

# The Year in Review 2006: Part 1 - January to June

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daughter and husband, despite the family having a Scotch Plains mailing address. She told *The Leader/Times* that the Red Cross does not intend to press charges because the bill was in Ms. Lewis' name, but the hotel would press charges for non-payment.

Superintendent of Schools William Foley presented a plan to the BOE to convert the former Lincoln School facility on Westfield Avenue to a centralized kindergarten. More than 100 residents attended a standing-room-only meeting with BOE and Union County Education Services (UCESC) officials over ongoing neighborhood safety concerns for UCESC-operated Hillcrest Academy, which leases the Lincoln building from the BOE. The meeting followed the arrest of four Hillcrest students for allegedly vandalizing a home in the neighborhood and stealing a car at the train station in May.

The BOE later announced it would terminate the lease of the school to Hillcrest Academy South; the UCESC has leased the school since 1982.

In an e-mail sent to residents and *The Leader/Times*, Board President Anne Riegel stated, "The board of education is regretful that the situation has developed to this point."

UCESC Superintendent Ed Hartnett told *The Leader/Times* that the commission planned to petition the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) commissioner's office of controversies and disputes for "emergent relief, which means we will be asking the commissioner to direct the Westfield [BOE] to give us time to locate a new facility," he said.

The DOE later ruled that the UCESC could remain in the facility through the 2006-2007 school year.

Based upon the recommendations of the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Enrollment (CACE), the BOE unanimously approved a proposal to renovate Lincoln School to become the district-wide "early childhood center."

The proposal, with a price tag of \$5,828,707, would be presented to the public as a bond referendum.

The BOE voted unanimously in favor of Schools Superintendent William Foley's decision to transfer the Washington and Wilson School principals, effective July 1. The plan involved moving current Washington School Principal Joseph Malanga to Wilson School. Cheryl Dunkiel Berkowitz, the coordinator of the gifted and talented program, began work as a half-time vice-principal. Wilson Principal Andrew Perry moved to Washington.

The town completed the final portion of repealing the South Avenue and Elm Street redevelopment plans, which had involved the ultimately unsuccessful parking deck proposal. The measure passed readopted the July 1998 zoning map, which pre-dates redevelopment plans.

The BOE unanimously approved the appointment of Dennis Fyffe as interim WHS principal. Mr. Fyffe earns \$650 per day for the one-year contract position, commencing July 1. He came to Westfield with 35 years of experience, most recently serving as interim superintendent of schools for the Long Beach Island Board of Education. He was superintendent of schools in Sayreville from 2000 through 2005, having first served at the assistant superintendent from 1997 through 2000.

Mr. Fyffe was chosen after Summit High School (SHS) Assistant Principal Anthony Akey told Westfield BOE officials he would not accept an offer to become WHS principal. The BOE had been scheduled to vote to ap-

prove Mr. Akey's appointment to replace the retiring Robert Petix.

According to a statement released by Superintendent of Schools William Foley, Mr. Akey was not willing to relinquish the tenure that he holds as SHS assistant principal. He has worked at SHS since 1980, where he started as a social studies teacher.

On June 22, the 422 members of the WHS class of 2006 had a graduation ceremony at the Westfield National Guard Armory.

New concept plans for the redesign of Westfield Memorial Park were unveiled to the public at a special meeting hosted by the recreation commission on June 21.

Preliminary plans for the renovation of Memorial Park include reconfiguring and extending the existing softball diamonds to enable more teams to play simultaneously. By reconfiguring the diamonds, a half-acre of green space would be added to the existing half acre, Recreation Director Bruce Kaufman said. This would also expand the existing multi-purpose field to be entirely on green space instead of extending into the clay softball diamonds.

The tennis courts would be moved in order to turn the existing tennis courts into additional parking and additional green space for fields. A basketball court would be added as well as a pathway surrounding the park. The commission is considering connecting the pathway to a path that surrounds neighboring Brookside Park in Scotch Plains.

The redesign of the ball fields would extend the diamonds 120 feet to the west, eliminating an area of woodlands behind several homes that front onto North Scotch Plains Avenue. No lighting and no sound amplification were planned, Mr. Kaufman told residents.

The town council agreed to raise certain fees related to sidewalk cafés, limousine and filming licenses. In addition, the Code Review and Town Property Committee gave an update on its plan to curtail overdevelopment and would name a committee to incorporate planning-board recommendations.

Police charged a Westfield woman in the stabbing of a fellow town resident that occurred on June 20 as the two argued on the 200 block of Windsor Avenue.

Sergeant Scott Rodger of the Westfield Police Department told *The Leader/Times* that the suspect, Danielle Woods, 34, turned herself in at Westfield police headquarters. According to Sergeant Rodger, Ms.

Woods allegedly stabbed the 20-year-old victim with a knife at about 10 p.m. during what began as a verbal altercation, leaving the victim with wounds to the left arm, both shoulders and facial area. Ms. Woods reportedly left the scene before police arrived. The victim was treated at Overlook Hospital in Summit and released.

Ms. Woods was charged with aggravated assault, unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of a weapon for unlawful purpose. She was transported to the Union County jail, with bail set at \$10,000.

## Scotch Plains

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood BOE and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association reached a tentative agreement on a new contract.

The settlement was reached at 4 a.m. on June 1, following 11 months of negotiations and teacher rallies and pickets.

A pedestrian died after being hit by a car at the intersection of Route 22 and Harding Road in the township on May 28. Tommy Oatman, 64, was killed as he walked across the street in a wooded area by the Watchung Reservation at 10:55 p.m. Police said the victim was wearing dark clothing and was walking in the street near his home on Harding Road. A driver traveling westbound on Rt. 22 hit Mr. Oatman with the right corner of his Hyundai.

A split township council gave its approval to an ordinance that re-zones the township-owned hedge property next to the Municipal Building for a 9,000-square-foot tract that can be sold to a private developer.

Mayor Martin Marks, saying the property presently serves no purpose, called it "an asset" for taxpayers, adding that its eventual sale would bring money into township coffers and also add a property tax rateable once the site is developed for a mixed-use building.

The township planning board had reaffirmed its recommendation that the township council not re-zone the hedge property adjacent to the municipal building. It also passed a resolution stating that the rezoning ordinance set to be voted on by the council is not consistent with the township's master plan.

SPFHS celebrated the graduation of the 318 members of the Class of 2006 on June 22 on Tyson Field.

Administrators gave speeches at the



EASY DOES IT (May 11)...Workers carefully remove the spire atop of the Westfield Fire Headquarters after painters reported safety concerns.

graduation, including the BOE President Thomas Russo and retiring Superintendent of Schools Carol Choye.

## Fanwood

The Fanwood Police Department sought information on a report of shots fired on South Avenue in Fanwood on May 29. According to police, witnesses said two vehicles were racing eastbound on South Avenue when shots were fired from one of the vehicles at the other.

Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks and Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr authorized an inter-local agreement for a tax collector service. Fanwood's tax collector Colleen Huehn now offers tax-collector support, mentors Scotch Plains' tax clerk and reports to Scotch Plains Chief Financial Officer Lori Majeski.

## Garwood

The BOE discussed a new wellness and nutrition regulation for the school system.

"Cupcakes are in," said board member Gary Maher as he began the discussion with a summary of the education committee's findings, which included rules about food items in schools. The new regulations, which went into effect September 1, include a district-wide candy ban and limiting birthday celebrations to kindergarten through third-grade students.

Officials announced that Verizon

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD**  
Date Adopted: 11/30/06

Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an extraordinary, unspecified service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(ii). This contract and the resolution authorizing it are available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

**RESOLUTION NO: 2006-1108 AWARDED TO: Request for Proposal SERVICES:** to deliver activities, programs and services dealing with the issues of juvenile delinquency set forth in the Juvenile Justice Commission Points of Continuum: Prevention, Diversion, Detention, Disposition and Aftercare/Re-entry  
**PERIOD:** January 1, 2007-December 31, 2007  
**COSTS:** in an amount of \$1,163,298.58.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T - 12/21/06, The Leader Fee: \$23.46

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2006-1204 AWARDED TO: DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Teaneck, New Jersey. SERVICE:** Special Counsel for the County of Union on an "as needed" basis for legal matter  
**COSTS:** in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T - 12/21/06, The Leader Fee: \$20.40

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2006-1208 AWARDED TO: This is It! Concept and Event Production, Hoboken, New Jersey. SERVICES:** to plan, produce and promote the 2007 R & B by the Brook Festival at Cedar Brook Park, Plainfield New Jersey  
**PERIOD:** June 9, 2007  
**COSTS:** in an amount not to exceed \$98,900.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T - 12/21/06, The Leader Fee: \$23.46

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2006-1193 AWARDED TO: Graiger Industrial Supply, Lake Forest, Illinois. SERVICE:** to provide comprehensive medical/surgical product procurement and inventory management system for the patients/residents Runnells Specialized Hospital  
**PERIOD:** January 1, 2007- December 31, 2007  
**COSTS:** in an amount of \$39,200.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T - 12/21/06, The Leader Fee: \$23.46

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2006-1197 AWARDED TO: Air Products & Chemicals, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. SERVICE:** for the purchase of liquid oxygen for the patients/residents Runnells Specialized Hospital  
**PERIOD:** January 1, 2007- December 31, 2007  
**COSTS:** in an amount of \$12,000.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T - 12/21/06, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2006-1194 AWARDED TO: Hill Rom, Bates, Indiana. SERVICE:** for the rental of therapeutic beds for the patients/residents Runnells Specialized Hospital  
**PERIOD:** January 1, 2007- December 31, 2007  
**COSTS:** in an amount of \$55,000.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T - 12/21/06, The Leader Fee: \$21.42



DESERVED RECOGNITION (April 27)...Legendary Westfield High School (WHS) varsity football/wrestling/golf head coach and former athletic director Gary Kehler, left, WHS Athletic Director Ed Tranchina, center, and WHS Boosters President Vince Wilt stand underneath the two plaques donated by the WHS Boosters to commemorate Mr. Kehler's career at WHS.



PLENTY OF DOUGH (June 29)...The Dunkin' Donuts in Fanwood officially reopened with dedication ceremonies prior to the borough's street fair. The building underwent extensive remodeling and expansion.

## Legal Advertising

MORE IN BACK SECTION

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2006-1202 AWARDED TO: Catholic Community Services, Cranford, New Jersey. SERVICES:** alcohol and drug counseling treatment program for the female inmate population at the Union County Jail  
**PERIOD:** January 1, 2007-December 31, 2007  
**COSTS:** in an amount not to exceed \$81,332.

Nicole L. DiRado  
Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T - 12/21/06, The Leader Fee: \$22.95

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Clerk of the Board of Freeholders  
1 T - 12/21/06, The Leader Fee: \$23.46

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT, BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES**  
1035 PARKWAY AVENUE, PO BOX 605  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

SEALED BIDS will be received from bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:7-35.1 et seq.; in the NJDOT MULTIPURPOSE ROOM, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; until 10:00 A.M. on 1/9/07 and opened and read for:

**Maintenance Beam Guide Rail & Attenuator Repair Contract, North-2007, Various locations including and North of Route 57, Counties of Sussex, Morris, Passaic, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Union and Part of Warren, 100% State DP NO: 06440**

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, C.127 N.J.A.C. 17:27.

Effective October 15, 2004, Pursuant to P.L. 2005, C. 51 (formerly known as Executive Order 134) apparent low bidder must provide a completed, signed Contractor Certification and Disclosure of Political Contribution Forms within seven (7) state business days from the project bid date.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, Business Registration, proof of valid business registration shall be submitted by a bidder with its bid proposal at the time of bid for 100% State funded projects.

Pursuant to the "Public Works Contractor Registration Act", N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.48 et seq. (P.L. 2003, c. 91), bidders must register with the New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance.

The Department, in accordance with Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252 U.S.C., 49 C.F.R., Parts 21 and 23 issued pursuant to such Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will afford minority business enterprises full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any bidder on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, or handicap in the contract award.

Drawings and specifications for the proposed work are available at Bid Express website [www.bidx.com](http://www.bidx.com). You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe follow the instructions on the website. The fee is \$35.00 per month for unlimited access to view and download the documents and additional \$95.00 per month for unlimited access to download the plans, directly payable to Bid Express.

Drawings, special provisions, and bid documents may be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contracting organizations at our various Design Field Offices at the following locations:

200 Steril Court, Mt. Arlington, NJ 973-770-5141  
Route 79 and Daniels Way, Freehold, NJ 732-308-4025  
1 Executive Campus Rt 70, Cherry Hill, NJ 856-486-6624

3 T - 12/14/06, 12/21/06 and 12/28/06, The Leader Fee: \$214.20



And Our Trusted Correspondents:  
Nordette Adams, Wayne Baker, Betsey Burgdorf, Linda Condriolo, Patrick Connor, Susan Cook, Susan Dougherty, Meghan Gill, Michael Goldberger, Debbie Hoffman, Jessica Jascula, Bruce Johnson, Caroline Koellhoffer, Michelle LePoivien, Gina Levy, Cassie Lo, Debbie Madison, Meredith Mannino, Kathy Marques, Ingrid McKinley, Marylou Moran, Dale Nesenman, Katie Newingham, Jim O'Connor, Ted Ritter, Fred Rossi, David Samsky, Christie Storms, Brad Tinfow and Maria Wochr