

Mountainside BOE

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depending on the final number of students who register. So far, 75 students are registered for kindergarten.

The budget vote in Mountainside will take place from 2 to 9 p.m. at the Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church, 300 Central Avenue; Borough Hall on Route 22 and the Presbyterian Church at Meeting House Lane and Deer Path.

In other news, the board passed 10 new policies, among them Conduct and Dress, Nondiscrimination/Affirmative Action and Employee Evaluation.

The board also passed a revision to the policy on non-residents, which allows for children of staff members to attend school in the district, as long as there is no additional cost to the taxpayers.

Mrs. Knodel voted against the revised policy, stating that accepting staff members' children would open a "Pandora's box." She said, "I don't feel it's a good thing for the district." She added that this policy would be a "perk" that should be negotiated upon hiring.

Board member Gene Nagel emphasized that teachers whose children are accepted into the district would pay their own children's tuition and that attendance of non-residents will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Perrin said the revision "speaks directly" to one of the district goals, which is "to obtain, recruit and retain superior staff."

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, at 8 p.m.

Opinion Column

New Jersey Doesn't Need More Taxes

By Sen. Tom Kean, Jr.

Spring is in the air. In some places, that means longer days, blooming flowers and spring training. Here in New Jersey, the coming of spring means it's the time of year when Trenton politicians ask us for more money. Not surprisingly, this year is no different. Governor Corzine's 2007 budget will raise New Jerseyans' taxes by \$1.8 billion - the fifth straight tax increase on the citizens of our state.

On Monday, I came out against this all too familiar budget blueprint, which asks hardworking citizens to sacrifice more and more every year, while politicians in Trenton refuse to pass even the most basic reforms. I believe that New Jersey residents should not be asked to pay one penny more until state government cleans up its act, so taxpayers can be sure that their hard-earned dollars are not wasted.

Politicians in Trenton have denied the people of New Jersey a strong ban on pay-to-play. They have failed to outlaw dual office holding, to keep political bosses from collecting two paychecks from the public treasury. They have refused to address pension abuse. They have ignored out-of-control public authorities. It seems the only policies they can pass are those that cost the taxpayer more money.

Until these problems are solved, sending more money to Trenton means more

Kean Condemns Port Nuclear Security Lack

MOUNTAINSIDE - The following is a statement from U.S. Senate candidate Tom Kean Jr. on the release of a Government Accountability Office report on the subject of smuggling and detection of nuclear materials. The report was released in advance of Congressional hearings scheduled to begin Wednesday.

"The fact that investigators were able to smuggle the makings of a dirty bomb into the United States is shocking. The Department of Homeland Security must step up its deployment of radiation-detection monitors at all points of entry. Government inaction in New Jersey, the United States, and internationally is unacceptable. We need full implementation of all 9/11 Committee recommendations," said Senator Kean.

waste, fraud and abuse. I believe it is time for the politicians - rather than hardworking New Jersey families - to make the hard choices.

Of course, those who make their living by taxing and spending disagree. Bob Menendez thinks Governor Corzine should be commended, saying that this is the most "fiscally responsible budget in years." Only a Hudson County party boss could call handling more taxpayer dollars to a state government rife with waste, mismanagement and corruption "responsible."

If Bob Menendez really wants a "responsible" state budget, he should support wholesale government reform, to stop the waste and abuse that is bleeding us dry - even if it upsets the political bosses he counts on for support.

Of course, he won't. If the people of New Jersey want real change and new ideas, we need new voices in government. It is time for New Jersey to aim higher.

Tom Kean, Jr. is a candidate for the United States Senate

Kress

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on discipline, hears appeals and recommends reinstatements.

The Supreme Court is the third and highest level of the disciplinary system. It decides applications by the OAE for emergent temporary suspensions of attorneys who pose a danger to the public or themselves. The court hears and decides all recommendations for disbarment, as well as any other disciplinary recommendations where it has granted a petition for leave to appeal.

A suspension precludes an attorney from practicing law in the state for the period the suspension is in force. Reinstatement from a suspension is not automatic, but requires an application and an order of the court.

The Westfield Leader was unable to contact Mr. Kress, who represented himself pro se in the above matters, by press time. A voice mail answering machine is receiving calls at his law practice in Clark.



BUDGETED...Everyone listens intently to the Westfield Board of Education budget meeting on Tuesday night. Typing away, front and center, is School-Community Relations Coordinator Lorre Korceky.

Garwood Council

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the finance committee is recommending increasing funding to the recreation and senior citizen programs as well as funding the position of dispatcher from July 1 instead of the entire year.

The committee is also recommending allocating operating money to departments for new equipment instead of bonding. The police department will replace computers and printers, which are connected to the state. The department of public works will add a dump truck and upgrade its minor equipment.

Councilwoman Villaggio said the borough would continue to work with Union County in a cooperative purchasing agreement by pursuing 90 percent of Garwood's fuel at discounted prices. The borough council will also work with the board of education to look for ways to share services and save the borough money.

In this year's budget, the committee is not recommending additional major equipment purchases or projects except the ones

which had been agreed to such as the Second Avenue road project and digital mapping of the borough's sewers which was mandated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

Mayor Dennis McCarthy took notice of the work that was put into the 2006 budget. "I want to personally thank Council President Villaggio and all that put in the time working on the 2006 budget."

The mayor also noted that the public would be able to comment during a budget hearing at the Tuesday, April 25 borough council meeting.

In other business, officials announced that a chainlink fence would be installed at the fire department and that the public works department will purchase a rolling machine for street paving.

It was also announced that the Garwood Easter Egg Hunt will take place this Saturday, April 1, at the Garwood Little League Field starting at 11 a.m. The rain date is Sunday, April 2.

Westfield Council

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before Tuesday so that they can make "an informed decision."

Third Ward Councilmen Mark Ciarrocca and Dave Haas and First Ward Councilman Sal Caruana are working with Councilman Echausse on the budget process as members of the finance committee. Councilman Echausse said the conversations have been "spirited" and he is "fairly confident" that budget recommendations will be reported shortly after talking about two or three more issues. He felt it important that all parties consent on the budget and reach a unanimous decision before revealing any details.

Public Works Committee Chairwoman and Second Ward Councilwoman Jo Ann Neylan announced that phase two of the White Paper reports is in the works and will focus on improving efficiencies at the zoning and building departments.

Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee Chairman, Councilman Caruana, spoke of the health, social and environmental benefits of the walking school bus, which will encourage parents to walk with their children to school and pick up fellow kids at their doors. Planned for the spring, Councilman Caruana said,

"we're beginning to put a program together and talking to schools. A lot of this will happen in April."

He said discussions are ongoing with the BRAKES (Bikers, Runners Kids Entitled to Safety) group about initiatives at the elementary schools. He alerted elementary schools, children and parents that "this program is coming and you'll be reading a lot about it in the next month." Next month, the town will host a walk-your-child-to-school day on Thursday, May 4.

The council also passed in a simple majority a resolution permitting Elizabeth-based 4 Connections LLC to use existing utility easements in the public rights-of-way to install dark fiber cable and connect to county buildings including the Engineering and Public Works building on South Avenue in Scotch Plains and the Ralph Froehlich Public Safety Building on North Avenue in Westfield.

Councilman Caruana voted against the resolution. After the meeting he told The Westfield Leader he did not attend a subsequent meeting with 4 Connections and remained "unimpressed" with its proposal.

POLICE BLOTTER

Scotch Plains

Saturday, March 18, a Spruce Mill resident reported being the victim of harassment. The victim stated that a neighbor calls her several times a day to complain about the way she drives. The incident is under investigation by police.

Monday, March 20, a Dutch Lane resident reported being the victim of forgery. The victim told police she received a call from her bank stating someone made a purchase for approximately \$680.

Wednesday, March 22, Jose Aguiro, 21, of Elizabeth was arrested and charged with obstruction of justice. Aguiro was reportedly stopped for a motor vehicle violation and supplied false information to police.

Thursday, March 23, a resident of Mountain Avenue said someone smashed the rear window of his vehicle, which was parked in front of his house, and removed items.

Friday, March 24, a Plainfield Avenue business owner reported that after he parked his vehicle in front of his shop, someone removed several items from his vehicle. The value of the stolen items is approximately \$600, police said.

Fanwood

Wednesday, March 15, Karl S. Gates, 32, of Orange was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Midway Avenue and Glenwood Road and charged with hindering apprehension and providing several false names to police, police said.

Wednesday, March 15, Jackoleen Johnson, 52, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with providing false information to police at headquarters.

Thursday, March 16, Adisa Decevic, 19, of Roselle Park was arrested and charged after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue at Sheleens Crossing with hindering apprehension and giving a false name to police.

Saturday, March 18, Monique P. Raymond, 38, of Roselle was arrested on an active warrant following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road at Patterson Road.

Saturday, March 18, Yusef B. Ali, 42, of Beauford, S.C. was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue at Hatfield Road, which revealed numerous outstanding warrants.

Saturday, March 18, Teresa A. Mobley, 33, of Plainfield was arrested following a field investigation, which revealed multiple outstanding warrants.

Sunday, March 19, Ikeef S. Jenkins, 26, of Orange was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road at Midway Avenue, which revealed outstanding warrants.

Sunday, March 19, Albert Bennett, Jr., 60, of Willingboro was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI), police said.

Monday, March 20, Sharoll J. Rocca, 29, of Elizabeth was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue, which revealed outstanding warrants.

Tuesday, March 21, Jeffrey S. Gordon, 35, of Elizabeth was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Midway Avenue revealed a no-bail warrant out of Mercer County.

Sunday, March 26, Ricardo F. Vallejo-Cordova, 29, of Somerset was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue, which revealed outstanding warrants.

Sunday, March 26, Youme Charles, 29, of Elizabeth was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue at 5th Street, which revealed outstanding warrants.

Sunday, March 26, Erik W. Tornquist, 28, of Warren was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road at Midway Avenue, which revealed outstanding warrants.

Monday, March 27, Charles G. Barco, 21, of Plainfield was arrested after a field investigation revealed several outstanding warrants.

Monday, March 27, Jonathan E. Ellcott, 27, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and Old South Avenue, which revealed outstanding warrants.

Mountainside

Monday, March 20, Joseph K. Beford, 21, of Newark was arrested and charged with false uttering and theft by deception after allegedly depositing a forged check into the bank account of another individual and then withdrawing funds from that account, police said.

Monday, March 20, a resident of Deer Path reported being the victim of theft. She received a call from her credit card company stating that someone had made unauthorized purchases using her bank

card. The victim reported that the card was in her possession and has since been cancelled. Police said the incident is under investigation.

Friday, March 24, a patron of a Route 22 restaurant reported that his passenger side window was smashed and his Global Positioning System (GPS) was stolen from the vehicle. A pair of reading glasses, believed to be left behind by the suspect, has been entered into evidence, police said.

Friday, March 24, Kerwin B. Timothy, 23, of Newark was stopped on Route 22 for having tinted windows and later arrested and charged with driving with a suspended license.

Sunday, March 26, Matthew Bermudez, 20, of Union was arrested following a motor vehicle stop for outstanding warrants.

Monday, March 27, Alexandria R. Dimeglio, 23, of Plainfield was arrested following a Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) road check for driving with a suspended license.

Monday, March 27, Anthony Torres, 32, of Corona, N.Y. was arrested following a DMV road check for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked driver's license.

Monday, March 27, Leonard J. Jonah, 32, of Plainfield was stopped on Route 22 for having an expired inspection sticker, a loud exhaust system, broken driver's side mirror and a brake light out. He was arrested and charged with driving with a suspended license.

Monday, March 27, Charles J. Roubesh, 29, of New Providence was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Route 22, which revealed outstanding warrants for him in the amount of \$668.

Westfield

Saturday, March 18, Laura Naab, 39, of Elizabeth was arrested at South Avenue and Center Street in Garwood on criminal warrants from Edison, for \$2,500, and Millburn, for \$1,000. She was turned over to Edison authorities.

Sunday, March 19, a resident of the 1000 block of Ripley Avenue reported someone stole a headlight from her motor vehicle while it was in her driveway.

Sunday, March 19, a resident of the 600 block of Shackamaxon Drive reported someone stole the headlights from his motor vehicle while it was in his driveway.

Sunday, March 19, James V. Gill, 5th, 41, of Jackson was arrested at Westfield police headquarters and charged with theft of moveable property for allegedly removing a painting valued at \$24,000 from an East Broad Street building. Gill was released with a summons. The painting was recovered.

Tuesday, March 21, someone spray painted the number 666 and an anarchical symbol on the front doors of an Elmer Street church.

Tuesday, March 21, an Orchard Street resident reported that someone removed a blank check from her house.

Tuesday, March 21, William Ricketts, 54, of Princeton was arrested at Somerset County jail on a criminal warrant from Westfield for \$200. He was committed on default of bail.

Tuesday, March 21, Terriann Magill, 18, of Rockaway Beach, N.Y. was arrested during a motor vehicle stop at Chestnut Street and Hillcrest Avenue on a Westfield criminal warrant for \$500. She was released on her own recognizance per the Westfield Municipal Court.

Tuesday, March 21, a Tamaques Way resident reported the theft of a cellular telephone, the value of which was unknown, from an unlocked locker at a local field house.

Wednesday, March 22, Kimberly Henry, 21, of Old Bridge was arrested during a motor vehicle stop in the 500 block of Springfield Avenue on a criminal warrant from Union Township for \$1,500. She was turned over to the Union Police Department.

Thursday, March 23, Kimberly Ryan, 36, of Union was arrested at Mountain and Birch Avenues and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). She was released to a responsible individual.

Friday, March 24, Kunwar Baba, 21, of Westfield was arrested on North Scotch Plains Avenue and charged with disorderly conduct, obstructing administration of law and resisting arrest for allegedly interfering with a police motor vehicle stop involving his brother. Baba was released with summonses.

Friday, March 24, Omar Harris, 37, of Westfield was arrested at Cranford police headquarters on two criminal warrants from Westfield. He was released after posting a total of \$100 bail.

Saturday, March 25, Hayley Seethepalli, 40, of Westfield was arrested at Central and South Avenues and charged with DWI. She was released to a responsible individual.

Saturday, March 25, Latasha Edwards, 22, of Plainfield was arrested in a municipal lot off of Central Avenue and charged with shoplifting, hindering apprehension, forgery and possession of false identification. She also was wanted on a Plainfield criminal warrant for \$750 and a Woodbridge motor vehicle warrant for \$500.

The arrest occurred after Edwards allegedly shoplifted two pairs of jeans from an East Broad Street store. She was held in lieu of \$25,000 cash bail pending transport to the Union County jail.

Saturday, March 25, Nicole Crincoli, 18, of Kenilworth was arrested at East Broad Street and Linden Avenue and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and underage possession of alcohol. She was released with summonses.

Saturday, March 25, Jukka Laitamaki, 49, of Westfield was arrested and charged with DWI following a motor vehicle accident investigation at Carleton Road and West Grove Street. He refused medical attention at the scene for a head injury but subsequently was transported to Overlook Hospital in Summit after complaining of chest pains. Laitamaki was later released to the hospital staff per John's Law and issued a summons.

Sunday, March 26, Jose Espinoza, 22, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with DWI following a motor vehicle accident on West Broad Street in which he allegedly struck a parked car. No injuries were reported. Espinoza was held at Westfield police headquarters until sober.

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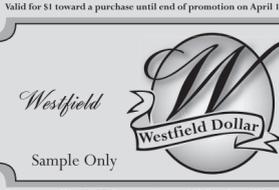
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