

## Mountainside BOE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dents. There are, however, 17 special education students currently in the district. He said if the special education budget was currently accurate, then the increase would have been significantly lower.

The salaries budget increased \$351,267. This includes one new staff member, a full-time kindergarten teacher. Most of the increase are "contractually mandated."

The budget for employee health coverage increased \$300,142, mostly from a jump in medical premiums.

The budget for high school tuition paid to Berkeley Heights increased by \$155,112. The hike reflects a 5 percent increase over Berkeley Heights' current tuition rate of \$11,041 per student. That number also takes into account 280 students - seven more than last year.

The budget includes a \$200,862 increase for utilities and a \$38,825 increase for transportation. The plant and maintenance budget increased by \$22,364.

The increase for new curriculum and technology programs is \$201,600 to keep Mountainside students competitive with those in Berkeley Heights.

"We want to make sure we're aligned (with Berkeley Heights) and the opportunity's there for success," said Dr. O'Malley.

The public votes on the budget and elects board of education members on Tuesday, April 18.

In other business, the board introduced 10 new policies for first reading, among them nondiscrimination-affirmative action, conduct and dress and employee evaluation.

A revision to the policy on non-residents also was introduced. Board member Gene Nagel explained that under the revised policy, children of staff members can attend Mountainside schools as long as taxpayers will not incur "additional funding." Attendance of non-residents will be decided on an individual case basis.

During the portion of the meeting allocated for public participation, resident Marie West-Karant voiced her concern over pesticide applications, which will take place on two Saturdays, March 18 and April 1.

"I implore you to reconsider the spraying of our grounds," she said, after explaining that a "high level of toxic pesticides" was found in both of her sons who were tested. She said pesticides are dangerous for all chil-

dren, not just her own.

Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Wayne DeVico responded, saying the school is in compliance with state requirements.

"We are above and beyond the state mandate," he said, adding that the borough uses a brand called dimension plus fertilizer and is required to protect against dandelions and crabgrass.

"We've reduced chemicals to a quarter of what was used in the past," Mr. DeVico said, adding, "the only place we have control is on our property." He said it's impossible to control what residents spread on their lawns.

On a lighter note, two teachers received "Teacher of the Year" honors from the board.

Second-grade teacher Megan Rose and fourth-grade teacher Susan Brost both received plaques in their honor.

Colleagues and parents nominated the teachers. The Governor's Recognition Program honors teachers for "effective instructional techniques," conducting a "productive class environment" and encouraging a "self worth and love of learning" in their students.

## BOE to Adopt Budget On Tuesday, March 28

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Board of Education will hold a public hearing on proposed 2006-2007 school budget on Tuesday, March 28.

Residents will vote on the spending plan Tuesday, April 18 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The BOE meeting will be held at 8 p.m. at 302 Elm Street. Meetings are televised on TV36 on Tuesdays at 8 a.m., 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. and Thursdays at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and Sundays at 10 a.m.

## WF Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

times the board would rely on the wrong law, it was brought to their attention and they could revisit their position on that basis. Beyond that, it's a very high standard to overcome."

In other business, prior to the meeting, Mr. Cockren told the council in the adjacent chambers that they could repeal the redevelopment distinction that night. He said the council could repeal the special ordinances to "subsume and take away all the conduct of the planning board and council except the change in the zoning map of the town to reflect the actions of the council." Therefore, Mr. Cockren, before the meeting, recommended a resolution to the planning board referring two ordinances - one repealing the zoning map designation and the second readopting the July 1998 zoning map.

During the meeting, Councilman Foerst said the rezoning concerns lots one, eight and three on South Avenue, Prospect and Elm Streets. The distinctions that existed "were the predicate to the proposed parking deck."

The council also passed unanimously on final reading an ordinance to install a stop sign at the intersection of Highland Avenue and Sinclair Place.

## Ferguson to Set Up Mobile Office In SP

SCOTCH PLAINS - Staff members of Rep. Mike Ferguson, (R, 7th), will host a mobile office stop today, March 16 at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building to meet with area residents and assist them with any questions they have with federal agencies.

The hours will be from noon to 3 p.m. at the municipal building, located at 430 Park Avenue.

Rep. Ferguson's staffers will meet with residents to discuss the constituent services Congressman Ferguson's office provides.

## Golding Alleged Stalking

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times requested a copy of the police report of the Golding arrest. Mr. O'Leary responded back in an e-mail that "police reports are exempt and not public record under OPRA (Open Public Records Act)." He later said in a phone interview that there was no report. "We couldn't give that out even if we had one" due to departmental procedure.

Governor Corzine, in a statement, said he agreed to "loan \$5,000 to Karen Golding" to pay her bail.

"He agreed to the loan after he spoke to a law enforcement official and received assurance she was not a danger to herself or anyone else," according to a statement released by the governor's communications staff.

Scott Kisch, a former aide to Governor Corzine who is employed by the New Jersey Commerce, Economic Growth & Tourism Commission, brought the money to Ms. Golding.

"I reacted as a human being responding to someone in need. I have a friendly relationship with her family and she worked on my campaign. However, in light of my position as governor, I realize this was a mistake. I did not adequately weigh the impact this situation could have on my position as a public official and the fact that it could divert attention from the important issues facing the state," the governor said.

State Republicans pounced on the governor's decision to pay the bail. GOP State Chairman Tom Wilson released the following statement:

"Jon Corzine's payment of bail money for Karen Golding doesn't just reek of bad judgment and conflicts of interest but raises the specter that Governor Corzine's actions were intended to prevent something more damaging from coming to light. Why else would a sitting governor bail-out a lobbyist?" Mr. Wilson said.

The governor, who is divorced, has said he never had a romantic relationship with Ms. Golding. He also told the Star-Ledger he was unaware when paying the bail that Assemblyman Cryan was the alleged victim.

The niece of former Assemblyman Harry McEnroe, Ms. Golding worked as the director of government relations for Prudential Financial in Newark. She had worked for Liberty Mutual prior to that, according to Maplewood's Columbia High School alumni directory, of which she graduated in 1987. She has a bachelor's degree from Scranton University. Formerly of South Orange, she now resides in West Orange.

The Union County Republican Committee filed an OPRA request March 8 with the county "regarding usage of certain county vehicles. Specifically, the probe will center on vehicles controlled and operated by the Union County Sheriff's Office."

"While GOP State Chairman Tom Wilson is asking questions into why Governor Corzine would pay bail for the person who broke into Cryan's car, the Union County GOP is wondering why Cryan had a Union County vehicle in Trenton in the first place," GOP Chairman Phil Morin said.

In statement released Friday, Sheriff Ralph Froehlich said undersheriffs, as second in command to the sheriff, are issued county cars. He noted as a law enforcement agency, officials in the department need to be available 24 hours, seven days a week for emergencies.

The Leader and The Times has filed a request for a copy of the county's policy on the issuance of county cars. The sheriff's office, for which Mr. Cryan is employed, is not included in the policy because it is a law enforce-

ment agency, a county spokesman said.

On an unrelated issue, a Union resident blamed Mr. Cryan for stopping a deal to sell an industrial tract of land in Union to the township. Carl Segal reportedly had battled for years with the township, which wanted to buy the six-acre property to build townhouses. The township committee's repeal in December of an ordinance necessary for the construction killed the project, according to The Star-Ledger.

A warehouse on the Magee Avenue property was destroyed by fire last Friday. Fire officials have said the blaze was likely arson, according to the Ledger.

Mr. Segal accused Mr. Cryan with accepting a \$2,000 donation, which was never reported on campaign finance reports. State Attorney General Zulima Farber has cleared Assemblyman Cryan of the charge. Governor Jon Corzine held up Mr. Cryan's appointment as state Democratic chairman until a decision was reached on the allegation.

## Garwood Council OKs Second Avenue Repairs

By MARIA WOHR

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD - The Garwood borough council approved an ordinance to improve a portion of Second Avenue at its meeting Tuesday evening.

The roadway of Second Avenue from Oak Street to the Cranford town line will be resurfaced, re-curbed, and sidewalks and drainage will be repaired. The entire project will cost the town \$290,000 with \$145,000 provided by a state grant.

"This is an annual road project," said Borough Clerk Christina Ariemma. "We conduct an inventory of the streets to see which streets are below standard and we felt that Second Avenue was in disarray."

The borough council also authorized the purchase of computer equipment for Garwood's public library. The new supplies will cost the borough \$18,000.

At Tuesday's meeting Garwood council members also considered a revised rate schedule for the price of maintaining sewage service.

"Lowering the fee would soften the impact on residents," said resident Bruce Patterson.

Also on the agenda was a resolution to close Crafty Kitchen where owners Rich and Alice Lefebure were recognized for contributing to the Garwood community for 36 years. The couple retired earlier this year and has plans to move to Easton, Pa.

"We are going on to the next phase of life," explained Alice Lefebure. "We are honored that the community took the time to recognize us."

Officials announced that a meeting will be held with Westfield Regional Health Department board members to discuss planning for a potential "pandemic" event on Thursday, March 30. Garwood is a member of the board. Emergency management coordinators will also be attending the meeting.

A public event on pandemic planning, such as for an outbreak of the Avian flu, will be held on Monday, May 1 in the Community Room of the Westfield municipal building on East Broad Street, according to the health department.

The council will discuss the borough's 2006 municipal budget at its next meeting on Tuesday, March 28. The council holds its work session meetings at 7 p.m. followed by its regular meetings at 7 p.m. at Borough Hall, 403 South Avenue.

## Asm. Green Seeks to Abolish Tenure for Chiefs of Police

TRENTON — Assembly Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore Jerry Green (LD-21, Plainfield) Tuesday introduced legislation that would make it easier for municipalities to remove police chiefs.

"Our current laws do more to protect and serve bad chiefs of police than they do to protect and serve the public," said Asm. Green (D). "Current laws are antiquated, counterproductive and an impediment when municipalities attempt to deliver better services at less cost to taxpayers."

Bill A-2864 would make municipal chiefs of police contractual employees and create a "Chiefs of Police Performance Evaluation Commission" to oversee the performance of police chiefs in New Jersey municipalities.

Under current law, municipal chiefs of police are tenured employees and can be removed from office only for incapacity, misconduct or disobedience of the police department's rules and regulations.

The measure would require municipalities to hire chiefs of police on a three-to-five-year contractual basis. At the end of the contract, the chief would be automatically reappointed unless the municipality decides to renew the contract for a different term or the municipality determines the chief has failed to adequately address deficiencies highlighted in a performance evaluation.

"With virtually no oversight and no real threat of repercussion for poor performance, it is easy for even the most stalwart chief of police to become lax and complacent upon receiving tenure," said Asm. Green. "Making police chiefs contractual employees and creating a system to review their performance ensures that police departments and the public have effective leaders they can trust."

The legislation would create a Chiefs

of Police Performance Evaluation Commission in the state Division of Criminal Justice that would consist of 12 members.

It would adopt rules and regulations concerning performance evaluations, which would include the size and population of a municipality, the size of its police force, and the local crime rate.

The commission would conduct a performance evaluation of every police chief at least one year before their respective contracts expire. The evaluation would assess whether a police chief is satisfactorily managing the routine day-to-day operation of a municipal police department, implementing the policies of the appropriate governing authority and complying with the rules and regulations established for the government of the police force. Copies of the evaluation would be sent to each police chief, who would then meet with their municipal appointing authority to discuss the findings.

Under the bill, a municipality may refuse to renew the contract of a police chief if the individual fails to adequately address deficiencies detailed in an unsatisfactory performance evaluation within one year of that evaluation.

The bill also allows municipalities to request a performance review of their police chief within the first year the legislation is enacted into law to determine whether the individual is performing satisfactorily.

Any chief found to be unsatisfactorily performing his or her duties would be subject to removal from office by the municipal appointing authority. However, the bill is not intended to affect the tenure rights, which police chiefs may have accrued prior to its enactment. If a chief of police is removed from office, they would be able to continue to serve as a member of the police department in a different position or capacity.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader  
MIDDAY DRAMA...Police responded to North Avenue last Friday around 1 p.m. after receiving reports of a man behaving erratically on the sidewalk near the train station lot, causing concern among passersby. Authorities said the man, pictured above waving his arms in front of a police officer, was later involuntarily committed.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Sunday, March 5, Richard Whigham, 50, of Plainfield was arrested during a motor vehicle stop in the 500 block of South Avenue, West, on a Watchung traffic warrant. Whigham was turned over to the Watchung Police Department and held in lieu of \$2,500 bail.

Tuesday, March 7, Vito Marcogliese, 25, of Plainfield was arrested during a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and Pendleton Street in Scotch Plains on a Fanwood traffic warrant for \$81. He was released after posting bail.

Tuesday, March 7, Sara F. Fuchs, 64, of Westfield posted \$101 bail for a Clark traffic warrant at Westfield police headquarters.

Tuesday, March 7, Anietic Effiong, 29, of Hillside was arrested in the 700 block of Central Avenue on a Dunellen traffic warrant. He was released after posting \$220 bail.

Wednesday, March 8, an attempted break-in was discovered at an East Broad Street business. Two doors to the premises were pried open with some type of tool, although it did not appear that anything was taken and whoever was responsible apparently fled after an alarm was activated.

Wednesday, March 8, Anthony Wichoski, 18, of Westfield was arrested at Dorian Road and Trinity Place on a no-bail contempt of court warrant issued by the Union County Sheriff's Department. He later was transported to the Union County jail.

Thursday, March 9, Perry Jones, 41, of Plainfield was arrested at the Hillside Police Department on the strength of a Westfield criminal warrant, with bail set at \$350. He also was wanted on two Newark warrants - one criminal and one traffic - for a total of \$275 bail. Jones was held in lieu of bail pending transport to the Union County jail.

Saturday, March 11, John Aiyegbo, 59, of Hillside was arrested at Central Avenue and Sussex Street on traffic warrants from Westfield, with bail set at \$99, and East Orange, with a bail amount of \$141. He was released after posting bail.

Saturday, March 11, Lawrence J. Imbro, 18, of Old Bridge was arrested at Central Avenue and Grove Street and charged with driving while intoxicated and underage possession of alcohol. Kevin H. Brake, 19, of Parlin, a passenger in Imbro's vehicle, was arrested and charged with underage possession of alcohol. Both were released to a responsible individual.

Saturday, March 11, Jose Suarez, 29, of Elizabeth was arrested at North Avenue and Tuttle Parkway on three motor vehicle warrants and one criminal warrant, all from Elizabeth, for a total of \$1,221. Suarez was released after posting bail.

### Mountainside

Wednesday, March 1, a resident of Deerfield Court reported being the victim of identity theft. The victim told police was notified by his bank that a \$25,000 line of credit was attempted to be opened in their name by a someone whose address did not match the victim's. The incident is under investigation by police.

Thursday, March 2, Reginald T. Gadsden, 24, of Irvington was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 for numerous outstanding warrants.

Saturday, March 4, Steven M. Hawthorne, 25, of East Orange was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 for outstanding warrants.

Saturday, March 4, Hakim A. Allen, 27, of Hillside was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 for hindering apprehension and numerous outstanding warrants.

Monday, March 6, Stephanie A. Fairfax, 27, of Linden was stopped for a motor vehicle violation and was arrested after it was determined she was operating the vehicle with a suspended driver's license. She was also charged with numerous outstanding warrants.

Tuesday, March 7, Abner Thelisma, 47, was stopped while driving on Route 22 for a cracked windshield and was arrested for driving without a license.

Wednesday, March 8, Steven McIntyre, 21, of Elizabeth was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 for an outstanding criminal warrant.

Thursday, March 9, Eric S. Hendricks, 24, of Plainfield was arrested following a

motor vehicle stop on Route 22 for an outstanding warrant in the amount of \$1,253.

Thursday, March 9, a resident of Outlook Drive reported that an adult male had rung her doorbell and knocked on the window next to the door. The victim, who was home alone, did not open the door. According to the victim, the male then walked up the driveway to the back door.

At this time, the victim told police she noticed an older model maroon Ford sedan parked in the driveway with a white male in the driver's seat. The victim reported that the individual who had knocked on the front door was carrying a rose. She asked the individual through the window what he wanted.

According to the victim he responded, "Someone down the street wanted me to give you this rose." The male then dropped the rose, entered the vehicle and both individuals drove away. He is described as a white male, in his early 20s, approximately six feet tall with an almost shaved head.

The Chatham Police Department reported a burglary on Monday, March 6, in which an older model maroon Ford sedan was witnessed by a neighbor in the vicinity of the crime. The rose was retrieved and tagged into evidence, Mountainside police said.

Friday, March 10, James J. Lobello, 21, of Roselle Park was arrested at a Route 22 diner for disorderly conduct and criminal mischief after police received a report of a fight. According to witnesses, the suspect was tipping over tables and breaking glassware before he was apprehended.

Sunday, March 12, Curtis J. Hill, 39, of Irvington was arrested for driving while intoxicated on Route 22 at Mill Lane after the suspect was observed by police driving carelessly. Police said officers attempted to pull the vehicle over. The suspect reportedly temporarily pulled over and then immediately accelerated back into traffic attempting to flee the scene of the motor vehicle stop.

According to police, the suspect led them on a chase down Route 22 until officers were able to get in front of the vehicle, forcing the suspect to stop. Hill was also charged with eluding arrest, driving with a suspended license and outstanding warrants.

### Fanwood

Saturday, March 11, Mark W. Parrish, 37, of Newark was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road and Mary Lane, which revealed numerous outstanding warrants.

Saturday, March 11, Maurice D. Bodie, 22, of Rahway was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road at Columbia Avenue following a subsequent field investigation for motor vehicle infractions.

Sunday, March 12, Sheldon P. Johnson, 55, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road revealed an outstanding body warrant.

Sunday, March 12, Celena Puma, 24, of Rahway was arrested on South Avenue at the intersection of Old South Avenue for driving while intoxicated (DWI).

Monday, March 13, Kirk B. Nabila, 19, of Edison was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue at Terrill Road for outstanding warrants.

### Scotch Plains

Wednesday, March 8, a resident of Canterbury Drive reported being the victim of criminal mischief. The victim stated that his vehicle, which was parked in front of his house, was hit. The incident caused damage to his mirror.

Thursday, March 9, a resident of Farley Avenue reported being the victim of theft. The victim stated that someone removed her purse after she left it on the floor while shopping at a Park Avenue business.

Thursday, March 9, a resident of Morse Avenue reported that someone entered her house through a window, removing several pieces of jewelry. Police are investigating the incident.

Sunday, March 12, a resident of Front Street reported that while he was warming up his vehicle, someone entered the vehicle and drove off.

Sunday, March 12, a student at Union County Vo-Tech reported that someone removed his iPod from his open locker. The iPod is valued at approximately \$200.



Suzette F. Stalker for The Westfield Leader  
PANCAKE DAY...Area residents enjoyed food and various festivities last Saturday at Westfield High School during the Rotary Club of Westfield's annual Pancake Breakfast to support its Scholarship Fund. In addition to breakfast, the event also featured music and children's activities.

## Mountainside/Scotch Plains



Immaculate contemporary home with magnificent panoramic views from Manhattan to the Atlantic Highlands. Main level features master suite with marble bathroom and Jacuzzi tub, great closet space and two 8-foot sliders to expansive deck. Powder room with marble top. Vaulted ceilings in the living room, dining room, and new kitchen with granite tops, gas fireplace, center-island and hardwood floors. High hat and track lighting throughout. Three additional bedrooms and two bathrooms on lower level with outdoor hot tub. Office and family room on upper level. Central air and vacuum with oversized two-car garage and much more. All just 2 miles from downtown Westfield overlooking the Watchung Reservation.

Call 908-789-8632  
\$949,000 • By Owner