



FUN IN THE WORLD

ENJOYING THE TROPICS...The Connelly family enjoys The Westfield Leader while vacationing at the Melia Caribe Tropical resort located on Bavaro Beach Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Pictured are: Jack, 3, and Erin, almost 6.

IMPORTANT MISSION...Emily Smith, a Westfield High School senior, recently travelled to Asunción, Paraguay as a volunteer for Operation Smile, as part of its medical mission. She is seen here in front of the Government Palace, Palacio de los Lopez. Ninety-seven children received surgery for cleft lip or palate during the week-long mission.

ONTOP OF THE WORLD...The Staple family holds a copy of The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times on top of the Haleakala crater in Maui during a recent trip. The crater was formed from volcanic eruptions thousands of years ago. At 10,000 feet above sea level, it takes over an hour to drive up the mountain and is an ideal location for seeing the sunrise. Pictured, from left to right, are: Andy, Ethan and Noah. The trip was a celebration of Ethan's bar mitzvah, which occurred a week earlier at Temple Emanu-El in Westfield.



County Budget

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ters were being discussed concerning the planned layoffs.

"Garwood's taxes are going up 7 percent. I think this is wrong," Mr. Paterson said. "I believe you guys are lost financially." He said it was unfortunate the county was "cutting essential services."

"I think the blame is on all of you because you don't know what you're doing up here," Mr. Paterson said. "One that I find very sad is that you are cutting corrections officers," he added, citing an incident several years ago when two inmates from the county jail escaped, and expressing concern about a public-safety risk.

Jim Buettner of Cranford said the budget contains a lot of "wishes, needs and wants that I think a lot of the taxpayers could actually live without." He also questioned whether construction of new ice skating center at Oak Ridge Park, still in the planning stages, and the banquet center/clubhouse under construction at Galloping Hill Golf Course, are essential services that need to be in the budget. He also suggested the county join the state health plan to save money. The county's health insurance premiums are up \$6.7 million to \$45.5 million.

In other business, County Counsel Robert Barry said an ordinance approved by the freeholders on Thursday contains a number of changes, including removing the requirement for county residency for employees after 15 years of employment with the county.

Director of Personnel Matthew DiRado said a memorandum to all county department directors from Mr. Faella has detailed a new fuel-consumption policy restricting them to two tanks of gasoline per month for their assigned vehicles. In addition, more cars currently assigned to department heads will be turned back to the county's motor pool of available vehicles.

Vehicles are assigned to all department heads as well as the county manager and the deputy county manager, the county clerk, surrogate, sheriff, undersheriffs, first assistant prosecutor, juvenile detention center superintendent, county police chief, emergency management director and medical examiners.

Under the ordinance, the availability of motor pool vehicles has now

been restricted to the following uses: law enforcement purposes, client transportation and visits, construction site visits, daily authorized county business and visits to areas with a high rate of vehicle theft and break-ins.

The freeholders also approved a resolution in support of state legislation, Senate Bill 1565 and Assembly Bill 2302, which would authorize Internet wagering at Atlantic City casinos.

Ed Heaton of Springfield, chairman of the Union County Paratransit Advisory Board and a member of the advisory board on the disabled, said the Internet wagering would result in more funding for Paratransit.

"What's important is that we get our funding level as high as possible," Mr. Heaton said, noting that revenue generated from a tax on Atlantic City casinos has been "cut dramatically" in Union County due to lack of casino revenues and competition.

Kathy Carmello, director of the Union County Paratransit System, said a 2010 report has indicated that Internet gambling would generate between \$46 and \$55 million a year in additional tax revenue for the state in what is anticipated to become a multi-billion-dollar industry nationwide. Currently, there is an 8-percent tax on casino gross earnings in Atlantic City, which funds senior and disabled transportation programs. Under the legislation, an annual 10-percent tax on Internet wagering gross revenues would be paid into the casino revenue fund. The 8-percent tax would not be charged.

Casino revenues benefiting Union County elderly and handicapped residents is anticipated at \$1.4 million this year, down \$215,000 from last year, according to the county budget. Casino funding for these programs has dropped statewide from \$36.9 million in 2008 to \$29.1 million in 2011, according to The Record newspaper.

"So I really think this is a wonderful bill to be approved," Ms. Carmello said.

Representatives of Jewish Family Services and Mobile Meals of Union County also spoke of their support for the legislation.

Sid Blanchard of Scotch Plains said casino revenues have "a lot to do with (funding) our senior citizen services as well as for people with disabilities," including "transportation to essential services."

Cranford Council

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Department of Environmental Protection based on what Mr. Morin said were a "multitude of issues," including flooding impact issues.

Work continues on the township's \$33.7-million budget for 2012, and Deputy Mayor Kalnins said that at the committee's Tuesday, May 8 meeting, several amendments will be offered, including one to add a new line of revenue from the Cranford Crossing PILOT (Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes) program that "will ease the tax burden" a bit. He said some added appropriations would be necessary this year for renovations to the lower level of the storm-damaged municipal building. Mr. Kalnins also said that for the first time since 2008, township supervisors would receive a salary increase of 2 percent.

The \$33.7-million spending plan was introduced two weeks ago, but a formal public hearing and vote will not occur until June to allow the governing body time to make changes and to await final state aid figures.

The public hearing and vote on the ordinance regulating the feeding of wildlife on public and private property will be held at the committee's May 8 meeting. Two weeks ago, the committee approved an amendment to address concerns that had been raised about the scope of the proposed restrictions, with some residents worrying that even the feeding of birds would result in penalties.

In other matters, Commissioner O'Malley said last Saturday's town-wide river cleanup was "widely attended and nicely supported." He said some 150 volunteers helped clear nearly the entire river, and noted that another cleanup is set for the fall.

At the start of the one-hour meeting, Commissioner O'Malley presented certificates to two local businesses - Lifeline Tech Solutions and Dinner In A Pinch - for their efforts at adopting environmentally-sustainable practices as part of the local Go Green initiative. Members of Girl Scout Troop No. 40894 led the committee in the salute to the flag.



NEW CHIEF...David Wayman is sworn in as Westfield's new police chief by Acting Mayor JoAnn Neylan. His wife, Jean, holds the Bible. The chief received a standing ovation from the large crowd, including former Westfield Police Chief Bernard Tracy. Recently retired Police Chief John Parizeau received a proclamation for his 31 years of service to the town.

David Wayman Sworn In as New Westfield Police Chief

By LAUREN S. BARR Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WESTFIELD - Westfield's new police chief, David Wayman, was sworn in and retired Chief John Parizeau was honored at Tuesday night's Westfield Town Council meeting.

Acting Mayor JoAnn Neylan read remarks from Mayor Andy Skibitsky, who was unable to attend the meeting due to being home sick with pneumonia. The mayor expressed "his deep appreciation" to retired Chief Parizeau for his 31 years of service to the town, saying, "I thank you and wish you the best." Regarding incoming Chief Wayman, the mayor said that he was confident in his ability to serve Westfield.

Acting Mayor Neylan swore Chief Wayman in and said she, "look(s) forward to a very prosperous and safe future" under his leadership.

Chief Wayman thanked his family, as well as Chief Parizeau and former Chief Bernard Tracy, who was also in attendance. He said that he, "thank(s) the mayor and town council for having confidence in me and entrusting me with the position of Police Chief. I will not let you down."

Chief Wayman has been on the Westfield Police force for 24 years. He started in the patrol division and worked his way up the ranks from detective, to sergeant, to lieutenant and most recently captain for the past six years.

After receiving his resolution, Chief Parizeau thanked former Chief Tracy, Chief Wayman and Captain Cliff Auchter. He also thanked the members of the police department, saying, "I hope that your career is as rewarding as mine was."

Both men received standing ovations from the crowd of approximately 50 family, friends, and police personnel.

In other business, a public hearing was held on the municipal budget, and there were no comments from the public. The budget will not be formally adopted until it receives state approval, which has been delayed due to staffing shortages in Trenton. The council approved the budget for the Special Improvement District for \$409,605.

An ordinance also was passed on first reading allowing for the repaving and construction of new granite block curbing on Seneca Place from Embree Crescent to Coleman Place and First Street from Rahway Avenue to Hyslip Avenue. While the town will bear the

cost of the roadwork, residents will be assessed the cost of the new curbing, payable over five years. According to the ordinance, the total cost of the project is \$120,500.

During the open discussion by citizens, Maria Carluccio, Adina Enculescu and Greg Kasko once again spoke out against the pedestrian activated HAWK signal on Central Avenue.

Mrs. Carluccio said that a minor accident occurred recently, bringing the total number of accidents in the area to eight since the light's installation. When she asked Acting Mayor Neylan, First Ward Councilman Frank Arena and Third Ward Councilman Mark LoGrippo if they had anything to say, Councilman LoGrippo responded, "After your last voice mail to me, I have nothing to say." He declined to elaborate further when asked by Mrs. Carluccio.

Ms. Enculescu said that no parents allow their children to cross alone at the light. She also asked what Town Administrator Jim Gildea had done to get her driveway fixed following construction of the light.

Mr. Gildea said that because the project was constructed by Union County and is in the county right of way, he contacted the County Engineer Tom Mineo, and said that he believed that Mr. Mineo had reached out to Ms. Enculescu in order to resolve the issue.

"So you didn't do anything," Ms. Enculescu told Mr. Gildea. As her time was up at the microphone, Ms. Enculescu shouted "liars" on her way back to her seat in the audience.

Mr. Kasko accused Councilman LoGrippo of being "disingenuous" by insinuating the Mrs. Carluccio's message was anything other than a question. He also said that Central and Clover Street was identified as a hot spot, and that despite the installation of the HAWK light nearby, it remains a problem intersection.

WF Police Thank Community For Help In Identifying Man

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Police Department thanks the public for their help in identifying a man who was found collapsed on the running track behind Roosevelt Intermediate School at 9:50 a.m. on Saturday morning. The man was identified as a resident of West Dudley Avenue. His family was notified and with him at the hospital. His condition is unknown.

STAR BRIGHT...Children's Specialized Hospital Friends, previously known as the Children's Specialized Hospital Auxiliary, staged "Stepping Out with CSH Stars" on Saturday night at the Gran Centurions in Clark. Professional Dance Studio 22 in Mountainside and Paragon Ballroom in Roselle Park generously donated their time and talents, making it an exciting time for the large crowd of supporters of the kids at the hospital.



Pictured, left to right, photo 1: Jennifer Vestal (professional) and the winners Miss New Jersey Katharyn Nicolle and Nikita Malakhov (professional); photo 2: Event Chairwoman Gail Sloan, standing, and judges Carol Kearney, Anthony Marolda and Gene Jannotti; photo 3, Event Assistants Mary Ann Anthony, Susan Schwarz, Kathryn Spada, Susan Doherty and Carolyn Cordeiro. Posing are Joan and John Blake. Carol Kearney won the prize for the brightest shoes, posing with Mr. Jannotti.