

# Mountainside to Become Member Of Raway Valley Sewer Authority

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The Mountainside Council unanimously voted "yes" to an ordinance on second reading Tuesday which will make the borough a part of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) District.

A bond ordinance of \$300,000 to have Mountainside become an RVSA member was also unanimously approved by officials on second reading.

Mayor Robert F. Viglianti stated that becoming a member of the RVSA was important to the borough because "it takes us from being a renter to being a partial owner and gives us our own representation on the RVSA without having to go through Cranford."

For the last two years, Mountainside has been purchasing its flow rights through the Township of Cranford. Under its agreement with

the RVSA, Mountainside will be entitled to peak flow rights of 3 million gallons per day and will have a representative at RVSA meetings.

Other members of the RVSA include Scotch Plains, Garwood, Kenilworth, Roselle Park, Rahway, Westfield, Clark, Cranford and Woodbridge.

In other business, the council approved on second reading an ordinance appropriating \$25,000 from the borough's Capital Improvement Fund for the purchase of computer equipment.

According to Councilman Paul Mirabelli, the equipment would be used to upgrade computer systems for the borough.

During another part of the meeting, resident Rich Granzel spoke before the council to request a bus shelter on Central Avenue where he and others wait daily for a bus into Plainfield.

He also requested a bus shelter at the bus stop located at the corner of Route No. 22, West, and New Providence Road.

Mayor Viglianti said officials would look into the situation further.

Finally, Councilman David M. Hart recalled his six years on the governing body, including his service as Liaison to both the Mountainside Board of Education and the Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH) Board of Trustees. While a Liaison to the hospital board, he also served on the CSH Buildings and Grounds Committee.

This was Mr. Hart's final meeting before retiring from the council at the end of this month. On Tuesday, January 5, Glenn Mortimer will be sworn in as Mr. Hart's successor on the council during the governing body's annual reorganization meeting.

Councilman Hart reported he was "very proud of the Board of Education" for its efforts in working with Dr. Gerard Schaller, Chief School Administrator, in reevaluating the school's mission statement, goals and objectives with the many community volunteers who formed the district's Strategic Planning Committee.

Councilman Hart read aloud the district's new mission statement, announcing "the mission of the Mountainside School District is to develop self-confident, independent, responsible citizens by providing the highest quality education to all students through (a) school, family and community partnership."

Councilman Hart reported that CSH has also been actively working to improve its facility, and is currently looking into affiliating itself with the Robert Wood Johnson Health System and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Through these new affiliations, Councilman Hart said the hospital will be able to offer even more services to their young patients and the children's parents.

Councilman Hart added that while on the board, he was a part of the Building and Grounds Committee.

# Scotch Plains Awaits State Aid Figures for '99 Municipal Budget

By SONIA V. OWCHARIW  
Specially Written for The Times

Last Tuesday, the Scotch Plains Township Council tackled a diverse agenda during its conference session, including preparation of the 1999 municipal budget and the future of the Scotch Plains Zoo property.

In a letter to the council, Municipal Manager Thomas E. Atkins discussed the tentative budget for 1999, which covers operating expenses, until the governing body adopts its municipal spending plan for the year, which typically occurs in March or April.

"The Chief Executive Officer is supposed to present the recommended (tentative) budget to the governing body on or before January 15," the letter to elected officials stated.

However, as noted in the letter, this deadline is sometimes not met due to time restrictions or the availability of state aid.

By comparison, Mr. Atkins recalled how in 1973, during Governor William Cahill's administration, the aid figures were ready by January 1 and were submitted to towns right after the start of the new year.

He observed that municipalities are sometimes unable to meet their prescribed timetable because the state does not provide towns with any revenue figures until February at the earliest.

It follows that the annual financial statement certified by the Municipal Finance Officer and the Township Auditor, as the registered municipal accountant, is delayed.

Finally, if any municipality does try to comply with the January 15 deadline, the information provided to the elected body is not always

concrete and is subject to change, Mr. Atkins observed.

He recommended that three special council meetings be scheduled to begin the budget discussion process. He suggested they be held in January, February and March, with a fourth session possible in April, if needed.

Councilman William F. McClintock, Jr. then discussed plans for developing the Scotch Plains Zoo property at the intersection of Raritan and Terrill Roads. The 6.5-acre site was purchased from its former owners more than a year ago for over \$800,000 by Sunrise Assisted Living.

Earlier this year, however, the council condemned the property and took ownership of it under the "right of eminent domain," which earmarks the land for public use.

Officials hope to transform the lot into a passive park using \$100,000 the township recently received through Union County's one-year Project Pocket Park Program. They are also considering restoration of the "Aunt Betty Frazee House" on the property, which is said to date, in part, from the Revolutionary War era.

A committee which is reviewing development proposals for the zoo site plans to target the needs of the elderly and children, as well as historic and open space preservation, and environmental concerns.

Although the township assumed ownership of the property, it is required by law to pay a "fair" price to the owners. Sunrise is reportedly asking Scotch Plains for \$1.1 million for the lot. A panel of three court-appointed Condemnation Commissioners is currently attempting to determine the value of the site.

Mr. McClintock added that officials are looking into grants and other financial resources which could be used to pay Sunrise for the property. He noted it was difficult to raise money for the zoo and that the township needed to design a plan.

In addition to the Pocket Park grant already dedicated to purchase of the park, the township may need to raise between \$500,000 and \$1 million to develop the land and restore the historic home on the property.

The zoo committee has recommended that the site be called "Frazee-Terry Lou Park" in honor of its historic legacy and in tribute to former zoo owners Frank and the late Louise Terry.

The committee plans to develop a more complete report which will be presented to the council and the Recreation Commission and will be used for fundraising.

## Knights of Columbus Holds Christmas Drive

WESTFIELD - The Knights of Columbus of Westfield recently held its Christmas gift program of the Monsignor Henry Patterson Council.

The Knights and their families donated more than 200 Christmas gifts which were distributed to the children of the Union County Day Training Center in Scotch Plains.

The Knights also donated more than \$500 which will be delivered to the Community Support Program in Roselle. This organization cares for and trains people with physical and mental disabilities.

The drive also included the donation of a new 18-speed girls mountain bicycle by Jay's Cycle Sales in Westfield to a nine year-old girl who otherwise would have received nothing for Christmas.



**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON...** The annual holiday faculty luncheon at Wilson Elementary School in Westfield was held on December 9. The occasion was an opportunity for parents to express their appreciation to faculty members by preparing a gourmet luncheon. This year's theme was "Paris Bistro." The menu of French delicacies included crepe suzettes filled with fresh fruit and whipped cream. The staff received individual handmade invitations, and the faculty lounge was transformed in a French Bistro, complete with decorations depicting the famous sights of Paris. Pictured, left to right, are: Mary Kane, Pam Lubiner, Tara Daly, Beth Friedman and Lauren McCurdy.



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### "Welcome Home to Westfield" Holiday Events Calendar 1998

For more info contact: Downtown Westfield Corp. (908) 798-9444 or Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (908) 233-3021

- Thursday, December 17**  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. - Musical Performance in Downtown Stores
- Saturday, December 19**  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Watson Highlanders Pipe Band**  
Bagpipers and drum perform traditional festive music throughout downtown Westfield
- Sunday, December 20**  
9:00 - 10:15 a.m. - "Picture Windows on the Word: The Nativity Illustrated by Renaissance Art" at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street  
10:30 a.m. - **Children's Play at the First Baptist Church**, 170 Elm Street  
12:00 Noon - **Ice Sculpting Contest** - Quimby and Elm Sts. in Downtown Westfield
- Thursday, December 24**  
4:00 p.m. - **Spontaneous Children's Pageant** - First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer St.  
5:00 p.m. - "A Shepherd's Story" by Hal Hopson led by the children, First United Methodist Church, One East Broad Street  
6:00 p.m. - **Reenactment of the Christmas Story**, Church School youth, First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer Street  
7:30 p.m. - **Service of Readings & Carols**, First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St.  
8:00 p.m. - **Service of Lessons & Carols**, led by the Youth Choir, First United Methodist Church, One East Broad Street  
11:00 p.m. - **Service of Lessons & Carols**, First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer St.  
11:00 p.m. - **Service of Lessons & Carols**, led by the Sanctuary Choir, First United Methodist Church, One East Broad Street
- Sunday, December 27**  
9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. - "Picture Windows On The Word: The Nativity illustrated by Renaissance Art" at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street.
- Thursday, December 31**  
**First Night Westfield**  
An alcohol-free celebration of the arts throughout Westfield - 908-518-2983.
- Sunday, January 3, 1999**  
4:00 p.m. - **Festival of Lessons & Carols for Epiphany**  
Presented by the Holy Trinity Choir and Holy Trinity Handbell Choir, this festival will consist of scripture readings, congregational carols and carols presented by the choir.



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*Happy Holidays To All!*  
From The Scotch Plains Business & Professional Association (SPBPA)

**SCOTCH PLAINS**  
Business & Professional Association

**On Behalf Of Our Entire Business Community,  
The SPBPA Would Like To Wish You And Your Family  
A Happy & Healthy Holiday Season And A Very Happy New Year!**

*Your Local Business Men & Women Are There For You And Our Community  
Throughout The Year. We Appreciate Your Support During This Holiday Season  
And Look Forward To Serving You In The Future.*

The SPBPA wishes to thank the more than 90 businesses listed below for their generous contributions which made our recent Old Fashioned Holiday Celebration in town such an enjoyable event for the entire community.

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