

## 5 Candidates Vie for 2 BOE Seats; 2 Seek One-Yr. Term

By GINA LEVINE-LEVY  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — Two newcomers will challenge three incumbents to fill open seats on the board of education.

There are three seats available for three-year terms, and there is one seat available for a one-year term. Ann Palmer, who is not seeking re-election, currently occupies the one-year seat.

Board President Adele Lewis and board member Barbara Greet are seeking re-election. Each is running for another three-year term. Newcomer Susan Groning will run for the third three-year seat. Incumbent James Matheson is running for the one-year term against newcomer Lisa Marano.

Mrs. Marano, a mother of three, said she is anxious to get more involved in the school system now that two of her children are school age. Her five-year-old twin daughters attend Washington School.

"Garwood has a wonderful education system," said Mrs. Marano, whose husband, Jim, a local business owner, is a product of Garwood schools.

Mrs. Marano added that she wants to help maintain what the district has to offer and make sure that the children are offered the best education possible.

"If something's great and it's working, then let's keep it," she said, adding, "it's nice to make a difference where I feel a difference should be made."

Mrs. Marano described herself as "open-minded," "fair," "honest" and "a good leader." She said she is actively involved in the community as a PTA member and the president of "Mountain Plains Mothers of Multiples."

She is also a co-leader of a local Girl Scout troop with the other newcomer to the race, Mrs. Groning.

"We decided to run together," said Mrs. Marano.

And while she may be a newcomer to the BOE race, Mrs. Groning is not a newcomer to Garwood. She has lived in the borough her entire life and is a product of the Garwood school system.

The mother of three said she

joined the race because she wants to be actively involved in the education of her children, two of whom attend Lincoln and Washington Schools. "I like to be part of their every day, and this will make a difference in their education," said Mrs. Groning.

"I'd like to be a big part of the activities and the policies they make. Ninety percent I agree with. Some I would like to see changed, some I would like to see added," she stated.

Mrs. Groning said so far she is thrilled with the new "everyday math" program and her children's teachers. "I'd like to have a say in what's in their curriculum."

She said the budget is also a priority. "I'm not sure what we're gaining, where we're cutting," she stated, adding that she'd like to have an active voice.

Both newcomers say they've attended several board meetings and understand the time commitment.

"I'm used to always juggling," said Mrs. Marano who is also a registered dental hygienist. "Most people who volunteer for things do a lot and know how to juggle their time," she added. "I always put my effort into everything."

As board president, Mrs. Lewis said she has some "unfinished business" that she would like to see through, including the negotiation of a successor agreement with the high school, financial details of the completed school construction project and the "biggest challenge," which is the "ever shrinking budget."

"We have a good quality education here in Garwood and just maintaining that, with all the restraints," is a challenge, she said, referring to state mandates and limited funding.

Mrs. Lewis, the mother of two teenage girls, said she is particularly proud of the Education Foundation of Garwood created two years ago.

"It's a nice resource with all the budget cuts," she said, adding that it is a helpful "outside source to enhance the curriculum."

Mrs. Lewis, who is completing her first term, said she is a strong believer in the Garwood school system. "I'm happy to be a part of it."

Mrs. Lewis, who has served as board president for 14 months, is also secretary for the planning and zoning boards in Garwood and Maplewood. She said she has enjoyed her run on the board thus far. "I feel it's a worthwhile service to the community."

## School Budget Election Calendar

TRENTON — The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has announced the school budget development calendar for the FY 2007 year. Local school districts have begun the development process that leads up to the annual school election, which is scheduled to be held on April 18 (the third Tuesday in April).

Key dates are as follows:  
Tuesday, March 14 Last day for districts to submit itemized budget to County Superintendent.

Tuesday, March 21 Governor's Budget Address. Certification of State Aid and Release of State Aid Notices (within two days of Address).

Thursday, March 23 Last day to advertise for earliest public hearing (four days prior).

Monday, March 27 Earliest day to hold public hearing.

Thursday, March 30 Last day to hold public hearing.

Friday, March 31 Deadline to adopt budget.

Saturday, April 1 (noon) Deadline to submit question to county clerk for preparation of absentee ballots and election machines (17 days prior to election).

For more information, please see [www.nj.gov/njded/finance/](http://www.nj.gov/njded/finance/).



SCIENCE FUN...Dr. John Wagner and Dylan Wagner experiment with static electricity at Joellen Surace's Franklin a.m. kindergarten class in Westfield. Dr. Wagner taught a static electricity science lesson and the students were "shocked" by how much they enjoyed science.

## Field-Maintenance Plan Awaits Union Approval

By KAREN B. SCHULTZ  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Town Administrator Jim Gildea presented a plan to the recreation commission Monday night for recreation-field maintenance with collaboration between the Westfield Recreation Department and the Department of Public Works (DPW).

The new plan for field maintenance will take effect as a trial beginning on April 1 and continue through October 31. During this time, four public work employees will focus on field maintenance and report to Director of Recreation Bruce Kaufmann.

"Recreation (field) maintenance in some people's minds is a luxury — in Westfield, it's not a luxury, but a necessity," said Mr. Gildea. "If this works, this department could end up managing all fields."

Mr. Gildea said he hopes that the end result of putting all fields under one department's umbrella will be improved communication between the two departments resulting in residents having a greater ease in using the fields.

"If we make an effort, we can change the attitude of the users," said Town Council liaison Peter Echausse. "People will take notice."

The plan is for Mr. Kaufmann and the recreation commission to evaluate whether the trial runs smoothly and in November make a recommendation on whether to make this a permanent program. Field maintenance may include lining the softball and soccer fields daily and making sure the fields are consistently clean, he said. It has not been specifically defined yet, as Mr. Gildea is in the process of negotiating with the four unionized employees. Public works employees are members of the Teamsters Local No. 469.

"The department of public works is not as enthusiastic about this, which is to be expected," said Mr. Gildea. "Any kind of change like this, espe-

cially a change in culture, after 20 years of doing things one way, there's going to be some backlash or concern. When they see how things work and see it's not as complicated, a lot of that will go away. Being experimental is important at this point."

In other business, Program Coordinator Traci Kastner mentioned several different initiatives coming up, including the Daddy-Daughter Dance coming up this Friday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at L'Affaire in Mountainside.

Mr. Kaufmann mentioned that Westfield Memorial Pool members have until Thursday, April 13 to register to use the pool this year. In addition, the commission will be accepting bids this Thursday from at least two companies interested in the pool's concessions contract.

Recreation officials briefly touched on the Memorial Park master plan in development. Though close to a final concept, the department stressed that this is still an initial discussion. The department plans on meeting with the commission's parks committee and reviewing the mock up, then putting together a plan for a public input meeting specifically for neighbors who may be affected by any changes. After adjustments are made, the committee hopes to have a master plan to present to the town council in September.

In addition, the department quickly discussed the possibility of a commitment from the Westfield Soccer Association to pay for turfing Sycamore Field.

According to Commission Chairman Jim Marvin, the field has not been useable within the past few years because of a water-retention problem. With an influx of children from the kindergarten and second grade (the largest classes), the commission was in agreement to further discuss making Sycamore Park a priority over the Memorial Park capital project during upcoming meetings.

## WF Planning Board

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

conforming building lots. The approval was granted on the condition that the applicants go before the board's site plan review committee for approval.

Councilman Foerst commented that the architectural review board had looked at the renderings for the houses planned for the new lots that the applicants had submitted and found them to be too similar to each other. Councilman Foerst stated that the two houses look "almost exactly the same." He further noted that he felt one of the great things about houses in Westfield is that not all the houses look the same. He said he wanted to see "some differences in the two houses."

Jonathan Tiger, the applicant who testified on behalf of the project, told board members, "I will be open-minded to meet your needs."

Board member Robert Newell said

## Ferguson to Set Up Mobile Office In SP

SCOTCH PLAINS — Staff members of Rep. Mike Ferguson, (R, 7th), will host a mobile office stop today, March 16 at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building to meet with area residents and assist them with any questions they have with federal agencies. The hours will be from noon to 3 p.m. at the municipal building, located at 430 Park Avenue.

Rep. Ferguson's staffers will meet with residents to discuss the constituent services Congressman Ferguson's office provides.

he wanted to see materials on the houses "consistent on all four sides" and asked Mr. Tiger if he would be willing to come to the next site plan review committee meeting scheduled on Thursday, March 16. Mr. Tiger said he would be willing to make some compromises but would not be willing to attend the meeting.

Board member William Cariste told Mr. Tiger as well as his lawyer, John Wiley, "we have never had a builder say no to coming to a site plan review meeting." Mr. Wiley replied, "I guess we will agree to come."

Finally, major site plan approval was granted for the owners of L & L Waffles Enterprises to put in a Rock'n' Joe Coffeehouse & Bistro at 20 Prospect Street.

Owner Lance Marvin testified on behalf of the project noting that there is a successful franchise of the business located in Cranford that has been in operation for the last 13 years. He said the coffeehouse would be opening in May and will serve desserts, flavored coffees, soups, sandwiches and muffins. He expected a large morning and after dinner crowd. Mr. Marvin noted that there would be a maximum of five employees at any given time and that the hours of operation would be from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 7 a.m. until midnight on Friday and Saturday.

The next planning board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 3, at 8 p.m.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Monday, February 27, Alfredo G. Villanueva, 43, of Avenel was arrested in the 400 block of Tremont Avenue and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). He later was released to a responsible individual.

Tuesday, February 28, Abdul Muhammed, 37, of Middlesex was arrested at Central Avenue and Sycamore Street on an outstanding motor-vehicle warrant from Newark for \$250 and an outstanding criminal warrant from Plainfield for \$1,488. He was turned over to the Plainfield Police Department.

Tuesday, February 28, Clayton C. Ferrara, 22, of Scotch Plains was arrested at South Avenue and Drake Place on traffic warrants from Fanwood, for \$279; Roxbury Township, for \$430; Hillside, for \$81; Bridgewater, for \$304, and Watchung, for \$145, totaling \$1,239 bail.

Tuesday, February 28, Salvador Sepulveda, Jr., 39, of Perth Amboy was arrested in the 600 block of South Avenue on an outstanding criminal warrant issued by Perth Amboy. He was released after posting \$500 bail.

Wednesday, March 1, Mildred J. Kressner, 59, of Westfield was arrested and charged with DWI after a one-car accident at North and Edgewood Avenues. No injuries were reported and Kressner later was released to a family member.

Thursday, March 2, Kenneth W. Pope, 29, of Newark was arrested at South Avenue and Downer Street and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana. Authorities learned there were outstanding warrants for him, including one criminal warrant and one traffic warrant from Newark totaling \$500, and a criminal warrant from Livingston for \$1,000. Pope was released on his own recognizance with a summons for the Westfield charge and turned over to the Livingston Police Department.

Thursday, March 2, Floyd Sandifer, 53, of Plainfield was arrested on Central Avenue near Grove Street on an outstanding traffic warrant from Paramus. He was released after posting \$55 bail.

Thursday, March 2, Crystal Roane, 37, of Westfield was arrested on a Cranford traffic warrant for \$555 at Westfield police headquarters. She was turned over to Cranford authorities.

Thursday, March 2, Duwan Singletary, 20, of Linden was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on an outstanding Newark traffic warrant. He was released on his own recognizance with a new court date per Newark authorities.

Thursday, March 2, Tramaine Johnson, 29, of Brooklyn, N.Y. was arrested at the Rahway Police Department on an open criminal warrant from Westfield for \$500. Johnson was committed on default of bail.

Friday, March 3, a resident of the 800 block of Lenape Trail reported an attempted burglary at her home. An exterior window was discovered broken but entry to the premises was not gained.

Friday, March 3, a burglary was reported at a residence in the 800 block of

## WF Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

input on whether or not there is a need to repeal the redevelopment plan in addition because I had a few questions: Does the pre-existing zoning of the two parcels spring forth or does it need to be redrafted? Does the repeal of the redevelopment plan then leave us with the pre-existing zoning that existed at the two sites? There aren't any answers to these questions. We know what the goal is. It's a question of the right steps."

The council discussed the statuses of three pending demolitions of single-family dwellings on 522 Colonial Avenue, 114 Massachusetts Street and 753 Willow Grove Road. While homes met most requirements and new tree preservation requirements, the Willow Grove home became the first non-conforming lot addressed under provisions in the new corner-lot ordinance.

Termed a "preexisting sub standing corner lot," the home conforms in area, but not width.

The property, according to Town Engineer Ken Marsh, can be developed so long as builders don't exceed the zoning and setback requirements. Mr. Marsh estimated that the dwelling, in an R-12 zone, could have "close to a 40-foot-wide house."

Fourth Ward Councilman Jim Foerst said the measure demonstrated already that the town "effectively controlled one instance of overdevelopment."

After announcing the town's rejection and authorizing a re-bid for repairs at Mindowaskin Bandstand, Town Administrator Jim Gildea said Overlook Hospital approached the town privately about setting up a gazebo to usher in its centennial anniversary. The next step is determining location of the structure.

He said the recreation and police department pages on [westfieldnj.gov](http://westfieldnj.gov) have been updated. The public works department will meet with the website designer today to compile basic information consistent with the content already supplied on the site.

Clark Street. Police said the individual or persons responsible entered the home through the basement and ransacked several rooms, although the homeowner was uncertain as to what had been taken.

Sunday, March 5, Suzanne M. Sullivan, 47, of New Providence was arrested at South Avenue and Boulevard and charged with DWI, refusal to submit to chemical testing and consuming alcohol in a motor vehicle. She was released to a responsible individual.

Sunday, March 5, as the result of a motor vehicle stop at Lamberts Mill Road, Daren Brown, 20, of Edison was arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana. Brown was released with a summons.

### Scotch Plains

Tuesday, February 28, a resident of Clydesdale Road reported being the victim of theft. The victim reported that someone removed mail from his mailbox and then cashed several checks that were in the mail.

Friday, March 3, a Route 22 gas station reported being the victim of theft. The attendant stated that someone purchased gas and fled without paying for it. The amount of gas stolen was \$26.50.

Saturday, March 4, a Union Avenue resident reported being the victim of fraud. He stated that someone opened a credit card in his name and made charges.

Sunday, March 5, a resident of Algonquin Drive reported being the victim of a suspicious phone call. The victim stated that she received a call from someone asking if she could come out and play. No other words were spoken.

### Fanwood

Tuesday, February 28, David Djurdevic, 26, of Detroit, Mich. was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road at Stewart Place for providing false information to police. He was also charged with numerous outstanding warrants.

Wednesday, March 1, Randolph E. Reina, 45, of Edison was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue at North Avenue revealed outstanding warrants. Passenger Kimberly D. Knight, 35, of Scotch Plains was also arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia, hindering apprehension by giving false information and outstanding active warrants.

Friday, March 3, Mark P. Harris, 42, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue revealed outstanding warrants. Passenger Kim Y. Williams, 40, of Sayerville was also arrested for outstanding warrants.

Friday, March 3, Herbert L. Holman, 62, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road and Midway Avenue that revealed active warrants.

Saturday, March 4, Darnell H. Huggins, 22, of Orange was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road at South Avenue revealed outstanding warrants.

Saturday, March 4, Tyshaun L. Davis, 37, of Plainfield was arrested on active warrants following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue at Old South Avenue.

Saturday, March 4, Jeanette Sanchez, 36, of Elizabeth was arrested and charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

Sunday, March 5, Sean E. Ward, 20, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road at Seventh Street for possession of a controlled dangerous substance.

Monday, March 6, Roy A. Williams, 31, of Scotch Plains was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue revealed outstanding warrants.

## Morgan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

when a new roll of receipt paper needs to be added, while a second printer will still continue to print receipts.

He spoke about the two dedicated parking vehicles that house a networked computer and can immediately map out "who's paid and who's not." Plus, it takes a lot less time to collect revenue from three pay stations than from 140 individual meters in a lot.

"If you look downtown today, we have not only replaced every meter mechanism, but we are two-thirds of the way finished replacing meter housing and poles to black ones that match the new lamp posts and streetscape," he said.

Mr. Morgan said he used the old existing inventory, bargaining with the supplier to take back the old ones in exchange for the new at no charge.

He reported that this past January, approximately 72,000 people used the pay stations.

While he feels he and his department have accomplished much, he believes there is still more to be done.

"We are still in phase one of trying to increase the inventory by 100 spots or more," he said, adding that remediation of lot eight is already underway.

Mr. Morgan reported that at this time, the decision has been made to dissolve the parking director position.

"They have a sergeant in the parking department who will take on the day-to-day responsibilities that have already been put in place," he stated.

"But I'm not going anywhere," Mr. Morgan said, noting he will continue on in the special police. "I've volunteered my time in Westfield for 32 years, and I'm not going to stop now."



PROTECT YOUR FAMILY  
WITH A HOME ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION  
LICENSED IN NEW JERSEY

Lead Me Out Environmental Services Inc. 632 Broadway, 7th floor New York, NY 10012  
Phone: (212) LEAD OUT • Fax: (212) 452-4451 • Cell: (917) 553-2113 • Info@Leadmeout.com

## Richard J. Kaplow, Esq.

"25 Years Experience"  
Civil & Criminal Trial Lawyer

### FAMILY LAW

• Divorce • Domestic Violence  
• Custody • Child Support

• DWI • Criminal Defense  
• Business Disputes • Commercial Litigation

Former Assistant Union County Prosecutor

**(908) 232-8787**

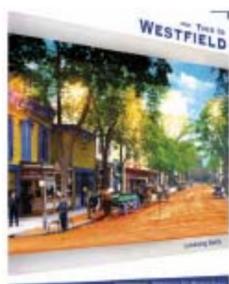
24 Hours • 53 Elm Street, Westfield, NJ 07090

[rjk722@aol.com](mailto:rjk722@aol.com)

[richardjkaplow.com](http://richardjkaplow.com)

## This Is Westfield 2006

34th Annual Edition, coming May 2006



### Reserve Your Ad

### Space Now

See [goleader.com/tiw](http://goleader.com/tiw)  
for details or  
call a real person at  
(908) 232-4407.

Each spring, *This Is Westfield* is mailed to every household in Westfield with the newspaper. Several thousand additional copies are distributed to others. It is a year-round reference for residents and a gift for newcomers. *This Is Westfield* features the region's business, education, civic, government and cultural organizations. A must for business in the region.

### ATTORNEY AT LAW

**Thomas C. Jardim, Esq.**  
**Ramsey Berman, P.C.**



Specializing in:  
EMPLOYMENT DISPUTES &  
SEVERANCE AGREEMENTS  
REAL ESTATE & LAND USE  
ESTATE PLANNING & ELDER LAW

222 RIDGEDALE AVENUE, MORRISTOWN, NJ 07962

973.267.9600 FAX: 973.984.1632

[tjardim@hrb-nj.com](mailto:tjardim@hrb-nj.com) [www.hrb-nj.com](http://www.hrb-nj.com)