



BEST OF ISRAELI WINES... Congregation Beth Israel sponsored an Israeli Wine Festival last Sunday. Pictured, Marty Siegmeyer, brand manager with Allied Importers, describes a wine as Robin Sabony of Scotch Plains tastes it. Mel Zakarin of Watchung, right, reviews a description of another wine.

BOE Candidates File

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seven candidates for three seats. Mr. Gornunoff is a 15-year resident of the township and has coached the Y's girls' basketball team, served on the Wesley Hall Board of Directors and volunteered at the township library.

Mr. Kubie has been a Scotch Plains resident since 1992 and last year ran on the issue of technology, saying each child in the district should have a laptop.

In Mountainside, incumbents Raymond Haggar, Gene Nagel and Carmine Venes will run unopposed. Mr. Haggar, a 15-year borough resi-

dent, has served on the board since 2001. He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering and a master's in business administration. Mr. Venes, a former elementary-school teacher in Kenilworth and guidance counselor in Rahway, retired in 2003. Mr. Nagel was elected to the board in 2004.

Garwood residents will face choice of five candidates for three seats, as well as two candidates for an unexpired term. Incumbents Debbie Courtney, Linda Koenig face challenges from Chris LaSpina, John Sullivan and Sandro Villaraud. Former board member James Matheson opposes board member Lisa Marano in the race for the unexpired term.

The *Westfield Leader* was unable to reach candidates in competitive races by press time.

WF Council

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neighbor who recently died. Before calling the rescue squad, she would call my wife, Debbie, and myself and we'd go over there and convince her to call the rescue squad. We saw them in action...and I sleep well at night knowing that we have such a great professional rescue squad."

The mayor said that last year, the squad volunteered more than 31,000 hours of service and answered 2,500 calls.

March will be the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad Month.

Following public session, the council retired to discuss the collective-bargaining agreement with the Teamsters Union, the last outstanding entity still in negotiation. The Communications Workers of America (CWA) contract expires at year's end.

GW Council

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In other business, Mayor McCarthy thanked Superintendent of Public Works Frederick Corbett and his staff for "a job well done during the ice storm last week."

Ms. Villaggio, finance committee chairwoman, said the governing body would introduce the municipal budget at the next council meeting.

She also said the board of education would hold a workshop meeting on Thursday, March 8, at Washington School to discuss its 2007-2008 budget, with a public hearing to be held Thursday, March 29.

MS School District Tells of \$750,000 Over-Calculation

By MARIA WOEHR
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE - Borough school officials announced Tuesday night that the district has rectified 37 percent of an over-calculation of some \$750,000 in the dissolution of funds account dating back to the previous administration in 2005. Business Administrator Roderic McLaughlin said the district had been using \$1.8 million. This year, he said, the district will use \$1.1 million in dissolution funds because of a special-education shortfall, he said. The dissolution account follows the breakup of the regional high-school district several years ago.

"So because of a miscalculation, we will not have that money," BOE President John Perrin said.

Officials announced the mistake during discussions of the proposed \$13,972,114 school budget. The 2006-2007 budget was \$13,338,309. A public hearing on this year's budget will be held Tuesday, March 27.

Changes to the budget this year include the addition of a kindergarten class, the addition of two new staff members, a 3-percent increase in salaries, a rise in the price of transportation due to gas prices and a \$793,592 rise in tuition due to state laws, officials said.

"The state does a calculation to project your enrollment and your increase in tuition, and the fact it is not a budget cap of 4 percent (referring to state legislation to cap property taxes at 4 percent), and the major adjustment is the debt service cost, which is a major change this year but not for next year,"

The budget provides \$6.2 million for the salaries of 118 employees, which includes the addition of a special education teacher for \$52,332 and one teacher assistant for \$22,668. Even with the addition of the new

staff, because only 107 employees are eligible for New Jersey State Health Benefits, the total cost of benefits this year will remain the same as last year (\$1.3 million), Mr. McLaughlin said.

There will be 13 out-of-district students this year; the budget has allotted for 16 students. Out-of-district costs this year come to \$1.1 million, officials said. That includes tuition, transportation, related services such as physical therapy and speech therapy and extraordinary services such as nurses and aides.

The cost of utilities this year will remain the same at \$483,862. Because of the gap in gas prices, transportation costs have risen \$30,961, or 5.5 percent. "The transportation budget is \$594,487 because of the overall rise in gas prices," Mr. McLaughlin said.

Tuition to Berkley Heights, where Mountainside teenagers attend Governor Livingston High School, is for 260 students at \$12,500 per pupil, he said. This is an increase of \$907 per pupil over the current budget's tuition rate of \$11,593 per student. The tuition rate includes the mandatory state \$319-per-student debt-service cost.

"The NJAC and NJSJA required us to make adjustments for tuition payments from budgeted estimates, which we actually paid to audited actual rates in the third fiscal year after the estimated rate was paid. Based upon the expenditures from the 2005-2006 school year, Mountainside owes Berkley Heights an additional \$116,066," Mr. McLaughlin said.

"Without the mandatory state tuition cost, our budget would decrease by 1 percent, meaning that our budget this year would be less than the budget in 2006-2007," Mr. McLaughlin said.

Residents will vote on the budget at the Tuesday, April 17, school election.



Susan Cook for The Westfield Leader

CELEBRATING A LEADER AND NAMESAKE... Washington Elementary School in Westfield celebrated the 275th birthday of its namesake with a special "Washington's Birthday Spirit Day." Events included a coin-throwing contest and an opportunity to exchange a \$1 bill for a new Washington golden dollar coin, the first in a series of Presidential coins just issued by the U.S. Mint. "General" Andrew Perry, Washington School principal, stands above with some young Patriots.

WANTED



WANTED... For questioning concerning the offense of attempt to lure child into car. Sex-male: Height-unknown: Hair-black: Race-white: Weight-unknown: Eyes-brown: Age-17to21: Build-unknown: Complexion-light. On February 21, 2007 at approximately 4 p.m., a 12-year-old female reported the above suspect verbally attempted to lure her into an older grey pickup truck with scratches on the passenger side of the vehicle. If you have any information regarding the above person, please contact the Fanwood Police Department at (908) 322-5000; Lt. Richard Trigo at Ext. 117 or Det. Eugene Chin at Ext. 119.

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Saturday, February 17, Robert Hume, 24, of New Vernon was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at East Broad Street and Harrison Avenue for allegedly driving while intoxicated. He was released to a responsible individual.

Saturday, February 17, Jeremy Ettinger, 20, and Mark Boyle, 19, both of Westfield, were arrested following a motor vehicle stop at West Broad Street and Scotch Plains Avenue for alleged underage possession of alcohol. Both were released on their own recognizance with summonses.

Two 17-year-old males from Westfield also were in the vehicle and were arrested for alleged underage possession of alcohol. One of the juveniles was the driver and was cited for DWI. They were both released to their parents.

Saturday, February 17, Linda S. O'Neill, 58, of Westfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on a traffic warrant issued by the Westfield Municipal Court. She was released after posting \$500 bail.

Sunday, February 18, David Saez, 28, of Queens, N.Y. was arrested on the 200 block of Orchard Street and charged with four counts of aggravated assault and one count of resisting arrest.

Saez allegedly shouted profanities, swung closed fists at and wrestled on the ground with police officers who were executing a domestic violence assault warrant for him, police said. The suspect, who was pepper-sprayed, was committed to the Union County jail in lieu of a total \$47,500 bail.

Sunday, February 18, Jonathan Mena, 19, of Plainfield was arrested at Shadowlawn Drive and Scotch Plains Avenue on open traffic warrants, one from Piscataway for \$300 and the other from North Plainfield for \$600. He was committed on default of bail to the Union County jail.

Sunday, February 18, following a motor vehicle stop, Jason Rothbart, 32, of Union was arrested on an outstanding Union Township criminal warrant. He was released after posting \$250 bail.

Monday, February 19, Andrew Schott, 20, of Westfield was arrested at Mohican Drive and Springfield Avenue for alleged DWI. He was released to a responsible individual.

Tuesday, February 20, Jeffrey Davies, 18, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at North and Central Avenues for alleged possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana. He was released with a summons.

Wednesday, February 21, James Ball, 35, of Westfield was placed under arrest on the 300 block of Mountain Avenue pursuant to a contempt of court traffic warrant issued by the Township of Sparta Municipal Court. Ball was released after posting \$114 bail.

Wednesday, February 21, Margaret Daniel, 44, of Westfield was arrested for alleged DWI following an accident on the 600 block of South Avenue West. Daniel was released to a responsible individual after submitting to a breath test. There were no injuries reported as a result of the accident.

Wednesday, February 21, after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation, Andrew Stewart, 28, of Clark was arrested on an outstanding Denville traffic warrant at North Avenue and Crossway Place. He was released after posting \$215 bail.

Thursday, February 22, after being stopped for motor vehicle violations at Mountain Avenue and Mountain View Terrace, Christine O'Brien, 41, of Westfield was arrested for alleged DWI. She was released to a responsible individual.

Thursday, February 22, Jenny Rodriguez, 35, of Elizabeth was arrested at Kean University in Union on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant. She was released after posting \$100 bail.

Thursday, February 22, Michael Mackay, 53, of Westfield was arrested at Rahway Avenue and West Broad Street for alleged DWI. He was released to a responsible adult.

Friday, February 23, Kareem Farrar, 27, of Elizabeth was arrested at East Broad Street and Park Drive on an outstanding Elizabeth criminal warrant for \$1,000. He was committed on default of bail to the Union County jail.

Mountainside

Tuesday, February 20, Howard Robinson, 51, of Linden was arrested in Newark and transported to headquarters for outstanding warrants totaling \$716.

Thursday, February 22, Christian P. Lagos, 35, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop for failure to wear a seatbelt and subsequently arrested for an outstanding Woodbridge warrant.

Thursday, February 22, Darrell T. Rollins, 46, was arrested for disorderly conduct after being disruptive in the courtroom.

Wednesday, February 21, a employee at a Springfield Avenue law office reported that two females came into the office to make an appointment and when the victim went into the back to get the appointment book, one or both of the individuals stole the wallet out of her purse, which was left on her chair.

According to police, one suspect was identified as a Hispanic woman, of medium build, 5 foot 4 inches tall with dyed blonde and orange hair. The other was identified as black, of heavy build, 5 foot 8 inches tall, police said. Both women are in their mid 20s, police said.

Fanwood

Tuesday, February 20, Elene Hunter, 37, of Plainfield was arrested after a field investigation revealed an outstanding warrant out Plainfield. She posted bail and was released.

Tuesday, February 20, Tarik H. Madison, 25, of Plainfield was arrested after a field investigation for an outstanding Dunellen warrant. He posted bail and was released.

Tuesday, February 20, an abandoned stolen vehicle out of Edison was recovered in the 100 block of Cray Terrace.

Wednesday, February 21, a Fanwood resident and a Scotch Plains resident both reported that their cars were keyed while parked in the train station parking lot.

Wednesday, February 21, Kashari D. Slaughter, 21, of Fanwood was arrested on warrants out of South Orange, Scotch Plains and Garwood after a field investigation. Slaughter was turned over to the South Orange Police Department.

Wednesday, February 21, several blocks from the school, a middle school student walking home at 4 p.m. reported that two male individuals verbally attempted to persuade her into their vehicle. According to police, both males are described as white, in their late teens to early 20s, one with blonde hair, and the other with black hair. One suspect was wearing a blue sweatshirt; the other was wearing a gray sweatshirt, police said.

Wednesday, February 21, Frank M. James, 34, of Piscataway was arrested on West Hampton and Jersey City warrants after a field investigation. According to police, he was also arrested for possession of a controlled dangerous substance. He was transported to the Union County jail.

Saturday, February 24, Justin D. Johnson, 27, of Roselle was arrested on an outstanding Edison warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue. He posted bail and was released.

Sunday, February 25, Richard J. Kucmyda, 51, of Elizabeth was arrested following a South Avenue motor vehicle stop for an outstanding Plainfield warrant.

Scotch Plains

Friday, February 16, a resident of Farmingdale Road reported that someone caused damage to her shed.

Saturday, February 17, a construction site manager reported that someone removed approximately \$800 in copper tubing from a job site on Raritan Road.

Wednesday, February 21, Edward Cerlato, 74, of Scotch Plains and Michael Cornacchia, 47, of Scotch Plains were both arrested and charged with simple assault after both men were engaged in a fight in Cerlato's front lawn. According to police, they had fought previously with each other over Cerlato's daughter.

Thursday, February 22, a resident of Westfield Road reported a neighbor made an obscene gesture to her after an argument.

Friday, February 23, a resident of Rivervale Court reported that someone broke the window to her apartment.

Sunday, February 25, Bobby Kabir, 23, of Morristown was arrested and charged with DWI. He was processed and released with a summons, police said.

a picture's worth a thousand words.
goleader.com/photos



POOL PARTY... The Garwood Police D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program sponsored a swim party at the Cranford indoor pool on Saturday. D.A.R.E. students were treated to an open pool funded by the Garwood Police Policemen's Benevolent Association, as well as soda and snacks provided by the Garwood Shop Rite and doughnuts provided by Dunkin Donuts of Garwood.

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Wayne Baker for The Westfield Leader

SWAN SONG... Last Friday's Spirit Night at Mountainside's Deerfield Elementary School was the final on-court appearance for graduating players. Both the boys' and girls' teams ended their seasons on a high note, with the girls defeating St. John the Apostle of Clark, 38-15, and the boys delivering a 62-35 trouncing to Holy Trinity of Westfield.

Westfield Board of Education

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proposed that the board consider hiring an assistant athletic trainer to work with Sandy Mamary, the district's existing certified trainer.

DWC

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town from the South Avenue Train Station but that the situation remains in flux.

Because the meeting lacked a quorum, the DWC called board member Lee Hale in Florida in order to cast his vote by telephone on multiple issues, including the approval of the corporation's roughly \$391,000 operating budget for 2007. The budget was reduced to bring it even with last year's level, shaving the previously announced 2.5-percent increase. The budget now goes before the town council's finance committee for final approval.

Mrs. Cronin said the DWC hosted the Main Street New Jersey quarterly executive director's meeting last Thursday. The meeting is a roundtable discussion of ideas and strategies being used by the communities involved. She said Westfield is considered "the most successful Main Street community" in the state and said she was disappointed that rain impacted the tour given to the visiting officials.

"I don't think we'll be able to find someone as good as Sandy, but at least we can get somebody to help her out," Mr. Tranchina said.

He said the new trainer could be paid on a stipend basis and, if hired for the fall and spring seasons, would cost the district about \$10,000 to \$14,000 per year.

Ms. Mamary said, "In past years, I was able to use college students who were being trained in the field to help me. Now, with recent regulations, I cannot leave them to go off with students on their own. I have to be there with them."

Jon Bennett of the Westfield School Boosters Association spoke in support of hiring an assistant athletic trainer. "Since Sandy was hired in 1987, there has been an 83-percent increase in student athlete participation."

"If you go to a 'Back to School' night, and you see two teachers at the front of the room, they tell you, 'Oh, this class has 30 students.' Well, Sandy has 1,548 students," he said.

Mr. Bennett said that, should an assistant athletic trainer be hired, the Boosters Association would be willing to match the budgeted amount for the 2007-2008 school year. He said that the Boosters Association offered this donation to show the board its support of the proposal.



SPECIAL DELIVERY... Billy Buteau, front, Sam Bakaletz and Courtney Maier enjoy their jobs as postmaster, assistant postmaster and letter carrier at Mountainside's Beechwood School's Wee Deliver post office. Under the direction of first-grade instructors Jodi Groth and Janine Cardone, the junior postal workers collect, sort and sometimes stamp "return to sender" mail from friends, teachers and family members. Official street signs bearing the names Beechwood Boulevard, Main Street, Learning Lane, Corduroy Court and Hidden Highway mark the postal routes in the hallways of the pre-K-2 school. The program was made possible through a grant from the Mountainside Education Foundation.