

## Mountainside Reorganization

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

there is a need for a community center and also knows the desires of many of our seniors to remain in town with some type of senior housing." He indicated that such programs are "being actively investigated" and his administration "may present some concepts to you in the very near future."

Councilmen William Lane and Robert Messler - both of whom ran unopposed in November - were sworn in (to their second and third terms, respectively) by municipal Judge James DeRose, who previously took his oath of office for another term.

Councilman Keith Turner was elected president of the borough council, replacing Paul Mirabelli.

Mr. Mirabelli praised Mayor Vigilanti's leadership. "Certainly, he makes the job of councilman much easier," he said of the mayor, who responded that the borough's successes "could not be done without the council we have."

Mayor Vigilanti said the council doesn't "have egos and [is] not here for political reasons; [the councilmen] are here because they really care about the community."

Tuesday night's meeting also included police department commendations, the promotion of Sergeant Richard Weigele to lieutenant and the swearing in of a new patrolman and the entire eight-man fire department.

Other key board appointments include: John Post, borough attorney; Frank Sahaj, municipal prosecutor; James Debbie, part-time borough administrator and police chief; Martha DeJesus, borough clerk; Patricia Scherer, tax collector; Mike Disko, borough engineer; Suplee Clooney and Company, borough auditor/financial advisor, and Bollinger Insurance, borough insurance agent.

Additional appointments were: Ronald Romak, public works schedule coordinator; Stephanie Trano, act-

ing zoning and land use officer; George McGrath, construction code official; Jill Goode, chief financial officer; Frank Massella, director of recreation/municipal pool administrator; Adam Lieb, assistant recreation director/municipal pool administrator; Eldo Magnani, tax assessor; Ruth Rees, planning board recording secretary, and Vincent Loughlin, planning board attorney.

Other appointments included the following: Paulette Drogan, senior citizens coordinator; Lillian Corsi, local assistance director (Town of Westfield); public works crew members Robert Farley, Richard Neri, Thomas Root, Oscar Cardona, and Horacio Colell; Michael Debbie, cable television coordinator; Angelo Rossi, plumbing inspector, and Jerry Eger, building sub-code official. Also, Neil Williams, Jr. was named chief of the borough's volunteer fire department.

The borough council's standing committees have been organized as follows: Police - Keith Turner, chairman, Paul Mirabelli and Glen Mortimer; Solid Waste/Recycling - Mr. Mortimer, chairman, Mr. Mirabelli and Mr. Messler; Recreation - Mr. Turner, chairman, Mr. Mirabelli and Mr. Lane; Channel 35 - Mr. Mirabelli, chairman, Mr. Lane and Mr. Turner.

Council liaisons are: planning board, Mr. Messler; board of health, Mr. Schon; board of education, Mr. Mirabelli; library, Mr. Mortimer; rescue squad, Mr. Lane; board of tax appeals, Mr. Messler; emergency management, Mr. Turner; local assistance, Mr. Turner; board of tax assessors, Mr. Messler; construction board of appeals, Mr. Messler; shade tree, Mr. Schon; historic preservation committee, Mr. Mortimer, and Children's Specialized Hospital, Mr. Mortimer.

The borough council's monthly work session meeting is Tuesday, January 9; its regular monthly meeting is Tuesday, January 16.



Greg Ryan for The Westfield Leader

**SERVICE RECOGNIZED...**The Westfield Police Department and PBA Local 90 recently held its awards ceremony. Pictured, standing in the back, from left to right, are: Officers Preston Freeman, Frank Moya, Jason Carter, Joseph Martino, John Tango, Marcin Kapka, James Stivale and Frank Padovano; seated, Officers Donald Perkins, Nicole Stivale and Leonard Lugo.

## Westfield Police Officers Honored at Awards Program

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Police Department and the Police Benevolent Association Local 90 recently held their annual awards program at the Knight of Columbus.

Officers Richard Smialowicz and Vincent Piano and Dispatcher Jeffrey Johnson received certificates of merit for their work in an October 26, 2005 call for an unresponsive cancer patient. The officers found the patient was not breathing and had no pulse. They initiated CPR, and established breathing and pulse. The patient was then transported to the hospital, where she succumbed to her illness.

Officers Robert Riley, Jason McElean and Marcin Kapka received certificates of merit. They responded to a stolen vehicle alert from Springfield Police Department, which had been pursued into Westfield and collided with a utility pole. Two male subjects abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot.

While searching the area, Officer Riley discovered one of the suspects hiding underneath the resident's deck and took him into custody. Another suspect was arrested shortly thereafter.

Officers James Stivale and Frank Padovano received the command citation for a call that led to the arrests of three motor vehicle occupants for possession of a half-pound of marijuana, digital scale, packaging material, 55 tablets of amphetamines, ecstasy, numerous items of drug paraphernalia and \$346 in cash. An area drug dealer was also arrested.

Officers Stivale and Padovano received the command citation for responding to a call leading to two arrests for engaging in prostitution and one arrest for promoting prostitution. The officers were commended for their actions in uncovering a prostitution ring.

Officer Nicole Tango-Stivale received a command citation for a motor vehicle stop leading to seizure of marijuana, drug packaging material, a simulated Beretta 9 millimeter handgun and \$224 in cash.

Officers Kapka, James Stivale, Tango-Stivale, Riley, Padovano received the certificate of merit for taking in 21 juveniles into welfare custody following four earlier arrests for disorderly and drug charges.

Officer Donald Perkins received a command citation and Officers Anthony Vastano, Chris Battiloro, Frank Impelizzeri received the certificate

of merit for taking two persons into custody on January 1, 2006 after they attempted to flee in a stolen vehicle. A ninth-month old infant was found in the car.

Officers Joseph Martino and Kapka received the command citation for initiating a motor vehicle stop resulting in seizure of 13 baggies of marijuana, as well as \$276 in cash. Inside the car, 290 baggies for packaging drugs were also seized.

Officers Jason Rodger received the command citation while Sgt. Andrew Gallagher, Det. James McCullough, Officer Robert Beaton received certificates of merit for capturing a suspended driver following a high-speed pursuit through residential neighborhoods in Westfield and Scotch Plains before ending on Crossway Place in Westfield.

The driver, an illegal immigrant from Nigeria, was charged with three counts of aggravated assault on police, second-degree eluding, resisting arrest and numerous motor vehicle offenses.

Officers Jason Carter, Leo Lugo, Frank Moya and Perkins received command citations for a motor vehicle stop for an equipment violation resulting in seizure of four bags of marijuana, a 9-mm handgun, several 15-round magazines and hollow-nosed bullets.

Officers Stivale and John Tango received medals of merit and Officer Joseph Martino received a certificate of merit for a motor vehicle stop resulting in the seizure of 32 individual bags of marijuana and a .22 cal semi-automatic handgun loaded with hollow nosed bullets, as well as more bags containing marijuana. A strip search of one those arrested turned up 16 additional bags of marijuana hidden in the groin area, and \$611 cash.

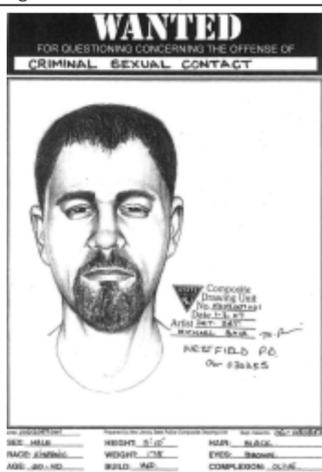
Officers Kapka and John Tango received a command citation for initiating a car stop resulting in seizure of two bags of marijuana and packaging material for future distribution.

Officers Preston Freeman, Padovano and Kevin O'Keefe were awarded command citations a motor vehicle stop that resulted in seizure of marijuana, drug packaging material, and 10 hits of LSD. The suspects were arrested and charged accordingly.

Officers Kapka and John Tango, medal of merit, and Officer James Stivale, command citation, were recognized for a motor vehicle stop for unrestrained children. A further investigation resulted in seizure of burnt marijuana, three small bags of marijuana and a large amount of cash, a .25-caliber automatic handgun and hollow nosed bullets and ecstasy pills. The occupants were also charged with endangering the welfare of a minor.

Officers Robert Bartkus, Jr. and Padovano received the command citations a car stop resulting seizure of burnt marijuana, ecstasy and cocaine, as well as smaller amounts of rock cocaine and marijuana and \$1,000 cash.

**SUSPECT WANTED...**The Westfield Police Department has released the following composite of a suspect wanted for an alleged sexual assault of a Westfield High School male freshman that occurred in September in a WHS boy's bathroom at 11 a.m. during school hours. Police said the suspect allegedly pulled out a small knife, described as a switchblade, and lured the victim into a bathroom stall, where the attack occurred. The suspect is described as an Hispanic male, 30 to 40 years old, 5-feet, 10-inches tall, 175 pounds with a medium build, black hair, brown eyes and an olive skin complexion. The suspect is said to have been wearing dirty blue jeans and a dark green pocket tee shirt and spoke clear English. Police said the family notified police of the attack two weeks ago when victim told his parents. Anyone with information is asked to call the WPD at (908) 789-4000, extension 0.



## POLICE BLOTTER

**Westfield**  
Saturday, December 23, Randy Majocha, 24, of Westfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated after a motor vehicle stop at Boulevard and Park Street. He was issued a summons and held until sober for release.

Saturday, December 23, Thomas Hanscom, 24, of Westfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters and charged with DWI and refusal to submit to an Alcotest. Hanscom later was released to a responsible individual.

Saturday, December 23, Jesse Brown, 20, of North Plainfield was arrested at North and Dudley Avenues and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana. He was released with a summons.

Sunday, December 24, Karsten Moen, 45, of Redmond, Wash. and charged with aggravated assault for allegedly throwing bodily fluid at a law enforcement officer.

Authorities said Moen spat in the officer's face as he was being transported from Harrow Road to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield for an involuntary psychological examination. He was committed to the hospital for evaluation.

Monday, December 25, a resident of the 1000 block of East Broad Street reported that the driver's side window of his motor vehicle was broken during the early morning hours that day while the vehicle was parked in the driveway of his home.

Monday, December 25, a Scotch Plains resident reported that a window was broken on his motor vehicle while it was parked in a driveway of the 100 block of Brightwood Avenue.

Tuesday, December 26, a business on the 100 block of Central Avenue reported the theft of \$430 worth of cologne as a result of an apparent shoplifting. Store employees observed obvious vacancies of merchandise from the shelves.

Tuesday, December 26, Guillermo Lagos, 61, of Tobyhanna, Pa. was arrested on an outstanding \$2,500 Newark warrant during a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and Crossway Place. Lagos posted bail and was released.

Wednesday, December 27, during a motor vehicle stop at Lamberts Mill and Dorian Roads, police arrested Joseph Bartolotta, 21, of Scotch Plains on a charge of possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana and Dustin Jefferson, 22, of Fanwood on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. Both were released on their own recognizance with a summons.

Thursday, December 28, Christian Patterson, 18, of Westfield was arrested during a motor vehicle stop at Dudley Avenue and Clark Street and charged with DWI. He was released to a responsible individual.

## WF Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

board's Robert Newell to a term expiring at the end of 2010.

The council retired to private session in the middle of the meeting to discuss *Kasko vs. The Town of Westfield*. Town Administrator Jim Gildea told *The Westfield Leader* that the discussion surrounded a federal lawsuit brought against the town by Mr. Kasko. He added that he would review a disciplinary hearing officer's decision for lying under oath during previous testimony and will make a recommendation within a few weeks.

The council held a moment of silence for President Gerald Ford and Ernest Winter, Westfield's oldest resident, born in March 1902. The mayor announced that he "had unfortunately passed away last week." The mayor described Mr. Winter as a "lifelong humanitarian" and a (testament) to Westfield's spirit of volunteerism."

Sunday, December 31, Mark A. Grillo, 36, of Toms River was found asleep behind the wheel of his vehicle and after further investigation was arrested for DWI.

Monday, January 1, Carlos F. Rios, 27, of Elizabeth was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 for numerous violations and charged with DWI.

Thursday, December 28, Rae Ann Watson, 30, of Rahway was arrested on Central Avenue on charges of theft by deception and forgery. According to police, in November, Watson allegedly took out a credit card in someone else's name, with which she made purchases. She also allegedly registered a motor vehicle in the victim's name and received parking tickets. Watson was released with a summons pending a court appearance.

Thursday, December 28, Ann A. Morgan, 54, of Woodbridge was arrested at the East Brunswick Police Department on a Westfield traffic warrant. She later was released on \$350 bail.

Friday, December 29, Nicole Carscadden, 22, of Cranford was arrested on Dudley Avenue near Forest Avenue and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. She was released with a summons.

Friday, December 29, Angela A. Podias, 25, of Springfield was arrested and charged with DWI after her motor vehicle left the roadway and traveled up on the lawn of a residence at East Broad Street and Gallows Hill Road. Podias was issued two summonses and released to her mother.

Friday, December 29, William Whitney, 51, of Westfield was arrested on Dartmouth Street on a no-bail Union County Sheriff's Department warrant. He was turned over to the sheriff's department.

Friday, December 29, Kenneth Majors, 32, of Scotch Plains was arrested on Alden Avenue in Scotch Plains and charged with DWI. He was released to a responsible individual.

**Scotch Plains**  
Tuesday, December 26, a business on Terrill Road reported being someone obtained her credit card information and made several hundred dollars worth of unauthorized purchases.

Thursday, December 28, Lance McNeill, 22, of Plainfield was arrested for an outstanding South Plainfield warrant per a motor vehicle stop.

Friday, December 29, Steven Hawthorne, 26, of Irvington was arrested for an outstanding Scotch Plains warrant after a motor vehicle stop.

Saturday, December 30, a resident of Myrtle Avenue reported someone caused damage to his front lawn.

Monday, January 1, a resident of Henry Street reported that he returned home and noticed damage to the back door. Entrance was not gained and nothing was reported missing, police said.

**Fanwood**  
Saturday, December 23, a resident of Hunter Avenue reported someone cut the wire of his outdoor Christmas lights.

Tuesday, December 26, Dorothy M. Dallah, 66, of Scotch Plains was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road for an outstanding Livingston warrant.

Saturday, December 30, a resident of Glenwood Road reported someone scratched his vehicle while it was parked on the street.

Sometime between Friday, December 29, and Sunday, December 31, a resident of Martine Avenue reported someone threw clementines at her house and car.

**Mountainside**  
Thursday, December 21, Rodney W. Johnson, 38, of Piscataway was transported from the Union County Police Department on an active warrant from Mountainside for \$300.

Thursday, December 28, Anthony N. Malczanek, 21, of Scotch Plains was arrested following a motor vehicle stop for speeding and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana.

Sunday, December 31, Mark A. Grillo, 36, of Toms River was found asleep behind the wheel of his vehicle and after further investigation was arrested for DWI.

Monday, January 1, Carlos F. Rios, 27, of Elizabeth was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 for numerous violations and charged with DWI.

## Mountainside Board of Ed.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

actually brought people out at 10 p.m. to a school."

Both Republican legislators offered alternate solutions for property tax relief.

"Why don't you start with obvious waste," said Mr. Bramnick, who proposed sending forensic accountants into local districts to track funds. He also suggested eliminating pensions for legislators to cut costs.

Mr. Kean said the state must "get to the core" of spending issues by riding of dual-office holders and banning "pay to play" practices where companies make campaign contributions in exchange for work contracts with the government.

The Republican legislators also fielded questions from residents and BOE members.

Resident Berri Duswalt said she was surprised to learn that members of the proposed countywide BOE would be appointed, not elected.

"It's fascinating the level of control they'd be given," said board Vice President Marybeth Schaumberg.

Mr. Bramnick said if the countywide district prevails, local residents would have "no way of ex-

pressing (their) opinion."

Board member Carmine Venes said, "Some of the most ineffective districts in the state are the larger districts. Larger does not mean more efficient."

Both of the legislators from District 21 encouraged residents to write to their representatives.

"You need to get your voice heard," Mr. Kean said. He asked residents to offer their insight and experiences on "what works and what doesn't. This needs to be a statewide movement. A lot more decision making at the county level would do a great disservice to residents of this community."

Mr. Bramnick encouraged residents to write to statewide publications. "Politicians do react to newspapers," he said. He also asked constituents to write to Governor Jon Corzine prior to his "State of the State" address on Tuesday, January 9. "You can be assured that we'll be standing in front of this train if they try to take away local control."

The BOE will hold its next regular meeting Tuesday, January 9, at 7:30 p.m.

a picture is worth a thousand words  
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**CIVIL UNIONS ARE NOW THE LAW**

Governor Jon Corzine has just signed into law new Legislation establishing CIVIL UNIONS. It is important to know that your rights can be protected by a pre-Civil Union Agreement (similar to the often utilized pre-Marital Agreement) prior to your entering into a Civil Union.

Should you have any questions about what this means to you, the Cranford Law Firm of Dughi & Hewit, P.C. is pleased to announce that *Mario C. Gurrieri, Esq.* Chair of its Family Law Department, *Richard A. Outhwaite, Esq.* and *Lisa Stein-Browning, Esq.*, will provide a free office conference so that your rights may be explained your questions answered in connection with Civil Unions and preceding agreements.

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