

Westfield Council Reorganizes; Mayor Delivers Address

By DOMINIC A. LAGANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD—At its reorganization meeting held last Thursday night, members of the Westfield governing body were administered their oaths of office for the new election cycle. The mayor and council members' terms will expire on December 31, 2017.

Reelected Mayor Andrew Skibitsky was sworn in by Union County Acting Prosecutor Grace Park. Mayor Skibitsky won an unprecedented third term as mayor, defeating former Councilman David Haas.

Reelected Councilman Sam Della Fera (Ward 1) was sworn in by former Westfield councilman Mark

Ciarrocca, currently a state Superior Court judge in Union County. Reelected council members Vicki Kimmins (Ward 2) and Keith Loughlin (Ward 4) were sworn in by state Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (R-21, Westfield). Newly elected Councilman David Oliveira (Ward 3) was also sworn in by Mr. Bramnick.

In other news, the mayor delivered his annual State of the Town address to the assembly. Mayor Skibitsky began by characterizing the Town of Westfield as, "strong as in resilience, strong as in enduring, strong as in robust."

The mayor cited the recent global economic downturn and Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy as chal-

lenges to be overcome. "My efforts have been, and will continue to be, focused on finding ways to bring spending down to more sustainable levels for the long term, while at the same time, keeping Westfield the most desirable place to live, work and visit.

"Westfield is a strong community. We accept our challenges and its opportunities, while confident we have succeeded in setting the foundation for long-term fiscal sustainability, while preserving its services and fulfilling statutory functions," Mayor Skibitsky said. "We will not rest on our laurels and we will continue to implement efficiencies, contain costs, seek revenue enhancements and limit debt. I'm energized and very excited about the next four years."

The entire address will be available for viewing on the town's website.

After the swearing-in ceremony, Mayor Skibitsky announced the mayoral appointees for various town boards and committees. Also announced were the town council liaisons for those groups.

Councilwoman Jo Ann Neylan was again named acting mayor in Mayor Skibitsky's absence. Councilman James Foerst was named alternate acting mayor.

Ms. Neylan was also named the council's liaison to the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, a member of the council's finance committee, liaison to the Westfield Municipal Alliance/PANDA (Preventing Alcohol, Narcotic, and Drug Abuse) and the chairwoman of the council's Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee.

Mr. Foerst was also named the planning board liaison for the council, a member of the council's Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee and chairman of the council's Code Review and Town Property Committee.

Councilman Frank Arena was named the council's liaison to the recreation commission, as well as a member of the council's Finance Policy Committee and chairman of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Hudak Named Freeholder Chair, Jalloh Vice-Chair

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

COUNTY — Freeholder Chris Hudak of Linden was sworn in as chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders for 2014 at the board's reorganization meeting Sunday afternoon at the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth. Freeholder Mohamed Jalloh of Roselle was sworn in as vice-chairman.

In addition, Freeholders Linda Carter of Plainfield and Bette Jane Kowalski of Cranford were sworn into new terms along with Sergio Granados, who began his first full three-year term after being appointed to the board in the fall, replacing Dan Sullivan, who resigned to run the Union County Improvement Authority. Sheriff Ralph Froehlich, 83, was also sworn in for another term. A former Elizabeth police officer, he has been sheriff for 36 years.

Sunday's ceremony was attended by a number of federal, state and municipal elected officials, including Reps. Leonard Lance (R-7th), Donald Payne Jr. (D-10th) and Frank Pallone (D-6th); state Senators Ray Lesniak (D-20th) and Nicholas Scutari (D-22nd); Assemblyman Joseph Cryan (D-20th), Assemblywoman Annette Quijano (D-20th), Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (R-21st), Assemblywoman Linda Stender (D-22nd), Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr and Councilman

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



MAJESTIC...Downtown Cranford looks serene on Saturday after a winter storm dropped approximately six inches on the area. Schools were closed on Friday and residents had the task of shoveling themselves out.

Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader

WF Council Appoints Fire Official, Police Specials; Discusses NJ Water

By DOMINIC A. LAGANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — At its first regular meeting of the new year, the town council passed two resolutions proffered by the council's Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee: one naming the town's fire official and the other appointing members to the police department.

Deputy Chief of the Westfield Fire Department David Kelly was named the town's fire official with the resolution stipulating the position's term will expire on December 31, 2014. The fire official is the person responsible for the administration and enforcement of

New Jersey's Uniform Fire Safety Act.

Mr. Kelly has been the town's deputy fire chief since 2005. He reports directly to Westfield Fire Chief Dan Kelly regarding his duties as fire official.

The second resolution passed by the council involved the appointment of 12 individuals to Westfield's Special Police Support Services Di-

vision.

Colloquially referred to as "specials," Special Police in Westfield generally handle parking enforcement, traffic duties and crowd control during events held in town.

The first officers appointed were Christopher Beck, Carmen Brocato, Sr., Robert Desiato, Jr., Anthony Garrigan, Patrick Garrigan, Bruce

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

WF BOE Receives Update on District's Strategic Plan

By DELL SIMEONE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The board of education received a power point presentation Tuesday night by Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan on the district's strategic plan and goals. The strategic plan began in 2010 and proceeds through 2015.

Topics covered were student achievement and student personal development. She also mentioned finance and facilities and the need to maximize the use of district resources and funding opportunities. She also said, "We (the district) will improve

communication and community engagement between the school district and all stakeholders."

Goals for this year include the implementation of the Marshall Teacher Evaluation Model to develop and use benchmark assessments to measure growth of student performance and to implement new digital tools and media to improve communication.

Ms. Dolan said that a review of requirements of the Marshall model with administrators and teachers is being done by having a meeting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



LOOK OUT BELOW...Children enjoy a day of sledding at Unami Park in Cranford on Saturday afternoon after a winter storm dropped several inches of snow.

Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader



Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader

WELCOME BACK...Westfield Mayor Andrew Skibitsky is sworn for his third full term by Union County Acting Prosecutor Grace Park at the Westfield reorganization meeting held January 2, while wife, Debbie, and daughter, Hope, left, look on.

Garwood Reorganizes With Assignments, New Councilman

By MEGAN K. SCOTT
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — Jim Mathieu and Mike Martin took their seats on the Garwood Borough Council Sunday, maintaining the 4-2 Republican minority on the Democratic-controlled body.

New Jersey Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (R-21st, Westfield) swore in Mr. Martin, a newcomer, while Asw. Nancy Munoz (R-21st, Summit) issued the oath of office for Mr. Mathieu, who is beginning a second term.

Mr. Mathieu, who ran as a conservative Republican, and Mr. Martin, the GOP-endorsed candidate, defeated Councilman Steve Blaufeder and declared write-in candidate Bruce Paterson in November's General Election. The council had appointed Mr. Blaufeder, the other GOP-endorsed candidate, to complete the unexpired term of Victor DeFilippo in March.

Council members serve three-year terms.

"It's wonderful to be back here," Mr. Mathieu said. "I love being a councilman. Serving Garwood has been one of the greatest honors of my life."

"I talk about the fact that I am a councilman from Garwood a lot — probably too much. It's just been a wonderful experience to be able to serve as a representative of my fellow citizens. It's pretty amazing."

A visibly nervous Mr. Martin apologized for flubbing the oath of office. "But I'm not going to talk about me, I'm going to talk about you," he said, addressing the residents in council chambers. "You all as residents of Garwood have the right to expect the best government that we can give you. I will remain true to the swearing in. I promise you that I will do that."

The council unanimously elected Ann Palmer as council president.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Brian Trusdell for The Westfield Leader

NEW LEADERSHIP... Ann Palmer, center, smiles after being elected Garwood Borough Council president on Monday night taking over for Sara Todisco, right. Fellow Council member Lou Petruzzelli is at left.

PAGE INDEX

Regional	2-3, 14	Education	15
Editorial	4-5	Sports	9-13
Police	6	Real Estate	9-13
Community ...	6-7, 14	Classifieds	13
Obituary	6	A&E	15-16



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

EXTRAORDINARY PROFESSIONALS

The Right Combination Of Cutting Edge Technology And The Highest Quality Of Services And Programs Is The Reason We Are *The Preferred Real Estate Company...* If It Is Real Estate Anywhere, We Can Help!

Westfield - West | 600 North Avenue West, Westfield | 908-233-0065 | www.coldwellbankermoves.com/westfieldwest

