

Plan Your Future.



Jamie Marner
Financial Advisor
140 Central Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07091
908-518-5427
james.marner@mssb.com
www.fa.smithbarney.com/marner

Whether you are planning for retirement, education, travel or other goals, we can work together to make your objectives a reality. My approach consists of three elements:

- Assessing your current financial situation and goals
- Creating a customized strategy to achieve your future plans
- Executing your plan and protecting it as challenges arise

Contact me today to get started.

**Morgan Stanley
Smith Barney**

© 2012 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Member SIPC

7th District GOP Primary Candidates Consider Debate

REGION — Arrangements are underway for a debate between Rep. Leonard Lance (incumbent, R-7th Dist.) and Republican challenger David Larsen for the 7th District Congressional seat. Awaiting confirmation by the candidates, tentative arrangements are made for Wednesday, May 23, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Westfield Municipal Building in the Town Council Chambers. The New Jersey Primary Election is on Tuesday, June 5.

Rep. Lance has confirmed that he will participate. Details are being worked out with Larsen Campaign and an update for the debate will be published next week with the details also on goleader.com shortly.

The proposed one-hour debate to discuss the issues facing the nation will be open to the public, recorded, and aired on local cable access TV36 Westfield as well as being made available to other stations. The video would be on the Internet at www.goleader.com. Seating for the public would be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The debate, administered by *The Westfield Leader*, is to include ques-

tions provided in advance from the public and the candidates — compiled by the newspaper. E-mail questions for consideration to editor@goleader.com.

The 7th District, effective January 2013, and applicable to the June 5, 2012 Primary, includes Clark, Cranford, Garwood, Mountainside, Westfield and a small section of Scotch Plains. For full details of the district, see <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/gis/maps/congressional1220.pdf>.

Due to redistricting, Fanwood and most of Scotch Plains (now in the 7th District through 2012) will be moved to the New Jersey 12th Congressional District. The 7th district will now include additional towns from Essex, Hunterdon, Morris and Somerset Counties.

Asm. Upenra Chivukula (D-17, Somerset) is running unopposed in the June Democratic Primary Election. The winners of the GOP and Democratic Primaries will face off in the Tuesday, November 6, General Election. The filing deadline for Independent candidates for Congress is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5.



DERBY PARTY...During friendly wagers at a Kentucky Derby party in Westfield last Saturday, the lucky winners pose. Pictured, left to right, are: Jimmy Annese, Gail Sloan, Patty O'Connor, Charlie Pijanowski and Ursula Dube. Observing in front are Jeff and Jackie Casey.

Process to Recall Mathieu Begins In Garwood

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — A committee of three borough residents has begun the process of recalling Garwood Councilman Jim Mathieu. The councilman, elected to a three-year term in November 2010, has caused a storm locally for his actions from allegations of harassment by Borough Clerk Christina Ariemma that is the subject of a lawsuit against the mayor and borough council to his questioning crossing guards regarding unemployment benefits they collect during summer months.

The committee includes Bruce Paterson, Rosemary Snow and Gene Jannotti. A petition seeking an election to recall the councilman must be signed by 25 percent of registered voters in Garwood as of the 2011 General Election, meaning 674 of the 2,693 registered voters. If successful, the recall election would be held on the General Election ballot on Tuesday, November 6.

Mr. Paterson said the deadline to submit the petition with the required signatures is August 5 with the process completed by August 31 in order to make the November 5 ballot.

Mayor Patricia Quattrocchi said the action to recall Mr. Mathieu was made by residents and not by the borough.

Ms. Ariemma, who published a legal notice announcing the formation of the recall committee by the three residents, said a recall election is a "daunting and significant process."

Mr. Jannotti said he hoped the recall would be successful, but even if it fails he hoped the effort would "send a statement to Councilman Mathieu to correct his behavior."

Once the petition is presented, Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi has 10 days to verify signatures and

determine if it is in compliance with state law. If approved, Mr. Mathieu or anyone else wishing to challenge the election official's decision would have to do so in writing within 10 days of approval of the petition. Subsequently, decisions on contested petitions can be appealed to state Superior Court.

When reached for comment Tuesday by *The Westfield Leader*, Mr. Mathieu said, "I am standing up for I believe in and I am standing up for the taxpayers" and that he was "willing to face a recall" in that regard.

GW Opts Not to Change Law for Crossing Guards

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — A borough council committee has opted not to recommend changing the borough ordinance regarding borough crossing guards to match provisions in state legislation introduced by two Trenton Republican lawmakers.

Republican Assemblypersons Amy Handlin and Jay Webber have talked of amending bill no. 132 they introduced in January concerning eligibility for unemployment insurance for certain seasonal workers. The amendment to the legislation would term part-time school and police workers and other departments as seasonal workers, thus making them unable to collect unemployment.

The borough council's police committee, chaired by Councilman Timothy Hak, said the committee is not recommending changing the borough law right now to mirror the Assemblypersons' intentions. The borough's crossing guards, who are school part-time employees, came before the council previously, stating their objection to losing unemployment pay when they are off in the summer.

Currently, the borough pays unemployment to crossing guards, who are considered part-time workers. Councilwoman Sara Todisco, a member of the police committee, said the committee recommended waiting a year to see how things pan out in the state and review the outcomes of other municipalities that are changing labor laws.

"If we want to compensate our crossing guards differently, then let's raise

the pay," said Councilman Jim Mathieu, who suggested having them not collect unemployment in lieu of a higher pay scale.

Council President Keith Sluka, who also said he supports not paying unemployment benefits to borough crossing guards, said there are two alternatives — privatizing the crossing guards or making them 12-month employees. "The committee doesn't think there is enough savings in both of those," Mr. Sluka said.

To privatize the crossing guards, the borough would realize a savings of some \$10,000, Ms. Todisco said, upon Councilman Mathieu's asking.

"Ten [thousand], and we're not doing it?" Mr. Mathieu responded.

Councilman Victor DeFilippo said the children and parents know the current crossing guards and have a sense of safety with them. "For the little bit of savings — you don't know who you are getting," he said.

In other business, Mr. Hak said this year's bulk trash pick-up permit would cost \$125 per household, up from \$55 last year. This year the service will be handled privately and not by borough employees as was done last year. Officials said this is to alleviate overtime, potential worker's compensation, and wear and tear on the borough's vehicles. Mr. Hak recommended that two to three households pitch in on a permit to absorb the price hike. Borough Clerk Christina Ariemma recommended having bulk trash picked up after the borough-wide yard sale to be held Saturday and Sunday, September 15 and 16.

Residents of The Pointe, a newly built condominium complex, again voiced their negative opinion of paying double the taxes of the average taxpayer in the borough, while also having to pay extra for private snow removal and garbage hauling. The Pointe and the borough are in the middle of litigation concerning the matter of snow removal and garbage pick-up.

On another matter, it was noted that there is a prevalent rodent problem on Willow Avenue home properties due to the nearby brook that is home to the rodents, property owner Al Dolcote told the governing body. He asked the council what measures the board of health is taking and why a health inspector had entered the backyard of his property without his knowledge. Baits have been set in the brook, Ms. Ariemma said, but she said she would look into the issue further.

Councilman Lou Petruzzelli announced there would be a memorial service for deceased fire department members on Wednesday, May 16, at 8 p.m. at the fire department headquarters on South Avenue.

Ms. Todisco, the council's finance committee chairwoman, said the borough received \$6,676 from the state's Clean Communities grant.

Mayor Patricia Quattrocchi said a meeting was held last week regarding Garwood joining the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce. "It could work really well for Garwood," she said. Some residents in Garwood had been working to reinstate a chamber of commerce for the borough, but the effort had been stalled.

The council also unanimously passed an ordinance to assign a restricted handicapped parking space at 630 Willow Avenue.

Councilman Petruzzelli announced that eight bidders attended a pre-bid meeting with the borough on May 2 for the building of the athletic field complex. This is considerably lower than the some 30 bidders who attended the first pre-bid last year, Ms. Ariemma added.

The borough had to resubmit bid specifications after a bidder had complained about how the specs were initially written. The site for the \$2.1-million complex was slated to break ground this summer.

The council's next meeting, on Tuesday, May 15, is Student Government Night. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Westfield Rec. Comm.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

across from Gumbert Park, told the commission that people coming to ball games are parking and blocking neighbors' driveways in the area. He stressed the fact that he is all for baseball, but that the parking situation has become a problem.

"We did it (Gumbert improvements) to make the field competitive with fields from other towns. One of the mandates we had was awareness," Recreation Commission Chairman Jim Marvin remarked.

Mr. Kaufmann said he would talk to the traffic division of the Westfield

Police Department concerning parking issues at Gumbert.

On another matter, Commissioner Peter Echausse said the parking situation at Tamaques Park was less than ideal and potentially unsafe. He there is an overlap of the need for spaces between games when cars are leaving while others are looking for open spaces. He proposed adding 40 to 50 more parking spaces.

Commissioner Larry McDermott suggested that it was a problem of enforcement. "The commission looked at a map of the park to see where spaces could be added," he said.

Cranford Township

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

would be whether the feeding creates a public nuisance, which he said is defined as "a violation of public health, safety and welfare."

One resident, for whom wildlife feeding activities have been a subject of contention with her neighbors, raised the specter of residents using the new ordinance as a springboard to push for other ordinances addressing specific complaints about their neighbors. "Any time someone's neighbor does something they don't like," she said, "an ordinance can be passed." She said the color of one's house or too many weeds in a yard might be the next concern addressed in an ordinance. The ordinance, she said, "opens the door to that."

Commissioner Lisa Aduato Nesi said the ordinance was "prudent for the community and for the wildlife." The committee approved the ordinance by a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Edward O'Malley voting against it, saying that the town's "serious issue with deer and geese" was not adequately addressed in the ordinance.

The committee will vote on the 2012 municipal budget at its Tuesday, May 22 meeting, and on Tuesday, amendments to the \$337-million spending plan were approved that more clearly defined some of the appropriations and revenue figures, including a Clean Communities grant, \$400,000 from the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program at Cranford Crossing that allows local governments to retain most tax revenue from age-restricted housing developments and an additional \$100,000 for the capital improvement fund to fund town hall renovations.

Deputy Mayor Andis Kalnins said the amendments would mean a slight reduction of \$227,000 in the total property-tax levy of just over \$21 million, and a corresponding reduction in the municipal tax increase from 4 percent to 2.96 percent.

The committee gave unanimous approval to the \$143,518 budget for the Downtown District Management Corp.

(DMC), and a few moments later, introduced an ordinance changing the DMC's name to the Downtown Business and Economic Development Office. Commissioner Aduato Nesi said the DMC had requested the change "to better reflect the purpose and function of that organization." The public hearing on the ordinance will be held on Tuesday, June 12.

At the start of the meeting, members of Girl Scout Troop No. 40272 led the flag salute. Mayor David Robinson presented two retiring township employees, Margaret Herzer and Kathryn Washburn, with certificates of appreciation for their service. And in conjunction with Peace Officers Memorial Day on Tuesday, May 15, the mayor issued a proclamation declaring the week of May 13-19 as Police Week.

New Jersey Energy Tax

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the money that is rightfully ours returned. We want to work with Trenton...on coming up with a better formula that will return more than what we are currently getting."

"There is such a sense of entitlement to this money by the lawmakers in Trenton," Mayor Mahr added. "To me it's outrageous."

The state legislation is sponsored by Senator Paul Sarlo (D-36, Wood-Ridge), who chairs the Senate Budget Committee and also serves as mayor of Wood-Ridge, and Assemblyman Troy Singleton (D-7, Mount Laurel).

"The legislation would restore \$385 million cut from 2009, 2010 and 2011 budgets while providing an additional \$54 million to support aid increases required under existing law," according to a press release from the sponsors. "After the five-year run-up, the state would be mandated to distribute the full amount of energy tax revenues to municipalities."

Based on a formula calculator for energy tax revenues held by the state

(available on the LOM website), Westfield has lost \$9.5 million over the past 10 years, including \$2.9 million in 2010 and \$2.5 million in 2011. Westfield received \$3.1 million in 2011, \$2.6 million in 2010 and \$4 million in 2009. Cranford has been averaging \$2.9 million in energy tax aid the last two years after receiving upwards of \$3.6 million from 2007 through 2009.

Garwood Mayor Patricia Quattrocchi said while the borough has not run the numbers to see the amount the state is withholding from Garwood in energy tax revenue, increased funding, even to the tune of \$6,000 to \$7,000, "is good in my book" and is "worth pursuing." She said she takes "great offense" to the state holding money that belongs to Garwood.

According to borough budgets on its website, Garwood has received \$490,000 in aid the past few years, the bulk of which is from the energy tax, after receiving \$616,000 in 2009.



BREATHTAKING VIEWS...Ed and Kathy Sjonell of Scotch Plains took time to review *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* while on a recent trip to Chile, Argentina and Brazil. Uguassu Falls can be seen in the background. Magnificent!

Union County Freeholders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

job fairs are planned for May and June as well as seminars with representatives from state and federal offices "to help employees with the transition."

Charles Wowkanech of Ocean City, president of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, said there was a "drastic disparity between the way the administration of Union County has treated the workers at the low end of the salary spectrum as compared to those at the high end."

"It is quite clear that the sacrifice is only being asked of those who can least afford it," Mr. Wowkanech said, alluding to housekeepers and workers in the laundry department and other workers earning between \$35,000 and \$45,000 a year.

He accused the county administration of "carving out" supervisors and management positions from the layoffs and rewarding them "with huge salary increases."

"It's well documented that the list of individuals making over \$100,000 has exploded" from 31 in 2000 to 131 now, Mr. Wowkanech said. "So the low-wage workers are being sacrificed at the risk of giving these lavish raises."

Jeff Robinson of Rahway, a worker with the county's social services division, said 37 layoffs are scheduled in his department as of June 1 despite the fact there are "all-time record levels" for food stamp applications and other programs at social services.

"How do you expect our workers to continue to service the clients?" with less staff to handle the large caseload, Mr. Robinson questioned. "A portion of [laid off workers] will be showing up at social services applying for food stamps."

Barbara Egger, president of Health Professionals and Allied Employees (HPAE) Local 5112, representing registered nurses at Runnells Specialized Hospital, questioned the freeholders on whether contracts have been approved to privatize services at Runnells.

Kathy Hatfield, a Springfield attorney handling labor negotiations for the county, responded that the county is "examining whether there are certain functions at Runnells that can be accomplished through privatization."

"We are looking at certain contracts and responses that we've gotten from state contractors, but no decisions have been made yet. We will be allowing the unions opportunities to bid on the work once we do have those contracts in place and we expect that to be happening in the next couple of weeks," Ms. Hatfield stated.

The freeholders approved a \$1.9-million, one-year contract on April 26 with Kennett Square, Pa.-based Genesis ElderCare Rehabilitation Services, Inc. to privatize occupational, physical and speech therapy services at Runnells.

Freeholder Chairman Mirabella told *The Leader* after Thursday's meeting that the board hopes to have

a contract approved before June 1 for other services at Runnells. He said he hoped the company that would take over additional operations would hire workers being laid off by the county.

Mr. Sullivan said the main culprit in the Runnells \$14-million deficit are cuts in reimbursement in Medicaid funding from the state for patients.

"And there is no way to get that money back," Mr. Sullivan said, noting that Runnells was not intended to be a "not a money-making operation for the county."

Tina Marie Lopez, assistant supervisor at social services and member of CWA 1080, said her union was willing to take voluntary furloughs "to stop some of these layoffs," noting she was willing to take a three-week furlough.

"Please come to us with a dollar amount (the county is looking for in union concessions) and let's see if we can meet it," Ms. Lopez said.

Tina Renna of Cranford, president of the Union County Watchdog Association, said the county "has not done away with even one patronage job."

"It's unconscionable what you are doing" to county employees, Mrs. Renna said.

WF Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ent results" in comparison to the regular complaints regarding the HAWK signal. He added that the accidents have occurred when the light is not activated.

Mayor Andy Skibitsky said when people read the newspaper they may think that this issue is dominating the council's time but said, "believe me, it's not" and that the council is "working on many other things."

Barbara Ruvolo thanked the council for adding signs to Tamaques Park advising drivers and cyclists regarding lane assignments. She said that the signs are improving the safety of cyclists.



ALOHA...On a recent trip to Maui, Reyna, Dan, Luke and Emma Ortolani of Westfield enjoy *The Westfield Leader*.