



NEW WESTFIELD FREEHOLDER...Kimberly Palmieri-Moulded of Westfield is sworn in for her first term on the freeholder board by Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage at Sunday's Union County reorganization meeting at the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth as her husband, George Moulded, holds the Bible. Looking on are her sons, Matthew, Christopher, Nicholas and Ryan Moulded, and her parents, Edmund and Pamela Palmieri.

Kowalski, Chair; Palmieri-Moulded Begins Term

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

COUNTY — Kimberly Palmieri-Moulded and Andrea Staten of Roselle were sworn in on Sunday as the newest Union County freeholders, and Alexander Mirabella began his eighth consecutive term on the nine-member board, at the county's reorganization meeting at the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth. Freeholder Rebecca Williams of Plainfield began a one-year unexpired term after being appointed to fill a vacancy left when Linda Carter resigned upon her elevation to the State Assembly seat of the late Assemblyman Jerry Green.

Also on Sunday, Bette Jane Kowalski of Cranford was selected as chairwoman for 2019 with Mr. Mirabella named vice-chairman.

With the swearing in of Freeholders Moulded and Staten, Union County Democratic Chairman Nick Scutari (D-22nd, Linden) noted that for the first time in Union County history women will hold a majority — five of the nine seats — on the freeholder board. County Clerk Joanne Rappaport added that this year marks the 99th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution giving women the right to vote.

Freeholder Moulded said it was "truly humbling" to be serving as a county freeholder, the first Westfield resident on the board since 2004. She said she hopes her service "will inspire those around me," including her four sons as well as her nieces. She noted that she became interested in politics when she volunteered on the mayoral campaign of Christian Bollwage at the age of 8 in 1992 while growing up in Elizabeth. She was sworn in by Mayor Bollwage.

She said as a freeholder that she wants to be an advocate for everyone from youth to seniors.

Meanwhile, Freeholder Staten said, "I am excited to join such a dynamic freeholder board."

In noting the new women majority on the board, she said, "We're not asking you to leave the room, just to give us a seat at the table."

She referenced the new freeholder women majority as "the fabulous five."

Freeholder Chairwoman Kowalski announced her initiatives for 2019. Her first is Union County Mobility, which will include a ride-share grant pilot program "with one of our municipal partners."

"Ride sharing reduces traffic, frees up parking, and gets people directly to their jobs, and mass transit," she said, noting that she hopes the program will "spur the creation of new ride-share programs for commuters."

Her second initiative is the creation of an Office of Business Development, "which will work to attract and retain businesses throughout Union County," she said. As part of this initiative she noted that the county will hold a shared-services summit in Summit with municipal and state agencies.

Her third initiative is a shared service within the Department of Public Safety. As part of this effort the county will establish a First Responders Training Fund, Freeholder Chairwoman Kowalski announced. She said the fund will pay for training needed by police, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and 911 dispatchers.

Her fourth initiative, "Recycling for Life," will include a new interactive and educational recycling display at the Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside as well as a recycling initiative aimed at senior centers, "to enhance recycling education and convenience."

Her final initiative includes a new action phone line within the Human Services Department for the public to call for inquiries about services. In addition, the Office of Women will hold health fairs with local hospitals on issues such as cervical cancer and programs focusing on the needs of women with color.

Freeholder Kowalski said the county will host a Women's History Month event and partner with the county prosecutor's office and the sheriff's office on domestic violence programs.

She said the county will add a part-time employee in the Office of Veteran Services and will expand the library grant program and the HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) grants, "which fund artists, historians and local non-profits."

Westfield Reorganization

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of our own historic icons as a community, to the enthusiastic participation of over 300 volunteers, to the ongoing and close collaboration between the police, fire, DPW professionals and the unpaid volunteers, to ultimately, experiencing the connectedness that the festival created among our residents," Mayor Brindle said.

"This inclusive spirit is what I aspire to instill in our community every day as your full-time volunteer mayor. I am all in," she said. "I only ask that you do your part, too. Participate. Engage. Volunteer when you can."

Prior to the State of the Town address, Police Chief Christopher Battiloro was sworn in to his new position as chief of the Westfield Police Department (WPD) with his wife and three children by his side. He gave an acceptance speech filled with gratitude to his father, who was formerly chief of the Westfield Fire Department, retiring in 2000, and to his wife and children.

Through tears, he shared the story of how he became a police officer for the town at age 22. "As a child growing up in Westfield, I didn't really want to be a police officer. I wanted to be a firefighter. Just like my father. Who served this town for 34 years," Chief Battiloro said.

He joked that his dad said he was not going to hire him as a firefighter, and instead encouraged him to become a police officer. "I pursued what I thought was the next best option. Little did I realize that 23 years later, what I thought was the next best thing turned out to be the best decision I ever made. I can never imagine being a police officer anywhere but here in Westfield," Chief Battiloro said.

He said in his speech that the department of 77 "will not be about a single individual."

"They all have special skills and talents which for years have not been put to their best use. We will empower our officers and members and give them the proper training, equipment and supervision to excel at their positions," Chief Battiloro said.

Chief Battiloro said the WPD will seek accreditation, as well as equip every uniformed patrol officer and supervisor with a body-worn camera. The cameras are to be paid for "mostly with asset forfeiture monies," Chief Battiloro said, "sparing as much expense to the taxpayer as possible."

Following the swearing-in ceremony, the mayor and council made new appointments to the various boards, committees and commissions that service the town.

In the vote for the Green Team, Councilman Frank Arena voted against the committee, calling it "big government," with 17 people appointed. He said he had concerns that in the future a paid position could be gleaned from it. Councilman David Contract disagreed, saying the "environment matters." It was approved 7 to 1, with Councilwoman Jo Ann Neylan absent.

A new Investment Advisory Council was formed with members Tom Miller, Biju Mohan, Lu Qiu, Dominic Maurillo and Adam Wison. "All wards are represented," Councilwoman Linda Habgood said.

Board of Adjustment members were appointed. They are: Matt Sontz, December 31, 2022; Allyson Hroblak, December 31, 2022; Mary Doyle, alternate no. 1, December 31, 2020, and James Keeney, alternate no. 2, December 31, 2019. The following four board of adjustment members terms expired in December 2018, and will no longer be serving on the board: Robert Whitehead, Frank Fortino, James Kelly and Mary Alice Ryan.

Robert Newell, December 31, 2022, was reappointed to the planning board. Ross Goldstein, alternate no. 1, December 31, 2020; Mayor Brindle, December 31, 2019; and Town Engineer Kris McAloon, December 31, 2019, also were appointed to the planning board. Bill West's term expired December 31 and he will not be serving on the planning board. Denise Rizzolo, December 31,

2022; Sharon Dorry, December 31, 2022; and Steve Gorelick, alternate no. 2, December 31, 2020, were appointed to the board of health. Neal Snitow, whose term expired, was not reappointed to the board of health. Sherl Brand's term expired and she will not be serving on the board of health.

The Special Improvement District (SID) Board had two new appointments: property owner Jeffrey Christakos, December 31, 2021, and merchant Jerry Eicke, December 31, 2021. Miriam Verga, merchant, and Alan DeRose, property owner, whose terms expired, will not serve on the SID board. "These appointments were made after Mayor Brindle consulted with those whose terms were expiring and based upon specific representation she was seeking (a property owner on the south side of town/financial expert, and a Quimby Street business to weigh in on town-wide initiatives going forward in that area)," Kim Forde, the town's communications officer, wrote in an e-mail to *The Westfield Leader*.

Gary Fox has been reappointed as chairman of the recreation commission with a term ending December 31, 2019; Amy Berman, December 31, 2021, and Russell Howell, December 31, 2021, also were appointed. Jeff O'Connor and James Foerst, whose terms expired, will no longer serve on the recreation commission.

The Historic Preservation Commission appointments were: Robert Wendel, December 31, 2019; Greg Blasi, December 31, 2019 (unexpired term); Maria Boyes, December 31, 2020; Carol Tener, December 31, 2021; Katie Spikes, December 31, 2021; Jennifer Jaruzelski, December 31, 2020; and Kelly Kessler, December 31, 2019. Those whose terms expired and who were not listed to serve again were Jennifer Czarniecki, James Corcoran and Michael Fisher, alternate 1.

Greg Talmont was reappointed to the architectural review board.

Tricia Mullaney, December 31, 2019, unexpired term, was appointed to the Tree Preservation Commission.

Mallory Saltzman was appointed to the Westfield Memorial Library board, December 31, 2023; Terry Quinn, whose term expired, was not listed to serve on the board.

Scott Jaffee, December 31, 2019 (unexpired term) was appointed to the Air Traffic Advisory Board.

For those persons whose terms expired, the town would not disclose who filed an application and who did not file an application for a reappointment. "For information on whether a specific resident applied for an appointment, our preference is for you to reach out to them directly and let them indicate if they'd like that information about themselves published, as it doesn't feel like something the town should write on their behalfs," Ms. Forde wrote in an e-mail to *The Leader*.

In voting to accept the legal newspapers for 2019, Councilman Mark Lo Grippo said he wanted the Westfield Tap into, which he cited had 2 to 3 million page views in 2018, listed among *The Leader* and *The Star-Ledger*. Mayor Brindle said the town is only obligated to identify two newspapers to place official notifications. Mayor Brindle said she had included Tap into last year with the "hope to get efficiencies through delivering public announcements, etc. But unfortunately, those efficiencies aren't able to be realized until the state law changes. And so I reconsidered...I didn't want to be perceived endorsing one specific" online news site.

Oster, Root

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with Amy, she's proven herself time and time again to be a very dedicated and committed board member, and the perspective she brings through experience of outside organizations will be a great strength to the board," he said.



BEGINNING ANOTHER TERM...Cranford Township Commissioner Thomas Hannen, Jr. is congratulated by state Senator Joseph Cryan (D-20th, Union) after he was sworn in for another term on the committee at the township's reorganization meeting on January 2.

Cranford BOE Members Sworn in at Reorg. Meeting

By ROBYN ORR-GIOFFRE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — Newly-elected and re-elected members were sworn in at the Cranford Board of Education's (BOE) reorganization meeting Monday night.

Three candidates ran for three, three-year appointments on the board this past November: incumbents William Hulse and Maria Loikith and newcomer Terry Darling.

Mr. Darling commented to *The Westfield Leader* that, "My intentions are to work with the board to make our school district the best it can possibly be for every student here," and further stated that he is excited about the district going from something that is already very good to "possibly the best suburban district in the state."

Newcomer Brian McCarthy was elected to fill the one-year unexpired term left vacant by the departure of Catherine Sheridan.

Incumbents Ms. Loikith and Mr. Hulse garnered 4,860 and 4,736 votes, respectively, while newcomers Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Darling received 5,859 and 5,619 votes, respectively.

The board voted to keep Kurt Petschow, Jr. as board president and Lisa Carbone as vice-president of the board.

Mr. Petschow was appointed as the delegate to the New Jersey School Boards Association and Mr. Hulse was selected as the alternate delegate. Ms. Carbone was appointed as the delegate to the Union County School Boards Association and Kristen Mallon was appointed as the alternate delegate.

Board member Nicole Sherrin Kessler was appointed as the delegate to the Union County Educational Services Commission and Mr. McCarthy was selected as the alternate delegate.

In other board business, the resignation of art teacher Mary Purcell after 26.5 years of service with the district was approved by the board, which also approved Elizabeth Sheehan and Erica Morreale as production managers for the spring musical at Cranford High School.

The board declared January 2019 School Board Recognition Month.

Superintendent of Schools Scott Rubin, Ed.D., commented, "You would never know that this (school board member) is a volunteer position based on the efforts

of the board before you," and reiterated that the Cranford BOE was "the hardest-working board."

Discussion continues in regards to the Reimagining Plan in the district. Alternate plans to make full-day kindergarten possible were discussed at the board's meeting on December 17.

The school district is set to hold additional question-and-answer meetings for residents, scheduled for this evening, Thursday, January 10, at Calvary Nursery School; Tuesday, January 22, at Livingston Avenue School; Tuesday, February 5, at Orange Avenue School; Thursday, February 7, at Hillside Avenue School, and Tuesday, February 19, at Brookside Place School.

Giblin

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ity of education into account simply do not make sense," she said.

Notable appointments during Wednesday's reorganization meeting included the reappointment of Borough Attorney Ryan Cooper, which was done through a roll call vote with a three-member majority. The vote saw Commissioner O'Connor abstaining, and Commissioner Hannen voting in opposition, while the other three members voted yes.

The resolution portion of the meeting also saw important appointments, including Norman Albert appointed as municipal prosecutor, John DeMassi as public defender and Jared B. Weiss as alternate public defender. All three positions are one-year terms set to expire on December 31.

The mayoral appointments of township commissioners for 2019 include Ms. O'Connor as commissioner of finance, Ms. Dooley as commissioner of public safety, Mr. Hannen as commissioner of building and zoning, and Jean-Albert Maisonneuve as commissioner of public works and engineering.

New Garwood Mayor

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mayor said.

New residents will be met with "open arms," stated Mayor Todisco.

"Whether a homeowner or renter, whether a lifelong resident or newcomer, or whether a child or a senior citizen, together we are, and will always be, one Garwood," Mayor Todisco said.

She stated that "over the next four years," Garwood's downtown business district "will experience a rejuvenation with increased walkability and sustainability."

"A small town like ours can only thrive with the enthusiasm and energy of the community and its volunteers. For that reason, I'd like to see us celebrate all those that contribute to making our town great by creating a Community Spirit Awards Program,"

Mayor Todisco said.

Nomination forms will be available on the borough's website and in Borough Hall, stated Mayor Todisco. "Dedicated volunteers," "generous business owners" or "a neighbor who goes above and beyond" can be nominated to be recognized as "the biggest champions of our community," stated Mayor Todisco.

The mayor also said she was expanding the public commentary portion of council meetings from three minutes to five minutes.

Mayor Todisco announced her appointment of new planning board members including Ken Capabianco, council liaison Richard McCormick, Steve Napolitano, Paul Tarantino, Mike Vena, John Malcolm, Sergio Simoes, Steve Barcan and Peter Demato.

New Board of Health Members Sworn In

By MICHAEL BONACCORSO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Three new board of health members were appointed at Monday's meeting. The appointees include Dr. Denise Rizzolo, Sharon Dorry and Dr. Steven Gorelick. Dr. Lawrence Budnick will serve as the board of health 2019 chairman, replacing immediate past chairman Thomas K. O'Neill. Elizabeth Talmont was approved as the board's vice-chairwoman.

Ms. Rizzolo, Ms. Dorry and Dr. Gorelick will replace Sherl Brand, Andrew Kirna and Neal Snitow, whose terms expired January 2018.

Ms. Rizzolo is an adjunct faculty member at Saybrook University. With a combined eight years experience teaching students "various levels of research methods," Ms. Rizzolo has worked at Seton Hall University, Kean University, Pace University online and Nova Southeastern University, she stated.

Ms. Rizzolo said her areas of expertise include autism and developmental disorders, eating disorders and obesity, integrative medicine, leadership and management, and nutritional science. Ms. Rizzolo said she has worked with "complementary therapies" and "leadership approaches and practices" pertaining to public health.

Ms. Dorry is a registered nurse who is employed by the Westfield Public School District. Dr. Gorelick was not present at Monday's meeting.

The board of health approved two sepa-

rate fee structures affecting commerce in Westfield per an ordinance introduced late last year to change the license structure for retail food establishments from a square footage-based system to a risk-based system tied to the sanitary code.

The board will utilize an annual fee structure based on a "risk assessment" for brick and mortar businesses, stated Dr. Budnick. The four annual fees will be designated levels one through four.

An establishment within the health department's purview posing the "least risk" will be deemed a level-one establishment, Dr. Budnick explained. The fee for "level-one" food and beverage establishments will be \$100, stated Dr. Budnick. A hundred dollars in fees will be added for each additional "risk level qualification," stated Dr. Budnick. For instance, an establishment designated as a level four will pay \$400 in fees to the health department, stated Dr. Budnick. The fee structure varies from the 2018 fee structure, which charged fees based on the establishment's size versus the work and oversight required by the health department to protect the consumer, stated Dr. Budnick.

The board of health approved three fee or permit cost changes for outdoor markets including temporary businesses, stated Dr. Budnick. Part-time vendors can purchase an annual permit to all outdoor markets for \$125.

A Farmers Market-only permit can be purchased for \$100, stated Health Officer and Director Megan Avallone. A one-day or temporary permit can be purchased for \$75.



NEW LEADERSHIP...Peggy Oster, pictured left, and Amy Root were selected as the new president and vice-president, respectively, of the Westfield Board of Education at the school board's reorganization meeting held last Thursday.



NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS...Ralph Trentacosta, Denise Ridente and Maureen Scepkowski, pictured from left to right, were sworn into office last Thursday, commencing their tenures as Garwood Board of Education members at the board's reorganization meeting.

New Members Sworn In On Garwood School Board

By MICHAEL BONACCORSO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — Denise Ridente, Ralph Trentacosta and Maureen Scepkowski were sworn into office at last Thursday's board of education reorganization meeting, commencing three-year terms as board of education members.

Tina Simitz will serve as the board's vice-president this year, having been nominated and approved by her fellow board of education members. After three rounds of voting, the board remained deadlocked on whether Christine Guerriero or Susan Groning would serve as 2019 board president.

Board attorney Hope R. Blackburn said the Union County executive superintendent of schools, Daryl Palmieri, will review both candidates and choose a board president. Ms. Guerriero served as the 2018 board president. A deadlock vote also occurred for the school board presidency at last year's reorganization meeting between Ms. Groning and Ms. Guerriero.

At last week's meeting, the board nominated and approved board of

education representatives and liaisons. Board member Linda Koenig was approved as the Union County Educational Services Commission Board (UCESCB) liaison. Ms. Guerriero and Ms. Scepkowski will serve as (UCESCB) alternate liaisons.

The board approved Ms. Simitz as the 2019 Clark Board of Education liaison. Garwood residents attend Arthur L. Johnson High School. New Jersey School Boards Association delegates include Ms. Koenig and board member Salvatore Piarulli (alternate). The Union County School Boards Association delegates include Ms. Groning and Ms. Scepkowski.

In addition, the board approved individual subcommittee members. Ms. Ridente, Ms. Guerriero, Ms. Simitz and Ms. Scepkowski will serve on the Education, Public Policy, and Public Relations Subcommittee.

Albert DelConte, Ms. Groning, Mr. Piarulli and Mr. Trentacosta will serve on the Finance/Building and Grounds Subcommittee.

Board members whose terms will expire in 2019 are Ms. Groning, Mr. Piarulli and Ms. Simitz.