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**ALL SMILES...**Linda Carter is shown with her family following her swearing in as the newest member of the Union County Freeholders at the county's re-organization meeting on Sunday.



**CONGRESS AND COUNTY...**Rep. Leonard Lance, NJ 7th Congressional District, offers congratulations and thoughts on government at the county's re-organization meeting on Sunday.



**COUNTY CLERK...**Joanne Rajoppi, re-elected as Union County Clerk, provides her remarks after being sworn in at the county's re-organization meeting on Sunday.

## GW Looks to Budget Cuts To Help Impact on Taxes

By ROBERT BETHEA  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**GARWOOD** — The first Garwood borough council meeting of the new year started Tuesday night with Patricia Quattrocchi serving as the borough's newly elected mayor. One of the main concerns going into 2011 is the need to restore the community's economic balance through cuts in the municipal budget.

Mayor Quattrocchi and the council, while still in the process of finding helpful ways to fully resolve this issue, are aiming to accomplish this goal with a new strategy called "the master plan."

The plan will be used to carry on with budget cuts without financially affecting working-class citizens in the borough. Councilman James Mathieu said he believes that the strategy will aid in cutting the budget without "raising taxes, layoffs or having any negative circumstances upon the services of the residents."

Mayor Quattrocchi expressed her gratitude on behalf of council members and said she was "very pleased that they are reaching out to the department heads to encourage them to be actively involved in [the master plan]." Additional updates on the budget will be further discussed at the next council meeting on Tuesday, January 25.

Another concern at Tuesday's meeting was the effects of the recent snowstorms, which have caused a total of 16 traffic and parking related incidents in Garwood. For instance, school faculty members were unable to park in their assigned spaces due to various unauthorized vehicles having already parked in their specific parking spots, due to the lack of available space.

Police Chief William Legg said he wants to solve this problem by setting a two-hour parking limit from 1 to 7 p.m. on school grounds.

## Scanlon, Mirabella

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sional staffers often do much of the important work behind the scenes.

"I am committed to working in a civil way on civic matters," Mr. Lance said.

Union County Democratic Chairwoman Charlotte DeFilippo said she was concerned over heightened rhetoric in political circles. She specifically mentioned former Republican vice-presidential contender Sarah Palin's website during last year's campaign, which she said "targeted" Ms. Giffords for defeat. She also mentioned, although not by name, Nevada United States Senate Republican candidate Sharon Angle, who was supported by Tea Party members in her race against Senator Harry Reid (D-Nev.).

"I say I am not surprised (by the shootings)," Ms. DeFilippo said. She called for a "higher level" of political discussions in the future. She quoted

## 1785 House

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Board Chairman Vincent Wilt, who voted in favor of granting Mr. Mahoney relief, told *The Leader* that, over the past 10 years, the board "didn't have the authority to make him build the house." He said that the only recourse the town had was enforcement of the town's Property Maintenance Code, which, according to Mr. Wilt, was enforced and Mr. Mahoney did receive citations for property upkeep over the years.

Mr. Wilt said that the majority of the board and its attorney felt that while Mr. Mahoney had promised to restore the house, given that it was a fully conforming three-lot subdivision and the house was never designated as historic, if the board tried to force him to rehabilitate the house, "he could take it to court and would more than likely win."

former President Clinton, who once said, "You can't love your country and hate your government."

During the reorganization meeting, Mrs. Scanlon outlined five initiatives for 2011: opening a child immunization clinic in Plainfield, development of a childhood obesity program as part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension's existing "get moving, get healthy" program, and partnering with the county prosecutor's office to develop a DVD on cyberbullying.

The new chairman said the county would create an Advisory Board for the Prevention of Youth Violence "to oversee, implement and sustain Christopher's Program," a program initiated by Freeholder Nancy Ward last year aimed at preventing gang violence. Mrs. Scanlon also said the county will create a pilot program "that would enable high-school students to see real-world applications of their studies in county government." She said this would include leaf composting for students taking environmental classes and offering students studying sociology and gerontology the opportunity to observe patient care at Runnells Specialized Hospital.

During the business portion of the meeting, Bruce Paterson of Garwood questioned a resolution awarding a \$150,000 one-year contract to Winning Strategies Washington/Hoboken Strategy Group to provide "comprehensive federal government relations and lobbying services." He said elected officials, not paid lobbyists, should provide these types of services.

Mr. Paterson also listed his opposition to a \$322,125 contract to the Union County Alliance. He said the organization publishes the *Union County Directions* newsletter, which comes out around election time. Both resolutions passed.



**GIVING THOUGHT...**Members of the Westfield Planning Board give thought to applications during the January 5, 2011 meeting.

## Westfield Planning Bd.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

become the restaurant's rear parking lot, with six dedicated parking spaces and a dumpster enclosure. Currently, that property houses a garage, which will be demolished.

Mr. Spector commented that, "After we bought [the garage] at the end of 2007, we found that it was in such disrepair. I spent thousands of dollars to make it look nice [and] make it structurally sound." Mr. Spector explained that the demolition of this garage is a "beautification project" that his company had planned well before Chipotle was ever interested as a potential tenant.

The board, which was hesitant to approve the variance for Chipotle's 12-foot by four-inch rear sign, decided to do so in exchange for Chipotle's agreement that it would redesign the front facade to make it more fitting with the rest of the architecture in downtown Westfield.

The original design called for an aluminum facade, which board member Robert Newell commented, "looks like it would be on Route 22."

"Your identity should be in your

sign, and your aluminum facade is what we have an issue with," board member and Town Councilman Jim Foerst stated. "And I would much rather [Chipotle's name] be housed in your conforming facade on the front, and a variance-approved sign on the rear, than a small sign on the rear, and a nice aluminum facade on the front which is what you requested."

Chipotle's Real Estate Manager Lori Madzin stated, "With respect to the facade, we're happy to take it back to our designers...and come up with another suggestion and bring it back." Ms. Madzin also serves on the zoning board of adjustment in Tinton Falls, where she resides.

The planning board approved Chipotle's application, with the agreement that Chipotle show them three new alternate designs for its front facade when it returns to the board at a later date to obtain building permits. The application is expected to be adopted at the February 7 planning board meeting. Chipotle does not have to be present at that meeting.

## Mayor Samuel Raia Elected New NJGOP Chairman

**PRINCETON** — In a press release from the New Jersey Republican Party, it was announced that the New Jersey Republican State Committee elected Saddle River Mayor Samuel Raia in a vote of 20 to 1 as the new Republican State Chairman on Tuesday night.

Governor Chris Christie said, "I look forward to working with Chairman Raia in the months ahead, as we continue to grow the party and build on the accomplishments of the last two years."

Mayor Raia said, "I am incredibly honored for the opportunity to lead the party, and thank Governor Christie and the State Committee for placing their trust in me. There is no doubt this is an important election year. During the coming months, I plan on working closely with the party leadership to win back control of the State Senate and Assembly this fall."

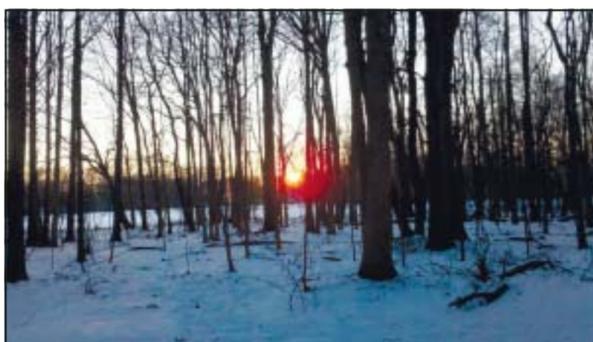
"Tonight is only the latest example of how eager and motivated the party is to continue the reforms that began just over a year ago when the Governor was sworn into office," said

NJGOP National Committeeman Bill Palatucci of Westfield. "As a successful business owner and seasoned elected official, Sam is a good fit to lead the State Committee and brings a lot to the table. He (Governor Christie) couldn't have chosen a better person to run our party in this important election year and I look forward to working alongside him."

Chairman Raia announced then that Amanda De Palma would be the new Executive Director of the New Jersey Republican State Committee.

Mrs. De Palma was most recently the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for Governor Christie. She has served in numerous political and campaign roles, including: Christie for Governor (Political Director, 2009), Scott Garrett for Congress (Campaign Manager, 2008), Rudy Giuliani for President (N.J. Executive Director, 2008) and Tom Kean, Jr. for U.S. Senate (Statewide Field Director, 2006).

Mrs. De Palma resides with her husband in Clark.



**TAMAQUES PARK SUNRISE...**Courtesy of Alan Shineman, Westfield.

## Cranford Proposes to End Parking Fees On Centennial

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**CRANFORD** — The township committee on Tuesday introduced an ordinance to end paid parking on Centennial Avenue.

"This is something we need to do for businesses along Centennial Avenue," said Commissioner Edward O'Malley. The ordinance, the first to be introduced this year, would remove the pay stations on that thoroughfare; a move that Mayor Daniel Aschenbach said was needed to boost business activity there. He also said the cost of owning and operating the stations outweighed the revenue collected.

The vote to introduce the ordinance, which will be voted on after a public hearing on Tuesday, February 8, was 4-1, with Commissioner David Robinson voting "no." Two other commissioners — Mark Dugan and Kevin Campbell — voted to introduce, but said they wanted to receive more information on the financial ramifications of removing the pay stations.

Before next month's public hearing, the parking committee and the Centennial Village Committee will have a chance to weigh in on the proposed ordinance.

In other business, a host of appointments were announced, both by the mayor and by the committee, including nine residents named to a citizens finance strategy team headed by Commissioner O'Malley that will undertake a line-by-line review of

the municipal budget and suggest cuts. Mayor Aschenbach also named eight residents to an affordable-housing task force headed by Commissioner Campbell that the mayor said will "help set the stage" for opportunities for additional affordable housing in Cranford.

The mayor announced that the township committee would meet on Saturday, January 22, to review a variety of 2011 municipal budget recommendations. That session will be a follow-up to last week's special budget meeting that featured a PowerPoint presentation showing that the township budget, as presently constituted and prior to the township committee's upcoming review, would require a 13.3-percent increase in the property-tax levy — well above the state-mandated 2-percent property-tax cap.

Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Theriault said that, at present, the governing body will only be able to increase the municipal portion of the property-tax levy by about \$450,000, and pointed out that the fees paid to the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority are set to rise by about \$200,000.

A squabble arose at the end of the meeting when resident Tina Renna criticized Mayor Aschenbach and called him a "liar" for what she said were his "misstatements" about a program in which Ms. Renna appears on Cranford TV-35.

The township committee's next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 25.

## SPMC Proposed Budget Includes TV Ads, Magazine and Promos

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — The Scotch Plains Management Corporation (SPMC) has submitted a 2011 budget to the township council that it proposes to be financed by the flat \$400 assessment per property that was in force in 2009.

SPMC is beginning its third full calendar year of operations, and according to its annual report that also was submitted to the council, is seeking to "capitalize and expand upon the momentum of its first two years." The \$85,600 operating proposal would be financed by about \$67,000 in property assessments and \$18,000 in funds carried over from last year.

David Biagini, president of FirstTEAM Management, SPMC's manager, told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that this year's proposed budget includes funding for three issues of *Simply Scotch Plains*, the quarterly magazine that debuted last summer, with an equal amount of money for a fourth issue earmarked instead for other promotional purposes.

The proposal also includes funds for a "student ambassador" program, enlisting students to assist in, among other things, distributing information to SPMC members. Advertising and promotion efforts comprise 57 percent of the budget proposal, which the council will examine in coming weeks. Management expenses account for about one quarter of the budget.

Mr. Biagini said the cable television commercials featuring the business district, which ran on several networks last month, resulted in a "good response," although it is unclear how much actual interest the spots garnered from businesses interested in possibly relocating to Scotch Plains. He told *The Times* it was important nonetheless for visibility purposes — "to get our name out there" and "spark some interest to show what Scotch Plains is doing."

He said the SPMC's board of directors, which next meets on Wednesday, January 19, will discuss possibly fine-tuning the television spots, airing them on different channels and

whether the ads are indeed the most effective way of spotlighting the business district. The proposed 2011 budget includes \$10,000 for additional commercials.

## SP Considers Cell Tower at Public Works

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — The township government is considering a proposal by cellular telephone service provider Metro PCS to erect an antenna tower at the public works department property on Plainfield Avenue. Council members raised a host of issues needing to be addressed before more formal talks can proceed. A primary question concerns whether the township or the company should construct the tower. The municipal government built the cell tower at the southside firehouse in 2005, a project that faced several cost overruns, but yields the township in excess of \$100,000 annually from fees paid by carriers to house their antennas on the monopole. The cost of building that tower, about \$500,000, was recovered within the first several years.

Township Attorney Jeffrey Lehrer said that from a monetary standpoint, it would be "more beneficial" for the township to build and then lease space on the tower versus MetroPCS building the tower and renting space, with lesser fees paid to the municipal government.

Another concern is whether cell companies will have a need to rent space on a new tower, especially given that a number of carriers already lease space on a tower at the nearby Elizabethtown Water Co. property. There is speculation, though, that the utility, for facility security purposes, is pushing to have cell antennas taken off its property, a move that would require those companies to locate a new, and nearby, spot for their antennas.

Mr. Lehrer also noted that the public works property, which is part of the adjacent Scotch Hills Country Club property, may be deemed to be land protected by state Green Acres regulations, which he said would make the property off limits to a cell tower. Mayor Nancy Malool noted that some residents living near the property are likely to be opposed to a tower, much as residents elsewhere in Scotch Plains have rallied against similar towers in their own neighborhoods. "I'd love to know what the public thinks" about a possible tower at the public works property, the mayor said.

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