for a sixth four-year term. Borough Councilman Glenn Mortimer will also seek re-election, joined by newcomer Jeffrey Wass. No Democrats filed to run for mayor or council in November's election.

In additional legislative races, the Democratic Party voted for county Democratic Committee Representatives. In Westfield, for example, voters filled every committee seat.

"It's somewhat unique," said Westfield Democratic Committee Chairman Ken Rotter. "When I first moved to Westfield in 1995, we did have multiple vacancies, and over the course of the past 12 years, those vacancies have been filled. Now we have a fully elected committee, and I believe we've had that for the past two years, so that's a new circumstance."

About 3 percent of Westfield's registered voters cast ballots in the primary. Turnout was 6 percent in Fanwood, 3 percent in Scotch Plains and 5 percent in Garwood.



Ted Ritter for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
ON THE AGENDA...The Fanwood Borough Council discussed a number of upcoming and ongoing capital improvements at its Tuesday night agenda meeting. Pictured, from left to right, are: Chief Financial Officer Fred Tomkins, Councilman David Valian, Councilman Bruce Walsh, Council President Katherine Mitchell, Mayor Colleen Mahr and Councilwoman Donna Dolce.

Fanwood Council

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ough [government] if we wanted to," Councilwoman Joan Wheeler said.

"This would be great," said Mayor Mahr.

Mr. Tomkins said the \$16,000 cost of implementing the new system could be included in the capital budget's bond ordinance to spread out the cost.

System maintenance costs, he said, would be nearly identical to the current system. Borough officials plan to further discuss the issue at next Tuesday night's regular meeting.

a concert to benefit the William & Nicholas Walsweer scholarship fund

the play trains
nate brown group
the brothers band
and friends

crossroads
28 South Avenue, Garwood, NJ 07033-3989

saturday june 9
music starts at 8pm
\$10 donation

for more information email walsweerb@crossroads.net

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.

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. According to police, 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 resident of Richmond Street reported that someone had used her debit card to make unauthorized purchases. According to police, the victim had lost her card earlier in the day and the purchases were made prior to her canceling the card.

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

Thursday, May 31, a student at the Academy for Information Technology reported that someone removed \$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 \$1,000 that had been left on the side of his house.

Friday, June 1, a resident of Hunter Avenue reported that 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.



Fred Ross for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
JAZZ ON PARK AVENUE...The Moonglowers, a jazz band from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, entertained several dozen residents last Thursday evening in front of Scotch Plains Music Center on Park Avenue.

Assistant Prosecutors

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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 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, 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.

The Mad Hatter's Robbery Spree

Bank	Address	County
Sept. 22, 2006	Commerce Union Ct., Springfield	Union
Oct. 7, 2006	HSBC Milburn Ave., Milburn	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 Springdale 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

see additional prom photos at
timesnj.com/photos