



# The Westfield Leader

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FIFTY CENTS



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

**WESTFIELD HOMECOMING...** Happy Westfield High School students carried the banner to lead the Homecoming Parade which began at the Municipal Building on East Broad Street and ended at Gary Kehler Stadium on November 26. Afterwards, the "Rough Tuff" Powder Puff Game between the senior girls and the junior girls began. Please see more Homecoming Parade pictures in the Sports Section beginning on Page 13.

## Council Acts To Derail Subdivision

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Zoning along Westfield Avenue and two neighboring streets has been officially changed back to reflect the character of the neighborhood to the way it was prior to a 1995 amendment to the town's Master Plan.

Responding to concerns of residents over a subdivision application before the Planning Board, the council met bright and early on Friday morning, November 28, the day after Thanksgiving, to hold a public hearing and adoption vote on the Master Plan change.

The ordinance was then published Monday in daily newspapers in order to have the zoning in effect by Monday night's meeting.

The council decided to take the action now in order to prevent developer Michael Mahoney from continuing with his plans to demolish a 100-year-old house at 633 Westfield Avenue and replace it with two new homes.

Had the council waited until the new Master Plan is officially adopted some time next year, it would have come after the Planning Board made its decision.

The owner of the property, Milton A. Steinfeld, attended the meeting with his son, Michael, and daughter-in-law, Kathy. The Steinfelds have claimed a hardship case, stating that they are unable to keep up the house and, thus, want to sell the house to the developer.

Mrs. Steinfeld told the council that her family was not opposed to returning the zoning in the neighborhood to the way it was in the previous Master Plan.

She said the council's action "was rushed through with the sole purpose of defeating our subdivision."

While the Steinfelds do not want to s...

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## TREE REMOVAL PERMITS WOULD BE REQUIRED IN ORDINANCE

# Council Unveils Code to Preserve Shade Trees on Developable Land

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

In an effort to preserve the environment while also ending the practice of clear-cutting trees to make room for new homes, the Town Council has unveiled an ordinance which aims to protect shade trees in town.

Under the proposed code, developers or individuals will not be able to cut down trees on land either proposed or suitable for development unless a tree removal application has been granted by the Planning Board and issued by a code enforcement officer.

These permits, which will be valid for two years, would be required for properties which are being developed and thus require subdivision or site plan approval.

Owners of vacant properties which have subdivision potential would have to get a permit if 50 percent of the trees on the lot were to be removed over a period of three years, or if a total of 10 trees were to be removed, whichever is less.

Permits would also be required to remove town-owned trees.

The code exempts commercial nurseries, and the pruning and removal of trees by utility companies for line clearance of utility wires. The town would also be exempt from the policy.

Also, when a property owner wants to remove a town tree in the right-of-way, the ordinance includes a replacement policy so that the town's stock of trees is continually being renewed, according to Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr., who sits on the governing body's Laws and Rules Committee.

The Planning Board or enforcement officer may require that replacement trees be planted as a condition for a tree removal permit. Also, in circumstances when trees have already been removed without a permit, the person may be required to provide a replacement sapling. Shade trees will be required for

every 50 feet of frontage on any proposed or existing right-of-way.

The code provides for an escrow account where an applicant would be required to make a deposit to cover the cost of purchasing and planting new replacement trees as required by the Planning Board or enforcement officer.

These payments would be required when it is deemed impractical to plant

new trees due to inclement weather or lack of space.

The town's construction official will have the authority to withhold the certificate of occupancy until either new trees are planted or money has been put in to the escrow account.

Fourth Ward Councilman and Laws and Rules Committee Chairman Lawrence A. Goldman referred to the

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# Westfield BOE Okays Calendar; Accepts District Technology Plan

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Westfield Board of Education approved, on first reading, the 1998-1999 school calendar which calls for schools to open on Wednesday, September 2, 1998, during the week prior to Labor Day. Classes are scheduled to end on Monday, June 21, 1999.

Prior to voting on the calendar, the board elected to amend the designation of December 24 to 31, 1998, from "Christmas/New Year Vacation" to "Holiday Break."

Board Vice President Danielle M. Walsh suggested the specific dates for Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa be listed beneath this general heading.

It was "hats off" to Westfield Board of Education member Ginger Hardwick during the December 2 meeting for her recent recommendation that the administration explore Interactive Television (ITV) studio opportunities associated with the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC).

An ITV studio is in place in the UCESC facility on Lamberts Mill Road, adjacent to St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church. ITV allows multiple locations to participate actively

in classes via satellite.

"(The commission) is interested in cooperating with Westfield in the use of the ITV studio," said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. William J. Foley. He envisions the site being used for professional development programs for staff members and, possibly, a course in an Asian language for Westfield High School (WHS) students.

"This gives us a chance to try it (the ITV studio) with a minimal investment," explained Dr. Foley. Earlier, the Superintendent said that high development and maintenance costs for ITV, plus the need to reserve classroom space for an anticipated increase in high school enrollment, would prohibit creation of an ITV studio at WHS at this time.

The board also accepted Ms. Hardwick's motion to approve the local district Technology Plan for submission to the state.

The board's unanimous approval of the plan followed a firsthand look at technology at work in Edison Intermediate School. Earlier in the evening, board members visited classrooms to see how technology has been incorporated into the intermediate schools' newly-revised mathematics, science and geography curricula.

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## RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING ZONES UNVEILED

# Exterior Maintenance Code Adopted by Town Council

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The long-discussed exterior property maintenance code was officially adopted Tuesday night by the Town Council.

First drafted in the spring by Town Attorney Charles H. Brandt, the code is aimed at vacant lots and residential and commercial buildings which "may become substandard with respect to structure or maintenance."

The code would come into play in cases of structural deterioration, lack of maintenance of the exteriors of properties and the infestations of vermin which could become a threat to public health, safety and welfare.

Fourth Ward Councilman and Laws and Rules Committee Chairman Lawrence A. Goldman noted the significant time and energy the commit-

tee and the entire council and town officials offered to present the final version of the code.

"I think our collective task was to create a mechanism for addressing problem properties in appearance or condition which is so poor that the rights of neighboring property owners could be impaired or the public's health, safety and welfare is threatened," said Mr. Goldman.

The councilman asked that the code be budgeted in next year's municipal spending plan. He also asked Town Administrator Edward A. Gottko to appoint the code enforcement officer promptly.

Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr., added, "I think we have a good ordinance here. Hopefully we will put it to good use for many decades to come."

Kathy Goldbeck, of Downer Street, said she supports the ordinance, indicating she hopes it will enable the town now to take action on a house which has been vacant on her street for the past 25 years.

Among the areas covered by the new code are the overgrowth of grass, weeds or other plant growth; open fires, storage of unregistered and un-inspected motor vehicles or boats, foundation walls, exterior walls and fences, roofs and drainage, chimneys, stairs and porches and the covering of display windows on vacant storefronts.

The code creates a Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Committee consisting of five members. They include the town administrator, town engineer, representatives of the Board of Health and Planning Board and a

town employee designated by the administrator.

Those individuals cited by the enforcement officer may request a hearing before the enforcement committee. Persons who believe they have a hardship case due to a financial or personal situation may also request a hearing.

If an individual refuses to comply with a notice of violation, he or she will face a hearing in Municipal Court upon which the judge could issue a maximum of a \$1,000 fine per violation for each day the violation continues.

In other business, Bill Fitzpatrick of Birch Place and Suzanne Granstrand of Columbus Avenue asked for an update on safety issues concerning Holy Trinity Interparochial School children crossing streets near the school. Ms. Granstrand, who serves as the President of the Holy Trinity Home and School Association, has sent a letter to the council regarding the issue.

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## Board Endorses Law on Cellular Towers in Town

By JASMINE VASAVADA  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Westfield Planning Board gave its consent to an ordinance currently before the Town Council, Monday night, which provides for the installation and regulation of cellular telecommunications towers and facilities in Westfield.

Under the ordinance, cellular towers will be zoned solely in the area of Cardinal Drive off Route No. 22 and adjacent to Houlihan Field near St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church on Lamberts Mill Road, located on the north and south ends of town, respectively.

Cellular communications antennas will be allowed in residential areas on multi-family housing, such as apartment buildings, commercial buildings; commercial buildings and on top of churches.

The council is expected to take action on the ordinance, following a public hearing, on Tuesday, December 16.

The need for telecommunications antennas is rising as more people use cellular phones, beepers, Internet, and other wireless services. These anten-

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## Deadlines Told For Submittals To The Leader

Those persons preparing press releases for submission to *The Leader* are reminded that copy should be e-mailed or faxed by 4 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. *The Leader's* e-mail address is [press@goleader.com](mailto:press@goleader.com). The fax number is 232-0473.

Releases, pictures and letters to the editor can also be dropped off at our office located at 50 Elm Street or through our mail slot. To ensure that submittals reach our office prior to deadline, we encourage e-mail or faxed materials.

Sports stories which occur prior to the weekend must be in by the Friday deadline. Weekend sports events must be submitted by noon on the Monday prior to the publication date. Obituaries will be accepted up to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays.

All copy must be typed, double-spaced, upper and lower case, no more than 500 words in length, and include a daytime telephone number where the submitter can be reached.

For events which are planned months in advance, we encourage submission of stories as early as possible prior to the event.

Please note that in addition to making our deadlines, the publication of submittals may be delayed due to space considerations. All submittals are subject to being cut due to length, edited for style and clarification at the discretion of the editor.



**HOLIDAY CONCERT...** The Westfield Community Band, pictured above, will hold their eighth annual holiday concert on Wednesday, December 10, at 8 p.m. at the Edison Intermediate School auditorium. The event kicks off the band's 86th season. The band was established in 1912. Please see story on Page 5.

## Town Council Acts to Derail Westfield Ave. Subdivision

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old homes torn down around town, Mrs. Steinfeld requested that her family's property be grandfathered under the previous zoning, given the fact their subdivision application with the Planning Board was filed three months ago.

She said her family only contacted Mr. Mahoney after efforts to sell the house "as is" failed.

"It is not feasible to sell the house as is, considering the amount of work which it needed," she said.

"We were trying to accomplish something which was well within our means and our rights," Mrs. Steinfeld added.

Milton Steinfeld, a 45-year resident, said it was his family's intention to remain in town, noting that they have purchased another home in Westfield on the condition that they sell the Westfield Avenue property.

The Steinfeld subdivision application was first heard in October and then postponed in November.

Nancy Albanese of 646 Westfield Avenue, spoke in favor of the council's action. She said she was not against demolishing the existing house, but that one rather than two new homes should be constructed in its place.

In order to accomplish the rezoning feat, Town Attorney Charles H. Brandt drew up a resolution which rezoned 32 properties along Westfield Avenue, Park Street and Summit Avenue from the previous RS-8 zone to RS-10 and RS-6 zones.

A study prepared by the town's professional planning consultant, Robert Catlin Associates, found that the RS-8 zone features 12,000-square-foot lots with lot widths of 74.5 feet, "both of which are significantly larger than that required by the RS-8 zone."

Thus, the council passed the zoning amendment which takes 26 properties and places them in the RS-10 zone, which requires a minimum lot area of 10,000 square feet and a lot width of 60 feet. Eighteen of the lots meet the standards of the new zone. Four additional lots fall short of the lot widths.

The other six properties were moved to the RS-6 zone which requires 50-foot lot widths and lot areas of 6,000 square feet. Five of those lots conform to the new zone.

The Catlin report noted that prior to 1995, the 32 lots in question were all in a zone known as "RS-70" which required lot areas of 8,400 feet and lot widths of 70 feet.

In his nearly three-page statement, Third Ward Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr., noted that one of the goals of the 1991

Master Plan was to prevent subdivisions "where the resulting lots would be out of character with the rest of the zone area."

The other goal was to "eliminate as many non-conforming lots as possible."

Mr. Sullivan noted that the amended zoning plan, passed Friday with a vote of 9-0 by the council, eliminates the potential of subdivisions without variances for several properties on Westfield Avenue which "was never intended or contemplated by the community in the 1991 Master Plan." The non-variance subdivisions were created from the 1995 Master Plan change.

Just as the owner of a home that does not conform to zoning standards must go to the Zoning Board of Adjustment to seek a variance to enlarge their home, Councilman Sullivan reasoned that the owner of a larger lot, who wants to subdivide the properties into two lots, should also be required to go before the Planning Board so that the board has an opportunity to ensure the application meets with zoning standards.

Third Ward Councilman John J. Walsh said the action had to be taken, noting that the 1995 amendment to the Master Plan, which was adopted in 1991, with regard to Westfield Avenue was made in too much of a haste.

"I just think this is the right thing to do," said Councilman Walsh.

First Ward Councilman Norman N. Greco said the rezoning of Westfield Avenue, in his mind, is "spot zoning" and reminds him of an attempt by the council in 1995 to rezone a portion of North Avenue to prevent ShopRite from building a large store on an existing lumberyard site.

Due to a number of legal actions before the council filed by Village Super Markets, the applicant in that case, the council needed a two-thirds majority, or six votes, to pass that ordinance. That vote fell one tally shy.

Mr. Greco, who supported the motion, was unable to vote after a judge ruled he had a possible conflict of interest.

He told *The Westfield Leader* that he questioned why the council was voting in favor of rezoning a small property where a family is involved but could not muster the support when a large company like Village Super Markets was the applicant.

Mr. Brandt told *The Leader* that the developer could now choose to file a new application before the board. The existing 125-foot lot could be subdivided into lots of 62.5 feet each.

So the ordinance's flexibility about antenna locations is important.

"I think this is the best cellular ordinance that I've been involved with" reported Blaise Brancheau, the town's professional planning consultant.

"It provides the best defense on a coverage argument of any of the ones that I've seen," he explained to the board.

Here in Westfield, Bell Atlantic Mobile and the First United Methodist Church on East Broad Street are engaged in discussions about the placement of an antenna on the church roof.

Such antennas cannot be taxed directly by the town, but the enhanced monthly rental values of \$1,500 to \$2,000 are taxable, officials explained.

People have found ingenious ways of crafting unobtrusive antennas. They may be built into a fiberglass panel which blends into the tiles of a roof. In Mendham, an antenna on top of a church roof was disguised as a steeple.

According to board member and Town Councilman Neil F. Sullivan, Jr., who helped craft the ordinance, in California cellular antennas have even been disguised as fiberglass pine trees.

In other business, the board announced the unanimous adoption by the Town Council of an amendment, at a special meeting on Friday, November 28, which changed the zoning for a property at 633 Westfield Avenue.

The owner of this property, Milton A. Steinfeld, was seeking a minor subdivision so he could sell the house to developer Michael Mahoney who wanted to demolish the 100-year home and build two homes in its place.

However, under the new zoning requirements, a notice must now be given to all property owners within 200 feet before the application can be heard. The hearing is slated for Monday, January 5.

## Planning Board Endorses Cellular Tower Ordinance

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nas generally need to be placed 40 feet off the ground, or higher, but towers, an obvious location for such antennas, may be unsightly, Town Attorney Charles H. Brandt explained to the board.

"We're going to have these things," said Mr. Brandt. "So let's put them in places where they'll affect the town the least," he explained.

So far, the town has approved three applications for telecommunications facilities. In all three cases, the applicant initially sought to build a tower, but worked with the town to find alternate, unobtrusive locations for the antennas on top of existing buildings.

At 33 Elm Street, for instance, above the Java Cafe, the antenna is invisible from the street, hidden from view by the parapet.

But there may not be enough tall buildings to meet the ballooning demand. When cellular first came on to the scene, New Jersey Bell (now Atlantic Bell) and AT&T were the only providers.

Now as many as eight providers cover the area, broadcasting in different parts of the spectrum.

One way to accommodate as many antennas as possible with the fewest number of towers would be to require "co-location." In this practice, a facility must provide for the location of multiple antennas when a tower is built by at least three different providers.

A co-location rule would require that a 45-foot tower be equipped to accommodate two antennas, a 125-foot tower must have provisions for three antennas.

Co-location was one of several regulations proposed by Mr. Brandt to guide the placement and size of telecommunications towers. Under the proposed ordinance, towers could be built in the railroad right-of-way zones along North and South Avenues.

In residential zones, antenna towers not exceeding 20 feet could be built on buildings taller than 40 feet, provided that the building has more than five residential units.

The challenge was to craft an ordinance that was not too restrictive, officials explained. The Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 prohibits towns from passing ordinances which would discriminate between two providers.

This makes town restrictions on the number and location of antennas difficult.

Charges of discrimination might result if one provider were denied an antenna and consequently could not cover an area that its competitor was covering, Mr. Brandt explained.

So the ordinance's flexibility about antenna locations is important.

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### WESTFIELD FIRE BLOTTER

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

- Two hundred block of North Avenue West - good intent call.
- Seven hundred block of North Avenue West - carbon monoxide detector activation.

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

- Three hundred block of Clark Street - system malfunction.
- Plainfield Fire Department - standby for mutual aid.

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

- Six hundred block of Willow Grove Road - system malfunction.
- Fifteen hundred block of Lamberts Mill Road - malicious false call.
- Eight hundred block of Rahway Avenue - bonfire.

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

- Six hundred block of Willow Grove Road - hazardous condition.
- Three hundred block of South Avenue East - assist police.
- Four hundred block of Summit Avenue - structure fire.
- Ten hundred block of Irving Avenue - power line down.

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

- One hundred block of Sandra Circle - lockout.
- Four hundred block of South Avenue West - automobile accident.
- Fifteen hundred block of Lamberts Mill Road - unintentional alarm.

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- Eleven hundred block of South Avenue West - unintentional alarm.

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

- Five hundred block of South Euclid Avenue - refuse fire.
- One hundred block of Fairhill Road - arcing wire on pole.
- One hundred block of Quimby Street - fuel oil spill on roadway.

A variance will now be required before the developer can proceed with his plans.

The board granted permission to developer Charles Higgins to subdivide two properties on Clarence Avenue, creating four lots from two existing lots. One of the resulting lots will be created beyond the point where the street currently ends.

The board stipulated that a driveway would be built to the end of the street, and removed if and when the previously undeveloped street is continued farther. In addition, if the road must temporarily end in a cul-de-sac, Mr. Higgins must bear the expense of converting the cul-de-sac to a regular through road when necessary.

Finally, Louis and Carla Capuano, of 460 Hillside Avenue, were granted permission to keep a retaining wall which in places exceeds the maximum height of six feet permitted by ordinance.

However, the Capuanos were instructed to obtain a soil and drainage review from the town engineers and approval by the town building inspector of the construction itself, which they had neglected to do earlier, officials said.

They also agreed to stain the retaining wall a darker color and landscape the area in front of it to make it less of an eyesore for the neighbors. Another part of their application, concerning a fence to be built above the wall for safety purposes, will be carried until the meeting on Monday, February 2.

### BOE Okays Calendar; Accepts Technology Plan

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full-time district employees before voting on the resolution.

In another matter, board member Annmarie Puleo reported that the Strategic Planning Council is set to begin its work weekend tomorrow, Friday, December 5, at 6 p.m. at Lucent Technologies.

The 36-member council is comprised of representatives from the district faculty and staff, community, parents and students.

### NJCAAN CONTINUES PUSH FOR OCEAN ROUTING

## Citizens Group Seeking Help In Gaining Air Noise Relief From Latest FAA Maneuver

By PAUL J. PEYTON

Specialty Written for The Leader

The latest change in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) flight patterns, shifting flight paths to the west of the Arthur Kill waterway and directly over heavily populated areas of Union County, was the final straw as far as members of the New Jersey Coalition Against Aircraft Noise are concerned.

The 5,000-member group, more commonly known as NJCAAN, has asked Congressman Bob Franks for his help in addressing the latest change in flight patterns. NJCAAN, which has membership in 18 of the state's 21 counties, is also gaining more headway on its proposal for ocean routing. Many legislators, including Congressman Franks and Senator Frank Lautenberg, have endorsed the plan.

Jerome Feder of Westfield, a member of the NJCAAN Board of Trustees and a representative on the Union County Air Noise Advisory Board, stated in an October 16 letter to Mr. Franks that the FAA announced its latest traffic routes change on September 23.

On the previous flight patterns, aircraft climbed over the Arthur Kill and industrial areas to 3,500 feet, Mr. Feder said. The shift of patterns to the west has resulted in a drop of 1,000 feet in the altitudes flown by aircraft just before they fly over residential areas.

"The proposed route change results in aircraft being lower and noisier as they overfly New Jersey," he explained.

Mr. Feder noted that air traffic patterns have been under experiment by the FAA since it attempted to implement the \$6.5 million Solberg Mitigation Plan last year.

This plan, the net result of the Environmental Impact Study following the implementation of the federal agency's Expanded East Coast Plan, was aimed at alleviating increased noise, specifically over the local Scotch Plains and Fanwood area following residents' complaints.

The environmental impact study was ordered as part of the Air Safety Capacity Expansion Act of 1990. The study took 5½ years to complete.

NJCAAN has said the announcement that the FAA will implement a revised Solberg Plan in January will actually provide no real relief, since these flight patterns have already been implemented with the more westerly patterns over residential areas.

Michael Schatzki sits on the NJCAAN board and is President of the New Jersey Citizens for Environmental Research, the group which produced the data on the impact of jet noise in the region and brings it to NJCAAN, a policy-making group. The research group received the funding to conduct the ocean routing study.

Mr. Schatzki said he believes the FAA never intended to implement the Solberg routes.

"It has never been implemented and it never will be," he said.

Had this plan been implemented, air traffic departures and arrivals from Newark International, LaGuardia, and JFK International Airports would have been changed to reduce noise over Union, Essex, Middlesex, Somerset and Morris Counties.

NJCAAN representatives say Solberg only shifts the problems of air noise to other areas of the state, which they say does not solve the problem. Mr. Schatzki noted that NJCAAN voted 21-1 against Solberg when it was originally unveiled in September of 1994 for this very reason.

## Town Council Adopts Main. Code To Address 'Problem Properties'

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A Holy Trinity youngster was hit by a car driven by a Westfield High School senior earlier this fall. Mr. Sullivan noted that the Transportation, Parking and Traffic Committee, of which he is a member, has turned the letter over to the Traffic Safety Bureau of the Westfield Police Department for a response.

The council also introduced an ordinance which creates daytime residential permit parking zones in areas where residents have no other place to park but the street.

On the north side, these streets will include parts of Cowperthwaite Place, Prospect Street, Nelson Place, Ludlow Place, Clark Street, Charles Street and Ferris Place.

Southside streets in the zones will include Summit Avenue, Boulevard, Temple Place and Ross Place.

### Addiction Workshop Set for December 12

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Union County is offering a workshop entitled "Heroin/Cocaine Addiction and Recovery" on Friday, December 12, at the NCADD offices at 300 North Avenue, East, in Westfield from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The course will cover the physical and psychological aspects of these addictions and appropriate treatment models towards a successful recovery.

The course offers six CADC credit hours upon completion. The cost of the course is \$50 and pre-registration is required. For further information on the upcoming courses and to register, please call (908) 233-8810.

Fourth Ward Councilman Donnell Carr, Chairman of the Transportation, Parking and Traffic Committee, noted that the permits, which will cost \$10 per year, will allow residents to park from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The zone is currently for two-hour parking during this time period.

### WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

• Dalton Latham, 36, of Dunellen, was arrested and charged with shoplifting at an East Broad Street pharmacy, according to police. He was held in lieu of \$275 bail.

• A Belvidere Avenue resident reported that someone entered his vehicle, which was parked on the street, and removed a cellular telephone of an unknown value.

• A black leather purse was reported stolen from a motor vehicle which was parked on Ripley Avenue. Police said the purse and its contents were valued at \$105.

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

• A Beechwood Place resident reported that her purse containing credit cards and various items valued at approximately \$217 was stolen from her vehicle while it was parked in the lot of a North Avenue pharmacy.

• The theft of \$200 was reported by a Scotch Plains resident, who said the money was removed from his wallet which had been stored in a locker at a Westfield recreation facility.

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

• A Summit Avenue resident reported the theft of a gym bag from her motor vehicle, which was parked in her driveway.

New Jersey.

To get to the ocean, planes departing Newark could be routed over the Arthur Kill to the Raritan Bay, where they would turn sharply left and fly over a part of Sandy Hook to a point about eight miles off the New Jersey Coast.

At that point, northbound flights would turn north while the rest would fly south, parallel to the Jersey Shore, turning west over two locations in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, depending on their destinations.

"We intend to take all this noise and reduce it tremendously," said Mr. Schatzki.

The FAA has been critical of the plan, saying it interferes with flight paths reserved for LaGuardia and JFK. The airlines are also said not to want to burn the extra fuel. They also fear the plan will result in a decline in the number of flights at Newark International, which is said by NJCAAN to be at or near capacity now.

"We have never proposed anything to limit capacity at Newark Airport," said Mr. Schatzki, noting NJCAAN supports expanding one of Newark's runways, which would provide relief to Port Elizabeth since flights will take off 1,000 feet earlier, gaining altitude quicker and reducing ground noise over populated areas.

He said airlines also believe they will have to space departures further apart under ocean routing.

"We believe there will be no delay penalty," he said, adding that the cost will be about \$1 per passenger ticket.

Mr. Schatzki said that under the new patterns, an extra lane was created over the ocean for Kennedy departures.

Bergen County also would see relief as the new routes proposed in the ocean plan reallocate planes to the north where they had previously flown.

"The overall effect will be that the level of peace and quiet that we had in 1987 in Cranford and 1989 here (Scotch Plains and Fanwood), before the (Expanded East Coast Plan) changes, will be restored," said Pamela Barsam-Brown, Executive Director of NJCAAN.

Among the legislation aimed at reducing air traffic noise is the Air Pollution Control Act of 1997.

The bill, if adopted, will direct the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a study of air pollution created by Newark International and Teterboro Airports.

The bill would treat an airport and the area within a certain radius around it as a single source of air pollution. Airports, which NJCAAN claims resemble smoke stacks in the toxic pollutants they release, have been excluded from the same rules as polluting industries have to follow.

Also the Bi-State Correction Act of 1997 requires a reduction which accounts for cutting air noise in half in an area that runs from the New York border to Monmouth County.

NJCAAN believes ocean routing is the only solution if the Bi-State law is enacted.

Congressman Franks' bill from 1996 would produce a 25 percent or more reduction in air noise over Elizabeth, Mr. Schatzki said, noting ocean routing would be necessary to achieve this reduction, as well.

Also, by an act of Congress, older and louder aircraft must be phased out by 1999 and 2000, which should also provide at least some relief.

When the proposal was released in 1993, it was estimated that between 300 and 400 jets each day would no longer be flying the lower altitudes over residential