

# 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 Pateron 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. She succeeds Sara Todisco.

The special reorganization meeting of the council also served as a platform for Mayor Pat Quattrocchi to issue committee assignments. With only Mr. Martin replacing Mr. Blaufeder on the council, Mrs. Quattrocchi maintained the composition of most of the committees.

Ms. Todisco retained her chairmanship of the finance committee. Mr. Martin will chair the police, public health and safety committees and serve on the finance and the laws and licenses panels. He also was appointed to the police contract negotiating committee along with Ms. Palmer and Lou Petruzzelli.

Council members have no formal hand in committee appointments, according to Mr. Mathieu, who bristled at the process. "I find that it is important to be on those committees," he said, referring to finance and police negotiating.

He has billed himself as a budget hawk. "But I know I have been very effective off of those committees in highlighting issues. It's just that I have had to do a bit more work."

The council approved Robert Renaud for another term as borough attorney and Steven Rogut as bonding attorney. Michael Tharaldsen retains his position as fire chief.

Mrs. Quattrocchi did not affirm the municipal court judge. Antonio Inacio has been the town's judge since 2011 but last month was accused by the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct of improperly intervening in an underage drinking case on behalf of Mr. Petruzzelli's daughter.

She said after the meeting she was waiting until the final disposition on the matter.

In other meeting news, Mr. Nierstedt thanked residents for getting their cars off the street

for last week's snowstorm. He said police issued 42 tickets compared to more than 100 for the previous big storm.

Ms. Todisco reiterated her proposal to add a full-day option to summer recreation and charge a fee like many other towns to offset the cost and give the borough some much needed revenue. She also raised the idea of posting videos of the council meetings on the borough website. "This would be a great way for residents who cannot attend our meetings to know what's going on in the town."

In her address, Mayor Quattrocchi highlighted the borough's accomplishments last year, which include purchasing new computers, a phone system, dump truck and generators in addition to the "guardianship" of a ladder truck from Union County. She added that she hopes to see progress on the redevelopment of the North and South

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## UCEDC Offers Free Business Workshop

CRANFORD — The Union County Economic Development Corp. (UCEDC) invites the public to a workshop, "Starting a Business in NJ: The Steps You Need to Take." It will be held Thursday, January 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. at UCEDC, 75 Chestnut Street in Cranford.

This free workshop will guide you through the mechanics of starting your business. It will cover:

The pros and cons of business structures. How to name and register your business. What taxes apply and how to file them. What is required if you have employees. The insurance required in New Jersey.

Give your business the best chance to succeed. To register, see [www.ucedc.com](http://www.ucedc.com) or e-mail [info@ucedc.com](mailto:info@ucedc.com).

*Probitas Verus Honos*

## Comedy Roast Benefiting Friendly Sons Rescheduled

GARWOOD — The special comedy roast fundraiser event to benefit the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Union County has been rescheduled. The event recently was postponed due to hazardous weather conditions.

The new date is Thursday, January 30, beginning at 8 p.m., and will take place at Crossroads, located at 78 North Avenue in Garwood. Doors will open at 7 p.m. The event will feature a celebrity-style roast of comedian Joe Carney from the comedy troupe The Dumb Kids in the Back.

As a registered 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Union County's purpose is to encourage college

education for young men of Irish descent and support of worthy charitable organizations. Their mission is the promotion of education and support of charitable organizations. To learn more about the Friendly Sons, visit [friendlysons.site.aplus.net](http://friendlysons.site.aplus.net).

Tickets to benefit the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Union County Comedy Roast Fundraiser Event are \$10 per person. Tickets can be purchased in advance by visiting [ticketfly.com](http://ticketfly.com) or [crossroadsatgarwood.com](http://crossroadsatgarwood.com). Tickets also will be available at the door. Food and beverages can be purchased separately. For more information, call (908) 518-0323 or e-mail [info@xxroads.com](mailto:info@xxroads.com).



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.