

Sara Todisco Sworn In As Garwood Mayor, Youngest to Hold Position

By **MICHAEL BONACCORSO**
Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader*

GARWOOD – Sara Todisco was sworn into office as the Mayor of Garwood at the annual borough reorganization meeting held on January 2. Ms. Todisco is the youngest person in Garwood's history to serve as mayor. 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' Ad-

visory 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 down-



Brooks Crandall for *The Westfield Leader*

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 Westfield Leader*

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

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Paul Lachenauer for *The Westfield Leader*

NEW GARWOODMAYOR...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.

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