

Garwood School Tax

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on special education and receives only \$102,788 in federal funding, through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The borough anticipates cost increases this year due to energy, healthcare, transportation, teachers' union negotiations and special charges associated with the opening of the new Union County Vocational Technical Schools Academy for the Performing Arts this fall.

In hopes of lowering special-education costs in the future, Ms. Quigley said that the borough would start its own special-education pre-school program next year.

Although this program will require the hiring of a special-education teacher and aide, Ms. Quigley said that this program would allow the borough to bring students who presently travel out of district back into the Garwood system.

"I think that's very good foresight," said Kathleen Villaggio, president of the Garwood Borough Council and liaison to the Board of Education.

MS BOE Cancels Budget Presentation Meeting

By KATHERINE EMIRE-NEVES
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Mountainside Board of Education cancelled, at the last minute, its public meeting Tuesday night.

The meeting had been scheduled for the purpose of presenting the proposed 2008-2009 school budget. According to Chief School Administrator Richard O'Malley, the meeting has been rescheduled for tonight, Thursday, March 27, at 6 p.m.

Mr. O'Malley told *The Westfield Leader* that he would not answer any questions in relation to the cancellation.

Mr. O'Malley is leaving the school district, accepting a four-year contract to take the position of superintendent of the Matawan-Aberdeen regional school district.

Mr. O'Malley gave his 120 days notice and is free to leave on June 12.

The borough's school system proposed a \$14.8-million budget, supported by \$12.6 million in taxes.

Below is the e-mail, received at 6:31 p.m. Tuesday night from Roderic

Garwood Council OKs Equipment Purchase

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other ordinances on the evening. One ordinance creates the position of zoning officer for the borough. Among the duties of the officer will be responsible for Land Use code enforcement, providing guidance on zoning matters, reviewing construction permits and collecting fees for planning board applications.

The council also passed an ordinance to amend parking regulations on Maple and Chestnut Streets. The ordinance prohibits parking on Chestnut Street and the western side of Maple Street within 20 feet of a driveway between North and Second Avenues. Parking is also prohibited on the eastern side of Maple near Second Avenue and on the eastern and western side of Chestnut Street near North Avenue. The ordinance also establishes two-hour parking limits on the eastern and western sides of Chestnut Street and the west side of Maple Street in the areas where parking is not prohibited.

The council also voted to approve

an ordinance to allow for alternate members to the borough's board of recreation. The two alternate members will be appointed in the same way as regular members.

During the meeting, Mayor Dennis McCarthy presented former borough council member Charles Lombardo with a certificate from the New Jersey State League of Municipalities honoring him as a member of the Elected Officials Hall of Fame. Mr. Lombardo served as an elected official in Garwood for more than 20 years and is currently a commissioner on the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority.

During the public portion of the meeting, resident Bruce Paterson said Debbie McCarthy, the mayor's wife, receives payment from the Municipal Alliance grants for her work as the chairwoman of the Municipal Alliance. Mr. Paterson said he felt this was "unethical" and that the fee paid was excessive.

Mayor McCarthy responded that if Mr. Paterson looked back at older records for the Municipal Alliance, he would see that the policy of paying a coordinator is not new.

He said another woman ran the Municipal Alliance for many years and when she stepped down, Mayor McCarthy's wife and another woman volunteered to take over the role. He said the other resident eventually stepped down, leaving Mrs. McCarthy to run the Alliance.

The Mayor also said that there is a line item for the coordinator in the municipal budget and a line item for "every dime" that goes into that budget. The Municipal Alliance promotes anti-drug programs.

McLaughlin, Mountainside Board of Education administrator:

"Rescheduled Public Budget Meeting and Board Meeting - Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of the Borough of Mountainside... that the Board of Education Meeting will meet in the Media Center, Beechwood School, 1497 Woodacres Drive, Mountainside, NJ on Thursday, March 27, 2008 at 6 p.m., at which time the school budget for the 2008-2009 will be presented.

"A copy of the budget may be seen at the office of the Board Secretary, 1497 Woodacres Drive, Mountainside, New Jersey on Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A copy of the same will also be available at the public hearing for the information of those attending..."

"This Board of Education approved tentative budget is being presented for advertising prior to Executive County Superintendent/County Superintendent approval. The budget will be approved by the Executive County Superintendent/County Superintendent prior to the Public Hearing."

Cranford Reviews DPW Downtown Coordinators

By ERIC NIERSTEDT
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — At a four-hour public workshop meeting, in which nearly three hours were occupied by closed executive session, the Cranford Township Committee spent the majority of its public time discussing the Downtown Maintenance Report for the township and how it would affect the department of public works (DPW).

Township Engineer Rick Marsden presented multiple engineering updates, most prominent of which was the report on downtown maintenance.

Mr. Marsden, who has worked on the report since June of last year, said that in order to meet the township and Downtown Management Corporation's (DMC) goals, the DPW would have to devote 17 percent of its total hours to downtown maintenance. Mr. Marsden further explained that the workforce had not grown in recent years and, as such, was comprised of older workers.

However, the downtown area required 100 percent more work than the other areas of Cranford, despite only making up 10 percent of the

township, according to Mr. Marsden. He said the downtown requires constant cleaning, sweeping, vacuuming and storage maintenance. However, 45 percent of the needed manpower was used for general town maintenance, according to Mr. Marsden.

As a result, Mr. Marsden further suggested that since the DPW workers were not experts in street maintenance, that the township should contract out general maintenance, and the DPW workers should be assigned to the downtown area as downtown coordinators. He said by using general contracting, the township would have a 15-percent savings, free up 560 man-hours from the DPW, and it could also sign a general contract for \$100,000, as opposed to the \$170,000 for the DPW.

In addition, Mr. Marsden mentioned that an independent contractor could be used in other areas, such as a parking garage.

One member of the public made comments about the expenditure of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority, earlier in the meeting.

Soon after hearing Mr. Marsden's report, the council went into a closed executive session to discuss other township issues. According to a memorandum, the agenda included: litigation on Cranford Building Associates and Cranford Avenue, LLC v. the Township of Cranford; contractual issues on the riverfront redevelopment project, the Hanson House lease renewal and an update on CWA unionization; personal matters about the municipal court, engineering department, police department and the DMC review committee.

Fleyzor Discusses College Do's, Don'ts

SCOTCH PLAINS—Angela Fleyzor, president of College Choice Consultants LLC, will conduct a free parent-student college workshop, "College Admissions Do's and Don'ts," at the Scotch Plains Public Library on Thursday, April 10, between 7 to 8:30 p.m. Mrs. Fleyzor will discuss topics such as choosing between the SAT or ACT, the necessity of SAT II's, the fit of certain colleges and universities, which type of application is preferable and the declaration of majors, among other topics.

Mrs. Fleyzor has been an educator for more than 35 years, working the last 10 years with parents and high school students as a private college consultant.

In 2004, she was listed in Who's Who Among American Teachers for her high standards of academic excellence.

To reserve a seat, call the library at (908) 322-5007 or contact Mrs. Fleyzor at (732) 381-9685 or e-mail afleyzor@gmail.com. Parents are encouraged to attend with their high school student.



John List Murderer

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"It's finally over," said Bobbie Giannakis, a waitress at Vicki's Diner. "Everyone can now put it to rest."

Brian Gillet, an assistant prosecutor in Union County at the time of List's trial, would not comment "because of professional conduct rules."

Jim Johnson, Tim Benford's co-author on "Righteous Carnage" said, "In 1971, List wrote that he killed his family so that they would die in the state of grace, assuming they would go to some imaginary place called heaven. This selfish rationalization allowed him to live out his life free for 18 years. But his wife, Helen, and his mother, Alma, never saw another sunrise. His children, Patricia, Fred and John, never grew to their maturity, had children or grandchildren."

The archives of the John List murder, capture and trial from *The Westfield Leader* and other publications can be viewed at golader.com/list.



CRASH...A car crashes into a telephone pole on Prospect Street in Westfield last Saturday morning. The fire department rendered the area safe from gasoline leaks. No serious injuries were reported.

Don Mokrauer to Continue Talk April 2 on Peru Visit

WESTFIELD—Donald Mokrauer will continue his "Tour of Peru" discussion during the Westfield Historical Society's First Wednesday Luncheon at noon on April 2 at B.G. Fields Restaurant, located at 560 Springfield Avenue in Westfield.

Mr. Mokrauer will discuss Cuzco, the old imperial Inca Empire capital, and Machu Picchu, the lost city. This will be the continuation of a program he first presented for the society in February, during which he recounted a trip he took with his family to Peru.

In his upcoming talk, he will describe how the tour returned for a short stay in Lima, but then flew on to Cuzco, the capital of the Inca Empire. He will relate

some of the Inca history before describing a visit to the village of Machu Picchu, which is located 75 miles northwest of Cuzco at an altitude of 6,800 feet. His group then traveled to the Inca site itself, situated at 7,900 feet.

In relating the history of Machu Picchu, Mr. Mokrauer will detail the construction of the buildings, the approximate number of people who lived there, the crops they grew and why, in his opinion, it was located in that particular site.

Those wishing to attend the luncheon are asked to make a reservation by calling (908) 233-2930 by noon on Monday, March 31. The cost of the luncheon is \$15, including gratuity.

FW Introduces Budget With 29-Percent Tax Hike

By TED RITTER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

FANWOOD — Mayor Colleen Mahr and the borough council, at a special meeting last Wednesday night, introduced a proposed municipal budget with appropriations totaling nearly \$8.5 million, of which \$5.9 million would be raised in local taxes, a \$1.3 million hike from last year.

The borough plans to apply for "extraordinary aid" from the state. Last year, the borough received \$325,000, dedicated to lowering the local property tax rate.

"If we get [this aid], we'll get the [tax rate] back down again," the borough's Chief Financial Officer Fred Tomkins said.

Borough officials are still coming to grips with recently announced plans by Governor Jon Corzine to cut Fanwood's state aid by nearly \$187,000, or about 17 percent.

But, at Wednesday night's meeting, Mayor Mahr said, "How our budget is being affected is not just a Fanwood thing." The mayor added that the state cuts amount to an "assault on small towns" with "no regard for efficiency" and efforts to share services. She said, like Fanwood, other small towns are also facing "jaw-dropping" budget increases.

But, Mayor Mahr also repeatedly emphasized that the introduced budget — which would require a tax increase of about 29 percent to finance — will not be the budget ultimately adopted by the governing body a few months from now.

"Everything is on the table," Mayor Mahr said. "I'm not talking merger [with another town], but people up and down the state are taking a hard look at things they may not have considered before."

The mayor said she plans to hold a town hall meeting in April, with an eye toward explaining the budget situation to residents and getting their input.

"The community has to be engaged... to understand the magnitude of the problem," Mayor Mahr said. There will also be a final public hearing on the budget July 16 prior to adoption.

School Budget Info Featured on TV36, Web

WESTFIELD — The Westfield school district's video entitled "Preserving the Quality of our Town's Schools: Westfield Public Schools Budget Forum 2008" is airing on TV-36 now through Tuesday, April 15, the day of the school election.

The video features Westfield High School student Catherine Marvin interviewing Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan, Board of Education President Ginny Leiz and Board Finance Chair Anne Riegel in a discussion of the challenges and decisions that led to the final budget that the board approved on March 19.

The TV schedule is: Tuesday and Thursday: noon, 4:30 and 11 p.m.; Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 7 p.m.; Saturday: 2, 4:30 and 11 p.m.; Sunday: 2, 4:30 and 7 p.m.

Budget and election information is available at westfieldnj12.org.

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POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Monday, March 17, Joseph Lockhart, 31, of Linden was arrested on an outstanding North Plainfield traffic warrant during a traffic stop at South and Westfield Avenues. He was turned over to North Plainfield police in lieu of \$1,500 bail.

Tuesday, March 18, Derrick R. Boyce, 28, of Roselle was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on the 800 block of South Avenue, West, on a Union Township traffic warrant. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released on his own recognizance per the Union Township Municipal Court judge.

Wednesday, March 19, Jamaal B. McCall, 23, of Elizabeth was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue, East, near the intersection of Sussex Street on traffic warrants from Roselle and Glen Ridge, with bail amounts of \$500 and \$150, respectively. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail on both warrants.

Thursday, March 20, Rosanna Serrano, 24, of Elizabeth was arrested after a motor vehicle stop at East Broad Street and Gallows Hill Road and charged with hindering apprehension. She was processed and released on her own recognizance.

Thursday, March 20, Kenneth Linsky, 45, of Westfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant. He was released after posting \$89 bail.

Friday, March 21, Erin Leary, 21, of Cranford was arrested at Clark police headquarters on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant. She was released after posting \$99 bail.

Saturday, March 22, Kevin Lancaster, 22, of Old Bridge was arrested at North and Central Avenues on outstanding traffic warrants from Roselle Park, Westfield and Irvington, with bail amounts of \$559, \$500 and \$120, respectively. He was processed and released after posting bail.

Saturday, March 22, Richard Bennett, 24, of Plainfield was arrested at Dunellen police headquarters on an outstanding criminal warrant from Westfield with bail of \$750 and three Plainfield criminal warrants with total bail of \$750. He was processed and transported to the Union County jail in lieu of bail.

Saturday, March 22, Matthew Walch, 19, and Thomas W. Core, III, 19, both of Cranford, Drew Lambke, 18, of Rahway and Zachery Binko, 19, of Westfield were arrested on the 1200 block of South Avenue, West. They were charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance and possession of alcohol underage. Walch additionally was charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). The four were processed and later released.

Saturday, March 22, a Boynton Avenue resident reported the theft of her pocketbook. The incident occurred in the town's central business district, according to police.

Saturday, March 22, a Kenilworth resident reported that the tires on his motor vehicle were slashed with an unknown object in a municipal lot behind East Broad Street.

Sunday, March 23, Kristen Evans, 25, of Westfield was arrested at the South Avenue traffic circle and charged with DWI. She was processed and released to a responsible individual.

Sunday, March 23, William Small, 33, of Elizabeth was arrested on South Avenue in Garwood on an outstanding East Orange traffic warrant. He was processed and released after posting \$114 bail.

Scotch Plains

Thursday, March 20, a resident of Algonquin Drive reported that someone threw a rock at his motor vehicle and broke the windshield while it was parked in front of his house.

Thursday, March 20, Santinah Brito, 28, of Newark was arrested on an outstanding warrant after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation. According to police, she was processed and released after posting bail.

Thursday, March 20, a resident of Acacia Road reported that someone dumped items into the dumpster in his driveway without permission.

Thursday, March 20, an employee of a Route 22 gas station reported that someone received \$65 worth of gas and fled without paying.

Saturday, March 22, Sharon Ortiz, 32, of Elizabeth was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop for a violation. According to police, she was processed and released after posting bail.

Saturday, March 22, Richard Holoman, 45, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop for a violation.

Saturday, March 22, a patron at a

Lamberts Mill Road health club reported that, while she was working out, someone removed \$600 from her purse that was left in an unlocked locker.

Saturday, March 22, a resident of Farley Avenue reported that someone entered his motor vehicle while it was parked in front of his house and removed a global positioning system valued at \$300.

Sunday, March 23, a purse was reported taken from a table at a Route 22 store. According to police, the purse and its contents were valued at \$500.

Mountainside

Tuesday, March 18, a resident of Burberry Lane reported that someone entered his house through an unlocked bedroom window and removed multiple items from the bedroom including keys, watches and two bags of coins totaling approximately \$400 each. According to police, a ladder kept in the backyard was found in a different location.

Wednesday, March 19, the resident of Burberry Lane who reported items missing from his bedroom on March 18 stated that someone rang his doorbell but when he answered the door, no one was there. A watch and keys stolen the previous day were found on the doorstep, police said.

Thursday, March 20, Duane V. Reid, 28, of Newark was arrested at police headquarters on an outstanding warrant out of Mountainside.

Saturday, March 22, John I. Andric, 25, of Mountainside was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 at Glen Road. According to police, he was processed and released to a responsible individual.

Sunday, March 23, police responded to a report of disorderly conduct and a noise disturbance on Chapel Hill. According to police, a female juvenile met police at the door of her residence and reported that she had invited a few friends over but that several uninvited juveniles showed up. After the juvenile asked the uninvited guests to leave, a fight broke out, with one juvenile requiring medical attention.

Garwood

Saturday, March 22, Kieon Murphy, 24, of Elizabeth was arrested and charged with possession of CDS (marijuana), distribution of CDS, possession of drug paraphernalia and unlawful possession of a handgun (.45 caliber Springfield).

Police stopped a 2000 Chrysler Sebring convertible after observing it being driven carelessly on the 100 block of South Avenue. An officer subsequently observed the driver, later identified as Kieon Murphy, making furtive and suspicious movements and trying to conceal something in the vehicle's console. It turned out to be a large quantity of small bags of marijuana intended for sale, along with the handgun, according to police. Murphy was released after posting \$22,500 bail pending a March 26 court appearance in Elizabeth.

Fanwood

Thursday, March 20, Kerone L. Pellew, 21, of Piscataway was stopped for a motor vehicle violation on South Avenue at Terrill Road and subsequently charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance and several motor vehicle violations. According to police, he was processed and released.

Thursday, March 20, a 17-year-old juvenile from Westfield was arrested after allegedly attempting to pay for gas at a Martine Avenue gas station with a counterfeit \$100 bill. According to police, he was processed and released to a responsible adult.

Thursday, March 20, Helene M. Caro, 62, of Watchung was arrested on an outstanding Union warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue.

Friday, March 21, David L. Wynn, 49, of Irvington was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on an outstanding warrant out of Fanwood.

Friday, March 21, someone defaced the restroom building at Forest Road Park with graffiti. According to police, acts of criminal mischief also were reported.

Saturday, March 22, Patrick J. Dunn, III, 22, of Middlesex was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of West Amwell. According to police, he also was charged with possession of CDS.

Sunday, March 23, a resident of Fredricks who was staying at a Laurel Place residence reported that sometime between 11 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, his 1999 Jeep was stolen from in front of the house.

According to police, authorities were notified by the Newark Police Department that the vehicle had been impounded after being involved in a motor vehicle accident in which the driver fled the scene.