

## Westfield Council

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Foerst "reiterated his concerns" of last year, saying the shared-service program would "produce truck traffic and all kinds of other things on Lamberts Mill Road and in that area, which is absolutely going to have a direct impact on the quality of life of the people living in the fourth ward."

"I cannot," he continued, "in good conscience, say that we should compare [the potential lease] to the financial benefit, when there's no way for us to calculate financially the intangible detriment to the people in the fourth ward in doing that."

He said the council "didn't follow through last year with regards to the permit program on a trial basis if there are traffic impacts]. I didn't hear any updates on that. Now, it's in place again."

Mr. Foerst added, "I don't want to

give them the idea that this is done, that the council is excited about the opportunity to have some sharing arrangement when they (Scotch Plains) sell off their property to developers, and now they're coming to us and asking us to figure out a solution that impacts my residents."

Ms. Neylan said she "took exception" to the councilman's charge. "First of all, there were no ill effects to the residents of the fourth ward of Westfield," she said. "We did it on a trial basis. It was only a positive."

She added, "There were no complaints by any residents for traffic, over usage, misusage, mismanagement. We heard no complaints of the professionals. It was a win-win situation. Unless you had exception to it during the year and you didn't come to me, this is the first I'm hearing of any complaints. No complaints were brought to my attention. I take exception to that."

Third Ward Councilman Dave Haas "found it hard to believe, with 24 permits sold last year, that anybody along that road noticed [12 or so] cars a week."

The town will vote this Tuesday to award a contract for professional services to Gordon Meth, who would serve as an on-call traffic consultant with a salary not to exceed \$8,000.

Mr. Ciarrocca called Mr. Meth "an asset on call," who helped the town avoid a \$20,000 to \$25,000 payout to the county after proposed traffic improvements at Crossway Place, Edgewood and North Aves. would have eliminated all on-street DPW parking spaces.

## GW Council

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is a suggested donation of \$1.50. For more information, call (908) 232-4759.

The Garwood Free Public Library will hold its 13th annual summer reading program from Monday, June 25, through Wednesday, August 8.

The Celebration Committee is planning the annual Memorial Day service to on Monday, May 28, at the Knights of Columbus hall at noon. This year's guest speaker will be a Garwood resident who is serving in the U.S. States Army.

## Mountainside Council

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to submit applications or risk not having a valid license in place. New licenses are effective June 1.

Mayor Vigilanti asked Borough Attorney John Post if he could remember why there were no ice cream trucks in Mountainside. A resident said she had called a vendor about coming to her son's birthday party and was told that they could not come into Mountainside.

Mr. Debbie said a public safety ordinance prohibited them. The mayor said officials would need to look into the matter.

The mayor said officials could ask Westfield and Scotch Plains how they allow ice cream trucks without letting other unintended vendors drive around their towns.

The council discussed the potential need for a new position of municipal housing liaison. Mr. Debbie

provided a model ordinance on the matter to Mr. Post for his legal review. This issue involves the state's (COAH) regulations and the impact on Mountainside.

COAH was created by the Fair Housing Act of 1985 in response to Supreme Court cases commonly known as the Mount Laurel Decisions. COAH extracts fees from new developments to fund affordable housing.

Adam Lieb, assistant recreation director, recommended waiving the \$125 community-pool fee for the local parent-teacher association to hold its annual eighth-grade pool party on June 13; the council agreed.

The council discussed the need to amend the ordinance regulating lighted fields. The current ordinance covers only the field at borough hall. The amendment would add all fields to the ordinance, with the exception of the youth baseball field.

At Tuesday's regular meeting, a resolution will be on the agenda to appoint resident Zenon Moriaki to the Union County Air Traffic and Noise Advisory Board.

Also discussed Tuesday were the implications of implementing an underage drinking ordinance.

Mr. Post said he reviewed Cranford ordinance that, he said, conforms to state guidelines and calls for people under the legal age to receive a fine of \$250 for the first occurrence and \$350 for each subsequent occurrence.

The ordinance also allows for suspension or postponement of driving privileges.

Mr. Post said one consequence of such an ordinance would be that a person over 18 who has been convicted of drinking underage would have the violation of a local ordinance appear permanently on their criminal record.

"My concern is that it shows up on their record," said Councilman William Lane, discussing the paradox and its impact on a young person's future.

"It's similar to speeding on the sidewalk," said Mr. Debbie, referring to how a moving violation does not show up on a criminal record, but because driving on a sidewalk violates a local ordinance, the result is different.



TOP EDUCATOR...Garwood Superintendent of Schools William Murphy presents first-grade teacher Elizabeth Novello with the Education Foundation of Garwood's "Teacher of the Year" Award at the organization's appreciation dinner on April 26. Ms. Novello teaches at Lincoln/Franklin Elementary School.

## WF Board of Education

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In addition to approving the public-hearing resolution, the board approved a contract to Vincent Thomas Meade, Inc., for construction management services. A public-school contract law allows the board to award the contract without competition, according to the meeting's agenda statement.

Board member Richard Solomon, who serves on the facilities committee, said at the committee's last meeting, Business Administrator Robert Berman said the construction projects at Lincoln School and Roosevelt and Edison Intermediate Schools are large enough to require oversight that he could not personally provide.

Mr. Solomon said Meade would provide "general oversight (on all three projects) to make sure that the prime contractors and general contractors are doing what they're supposed to be doing." He said Mr. Berman "feels very comfortable that this firm is the right firm. He's worked with them before, and they are local, and they came up with the right bid and the right proposal."

The construction project at the three schools received funding through January's bond referendum.

The board heard a curriculum presentation by district librarians. Later, they unanimously approved the school library curriculum for the first reading. Copies of the curriculum are available for review in the office of instruction, said board member Alice Hunnicutt.

Barbara Ball, coordinator of librarians for the district and supervisor of language arts for kindergarten to grade 8, began the presentation saying she's happy to work with "11 talented, competent and cool professional women who staff and lead the libraries" in the schools.

According to the presentation, three librarians staff the high-school library; the other eight are distributed evenly through the remaining nine schools.

Emily Snitow, a librarian at Westfield High School, Janice Sheridan from Edison and Daria Bonavita from Jefferson Elementary School joined Mrs. Ball in making the presentation.

"Probably no other subject area has changed so dramatically in the last five years as the library media program in all nine schools," said Mrs. Snitow. "We are much more high-tech than ever before, with electronic books, databases, DVDs, Broadband Internet connections and access to resources that are available in other libraries."

All three emphasized the importance of "teaching students how to evaluate websites for authenticity, accuracy, relevancy, and currency."

Mrs. Sheridan said, "We teach children how to be ethical researchers, using computers responsibly, understanding why we have copyright law, what plagiarism is and why it's wrong." She said the intermediate library program is the bridge between elementary-level research and more sophisticated high-school research.

Mrs. Bonavita said at the elementary level, librarians "welcome the

youngest, starting to wean them away from their parents." She said they teach students basic skills like taking books off the shelf without the rest falling off, how to turn a page in a book without tearing the page and how to take care of books properly.

"When they leave us six years later, they are producing pieces of research based on multiple sources," she said.

According to the presentation, students at the elementary level are discouraged from using Internet information sources such as Google and Wikipedia because those resources offer too much information for young students to decipher and evaluate. Younger students use "sheltered" search services such as Net Trekker, which presents age-appropriate information sources.

Mrs. Sheridan said that at the intermediate level, students have "access to an online encyclopedia, authoritative databases and the librarian's Internet index, a selection tool which recommends reliable, trustworthy, librarian-selected websites. Students learn the difference between blogs, wikis, databases and websites."

By the time students reach high school, the program has trained them how to discern information using critical thinking skills. The librarians discussed high technology usage in libraries but said students still use traditional source material such as hardcopy books.

## MS BOE

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She said the new schedule would offer some cost savings.

Previously, teachers were paid to write curriculum during summer hours. The cost ranged from \$65,000 to \$100,000 per year.

"Now, all teachers will be working to improve the environment all year" by participating in curriculum committees throughout the year.

Both administrators said the "learning curve" would be greater for teachers than students.

Mr. Meissner said he has conducted an in-depth in-service program with teachers about the new schedule. He also brought in six staff members from other districts who have experience with this schedule to speak to teachers.

"I feel like our faculty is ready now to do that," he said.

Ms. Rattner said workshops throughout the year also help prepare the staff for the change.

The superintendent said the schedule change is part of a five-year "strategic plan" that began in 2005. She said an "action team" explored schedules at schools in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and, ultimately, recommended this one.

Mr. Meissner said the previous schedule did not allow students to take enough classes, based on "increase in pressure" from colleges.

He said more students are "double language" based on higher college admission standards and taking a full load of Advanced Placement classes.

The program will be implemented September 10, the first day of the 2007-2008 school year.

"The first time you do anything, there will be issues that arise," said Ms. Rattner, encouraging parents to inform administrators of concerns.

In other business, the BOE passed resolutions in the areas of budget and finance, curriculum and personnel.

Under personnel, the BOE approved the resignation of Robert Burkhardt, principal of Deerfield School.

His resignation will take effect June 30. Mr. Burkhardt served as principal for two years.

The BOE also approved the resignation of special-education teacher Patricia Bedi, after one year of service, and occupational therapist Rina Patel, after two years with the district.

Under curriculum, the BOE approved the Sittion Spelling program for grades 3 and 4.

The program was implemented in grades 1 and 2 this year.

Chief School Administrator (CSA) Richard O'Malley said the goal is to "spiral" the program.

"Consistency in our curriculum is again what we're striving for," he said.

The board also approved the summer program from June 25 to July 27.

The CSA said it is an "opportunity for students to build on skills" and called the recurring program a "unique opportunity here in Mountainside."

The BOE will meet again Tuesday, May 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Beechwood School Media Center.

## Police Arrest 4 for Defrauding 88-Year-Old WF Resident

WESTFIELD - Chief of Police John Parizeau of the Westfield Police Department (WPD) on Tuesday announced the arrest and charging of four individuals following theft investigations against an elderly Westfield resident. The WPD Detective Bureau worked in conjunction with Assistant Prosecutor Ann Rubin of the Union County Prosecutor's Office and the Elizabeth Police Department. Janet Garcia, 51, Richard Garcia, 26, Jacqueline Garcia, 31, and Lucia Heinz, 23, all of Pennington Street in Elizabeth, were arrested.

The arrests are a culmination of an ongoing investigation concerning the defrauding of an 88-year-old Westfield resident who is legally blind. The investigation uncovered that Richard Garcia befriended the victim on the pretense of trying to assist him with his day-to-day activities. During the course of their relationship, the suspects were able to gain access to the victim's bank accounts, securities and personal property, bilking him out of more than \$100,000.

Janet Garcia was arrested and charged with conspiracy and theft by failure to make required disposition of property received, conspiracy and misapplication of entrusted property, conspiracy and theft.

Richard Garcia was arrested and charged with conspiracy and theft by failure to make required disposition of property received, conspiracy and misapplication of entrusted property, theft and theft by deception.

Jacqueline Garcia was arrested and charged with conspiracy and misapplication of entrusted property.

Heinz was arrested and charged with theft and theft by deception.

The suspects were processed and released.

On May 1, members of the Westfield and Elizabeth Police Department's detective bureaus executed a search warrant at Pennington Street and seized multiple items as evidence, including cash, computers and bank records.

The investigation is continuing, police said.



FUTURE LEADERS...Garwood seventh- and eighth-graders played the roles of the mayor and council members, borough attorney, engineer, public works superintendent and police and fire chiefs during "Students-In-Government Night" at Garwood's borough council meeting.



## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Saturday, April 28, Brian C. Gatesy, 26, of Springfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) following a motor vehicle stop at Woodland Avenue and Cherry Street. He was held until sober.

Saturday, April 28, Susanne G. Prestinzi, 36, of Westfield was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a hypodermic needle and syringe at South and Summit Avenues. She later was released with a court summons.

Saturday, April 28, Mike Martinez, 21, of Somerset and Andre Doyle, 21, of New Brunswick were arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana following a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue, West, and Downer Street. Both were released on their own recognizance after receiving summonses.

Saturday, April 28, Alexander Wnorowski, 18, of Clark was arrested at Central Avenue and Vernon Street and charged with operating a motor vehicle after consumption of alcohol under age 21. A male juvenile who was a passenger in the vehicle also was taken into custody. Wnorowski was released to a responsible individual after receiving a summons. The juvenile was released to a parent.

Monday, April 30, Nathan Rhodes, 44, of Irvington was arrested at the Essex County jail on a criminal warrant issued by the Westfield Municipal Court, with bail set at \$182. Rhodes was committed on default of bail to the Union County jail.

Monday, April 30, Jaquon A. Larkin, 20, of Piscataway was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at Springfield Avenue and East Broad Street on an outstanding traffic warrant out of Piscataway. Larkin was released after posting \$145 bail.

Monday, April 30, Michael Stemler, 37, of Morristown was arrested and charged with DWI following a motor vehicle stop at Elm and East Broad Streets. He later was released to a responsible individual.

Tuesday, May 1, Michael Wewna, 23, of Garwood was arrested and charged with the theft of rolls of quarters totaling \$50 from his place of employment in the 100 block of Elm Street. Wewna was released on his own recognizance with a May 17 court date.

Wednesday, May 2, Brian Lederman, 22, of Westfield was arrested and charged with DWI at Central Avenue and Sycamore Street. He subsequently was released to a responsible individual.

Wednesday, May 2, Marquis Relf, 22, of Plainfield was arrested on the 200 block of Cacciola Place on a Plainfield traffic warrant. He was turned over to Plainfield police in lieu of \$433 bail.

Friday, May 4, Matthew Timko, 18, of

### Mad-Hatter Hits 14th Bank Since September

AREA - New Jersey's mad-hatter bank robber hit again last Thursday afternoon at the Commerce Bank on Ridgedale Avenue in Cedar Knolls in Morris County. The robbery occurred at 12:50 p.m., according to the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

Based on surveillance photos taken at the bank, the prosecutor's office confirmed that it was the same man who has robbed a total of 14 banks in Union, Morris and Essex Counties since September 2006. Of the 14 banks, 10 have been Commerce Banks. The robber has also hit HSBC, Chase, Washington Mutual and Hudson City Savings banks.

The robber wore his trademark hat, this time a powder-blue baseball-style cap with an orange and blue emblem, authorities said. He also wore a powder-blue windbreaker and dark pants.

As he had in the past, the mad-hatter showed the teller a note demanding money, but did not show any kind of weapon. The teller gave him \$2,820. Authorities said he told the teller only "Hurry up. Hurry up."

Union Township was arrested in a municipal lot behind East Broad Street businesses and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana. He was released on his own recognizance.

Saturday, May 5, a resident of the 1200 block of Rahway Avenue reported that someone threw a glass bottle through the back windshield of her motor vehicle while it was parked in the street in front of her house.

### Scotch Plains

Tuesday, May 1, a custodian at McGinn School reported that someone damaged the picnic table located on school grounds.

Thursday, May 3, a patron at an East Second Street restaurant reported that someone stole his wallet from the table, while he stepped outside to talk to a friend. According to police, the wallet contained several hundred dollars in cash and several credit cards.

Thursday, May 3, a Park Avenue business owner reported that someone removed blank checks from his store and used them to withdraw money from his account. According to police, approximately \$200 worth of checks were cashed.

Friday, May 4, a resident of Mountain Avenue reported that someone scratched his vehicle while it was parked in front of his house.

Saturday, May 5, George Minor, 47, of Watchung was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana. According to police, officers responded to a disturbance call on Front Street and found Minor yelling in the street. After an investigation, the marijuana was discovered and Minor was taken into custody where he was processed and released, police said.

Sunday, May 6, Robert Henry, 44, of Plainfield was arrested for an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop. Henry could not post bail and was transported to the Union County jail.

### Fanwood

Wednesday, May 2, Jaunita Demory, 38, of Newark was arrested on an outstanding Newark warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road.

Friday, May 4, Denise L. Strickland, 61, of Somerville was arrested following a motor vehicle stop for an outstanding Watchung warrant.

Friday, May 4, Luis A. Franco, 35, of Woodbridge was arrested for an outstanding Newark warrant after a motor vehicle stop.

Friday, May 4, a 15-year-old male juvenile was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and a 14-year-old male juvenile from Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct at the Fanwood Train Station after a field investigation.

Friday, May 4, sometime between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5:45 p.m., someone slashed the tires of three bicycles parked and locked at the Fanwood Train Station.

Saturday, May 5, Gerald Bishop, 50, of Newark was arrested on an outstanding Union County Sheriff's no-bail warrant after a motor vehicle stop. He was released to the Union County Sheriff's Department, police said.

Tuesday, May 8, Bill Vasbas, 47, of Scotch Plains was arrested on an outstanding Carlstadt warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

### Mountainside

Friday, May 4, Carlos Bolvito, 23, of Bound Brook was stopped for displaying passenger plates on a commercial vehicle and arrested for failure to provide proof of legal residence and proof of insurance.

Saturday, May 5, Matthew J. Reino, 18, of Berkeley Heights, and Adam M. Witzburg, 18, of Berkeley Heights were arrested and charged for possession of alcoholic beverages and being under the influence while under the age of 21.

Monday, May 7, Mark J. Depaola, 45, of Colonia was arrested and charged for refusal to submit to a breath test and later arrested for operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. According to police, he was processed and released according to John's Law.

## TV-36 Announces Program Schedule

WESTFIELD - Westfield TV-36 has announced its program schedule for the town's local access channel:

### 07090 News

Sun.-M-W-F: 6 a.m., 9 a.m., 6 p.m.; Sat.: 6 a.m., 9 a.m.

### Hometown

Sun: 8 a.m., 8 p.m.; M-W-F: 8 a.m., 2 p.m., 8 p.m.; Sat: 8 a.m.

### Kidz Korner

Sun: 7 a.m., 7 p.m.; M-W-F: 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 7 p.m.; Sat: 7 a.m.

### Town Council Meetings

Sun: 10 p.m.; M-W-F: 10 a.m., 3 p.m., 10 p.m.

### Senior Spotlight

Sun: 11 p.m.; M-W-F: 11 a.m., 4 p.m., 9 p.m.

### Cooking Thyme

M-W-F: 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

### Make You Wanna Dance

M-W-F: 12 p.m.

### Affairs of the Heart

M-W-F: 5 p.m.

### Historical Society

Sun: 11 p.m.; M-W-F: 11 p.m.

### Coffee with Conscience

Sun-M-W-F-Sat: 12 a.m.

Additionally, Westfield TV-36 makes episodes of its shows available at westfieldnj.gov/tv36.

Blue Devils TV, produced by Westfield High School television staff and students, runs programs on TV-36 on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Blue Devils program schedules change; visit westfieldnj12.org and follow the Blue Devils TV link at the bottom of the webpage.



START TO FINISH...Above, a fleet of rubber ducks enter the water at Mindowaskin Pond for the race to benefit Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) research last Sunday afternoon. Below, volunteers collect the ducks as they reach the finish line. See additional photos at goleader.com/photos.

