

**University News:**

**Oliver Janney Morton Named to Dean's List At Univ. of South Carolina**  
WESTFIELD - Oliver Janney Morton of Westfield has received Dean's List status at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C. for the fall 1999 semester. Oliver is the son of Bryan Howard Janney. He is a freshman at the university's School of Business.

**Sandra Bavolar Earns Fall Dean's List Status At Univ. of Hartford**  
WESTFIELD - Sandra Bavolar of Westfield has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 1999 semester at the University of Hartford in West Hartford, Conn.

**Amanda Podlas Earns Dean's List Status At Campbell University**  
SCOTCH PLAINS - Amanda J. Podlas of Scotch Plains has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 1999 semester at Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C. Amanda is a junior at Campbell, where she majors in Mass Communications.

**Jennifer Del Roio Earns Dean's List Recognition At University of Sciences**  
SCOTCH PLAINS - Jennifer Del Roio of Scotch Plains has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 1999 semester at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

**Amy E. Molnar Earns Dean's List Recognition At Bates College in Maine**  
WESTFIELD - Amy E. Molnar, the daughter of B. Carol Molnar of Westfield and Allen Molnar of Bedminster, has been named to the Dean's List for the first semester at Bates College in Lewiston, Me. Amy is a first-year pupil and a 1999 graduate of Westfield High School.

**Jason M. Lilly Earns Degree at Bloomsburg**  
SCOTCH PLAINS - Jason M. Lilly of Scotch Plains has earned his Bachelor of Science in Education Degree in Elementary Education, Health and Physical Education from Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, Pa.

Please send all University News to: Michelle H. LePoidevin at michelle@goleader.com

**Concepts & Thought**

**BOE Candidate Peter Billson Discusses Campaign Process**

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - Peter W. Billson, a candidate for the Westfield Board of Education, will participate in a series of articles outlining the step-by-step process one must follow to run for the school board.

Mr. Billson, who serves as Vice President of Operations at The Westfield Leader and The Times obtained his School Board Candidate Kit from the office of Board Secretary and Business Administrator Robert A. Berman on Thursday, February 3, which was 25 days prior to the Monday, February 28, deadline for filing nomination petitions.

"The school system has been very helpful, although the kit was self-explanatory," the candidate told The Leader and The Times. One vital piece of the Candidate Kit entitled, "(Sample) Nominating Petition for Annual School Election" required only 10 signatures, but offers spaces for 12 signatures, according to the candidate.

Twelve signatures were obtained by the candidate, including those representing various members of the community such as former members of the school board, past and present members of the Westfield Town Council, professionals in the community, senior citizens and parents.

The candidate revealed that while all petitioners were very agreeable in signing the petition, he noted that each one questioned him in one way or another about the sanity of running for a school board seat.

He also noted that Mayor Thomas C. Jardim, who also signed the petition of current school board member Dr. B. Carol Molnar, told the candidate that he would not endorse him specifically, but fully encouraged anyone interested in getting involved in the school board.

However, Mr. Billson noted that when he submitted his application last Friday, he was "surprised to find that they (the Administrator's Office) don't verify the names on the petition." Mr. Billson's literature says signatures must be from qualified voters living in the school district.

He added that even though the application gives an official appearance, "it's really informal." One financial component of the process has been particularly "confusing" to the candidate. He reported that a booklet with 112 pages detailing the campaign financial rules left him "running around in circles."

When he phoned the help line provided in the booklet and spoke with a representative named

"Chris," he later reported that the representative was "polite, but zero percent helpful." Mr. Billson noted that Chris kept referring him back to the rule book for specific sections

cause he believes the Board of Education needs someone with technical, hands-on experience to apply to the real world, also thinks the Kit should include a listing of



Peter W. Billson

instead of answering the questions in layman's terms.

The candidate explained that he came to understand through the rule book that a separate checking account must be set up in order to run a campaign for the school board, a factor he did not anticipate.

He also stated that the rule book, which also explains financial obligations for individuals running for municipalities elections, details those rules and often tacks on a sentence that notes that the above does not refer to school board requirements. The candidate believes that a separate rule book should be compiled for school board candidates.

Overall, the candidate reported that he feels confident, although not "100 percent confident" that he submitted exactly what the state was looking for.

Mr. Billson noted that when he returned his forms to the Administrator's Office, he found Mr. Berman to be very helpful and friendly and "very open about the whole process."

He also revealed that the Candidate Kit should be more localized because the average candidate might not know that Mr. Berman is the Business Administrator and Board Secretary (a portion which must be completed on the form), or the complete and real title of the school board which is also required.

The candidate noted, however, that the Administrator's Office did not inform him about the different terms available to the candidates—one year and three year terms.

Mr. Billson, who is running be-

local candidate forums that will be upcoming and available for participation.

The candidate plans to open up a separate checking account for the campaign today, Thursday, February 24.

He will place an advertisement in the March 2 edition of The Leader and The Times in the form of a questionnaire for the public to give input on issues that are important to them. He also intends to speak with parents, as well as crossing guards at the schools.

"The Board of Education needs to get back on track and give information to the public. The way the Board of Education meetings are currently being run, they offer very little information. Public input has nothing to do with their decision-making process," he said.

Pressing for better use and implementation of technology in the schools, the candidate wants to see the school board "kill less trees" and receive their school board packets electronically.

He believes each board member should, and has the means to, purchase his or her own laptop computer in order to communicate agenda issues and other messages because so often member packets are incomplete with pages missing or received late.

While he intends to continue watching the school board meetings on TV-36, the candidate will also research using this newspaper's new Internet archives to compare past school budgets with the budget proposed for 2000-2001.

**Special Concepts & Thought Notice:**

The Westfield Leader is currently looking for freelance writers interested in focusing on education issues and the Westfield Board of Education. To speak with the Education Editor to coordinate an interview or forward a resume, please write: Michelle H. LePoidevin, P.O. Box 250, 50 Elm Street, Westfield, 07091 or e-mail: michelle@goleader.com.

**Gray Family Foundation Awards Scholarships to WHS Students**

WESTFIELD - Westfield High School graduates Jonathan Calvert, Timothy Caprario, Brian Dowd, Laura Krasnor and Laura Mottley have been awarded scholarship grants by the Gray Family Foundation. The students were selected on the basis of academic achievement, community service and leadership.

Jonathan is currently attending Kean University and majoring in communications. He is also employed at a local law office. He is the son of Melanie Calvert.

Timothy attends the University of Florida at Gainesville and is majoring in physical therapy. He has received a 3.3 grade point average in his first semester while maintaining a science curriculum.

Timothy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Caprario.

Brian attends Syracuse University, where he majors in architecture. He has achieved a 3.4 grade point average and joined the U.S. Army R.O.T.C. He is the son of Patricia Dowd.

Laura Krasnor has completed her first semester at the University of Delaware with a 3.0 grade point average. She is in the College of

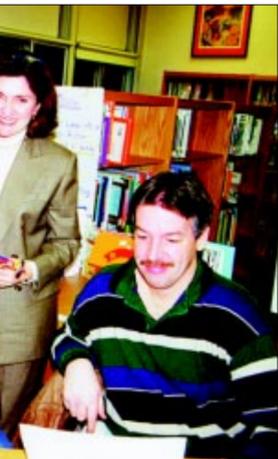
Human Resources with a major in family and community services. This spring, she will participate in a program as a "big sister" to a child in the community. She is the daughter of Nancy



Brian Dowd

Krasnor. Laura Mottley, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Mottley, is a sophomore at Loyola University and is pursuing a career in elementary education and speech therapy. While at Loyola, she has achieved a 3.6 grade point average. She holds employment on campus, as well as volunteer duties.

The Gray Family Foundation coordinates with the Education Committee of the Woman's Club of Westfield in selecting recipients of these scholarship awards.



Laura Mottley

**QUALITY TIME...**The Jefferson Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization recently hosted its annual Dads' Night. During the evening, a demonstration of new science kits piloted in the elementary schools was offered. Diana Collins, a fourth grade teacher, discussed "Motion and Energy," a hands-on science program in her classroom. Parents also experimented with creating their own electrical circuits during Michael Craver's presentation of the fifth grade project involving energy and electricity. Pictured, above, are Mrs. Collins and parents Dave Dilzell, left, and Joe Kiefer examining vehicles created by Jefferson fourth graders.

**Preliminary Applications Accepted For Pre-Kindergarten Program**

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Title I Program for admission to the Title I Pre-Kindergarten program is currently accepting applications. The last day for submitting an application is Friday, April 28.

The program is without cost to families of participating students. Children must have reached their fourth birthday on or before Sunday, October 1. Staff members will evaluate the child's language abili-

ties and large and small muscle development.

Preliminary applications are available at every elementary school in the district or by calling the Title I office at (908) 412-0830.

Please send all Education News to: Michelle H. LePoidevin at michelle@goleader.com

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