



**TICKET TO READ...**McKinley School principal Claudia Andreski challenged the student body to read three miles of books - approximately the distance from Westfield to Union's Kean University. The students not only met the challenge but exceeded it, reading more than 16,000 books. In return, they were rewarded with a NJ Transit train ride to Kean University for a reading rally day with guest readers, including the mayor and superintendent. Pictured at the train station with McKinley students are Mrs. Andreski and Superintendent William Foley.

## FW Mews Wall Collapse

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how well the responders work together."

Firefighters and emergency personnel from as far away as Hoboken, Jersey City, Bayonne and Elizabeth responded to the scene along with local towns including Westfield and Scotch Plains.

Helen and Jeff Ling, proprietors of Enchantments gift shop on South Avenue, are developing the Mews.

"The investigation has been going on, and I think that with the causes of it, it's in professionals' hands in order to find out and everything will go from there. Hopefully, we'll move

### Awards Presented to Rescue Squad Members

**WESTFIELD** — Mayor Andrew Skibitsky presented nine members of the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad with length-of-service awards at the town council meeting on May 15. The awards publicly recognize those members who have provided over five years of service. The nine members that were present have provided a combined total of over 105 years of volunteer emergency medical services to the citizens of Westfield.

Squad member Arthur Cooke was recognized for 25 years, Richard Warwick for 20 years, Lynn Feldman and Robert Barrett for 15 years each, Ray Showfety for 10 years, Robert Billson, Robert Newton, Rong Liu, Noelle DeLouisa and Jonathan Dilorio for five years each.

## Safety-Belt Enforcement Campaign Continues

**AREA** — A safety-belt enforcement and education campaign is being conducted locally as part of a nationwide "Click It or Ticket" mobilization that began on Monday and will continue through Sunday, June 3. Law enforcement officers throughout New Jersey are stepping up enforcement and education of the state's Primary Seat Belt Law, according to press release.

In addition, officials will make concerted efforts locally and statewide to raise awareness about the importance and life-saving benefits of safety belts.

During the mobilization period, local police agencies will conduct a zero-tolerance safety-belt enforcement campaign. Motorists who are not buckled up will be issued a ticket. The goal of the program is to increase the statewide safety-belt usage rate to 92 percent. Current safety belt usage in New Jersey is 90 percent, with the rate steadily rising during the last 10 years. In 2006, there were 773 motor ve-

hicle fatalities in New Jersey, a large percentage of which were not wearing seatbelts. Between 1975 and 2000, safety belt usage prevented 135,000 fatalities and 3.8 million injuries nationwide, saving \$585 billion in medical and other costs, according to the press release.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people age 15 to 34 in the United States, according to law enforcement officials.

"High visibility enforcement saves lives," said Pamela Fischer, director of the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety. "Our goal is to make sure that all motor vehicle occupants are properly restrained, on every trip."

"We are committed to the 'Click It or Ticket' strategy," added Tom Louizou, regional administrator of the National Highway Safety Administration. "Tickets are a strong deterrent and the results are meaningful: Fewer deaths on our roads."

Two of New Jersey's top historians joined us for the morning. Marc Mappen, Executive Director of the New Jersey Historical Commission, told us of the many revolutions that were happening throughout the country in 1857: in manufacturing, transportation, communication, and education. Union County was born in a very volatile time in the nation's history, just before the Civil War began.

He said, "Like us, New Jerseyans in the year 1857 were accustomed to rapid change. But sadly, like us they also faced grave dangers... The year 1857, the birth year for Union County here in New Jersey, was the year in which the prospects for national peace and compromise died. It was a year that led inexorably to the abolition of slavery in the United States, and the new birth of freedom promised by Lincoln at Gettysburg six years later."

Linda Caldwell Epps, Executive Director of the New Jersey Historical Society, regaled us with tales of her experiences in Union County, including hiking in the Watchung Reservation, and exploring Elizabeth, "where all great things began." Ms. Epps, now an Essex County resident, grew up in Elizabeth. She reminded us of the county's first inhabitants — the indigenous peoples known by names that still survive today: Leni Lenape, Mattano, Passaic, Raritan, Rahway, and Shackamaxon.

"No one knows exactly why the name 'Union County' was chosen," said Ms. Epps. But she thought it must have related to a nation facing civil war. "Union County's residents of that time were strongly united as they moved forward to create an equitable government like the one we have now." She added, "We must understand our history to understand our destiny."

Maribeth Lisnock of the Cranford Historical Society put together a beautiful display of authentic costumes from the 1850s to the 1960s, including hoop-skirt dresses and military uniforms. Most of the county's historical organizations came with books and displays on their past, including the Westfield Historical Society, the Miller-Cory House Museum, and the

## RVSA Speaks to WF Council

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service will jump more than 200 percent to \$10.3 million.

Mr. Materna said municipalities owe \$341 million in total remaining debt service. Westfield is responsible for 12 percent, or \$40 million, of that. "Ninety-five percent of the debt service relates to the JCO. We have no choice in this matter," he added.

In 2007, Westfield's annual assessment totals \$2.2 million. Next year, debt service alone will rise 197 percent to just under \$1.3 million, for a total assessment of \$3.19 million.

Mr. Chin said the authority is "looking out for grants everywhere." He said the RVSA has "high hopes in (U.S. Senators) (Frank) Lautenberg and (Robert) Menendez," who will vote on the Water Quality Investment Act of 2007 that would authorize \$1.7 billion over five years in grants to states and municipalities for reducing sewer overflows.

The act passed in the House, with Mike Ferguson (R-7, New Providence) voting affirmatively.

Responding to Fourth Ward Councilman Jim Foerst, Mr. Chin suggested "setting aside a certain amount of money to improve the I/I every year," as the best way to exact cost savings.

Third Ward Councilman Dave Haas, recalling Westfield's success at handling its I/I levels 20 years ago, asked, "If all the towns had the same I/I as Westfield had, would we have needed the expansion?"

All RVSA representatives still said "yes" but noted that the peak load would be less.

Town Engineer Ken Marsh said that in 1995, Westfield did an "extensive" I/I study, using dry and wet weather sampling. "The conclusion was that I/I was not significant enough to justify any major capital expenditures, but we are vigilant. We have an ongoing program. We also are attacking a drainage problem," he said.

A municipality's "user charge" is based on its respective "flow." However, each town can then decide how it will calculate the charge for an individual household. Westfield bases its household charge on tax assessment.

When Second Ward Councilwoman Jo Ann Neylan asked if there was an "equitable way" for each town to pay its share, Mr. Brinker reiterated that towns pay based on "flow," and said in Westfield, there aren't industrial contributors "to adjust the burden from the residents."

Clark, which does boast more commercial and industrial properties, removed the RVSA from its budget and created a utility.

"It also shifted the burden out of the taxes," Mr. Brinker added. "I live in Clark. My tax bill, theoretically, should go down by about \$125. I'll bet you a hotdog and a beer it doesn't."

## MS BOE

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we are almost fully staffed for 07-08," Mr. O'Malley said.

The implementation of a "Writer's Workshop," for kindergarten to grade 5 is now set to begin in September.

During the workshop, students will select a piece of writing and then write and re-write drafts under the supervision of their teacher. Teachers will attend classes this summer at the Teacher's College Summer Institute.

"You'll see an improvement in our writing, which has really been a focus in our district over the past two years," Mr. O'Malley said.

The board also discussed the current status of the Deerfield School playground, which comes out of code on October 19.

"What have been safety guidelines in the past... will become statutes for the State of New Jersey," Mr. Perrin said.

Some of the problems with the Deerfield playground include "pinch points" and places where children could get their shoulder in but not their head, and risk strangulation.

Differently spacing between bars is also a problem, officials said.

The board is looking into ways to retrofit the playground, rather than demolishing it and building a new one.

Municipality	Year 2004 (Actual)	Year 2008 (Projected)	Projected % vs. Actual % 04
Clark	1,432,000	2,107,000	147.1%
Cranford	778,625	1,875,000	240.8%
Garwood	508,900	1,152,000	226.4%
Horseneck	508,600	1,158,000	227.7%
Mountainside	398,125	908,000	228.0%
Rahway	1,802,375	4,941,000	274.1%
Roselle Park	274,800	641,000	233.3%
Scotch Plains	688,125	1,589,000	230.9%
Springfield	768,500	1,818,000	236.6%
Westfield	1,388,500	3,278,000	236.1%
Woodbridge	2,084,125	4,880,000	234.1%
<b>Total Assessments</b>	<b>11,258,900</b>	<b>26,869,000</b>	<b>238.7%</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>875,000</b>	<b>13,059,000</b>	<b>1493.1%</b>
<b>Costs</b>	<b>11,250,000</b>	<b>28,880,000</b>	<b>256.7%</b>

\* Debt Service Costs will approximate this level during the years 2009 through 2013. Debt Service Costs of \$10.3 million will end in the year 2014.

This 2004 chart shows an assessment comparison among all municipalities. It projected that in 2008, Westfield would incur a \$3.379 assessment. Westfield, according to the most recent data, will see a \$3.19 million assessment next year - approximately \$189,000 less than anticipated.

**Union County News**

### Understand History to Understand Our Destiny

**Bette Jane Kowalski**  
Freeholder Board Chairwoman

I would like to thank everyone who participated in Union County's 150th anniversary celebration at Union County College on May 19th. The day reflected the depth and diversity of Union County's history, and I think that all who attended the ceremonies enjoyed them.

Two of New Jersey's top historians joined us for the morning. Marc Mappen, Executive Director of the New Jersey Historical Commission, told us of the many revolutions that were happening throughout the country in 1857: in manufacturing, transportation, communication, and education. Union County was born in a very volatile time in the nation's history, just before the Civil War began.

He said, "Like us, New Jerseyans in the year 1857 were accustomed to rapid change. But sadly, like us they also faced grave dangers... The year 1857, the birth year for Union County here in New Jersey, was the year in which the prospects for national peace and compromise died. It was a year that led inexorably to the abolition of slavery in the United States, and the new birth of freedom promised by Lincoln at Gettysburg six years later."

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Maribeth Lisnock of the Cranford Historical Society put together a beautiful display of authentic costumes from the 1850s to the 1960s, including hoop-skirt dresses and military uniforms. Most of the county's historical organizations came with books and displays on their past, including the Westfield Historical Society, the Miller-Cory House Museum, and the

Mountainside Preservation Committee. Several historical characters, including Uncle Sam and a Union Army soldier sauntered through the crowd. "David Felt," from the Deserted Village of Feltville, gave away wares from his print shop.

We had balloon animals and face-painting for the kids. And when people needed to sit and rest, they could listen to tunes from the Full Count Big Band, old-time songs from the Rahway Valley Jerseyaires or more recent songs from the Decibelles Doowop Group and the Dixie Rascals.

Many of the county's departments participated, including a canine corps presentation from the Sheriff's office, and an information van from the Prosecutor's office. We also had maps showing the history of the Union County Park System. And the Union County Arts Center, the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, and Union County College had lively displays.

We'll have more history exhibits at county events throughout the year, building up to our next big history event, Four Centuries in a Weekend, on October 20 and 21. Congratulations, Union County.

### County Kicks Off 150th Anniversary

COUNTY — One hundred fifty years ago, Union County became an official county in New Jersey. Last Saturday, Union County College held a ceremony to commemorate the anniversary.

Tables represented most of the 21 towns in the county, as well as the county itself. Each town brought something different to show the county's historical significance. Pictures depicted modern places today and in the past, books told stories of the towns and of Union County and the Cranford Historical Society displayed restored clothing styled to various eras after 1850.

Union County Freeholder Chairwoman Bette Jane Kowalski mentioned how towns unearthed some "fabulous" photos from the past.

The ceremony started with welcoming comments from Ms. Kowalski. Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich then read a letter written by Governor Jon Corzine.

Multiple municipal historical groups received county proclamations acknowledging their efforts to the county and its celebration, including the Westfield & Mountainside Historical Societies and the Miller-Cory House.



**I/I, CAPTAIN...** Representatives from Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) visited the Westfield council Tuesday to give background on a judicial court order that led to the \$146 million in renovations to the Rahway facility, which will now accommodate inflow and infiltration (I/I) that formerly spilled into the Rahway River. Pictured, from left to right, are Bob Materna, secretary and treasurer; Michael Brinker, interim executive director; former Mayor Allen Chin, RVSA commissioner and Westfield representative; Westfield Leader freelance Aaron Levitt and Fourth Ward Councilman Jim Foerst.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Monday, May 14, Javier Gabriel, 24, of Westfield was arrested on the 200 block of South Avenue, West and charged with obstruction of justice and possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS), identified as suspected cocaine.

According to police, Gabriel was observed riding a bicycle while pulling another bicycle alongside. A subsequent field investigation resulted in the suspect's arrest. He was released after posting \$250 bail.

Monday, May 14, Justin Wolf, 18, of Westfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on three Westfield traffic warrants. He was released after posting a total of \$390 bail on the warrants.

Monday, May 14, a Forest Avenue resident reported the theft of an iPod and cellular telephone charger, with a total value of \$325, from an unlocked motor vehicle parked in the street in front of her house. Another vehicle parked at the same location also was entered and a New Jersey driver's permit was removed.

Monday, May 14, a Kimball Avenue resident reported that her motor vehicle was scratched while it was parked in front of her house.

Monday, May 14, Rasha Daye, 19, of North Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Newark traffic warrant after a motor vehicle stop at North Avenue and Elmer Street. Daye was released after posting \$81 bail.

Tuesday, May 15, Anthony Luna, 18, of Aberdeen was arrested on an outstanding Cranford traffic warrant following a motor vehicle stop at South and Windsor Avenues. He was released after posting \$300 bail.

Tuesday, May 15, Tony Speranza, 22, of Elizabeth was arrested on an outstanding Westfield criminal warrant at Clark police headquarters. Speranza was unable to post the \$250 bail and was held at Westfield police headquarters pending court the following morning.

Tuesday, May 15, a Westfield bicycle reported the theft of a black Allez bicycle from the grounds of Westfield High School during the afternoon hours.

Tuesday, May 15, a resident of Boynton Avenue reported a burglary to her apartment during which a diabetic testing kit of unknown value was removed.

Tuesday, May 15, David Firestone, 19, Ashton Golemba, 20, Justin Tullo, 20 and Megan Kealy, 20, all of Westfield, were arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The arrests occurred following a motor vehicle stop and investigation in the 100 block of Belmar Terrace. Firestone also was charged with possession of false identification. All were released on their own recognizance pending their respective court dates.

Thursday, May 17, police received a report of criminal mischief in which a Washington Elementary School building on the 900 block of St. Marks Avenue was defaced with graffiti.

Thursday, May 17, Yolanda Perez, 35, of Bellville was arrested on a Jersey City traffic warrant during a motor vehicle stop on the 300 block of South Avenue, East. She posted \$262 bail and was released.

Thursday, May 17, an incident of criminal mischief was reported at Edison Intermediate School on the 800 block of Rahway Avenue, in which a window screen in the cafeteria was kicked out.

### Scotch Plains

Wednesday, May 16, a student at Scotch

### Car Overturns On North Avenue

By ALLISON GIBBONS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**WESTFIELD**—According to Westfield police, at 9:55 p.m. Sunday evening, a 27-year-old man lost control of his car on North Avenue, striking a tree before overturning the car.

According to a police report, Kwong Sur Wat was heading eastbound on North Avenue when he struck the curb.

Cheung Lam Wat, 51, told The Westfield Leader that he - not his son - was driving the car and sustained three broken ribs.

Captain David Wayman told The Leader the car struck the post of the pedestrian yield signal and a tree. When the driver traveled back onto the road, the car overturned and landed on its roof.

According to police, the driver told police that he was tired, and the next thing he knew, he struck the tree and overturned.

Captain Wayman reported that the driver was trapped inside the vehicle and was removed by the Westfield Fire Department. He was then transferred to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ).

Fire Chief Dan Kelly told The Leader that the department used "hydraulic extrication tools" to remove the victim from the 2004 Altima.

Plains-Fanwood High School reported that someone removed her cellular telephone from her unlocked locker. The phone was valued at \$230, police said.

Wednesday, May 16, a student at the Union County Magnet High School for Math, Science and Technology reported that someone removed his wallet from a lunch table while he was talking to a friend. The wallet contained approximately \$150 in cash, police said.

Wednesday, May 16, Steven McIntyre, 22, of Roselle was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop.

Thursday, May 17, a resident of Grand Street reported that someone damaged his motor vehicle sometime overnight while it was parked in front of his house.

Friday, May 18, Allington Stevens, 36, of Elizabeth was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop for a violation.

Friday, May 18, Jerome Mathis, 40, of Plainfield was arrested on charges of shoplifting and possession of a CDS. According to police, a Westfield Avenue store reported that Mathis was stopped for shoplifting, at which time he ran away. He was apprehended and found to be in possession of a CDS after being searched, police said. Mathis was processed and transported to the Union County jail after he failed to make bail.

Saturday, May 19, Nancy Godown, 42, of Bound Brook was arrested and charged with possession and distribution of a CDS. According to police, Godown was stopped for a motor vehicle violation and the CDS was discovered in her possession. Because of the large quantity in her possession, she also was charged with distribution, police said.

### Fanwood

Thursday, May 17, Michael B. Cross, Jr., 27, of Union was arrested on an outstanding Edison warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Seventh Avenue.

Thursday, May 17, Felipe Capulin, 34, of Roselle was arrested on an outstanding West Hampton warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Friday, May 18, Kelvin R. Cabrera, 27, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. He was turned over to a responsible adult after being processed, police said.

Friday, May 18, Dawne S. Berlinski, 36, of Garwood was arrested on an outstanding Watchung warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Midway Avenue.

Friday, May 18, a resident of the 200 block of King Street reported that someone painted graffiti on his garage door.

Friday, May 18, a resident of the 100 block of Shady Lane reported someone used her credit card to make fraudulent purchases in Queens, the Bronx and Brooklyn, N.Y.

Saturday, May 19, Teresa M. Lyp, 22, of Cranford was arrested and charged with DWI after a motor vehicle stop on Midway Avenue.

Saturday, May 19, Kerry A. Malone, 23, of Edison was arrested on an outstanding Metuchen warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Second Street.

Monday, May 21, Elizabeth V. Rodas, 26, of Elizabeth was arrested on outstanding Newark and Bayonne warrants after a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue.

Monday, May 21, a business on South Avenue reported that a customer brought his car in for service and picked it up during the night using a spare key without paying for the service.

### Mountainside

Wednesday, May 16, a business on Sheffield Street reported that someone stole a trailer containing \$50,000 worth of merchandise, which was being temporarily stored in the trailer.

According to police, a surveillance camera showed what appeared to be a tractor, possibly white in color, pull into the lot and hook up to the trailer. The operator of the tractor then drove across the grass and into an adjacent lot before leaving the area.

Friday, May 18, Robert J. Rowland, 39, of Westfield was arrested and charged with DWI after a motor vehicle stop for failure to maintain a lane on Mountain Avenue.

Friday, May 18, Amanda C. Jackson, 33, of Irvington was arrested at the Essex County jail on an outstanding warrant.

Friday, May 18, a resident of Apple Tree Lane reported that someone burglarized his motor vehicle while it was parked in his driveway.

According to police, a witness saw a thin, white male with long hair, approximately six feet tall and 15 to 20 years old exiting the vehicle and then leaving the scene in another vehicle identified as a Chevy Impala or a similar type of vehicle being driven by another individual. Reported missing was a Nokia cellular telephone and a pack of cigarettes, police said.

Saturday, May 19, Ramiro J. Nunez-Villela, 25, of Union was arrested for driving with a suspended license.



**CAMPAIGN PARTY...**Westfield Councilman Mark Ciarrocca (Third Ward) is introduced to supporters Saturday night by Assemblyman Jon Bramnick at the campaign kicked-off party for his re-election at the home of Debbie and Mayor Andy Skibitsky. Despite inclement weather, more than a hundred residents attended. Pictured, left to right, are: Mayor Skibitsky, Mr. Ciarrocca and Mr. Bramnick.

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