

# Local Letters to the Editor

## Mayor Quattrocchi Endorses

### Carol Kearney for Garwood Council

I urge the residents of Garwood to cast their ballots in the General Election, on November 4th, for Carol Kearney for borough council.

Immediately following Hurricane Irene, I walked the length of North Avenue and part of the south side business district checking in on many local businesses and residents to see how they were fairing without electricity. Many were hanging in, but of course concerned about the restoration of power. Thankfully the power was restored quickly and, unbeknownst to all, the storm was a precursor of what was to come about a year later with Super Storm Sandy and its impact on the south side of the borough.

During my treks, business owners repeatedly inquired about the status of our local Chamber of Commerce and what had become of the organization. Realizing the importance of government support and its interaction with small business, I reinstated the position of business and industry Liaison (B and I) to the Borough Council and urged an energetic local business owner to attempt to resurrect what had been the Garwood Chamber. Coincidentally, at about the same time the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) contacted me about joining forces with them and asked who in town they could contact to make it happen. Within a New York minute I put them in touch with Ms. Kearney who was already feverishly working on forming a new organization here in the borough. I appointed her our B and I Liaison and the rest is history when Garwood's fledgling chamber merged with the GWACC.

Carol is the owner of Unique

Cruise and Travel on Center Street, a borough resident for over five years with her family here in town. She is also the grandmom to two energetic toddlers. She is an experienced real estate agent and has worked in the legal field. She also joined forces with state legislators to fashion legislation to grant pension benefits to widows of police and fire officers that was signed into law in 1996.

She is the person who took on bringing a street fair back to the borough with 127 vendors and over 200 classic cars. The chamber followed up the fair by handing a \$1,000 check to the borough to contribute to the purchase of new light pole banners for our business district. She methodically recruits new and existing businesses to join the Chamber and updates the Coun-

cil on a regular basis about the strides that are being made to bring businesses to our town and keep them viable. Teaming up the Chamber with our Public Celebrations Committee, she is currently working to bring "Movies Under the Stars" to fruition in September, a free family event for the residents.

Ms. Kearney would be a wonderful addition to the Council as the borough embarks on redevelopment and transit village efforts on the North and South Avenue corridors to bring tax rates to our town. She understands how transportation and parking concerns impact on our small businesses first hand as well as the needs of our families and the concerns of our seniors. Her verbal and written communication skills are outstanding surpassed only by her ability to be a good listener.

I whole heartedly recommend Carol Kearney for a seat on the Garwood Borough Council, please cast your ballot for her in November.

**Patricia Quattrocchi, Mayor  
Borough of Garwood**



**BEACH READING...**The Constantinou family traveled to Aruba and brought along *The Westfield Leader*. Pictured, from left to right, are: Trey, Allie and Gillian Constantinou at the Aruba Lighthouse.



**YOUTHS...**Acting Union County Sheriff Joseph Cryan congratulates, from left, Tamilore Fashae of Piscataway, Justyna Augustyn of Union, Tamiah Holmes of Elizabeth and Tyson Dukes of Elizabeth on receiving the Sheriff Froehlich Memorial Perseverance Award during the graduation ceremony for the Union County Sheriff's Youth Academy held at Union County College in Cranford.

## Union County Sheriff's Youth Academy Class Graduates

CRANFORD — More than 100 teens recently graduated from the Union County Sheriff's Youth Academy, a program designed to familiarize young people with the role of a police officer. Also, it operates similar to an actual police academy for teens interested in law enforcement.

Various law enforcement agencies participated in the program including the Elizabeth Police Department, the New Jersey State Police, the Union County Police Department and the Union County Corrections.

Participants in the Youth Academy received hands-on experience in a variety of emergency services and law enforcement functions and training. Youths have the opportunity to learn respect for law enforcement through positive interaction during their time in the program.

The Sheriff's Youth Academy is not a 'boot camp' for troubled

youth. In order to enroll in the program, the youngsters must have a minimum GPA of 2.70 (B- average), letters of reference and write an essay explaining why the student would like to attend the Youth Academy.

During the two-week program, the teens engaged in a physical training regime twice a day while attending lectures on subjects such as crime scene investigations, K-9 and motor vehicle stops. They also received visits from representatives from the U.S. Army, New Jersey State Police and the F.B.I., the Kenilworth Police Department and the Kean University Police Department.

The Youth Academy also involved class trips to the Union County SWAT Range, the Union County jail, the Elizabeth Police Department and the Union County Police Department.