



**NEW YEAR, NEW TERM...**Councilwoman Erin McElroy Barker was sworn in to her second term, accompanied by her husband, sons, and parents. Beyond her work on the borough council, she is a social worker who helps families of chronically ill children at Rutgers/Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center.

## New Board of Health Members Sworn In

By MICHAEL BONACCORSO  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

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 Kirma 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 separate 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.



**PROUD MOMENT...**Christopher Battiloro takes the oath of office for Westfield police chief from Mayor Shelley Brindle at last Thursday’s town reorganization meeting as his family looks on. The official ceremony follows an informal swearing in last month. Chief Battiloro became acting chief in August.

## Town of Westfield Swears In Police Chief Battiloro

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

WESTFIELD – 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 at Thursday’s reorganization meeting. 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. He 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.”



**TAKING THE OATH...**The Fanwood Rescue Squad is sworn in at Fanwood’s reorganization meeting on New Year’s Day.

## Zoning Board OKs Fence, Chooses Leaders for 2019

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS – The zoning board of adjustment kicked off the new year last week by approving a fence application and choosing its leaders and professional staff.

Ken Anderson was chosen again to lead the board and Rich Duthie was re-elected as vice-chairman. Board members Kendra Duran and Christine Thompson were sworn in for new terms. Long-time board attorney Vincent Loughlin was chosen to retain that position, with Mr. Duthie saying the board was “very fortunate” to have him as attorney due to his familiarity with the township. Ferriero Engineering will again serve as the board’s engineering consultant and Mary Moody will return as the

board’s planner.

At its January 3 meeting, the board also gave its approval to Stefanie Martowls to install a six-foot fence, with two motorized gates, on the side of her house at 897 Westfield Road. She told the board the higher fence, which will be installed along the Morse Avenue side of the property, was needed because of young children playing in her yard along with her pet dogs. There were some concerns raised about whether the fence could possibly interfere with sight lines at the corner of Westfield Road and Morse Avenue, which has seen a number of car accidents due to drivers on Morse Avenue not stopping at the Westfield Road intersection.

The board’s next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 7.



**NEW GARWOOD MAYOR...**Sara Todisco, pictured center, is sworn into office as the Mayor of Garwood on January 2 by Municipal Clerk Christina Ariemma as New Jersey First Lady Tammy Murphy, pictured left, watches.

## Todisco Sworn In As Garwood Mayor

By MICHAEL BONACCORSO  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

GARWOOD – Mayor Sara Todisco was sworn into office as the youngest mayor in Garwood’s history at the annual borough reorganization meeting on January 2. Newly-elected Democratic council candidates Michael Ince and Sean Benoit were sworn into office for three-year terms. Councilman Marc Lazarow was approved by Mayor Todisco and the council to serve as council president.

“One of the most impactful people in my life was my late grandfather Frank Todisco. With family roots going back to before Garwood was even incorporated as Garwood, he loved this town,” said Mayor Todisco, describing during her public address how “honored” she is to serve as Garwood’s mayor.

Mayor Todisco outlined personal expectations of her mayoral tenure during a “state-of-the-borough” address, including the launch of an “official Garwood social media page in the next 100 days.” Mayor Todisco stated “quarterly meetings” will now be held to increase communication between the planning board, council and the board of education.

“I envision Garwood to stay true to its small-town core, even as it faces changes and challenges. I envision Garwood to always remember and treasure its rich 116-year history. However, I also envision Garwood to adapt with the times to ensure communication is improved so residents know what is going on in town,” Mayor Todisco said.

Mayor Todisco announced the establishment of a Citizens’ Advisory Panel to “solicit resident feedback about potential capital projects,” namely road projects and professional equipment.

The borough’s municipal street sweeper is over 18 years old and is no longer “operable,” stated Mayor Todisco. “Putting together a vote to finance much-needed equipment is an initial priority (the council will address,” she said. “I cannot turn this vision into a reality alone. To all of you on this dais (council members), we are a team who will share in our future success together.”

Mayor Todisco stated she wanted to address bipartisan collaboration, emphasizing a “council team of six” not a 5-to-1 Democratic majority.

“I will be your biggest ally and your biggest supporter,” said Mayor Todisco, pledging assistance to all council members throughout their terms.

Mayor Todisco stated that she has

been “fortunate” to have served on every council subcommittee. Previous subcommittee experience, Mayor Todisco stated, can translate to insight for each council member tasked with subcommittee challenges.

“I mean that from the bottom of my heart. It’s not about Democrat or Republican. We are here in service to our community, not to a party,” the 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.

## SP-F BOE

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January 24 and 31, at 7:30 p.m., in the administration building at Cedar Street and Evergreen Avenue in Scotch Plains. The first meeting will serve as an open agenda meeting and the second will be the regular January meeting.

## Freeholders

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rior 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.”



**NEW ORDER IN CRANFORD...**Township Clerk Patricia Donahue administers the oath of office to 2019 Cranford Mayor Patrick Giblin, pictured right, as he is surrounded by family members at the January 2 Cranford Township Committee reorganization meeting.

## Patrick Giblin Sworn In As Cranford Mayor for 2019

By JESSE WINTER  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

CRANFORD – The township will start the new year with a new mayor. During the governing body’s reorganization meeting January 2, the township committee nominated and elected unanimously Democrat Patrick Giblin as committee chairman and mayor for 2019.

Former Mayor Thomas H. Hannen, Jr. was re-elected to the committee and will serve another three-year term. The five-person body also will see Commissioner Ann Dooley reassume the position of deputy mayor in 2019.

Mayor Giblin began his address by highlighting the importance of federal support and the impact Congress has on the future of Cranford.

Mr. Giblin was supported by his brother, Ted Giblin, who is a councilman in Verona, and his father, Thomas Giblin, a state assemblyman, as he began his tenure as mayor.

“Tomorrow morning (January 3), I head down to Washington, D.C., for the swearing in of Tom Malinowski, our newest Congressman here in the 7th Congressional district,” Mayor Giblin said. “It’s vital a town like Cranford continues to push on Congress and work with Congressman Malinowski, Senators (Cory) Booker and (Robert) Menendez,” he said.

“I know there’s lots of talk about different things that may or not be funded down in Washington right now, but I like to think flood-control projects are paramount,” said Mayor Giblin. “These are things [projects] that won’t be funded without their help.”

Additionally, the newly sworn in mayor’s speech emphasized the importance of a project to address “the aging infrastructure of the tunnel going into New York City.”

“We intend to stay on top of them – to let them know how important these things are that we rely on for federal funding,” Mr. Giblin said.

Additionally, the mayor will continue pushing NJ Transit towards resuming Midtown direct limited service. “It’s critical we get that back,” said Mayor Giblin, citing the fact that many move to Cranford in order to gain an ease of access into the city.

Although the tone of the night was celebratory and optimistic with it being the first public meeting in the new year, looming challenges con-

fronting Cranford were captured in the deputy mayor’s speech.

“To my colleagues, I wish us all wisdom and clarity as what should prove to be a very challenging year as we confront some very new and changing winds,” Deputy Mayor Dooley said. “Marijuana legislation, liquor license changes, our constitutional responsibility to redevelop. The extraordinary traffic and transportation challenges along North and South Avenues. The ever-present challenge regarding storm water and flood mitigation,” said Deputy Mayor Dooley. “Let’s get to work and have a successful 2019.”

Commissioner Mary O’Connor, the sole Republican on the township committee, used her time at the end of the meeting to further allude to challenges in the year ahead.

“We still face challenges: flood control, keeping our taxes stable while continuing to provide the public safety and services so important to our residents,” she said. “And we must continue to fight for affordable-housing laws that are fair to everyone. That must include consideration of residents and taxpayers who have supported towns like Cranford for many years. Policies that do not take infrastructure, public safety and the quality 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.



**GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS...**Councilwomen Patricia Walsh, left, and Erin McElroy Barker sit on the dais after being sworn in to their first and second terms, respectively, on the Fanwood Borough Council.



**PACKED HOUSE...**Sunday’s Union County reorganization meeting at the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth was a packed house as two new freeholders were sworn in and a new chairwoman and vice-chairman were selected. For the first time in county history women hold a majority of seats on the nine-member board.