

County Freeholders

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the contract is for the firm to implement its other recommendations to lower the jail's population. Marie Van Nostrand of Luminosity will serve as jail population manager until Mr. Riordan designates someone for the position.

Luminosity was given a \$55,704 contract last year to complete the jail population analysis study. Among the recommendations from the Luminosity report are for the county to work with the courts, probation and public defender's offices, prosecutor's office and sheriff's office to clear up tie-ups in the processing of prisoners.

Mr. Riordan said the software package would be used to "put us in a position to evaluate on a daily basis not only the number of inmates we have in the county jail, but also to break that total population down into subsets that we can utilize and better organize and better track case management of the prisoners through the judicial system."

He said that between 2005 and 2010, Union County had 2,000 fewer admissions to the jail than in 2005, yet the average daily population at the lockup was unchanged. He said 8,800 prisoners were processed in 2005 within 46 days on average. He said processing now averages 58 days.

"The system is not moving at the speed it was moving in 2005, and I don't know why," Mr. Riordan told the freeholders.

On another matter, Union County Board of Elections Administrator Dennis Kobitz said his office was still waiting to see how many towns will move their school elections from April to the General Election in November. In addition, residents can submit a nominating petition requiring the signatures of at least 15 percent of total registered voters in the last General Election when Assembly seats were on the ballot, which was 2011.

Mr. Kobitz said the county would likely save on overtime costs needed to reset election machines for the Primary Election in June. He also said towns are likely to save "thousands of dollars."

The freeholders are expected to vote on a resolution tonight to approve an agreement with Conrail for the installation of a traffic signal at Rahway Avenue and Lamberts Mill Road.

Joseph Graziano, director of engineering, public works and facili-

ties, requested the resolution for an agreement with Conrail for the preliminary engineering and inspection of a proposed traffic signal at the intersection of Rahway Avenue and Lamberts Mill Road. The Town of Westfield requested the signal, Mr. Graziano said. The light would be located 325 feet north of Conrail's Lehigh Line in Westfield. The county hired an outside engineer to design the intersection last year. He said Conrail has to make changes to permit the traffic signal to "interface with their railroad crossing" equipment.

Mr. Graziano said the timing will be done so that the new light and the existing light at Westfield Avenue and Terminal Avenue will interface with each other and the railroad crossing on Rahway Avenue. The estimated cost for the engineering work is \$69,883.

In other business, it was announced that Freeholder Clerk Nicole DiRado is moving to the Union County Clerk's Office, replacing Deputy County Clerk Alan Falcone, who is retiring as of next month.

The board is expected to vote on a resolution tonight appointing James Pelletiere as the new freeholder clerk at a salary of \$80,000. His term will run from February 1, 2012 through January 31, 2015. He most recently was working in the public information office.

In addition to Mr. Falcone, the director of administrative services, Elizabeth Genievich, is retiring as of February 1. She is a former freeholder clerk of the board. Mr. Falcone had been head of the recording division of the clerk's office under County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi.

SP-F BOE

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honoring them for the time and effort they give to the district. Board members were then "adopted" by a district school and given presents representing each school. Mrs. Giacoma noted that the presentations were done to honor board members during School Board Recognition Month.

The next board of education meeting is scheduled for tonight, January 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Administrative Offices at Evergreen School at Evergreen Avenue and Cedar Street in Scotch Plains.



VET REVAMP...The Westfield Veterinary Group, pictured above, presented a rendering to the Westfield Zoning Board of Adjustment on Tuesday of the new building with which it hopes to replace its current building on Springfield Avenue.

WF Vet Group Seeks to Demolish and Rebuild

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WESTFIELD—The Westfield Veterinary Group, under the RWM Family LLC, located at 562 Springfield Avenue, Tuesday night at the Zoning Board of Adjustment (BOA) special meeting showed plans to demolish the two buildings on its property, the main building and the kennel, and build one new veterinary practice. The plans would not retain the boarding facility.

The veterinary group sought preliminary and final site plan approval with c and d variances to demolish its one-and-a-half story veterinary facility, kennel and parking lot to build a new, three-story veterinary hospital with a new parking area, landscaping, lighting and signage. The hearing will continue at a later date, to be determined at the next BOA meeting, Wednesday, February 15.

The new building's footprint will be expanded to 6,800 square feet, said Site Engineer Thomas Quinn. Currently, the main facility is approximately 3,500 square feet. Parking would increase from 49 spaces to 59 spaces, where 81 are required.

According to plans shown by architect Barbara Vincentsen, the new structure was designed "to have a more manageable scale." The designs depict a pitched roof and a dormer "to give a look that is warmer and friendlier," she said. "It looks like a two-and-a-half story building," she said.

The first floor will hold two waiting rooms, examination rooms would

be increased from five to 10 examination rooms, an office, a grooming suite, a lab, a pharmacy, a treatment room, a bathroom area, and a delivery area on the left side of the building.

"I have 10 doctors trying to utilize five exam rooms. It's impossible," said Dr. Richard Maus, owner of RWM Family LLC and owner of Westfield Veterinary Group, who has owned the business since 1985. "For every doctor seeing an appointment, you should have two exam rooms."

Since he took over the veterinary group it has grown from a three-doctor practice to a 10-doctor practice. Dr. Maus said the demand for his practice's services are not being met and also cited safety issues. He said he is doing away with the boarding service because, "I think it's time I focus on what I provide best...the best available medicine and surgery," he said.

The second floor would be the hospital, where all surgery would take place. It would include one surgical room with two tables and one dental room with two tables, a post-operative room, an isolation room with five "suites" for animals with communicable diseases, a patient-under-care room with 12 "suites" for animals, a digital imaging room, a chemotherapy room, physical therapy areas and an intensive care unit.

Animals would have "suites" to stay in while under care at the facility, instead of steel cages, said Dr. Maus. He likened the suites to a hospital room. Cat suites would have a bedroom and a separate bathroom where the litter box would be contained.

"Our surgery room has one surgery table. Our dental room has one dental table. We can only do one procedure at a time," which keep animals waiting for surgery, Dr. Maus said of his current veterinary facility.

He would also offer new services of chemotherapy and rehabilitation services, such as acupuncture and physical therapy. Dr. Maus said there would be no radioactive materials on site, including isotopes.

The third floor would be used for administrative purposes, such as a conference room, an exercise room and a break room. The basement will be used for storage.

The building will be constructed of steel and brick with cast stone trim, Ms. Vincentsen said, and would be thickly insulated. It would reduce noise and a new HVAC system will have 10 zones and be ventilated in a way to control odor.

Attorney Steve Hehl said the new facility will have a state-of-the-art sprinkler system.

The new business sign is planned to be seven-and-a-half feet tall sitting on a two-and-a-half foot high wall, Mr. Quinn said. The "logo" currently on the outside of the building and the business sign that depicts a puppy and kitten chasing butterflies will be retained in some fashion on the façade of the new building as well as the sign, Dr. Maus told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*. "It has such a warm and fuzzy feeling," he said.

CF Council

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board of education and the county government. The township committee also introduced an ordinance increasing various swimming-pool utility fees, with a public hearing set for Tuesday, February 28. The committee additionally appointed Robert P. Donovan to provide alternate municipal prosecutor services.

Two resolutions were passed authorizing bids for the refurbishment of the lower level of the municipal building that was severely damaged by Hurricane Irene last August. That portion of the building "took quite a beating," said Commissioner Kevin Campbell. He said a trailer in the rear parking lot is supplying the building's heat. Mr. Campbell said the township's insurance is covering the costs involved with operating the parts of the municipal building that were damaged. But, he added, "we're a bit under the gun" to complete the repairs, because the insurance coverage will not be available next year.

At the beginning of the meeting, members of Boy Scout Troop No. 75 led the committee in the flag salute.

Resigned Mtsd BOE Pres., School Super Form Business

By DOMINIC A. LAGANO
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

MOUNTAINSIDE — Scott Schmedel, a former Mountainside Board of Education (BOE) member, and current resident, informed the BOE Tuesday night that former BOE chief school administrator (CSA) Jeanette Baubles, ex-BOE president Marybeth Schaumberg and former supervisor of curriculum and instruction, Thomas Conroy, "have formed a business, with a rather elaborate website."

"They are marketing their experiences, much of those experiences gained while they were here...I would like to know, and I think the community would like to know and needs to know, when they began forming this business and when members of the board became aware of this...and when these three people each notified the board of what they were doing and what their intentions were," Mr. Schmedel said.

The business, named Shaping Educational Excellence LLC (SEE), was formed on May 10, 2011. According to its website, SEE's mission is geared towards "improving teaching and learning in both the public and private sectors...SEE team members facilitate high quality professional development sessions for aspiring and practicing paraprofessionals, teachers, administrators, and board of education members."

Ms. Schaumberg, Ms. Baubles and Mr. Conroy are pictured on SEE's website and are labeled as SEE team members. The three were listed as members/managers in paperwork filed with the state treasurer on May 10, 2011.

Current Board President James Ruban responded to Mr. Schmedel's questions. "This board was unaware of any of that until after the fact, far after the fact, after they all left," he said. Mr. Ruban also stated there was "no disclosure" from the trio, but he was aware of rumors regarding the new business.

The board was made aware of the formation of the new business via e-mail from an undisclosed source.

Mr. Ruban stated that the matter was brought to the attention of the board's attorney. The board also approved several new regulations this past Tuesday evening seemingly aimed at ensuring this type of event does not occur again without the board's knowledge.

Board member Jeane Parker initially brought this information to the rest of the board. "I just got the information and gave it to these guys [BOE members]. What struck me as odd was that I just thought that you would have to disclose that. So I wondered if it had been disclosed and that it seems like there's kind of a...maybe not black and white, but maybe some gray area, which is why we revised the policies."

Ms. Schaumberg, who had served on the BOE for 11 years, resigned from her BOE seat on September 6, 2011. Ms. Schaumberg was ousted as president of the board during its reorganization meeting last May, ironically, the same date SEE was formed. Mr. Ruban replaced her as board president.

After her resignation, Ms. Schaumberg sent a letter to *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* stat-

ing she was "truly saddened and frightened by what the future holds for the Mountainside children."

In response, the remaining members of the board wrote their own letters to *The Times* refuting Ms. Schaumberg's dire predictions. "To incite a sense of fear within our community is unproductive and completely unprofessional," wrote BOE member Cathy Jakositz.

Ms. Baubles also resigned from her position as CSA in July, while Mr. Conroy submitted his resignation at the end of the school year in June. Due to time considerations, the three could not be questioned regarding their new endeavor, school officials said.

In other news, new CSA Nancy Lubarsky reported on the success of the Mountainside Girl Scout troop's efforts in their recent gift drive. As covered in a previous edition of *The Leader*, the Scouts held a gift drive in December to provide toys and other items to underprivileged children during the holiday season.

Mountainside Girl Scouts Emma Nordstrom, Caitlyn Splaine and Kristen Splaine were on hand to receive recognition from Ms. Lubarsky. The Scouts collected over 1,100 toys and such items as clothing and toiletries and donated them to the day care center and after-school program at the YMCA of Eastern Union County in Elizabeth.

The next BOE meeting open to the public is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, at 7:30 p.m., in the Deerfield School gymnasium. This meeting will be the annual BOE community roundtable. School Business Administrator Daniel Saragnese will deliver a presentation on next year's budget.

The next regular BOE meeting open to the public is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, at 7:30 p.m. in Deerfield's Media Center.

WF Fire

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which had no firewalls, fire alarms or fire suppression systems, will have to be demolished, the chief said.

Mr. Root said his security alarm went off at approximately 3:30 p.m. on Sunday.

"By the time I got down there, it looked like an arcade," he said. "The roads were all closed and there were fire engines from all different towns and ambulances and EMTs were already on the scene."

He stated that he has owned the South Avenue property, which spans from Clyne & Murphy to the Sound Station, for "45 to 50 years." He stated that years ago he ran Roots Confections, a corner store that sold everything from sundaes to toys to cigarettes.

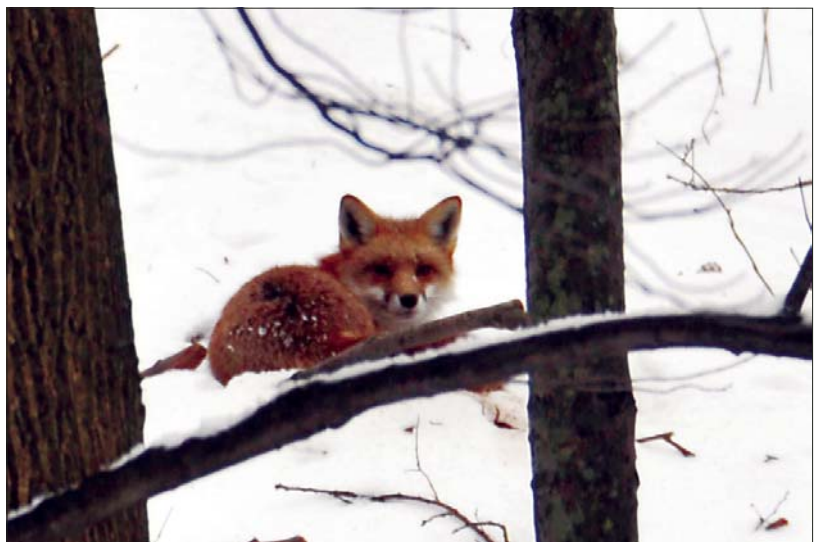
"I have a lot of childhood memories of Roots' store there on the corner," Chief Kelly said.

When asked if he plans to rebuild, Mr. Root said, "I sure hope so." The future of the location is in the hands of his insurance company, he stated, adding that he also hopes Clyne & Murphy will return to the location.

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RELAXING...After the stress of giving the State of the State on January 17, Governor Chris Christie had dinner in Westfield and stopped into 16 Prospect Street Wine Bar and Bistro for a surprise drink, much to the delight of the crowd. Pictured with Governor Christie are proprietors Tim Boyle, left, and Chris Boyle.



URBAN LEGEND...An elusive fox has been reportedly seen near Orenda Circle in Westfield. This is proof that it actually does exist, as he or she came out to take in the snow on Saturday.

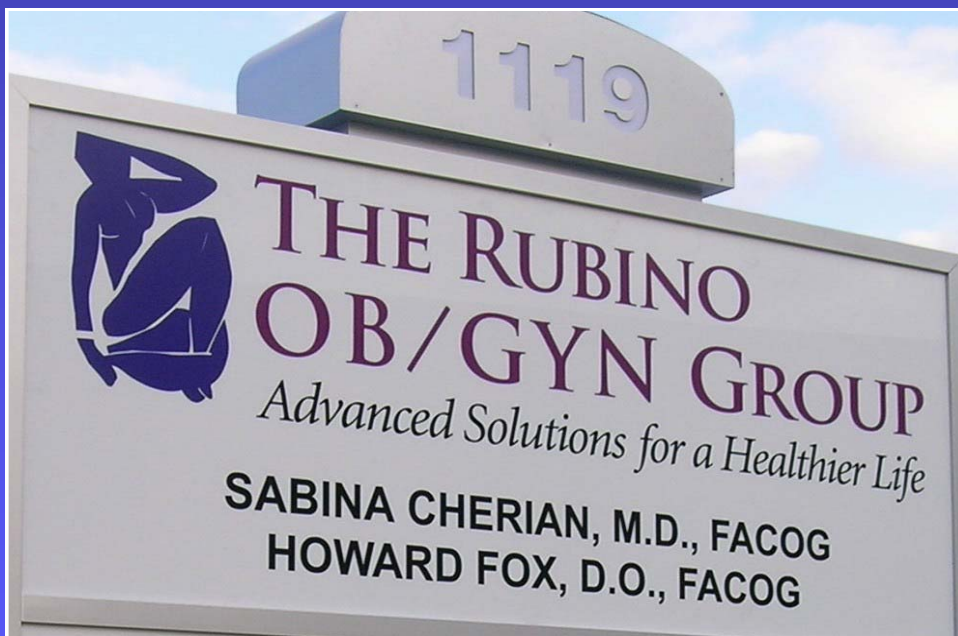
There's A New Woman in Town.



Dr. Sabina Cherian Joins the Clark Office.

Recognized for her clinical acumen and compassion, Dr. Cherian is committed to advancements in medicine and increasing awareness of disease prevention in women.

The Rubino OB/GYN Group consists of a team of highly credentialed OB/GYN specialists & is nationally known for non-invasive solutions for women's healthcare.



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