

## Peter Renwick Named as New Westfield High School Principal

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Board of Education announced at Tuesday night's reorganization meeting that Peter Renwick will serve as the new principal of Westfield High School (WHS). The board unanimously approved his appointment, effective July 1, at the meeting. Mr. Renwick is currently assistant principal at Montclair High School (MHS), where he has held the position for the last five years and prior to that taught history for 10 years.

This appointment comes after two years of an interim principal, Dennis Fyffe, in place at WHS.

"His commitment is apparent," Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan said of Mr. Renwick. "He has supervised just about every department."

She said he "stood out" from the 44 applicants because he "understands academic rigor" and the social needs of students. She said his "leadership skills are obvious."

As a member of a planning committee, he has helped develop the Ninth Grade Academy, a learning community funded through a federal government grant.

He coordinated MHS's social and emotional learning initiative to edu-

cate high school staff on social and emotional techniques. This is affiliated with Rutgers University's Developing Safe and Civil Schools.

In a press release from the board of education, Mr. Renwick was noted as a "visionary" and a "risk taker" by Ada Beth Cutler, dean of the college of education and human resources at Montclair State University.

Mr. Renwick holds a master's degree in administration and supervision from Montclair State University. His Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Finance is from Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio.

Mr. Renwick stated in the same release, "My goal is to sustain and strengthen Westfield's tradition of excellence for all students."

He could not attend the meeting as he was at a conference in Boston, Mass. Ms. Dolan said he did offer to come down for the meeting, but the board thought it more important that he attend the conference, entitled "Learning and the Brain."

Mr. Renwick and his wife, Lisa, have two children, Emma Rose and Matthew Douglas.

The WHS principal post became vacant in June of 2006 following the retirement of Robert Petix, who had held the job for 26 years. The board

had initially hired Summit High School Assistant Principal Anthony Akey but, after accepting the board's offer, he decided to decline the job because he was unwilling to relinquish the tenure from his current job.

Mr. Fyffe is paid \$675 per day while Mr. Petix received \$155,809 at the time of his retirement. Mr. Renwick will be paid \$140,000 annually.

During its re-organization, the board re-elected Ginny Leiz and Julia Walker as president and vice president, respectively.

The retirements of Linda Mankoski, a special-education teacher at Franklin Elementary School, and Elsa Hahn, music teacher at McKinley Elementary School, were also announced.

Also announced were the resignations of Jill Fackelman, WHS health teacher; Nancy Johal, WHS special education teacher; Lisa Karkosky, Jefferson paraprofessional; Evan Ann Rizzo, Edison Intermediate School math teacher, and Brett Schwarzenbek, WHS math teacher.

The agenda included the official results of the April 15 election: The \$86.6 million budget was passed by a tally of 2,557 to 1,353 with a turnout of 19.9 percent out of a total of 19,715 registered voters. Voters in ward 3, district 1, were the only voters in town to reject the budget. They declined the budget by a 34 to 23 tally. Absentee ballots from all four wards rejected the budget as follows: ward 1, 5 to 2; ward 2, 11 to 2; ward 3, 15 to 7, and ward 4, 16 to 8. Re-elected to the board of education were Alice Hunnicutt, 2,569; Gary McCready, 2,505, and Ann Ormsby Cary, 2,474. They were unopposed.

The board said construction of the Early Childhood Learning Center at the Lincoln School, and the expansion of the library and the cafeteria and work on the gymnasium at

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Peter Renwick



OFFICE VIEW...Crowds gather at the intersection of Elm and Broad streets for the Westfield street fair last Sunday. Cool, though pleasant, weather resulted in large crowds, plenty of strollers, family dogs and a wide variety of food.

## Caruana: Westfield Has Been Consistent in Parking Enforcement

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD — Responding to the newly formed Westfield Action Group — which, last week, accused Westfield of being "overzealous" in its ticketing practices — Finance Policy Committee Chairman Sal Caruana said the town has been consistent in its enforcement of the law and that Westfield, in fact, incurs a net loss from the venture.

The action group rallied last week after the council announced its intention to raise \$20 overtime parking tickets to \$32.

Mr. Caruana revealed data showing that the number of parking violations issued has remained consistent over the last five years, ranging from 27,931 parking violations in 2003 to 27,444 last year. Of the 27,444 violations in 2007, 16,306 were for overtime parking.

From 2006 to 2007, the number of violations issued increased by 1,200.

When looking at gross revenue generated from parking enforcement, the town pulled in more than \$660,000 in

2007; however, according to Mr. Caruana, the town incurred more than \$865,600 in expenses, accounting for the salaries and benefits of enforcement officers, court costs and state fees.

All told, Mr. Caruana said the town suffers a net loss from enforcement in the amount of \$205,000.

"Where is the benefit?" he asked. "The benefit of enforcement clearly has not been in the economics of enforcement."

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## Teresa Quigley Named New Garwood Superintendent

By RAYNOR DENITZIO  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader*

GARWOOD — The Garwood Board of Education (BOE) ended its search for a new school superintendent last Wednesday, announcing that Acting Superintendent Teresa Quigley will be named superintendent of schools, pending approval by the Union County Board of Education.

The announcement came during the board's reorganization meeting and ends a search that began with the resignation of former Superintendent William Murphy for health reasons in December.

Board President Adele Lewis said she was "thrilled" to have Ms. Quigley as the superintendent.

"She'll continue in her acting role until May 15," when Ms. Quigley's term expires, said Ms. Lewis. "[On] May 16, she'll assume the title of superintendent of schools."

Ms. Quigley became the acting superintendent for the borough last May. She began her career in Garwood as a teacher in 1989 and was named supervisor of special services in 2000, becoming principal of the Lincoln School in 2003.

Ms. Lewis said that the board received more than 20 applications for the position and interviewed five candidates for the vacancy.

Ms. Quigley holds a bachelor's degree in social studies from the State University of New York, a master's degree in reading from Adelphi University and a Doctorate of Education from Seton Hall University. She said she was looking forward to assuming the position of full-time superintendent.

"I'm thrilled to be with Garwood," Ms. Quigley said.

In other matters, newly elected board members Karen Rusin and

Linda Koenig were sworn in along with Christine Guerriero, who won re-election on April 15.

Board officers were also named for the 2008-2009 term. The board retained Ms. Lewis as its president and elected Barbara Greet as its vice president. Ms. Guerriero was named the liaison to the Clark BOE.

The board also accepted the resignation of Business Administrator Julia DePinto Perez, effective at the end of June.

Ms. Quigley said the district, over the summer, would address the vacancies created by Ms. DePinto Perez's departure and her own promotion.

During the public portion of the meeting, resident Michelle Gesior asked the board about an incident from March, in which, she claims board members Susan Groning and Lisa Marano acted in an improper manner. Ms. Gesior brought the incident to the board's attention at an earlier time and wanted to know if any action would be taken.

Board Attorney John Geppert informed Ms. Gesior that the board does not take action on complaints against board members, but rather a separate entity, the School Ethics Commission, reviews such cases.

Ms. Groning and Ms. Marano declined to comment further on the matter to *The Westfield Leader*, saying that the incident did not occur in their official capacity as board members.

The board also announced the official results of the school board election. Ms. Guerriero received 183 votes, while Ms. Koenig and Ms. Rusin each received 151 votes. Debbie Courtney placed fourth, with 107 votes.

Voters approved the \$6,588,420 school tax levy in support of the \$8,256,284 budget by a vote of 174 to 144.



HEALTHY MEETING...Kerry Tucker, Kim Tosi and Nancy Joyce of Westfield wave to their fans during the 18th Annual 5-Mile Road Race in Tamaques Park on April 19.

## Union County Garages To Be Demolished 'Any Day'

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD — Demolition of Union County vehicle garages on North Avenue is expected to begin this week to make room for a \$10.5 million, three-story office building and vehicle storage facility.

Joseph Graziano, director of public works and engineering, told *The Westfield Leader* that the county has received the necessary construction permits from the Town of Westfield and that the demolition work should begin "any day."

"The building will be down in three

days (once demolition begins) and gone within a month after that," he said. Mr. Graziano said no roads closures would occur as a result of the work.

Mr. Graziano said the county is about to go out to bid on the project, anticipating construction will begin by August or September on the new building, with completion expected by late 2009 or early 2010. Mr. Graziano said the project would follow Freeholder Chairman Angel Estrada's "green" initiative to make Union County's buildings environmentally safe and energy efficient.

As previously reported, the garages will be replaced by a three-story office building with 130 surface parking spots and 11 rooftop spaces for trailers used by the county's various law enforcement agencies. The office building will house the Passport office of the county clerk's annex, the Union County Rape Crisis Center, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, the county superintendent's office and the divisions of consumer affairs and weights and measures.

Those offices currently are located in the Veneri building at the front of the property, located at 300 North Avenue across from the Westfield Diner. The Veneri building will be demolished once the new building has been constructed.

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders awarded a \$245,000 contract in October to T. Fiore Demolition, Inc. for the demolition of the garages. The Musial Group of Mountaintide was hired as the architect for the project.

## Mountainside BOE Installs Newly Elected Members

By JOHN MAGUIRE  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader*

MOUNTAINSIDE — The borough's board of education Tuesday night installed two new elected board members, approved the school tax levy of \$12,162,524, passed several administrative motions and went into two private sessions — the first of which was 40 minutes long.

Carolyn Williams and Cathy Jakositz were installed as the board's newest members. Mary Beth Schaumburg was elected board president, replacing John Perrin, who did not seek reelection last month.

Roderic McLaughlin was reappointed board secretary and James Testa was appointed as treasurer. The board approved a list of service providers, made appointments and designated its representatives to local and state organizations.

The meeting, dominated by administrative formalities, included a tribute to former librarian Susan Collier. The public provided a show of support for a popular seventh-grade social studies teacher, Rick McCarrick, who was recently informed he would not be given tenure.

Discussing the purpose of the standing committees for curriculum, personnel and budget and finance, Ms. Schaumburg said, "We always vote on things as a board as a whole." The purpose of the committees is to "make some headway in the light work that is required," she added.

When the board returned from the

first private session, about 50 members of the Mountaintide community were in attendance.

Chief School Administrator Jeanette Baubles spoke on several items. Top on the list was the dedication of the Susan O. Collier Media Center, located in the library of Beechwood School. Mrs. Collier served as librarian for several years until her death in 1984.

With several of Mrs. Collier's friends in attendance, her husband cut a ceremonial ribbon and thanked all in attendance for the honor. He recalled Mrs. Collier's fondness for Mountaintide and her dedication to the cause of reading and the children of the district. He said she would be remembered as someone who made children want to read.

Mrs. Baubles discussed the search for the new Deerfield School principal. First-round interviews will begin this Monday, May 5, with a decision slated for Tuesday, May 27.

She also informed the board that Mountaintide Mayor Robert

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### Schedule Alert

The May 8 edition of the newspapers will be a very large print run and mailing. It will also include the annual *This Is Westfield* publication.

Due to the volume and size of the distribution, please be early with submittals. Thank you.



THE OATH...Newly elected Garwood School Board members take the oath of office last week. Pictured, left to right, are: Linda Koenig, Karen Rusin and Christine Guerriero (reelected) being sworn in by Julia DePinto Perez, Business Administrator.



FUN FOCUS...Juggler Jennifer Slaw enchants and fascinates large audiences on Sunday at the Westfield street fair.

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