

## Two stations compete for radio license

By MITCHEL ZEMEL

A Springfield public television station and an Amherst public radio station are both vying for the license to Springfield Technical Community College's radio station, which the college may sell or lease.

Television station Channel 57 and radio station WFCR are both interested in the license to WTCC, officials from the stations said Saturday.

"We're watching the situation closely," said WFCR General Manager Joan Rubel. "We've told them we're interested."

Channel 57 General Manager Jim Lewis said the station has been talking with STCC about the license since January.

STCC President Andrew Scibelli could not be reached Saturday, but both Rubel and Lewis said the school is presently studying its options and may decide to lease or sell the license. Either choice must be approved by the Federal Communications Commission.

Both Lewis and Rubel said their stations are perfectly suited to take over the license and operate a radio station and both said they would do it in Springfield.

"We are in Springfield," Lewis said. "It would not be too much trouble to become a Springfield licensee."

"We're very optimistic we can put together a proposal which will best serve the needs of the area," Rubel said.

Both general managers have different plans for the station if they get the license.

Lewis said the station would retain much of its present "ethnic" programming, which ranges from opera, to Hispanic and Polish music.

He said Channel 57 has planned an almost complete schedule for the station.

It would run the first hour of "Morning Pro Musica," which WFCR recently announced it was cutting, although maintaining the remainder of the popular morning show.

"The afternoon (scheduling) is a bit open at this point," Lewis said. "We were originally going to be running classical but we're not certain now."

He said they would not become affiliated with National Public Radio.

Rubel said she plans to use the station to "complement" WFCR's programming, but might change some WFCR programming also, possibly switching some things to WTCC.

"WFCR is interested in expanding and improving service to Springfield and (Hampden County)."

She said they would probably make a news bureau in Springfield and use WTCC to increase WFCR's ability to reach more listeners.

WTCC would offer local news while WFCR would continue to offer national and international news and its public affairs shows.

## Springfield library releases schedule

The Springfield Library and Museums Association has released a schedule of fall events planned to benefit the Quadrangle Development Campaign.

The first event planned is a two-day appraisal of art, antiques, heirlooms and attic treasures at the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum. Two panels of antique dealers, auctioneers and restoration artists will appraise items brought in by the public.

The appraisers will donate their time Sept. 28 and 29. All appraisal fees will go to the campaign.

The second event is a "Repas Champetre," or country picnic, at the U.S. Polo Finals Open in Shal-lowbrook, Conn. A painting by artist Ken Wakeen will be sold at auction and a celebrity polo match is being planned.

The picnic will begin at noon and reservations by advance ticket sale are necessary.

A Halloween happening at the

Science Museum will be held Oct. 26-31. Visitors will be able to view Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory and take a time machine trip in the planetarium. Times and ticket information are available at the Science Museum.

A washline art sale will take place at the Museum of Fine Arts Nov. 1-3. Art donated by the public will be sold to benefit the campaign.

The sale will begin Nov. 1 with a preview for Friends of the Quadrangle from 8 p.m. to midnight. The next two days the sale will be open to the public from noon to 6 p.m. and a campaign raffle of 13 prizes donated by area merchants will be held Nov. 3.

The Quadrangle development campaign's goal is to raise \$6 million for the renovation and expansion of exhibits and galleries in the library system and the five museums at the Quadrangle.

## Westfield celebrates its baseball champs

By DAVID LACHANCE  
Westfield bureau chief

WESTFIELD — In the sunshine of the last full day of summer, hundreds of residents lined the streets Saturday to offer their congratulations to Westfield's boys of summer, the three championship baseball teams whose heroics made even the state Legislature take notice.

In a parade named for them and on a day named in their honor, the Westfield North Little League All Stars and the 13-year-old and 14- to 15-year-old Babe Ruth teams marched down Elm Street and to Billy Bullens Municipal Field, where they were given awards and a free lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs.

Acting Mayor Charles W. Medeiros, who began planning for the parade weeks ago, read a proclamation honoring the 45 boys and their coaches for "the best season you've ever had."

"We, the people of Westfield, take our hats off to you for jobs well done and championships well deserved," Medeiros said. "You have demonstrated winning can be obtained along with good sportsmanship."

State Rep. Steven D. Pierce, R-Westfield, presented the Legislature's congratulations and a copy of a resolution honoring "the young men who made us all so proud."

Pierce said his fellow legislators were "astounded" when they learned Westfield had "not one champion, not two, but three. I don't think anyone has heard of anything like that before."

The Little League team is the state and New England champion, and both Babe Ruth teams are state champions.

Pierce said the congratulations from some legislators who represent communities which usually dominate Babe Ruth and Little League competition were "tinged with deep envy."

Pierce also extended the congratulations of the Boston Red Sox, and announced that the players have been invited to Fenway Park on Oct. 5 to see the Sox play the Milwaukee Brewers.

With their successes, though, the boys may have set themselves a tall order to fill. "I just hope you do the same thing next year," Medeiros said.



Good catch

Union photo by Nancy Palmieri

American International College alumni and former football players Greg Simpson, who is about to catch the football, and Phil DeForge play against each other in a game of touch football on Saturday during the Founder's Day celebration.

## Warner cites years of work in business

WESTFIELD — Mayoral candidate Leonard J. Warner said Saturday that his 30 years of business experience "has best prepared me to be the chief executive of this city."

"As a candidate for mayor of

### Pike service station robbed at gunpoint

LUDLOW — A man wearing a ski mask and displaying a handgun robbed the Interstate Chevron service station Saturday night, tied up the attendant and locked him in a back room, police said.

The man, described as about 6 feet tall, 200 pounds, and wearing a black t-shirt, jeans and a black ski mask, entered the gasoline station at 456 Center St. at 8:17 p.m., pulled a small handgun and took the day's receipts, said Sgt. Brian Mannix.

After taking the money, the man tied up the attendant and put him in a back room of the station, Mannix said. The attendant was not harmed, and the robber led on foot, he said.

The amount taken has not been determined, but Mannix said it was more than \$100.

The station is at the entrance to the Massachusetts Turnpike.

Westfield, one of the most valuable assets I possess is a depth and breadth of solid, practical business experience," Warner said in a prepared statement.

"For 30 years I have dealt with the problems of meeting a payroll, providing for both recurring, predictable expenses, and the unexpected ones, and, most importantly, with providing for well-structured corporate growth," he said.

"It is this experience and knowledge, unmatched by any other candidate, that has best prepared me to serve as chief executive of our city. ... I am the only candidate running who has successfully run a business," Warner said.

"It would be all too easy to take the present budget surplus and treat it as an amazing windfall, promising to spend it in any number of highly visible, politically advantageous ways," Warner said, in apparent reference to acting Mayor Charles W. Medeiros' decision to apply the surplus to reduce the property tax rate.

"Prudent judgment, formed only after thorough investigation may not be so immediately glamorous or newsworthy, but will serve the city best," he said.

"Westfield is, in essence, a \$36 million corporation, and it should be run that way. Experienced business leadership is needed in the mayor's office."

## Varelas explains view on conflict

By DAVID LACHANCE  
Westfield bureau chief

WESTFIELD — Mayoral candidate George A. Varelas, who would take a leave of absence from his job as a police lieutenant if elected, said Saturday he would divorce himself from police contract negotiations if necessary, but would keep the right to appoint police commissioners.

In an interview, Varelas said the requirement that the City Council confirm all appointments would eliminate any possible conflict of interest in his appointment of police commissioners. He has said he would return to the department after his term as mayor.

He said he intends "to pick the most ethical, the most qualified, the most just persons for any commission, including the Police Commission."

Varelas acknowledged that observers have questioned whether his appointees might feel some obligation to him after his term as mayor had expired, but insisted he has no ambitions to rise above his present rank.

"Some fear has been generated that I may use the mayor's position to further my aims in the Police Department," he said. "I, George Varelas, state to you at this moment that I have reached my maximum capacity in the Police Department. I do not intend to further my aims toward any other rank in the Police Department."

He also said there is not necessarily any loyalty between the mayor and his appointees, and that "there are commissioners who have turned against their bosses."

During the coming mayor's term,

two of the three commissioners' terms will expire.

Varelas said he would attempt to hold open-door negotiating sessions on the new police contract, due to begin early next year, to avoid any appearance of conflict.

"I would entertain any visit from the press prior to negotiations, during negotiations, and — if the union agrees — to have the press sitting at the table," he said.

"What do I have to hide? The problem of dirty tricks, of unethical practices or any other practice which may be proven later to be unethical is eliminated" through an open process, Varelas said.

He said he would disqualify himself from participating in the police contract negotiations "if it can be shown, by law or rule, that the probability of a conflict may arise."

"My feelings for the city are genuine," Varelas said, "and I intend to keep my promises."

A spokeswoman for the state Ethics Commission said last week she is not familiar with any case of a police officer becoming mayor, but said the commission recently issued a ruling on a similar situation involving a teacher on leave who had been elected mayor.

Karen Schwartzman said the commission ruled that the teacher-mayor has a "financial interest" in school contract negotiations and cannot take part. That mayor is also prohibited from participating in discussions on school staff size and other issues which could directly affect his teaching position or salary, she said.

"Similar rules would apply to a policeman mayor," Schwartzman said.

## DiMonaco decries lack of candidates

By NANCY PICCIN

City Councilor Vincent DiMonaco Saturday deplored the low number of candidates for council seats as he officially announced his candidacy for an eighth term.

DiMonaco said only 17 candidates have filed nomination papers for the nine positions. Nineteen candidates must file before the city will hold a primary.

"As an incumbent, I suppose I should be pleased that so few people filed," DiMonaco said, "but as a citizen of Springfield, concerned about the present and the future of this city, I think it is unfortunate more candidates are not running."

"Because so few have filed, we didn't have a primary campaign, and I think primaries are good for the city because they give the citizens an opportunity to hear the ideas and platforms of many candidates before making up their minds."

DiMonaco said the two issues that concern him most are the problems of the city's homeless and plans for resource renewal that will result in low-cost trash collections.

He also noted that he led the fight for constructing an addition to the

Baystate Medical Center and later for a medical office building on the hospital campus "because I am concerned about health care for the poor and working class people of Springfield."

"Wealthy people can go to Boston or New York for health care, and I want to make certain the poor and working class people can get good health care right here in the city."

DiMonaco also said he is "proud to have played a role in the revitalization of downtown Springfield" during his 14 years on the Council.

"For Springfield to compete with other cities our size, it was absolutely imperative that we modernize and revitalize the downtown area. This is well under way ..."

He said he is pleased that he has been referred to as "the conscience of the City Council."

"I don't have any conflicts of interest, I speak my mind on every issue, and I am not afraid to take the lead on controversial issues."

DiMonaco has served as president of the Council, and is now chairman of the Planning and Economic Development subcommittee and a member of the Maintenance and Development subcommittee.

## Volunteer drivers sought

Massachusetts Association for the Blind in Springfield is seeking volunteers to drive sight-impaired clients to such things as medical appointments and shopping centers.

"We're pretty low on drivers," said Denise Vickers, the MAB office manager at 3 Locust St., Springfield. "We need as many as we can get."

The association will conduct two two-hour training programs next week for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer.

All that is needed is a driver's license and a vehicle.

Vickers said the Springfield MAB has between 100 and 150 clients who use the transportation service. The volunteer would pick up one sight-impaired person and take him or her to a medical appointment, a class or grocery shopping.

The volunteer would use their own car and normally pays for the gasoline, although Vickers said the client sometimes offers to pay and

the MAB also has a "small" fund to help pay.

The training programs involve such things as learning how to lead a blind person, Vicker said.

The program will be conducted Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. Anyone interested in volunteering should call Jan Frost at 734-7343 and register for one of the sessions.

### Correction

WEST SPRINGFIELD — A listing of churches in Western Massachusetts which appeared in the Sept. 15 Sunday Republican failed to include the only Episcopal Church in West Springfield.

Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal at 214 Elm St. conducts services at 8 and 10 a.m. every Sunday.

The Springfield Newspapers regrets the error.



Members of the Westfield High School Marching Band march down North Elm Street Saturday, celebrating the city's winning baseball teams.

Union photo by Nancy Palmieri