

Letters to the Editor

The Westfield Board Of Health Held A Meeting On November 5, 2018

The Board reviewed the department reports for September and October 2018. In September 23 inspections were conducted: 17 inspections resulted in satisfactory ratings, five resulted in no rating, and one establishment was found to be conditional.

In October, 14 inspection and review actions were taken: one plan review was approved, seven establishments were found to be satisfactory, five inspections resulted in no ratings, and one was found to be conditional.

The conditional ratings require that the food establishments make corrections to deficient conditions and prior to a mandatory reinspection.

The public health nursing reports for October included the schedule of health screening and education events from Overlook Medical Center. Details for these events can be located at: <https://www.atlantichealth.org/> and click on the events and classes tab. Or you can call 1-800-247-9580 extension 2 or (908) 522-2844 for information and registration.

The board discussed and passed a first reading of an ordinance to change the license structure for retail food establishments from a square footage-based system to a risk-based system tied to the sanitary code. The change

will be reviewed again at the December meeting.

The board discussed substance abuse in our community. The board and the department discussed ways to investigate the nature and extent of the problem with a goal to focus on the problem in 2019.

The health officer reported on Mayor Shelley Brindle's Family Mental Health Commission. A steering committee has been appointed and the commission will be comprised of both appointed members and resident volunteers. Once formed, the commission will coordinate the efforts of various organizations that provide mental health services, create awareness for existing resources, break the stigma that exists around mental health, identify best practices for support and crisis prevention, and establish additional mental health programs as identified by the community.

Reports of a measles outbreak in Ocean County were discussed; the importance for proper immunization was stressed. Flu is being reported in New Jersey so do not wait to get your flu shot. Information on the health department's activities, including child health clinics and vaccines for adults, and other programs and activities can be found on the Westfield Regional Health Department website at www.westfieldnj.gov/health.

The Westfield Board of Health met Monday, December 3 at 5:30 p.m. in the Westfield Municipal Building. The public is invited to attend board meetings.

Thomas K. O'Neill, President Westfield Board of Health

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Bush Paid Town A Surprise Visit



Photo by Peter Wislocki

FUTURE VOTERS Daniel and Andrew Wislocki meet Presidential Candidate George Bush on Everson Place during the Vice President's visit to Westfield Saturday. Daniel, 12, is a seventh grader at Edison Intermediate School. Andrew, 8, is in the second grade at Tamaques School.

A few days prior to his election to Presidency, Vice President, George Bush made a surprise visit to Westfield, to campaign door-to-door after giving a brief speech at his state office in Clark.

According to Christian Abeel, Third Ward Councilman, the visit was very tentative until late Friday night, about 11:30, when he was notified. Councilman Abeel was responsible for finding a street in Westfield, which was most representative of the town; he chose Everson Place. Mr. Abeel helped to "put together" the visit with the aid of Bill Palatucci, who headed the Bush campaign in New Jersey. The families visited by the Vice President were aware Friday night that some "high-ranking politician" would be coming to their homes, but they were unaware that it was to be George Bush until 45 minutes before he came to their doors, said Mr. Abeel.

The Westfield Police Department had only 12 hours, on a tentative basis, to prepare for the visit, according to Police Chief Anthony J. Scutti. Chief Scutti said that he was made aware of a "possible" visit by the Vice President at about 2 o'clock on Friday afternoon. Chief Scutti was contacted by the Secret Service, which is stationed locally. Chief Scutti said that most of the preparations were done on a spontaneous basis for the protection of George Bush. Scutti said his first reaction to the impromptu visit was that he wanted to do his best to ensure the protection of the Vice President, and

that he felt proud to be a resident of Westfield and honored that Bush was going to visit. He also said that it was not an unusual occurrence, because Westfield has had such visitors in the past.

According to Chief Scutti, the Secret Service Police planned a route and an alternate route for the Vice President to take, and he (Scutti) planned for those areas to be protected, and the traffic controlled. Chief Scutti said that the Public Works department dropped off barricades late Friday night, and were ready to block off the streets the next morning. To assure the fullest protection, Chief Scutti kept four of his men on an overtime basis. He solicited assistance from Garwood, Cranford, and the Union County police. Chief Scutti said that he worked very closely with the local Secret Service, and all went as planned.

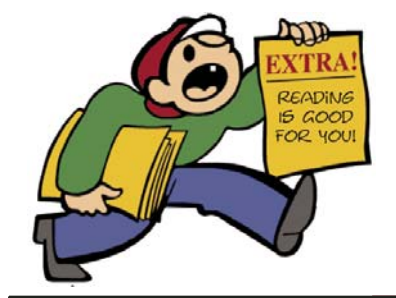
The Vice President visited three homes on Everson Place, the Dooleys, the Rogers, and the Arthurs. When asked her initial reaction to the visit, Mrs. Ruth Arthur said, "I was delighted ... he was much more handsome in person than he was on T.V." Mrs. Arthur said that only she and her husband were at home, but she called her son, who is a lawyer in Florida and told him that the Vice President had just left their house; she said that he did not believe her. She also commented that Mrs. Bush was "low keyed and charming." Mrs. Arthur said, "I was sorry that he could not stay longer, I wished we could have sat down and had a cup of coffee."

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