



WE ALL SCREAM...Westfielders enjoying the 70-degree weather on Monday afternoon get their first taste of soft-serve ice cream from a Mister Softee truck at Mindowaskin Park. Victoria McCabe for The Westfield Leader

BOE Names Ginny Leiz President, Seeks Energy Education Manager

By STEVEN REILLY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Board of Education is "ready to roll," new board President Ginny Leiz said at Tuesday night's reorganization meeting. The former vice president succeeds board member Anne Riegel, who served as president for the past three years.

Returning board members Julia Walker, Richard Solomon and Ms. Leiz were sworn in after winning their uncontested elections on April 17. Ms. Leiz, who received 2,002 votes, took office as the board president, while the top vote getter, Ms. Walker (2,027 votes), was installed as vice president. Mr. Solomon received 1,982 votes in the election. "I'd like to congratulate my fellow board members," Ms. Leiz said. "Perhaps our seats were uncontested because members of the public who considered becoming candidates suspected, as I already knew, how formidable and capable you both are."

The district faces a number of issues that will dominate the board's time, she said.

MS BOE Discusses Writing Curriculum, Re-elects Officers

By GINA LEVINE-LEVY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Mountainside Board of Education on Tuesday night held its annual reorganization meeting and later introduced a new writing curriculum.

Acting as temporary board chairman, School Business Administrator Roderic McLaughlin swore in re-elected board members Raymond Haggar, Gene Nagel and Carmine Venes for new three-year terms.

Board member John Perrin was re-elected president, and Marybeth Schaumberg was re-elected vice president. Mr. McLaughlin was re-appointed board secretary.

Board member Joseph Tinnirella remains BOE representative to the Union County Educational Services Commission board, while Mrs. Schaumberg will continue as the representative to the Berkeley Heights BOE and the Mountainside Parent-Teacher Association.

Mr. Nagel remains board representative to the borough council, and Mr. Venes continues as the New Jersey School Boards delegate, with Scot Worswick as the alternate.

The board also appointed committee chairmen. Mr. Perrin announced he would combine the budget and finance and building and grounds committees, with Mr. Nagel serving as chairman and Mr. Haggar serving as a committee member.

"The board has many challenges ahead of us," Ms. Leiz said. "Hiring a new superintendent and high school principal, planning and opening our Early Childhood Education Center at Lincoln School, beginning the renovations at Roosevelt Intermediate School and setting plans in place to balance our intermediate enrollment. Any of these items, by themselves, would be a major challenge to many boards."

Mr. Solomon used these pending issues as one reason to table future discussion on a proposal before the facilities committee to erect a full functioning cellular transmission antenna and equipment shed at Edison Intermediate School.

According to Mr. Solomon, the district has received at least one proposal from a cellular company to install a cell-tower structure on school property. Mr. Solomon said the committee has decided to postpone any discussion of the cell tower, which would include how much the district would profit from the structure, until a new superintendent is hired.

Board members noted the need for

an energy education manager. The district made an issue out of the need to cut operational costs in the 2007-2008 \$78-million school budget, the tax levy of which was approved by voters by a margin of 1,956 to 1,094.

However, without an energy education manager, the district cannot progress with its plans, officials said.

"We simply cannot progress without this individual," Ms. Leiz said.

Mr. Solomon said that the district looks to recruit a retired educator familiar with the district and well known throughout the schools to fill the position. "The individual must be well respected for this proposal to work," he said.

The district hired the consulting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Garwood Residents Discuss Proposed Guerriero Field

By KATHY MARQUES
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — More than 30 residents attended Tuesday night's borough council meeting in support of a proposed park project at the James V. Guerriero Memorial Field. They stressed the need for Garwood to have its own park and a meeting area for senior citizens.

Also, Mayor Dennis McCarthy announced he has appointed himself, Borough Administrator Christine Ariemma, Councilwoman Kathleen Villaggio and Borough Treasurer Sue Wright to "work with the board (of education) to help them with getting a budget" completed. Borough voters defeated the proposed \$6.4-million school tax levy by a tally of 292-176 on April 17. The total proposed budget was \$8 million, of which \$7.3 million represented operating expenses.

Concerning the park project, a committee appointed by the mayor proposed a facility that would have a soccer/hockey/baseball field, new basketball court, synthetic turf, playground, walking trail, bocce ball court and quiet sitting area. The project as proposed may or may not also call for construction of a field house.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



WHO'S AFRAID OF THE BIG BAD WOLF...Vinnie Reo, trainer for Wolf Visions, gets up-close and personal with his four-year-old wolf, Saffire, while his 4-month-old Australian Shepherd, Ice, looks on at the Trailside Nature and Science Center last Sunday. Mr. Reo, of Wolf Visions (awolf.org) is dedicated to the education, preservation and restoration of the wolf. He has attended Wildlife Sunday for nearly a decade and brings wolf education to local schools.

Virginia Tech 'Hokie Pride' Survives Mass Murder on College Campus

By LINDA B. CONDRILLO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — Before April 16, "Hokie" wasn't exactly a household word. Only a fanatical college sports fan or an alumnus of Virginia Tech would know that Hokie is the official name given to the college of engineering's sports teams, fans, students and alumni.

Kaitlyn Moore of Mountainside is a Hokie. Last week, everyone became Hokies.

After graduating from Governor Livingston High School, Berkeley Heights, in 2004, Kaitlyn fell in love with Virginia Tech. She told *The Westfield Leader*, "When I first went down there to check it out with my parents, I remember saying to myself, 'this is the school for me.' The drill field is just so pretty, and Blacksburg is beautiful."

Kaitlyn, a junior on the Virginia Tech Dean's List, plans to become a teacher. Her mom, Corinne, works for Mountainside's chief of police James Debbie, volunteers her time with the Mountainside Drug Alliance and serves on the rescue squad. Corinne and her husband, Brian, have three other children and have lived in Mountainside since Kaitlyn was in first grade at the Deerfield School.

In an exclusive interview with *The Leader*, mother and daughter recalled the day no one could have predicted or stopped Cho Seung-Hui, a 23-year-old student, from taking the lives of 32 people before turning his gun on himself.

Kaitlyn had been asleep in her off-campus apartment when the phone rang. She told the newspaper, "I almost didn't pick up because the night before, we had some very strong winds; it was so loud that I was awake most of the night. Since I don't have class on Mondays, I slept in and had no idea what was happening until my mom woke me up."

Mrs. Moore said, "We have a tele-

vision here at work, and when I saw the news report, I thought to myself, 'Oh, no, not Virginia Tech again.' I raced down the hall to a phone and called her right away. It was a relief to hear her groggy voice. I told her there was a shooting at the school and to stay right where she was."

In addition to a recent string of

way to Norris Hall, where the death toll would climb by the hour. Initially, authorities thought there were two gunmen and had detained a student they thought might be a suspect prior to the second shootings.

According to Kaitlyn, a blanket e-mail sent word to the students informing them of the first incident, but all the details weren't known at the time. She told the newspaper, "I believe they wanted to get the story straight."

The boyfriend of one of Kaitlyn's four roommates is a resident of the West Ambler Johnston dormitory, where the slain RA (resident advisor) was assigned.

She said, "My roommate Karen called him; he had gone out for breakfast and missed the whole thing. She drove right over, picked him up and brought him back to our apartment."

As news reports of the tragic events began to explain what had happened, Kaitlyn said, "All of us just sat on the bed watching TV, silent, sobbing and waiting to find out who they (the victims) were."

She added, "It was like re-living the day the World Trade Center was attacked. We didn't know names, just numbers, which made it so awful."

According to Kaitlyn, New Jersey is highly represented at Virginia Tech, and many Governor Livingston

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Linda B. Condrillo for The Westfield Leader
 UNITED WE STAND...Safe and sound and back home in Mountainside after the shooting at Virginia Tech, Kaitlyn Moore, left, stands alongside her mom, Corinne Moore, at borough hall.

bomb threats, Kaitlyn told the newspaper that on the very first day of classes last August, an escaped inmate suspected of killing a police officer and a security guard was at-large on the campus.

At the time of Mrs. Moore's phone call, the gunman had not yet made his

WF Committee Recommends \$2.6-Mil. Capital Budget

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The council's finance policy committee, under the guidance of First Ward Councilman Peter Echausse, presented its recommendations for a \$2.66-million 2007 capital budget on Tuesday night.

Town Administrator Jim Gildea said the budget does not include funding for the Westfield Memorial Pool, a non-tax-supported entity, noting that the town would issue a separate capital ordinance.

With assets of \$225,000, the budget stands at \$2.44 million. Various road improvements constitute about half of the budget, at \$1.3 million. Public works equipment accounts for just shy of 8 percent of the budget at \$206,000, with police department expenses totaling just under \$145,000.

Police Chief John Parizeau said the money would help supply portable handheld radios that will allow for communication with the fire department, "completes" the process of equipping the police fleet with GPS tracking systems and would fund a logging and archiving system for 911 calls.

Third Ward Councilman Dave Haas "thanked the department chairs for allowing us to cut out most of what they wanted. When we look at \$2.5 (million), for the last few years, that's pretty good, but we're going to have to go lower than that in the next few years...it has to get leaner."

First Ward Councilman Sal Caruana said, "The 800-pound gorilla in the room is debt service. The way we control debt service is to control our capital budget. We're going to have to become more creative and more con-

servative down the road."

Mayor Andy Skibitsky said the budget represented a "good example" of the "fine balance of protecting our infrastructure and not putting it off on future budgets."

After an executive session concerning collective-bargaining agreements with the Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association (FMBA) 30 and the Teamsters, Mr. Gildea spoke to the press about last Friday's meeting between the state FMBA president, town and FMBA representatives, where minimum manning was discussed.

"We are very concerned about sick time," Mr. Gildea said. "We brought that issue to light. They agreed to visit the issue and sit down with Chief (Dan) Kelly and go through an analysis of sick time. In return for that, we agreed on an interim basis...to go back to a minimum manning of seven."

He said the town wanted "to let them know that minimum manning and money (are not) the (issues) for us."

Mr. Gildea said he remained concerned over a 186-percent increase in sick time (in total hours) between 2005 and 2006.

When asked if there were abuses of sick time, Mr. Gildea said, "I'm not saying there were abuses, but we want to make sure the trends we're seeing can be potentially changed if possible."

After factoring out the absence of four FMBA members whose wives had babies and those with long-term injuries, Mr. Gildea said that "there is still a 97-percent increase."

He said the Friday meeting yielded "positive results for both sides."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Tax Collector's Office Open Late on Tuesday

WESTFIELD — The office of the Westfield Tax Collector will be open on Tuesday, May 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. for collection of taxes.

The last day to pay without penalty is on Monday, May 7. Payments received on Tuesday, May 8, will be charged interest reverting back to the original due date of May 1.

For more information contact the office of the tax collector at (908) 789-4051 or by e-mail at taxcollector@westfieldnj.gov.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



HIGHER EDUCATION...At last week's Westfield council meeting, Acting Mayor Mark Ciarrocca presented a proclamation to the College Woman's Club of Westfield. The club, which was founded 90 years ago with a charter membership of 36 female college graduates, awards scholarships to young women in the Westfield area.

PAGE INDEX					
Regional	2-3	Education	8-9	Real Estate	13-23
Editorial	4-5	Obituary	10	Classifieds	22
Community	6-7, 11	Sports	13-19	A&E	24-26