

Cranford/Garwood/Area News

GW BOE Proposes \$8.35 Mil. Budget at 2-Percent Cap

By **CHRISTINA M. HINKE**
Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader*

GARWOOD – The borough's board of education approved, by a 6-0 tally on Thursday, a proposed budget for the 2012-2013 school year totaling \$8,349,831, which includes a general fund of \$7,682,554 and special revenues of \$134,160, with \$7,258,780 to be raised in taxes. Taxes would be increased 2 percent, representing a hike of \$146.39 for the average Garwood assessed home of \$102,710.

The district moved its election to the November General Election, which eliminates the public vote since the budget is at the 2-percent state-imposed cap. The budget represents a \$292,400 increase over 2011-2012 with the tax levy increasing by \$135,733. State aid totaled \$487,384, an increase of \$117,414 over last year. The budget allows the district to maintain extra-curricular activities. The total debt service payment for this year is \$533,117.

Board Business Administrator Janine Murray presented the budget to the board and public. Ms. Murray said the total administrative cost is \$172,860 below the state permitted maximum.

Health services almost doubled over last year, by \$58,000, because the district included salaries for one physical therapist and one occupational therapist to keep special-services students in-district for these services. Ms. Murray told *The Westfield Leader* that it could cost some \$60,000 for one student to go out-of-dis-

trict for one of these services.

The contract between Garwood and Clark for Clark supplying high-school education to Garwood students at the Arthur L. Johnson High School totals \$1,851,000 for 2012-2013, Ms. Murray said.

Only one resident attended the budget hearing Thursday.

"Balancing the budget by taking money from the capital fund is horrendous," resident Bruce Paterson said. "I can see now why it was so easy."

"We did say last year we were going to do that for the next few years," Superintendent Teresa Quigley responded.

Rosary Altar Society To Meet April 12

GARWOOD – St. Anne's Rosary Altar Society will hold its next regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 37 South Avenue in Garwood. Park is available behind the building on Willow Avenue.

President Christine Guerriero will welcome all members and call for committee reports. Election of new officers for the 2012-2013 Rosary year is scheduled for this meeting. The program will feature Judith Toma, who will speak on Guardian Angels and the power of angels in one's life.

Refreshments will be served. A trip to Atlantic City's Showboat Casino is scheduled for Sunday, April 29. The next Rosary Sunday is May 6 and will be observed at the 8 a.m. Mass with recitation of the Rosary at 7:40 a.m. in St. Anne's Church.

Probitas Verus Honos



EGG-TRAVAGANZA...Children race to collect plastic eggs at Garwood's Easter Egg Hunt held at the Little League fields on Sunday. In addition to prizes, there was a visit by the Easter Bunny.



POLICE BLOTTER

Garwood

Monday, March 5, Edward Freeman, 48, of Fanwood was arrested and charged with leaving the scene of an accident and driving while intoxicated after an accident investigation on the 300 block of Spruce Avenue. Freeman was released with a pending court date.

Thursday, March 8, James Palughi, 33, of Garwood was arrested after an investigation of a burglary on the 500 block of Spruce Avenue. Palughi was charged with burglary and released on \$15,000 bail.

Thursday, March 8, Erin Hynes, 28, of Westfield was arrested after an investigation of a suspicious person at a residence on the 500 block of Spruce Avenue. Hynes was charged with trespassing and released with a pending court date.

Saturday, March 10, Ronald Sigl, 54, of Garwood was arrested after police received a report of a shoplifter at a store on the 500 block of North Avenue. Sigl was charged with shoplifting and released with a pending court date.

Sunday, March 11, Arben Ismajli, 33, of Garwood was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on the 100 block of North Oak Street. Ismajli was charged with making a right turn on red, failure to exhibit documents, loud muffler, uninsured vehicle, possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) and possession of CDS in a motor vehicle. He was released with a pending court date.

Saturday, March 17, Ana Paget, 63, of Westfield was arrested after an investigation into a motor vehicle crash on the 400 block of South Avenue. Paget was charged with DWI and released with a pending court date.

Sunday, March 18, Katharine

Murphy, 27, of Garwood was arrested after an investigation of a suspicious person inside Unami Park. Murphy was charged with possession of CDS and released with a pending court date.

Monday, March 19, Yazmin Rios-Valerio, 22, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on the 400 block of South Avenue. Rios-Valerio was charged with providing false information to a police officer and released with a pending court date.

Monday, March 26, Joseph Gero, 37, and Rosa Salazar, both of Elizabeth, were arrested after an investigation into the theft of scrap metal from a business on the 200 block of North Avenue. Gero was charged with trespassing, theft and eluding police. Salazar was charged with trespassing. Both were released with pending court dates.

Tuesday, Thomas Maxwell, 25, of Westfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on the 200 block of North Avenue. Maxwell was charged with operating an unregistered vehicle, driving while suspended, failure to wear a seatbelt, operating an uninsured vehicle and providing false information to a police officer. He was released with a pending court date.

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