



MEETING THE DEADLINE...The last minute filing of taxes caused a mad rush at the Westfield Post Office on Monday morning. The lines were long and Post Office employees did their best to accommodate the anxious crowds.

\$8.06 MILLION SCHOOL TAX LEVY EASILY PASSES

Mountainsiders Vote to Approve \$4.9 Mil. Bond to Expand Schools

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Due to a serious overcrowding problem at Deerfield School, the Mountainside Board of Education began looking into expansion options two years ago.

On Tuesday night, Mountainside residents voted to pass the \$4.9 million dollar bond issue to expand and renovate Beechwood and Deerfield Schools by a tally of 1,029 to 366. The results for district one were not available due to a machine malfunction.

Mountainside homeowners will see an increase of \$82.49 a year per \$100,000 of assessed value. The total costs of the project will be \$6.8 million of which the state has granted \$1.8 million from The Educational Facilities and Construction Financing Act. This will leave Mountainside taxpayers with \$4.9 million to pay over a 20-year period.

However, any money that Mountainside receives from the dissolution of the Regional School District has been committed to paying back the bond.

Beechwood School will be renovated and expanded to accommodate all pre-kindergarten through second graders. Deerfield School will undergo renovations and the trailers currently used as classrooms will be taken away.

The school will then house all third through eighth grade students. Construction on Beechwood School is scheduled for completion by September of 2002.

In addition to the school bond, borough voters passed a \$8.06 million Mountainside school tax levy by a tally of 1,052 to 460. The budget includes faculty pay raises, an increase in benefits and an increased tuition to Governor Livingston High School. This is the same amount as last year's budget and there is no tax increase.

Diane McGee, Chairwoman of the Vote Yes for Mountainside

Schools Committee, called the vote, "a slam dunk. It feels good having won, everyone has worked really hard."

Mr. Kress stressed that this was a win for the children of Mountainside. Board President Patricia Taeschler

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Westfield Voters OK Budget; Elect Three New Members to Board

By MELISSA BETKOWSKI
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Westfield voters showed their support for the 2001-2002 school budget on Tuesday, passing the \$60 million spending plan by a margin of nearly 3-to-1.

Voters approved the \$59,859,635 base budget by a vote of 2,565-844. The second question, providing an additional \$1,464,067 in funding, was passed 2,434-953.

Board President Danielle Walsh told *The Westfield Leader* that she was very pleased by the wide margin by which the budget package was approved.

The \$51,202,096 tax levy will equate to an increase in property taxes of 18 cents per \$100 of assessed value. On the average home, that amounts to an increase of \$300.

The district will also receive state aid in the amount of \$4,519,404 and federal and state grants totaling \$1,102,746.

Board Secretary and Business Administrator Robert A. Berman said, "The approval by the public of our school budget once again demonstrates Westfield's continued commitment to education."

He continued, "The board and the administration worked very hard to present a budget that was both educationally and fiscally sound." Mr. Berman noted the board's appreciation for the voters' continued support.

In addition, Lisa Alter, Virginia (Ginny) Leiz and Richard Solomon were elected to the Board of Educa-

tion to replace Mrs. Walsh, Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Michael J. Kessler and Long Range Planning Committee Chairwoman Eileen Satkin.

Ms. Alter, in an interview with *The*

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The string of allegations and revelations about Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco's business and financial dealings landed squarely on the doorstep of his hometown this week.

Press reports cited a confidential 1998 report in accusing him of violating legal and ethics rules during his tenure as Scotch Plains Township Attorney. Mr. DiFrancesco had also been threatened with dismissal from that post.

Mr. DiFrancesco, who assumed the role as Acting Governor in early February, served as Township Attorney for 16 years. A 1998 report issued by two special counsels — Republican Douglas W. Hansen, the present Township Attorney, and

REPUBLICANS SAY NEW MAP VIOLATES VOTING RIGHTS ACT

New Legislative Map Could Cost GOP Seats in County

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Republicans are likely to lose one Senate seat and two Assembly seats from Union County if the newly-approved map of legislative districts holds up in court.

Based on the new map, which was approved, 6-1, by the New Jersey Legislative Apportionment Commission at its meeting on April 11, Westfield and Mountainside will move into a new largely Republican 21st District, while Scotch Plains and Fanwood would now be in a redrawn 22nd District that favors Democrats.

Three GOP members of the commission did not attend the meeting in protest while a fourth member, Senate Majority Leader John Bennett, was the lone dissenting vote. The Republican map was drawn up with consultation from Walter Fields, former Executive Director of the New Jersey Chapter of the NAACP.

Republicans, led by the Washington, D.C.-law firm of Patton Boggs, say the new map violates the 1965 Voting Rights Act by diluting minorities' voting power by splitting districts that are currently mostly black or Hispanic. The system, referred to as "unpacking," spreads out minority vote throughout the state.

United States District Court Judge Dickinson Debevoise ruled Monday that the new map does not violate the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by dismantling two primarily black districts in Essex County. Republicans

immediately appealed that ruling to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia.

"I don't see this thing (the new map) holding up in court," said Wally K. Shackell, County Liaison to the Republican Committee of Union County, prior to Monday's court decision.

"It's just a mess," added Ronald Frigerio, former Westfield mayor and now-Chairman of the Union County

Republican Committee, when reached in Florida last Friday.

The GOP is seeking an injunction to prevent the June 5 Primary from going forward while they make their court challenge of the new legislative district map.

The extended deadline to submit nomination petitions for the State Senate and General Assembly is 4 p.m. today, Thursday, April 19. A

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Jardim, Stender Tapped To Run in 21st, 22nd Legislative Districts

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Union County Democratic Committee Tuesday night endorsed Ellen Steinberg of Chatham, an attorney in Union Township, for the State Senate and former Westfield Mayor Thomas C. Jardim and former Seventh District Congressional candidate J. Brooke Hern of New Providence for the Assembly in the newly redrawn 21st Legislative District.

The Committee also selected current 20th District Assemblyman Joseph S. Suliga of Linden for the State Senate, along with 17th District Assemblyman Gerald Green of Plainfield and former Fanwood Mayor and current three-term Union County Freeholder Linda d. Stender.

Candidates for state office must file by 4 p.m. today, Thursday, April 19, for the Primary and General Elections. That deadline might be changed, as Republicans are challenging the new legislative map approved last week by the state's reapportionment committee.

The new redrawn 21st District includes Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Garwood, Mountainside, New Provi-



Thomas C. Jardim



J. Brooke Hern

dence, Roselle Park, Springfield, Summit and Westfield in Union County; Millburn in Essex County; Chatham, Harding, Long Hill and Madison in Morris County, and Warren and Watchung in Somerset County.

The new 22nd District includes Clark, Fanwood, Linden, Plainfield, Rahway, Scotch Plains and Winfield in Union County; Dunellen and Middlesex Boro in Middlesex County, and Green Brook and North Plainfield in Somerset County.

Mr. Jardim, who served two terms as Westfield Mayor, became the first Democrat to serve as the town's Mayor since 1912 when he was elected in 1996. He captured all of the town's 25 voting districts when he was reelected in 1998. He is an attorney in Newark.

"I think it is great for Westfield to have another terrific Westfield candidate to run to represent Westfield in the Legislature," said Kenneth

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Leader said that she was delighted that the community came out strongly in support of the schools.

Mr. Solomon said that he is very happy to be coming onto the board at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

DiFrancesco Accuses McGreevey's Staff With Leaking Private Papers

Democrat Lewis Markowitz —accused Mr. DiFrancesco of violating ethical rules.

The report indicates that during his tenure as Township Attorney, Mr. DiFrancesco had lobbied local officials to give members of his family a zoning change they were seeking for a parcel of land they owned on Plainfield Avenue. The report further states that Mr. DiFrancesco failed to disclose his own financial stake in the property.

Mr. Hansen and Mr. Markowitz' report also indicates that Mr. DiFrancesco had issued legal opinions and rulings on projects involving K. Hovnanian Companies, the state's largest homebuilder, after

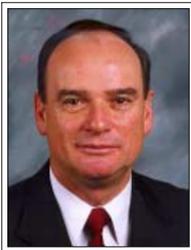
the company had given Mr. DiFrancesco \$225,000 to pay off a legal judgment against him.

The report states that Mr. DiFrancesco had lobbied township officials to set aside plans for a soccer field on the piece of family-owned property because his family had hoped to develop the property in a more profitable way.

The Hansen-Markowitz report, which was provided to council members after what *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* has been told were nearly two "difficult" years of wrestling with Mr. DiFrancesco's actions, urged the Township Council, then controlled by the Republicans, to remove Mr. DiFrancesco as Township Attorney.

Instead, he met with the council to explain his actions and was in the process of providing further answers to additional questions when the Democrats regained control of the council in the November 1998 elec-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Donald T. DiFrancesco

Codding Rd. Residents Ask Council To Keep Undeveloped Section of Street on Maps

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Residents of Codding and Edgar Roads asked the Town Council Tuesday night not to take action that would remove future opportunities to privately develop the second half of Codding Road. The land is currently undeveloped but listed on the town's official map as a "paper street."

Codding Road backs up to Rahway Avenue behind the National Guard Armory. The yards of residences on Edgar Road abut the undeveloped section of Codding Road.

While the town wants to look at preserving the property for open space, Codding Road residents are concerned that they will lose the opportunity to develop their parcels along Codding Road as future financial investments.

Many of the residents told the council that they had purchased their properties years ago, assuming that one day they could build up the undeveloped lots as an investment.

Mayor Gregory S. McDermott told residents that the governing body wants to gather information on whether the town should look to keep Codding Road as an undeveloped land by removing it from maps.

He said this action was discussed as it relates to talk of Westfield being overdeveloped which has caused an increase of children attending the town's public schools while changing the character of the town.

Town Attorney Robert Cockren said the town's planning consultant, Robert Caitlin Associates, has been asked by the Town Council to provide the town with options on what

could be done in the future with Codding Road. The town owns the right-of-way on the paper street.

"It's a policy decision at this point for the town," said Mr. Cockren.

The Codding Road property owners are led by Henry Andrews who explained that the town should not put much stock in the National Guard Armory being privately developed.

He said the state, which owns the Rahway Avenue property, would offer it to state and Union County agencies and then to the Town of Westfield before putting it on the open market.

Homeowners on Codding Road,

who have formed a group to work with the town, e-mailed the following statement to Town Council members, a copy of which was obtained by *The Westfield Leader*:

"We the landowners of property on Codding Road, remain united in our desires and we hope the Town Council will allow us to proceed to own and use our land as we wish, and as responsible property owners. We in turn expect the Town to be responsible in dealing with us, and with the future of Codding Road. All of us have the interest in keeping Westfield a nice place to live."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



GENERATIONS OF GARDENERS...Owner of Williams Nursery in Westfield, Dave Williams, 40, and son, Dakota Williams, 3 1/2, take a brief rest on an elaborate butterfly bench after helping customers select the ideal Easter plants.

New Legislative Map Could Cost GOP Seats in County

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

drawing to choose ballot positions in Union County is scheduled for Thursday, April 26.

"We are proceeding with the dates we have unless the court directs us otherwise," County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*.

The new 22nd District will consist of Middlesex County municipalities Dunellen and Middlesex Boro; Somerset County, Green Brook and North Plainfield; Union County, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Clark, Linden, Plainfield, Rahway and Winfield.

The new 21st District will include: Essex County, Millburn; Morris County, Chatham, Harding, Long Hill and Madison; Somerset County, Warren and Watchung; Union County, Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Garwood, Mountainside, New Providence, Roselle Park, Springfield, Summit and Westfield.

"It is a very solid Republican district," Mr. Frigerio said of the new 21st District, in which his hometown is situated.

Westfield Town Democratic Committee Chairman Kenneth Rotter commented, "It seems that the district where Westfield sits, the new 21st, is not much different than the old 22nd."

Based on a 9-0 Democratic majority on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Mr. Rotter believes the county should have two primarily Democratic Legislative Districts and one Republican minority district.

"And that is more reflective of how we as a county tend to vote. And I think that is appropriate," Mr. Rotter added.

As a result of the new district makeup, speculation is that the Senate seat long held by current Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco in the 22nd District will be a Democratic seat come 2002.

News accounts and *The Leader-Times* sources have confirmed that current 20th District Assemblyman Joseph S. Suliga, a Democrat from Linden, will run for Senator DiFrancesco's Senate seat, with current 17th District Democratic Assemblyman Gerald Green of Plainfield running for reelection in the new 22nd District.

Former Fanwood Mayor and current three-term Union County Freeholder, Linda d. Stender, is set to run for the other Assembly seat in that District.

Five-term old 22nd District Republican Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger of Westfield, who was running for Mr. DiFrancesco's Senate seat, will instead by seeking the seat of retiring veteran legislator, Republican Senator C. Louis Bassano of Union. Union has moved into a solid Democratic District which includes Elizabeth, Kenilworth and Roselle.

Mr. Bassano resigned Monday to take a job with the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority where he will handle government relations.

The County GOP Committee was scheduled to meet last night in West Orange to fill Senator Bassano's seat. Assemblyman Kevin O'Toole is expected to gain that seat. Mr. O'Toole, whose town of Verona was redistricted into the 40th District, is expected to run for the Assembly in his new district.

Assemblyman-elect Tom Kean, Jr. will be sworn in on Thursday, May 3, as the new Assemblyman to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Alan M. Augustine of Scotch Plains due to a long illness, according to spokeswoman Joanne Ward.

Thus, while a new Assemblyman, he will actually be campaigning for Mr. Bagger's seat in the 21st District. In addition, he may have to face three-term Assemblyman Joel Weingarten, whose town of Millburn is the lone community from Essex County in the new 21st District.

The new 21st District, however, includes Millburn, the hometown of Mr. Weingarten. Mr. Weingarten and Mr. Kean battled for the GOP Seventh District Congressional Primary nomination last year.

"If I were a betting person, I would

Redistricting	
OLD 21ST DISTRICT	NEW 21ST DISTRICT
Union County: Kenilworth Roselle Park Springfield Summit Union	Union County: Berkeley Heights Cranford Garwood Mountainside New Providence Roselle Park Springfield Summit Westfield
Essex County: Caldwell Cedar Grove Essex Fells Livingston Millburn	Essex County: Millburn
Morris County: North Caldwell Roseland Verona	Morris County: Chatham Harding Long Hill Madison
	Somerset County: Warren Watchung
OLD 22ND DISTRICT	NEW 22ND DISTRICT
Union County: Berkeley Heights Clark Cranford Fanwood Garwood Mountainside New Providence Scotch Plains Westfield Winfield	Union County: Clark Fanwood Linden Plainfield Rahway Scotch Plains Winfield
Middlesex County: Dunellen	Middlesex County: Dunellen Middlesex
Morris County: Chatham Long Hill	Somerset County: Green Brook North Plainfield
Somerset County: Green Brook North Plainfield Warren Watchung	

see it as Weingarten and Kean (as the GOP nominated candidates in the new 21st District)," Senator Bassano told *The Leader* and *The Times*, noting that Mr. Kean's biggest challenge is likely to come from Summit Republican Chairman Eric Munoz. "I think they are two good people."

Republicans only recently endorsed Mr. Munoz as their choice to fill Mr. O'Toole's Assembly seat.

Other possible candidates include former Cranford Mayor Tom Denny, Roselle Park Mayor Joseph Delorio and former Springfield Mayor Harry Pappas.

Codding Road

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rich Stelna of Edgar Road, who purchased his lot in 1997, said he hopes that he will continue to have flexibility on what he can do with the property in the future.

Raymond Luck of Edgar Road bought his home in 1974 mainly based on the fact that the house backed up to one of the last remaining paper streets in town.

Mr. Cockren said the town planner is expected to submit his report within a month.

In other business, a consultant hired by the town to look at the potential impact a parking deck would have on the downtown, has been asked to conduct traffic counts during morning rush hours. A recently-submitted report included only evening rush hour traffic counts.

Fred Hoffman of T&M Associates will also be asked to return to address questions raised by the Town Council and residents opposed to a northside parking deck.



SERVICE WITH A SMILE...Westfield postal worker Jung Lee shows her big smile at the beginning of the day for the last minute tax mailing rush on Monday, April 16.

Mtsd. GOP Incumbents Will Face Challenges From Democrats In Fall

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specialty Writer for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

MOUNTAINSIDE — Mountainside's incumbent Republican candidates, Glenn W. Mortimer and Werner Schon, will be vying for re-election this November against Democrats Steve Brociner and John Shackelford.

Mr. Mortimer, who is seeking his second term on the council, is a lifelong resident of Mountainside. During his inaugural term, he has served on the Public Works Committee, as Mountainside Public Library Liaison and one year as Council President.

Mr. Mortimer is a project manager for IBM Software. Mr. Schon is seeking his seventh term on the council. In his tenure on the council, he has served as Council President for two years, Liaison to the Board of Health and as Fire Commissioner. He has been a Mountainside resident for 44 years and has five children. He is the President of Astaromolding Inc. in Sparta.

Both candidates voiced their pride in keeping the municipal tax rate the "lowest in the county." Mr. Mortimer and Mr. Schon feel the bond for the road projects needs to continue to move forward.

Mr. Mortimer commented that, "some of the roads are over 50 years old and in definite need of repair."

The Republican candidates highlighted renovations to the Fire Department building and the local library that were done during their years on the governing body, and said they look forward to keeping the large array of programs for children and senior citizens intact.

Mr. Brociner has owned his own

carpet business for over 20 years. He and his wife, Phyllis, have two children. The candidate ran for council in 1998, 1999 and 2000.

He is a graduate of the University of Miami in Florida and has been an active member of the Democratic Committee in Mountainside for the past 30 years. Mr. Brociner volunteers at area homeless shelters and with child development agencies.

Mr. Shackelford is a management consultant. He and his wife, June Sherrie, have three daughters and four grandchildren. The candidate ran for council in 2000. He is a graduate of American University in Washington, D.C. and was a professor at the University of Baltimore.

Mr. Shackelford is a Red Cross volunteer and tax preparer for the American Association for Retired Persons.

Both candidates said they see a strong need for bipartisanship on the all-Republican council and the need to save money on the recently issued bond for road repairs.

The Democratic candidates also said they would like to see no more unnecessary tax increases and the improvement of services.

Mr. Brociner stated that there is, "no openness (in the council). The council should be identifiable and available to the community."

Mr. Shackelford commented that, "the council does everything in private and secrecy. We need to find out what issues the people are interested in."

"It is going to take effort, but I would like to see at least one or two Democrats on (the council)," he added.

If a Democrat were to obtain a seat on the council, it would be the first time in the history of Mountainside.

DiFrancesco Accuses McGreevey's Staff of Leaking Documents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tions and installed Democrat Andrew M. Baron as Township Attorney.

A year later, after Republicans regained control of the Township Council, there was apparently some pressure exerted to reinstall Mr. DiFrancesco as Township Attorney. But, similar to other press reports this week, *The Times* had learned earlier this year that Democratic Councilman Tarquin Jay Bromley, who died last September, had learned of the ethics allegations against Mr. DiFrancesco and had threatened to inform the newspapers and federal prosecutors about them if Mr. DiFrancesco was re-appointed to his former post. Instead, the new Republican majority named Mr. Hansen to the position.

This week, the Acting Governor accused Democrats — both local and those associated with the gubernatorial campaign of Democrat and Woodbridge Mayor Jim McGreevey — of leaking the confidential documents to the press.

At a news conference in Hackensack on Tuesday, Mr. DiFrancesco rejected the 1998 report's conclusions, saying he had recused himself from matters involving his family's property.

Rae Hutton, a spokeswoman for Acting Governor DiFrancesco told *The Times* that "allegations are lies meant to detract from the issues during the campaign." She emphasized that Mr. DiFrancesco "has no intention of changing his plans" regarding the campaign.

"It's absolutely a lie," Mr. DiFrancesco said of the allegations, confirming that he plans to stay in the race for governor despite increasing whispers about his political vulnerability, not only against Mr. McGreevey in November but also against Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler in the GOP primary in June.

The latest allegations come on top of several other problems that have surfaced in the 11 weeks since Mr. DiFrancesco succeeded Christine Todd Whitman as Governor. There are questions about his relationship with K. Hovnanian and the circumstances surrounding a \$575,000 loan to Mr. DiFrancesco by four friends to help with a potential bank foreclosure.

Scotch Plains Republican Mayor Martin L. Marks told *The Times* yesterday that he was "very upset that private lawyer-client confidential letters and documents have been leaked to the media," an action he termed potentially illegal. Mr. Marks, who was elected to the Township Council in 1996, recalled that in the summer of 1998, Mr. DiFrancesco, met with the council to explain some of the allegations in the documents.

"We never said he was fired," Mayor Marks said. "We never said he would not be re-appointed. We just wanted answers to a very complicated matter." Mr. DiFrancesco provided answers, Mr. Marks recalled, but there were still some unanswered questions that were in the process of being researched when the 1998 election intervened, put the

Democrats in control and essentially rendered the matter moot.

Mayor Marks added that the 1999 Democratic-controlled council, by a unanimous vote and on the advice of Mr. Hansen and Mr. Markowitz, voted to allow Mr. DiFrancesco's law firm to continue working on several existing cases still pending from 1998 and earlier, including the condemnation of the former Terry-Lou Zoo property and a few tax appeals.

"If there was something that egregious that had occurred," Mr. Marks said, "then the relationship would not have continued." The mayor also denied that there had been pressure on council Republicans, once they regained the majority, to reappoint Mr. DiFrancesco.

"It's simply not the case," he said. "We knew he'd be running for governor. It would have been foolish to bring him on as Township Attorney" when, in a matter of several months, Mr. DiFrancesco, then the State Senate President, would be getting set to launch his gubernatorial bid.

Union County Republican Chairman Ronald Frigerio told *The Times* that he remains strongly supportive of Mr. DiFrancesco.

He said, "What's happening here is the politics of personal destruction. It's very sad to see this happening to someone with 25 years of stellar achievements in the Legislature."

Mr. Frigerio admitted that "there's concern among the (other county) chairmen, but there's been no groundswell. Everyone wonders when the next shoe drops."

He added that the media has been taking the "same story and overdeveloping it to a higher level."

"It looks like a conspiracy almost," he said.

\$4.9 Mil. Bond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

commented that, "when Dr. Schaller (Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller) and I spoke (with groups in town) they were very receptive and asked the important questions."

Mrs. Taeschler stated the results are, "a testament that the people of Mountainside value the quality of education. It will be wonderful for the whole community, the numbers don't leave any room for speculation (as to what the voters want). The main goal is to improve the quality of education for the children. We needed to step up and do what we had to for the children. I know it sounds cliché, but they are our future."

Running unopposed for three seats on the Mountainside school board, incumbent candidate Sally Revieccio led the race with 856 votes, while incumbent Richard Kress received 794 votes. Ray Haggar, who began his involvement with the board by serving on the Ad-Hoc Committee, received 822 votes. There were also four people named as write ins.

Charlotte Moseley Earns Teacher Award

WESTFIELD — Charlotte Renee Moseley, a graduate of Westfield High School, was recently named as a recipient of the 2001 New Jersey Commissioner of Education Distinguished Teacher Candidate Award.

The awards annually recognize the top 15 graduates of teacher preparation programs administered by New Jersey colleges and universities.

Ms. Moseley was recognized for her outstanding graduate school academic record, receiving an endorsement from the Dean of Education at Kean University and four academic professors.

Ms. Moseley was also required to send a self-descriptive essay and biographical information which highlighted her academic honors and awards as well as her participation and leadership in school and community activities.

As a recipient of the award, Ms. Moseley will receive a personal letter of recommendation and a certificate of recognition from Vito A. Gagliardi, Sr., Commissioner of Education, at an awards ceremony to be held on Wednesday, May 9, at the state Department of Education in Trenton.

The letter from Mr. Gagliardi which informed Ms. Moseley of her accomplishment read, "Your dossier has shown you to be an exceptionally qualified prospective teacher worthy of this honor."

Ms. Moseley received her Bachelor of Arts Degree at Douglass College, Rutgers University and a Master of Arts Degree from Kean University. She is currently employed by the Half Hollow Hills School System in Dix Hills, N.Y.

Kelly Korecky Spends Semester in Italy

WESTFIELD — Westfielder Kelly Korecky is currently spending her spring semester studying in Florence, Italy, through Syracuse University's (SU) Division of International Programs Abroad.

For more than 40 years, Syracuse's Division of International Programs Abroad has offered credit-bearing study opportunities for SU students as well as those enrolled at other colleges and universities across the United States and Canada.

The Florence program, established in 1959, enrolls more than 600 students each academic year. Students may study art history, studio art, architecture and Italian language and culture, or take a wide range of courses in the liberal arts. Many students live with local families and visit historic sites in Rome, Venice, Assisi and other destinations.

Kelly is a junior majoring in English at Bucknell University.

Westfield BOE Budget OK'd

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a time when the community is showing such overwhelming support for the school system.

It shows, he said, that the board is headed in the right direction, that it is doing the right thing as far as the community is concerned.

Mr. Solomon said that the board has been so focused on the budget that it has been hard to look past the goal of passing the budget.

Ms. Alter, very active in legislative issues, looks forward to working to alleviate the problems plaguing the budget process.

Mrs. Leiz was unavailable for comment at press time.

The board will hold its annual reorganization meeting on Tuesday, April 24, at 8 p.m.

Jardim, Hern

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rotter, Chairman of the Westfield Town Democratic Committee. "From experience we know how hard he works."

Mr. Hern, an attorney in Roseland, previously served as Director of Public Affairs for the New Jersey Department of Commerce and Economic Development from 1991 to 1994 and was Chief of Staff for former 15th District Assemblyman Joseph F. Yuhas from 1994 to 1995.

Mr. Hern listed property tax relief, along with state funding for municipalities and school districts, as the issues on which he will base his campaign.

"This is going to be a very good year for us," said Mr. Hern.

Looking at campaign issues, he said the state needs to do more to reduce the tax burden on families and senior citizens. He proposed town meetings to gather information on how the state can change the system currently used for property taxes, municipal services and school funding.

Mr. Hern said these forums could be used by elected officials to gather information in order to place a referendum before voters to dramatically change this system.

WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

• A Central Avenue business reported that a bottle of perfume valued at approximately \$42 was shoplifted from the premises.

• Cufflinks and part of a camera were reported stolen during a burglary at a Parkview Avenue residence.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

• A Central Avenue club reported the theft of \$1,500 in cash from a safe.

• A resident of North Chestnut Street reported that someone forcibly entered his house through a first-floor window. It was not known whether anything was missing.

• A Trinity Place resident reported an incident of identity theft after approximately \$1,240 was charged in her name at a store. The victim became

aware of the theft after the store's collections department contacted her to tell her the account which had been established in her name was overdue.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

• A North Avenue pharmacy reported a shoplifting incident in which a suspect fled the store with merchandise of unknown value. The suspect was described as a black male in his late 20s, 6 feet tall with a thin build, with braided hair and wearing black clothes. He was seen leaving the area in a blue, four-door Nissan.

• A resident of Bradford Avenue reported an incident of criminal mischief in which an unknown person left deep scratches in a wavy pattern on the driver's side of her car. The car was parked on her street at the time.

Douglas M. Fasciale

Certified Civil Trial Attorney
by the Supreme Court of New Jersey

Concentrating in personal injury
and malpractice cases.

Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst & Doukas, LLP
Attorneys At Law - A Full Service Firm

40 Paterson Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
(732) 545-4717

116 S. Euclid Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090
(908) 232-9944

DFasciale@hoaglandlongo.com
www.hoaglandlongo.com

Your whitest teeth, by tonight.



Not Actual Patient of Dr. Schaffer

The revolutionary new BriteSmile Teeth Whitening Process can safely and gently whiten your teeth - in just one visit.



Scott B. Schaffer, D.M.D.
Cosmetic & Family Dentistry
77 Valley Road, Clark, New Jersey
732-382-2715