



Happy Mother's Day!

THE WESTFIELD LEADER

Ad Populos, Non Abitus, Perbenignus

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SIXTY CENTS

Advisory Chair: FAA Fanning Plan 'Onerous'

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD—Westfield's Jerome Feder, chairman of the Union County Aircraft Noise Advisory Board, addressed the town council Tuesday night about the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) proposed methods of controlling noise at Newark Liberty International Airport, ultimately recommending the town state its dissatisfaction with the process of "fanning."

In terms of how new suggested procedures affect Westfield, he said "there's a good part and a bad part. The good part is ocean routing at night."

"Ocean routing" calls for directing planes to fly over the ocean as much as possible, shifting the noisiest segment of flights over water instead of over land. Planes would take off, gain altitude over water and then proceed to their destinations.

Mr. Feder said, "Every study has shown that ocean routing would help Westfield a lot. It would only be implemented between 10:30 p.m. and 6 a.m."

He said the "bad part" is that would "fan" aircrafts to the west immediately after departures from Newark. "That's pretty onerous," he said. "Especially onerous for Elizabeth."

Mr. Feder said "fanning" ignores noise-abatement procedures developed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey that work to minimize impacts to densely populated residential areas by utilizing industrial sections and waterways. "There's been a tendency over time to dump environmental problems on poor people and minorities," he added.

In his recommendation to the council and Acting Mayor Mark Ciarrocca,

he said, "Westfield's response is to say 'do something better than fanning.' We're pressing the FAA to make better use of the air space to the east."

Concerning his opinion on the current proposals, Mr. Feder said, "If I had to vote thumbs or thumbs down on the whole package, I'd vote thumbs down."

In other news, the council will introduce ordinances May 15 to pass the \$2.7-million capital budget and approve the salaries of public works employees represented by The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 469.

The Teamsters agreement, which does not offer mediation, is a four-year deal from 2006 to 2009, with yearly increases commensurate with those of the fire and police departments, Town Administrator Jim Gildea told *The Leader* after the meeting.

In other business, earlier this year, the town extended the use of the Lamberts Mill Road conservation center to Scotch Plains residents, with both fourth-ward councilmen voting against the measure.

During her Public Works Committee report, committee chairwoman Jo Ann Neylan reported to her colleagues about the "potential lease" of a portion of the conservation center to Scotch Plains to be used as a "transit station" to deposit items.

She said, at this stage, her committee is determining "if it benefits the town (Westfield)...if it's cost effective and gains some revenue." She added that Westfield wanted to "make sure we don't incur any costs in the process of determining if it's a viable situation."

Fourth Ward Councilman Jim

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Students Attending GLHS Face Scheduling Change

By GINA LEVINE-LEVY
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE—On Tuesday night, administrators from the Berkeley Heights (BH) school district presented a new rotating class schedule to the Mountainside Board of Education (BOE) to be implemented at Governor Livingston High School (GLHS) in September.

The eight-period "Rotating Drop" schedule will replace the current seven-period day.

Students will take eight classes per semester, but their schedules will rotate on a four-day cycle. They will take six 56-minute classes per day and have a one-hour "common lunch."

If science falls before or after lunch, on any day of the four-day rotation, a half hour of lunch will be devoted to science laboratory.

"That's a tremendous advantage because, up until now, we've had to pull students from electives," or physical education for science lab, said GLHS Principal Gregory Meissner.

He said the rotating class schedule allows students to "have a break" from the same classes every day.

"Over four days you have met all of your classes," he said, adding it also allows for "more courses to be taken."

Mr. Meissner said classes will be longer, but not "overly long," to allow for efficient lesson plans.

He said this schedule will "get rid of the concept of a five-day school week. It's day one through four, then you start again."

A yearlong calendar will be as-

signed and the rotating schedule will not change.

He said students can now do fine and practical arts "simultaneously," calling it a "real advantage."

Mr. Meissner, who has previous experience with this type of schedule, said during the "common lunch" hour, students will have the "freedom" to move around.

During the lunch period, students can eat in the cafeteria, the gym or common hallways or go to the media center, computer lab or guidance and athletic offices. "We find students behave much more adult like with this kind of situation," he added.

BH Superintendent Judith Rattner said, "If you hold students to a higher standard, they're going to amaze you...they'll rise to that standard."

Mr. Meissner said the school would encourage activities advisors to schedule meetings during lunch hour.

He said the longer lunch would be an advantage to parents who need to take their children out during that period.

Board member Carmine Venes asked how students would be accounted for if they are not contained to one location.

Mr. Meissner said, "We will define what areas are available," and the "monitoring process will go on as it always had."

Ms. Rattner said the common lunch hour "allows us to better utilize our facility" because there would be more space available throughout the day.

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Ingrid McKinley for The Westfield Leader

YOU MAKE RACE-TIME SO MUCH FUN...Hundreds of spectators line up on Sunday to watch 3,000 rubber ducks race in Mindowaskin Pond as part of a fundraiser for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) research. The race was the culmination of a festival in the Westfield park that included fresh-made baked goods for sale, face painting, tattoos and games for attendees young and old. See additional photos of the race on page 14 and at goleader.com/photos.

New Law Requires Legal Ads For Administrators' Contracts

By NORDETTE N. ADAMS
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD—The Westfield Board of Education met Tuesday night and approved a resolution as required by law to advertise contract terms and conditions of the school district's superintendent of schools, the assistant superintendent and school business administrator.

The public may comment on the

contracts at the board's June 5 meeting, to be held at 8 p.m. at the board's offices at 302 Elm Street.

"As a result of new legislation, we are now required to advertise a public hearing on the salaries of superintendent or the contracts of the superintendent, the school business administrator and any assistant superintendent," said Superintendent William Foley.

He said he spoke to the county

superintendent about the legislation's requirements and said the board "will have to consider, in terms of appointing a new superintendent, that it will need 40 days lead time just to get the contract approved."

"What we will probably do," said Mr. Foley, "is put a resolution on the agenda in the beginning of June regardless, saying that there will be a public hearing one month later and then an appointment so that you can keep the calendar."

The board will "take action" on the contracts June 26. Mr. Foley will retire at the end of August.

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Garwood Council Decreases BOE Budget By \$88,000

By KATHY MARQUES
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD—The borough council Tuesday night passed a resolution lowering the board of education (BOE) budget \$88,111 by reducing salaries, administrative costs, supplies and special-education transportation, among other measures.

After voters in April, by a 292 to 176 count, defeated the original \$5.9-million tax levy, the BOE budget went to the council for deliberation. After reductions, the tax levy will be \$5.84 million.

The BOE in early April cited increased special education and high-school tuition costs when formulating the budget. Remaining costs come from the district's debt service incurred from bonding improvements to Lincoln School.

Tuesday night was "Students in Government Night," in which seventh and eighth graders sat on the council. Representing the council were Gabriella Levine, mayor; Laura Villaraud, council president; Leah Killmer, assistant to the municipal clerk; Joshua Law and Garrett Montague, councilmen; Sarah Palmer, Nicole Shuron and Meghan Emmons, councilwomen; Nicole Beyer, municipal clerk; Patrick Murphy, municipal attorney; Joseph Balak, municipal engineer; Amanda Smith, superintendent of public works; Dylan Madden, chief of police, and Anthony Mondri, fire chief.

"There will be advertising, but we should have some control over what is advertised," Borough Administrator James Debbie said.

On another topic, all establishments with liquor licenses in the borough have submitted for renewals except Bliwise Liquors, Mountainside Elks and Raagini Restaurant, officials said. The borough had called the establishments and left messages reminding them of the renewal deadline. The establishments have until tomorrow

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Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader

WHERE WOULD HE HAVE ENDED UP?...Customers congratulate Helen and Peter Rentoulis, owners of Vicki's Diner in Westfield. Mrs. Rentoulis became suspicious when an 88-year-old customer appeared disheveled the last few times he stopped in and described a newfound friend who was handling his finances along with running errands. Mrs. Rentoulis alerted the man's local bank and found out there were questionable activities. She alerted the police; their work resulted in the arrest of four Elizabeth residents for defrauding the elderly man. See story on page 14.

NJ Transit to Upgrade Mountainside Bus Shelters

By JOHN SKOWRONSKI
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE—Bus stops, liquor licenses, underage drinking and ice cream trucks received discussion at the Mountainside Borough Council's agenda meeting on Tuesday evening.

Mayor Robert Viglianti announced that the recently released municipal budget had contained an error creating a shortfall of \$38,000. He said health benefits and salary expenses were understated. The error will result in a one-point tax increase, or about \$17 per household.

Officials also discussed the replacement of bus stop shelters along the borough's portion of Route 22, saying a number of them were in need of repair. The two locations under review are at Lawrence Avenue and Sheffield Street.

Officials said NJ Transit has offered to upgrade the stops and take over maintenance. Currently, the borough is responsible for upkeep even if NJ Transit provided the shelters.

NJ Transit's proposal includes selling advertising targeted towards Route 22 traffic to pay for the bus stops' upkeep.

"The [existing] bus shelters appear unsound," said Ron Romak of the public works department. "It's looking like the new shelters will be free and will not be Mountainside's responsibility."



Wayne Baker for The Westfield Leader

MARCH OF THE BALLOONS...Preschoolers, their parents and preschool staff circle Mindowaskin Pond in Westfield at last Wednesday's annual balloon parade. The parade commemorates April as the month of the young child. Weather and park availability issues delayed this year's parade into early May.

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Altercation Sends Man To Hospital

By SUZETTE F. STALKER
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD—Two men were arrested after police responded to a fight Saturday night at a party at an apartment building on the 400 block of Rahway Avenue in Westfield that sent one man to the hospital.

Sergeant Scott Rodger of the Westfield Police Department told *The Westfield Leader* Tuesday that Westfield officers arrived at the scene after receiving a call at 9:54 p.m. regarding an undisclosed medical emergency.

When they arrived at the scene, the officers found "a large crowd" and multiple individuals engaged in a fight, as well as one adult male lying on the floor and bleeding inside the building, Sgt. Rodger said.

According to Sgt. Rodger, two NJ Transit officers were already on the premises when Westfield officers arrived, and were attempting to administer first aid to the victim, a 25-year-old Freehold man who had been assaulted by multiple unidentified individuals.

Sgt. Rodger said he did not know if the NJ Transit officers were there in an official capacity or if they were guests at the party.

During an attempt by police to break up the fight, Freddie Melton, 24, of Rahway allegedly struck Westfield Police Officer Joseph Martino twice in the face, causing the officer to fall and sustain a cut to his left arm. Melton also allegedly began fighting with other officers attempted to arrest him.

Because of the size of the crowd, Westfield police called for mutual aid to assist with the incident. Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Garwood, Mountainside, Clark and Union County units responded, according to Sgt. Rodger.

Melton was charged with aggravated assault on a police officer, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. He was released on \$7,500 bail. A second man, Matthew Scaravaglione, 27, of

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Wayne Baker for The Westfield Leader

SHEAR FUN...Left, a ram and ewe from Watchung's Kafka Farms arrive at the Miller-Cory House in Westfield for the Sheep to Shawl event held on April 29. Right, children pet the ram after Jeremy Mills of Hamilton Square sheared him. Attendees also saw demonstrations in carding wool, spinning, both on a wheel and a drop spindle, knitting, butter churning and colonial-era washing.