



MAKING MOUNTAINSIDE BEAUTIFUL...Volunteers from Beautiful Mountainside remove litter from a mile-long stretch of Route 22 West on April 22. Beautiful Mountainside is a group of residents dedicated to the beautification of the borough. The group meets on the first Monday of each month at the Hetfield House at 7 p.m. New members are welcome. Pictured, from left to right, are: Linda Condrillo, Rhiannon Staples, Todd Evans, Alice Cowell and Kim and Tom Barker.

EFG Honors Top Educator, People Making A Difference

By MICHAEL BONACORSO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

GARWOOD — The Education Foundation of Garwood (EFG) held its 14th annual appreciation dinner at The Westwood on Thursday. The evening honored Educator of the Year Denise Cafiero. Barbara Tweedle and Mary Ann Severage were honored with the People Making a Difference Award.

"I'm really excited to announce that to date the EFG has given out over \$54,000 in student scholarships and grants for educators," said EFG President and Councilwoman Sara Todisco.

The appreciation dinner recognizes educators and community leaders who contribute to the Garwood education system. The night's proceeds from ticket sales, raffle drawings and a tricky tray will raise scholarship funds, including other programming funds benefiting Garwood students.

Ms. Cafiero, who teaches mathematics and science for both fifth and sixth grades, will be completing her fifth year in the Garwood school district. She has been nominated every year for the Educator of the Year award.

"The best part about teaching isn't the lessons, it's definitely not the grading; it's the relationships with students that only a teacher knows," Ms. Cafiero said.

Superintendent Teresa Quigley, Ed.D., said Ms. Cafiero is an "energetic, dedicated and kind teacher."

Ms. Quigley read an introduction before Ms. Cafiero was honored. She described how she met Ms. Cafiero, what she expected, and "the bubbly, inspired," teacher she had found.

Superintendent Quigley said initially someone with a student in the district is ultimately placed in the "Do I have to?" interview pile. Ms. Quigley stated, however, that after interviewing Ms. Cafiero she realized the teacher was well-informed, determined and un-intimidated.

"You have to interview this person!" said Superintendent Quigley, reciting from memory what she told Lincoln School Principal Mary Emmons, describing how Ms. Cafiero's initial interview was impressive.

Ms. Cafiero told Superintendent Quigley she had a dream she would work in Garwood someday, the superintendent said. Ms. Cafiero reflected on how she visited her aunt who lived in Garwood and always wanted to live there.

"You got us to believe in our dreams. I cannot thank you enough. I look forward toward your next dream," the superintendent said.

Ms. Cafiero stated that a wise man once said, "Pay attention to the things you are naturally drawn to, for they are often connected to your path, passion and purpose."

"I am one of the lucky ones whose career and passion come together. I'm a lifelong learner. It's my thing," Ms. Cafiero said.

Ms. Cafiero said she conveys to her students to "find something that makes you want to know more and keep searching each day until you find it."

"My job is an amazing one. I get to be silly with my students while singing and dancing about math and science," Ms. Cafiero said.

The science students will be "launch-

ing high-altitude weather balloons in the next few weeks," said Ms. Cafiero, describing hands-on class projects she designed for her students.

EFG member Adele Lewis introduced Ms. Severage to be honored with the People Making a Difference Award. Ms. Severage has lived in Garwood for 75 years, while serving as a Garwood Public Library trustee since 1978. Ms. Severage is a parishioner of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Anne, where she has been active in the church's Rosary Society for 38 years.

Ms. Severage is a life member and past president of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Garwood Fire Department.

"I don't volunteer for the recognition; I just like to help my community," said Ms. Lewis, describing what she always remembers Ms. Severage saying.

Ms. Severage said the award "was quite a surprise and much appreciated."

"The borough has always been a small town with a big heart," Ms. Severage said.

Ms. Tweedle also was honored with the People Making a Difference Award. A Garwood resident since 1994, she is active in two community-led drug-prevention programs, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and Garwood Parents Draw the Line.

Ms. Tweedle has been a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Garwood Fire Department for 20 years, currently serving as the vice-president.

"I hope to continue working with the children of Garwood and I hope that I make a difference in their world," Ms. Tweedle said.

In addition, Ms. Tweedle is a chaperone for the Junior Firefighters Program and has volunteered as a judge for the Lions Club Halloween Parade.

Ms. Todisco provided an organizational update stating that EFG membership has continued to grow "each year for the past several years now." Five new members include board of education member Amanda Langston, Sean and Maria Benoit, Jessica Rivera-Siew and Arlene Yanagacio.

Jois to Open Office

SUMMIT — Democratic congressional candidate Goutam U. Jois will open his campaign headquarters in Summit to the public at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 5. The office is at 304 Springfield Avenue (first floor) in Summit.

Following the open house, Mr. Jois and campaign volunteers will begin canvassing around the district to get voters engaged ahead of the Saturday, June 5 Democratic Primary Election. Food and refreshments will be served for volunteers.

Bramnick Says Gas Tax Should Be Cut

TRENTON — Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick (R-21st, Westfield) said he will introduce legislation ensuring any increase in the state's sales tax will result in a gas tax reduction.

"Any increase in sales tax must be used for the Transportation Trust Fund and will be used to reduce the gas tax," said Mr. Bramnick. "I hope all members of the Legislature will co-sponsor this sensible legislation and that the Democrats will keep their word to the taxpayers."



EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR...The Education Foundation of Garwood (EFG) held its 14th annual appreciation dinner at The Westwood on Thursday at which time the organization honored Educator of the Year, Denise Cafiero, center. She is congratulated by Superintendent of Schools Teresa Quigley, Ed.D., left, and EFG President Sara Todisco.

Mountainside Board Recognizes Health Bee Team

By KATE BROWNE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MOUNTAINSIDE — The library at Beechwood School in Mountainside was full of children at the April 24 board of education meeting as the board awarded Certificates of Recognition to the members of the seventh-grade Health Bee team. The students placed second in the annual Jeopardy-style competition, which is a part of the YMCA's Healthy Kids Initiative. The students received a \$500 prize, which will be donated to the school community.

Board members and the public also enjoyed an encore performance of two songs from the musical *Beauty and the Beast* by students from Deerfield Elementary School. In March a cast of 82 students, under the direction of Jared Rosenblum and choreographer Kyle Gavin, staged a full-length performance of the popular musical. Several board members noted that the sold-out performances were extraordinary, with elaborate sets, dance routines and costumes, and credited Mr. Rosenblum, who is a music teacher at Deerfield, for the popularity and quality of the theater program. The middle-school musical next year will be *Mary Poppins*.

Board member Jeanne Parker, who serves as liaison to the Berkeley Heights school board, provided an update on the performance of Governor Livingston High School students on the states mandated standardized test, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College

and Careers (PARCC). The students' scores in both math and English have decreased slightly as a result of the high-achieving students opting out of taking the exam. Ms. Parker stated that 90 percent of the 11th graders did not take the PARCC exam as they have already met their graduation testing requirements.

According to Ms. Parker, 60 percent of Governor Livingston students take at least one Advanced Placement class; 50 percent of them choose to take the Advanced Placement exams and 45 percent of those who take the test score 3 or higher. Eighty-one percent of the Governor Livingston students took the ACT and the average score was 25.2. The average SAT score was 1198, which is a slight decrease from 2016 but the decrease may be related to the new test format.

In other business, the board determined that because of the harsh winter weather the district was forced to use all of its scheduled snow days so it will be necessary to have school on Wednesday, June 20. The board also voted unanimously to set the annual fee for subscription busing for the 2018-2019 year at \$450 and to accept a \$6,000 donation from the Watts Foundation. The funds will be used to purchase nonfiction, science and biographies for the Deerfield Media Center. The Whole Kids Foundation has donated \$2,000 for improvements to the Beechwood Garden and BiWise Design LLC donated \$11,357 worth of office furniture to Beechwood School.



HUGIN HEADQUARTERS...Republican United States Senate candidate Bob Hugin, left, opened his campaign headquarters in Mountainside on Saturday. Also pictured are former Garwood Republican Committee Chairman John Quattrocchi of Clark, second from left, and GOP Union County Freeholder candidates Patricia Quattrocchi and Joe Sarno, right. Mrs. Quattrocchi is a former Garwood mayor and Mr. Sarno is a current Garwood councilman.

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