

Process to Recall Mathieu Begins in Gwd

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 Quattrocchia 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

Probitas Verus Honos

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.

Garwood Crossing Guards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

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 Quattrocchia 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.

Probitas Verus Honos

Garwood/Cranford News

Two Local Students Chosen For NJ All State Honor Choir

FLEMINGTON — Dan Montealegre of Cranford and Conor Flood of Scotch Plains were selected for and participated in the 20th Annual New Jersey Junior High All State Honor Choir Concert held at the J. P. Case Middle School in Flemington on May 5. The students were sponsored by Tom Pedas of Garwood, their private voice teacher, and were selected through competitive auditions held in January.

"Not only were Dan and Conor selected for this prestigious choir, but Conor had the highest tenor score in the state and Dan had the highest bass 2 score in the state. This is a huge honor and

accomplishment and I am very proud of both of them," Mr. Pedas said.

The Honor Choir concert is an annual event sponsored by the American Choral Directors Association and the New Jersey Music Educators Association and open to public and private schools, churches and private studios throughout the state. This year's choir sang music in five different languages including Latin, French, and Korean. Highlights of the concert were a Maori welcome song from New Zealand sung in its native language, "It Don't Mean a Thing" by Duke Ellington and the spiritual "Walk in Jerusalem."

This year's Junior High Honor Choir was conducted by nationally known composer and conductor, Dr. Lon Beery, of New York. Dr. Beery previously taught music and composition at Syracuse University and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester and has previously directed All State Honor Choirs in Connecticut, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas. Of his experience in New Jersey Dr. Beery said, "I had a wonderful day working with the New Jersey Junior High Honor Choir. What great kids...and so well prepared."

To commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the honor choir concerts, each student was presented with a medallion, which they wore during the concert.



BRAVO...Dan Montealegre of Cranford and Conor Flood of Scotch Plains participated in the 20th Annual New Jersey Junior High All State Honor Choir Concert held at the J. P. Case Middle School in Flemington on May 5. Pictured, left to right, are: Dr. Lon Beery, guest conductor of the Junior High All State Honor Choir, Conor and Dan.