

## BOE Reappoints Riegel And Leiz President, VP; Clancy Takes Seat

By MEGHAN GILL  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD—Anne Riegel, Beth Cassie, and new board member Jane Clancy were sworn in at Tuesday evening's board of education organizational meeting held at the district administrative offices on Elm Street. The board reappointed Ms. Riegel and Ginny Leiz to their positions as board president and vice president. "The collaborative effort that Ginny and Anne do together is an incredible model," Alice Hunicutt said as she nominated Ms. Leiz. "I have had the privilege of serving

with Anne for four years...Anne has done an excellent job as a leader," Ms. Cassie said. "I would like to thank the 5,000 residents for coming out to vote. We received the largest voter turnout in 30 years, but we also received the largest 'no' votes this year," Ms. Riegel said, "and we want to get feedback on the 'no' votes." She acknowledged the effort of the members of the board, the parents, parent-teacher associations, parent-teacher organizations, the Westfield Education Association and the local press for their assistance in getting the vote out.

"We can learn more going forward, and now need to focus on the hiring of a new high-school principal and enrollment issues at the elementary and middle school levels," she said. Dr. Foley presented a prepared statement extending his appreciation to the Westfield and Union County Police Departments for their presence at Westfield High School (WHS) on April 20 following a threat of violence at the school. "Although there was no verbal or written threat at the school, the anxiety leading up to the day prompted us to take every precaution," he said. Nearly three weeks ago, a swastika was spray painted on an inside door of the high school and reported in the school newspaper, the *Hi's Eye*.

"Other than the media frenzy and anxiety experienced by some parents and students, it was a quiet day at WHS," Dr. Foley stated. He also confirmed that 35 percent of students did not attend school that day. The board approved the appointment of Stephen Maczynski as acting director of guidance for the upcoming academic year. He will be paid a salary of \$113,000 per year. This summer he will complete two courses needed to remove his acting status. Mr. Maczynski has been director of college counseling at Georgetown Prep in Bethesda, Md. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degree from Georgetown University and another master's degree from George Washington University. "Steve is going to do some counseling, too," Dr. Foley said. "He is a very impressive gentleman."

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

**DESERVED RECOGNITION...**...Legendary Westfield High School (WHS) varsity football/wrestling/golf head coach and former athletic director Gary Kehler, left, WHS Athletic Director Ed Tranchina, center, and WHS Boosters President Vince Wilt stand underneath the two plaques donated by the WHS Boosters to commemorate Kehler's career at WHS.

## Mountainside BOE Reorganizes; Childcare Program Rates to Rise

By GINA LEVINE-LEVY  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader*

MOUNTAINSIDE — The board of education (BOE) swore in its newly elected members Tuesday evening. After returning board member Marybeth Schaumberg and new board member Joseph Tinnirella took their oaths of office, the board reelected John Perrin and Ms. Schaumberg to the positions of president and vice-president, respectively. Business Administrator Roderic McLaughlin was reappointed secretary. The board also appointed representatives to various state, county and local organizations. Mr. Tinnirella will serve as board representative to the Union County Educational Services Commission board. Ms. Schaumberg will continue to represent the board to the Berkeley Heights Board of Education and Mountainside Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). Carmine Venes will serve as the New Jersey School Boards Delegate for Mountainside and Raymond Haggar will serve as the New Jersey School Boards alternate for Mountainside. Gene Nagel will continue on as board representative to the Mountainside Borough Council.

New committee chairs are Mr. Nagel (budget and finance), Mr. Haggar (building and grounds), Ms. Schaumberg (personnel) and Scot Worswick (curriculum). The board will conduct meetings the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. Following the reorganization meeting, the new board conducted its first official board meeting. Subsequent to last week's school board and budget election, the board approved a motion to submit a tax levy of \$11,276,433, approved by voters on April 18, to the borough. The figure includes \$10,884,860 in the general fund and \$391,573 in debt service. In other business, the board approved

a rate increase for the 2006-2007 Mountainside Child Care program. The current rate of \$6 for "scheduled base hours" and \$6.50 "unscheduled" and "beyond base" hours will increase to \$8 and \$8.50, respectively. The current rate of \$1 per minute after 6 p.m. will remain. Mr. McLaughlin said that a first-time audit of the program, based on one year of data, reflected that the program is not adequately covering its costs. He said the program showed a profit of \$2,000 last year but the cost of utilities and supplies, among other things, was not accounted for. "It's hard to say the program was self-funding when there was that small of a margin," he said. Several parents in attendance voiced their concern over the rate hike. Kelly Waters, parent of a Beechwood student in the program, said the new fee "is the going rate of what parents would pay for one-on-one babysitting." She said that parents with more than one child in the program may not be able to afford the increase. Mrs. Schaumberg said, "I sympathize with the hardship it might create but we have an obligation to the taxpayers of this community not to spread the cost of this program."

Mrs. Waters asked the board to examine whether the program can afford staff cuts as a cost-saving alternative. Parent Cathy Jakositz, who ran in last week's school board election, suggested that the board explore alternate areas to cut operating costs, such as utilities. Mrs. Schaumberg said the program has been successful in its current locations and "you do what's best for the program." In other business, the board approved a \$2,800 contract with Automated Building Controls, Inc. (ABC) to service the rooftop heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units at Deerfield Elementary School.

"It's a huge milestone... that we're finally getting these air conditioning units up and running," said Mr. Perrin. Chief School Administrator Dr. Richard O'Malley said that this project is just one of several improving the school. The board approved the dates for the borough's summer camp and enrichment programs. Camp will run June 26 to August 4, and the enrichment program will run June 26 to July 28. Both programs, held at Beechwood School, are closed July 3 and 4. Mr. McLaughlin said a budget for camp will be created, and there is still time to "propose a rate change" from last year if need be. The cost of the program varies depending upon what activities the child chooses. "There's been some evidence to suggest that summer camp has operated in a break even capacity," he added. The board revised wording in the 2006-2007 school district calendar. The December 26 to 29 break will now read "winter recess," instead of "Christmas" recess. Mr. Perrin said the change came in response to "public concern and comment to calling winter recess the Christmas holiday." Dr. O'Malley commended two

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## GW Council Adopts Budget; Taxes to Increase \$257,000

By KATHY MARQUES  
*Specialty written for The Westfield Leader*

GARWOOD — The borough council adopted a 2006 municipal budget of \$6,164,871 Tuesday night, which reflects an increase of more than \$240,000 over last year. The amount to be raised from taxes will rise from \$3.9 million in 2005 to \$4,157,080 this year — an increase of \$257,000. Councilwoman Kathleen Villaggio said the owner of a home assessed at \$100,000 would pay an increase of \$115 over last year for municipal services. Councilwoman Villaggio said in March that budget increases this year were mostly due to employee pensions and health benefits, the library's budget and the annual fee for the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority. In other business, State Assemblyman Dr. Eric Muñoz discussed the proposed \$30.9 billion state budget, which will take effect on Saturday, July 1. He said it's anticipated that residents will be upset over several problems, among them that state spending is going up 9.2 percent, or a total of \$3 billion from last year and that the sales tax is increasing from 6

to 7 percent. There, also, are numerous smaller taxes on gyms, beauty salons, landscaping, cigarettes and gasoline, to name a few, he said. "Municipal and school aid is flat, which unfortunately for the towns around here, will make people somewhat unhappy," Assemblyman Muñoz said. He ended by expressing appreciation to the council members for doing what he described as a "great job" representing the constituents of Garwood. The assemblyman noted that he served six years on the Sum-

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Horace Corbin for The Westfield Leader

**SPRING FLING...**Residents enjoy themselves in downtown Westfield on Sunday afternoon at the annual Spring Fling sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. A break in the rainy weather came just in time for everyone to have a good time.

## Council to Introduce Ordinance To Repeal Redevelopment Zone

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD — During conference session Tuesday, the Westfield town council announced plans to formally repeal the redevelopment distinctions. In addition, the town will enter into a contract for Boulevard improvements and Rahway Avenue quiet-zone work; the council stated intentions to help forge solidarity between the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) and the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (WACC). In closed session, the council discussed the Gregory Kasko lawsuit. Under the Code Review and Town Property Committee report, Fourth Ward Councilman Jim Foerst said the repeal of the redevelopment zones and amending of the zoning map was previously referred to the planning board and unanimously approved. "They sent it back with their blessing," he said. He indicated the issue was discussed at committee level and garnered unanimous support in referring the repeal to the full council. "This is the final nail in the coffin of the proposed parking decks of old," he said. The council will conduct first reading on the repeal ordinance next week. The councilman's committee met with Verizon on Monday, who discussed bringing cable service through fiber-optic cable to the town. Verizon will conduct a public hearing on June 20. "It has the potential to provide the people of Westfield additional competition and choice in terms of cable, telephone and Internet service provider," Councilman Foerst said. Mr. Gildea reminded the council that Westfield does have a franchise agreement with Comcast. "We do get revenue from them (Comcast)," he said. "We can negotiate on a franchise agreement (with Verizon), but we want to make sure we're not compromising our own status with Comcast." Public Works Committee Chairwoman Jo Ann Neylan, the liaison to the WACC, met with David Martone of the DWC and Neil Sullivan of the

chamber. "The objective was for the two entities to work better and more efficiently," she said. She said that what came out of that meeting was a desire on the part of both contingents to work together. She said the heads of both bodies would meet monthly to work on collaborative efforts. The councilwoman envisions a promotional committee, which will formulate "at least three major events over the year." The council will award a bid for Boulevard improvements to Jenicar at \$272,000. Assistant Town Engineer Kris Macaloon noted that there were nine bidders, ranging from Jenicar's low bid of \$272,000 to \$397,000. "This will take care of the new curb section between Grove and Clifton (Streets) and paving from Grove to Clover (Streets)," he noted.

Pursuant to the council's intention to incorporate the Rahway Avenue improvements with the first 2006 road contract, "we are working with (Jenicar) to add the quiet-zone improvements," Town Administrator Jim Gildea said. On the border of Clark and Westfield, there is a grade crossing on Rahway Avenue where the street intersects the railroad tracks. Establishing a quiet zone at the crossing will eliminate whistle blowing, which has had residents in the Summit Court area citing quality-of-life concerns for more than a decade. The Rahway Avenue job, Mr. Gildea noted, is small and requires curbing and paving work. Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee Chairman Sal Caruana said McKinley Elementary School's parking and traffic-flow im-

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## Spatola Resigns, Utilities Auth. Hires New Director

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader*

RAHWAY — The Union County Utilities Authority (UCUA) has hired a new executive director following the resignation of Dr. Joseph Spatola, which became effective last Thursday. Dr. Sunil Garg of Summit, a scientist and attorney, has assumed the role of director. Dr. Spatola, who has been at the helm of the authority for more than a decade since replacing Jeffrey Callahan, resides in Scotch Plains with his wife, State Superior Court Judge Joanne Spatola. Neil Cohen, a state assemblyman who serves as general counsel to the UCUA, told *The Westfield Leader* Tuesday that Dr. Spatola holds an engineering degree from Syracuse University. "He is a great guy," the assemblyman said, noting that Dr. Spatola is an "engineer by trade" and "very detailed." Dr. Spatola will assist the new director in the operations of the UCUA until late June. The new director, Assemblyman Cohen said, has "extensive scientific background and is also an attorney."

"He has a great background," Mr. Cohen said. Dr. Garg has been employed as a consultant with The EcoShelf Group, Inc. and Elder Garg Law Group LLC in Summit since 1999. Prior to that, he worked with International Specialty Products, Inc., serving in the capacities of counsel, director and vice president for environment, health and safety. He also has served on the Union County Democratic Committee. According to his résumé, Dr. Garg holds a law degree from Rutgers Law School in Newark and a doctorate degree in physical chemistry from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. He has a master's degree in chemistry from Stevens and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Delhi in India. Calls placed to Rahway Mayor James Kennedy, UCUA chairman, were not returned. Commissioner Sharda Bardi, who works for the consumer affairs division for the County of Union, declined comment other than to say Dr. Spatola had "retired" and not resigned his post. Ms. Bardi referred calls to Mr. Cohen. *The Leader* was also unable to reach Alternate Commissioner George Jorm of Cranford. Meetings of the nine-member authority are held the third Wednesday of the month at the UCUA offices, located on the third floor of the 1,540-ton per day Union County Resource Recovery Facility on Routes 1 and 9 in Rahway.

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Gina Levine-Levy for The Westfield Leader

**NEW BOARD...**The 2006-2007 Mountainside School Board met Tuesday night. Pictured: (back row from left) Business Administrator/Board Secretary Roderic McLaughlin, Raymond Haggar, Board President John Perrin, Gene Nagel and Scot Worswick; (front row from left) Carmine Venes, Chief School Administrator Dr. Richard O'Malley, Board Vice President MaryBeth Schaumberg.



Karen Shultz for The Westfield Leader

**GARWOOD WINNERS...**The winners of last Tuesday's board of election, from left to right, Lisa Marano, Susan Groning, Adelle Lewis and Barbara Greet. Ms. Marano defeated incumbent James Matheson while the other three candidates are incumbents who were unopposed.

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