



READING THE RAPIDS...Pictured holding a copy of *The Westfield Leader* in the Grand Canyon, Eric and Emma Herber recently completed 187 miles of white water rafting on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.



FROSTY JOLLY 2011...His and her snowmen adorn the lawn of 854 Shadowlawn Drive in Westfield greeting passersby with Happy 2011.



FLOWERS AND A SMOOCH...Joe Britt, Republican Party Chair in Fanwood, presents returning Democratic Councilwoman Kathleen Mitchell a bouquet and congratulations during the Borough's reorganization meeting on Sunday.

Garwood Council

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an awesome honor to serve the Borough of Garwood as your mayor."

Councilman Mathieu said he hopes to represent the "the people who don't show up for these council meetings but (receive) a tax bill every year."

In other business, the council elected Tim Hak as council president for 2011. A Republican, he was elected to the governing body in 2009. Other changes at borough hall are a switch in borough attorneys from Robert Renaud to Joseph Triarsi of Cranford-based Triarsi, Betancourt & Wukovits, LLC. Mr. Triarsi has represented Union County, Clark, Garwood and Carteret and the Union County Improvement Authority in the past. Also appointed was Robert Donovan as municipal prosecutor, replacing Steve Merman who, in turn, was named alternate prosecutor in Cranford. Mr. Donovan previously was prosecutor in Cranford. Scott

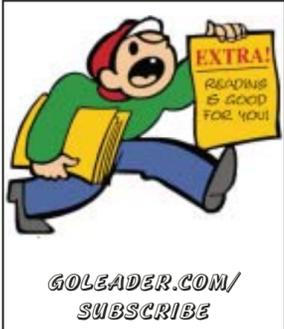
Marinelli was reappointed as Garwood public defender.

Garwood's new municipal judge is Antonio Inacio, replacing Susan MacMullen, who was reappointed as judge in Fanwood. Mr. Inacio, who serves as municipal judge in Clark and Scotch Plains, was appointed to a three-year term. The offices of borough attorney, prosecutor and public defender are all annual appointments.

Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th), who swore in the mayor and Councilman Mathieu, pledged to work together with the mayor and council. Meanwhile, Bruce Paterson, who was named to the borough's planning board, said provided as a gift for the new mayor several books, "The Stupidest Things Republicans Ever Said," "The Nastiest Things Ever Said About Democrats," and "The Nastiest Things Ever Said About Republicans."

Senator Tom Kean, Jr. (LD-21, Westfield) presented a state Legislative resolution acknowledging now former mayor Dennis McCarthy "for all your great work."

Other dignitaries in the council chambers were Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (LD-21, Westfield), who swore in Councilman Victor DeFilippo, Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz (LD-21, Summit), Hillside Mayor Joseph Menza, Kenilworth Mayor Kathi Fiamingo, former Scotch Plains Mayor Joan Papen and former Councilwoman Paulette Coronato, and former Summit Councilman Al Dill.



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SURVIVAL...Firemen, police and the rescue squad extricate the young male driver from the twisted wreck during a head-on automobile collision on Monday afternoon on Central Avenue in Westfield.

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Scotch Plains Mayor Looks To Trenton for Tax Fix

By FRED T. ROSSI

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS — Mayor Nancy Malool began her third year as mayor telling residents that the answer to property tax relief "lies in the hands of our Governor and Legislature."

In her New Year's Day address at the township council's reorganization meeting last Saturday afternoon, the mayor said the solution to rising property taxes lies "not in a 2 percent [property tax] cap full of holes, it's not in reducing teacher and superintendent salaries, it's not in taking away municipal home rule to the point where we've been rendered useless."

She called for state officials to work on establishing a more equitable funding solution for schools. "We can't live with this property tax structure much longer," she said.

Mayor Malool pleaded for state legislators, including State Senator Nicholas Scutari (LD-22, Linden) and Assemblyman Jerry Green (LD-22, Plainfield), who attended the January 1 meeting, to "go back to Trenton and

make this a priority; light a fire under your colleagues."

Mrs. Malool also ticked off a list of her goals for 2011, including vowing to explore increased shared services opportunities not only with Fanwood but with other towns as well. She acknowledged last year's "promised success and expansion of shared services with Fanwood hasn't panned out," but said she was optimistic that partnerships could be established with other towns "so we can accomplish what eluded us last year."

The mayor called for further improvement in communication between the municipal government and residents, admitting that there had been "several times in this past year when our weaknesses in this area have become apparent," namely the rash of northside burglaries in the fall, the continued lack of understanding on the part of some residents about the sewer utility fee, leaf pickup problems and snow removal efforts during last week's blizzard. She said she hoped to be able to "coordinate all of our communications so that our website, our television station, our emergency alert system and even our phone system are all working seamlessly to insure that our residents are receiving up to date, comprehensive information."

In a further move to boost the level of communication with residents, the council will hold its conference meetings in the council chambers, instead of a smaller conference room, on the first Tuesday of each month. The mayor said she hoped this change encouraged more residents to attend so that they can "see the thought process of the council."

Mrs. Malool also pledged a renewed push to make Scotch Plains a "more environmentally conscious community," saying that the long-planned community garden would be established this year. She also vowed continued support for the efforts of the Scotch Plains Management Corp. in revitalizing the business district.

At the start of the meeting, Democratic Councilman Kevin Glover was sworn in for a second term, accompanied by his wife, Joanne. Democrat Michael Marcus also took the oath, supported by his wife and children. Republican William Vastine was also sworn in, accompanied by his wife, two children and Mr. Vastine's mother, a recently retired 42-year veteran of the Texas Legislature. Councilwoman Mary DePaola was chosen to serve as deputy mayor for 2011.

A number of dignitaries were present, including the aforementioned state legislators, Union County freeholders Alexander Mirabella and John Hudak, former Governor Donald DiFrancesco, former mayors William McClintock and Martin Marks and former councilwoman Paulette Coronato.

GW Council Must Be Willing to Turn An Open Ear to Residents for Input

Editor's Note: The following speech was delivered by Garwood Mayor Pat Quattrocchi at Sunday's meeting.

When I moved to Garwood some 30 years ago, I was a young mom with four children ages eight years down to seven months. If anyone had told me at that time that I would be sworn in as mayor of the borough someday, I would have thought them to be crazy and probably told them as much. You see, in those days my thoughts revolved around diaper changes, P and J sandwiches and getting whoever needed to be, out the door to school and work on time. I was an at-home wife and mom without the slightest notion that, shortly, I would find myself abruptly returning to the workforce. After almost a 10-year hiatus I was to become reacquainted with what was going on in the world outside of my domestic domain and how it impacted on my personal life.

Things can and do change with the blink of an eye, our everyday lives go on and our priorities and interests change, usually according to what is necessary to ensure our survival, and so we all experience what can only be referred to as "life between the plans." The life experiences that we encounter living between the plans not only impact strongly on our decision-making styles, but also on how we view issues and go about problem solving, both alone and in tandem with others.

It is undeniable that 2011 will bring with it many new challenges for all of us personally and, of course, for the borough as well. We would be kidding ourselves if we thought for one minute that

FANWOOD — Democratic Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell and Republican Councilman Anthony Parenti were sworn in for new three-year terms on the Borough Council Sunday during the governing body's annual reorganization meeting, which began at noon at Fanwood Borough Hall.

Ms. Mitchell is beginning her fifth term on the council dais, while Mr. Parenti is starting his second. Their General Election victory in November means the six-member council remains split 3-3 between Democrats and Republicans. Democratic Mayor Colleen Mahr serves as tiebreaker if necessary.

Attendees packed the council chambers for the meeting, which, like other years, drew a "who's who" of past and current officials. Among those on hand were Assemblywoman and former Fanwood mayor Linda Stender (LD-22), former Fanwood mayor Theodore "Ted" Trumpp, former council representatives David Trumpp, William Populus, Donna Dolce, Jack Molenaar, Stuart Kline and Bob McCarthy, and Scotch Plains Councilman Kevin Glover, Union County Freeholders Alexander Mirabella and Chris Hudak also were in attendance and offered congratulatory remarks.

Following the invocation led by Father Donald Hummel, Mayor Mahr administered the oath of office to Councilwoman Mitchell, who was accompanied by her sister, Janice Mitchell, and several other relatives. Asw. Stender swore in Mr. Parenti, who was joined for the occasion by his wife, Sally, and 11 other family members.

Democratic Councilwoman Joan Wheeler was elected council president and also was reappointed to a one-year term as governing body representative to the Fanwood Planning Board. Ms. Mitchell was reappointed as council representative to the Union County Revenue Sharing Committee.

Mayor Mahr administered the oath of office to Prosecutor Daniel Antonelli, Public Defender Michelle Jaker and officers of the Fanwood Rescue Squad.

The governing body approved its appointment of borough officials for 2011, as well as the mayor's appointment of members of boards, commissions, committees and standing committees, and the mayor's appointment of boards and commissions with council consent. Additionally, elected officials adopted a series of resolutions, among them a resolution approving the governing body's Year 2011 temporary budget. *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* again was designated as one of the official media for borough advertising for 2011.

The concept of community over politics was the dominant theme during the meeting. Joe Britt, chairman of the Fanwood Republican Committee, commended both Councilman Parenti and Councilwoman Mitchell for their service. Mr. Britt presented each with tributes, including a bouquet for Ms. Mitchell.

Mr. Britt noted that Mr. Parenti, despite already chairing the council's budget committee and undergoing medical treatment, had accepted the local GOP's invitation to run for reelection, even campaigning door-to-door. "We are very proud of the job he's done, and the people of Fanwood are very proud," said Mr. Britt.

Of Ms. Mitchell, Mr. Britt said she

demonstrates her commitment to the borough "every day, every time you see her." He also called her "a good neighbor and one of the outstanding citizens of this town."

Mr. Molenaar, vice-chairman of the Fanwood Democratic Committee, echoed those sentiments regarding Ms. Mitchell's long service.

Mayor Mahr praised council members' commitment to serving their constituents, and commended municipal departments in helping to maintain services to residents in the face of fiscal challenges. She noted that, with the cooperation of Fanwood Police Chief Richard Trigo, the borough became the first Union County community to have the county police handle its emergency response dispatches, which is projected to save the borough more than \$240,000 over three years.

The mayor additionally spotlighted continued exploration during the past year of potential shared-service opportunities and ongoing progress with downtown development in the form of new buildings, housing options and businesses.

Mayor Mahr lauded Fanwood's police, fire and public works departments, as well as its rescue squad, for their collective handling of the December 26 storm that blanketed the borough with some 23 inches of snow.

Cranford

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that we take someone from that list." The mayor explained that Mr. McCarthy did, in fact, submit a copy of his qualifications to the board, although it was not submitted in response to the original notice.

"There is no statement at all in [Mr. McCarthy's submission] as to the fee proposal," Mr. Robinson told *The Westfield Leader*. "I don't know how we can go out and award a contract when we don't have that."

According to the mayor, all committee members were originally in agreement that Robert Renaud of Cranford law firm Palumbo & Renaud would be appointed as the township attorney. However, Mr. Renaud, who was not reappointed as borough attorney in Garwood where Republicans took the majority, decided to withdraw at the last minute.

"It's not like we just showed up here today and appointed [McCarthy]!" the mayor stated, "that's the misnomer here: [the Republicans] make it sound like it wasn't open and fair, and it was. It was decided today at an open meeting surrounded by people — we didn't slip it under the door!"

Other key appointments were the reappointment of John DeMassi of the law firm Schiller & Pittenger as public defender, Norman Albert of the law firm Albert DiRado & Kojac as prosecutor, replacing Robert Donovan who, subsequently, was named prosecutor in Garwood. In addition, former Garwood prosecutor Steve Merman was named alternate prosecutor in Cranford.

entrusted with, and that goes for not only property owners but for our renters as well. In this age of digital communications contacting the governing body can be accomplished with the simple execution of the send button on an e-mail, a telephone call with voice mail or just stopping into the borough hall, as I intend to be a regular presence there.

In closing, I want to commend the DPW for their dedication during the recent weather emergency as I personally witnessed them in the middle of the night during the height of the storm ensuring that our rescue squad had free access to the ambulances should the need arise to respond to a call. I want to thank everyone as well who has given freely of their valuable time and talents to the borough over the years when called upon to serve.

I want to recognize our fabulous police and fire departments for their commitment to the borough and lastly the borough administrator and the staff in borough hall who have worked to help make this transition as seamless as possible. Thank you to my family and friends for your undying patience and to my husband for believing in me and, of course, to everyone here on the dais and in the administration going forward.

And lastly from my family to all of your families a happy, healthy and prosperous 2011, and may the twists and turns of your life between the plans lead to as wonderful an outcome as mine has, it will be an awesome honor to serve the borough of Garwood as your mayor.

Patricia Quattrocchi
Garwood Mayor

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