

Report Recommends \$1.6-Million Bond Referendum for SPF Fields

By NORDETTE N. ADAMS
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education Business Administrator Anthony DelSordi last Thursday recommended the district put a \$1.575-million bond referendum to voters in September to support improvements to the district's high-school athletic fields.

Mr. DelSordi said the athletic fields report, which he prepared, recommends an April bond referendum but the board's finance committee recommends that the board present the first bond referendum to voters in September.

According to the report, the bond proposal anticipates a need for \$800,000 of the proposed \$1.575 million to improve the football and varsity soccer fields. An additional \$400,000 to \$475,000 might be re-

quired to resurface the track field; however, that amount would not be included in the bond referendum.

Board and finance committee member Donald Parisi said track-repair costs are not included in the proposed bond because the track would be repaired regardless of the referendum's outcome. He said the athletic fields could not wait until the board gathered the information to fund new classrooms. He said the two needs could not be consolidated into one referendum.

In an interview with *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, Mr. Parisi said, "It's too early to predict what we'll need (to add more classrooms). To include it in the September bond we'd need to know by June, and that's too early to know. You have to project it out pretty carefully."

"We clearly have a bubble moving

through, and we have to be ready for that, but we don't have enough [information] right now to plan that out and cost that out."

The athletic fields report proposes to not include \$775,000 of the \$1.575 million needed in the bond and to instead receive that portion from other sources such as Scotch Plains and Fanwood municipalities, the County of Union and the SPF Field Development Foundation, a foundation formed specifically to raise money for the athletic fields.

Scotch Plains resident Anthony Giannaci spoke on behalf of the foundation during the meeting's public comment period and asked the board to "move in a more expeditious manner" and go with an April vote rather than a September vote.

At its January 11 meeting, the BOE received a demographics report prepared by board-contracted company Statistical Analysis, LLC, of Secaucus. The report projects a decrease in the student population by 2012 but a "growth bubble" in the middle schools and high school during the next three or four years. Citing the demographics and athletic fields reports, Mr. DelSordi said, "It's clear to the administration that something will have to be done to accommodate that growth."

Regarding the need for upgrades and repairs to the athletic fields, Mr. DelSordi said school sports teams, as well as community organizations, use the fields. He estimated that "field utilization is at about 120 percent."

"We don't have sufficient fields to meet the needs of our student population. A goal would be to keep up with growth," Mr. DelSordi said.

In his report, Mr. Del Sordi stated, "Based on our existing conditions, the cost range for the football field is \$740,000 to \$875,000... The cost associated with the installation of artificial turf on the soccer field is esti-



PARKING WOES...The Scotch Plains council last night introduced an ordinance that would limit parking on multiple streets surrounding Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School during school hours. The governing body will hold a public hearing on the ordinance on February 27. Above, policemen (background on right) enforce existing parking restrictions on Hoppel Court, which is adjacent to the high school. See related article below.

BPA, Council Reps. Discuss Bus. Registration Ordinance

By TED RITTER
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — Representatives of Fanwood's Business and Professional Association (BPA) met recently with borough council liaison Joseph Higgins as part of ongoing efforts to amend a local business registration ordinance.

Under the ordinance as originally written, new and existing businesses would have to pay a \$25 registration fee, which borough officials said would cover "administrative expenses."

Borough officials now hope to introduce a new version of the ordinance, including amendments, at their agenda meeting on Tuesday, February 6, and then possibly adopt it after a public hearing at their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 13, with an eye toward having it on the books by Thursday, March 1.

Mayor Colleen Mahr and the borough council had planned to adopt

the measure — which had been approved on July 11, 2006, at a public council meeting — after a public hearing at its regular meeting last November. However, the governing body delayed formal adoption at that meeting after the BPA told local officials it had not been aware of the measure until several days before the meeting.

"I wasn't happy how it happened," said Peter Chemidlin, president of Family Investors Co. and the head of the BPA, in a recent phone interview with *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*. "Now we're just trying to make the best of the situation from at least the Business and Professional Association's perspective; obviously, someone dropped the ball."

Last fall, borough officials — who said they never meant to exclude the BPA — indicated the original intent of the ordinance was to use a local business registration process to develop "an accurate database" containing all names, addresses and contact information for local business owners, as well as types of businesses and other information pertinent to safety, zoning and other local regulations.

Mr. Chemidlin met with Mr. Higgins on January 15, along with Dale Flowers of the BPA, to discuss ways to "soften the language" of the ordinance "so that it is more acceptable to the [local business] owners."

"I think that was the big concern," said Mr. Chemidlin. "Some of the language in the original ordinance had a lot of people concerned."

Mr. Chemidlin said the amendments discussed so far "seemed to be at least a little more acceptable to what we were looking for."

In a recent phone interview with *The Times*, Mr. Higgins said the borough's attorney, Dennis Estis, has been researching similar measures in other towns in preparing to amend the

ordinance. He estimated that "field utilization is at about 120 percent."

"We don't have sufficient fields to meet the needs of our student population. A goal would be to keep up with growth," Mr. DelSordi said.

In his report, Mr. Del Sordi stated, "Based on our existing conditions, the cost range for the football field is \$740,000 to \$875,000... The cost associated with the installation of artificial turf on the soccer field is esti-

County Taxes to Jump \$12.9 Mil. Under \$415-Mil. Spending Plan

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

COUNTY — County taxes would increase in 19 of the 21 municipalities under a \$415.2-million executive budget submitted to the Board of Chosen Freeholders last week by County Manager George Devanney. The spending plan is up nearly \$15 million — 3.6 percent — over 2006, with the proposed tax levy jumping \$12.9 million — 5.7 percent — to \$239.6 million.

Locally, county taxes in Westfield would rise \$131 on average to \$2,306; \$102 in Scotch Plains to \$1,685; \$73 in Fanwood to \$1,418 and \$64 in Mountainside to \$2,102. Garwood residents would see a \$50 decline for an average county tax bill of \$1,119. Summit homeowners would see the largest increase of \$191 to \$3,128, followed by Westfield and neighboring Clark, which would see a \$114 hike to \$1,391. Cranford taxpayers would pay \$1,459, an increase of \$77, according to "average household impact" figures released by the county's public information department based on the projected \$13-million increase in county taxes.

The proposal, which will be reviewed by the freeholders' finance committee over the next few months, would mean county taxes have increased \$89.5 million since 2000, when they were \$150.1 million, an increase of 59.6 percent, based on tax levy figures.

The county's spending plan was \$355.9 million in 2004 with a tax levy of \$203.8 million, \$390 million in 2005 with taxes at \$216.3 million and \$400.8 million with taxes at \$226.6 million last year, according to data from previous budgets.

County spokesman Sebastian D'Elia said the amount that the average county taxpayer pays has actually increased by 48 percent over the last seven years.

"The figure I was talking about was the average tax increase, not the tax levy, which is a misleading figure and not a true barometer at all for what taxpayers pay. The tax levy has never been an accurate barometer of what homeowners pay in terms of taxes because it includes commercial taxes," Mr. D'Elia said in an e-mail.

In terms of revenues, the county tax levy has risen from accounting for 49 percent of total revenues in 2000 to 57 percent last year and would remain at that percentage under the executive budget. The county's surplus is down \$1.5 million from last year to \$20 million.

In a budget letter to the freeholders

BOE Candidates File by Feb. 26

AREA — Annual school board elections and budget referendums will be held Tuesday, April 17, throughout the state. The deadline to file as a candidate seeking election to local boards of education is Monday, February 26, at 4 p.m. at one's local BOE business office. The 2007 School Board Candidates Kit can be obtained from BOE business offices or downloaded from the Internet at goleader.com/features.

The kit is produced by the New Jersey School Boards Association and is applicable to all districts holding elections. It includes information about legal qualifications for school-board candidacy, campaign procedures, the role of the school board member, the New Jersey School Eth-

SP-F BOE, PTA Roundtable Focuses on Bonds

By NORDETTE N. ADAMS
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education and the Parent-Teacher Association met at Terrill Middle School Tuesday night for a public roundtable.

Parents posed questions to board members, the superintendent and assistant superintendent, the business administrator and curriculum staff about concerns ranging from district language-arts competency to budget constraints and the timing of spring break.

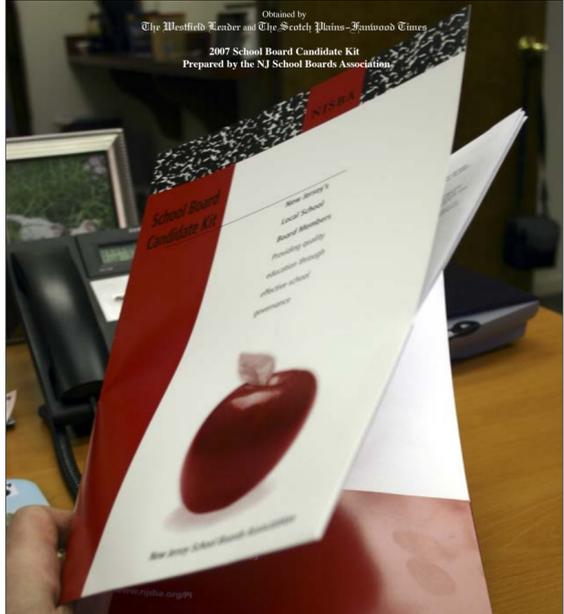
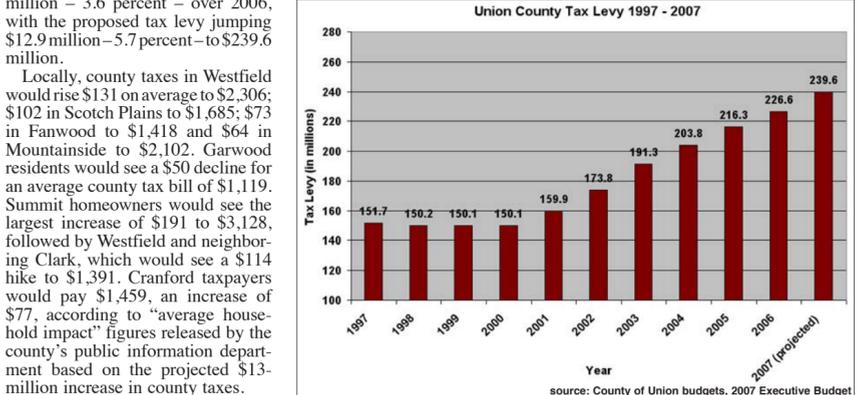
The BOE also had questions for parents. Most prominent, as voiced by BOE President Thomas Russo, was, "How do you feel about turf fields at the high school?" Mr. Russo posed the question in light of a proposed \$800,000 bond referendum the BOE might present to voters either in April or September tied to covering two of the SPF high school's athletic fields with artificial turf. (See lead story for details.)

PTA President Lorraine Staniec

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SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE KIT...The 2007 School Board Candidate Kit prepared by the New Jersey School Boards Association, njsba.org, has been posted on the Internet by *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* at timesnj.com/features and is available for the public to download. Multiple local school board officials have told the newspaper that the candidate kits at their offices are in short supply and are only being made available to those who actually file to be a candidate. To be a candidate for school board this year, a citizen must file by the deadline of Monday, February 26 at 4 p.m. at his or her respective BOE office.

Public Hearing on SPFHS Parking Reset to Feb. 27

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township council on Tuesday introduced an ordinance to restrict parking on multiple streets surrounding Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School in an attempt to address complaints from residents about excessive student parking in those areas.

The new ordinance, which would affect Church Street, Portland Avenue, Watchung View Place, West Court, Sunrise Court, Old Farm Road, Cedar Street and Concord Road, would include restrictions similar to what has been in effect since 2003 on Carol Place and Monica Place. Parking would be prohibited between 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on school days except for residents living on those streets. Enforcement of the ordinance would include the issuance of parking permits to residents for use by them and their guests.

Mayor Martin Marks said the later start time for the ordinance is due to

concerns raised by parents regarding morning drop-off of children at nearby Evergreen School. The public hearing on the ordinance has been moved to Tuesday, February 27, after a special request from the high-school PTA. The SPFHS PTA will hold a previously scheduled meeting on February 13, the date when the public hearing on the ordinance had originally been scheduled.

In other business, the council approved a resolution authorizing a change order to the contract with Paley Construction Co., which is performing the improvements and repairs to the Scotch Plains Municipal Building. The \$28,048 in additional work involves the rebuilding of the building's front entrance stairs and concrete platform and the replacement of the sidewalk plaza between the building entrance and Park Avenue.

Joseph Duff, president of the Scotch Plains Library Board of Trustees, announced

Charlie Brown's Looks to Rebuild, Open by Labor Day

By WAYNE BAKER
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — Charlie Brown's officials said this week that they anticipate having a newly-built restaurant open by Labor Day following a fire that destroyed the Scotch Plains restaurant on North Avenue.

Ray Chmiel, vice president of construction for Charlie Brown's Steakhouse, said the company's "expectations are to be open by Labor Day." Mr. Chmiel said Charlie Brown's "will not reuse the foundation because the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) makes lowering the building to ease wheelchair access sensible," and that they "will likely change the building's footprint slightly to improve function."

Charlie Brown's has already demolished the small bit of the structure remaining after the January 24 fire.

Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, "We will not be an obstacle to them." The mayor said he expected most township approvals to be "fairly quick and easy," in part because the recent renovation had reviewed most issues.

Additionally, Mayor Marks said, "I'm very pleased at the response of the firefighting team." Firefighters from Scotch Plains and surrounding municipalities fought the early-morning blaze for hours. Pictures and video are available at goleader.com.

Scotch Plains Fire Chief Jonathan Ellis said, "The cause (of the fire) will remain undetermined, and the fire is considered to be of accidental origin."

Mr. Ellis said if any further investigation were done, Charlie Brown's insurance company would handle it. The fire began in a wall behind the bar area, which was part of the old balloon-style structure, leading some to speculate that an electrical issue was the probable cause.

The age of the building appears to be a factor in its loss, multiple residents said. The building had a lot of history in the township. It was known as the Glenview Manor, a restaurant and bar, when it was operated by Anthony and Carmela Triano from early in World War II until the early 1970s.

According to Jeanette Rotella, Mrs. Triano's sister, many area romances blossomed at the Glenview Manor



LOOKING BACK...Charlie Brown's Steakhouse, which burned to the ground last week, is shown here as it looked in 1944. This photo was a gift to the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood from Jeanette Rotella. In 1944, the establishment was the Glenview Manor and was owned by the Triano family.

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Officials: Paterson Drainage Woes An Existing Problem

By MICHELLE BUCCOLA
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — The borough's planning board last week approved a request by Carol and Horace Khan of 4 Tower Place for a 10-foot rear-yard setback for an aboveground pool. The pool would be located adjacent to the couple's current deck.

Prior to the board's vote, zoning officer Nancy Koederitz inquired about the deck, stating that no variance had been requested or filed concerning its violation of current allowances. Mrs. Khan said the structure was already in place when they purchased the house in 1994. Mr. and Mrs. Khan updated their application to include a variance for the deck, as well as the pool, and the board approved it as amended.

Borough Engineer Joseph Pryor addressed a letter submitted by Carol and Kingsland Oakes of 87 Paterson Road with respect to water issues. Mr. and Mrs. Oakes allege that their frequent drainage issues are the result of ongoing construction at 116 Farley Avenue and new landscaping at 19 Byron Lane. After investigating the matter, Mr. Pryor's said it was his belief that the problem is an existing one and that the aforementioned construction and landscaping are not to blame.

Jonathan Cukrow of 19 Byron Lane told the board that his neighbors have been "badgering" him about these water problems as though they were his fault and responsibility. "It is borderline harassment," he said. Mr. Pryor said he plans to respond with regard to this dilemma to Mayor Colleen Mahr.

The board discussed the proposed \$1,250 payment required for the preparation of the amendment to the North Martine Avenue Land Use Study. This fee, payable to T&M Associates, does not include a new zoning map. Board member John Deitch questioned whether the fee for the presentation at the special meeting, scheduled for Monday, February 12, was included in the charge. Board members opted to approve the expenditure on the condition that the pre-

sentation is included.

The board also approved the proposed \$700 fee for the historic-district and multi-family home-mapping proposal. This would encompass the mapping of historically significant homes, including those that are outside of the historic district.

Board member John Celardo, liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission, spoke about "the importance of this initiative," saying that an updated mapping of historically significant homes could result in a "possible expansion of the historic district."

The board conferred about the borough's current sign ordinance. Mr. Cummings said there is no difference between commercial and rehabilitation areas. The current ordinance allows for a 25-foot sign on the façade of a building, regardless of the building size. Mr. Higgins suggested that language be added to allow sign size to be proportionate to the size of the building. The board agreed and said it would pursue the matter further.

Board member and former councilman Jack Molenaar suggested that on occasions when the board has a light agenda, they should arrange for presentations on topics of interest to the board members. Board members responded favorably to this suggestion.

The board reviewed resolutions on previous board action, including a variance at 73 North Avenue requested by Nicholas and Kathleen Gumpel to build a minor addition and deck; it also approved a minor subdivision at 24 St. John's Place.

At the start of the meeting, the board reorganized for the year again electing Gregory Cummings as chairman and Mr. Celardo as vice chairman. Clifford Kuhn was named board attorney. Pat Hoynes was again selected as board secretary and T&M Associates was chosen as the board's planner.

The board's next meeting will be Monday, February 12, for an agenda meeting and special presentation of the North Martine Avenue Land Use Study.

BOE, PTA Roundtable

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said while the PTA could not speak for all parents, some of her members wondered, "How can we spend \$1.7 million on fields when we'll need classrooms down the road?" She and others said most people liked the idea of turfing the fields but worried they might be choosing fields over adding needed classrooms.

Board member Betty Anne Woerner told parents that the BOE wanted parents to think of the turf bond and a later bond for classrooms as two steps of one process.

Parent Christine Mahoney said, "I think the average person isn't going to pay any attention to that."

Parents agreed that asking for funding in two separate bonds so close together might result in voter backlash no matter how much the BOE explained the first bond was part one of two bond proposals.

The board also asked parents to consider how recent legislation passed

in Trenton that imposes a 4-percent cap on property taxes might impact the school district's budget. BOE secretary and District Business Administrator Anthony DeSordi said the cap, part of property-tax reform, could result in the district needing to cut as much as \$900,000 from its budget.

Both board members and parents wondered what could possibly be cut. Would they have to cut part of the music program and co-curricular activities or settle for larger class sizes, which would allow a staff cut?

Board member Donald Parisi said that the staff's choice of traditional medical insurance instead of preferred provider organization (PPO) insurance was the "single biggest waste of money" he saw in the budget. He said the BOE has approached staff about switching to PPO coverage, but so far staff resisted. A majority of parents nodded and murmured in agreement that such a switch seemed wise.

They also discussed alternative methods of funding, security issues such as vandalism at the high school and Evergreen Elementary School, traffic hazards, parking-space shortages, whether schools should close on Election Day and how to adjust the calendar so that the school year ends before late June.

Scotch Plains Council

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nounced on Tuesday that the library would be open, on a trial basis, on Sunday afternoons and earlier in the morning on one weekday beginning sometime in March. He noted that the library, located at 1927 Bartle Avenue, would receive additional operating funding this year due to state laws mandating increased funding for libraries.

The council awarded a contract not to exceed \$25,000 to National Fence Systems of Avenel for new fencing at Green Forest Park and extension of the fence at Jerseyland Park. The council also approved a \$50,865 contract for the purchase of three zero-turn mowers from Storr Tractor of Somerville for use on ball fields. It approved the \$7,200 purchase of a lightweight utility vehicle for use by Scotch Hills Country Club and the township recreation department.



GUEST OF HONOR...U.S. Attorney Chris Christie, left, was the guest speaker at the annual awards dinner of the Gateway Chamber of Commerce Tuesday night at the DoubleTree Hotel Newark Airport. Also pictured are Chamber President James Coyle, center, and board member William Sanders of Mountainside.

BOE Discusses Referendum

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dated at \$615,000 to \$700,000."

Mr. Parisi said cost ranges are "conservative estimates" toward the higher side. Working with the facilities committee, the finance committee and a "Turf-It Committee," Mr. DeSordi and the administration received estimates from M. Disco Associates, an engineering company that has worked on other district projects. The figures are speculative, according to the report. Final figures depend on which company wins the bid.

Board member Craig Nowlin questioned whether the board should invest what amounts to \$2 million in the turf project and track field remediation and not gain more field space. Both Mr. DeSordi and Mr. Parisi said while the district would not gain more field space, it would gain more field time via fields being available more often and not down for maintenance or closed by inclement weather.

BOE Vice President Trip Whitehouse said, "It's not the square footage but the utilization. We're not taking on more real estate, but the real estate we have will be used more."

Mr. Parisi said that over 10 years, the cumulative, annualized costs of repairing and maintaining the fields with present coverings would be about the same as the \$800,000 requested in the bond "to turf" the fields. The total expense for repairing and maintaining the football and soccer fields is approximately \$104,000 per year, according to the report.

"We're talking about spending the same amount of money," Mr. Parisi said.

Board President Thomas Russo said it would not make a difference to him if the board requested funding for both the athletic fields and classroom expansion simultaneously. "This is a facility that we need. To not have this facility while Westfield and Summit have it is offensive to me. This facility will not be used by me or my children, but believing that our children should have outstanding facilities, it's something that we should do," he said.

However, he added that the Sep-

tember referendum date could be a problem because raising public awareness over the summer might prove difficult.

During the public comment period, resident Russell Wells said, "My children will not be able to use the turf, but I believe it's needed." He said one of his daughters, an athlete, permanently injured herself stepping into a hole on one of the athletic fields.

In an unrelated matter, Lorraine Staniec, president of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Parent-Teacher Association, presented the BOE with a certificate of appreciation from the PTA for its outstanding service.

Another parent stood and objected to changes in the Easter schedule on next school year's calendar. Superintendent of Schools Margaret Hayes said the current calendar is a draft and the administration welcomed comments.

Mr. Whitehouse clarified what he called an error in the newspaper. Last week, *The Times* reported that Mr. Whitehouse asked if it would be feasible to close school for the entire Thanksgiving week. He said he was not referring to Thanksgiving week when he asked the question but rather to election week, which seemed "chopped up" to him, with students attending school two out of five days.

Board member Linda Nelson reported on the legislative activity in Trenton. She said legislation to consolidate township schools into one county school district "is dead," but districts may still end up with county super-superintendents who would monitor districts' efficiency. She said the 4 percent budget cap proposal in Trenton designed to lower property taxes could still have a negative impact on school district budgets if it is a "hard cap" with no exceptions.

SPFHS Assistant Principal Edward Braun presented a report about student requirements for the National Honor Society. Students in their junior and senior years can join the society upon acceptance. To be considered, they must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.75. In addition, students must show evidence of leadership and service in the school or their communities.

Mr. Parisi and board member Betty Anne Woerner expressed concern that students who must work to help support their families cannot have that work time counted as service.

Mr. Braun said not counting work time is a rule set by the national organization. He said the higher GPA, leadership and service requirements are rules established at the high school to ensure that group size does not become overwhelming and admission is not based solely on academic performance.

FW Business Ordinance

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ordinance.

Mr. Higgins said he came away from the January 15 meeting with the feeling that at least he, Mr. Chemidlin and Mr. Flowers "had something we could live with." But Mr. Higgins said it's now a matter of "whether the [full] borough council agrees" and how the full BPA receives it.

Mr. Higgins also said the intent of the ordinance was simply to get information about local businesses and "not to duplicate some of the other inspections required under other local ordinances."

Mr. Chemidlin said while he understands the borough's intent, "I don't 100 percent agree with how

Police Reveal Second Series Of Motor Vehicle Burglaries

By SUZETTE F. STALKER
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WESTFIELD — A second string of motor vehicle burglaries occurred in Westfield last week, following a series of break-ins that occurred earlier this month involving more than a dozen vehicles.

The latest incidents, involving nine vehicles, were reported between 6:21 a.m. last Thursday and 12:56 p.m. on Saturday, according to Sergeant Scott Rodger of the Westfield Police Department.

Like the first round of burglaries, which occurred between January 13 and 14, all the break-ins occurred on the south side of town. Incidents were reported last week on Avon Road, Cedar and Marlboro Streets, Frances and Belmar Terraces and Roger Avenue.

While the types of vehicles entered varied, Sgt. Rodger told *The Scotch*

Plains-Fanwood Times Monday that the common denominators, besides occurring on the south side of town, were that all had been left unlocked and parked in driveways or in front of the victims' homes during the overnight hours.

Three vehicles belonging to two different owners were entered at one address in the 100 block of Cedar Street, while another two vehicles were burglarized at the same location in the 300 block of Roger Avenue, Sgt. Rodger said.

In most instances, nothing was reported missing from the vehicles, although it was apparent someone had gone through them, Sgt. Rodger said. An undetermined amount of change was removed from a vehicle in the 200 block of Avon Road, and a radar detector valued at \$300 was taken from a vehicle in the 300 block of Roger Avenue.

POLICE BLOTTER

Scotch Plains

Wednesday, January 24, a resident of Donamy Glen reported that someone obtained her credit card information and made several hundred dollars worth of unauthorized purchases.

Thursday, January 25, a bus driver at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools reported that a student yelled at him because he did not let him off the bus quickly enough.

Saturday, January 27, a resident of Cedar Grove Terrace reported that someone scratched his vehicle some time overnight.

Sunday, January 28, Kevin Pompey, 27, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 and charged with driving while intoxicated.

Monday, January 29, Harold Kramer, 50, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with DWI after a motor vehicle stop for a violation on Ferril Road.

Fanwood

Thursday, January 25, Thomas M. Corrello, Jr., 22, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road for outstanding warrants out of Plainfield and North Plainfield.

Friday, January 26, Pamela A. Marel, 26, of Scotch Plains was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue and charged with DWI. She was processed and released to a responsible adult.

Saturday, January 27, Deanna N. Wharton, 36, of Linden was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue on an outstanding Linden warrant.

Sunday, January 28, Ellis T. Buwa, 52, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding Woodbridge warrant after a motor vehicle stop.

Tuesday, January 30, Nishit H. Patel, 28, of Irving, Tex. was arrested on an outstanding Franklin Township warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Mountainside

Tuesday, January 23, Jayshaun Q. Whack, 20, of Newark was arrested and charged with DWI after a motor vehicle stop on Spruce Drive. He was also charged with a possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS).

Tuesday, January 23, Efrain Vera, 52, of Newark was arrested at the Essex County Sheriff's Department on an outstanding warrant in the amount of \$300.

Thursday, January 25, Milton Cunningham, 22, of Irvington was arrested at the Irvington Police Department for an outstanding warrant in the amount of \$1,600.

Saturday, January 27, Michael McCue, 24, of Westfield was arrested and charged with DWI after he was found sleeping behind the wheel in the right lane on Route 22. According to police, the vehicle was running and the suspect's foot was on the brake. An open bottle of vodka was found in the suspect's lap, police said.

Sunday, January 28, a resident of Hillside Avenue reported that someone threw

eggs at his home. The victim washed the egg off his house, police said.

Westfield

Sunday, January 21, Joseph Wisniewski, 21, of Westfield was arrested at North Avenue and Crossway Place for alleged possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana. He was released on his own recognizance with a summons.

Monday, January 22, Jorge Rivera, 33, of Elizabeth was arrested and charged with hindering apprehension for allegedly giving police a false name following a motor vehicle stop at Cranford Avenue and Benson Place.

Rivera also was taken into custody on multiple outstanding warrants, including one no-bail warrant each from the Union County Sheriff's and Hudson County Sheriff's departments; a motor vehicle warrant from West New York for \$295 and a motor vehicle warrant from Elizabeth for \$255.

He was served with a summons for hindering apprehension and was held pending transfer to the Union County Sheriff's Department.

Monday, January 22, Salvatore Fazio, 23, of Westfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on an outstanding Westfield motor vehicle warrant. He was released after posting \$91 cash bail.

Wednesday, January 24, a Cherry Lane resident reported the theft of three rings, including two diamond rings and a gold ring, from a curio cabinet in her bedroom. There were no signs of forced entry.

Thursday, January 25, William Lepinsky, 56, of Fanwood was arrested and charged with DWI following a motor vehicle stop at West North Avenue and Edgewood Avenue. According to police, he was held until sober and then released.

Thursday, January 25, Jaime Grubesh, 24, of South Plainfield was arrested and charged with DWI following a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and Crossway Place. She was issued summonses and subsequently released to a responsible individual.

Thursday, January 25, Jose Garcia, 49, of Keasbey was arrested on a civil contempt warrant out of Somerset County following a motor vehicle stop at Central Avenue and Cacciola Place. He posted \$942 bail and was released.

Thursday, January 25, a business in the 200 block of East Broad Street reported the shoplifting of \$4,175 worth of merchandise.

Friday, January 26, Manuel Salas, 24, of Union was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on the 600 block of South Avenue. West, on motor vehicle warrants from Edison and Mendham. Salas posted \$89 bail on the Edison warrant and was released on his own recognizance on the Mendham warrant.

Friday, January 26, Kunwar E. Baba, 23, of Westfield was arrested at Cumberland Street and North Scotch Plains Avenue pursuant to a contempt of court motor vehicle warrant issued by the Kenilworth Municipal Court. He was released after posting \$215 bail.

Friday, January 26, Steve McIntyre, 22, of Roselle was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on a Roselle Park motor vehicle warrant for \$100. He was turned over to the Union Police Department on another warrant out of that jurisdiction.

Saturday, January 27, a resident of Scotch Plains reported that someone forcibly entered her mother's home on the 700 block of Prospect Street. The person or individuals responsible gained entry by removing a screen at a rear porch area and then forcing entry into the residence through a rear door. Dressers and closets were apparently entered but nothing was reported missing.

Charlie Brown's

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during and after WWII. It was also the location of many area residents' first alcoholic drinks. The Trianos acquired the property from George Chrono, who also owned the location that is now the Jolly Trolley in Westfield; Charlie Brown's operates the Jolly Trolley. The Chrono's family currently operates Chrono's Tavern in Mountainside.

Mr. and Mrs. Triano lived upstairs from the bar. In the early 1970s, when the drinking age was lowered to 18, the clientele changed, and shortly afterwards, Mr. and Mrs. Triano sold the restaurant. For a short time, a seafood restaurant called Seymour's occupied the site.

A post-fire press release from Charlie Brown's indicates that Charlie Brown's has operated the North Avenue site since June 1975 and that the location had served as their corporate office at one time.



TIME TO REBUILD...Charlie Brown's Steakhouse officials say they anticipate rebuilding their Scotch Plains location in time to reopen by Labor Day. The North Avenue restaurant burned to the ground in a three-alarm fire last Wednesday morning. See video and more photos at goleader.com/video.

Victoria McCabe for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

Election

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ics Act, important dates in the school-election process, briefing sessions for candidates and sample filing petitions.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood

Residents interested in becoming a candidate for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood BOE can obtain kits and petitions at the business office of board secretary Anthony DeSordi, located at Evergreen Avenue and Cedar Street; call (908) 232-6161, ext. 20.

Two BOE seats in Scotch Plains and one in Fanwood are up for election this year as the three-year positions currently held by Craig Nowlin and Tom Russo of Scotch Plains and Rob O'Connor of Fanwood expire.

Westfield

Residents interested in becoming a candidate for the Westfield BOE can obtain kits and petitions at the board secretary's office at 302 Elm Street; call (908) 789-4401.

Petitions must be signed and delivered to board secretary Robert Berman by the filing deadline. Each year, three three-year BOE positions of the nine total are up for election. Terms expire in April for seats currently held by Ginny Leiz, Richard Solomon and Julia Walker.

Mountainside

Residents can pick up petitions and information packets from board secretary Roderic McLaughlin at the board's office, located in the Beechwood School at 1497 Woodacres Drive; call (908) 232-3232, ext. 142.

Three seats are up for election this year, as the positions currently held by Carmine Venes, Raymond Haggard and Gene Nagel expire in April.

Garwood

Residents can pick up nominating petitions and information packets from board secretary Julia DePinto-Perez at the board offices in Lincoln School, at 400 Second Avenue, with telephone (908) 789-0332.

Three seats are up for election this year as the positions currently held by Debbie Courtney, Linda Koenig and Lisa Marano expire in April.