



CAMPAIGN TIME...Frank Arena, candidate for Westfield Town Council from Ward 1 receives support from friends, Mayor Andrew Skibitsky, Senator Tom Kean and Assemblyman Jon Bramnick. Former Mayor Greg McDermott and his wife Andrea were also in attendance.

Westfield Town Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ann Neylan said, "I'm concerned a little bit about the aesthetics." Mr. Marsh said both the panels and roofs would be darker colors. In addition, the panels will be located in the back of the building. He said those viewing the structure from the front won't see it.

Ms. Neylan responded, "I can foresee it being an issue...I think this is something we are going to have to address as a council because I think we should try to be proactive."

Westfield resident Kimberly Benou, president of the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield (JLEP), addressed the council on securing a date to utilize the South Avenue Train Station lot to stage a league fundraiser. After explaining the nature of the organization - to provide "hands-on support for families in crisis" - JLEP received permission to use the train station lot on Sunday, October 14, for Touch-A-Truck.

The one-day event calls for a variety of trucks and cars, including everything from racecars and monster trucks to the original Batmobile, to be brought in for kids to climb and explore. Junior League member and Second Ward Councilman Vicki Kimmins said Fire Chief Dan Kelly is "on board," and the armory has spoken about lending Hummers to the event.

Beginning yesterday, TV-36 now features a "new look," Town Administrator Jim Gildea said. The town's communication advisory board approved a two-year agreement for free upgrades with TelVue. Mr. Gildea said the "very exciting" opportunity allows for "a lot more capability" at the station.

Mr. Gildea said the changes affect "the town's time only." He said if the arrangement does not work out, TV-36 can terminate the agreement at any time.

Under the Code Review and Town Property Committee report, Fourth Ward Councilman Jim Foerst said the planning board sent back the revised Historic Preservation Ordinance with "unanimous approval."

The Historic Preservation Commission will next meet on June 25, and Mr. Foerst said soon thereafter, the town would act formally on the revisions.

In conjunction with the ordinance's revisions, the committee spoke about designating the Burial Grounds of the Presbyterian Church, and other properties, including the Miller Cory house, as historical entities by town ordinance. In the past, distinctions have been "piecemealed," Mr. Foerst said.

The committee also reviewed ordinances in regards to Portable On Demand Storage (PODS) and dumpsters, referring to legal counsel potential changes that would require permits for PODS and/or dumpsters.

Mr. Foerst said the changes would have two effects. First, it would provide fees to cover the administrative cost. "More importantly," he said, the town would have the ability to "control when and where they are placed. Now, they can be placed haphazardly in areas, and that may present health and safety and traffic problems."

A month ago, the town enacted a new ordinance that implemented a \$750 fee for calling special meetings of the planning board and board of adjustment. Previously, no such fee existed.

"Based on the experiences of [town planner] Judith [Thornton], she is compiling a list of the local markets of what it costs to file for variance applications," Mr. Foerst said. "In her

estimation, we are fairly under market as to what our costs are."

Third Ward Councilman Mark Ciarrocca, in his role as Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee chair, said downtown parking signage would be improved in terms of aesthetics and customer friendliness.

Two-sided exterior wood signs with lot numbers would appear at the entrances and exits of all lots. Interior signs, featuring an off-white-and-blue design consistent with the streetscape, would specify the hourly fee and permitted times.



CROSSING PATHS...Franklin Elementary School fourth grader Erin Fox donates and dedicates a library book to Harold Snell of Scotch Plains, who is retiring from his crossing guard position at 90. He has been a crossing guard in the Franklin School area for the past 12 years; he crossed Erin's high-school and college-aged siblings when they went to Franklin. Pictured, from left to right, are Mr. Snell, Erin, Franklin School librarian Debra Stern and Mr. Snell's wife, Gloria.

DWC Considers Classical

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mr. Destefanis with a grant at the present time.

Representing Bovella's Pastry Shoppe, Ralph Bencivenga, Rosalie Bencivenga and Chuck Murray also attended the meeting concerning a dispute over the conditions of their recent grant. The DWC withheld a portion of the money to Bovella's because the side of the building was not fully painted.

Officials said the new paint was not extended to the end of the wall as a cost-cutting measure, since a significant amount of funds had already been invested in the renovation of the store. The DWC noted that a full paint job was listed in the

Board of Ed.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

made it clear to the public that if the choice plan failed, that we will redistrict the students."

The board will further discuss and vote on the matter of placing an enrollment cap on Roosevelt at its next meeting.

In a report on the planning for the math curriculum, department supervisor Regina Kiczek discussed distributing surveys to students in the last days of school. "We are hoping to gather some attitudinal questions for the students, such as, how successful do you feel you are in math, and how often do you use the textbooks?"

The board suggested offering an online survey to parents as well.

"We know from the 600 surveys that we got as a response to the superintendent search that parents will be eager to share their thoughts, especially concerning a subject like math," board member Anne Riegel said.

Board Denies Addition For Scotch Plains Avenue Home

By WAYNE BAKER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The board of adjustment on Monday night denied the owners of 303 Scotch Plains Avenue permission to construct a two-story addition above an existing one-story portion of their home.

During discussion of the evening's only denial, board chairman William Heinbokel described weighing "coverage versus massing." Board members voiced concerns about the impact of the addition on the neighbors' light and air circulation.

Additionally, the board said the proposed location of air-conditioner condensers close to the neighbor's condensers would both concentrate noise and affect the space between the homes. Board member Ken Soriano said he "couldn't see hardship," a requirement for granting a variance.

An application for more-than-permissible lot coverage by an Embree Crescent homeowner was met with neighborhood opposition. The home at 622 Embree Crescent was recently built on a lot of almost an acre. Neighbors raised questions relating to drainage, resulting in continuation of the case until the board's next meeting.

Four neighbors from Edgewood Avenue, with Kieran Hughes doing most of the talking, described new drainage problems in their backyards. Mr. Hughes also described flooding

in his basement this spring "for the first time" since he moved into his home in 1993. Photographs submitted by Louise Klapp showed brown runoff covering much of her backyard during the home's construction in April. Shortly after the board reviewed them, Mr. Heinbokel requested town engineer Ken Marsh to review the situation and make a report prior to the board's next meeting.

In other business, women's apparel retailer Coldwater Creek, to be located in the former Express site on Central Avenue, received approval to install signage in violation of multiple ordinances. The signs to be installed on the store's three facades are both larger and higher than ordinances allow.

Willow Grove Road homeowners who applied brick to the foundation of their Victorian home during its construction received permission to leave the brick, which violates the town's side-yard setback ordinance.

The homeowners of 758 Prospect Street requested permission to demolish the circa-1874 home on the site to replace it with a new home set further back. The board continued the hearing in part due to its desire for additional information relating to wetlands on the property.

In other applications, the homeowners of 753 Fairacres Avenue received an extension to an expired building permit. The board permitted a non-conforming second-story addition at 112 Pearl Street. The owner of 702 South Avenue West received a certification of non-conforming use as part of selling the site, but a related request for a ruling of similarity of business by the property's new purchaser was not heard.

Lawsuit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and his friend's two Secret Service colleagues. "We were supposed to play golf and go canoeing," he said in the deposition. "When I found out it had racial background to it, I went camping and camped outside" the grounds of the event. Mr. LeStrange said he was "disgusted by it and never went again."

The mayor, in reaction to Mr. LeStrange's attendance at the Tennessee event, was quoted in *New Jersey Jewish News* last October as saying he didn't want "someone who went to what amounts to a Ku Klux Klan meeting for police representing me." Mr. LeStrange's complaint claims that Mr. Marks "knowingly created the false impression that [Mr. LeStrange] was a member of an organization that hated Blacks and Jews" and "created the false impression that [Mr. LeStrange] was a racist and an anti-Semite."

Mayor Marks told *The Westfield Leader* this week that "it isn't the first time that someone unsuccessful at the polls has resorted to lawsuits for vindication, and probably won't be the last." He said he did not know whether or not the township would pay his legal fees in connection with the lawsuit.

"It's something that is being discussed," he said.

Mr. O'Brien, township police chief from 1996 to 2002, wrote a letter to *The Leader* last October that called attention to Mr. LeStrange's attendance at the Tennessee event, which Mr. O'Brien described as "an event with derogatory racial overtones [that] had received national press coverage back in the nineties." Mr. LeStrange's complaint accuses Mr. O'Brien "of knowingly misreporting [Mr. LeStrange's 2002] deposition testimony to give the false impression that [Mr. LeStrange] was a racist who supported an anti-black event."

The complaint, which seeks compensatory and punitive damages, accuses the mayor and Mr. O'Brien of "acting in concert" to make statements that were untrue and defamatory and cast Mr. LeStrange in a false light.

Neither Mr. LeStrange nor Mr. O'Brien were able to be reached for comment by press time yesterday.

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Comm. Holds Meeting To Discuss Hotspots

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Town Council's Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee, chaired by Third Ward Councilman Mark Ciarrocca, will conduct a community outreach meeting concerning new traffic hotspots.

On Monday, June 18, the committee will hold its meeting at the town hall community room located at 425 East Broad Street.

At 7 p.m., the committee will discuss proposed changes to the intersections of Boulevard and Park Avenue and Boulevard and South Avenue. At 7:30, homeowners on Scotch Plains Avenue between West Broad Street and South Avenue, bordering the Memorial Pool Complex, may speak.

At 8 p.m., citizens may listen to proposed improvements to the Lenox and Stanley Avenues intersection. At 8:30, citizens may discuss the changes at Rahway Avenue between Summit Court and Lamberts Mill Road.



SCOUTS' HONOR...Girl Scout Troop 971 from Franklin School met with Westfield Mayor Andy Skibitsky at last Tuesday's public meeting. Pictured on the dais with the mayor, from left to right, are Layla Varkey, Cindy Gong, Maggie McKay, Jennifer Raba, Samantha Moore and Natasha Sharma.



EUCLID CRASH...This was the scene Monday evening in Westfield following a crash at the northeast corner of North Euclid Avenue and Kimball Avenue. A car is high on the lawn on the right, a van sits in Kimball Avenue and the first aid squad works on a victim.

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Monday, June 4, Preston McCloud, 21, of Roselle was arrested during a motor vehicle stop at North Avenue, West, and Charles Street on an outstanding Plainfield traffic warrant. He was released after posting \$133 bail.

Monday, June 4, Charlene Abeny, 38, of Linden was arrested at South and Westfield Avenues on a fugitive no-bail Essex County Sheriff's Department warrant. She was turned over to the sheriff's department.

Wednesday, June 6, Terrence Benjamin, 19, of Roselle was arrested on South Avenue in Garwood on outstanding traffic warrants from Chesterfield and Piscataway, with bail amounts of \$114 and \$145, respectively. He was released after posting bail.

Wednesday, June 6, Stanley Paul, 19, of Roselle was arrested at Plainfield police headquarters on an outstanding Westfield criminal warrant. He was released after posting \$250 bail.

Thursday, June 7, Sanjeong Lim, 26, of Monmouth Junction was arrested at Central Avenue and Connecticut Street and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). She was later released to a responsible individual.

Sunday, June 10, after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation, Kristan Scardaville, 32, of Plainfield was arrested at Central Avenue and Belmar Terrace and charged with DWI. Scardaville was later released to a responsible individual.

Monday, June 11, after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation, Hamilton Beltran, 23, of Elizabeth was arrested at North and Fourth Avenues and charged with DWI. He was later released to a responsible individual.

Mountainside

Monday, June 4, a homeowner on Hillside Avenue reported that someone has been knocking over and damaging a "slow down" sign she has been displaying in the street in front her house.

Wednesday, June 6, a man reported that someone charged \$240.95 to his AMEX card in December of 2005. The victim said he was contacted by a collection agency on the charge, which he thought had been settled earlier this year.

Thursday, June 7, Daniel J. Parente, 21, of Mountainside was arrested in Mountainside Municipal Court after it was determined that Parente was in violation of his probation.

Thursday, June 7, Joseph A. Buontempo Jr., 20, of Westfield, was arrested at the Mountainside Community Pool and charged with possession of under 50 grams of marijuana and possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) in a motor vehicle. Police said Buontempo was arrested after being parked in the pool parking lot after hours. A 16-year-old male passenger was also arrested and released to his mother pending juvenile complaints.

Thursday, June 7, a 16-year-old Mountainside resident, who was a passenger in a vehicle, was arrested at the Mountainside Community Pool and charged with unlawful possession of a knife and under 50 grams of marijuana.

Thursday, June 7, an employee of a company on Global Avenue reported that he observed a black Ford F-150 Harley Davidson pickup truck pull into a parking lot near a dumpster and was about to start illegally dumping. The witness said the truck left the scene after the driver observed a car on the other side of the dumpster. The employee was able to provide police with a license number.

Saturday, June 9, Jose F. Ordonez-Quinter, 33, of Elizabeth, was arrested at a muffler shop on Route 22 and charged with attempting to steal scrap metal. Also arrested was Giovanna Gutierrezzotbar, 34, of Elizabeth, the operator of the vehicle in which Ordonez-Quinter, her husband, was a passenger. Both were processed at police headquarters and issued summonses for receiving movable property.

Sunday, June 10, James J. Mays, 42, of Elizabeth, was arrested and charged with DWI after he was initially stopped for failing to maintain the lane. He was also charged with refusal to submit to a breath

test, consumption of an alcoholic beverage in a vehicle and making an unsafe lane change.

Monday, June 11, a patron at a Route 22 movie theatre reported that someone smashed her car's side door window and stole a GPS unit valued at \$500. Damage to the car was \$250, police said.

Monday, June 11, a woman reported her purse missing after she left it in the ladies room of a theatre on Route 22 East. The victim reported that she saw a female with black hair and a black jacket with a white zipper enter the ladies room after the victim realized she had forgotten her purse. The suspect was gone when the victim returned to the ladies room, police said. The purse contained cash, a student ID card, bank debit and credit cards and the victim's driver's license.

Scotch Plains

Monday, June 4, a student at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School reported that someone removed his unlocked bicycle from the outside rack. The bicycle was valued at approximately \$200, police said.

Tuesday, June 5, a resident of Jerusalem Road reported that she received numerous harassing phone calls during the night asking about her furniture.

Tuesday, June 5, Anthony Mercado, 22, of Plainfield was arrested for an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop. Mercado was transported to headquarters, where he posted bail and was released.

Wednesday, June 6, a resident of Hamletta Place reported that someone obtained a credit card in his name and made several thousand dollars worth of unauthorized purchases.

Thursday, June 7, Craig Currie, 41, of Scotch Plains was arrested for an outstanding warrant following a motor vehicle stop. He was processed and released after posting bail, police said.

Friday, June 8, David Dolby, 28, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance. According to police, Dolby was stopped for a motor vehicle violation and the drugs were subsequently discovered in his possession. He was processed and released with a summons, police said.

Saturday, June 9, Henry Sanchez-Delores, 26, of Newark was arrested following a motor vehicle stop for an outstanding warrant. He was processed and released after posting bail, police said.

Sunday, June 10, Anthony Derrico, 22, of Lawrence Avenue was arrested for DWI after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation. He was processed and released with a summons, police said.

Fanwood

Tuesday, June 5, Dwayne K. Dennard, 41, of Newark was arrested on an outstanding Fanwood warrant following a field investigation. He was processed and transported to the Union County jail after failing to post bail, police said.

Tuesday, June 5, Carla Harris, 37, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Fanwood warrant after a field investigation. She was transported to the Union County jail after failing to post bail, police said.

Wednesday, June 6, Tony M. Walker, 23, of Plainfield was arrested for an outstanding Flemington warrant after a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue. He posted bail and was released, police said.

Sunday, June 10, Raleigh Cobb II, 32, of Cranford was arrested and charged with DWI after a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue at 3:17 a.m. He was processed and released to a responsible adult, police said.

Monday, June 11, Arturo Rosales, 39, of Plainfield was arrested and charged for driving with a suspended license after a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue. He was also charged with driving while on an out-of-state revoked list, police said. Juan C. Vasquez, 28, of Plainfield, a passenger in the vehicle was charged with providing false documents to police.

Monday, June 11, Matthew J. Laird, 39, of Fanwood was arrested on an outstanding Union County Sheriff's Department no-bail warrant after a field investigation.



DRAW YOUR WEAPON IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS...A member of the Union County Response Team poses with a young boy at the June 9 Garwood Parents Draw the Line event that promotes a drug- and alcohol-free community. READY, SET, GO...Michael Murphy awaits a signal that it's safe to climb into the moon jump obstacle course at the Garwood Parents Draw the Line event promoting a drug- and alcohol-free community on June 9. The event, which was held at the Little League Field, featured face painting, live entertainment, free food and demonstrations from local first responders. Visit goleader.com/ photos to see more.