

Father Kills Son, 11, Self In Murder-Suicide in Scotch Plains

By FRED T. ROSSI

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS — Law enforcement officials said a 48-year-old father killed his 11-year-old son last week, then attempted without success to set his Jerusalem Road house on fire before killing himself.

Township police arrived at the home on Saturday morning after receiving a telephone call from the boy's mother, who was involved in a custody dispute with the father and had not been in contact with her son in several days. When officers approached the Cape Cod-style home located a block from Mountain Avenue, they could hear the carbon monoxide alarms beeping inside.

After forcibly entering the pre-

mises, they found the bodies of Jens Eberling and his son, Thomas Eberling. Acting county prosecutor Grace Park said a joint investigation by her office's homicide task force and the township police department revealed that both died from gunshots from a rifle found at the premises.

It was surmised that after shooting his son late last week, the father, in an attempt to burn down the house, then stuffed clothing into the kitchen oven and laid out more clothing in a trail leading from the oven through the kitchen and living room and into a bedroom in hopes of igniting a larger fire.

Police Chief Brian Mahoney told *The Westfield Leader* that the oven

did ignite the clothes and parts of the home were burned, but said a larger fire did not result; most of the clothes, he said, were merely smoldering when police arrived. The fire department responded to extinguish the lingering effects of the fire.

Chief Mahoney told *The Leader* the scene was "one of the worst I've ever seen. Who takes the life of an 11-year-old child?"

In the days after the bodies were discovered, there were rumors that the two individuals had died in a fire and questions that perhaps a third person had committed the killings.

For most of the day last Saturday, police cars and a crime-scene van from the Union County Sheriff's Office were parked on Jerusalem Road, a segment of which was blocked off to cars. Officers and other law enforcement personnel could be seen entering and exiting the home at 330 Jerusalem Road while others examined the home's exterior and its yard.

According to a NJ Advance Media report for nj.com, the father and son had lived in the house less than a month.

The report said Thomas Eberling was a gifted chess player, ranked fifth in the country in his age group, and that the Elberlings were members at the Chessmates chess club in Rahway. *Westfield Leader* archives show that Thomas had been a member of the Westfield Chess Club.

NJ Advance Media reported that Thomas had been a student at Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit.

Jens Eberling's wife, Kate Chou, had filed for divorce from her husband in May, according to the report.

According to Mr. Eberling's LinkedIn account, he was a project manager for TKJ International, a market developer company for new products including renewable energy.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Freeholders to Vote on Capital Improvement Contracts

By PAUL J. PEYTON

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

COUNTY — The Union County Freeholder Board is expected to vote tonight to approve a number of contracts for capital improvements.

Among the contracts are construction of a handicapped-accessible fishing dock to be located at Warinanco Park in Roselle. The \$24,680 contract to be awarded to Harbor Consultants, Inc. of Cranford is for engineering services.

USA Architects Planners and Interior Designers, of Somerville, is set to receive a \$146,000 contract for design and construction administration for renovations to Wheeler Pool in Linden. County Engineer Tom Mineo said a meeting and/or party room will be created in one of the buildings in the park and restrooms will be upgraded. Existing pool equipment will also be upgraded.

The freeholders will also vote to award a \$56,600 contract to Red Bank-based Maser Consulting for design, engineering and consulting services for bridge deck and beam replacement for the Mountain Avenue bridge in Springfield.

In addition, Hardesty & Hanover of West Trenton is set to receive a \$754,962 contract for consulting engineering design services and construction support for the replacement of the Gordon Street bridge, an out of service Conrail structure in Roselle and Roselle Park. Federal funds are being provided for the project through the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority for the full amount of the project.

The board will also vote on a \$17,965 contract with Mack Cam-



NEVER FORGET...Members of the Westfield Police Department Color Guard and Fire Department march in the 9/11 ceremonies held at Memorial Park on September 11, 2011 commemorating the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. Westfield will hold a ceremony tonight at 6:30 p.m. at the 9/11 Memorial.

Adam's Tavern Approved For Former Acquaviva Site

By LAUREN S. BARR

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — At last week's planning board meeting the board gave unanimous support to a construction application for Adam's Tavern at 115 Elm Street and an addition with new parking at 352 and 354 South Avenue.

The Harvest Restaurant Group, owners of 11 restaurants including the Huntley Tavern in Summit and

Trap Rock in Berkeley Heights, got the green light from the board to reconstruct and add onto the former Acquaviva site on Elm Street for its new restaurant, Adam's Tavern.

Under the approved plan, the building will receive a second-floor addition, as well as a remodeled ground floor. The new second floor will house dining space and an outdoor herb garden.

While the applicant requested and was granted eight variances, several of them were pre-existing conditions or improvements over variances granted to the prior restaurant. A variance was granted for a 1.67-foot roof overhang, pending an easement with Carol Greco, the owner of the driveway which borders the building. Ms. Greco had provided the board with a letter indicating that she would be willing to grant an easement.

Chester Grabowski, the owner of Harvest Restaurant Group, said that the new restaurant will be open seven days a week, from 11:30 a.m. to 12 a.m., and will feature new American cuisine.

Board member Frank Smith

called it "a welcome addition to that part of the Elm Street streetscape."

The board also approved an application for an addition to 354 South Avenue East along with a new parking lot by paving a grassy area that exists between 354 and 352 South Avenue East. The existing two-family home on the property will be completely gutted while adding a 540-square-foot addition to allow for office space on the entire first floor. The second floor will house a two-bedroom apartment and a three-bedroom apartment, while the third floor will house a one-bedroom apartment.

Professional Planner Kevin O'Brien said the existing gravel driveway between the two buildings will be paved and striped to allow for 17 delineated parking spaces. He said that the new parking area will remove cars from the street where they are currently parked.

Board member Robert Newell called it a "good proposal" that "definitely cleans up the neighborhood."



SMELL TEST...Customers stop to smell the apples at the Cranford Farmers' Market held September 4 in the municipal parking lot on North Union Avenue.

New Storage Pipes to Alleviate Flooding on High Street

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — Construction will begin Monday on High Street to install new water pipes underground for storm water storage, Township Engineer Carl O'Brien said Monday at the township committee workshop meeting. Some committee members questioned if this was a "Band-Aid" or a permanent fix.

"It will alleviate some of it. When the intersection does flood it goes up to two to three feet against the building," Mr. O'Brien said.

The property owner of Riverfront at Cranford Station, which is on the corner of High Street and South Avenue, was told by Mr. O'Brien to lay new pipes, Mr. O'Brien said. This work would be in conjunction with the township laying down two, 12-inch pipes on High Street up to Chestnut Street for additional storage of rain water.

"They said they were supposed to fix that problem," Commissioner Robert D'Ambola said of the property owner of Riverfront at Cranford Station.

In order to fully resolve the flooding problem there, Mr. O'Brien said it may

mean ripping up the parking lot and laying new outflow pipes to the Rahway River that are larger in diameter, which would require New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) permits.

Orchard Brook improvements are at another standstill. "You have permits, you have some easements... But that was all approved under a previous permit a while ago... None of it is valid anymore... from what today's standards are," Mr. O'Brien said. He said he would set up a meeting with the NJDEP to discuss the previous plans and find out how the township can move forward with the project. The project has been delayed for about 10 to 20 years, and the brook is only getting worse, Mayor Andis Kalnins told *The Westfield Leader*. He said he is hopeful homeowners along the brook will be more sympathetic to the flooding issues in the township given the aftermath of Hurricane Irene and will begin to allow the easements.

The Garwood Borough Council has said that since Orchard Brook in Cran-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



OPEN HOUSE...At the Westfield YMCA Health and Wellness Open House on Sunday, Lynne Applebaum, associate director of health and wellness, demonstrates the Y's TRX suspension training system.



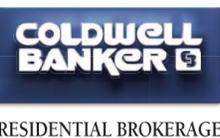
COMMUNITY ACTION...Westfield United Fund trustees gather for the fund's kickoff event last Saturday. Pictured, left to right, are: Jill Dispenza, Charles Weidman, Colleen McDonald Maz, Executive Director Deirdre Gelinne, Wendy Cozzi and Christina McCabe.

PAGE INDEX

Regional	2-3	Education	9
Editorial	4-5	Sports	11-17
Police	6	Real Estate	11-20
Community ...	6-8, 18	Classifieds	17
Obituary	8	A&E	18-20



CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



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