



FOR A FOOD CAUSE... Don Wussler, left, speaks with Scotch Plains Business and Professionals Association President, Dr. Frank Di Lollo, middle, and a shopper at the Scotch Plains Farmers Marketplace about upcoming events to raise money for the Korean War Veterans Memorial Clock for the town of Scotch Plains. This Saturday, August 23, there will be a bake sale and a daylong mini-golf fundraiser at the Scotch Hills Country Club. Businesses may in sponsor a hole for \$50. For more information, call Mr. Wussler at (908) 889-1709.

## Cheeburger, Cheeburger Closes After Four Years

By WAYNE BAKER  
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Cheeburger Cheeburger restaurant located in North Station Plaza closed suddenly last Monday night. The 1950's diner-themed restaurant had operated in that location since December 2004, and was usually busy with families and teens at the dinner hour.

Jim Murphy of Copies Now, the neighboring store, said last Monday the manager, whom he identified as Lisa Baumgartner, came in and told them Cheeburger Cheeburger would be closing that night.

Ms. Baumgartner, reached at the restaurant, declined to comment prior to speaking with Dan Colantuono, the restaurant owner. Later efforts to contact her proved unsuccessful.

"It was a fun place," said Stuart Mayer, a tenant in the building. Mr. Mayer said the off-street location was "not the best."

Keith Goldberg of Scotch Plains

### Next Cell Tower Hearing August 25

CRANFORD — The Cranford Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet on Monday, August 25 to continue a hearing on a proposed 120-foot cell tower by New York SMSA Limited Partnership on the property of the Cranford Swim Club on the Westfield/Cranford. The meeting will begin at 8:15 p.m. All persons interested in the application can attend the meeting at the Cranford Municipal Building on Springfield Avenue.

## COAH Challenged

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

planner Judith Thornton primarily due to his knowledge and background in COAH matters.

Mr. Drew said, at present, there is no specific number of homes Westfield must construct or an exact formula by which it must abide.

Right now, the town must finalize all its prior-round obligations and project a fair-share plan that reflects housing trends from 2004 to the present before projecting through 2018.

"First, we have to go back to 2004 and see what transpired. That's the easy part. The tricky part is looking into our crystal ball and projecting what will happen from now through 2018," he said.

The town will put forth a projected number to COAH and provide regular updates on the "actual" growth occurring to see how accurate the projections are.

Mr. Drew said the lack of available land on which to develop would heavily impact the town.

expressed surprise when he arrived Monday evening with his daughter, Ava, commenting on how busy the restaurant usually was.

"I liked their French fries," said 9-year-old Maggie Richard of Fanwood, while her 6-year-old sister, Ellie, liked the chicken.

A peek through the windows on Monday showed a restaurant that appeared intact, with chairs and tables neatly placed as if closed for the evening.

The chain's corporate office in Fort Myers, Fla., did not respond to requests for comment before press time.

Dan McFarland, manager of the chain's New Providence restaurant, after saying the franchisees were not affiliated, said he had heard rumors of problems with corporate officials and the Westfield location's ownership.

Sherry Cronin, of the Downtown Westfield Corporation, when told of the closing last Thursday, commented, "I wouldn't be surprised, given the economy." Mrs. Cronin also said the town had declined sign variances requested by the restaurant, and this might have contributed to the closing.

Anthony Schilling of Relocation Realty, the building's rental agent, had also been unaware of the closing when called last Thursday. He said the building's owner, Robert Massa, had mentioned nothing to him, and so was also likely unaware. When asked for an update on Tuesday, Mr. Schilling said that he knew nothing further.

## Westfield Police Setup DWI Checkpoints Through Sept. 1

WESTFIELD — Through September 1, the Westfield Police Department (WPD) will establish driving while intoxicated (DWI) checkpoints at one or more of the following locations: North Avenue, South Avenue, Central Avenue, Springfield Avenue, and East Broad Street. The police department announced Monday, August 18, that the program started Friday, August 15.

The police department has received a \$5,000 enforcement grant from the state's Division of Highway Traffic Safety to participate in the "Over the Limit Under Arrest" statewide impaired driving crack-

down. The grant funds the WPD to enhance the enforcement efforts during the time period of August 15 to September 1.

Enforcement efforts include additional patrols that officers are specifically trained in detecting and apprehending drunk drivers, as well as establishing DWI checkpoints.

Police Captain David Wayman advises that the police department is committed to using all enforcement efforts to reduce the rate of alcohol related fatalities through the detection and removal of impaired drivers from the public roadways.

## Two Men Indicted in 2007 Drag Racing Deaths in MS

MOUNTAINSIDE — Two men, who were street racing against a vehicle on Route 22 in Mountainside last year and fled the scene after the other car lost control and crashed off the highway, were indicted by a Union County grand jury last week. The men surrendered to authorities.

Union County Prosecutor Ted Romankow said John Mannarino, 19, of Springfield, was charged with one count of second degree leaving the scene of a fatal accident and one count of third degree hindering apprehension.

James Cavallaro, 21, also of Springfield, was charged with one count of third degree hindering apprehension. Prosecutors allege Mannarino was operating a 1994 Corvette on a stretch of Route 22 in Mountainside and, with Cavallaro as a passenger, was street racing against Konstantinos Potouridis, 18, of New Providence and passenger Paul Carbone, 20, of Millburn.

Potouridis was operating a 1994 Camaro and the two drivers were conducting what is known as a "five to 90 race," which has the drivers begin with a rolling start. After one driver signals with three honks of a horn, both cars accelerate until the first one reaches 90 miles-per-hour.

During the course of the race Potouridis, who was in the right-hand lane of Route 22 East, lost control of the vehicle briefly entered the left-hand lane before hitting a telephone pole and landing in a culvert several feet from the roadway.

Potouridis and Carbone were pronounced dead at the scene, Mr. Romankow said.

Following the accident Mannarino and Cavallaro immediately fled the scene and then attempted to conceal the Corvette, authorities said. They

later returned to the scene — with friends — in a different vehicle, Mr. Romankow said.

Mannarino and Cavallaro surrendered to authorities on August 11. Mannarino was released on \$20,000 bail and Cavallaro was released on \$5,000 bail.

Mr. Romankow thanked and commended Mountainside Police Detective Michael Jackson and Detective David Nechamkin for their "diligent work in the investigation."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) more than 800 people were killed in street racing-related crashes between 2001 and 2006. The NHTSA said after declining in the first half of the decade, street-racing deaths are on the rise again, climbing roughly 35 percent from 111 deaths in 2005 to 150 deaths in 2006.

The parents of the victims, speaking to the prosecutor's office last week, asked to use the word of the indictments to speak out against the dangers of drag racing and unsafe driving.

"All drivers need to take responsibility for their actions," Paul's mother, Cynthia Carbone said. "They need to think not only of themselves but their passengers and the innocent people around them."

"Every second of every minute of every day we miss our loving, caring and amazing son. Perhaps if these two men had cared to help authorities and went back to locate and reach the crash scene sooner, things might have turned out different," Ms. Carbone said. "We will never know."

Konstanti's mother, Michelle Potouridis, said the accident brought "a life sentence of sadness for parents who did their best in raising their children and lost them to a risky decision."



REST IN PEACE... A roadside memorial has sprung up on Route 22 near AutoLand in Springfield at the spot where Mountainside teenager Tim Black sustained fatal injuries on August 10. Please see obituary on page 14.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Tuesday, August 12, Garry Capaldo, 50, of Roselle Park was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) after a motor vehicle stop at Central Avenue and Greene Place. He was released with a summons to a responsible individual.

Tuesday, August 12, Kenneth Middleton, 30, of Plainfield was arrested after responding to Westfield police headquarters to surrender on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant with bail of \$845. He was unable to post bail and was held pending an appearance in court.

Wednesday, August 13, Robin A. Teufel, 20, of Berkeley Heights was arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana after a motor vehicle stop at Central and South Avenues. Teufel was released with a summons.

Friday, August 15, Levi Samayoa-Montufar, 28, of Plainfield was arrested on multiple warrants during a motor vehicle stop at Euclid Avenue, South and North Avenues. They included a motor vehicle warrant for \$500 and a criminal warrant for \$200, both from Green Brook, and a \$500 motor vehicle warrant from Plainfield. He was committed on default of bail to the Union County jail.

Friday, August 15, Michael Palumbo, 39, of Garwood was arrested on an outstanding Union traffic warrant with \$235 bail. He was released after posting bail.

While posting bail for her husband, Susan Palumbo, 36, of Garwood was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on an active Madison criminal warrant with \$499 bail. She was transported to the Madison Police Department.

Sunday, August 17, after being stopped for motor vehicle violations, Aloy Williams, 42, of Donalville, Ga. was arrested on the 500 block of North Avenue on outstanding motor vehicle warrants from Newark and Bloomfield, with bail amounts of \$120 and \$275, respectively. Williams was released after posting bail.

### Mountainside

Tuesday, August 12, Carlito A. Morales, 51, of Newark was arrested and charged with contempt of court. According to police, he was picked up at the Essex County jail and brought back to headquarters for processing.

Wednesday, August 13, the manager of Children's Specialized Hospital reported that a Dell computer was missing from the inventory room. Dell reported the computer stolen after a man who allegedly purchased the computer at a flea market for \$50 called for technical support and gave the serial number, which was linked to the hospital.

According to authorities, the hospital had not known the computer was missing until receiving the call from Dell. Surveillance video of the inventory room is being examined, police said.

Thursday, August 14, David L. Hill, 55, of Newark was arrested and charged with contempt of court. According to police, he was picked up at Essex County jail in lieu of bail in the amount \$1,592.

Friday, August 15, a patron at a Route 22 theater reported that when he returned to his car after seeing a movie, his rear window was smashed and a black briefcase containing a laptop, his passport and checkbooks were missing. Another patron reported that her vehicle, which was parked one spot away from the one mentioned above, was also broken into and that she was also missing a black case with a laptop and credit card statements, police said.

Saturday, August 16, a resident of Force Drive reported that someone drove on her lawn causing \$100 worth of damage. According to police, a witness described the vehicle as a white

### Jeep

Monday, August 18, an auto repair shop on Route 22 reported that someone stole a vehicle valued at \$7,500 from the lot. According to police, the keys were left in the vehicle so the owner could pick it up, but the shop owner did not know the vehicle owner was on vacation for several weeks.

Monday, August 18, a Globe Avenue business owner/employer reported that someone removed \$430 in cash from a lock box containing \$600, which was kept in a cabinet in the office. According to police, the employer questioned employees, asking that the cash be returned.

Afterwards, one employee was allegedly acting suspicious, performing tasks not normally his tasks, authorities said. The employee as a harmless prank was said to have changed the names tags on the office doors sometime over the weekend, police said.

### Scotch Plains

Monday, August 11, Daniel Vaughn, 21, of Plainfield was arrested for an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop. According to police, he was processed and released.

Monday, August 11, a resident of Wareham Court reported that someone removed money from her checking account without her authorization. Monday, August 11, police responded to a hit-and-run accident on Terrill Road. According to police, an unknown suspect struck a vehicle that was legally parked and then fled. The incident cause damage to the rear of the vehicle, police said.

Wednesday, August 13, Gary Brown, 53, of Scotch Plains was arrested after a motor vehicle stop for an outstanding warrant. According to police, he was processed and released.

Wednesday, August 13, Adam Silverman, 18, of Fanwood was arrested and charged with distribution of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS). According to police, an investigation in the vicinity of the library subsequently led to the arrest of Silverman. He was processed and released, authorities said.

Saturday, August 16, Mitchell Cohen, 22, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). According to police, Cohen was stopped for a motor vehicle violation at which time authorities smelled alcohol in the vehicle. He was processed and released, police said.

Saturday, August 16, Drew Miller, 23, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with theft. According to police, Miller was stopped after a report of a suspicious person looking into vehicles. According to police, he was processed and released.

Sunday, August 17, a resident of Route 22 reported that someone removed his GPS system valued at \$200 from his vehicle.

### Fanwood

Tuesday, August 12, Dekim Berisha, 24, of Linden was arrested for an outstanding Fanwood warrant after a field investigation on Martine Avenue. According to police, he was processed and released.

Thursday, August 14, a resident in the 400 block of South Avenue reported that someone removed \$625 from his checking account without authorization. According to police, the incident is under investigation.

Sunday, August 17, a resident of the 100 block of North Martine Avenue reported that sometime between Saturday, August 16, after 6:30 p.m. and 1 a.m. on Sunday, August 17, someone smashed the driver's side window of his vehicle while it was parked in the street and removed a GPS.

Monday, August 18, between midnight and 2 a.m., a resident in the 100 block of Beech Avenue reported that someone threw eggs at his house.



REPORTING FROM BEIJING...Fred Strauss of Westfield reports to Union County from the Olympics in Beijing that the Chinese people are excited and proud about hosting the games. Mr. Strauss poses by the Beijing Summer Palace during a respite from his data processing work with the Associated Press.

## Lance With the Voters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

worker and his family.

With about a dozen volunteers currently working behind him and a newly opened headquarters in Green Brook, Mr. Lance's campaign seemed ready for the fall vote. He told *The Westfield Leader* that he anticipates a high voter turnout for the upcoming Congressional election due in part to this being a Presidential Election year.

After four terms representing the Seventh Congressional District, Mike Ferguson decided not to seek re-election. Facing a 2006 challenge from Linda Stender (LD-22, Fanwood), Mr. Ferguson won the race by slightly more than 3,000 votes, or about 1.5 percent of all votes cast in the election, the closest challenge he had faced since being elected. Mr. Lance defeated the six other candidates in the June Primary Election, including Mr. Marks.

Although the district boasted a solid Republican majority in the past, it has now leaned Democratic as a result of the Presidential Primaries held in February, Mr. Lance said. This effect has directed the congressional candidate's campaign to swing unaffiliated and Independent voters his way in order to keep the seat in GOP hands.

"I would hope that I receive a majority of the Independent voters. I have the reputation in Trenton of being bi-partisan in nature, and I think I have the support of both Democrats and Republicans," he said. "I believe my views are the views of the people of central New Jersey. I am fiscally responsible, socially moderate and a strong environmentalist."

"This is a very competitive district, and I believe the voters are extremely

intelligent and will judge the candidates on the issues," Mr. Lance added.

Although going door-to-door is a common part of his daily campaigning, Mr. Lance said he never tires of meeting new voters.

## Garwood BOE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sary because an architect is required for various items concerning the district's Long Range Facilities Plan. Ms. Lewis said that Garwood BOE consultant Ernie Turner previously has worked with Mr. Donahue.

"Mr. Turner has worked with this gentleman [Mr. Donahue] in the past and apparently he has a pretty good record of coming in at cost," said Ms. Lewis.

Mr. Donahue will be paid \$130 an hour. The money will come out of the district's capital reserve.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, residents Juanita Austin and Bruce Paterson both questioned the board regarding a pay increase for Karen McCarrick. Ms. Quigley explained that Ms. McCarrick will teach two additional classes this year, as well as completing her regular duties as supervisor of special services, to help fill in for another district teacher on a year-long sabbatical. Ms. Quigley also said the pay increase is only for this year and was derived from determining Ms. McCarrick's per period salary and multiplying by two.

## Mountainside Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

active to June 5, 2008.

The council authorized the mayor and municipal clerk to execute an agreement with the county to modify the interlocal services agreement of 1974, to make the borough eligible for certain Federal funds available under Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990.

Jenicar Builders of Kearny was awarded a contract in the amount of \$186,149 for the resurfacing of Corinne Terrace.

Bids received for drainage improvements throughout the borough were all rejected for substantially exceeding the cost estimates. The council will solicit new bids for the project.

The council approved the refund of two tax overpayments, and the funding for a part-time tax collector, temporary TV35 technicians and part-time bus driver.

The meeting began with a resolu-

tion of commendation for retiring police officer Sergeant Scot Worswick, who is retiring from the Mountainside police force after 25 years of service to become a school teacher. The council praised him for his work as a certified defense tactics instructor, firearms instructor and D.A.R.E. instructor at the Union County police academy.

"Scot always seemed to be there, not just for adults, but for kids," Councilman Keith Turner said. "You were always there when somebody needed you." Mr. Turner added before those in attendance, including family and friends, broke into a standing ovation for the retired officer. "We wish you well," Mayor Vigilanti said.

The council honored Trevor Hain, a member of Governor Livingston High School's Class of 2008, for having perfect school attendance from kindergarten through twelfth grade. After joking that he did not know if Trevor was going to show up to receive his award, the mayor praised the young man for his academic and athletic accomplishments and wished him the best of luck as he moves on to attend Susquehanna University this fall. Councilman Paul Mirabelli presented Trevor with a letter of commendation.

After the public meeting's conclusion, the council entered closed session to discuss personnel matters. The next work meeting for the council will take place on Tuesday, September 2, at 8 p.m.

Reading Is Good For You!



goleader.com/subscribe



ALL STARS...Four Garwood Girl Scouts of Troop 395 pose with Mayor Dennis McCarthy during last Tuesday's council meeting. The girls were recognized for earning their silver star award, the highest award for cadets.