

## GW Education Foundation Honors Top Educator

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 "launching 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.

## Youngsters Can Enter Bookmark Contest

CRANFORD — The Cranford Public Library is hosting its first-ever bookmark contest. Children in kindergarten through grade 6 who live or go to school in Cranford are invited to submit original designs around "Libraries Rock," this year's musical Summer Reading theme.

Seven winners will be selected and their designs will be professionally printed and distributed in the library and schools. The contest will run through Friday, May 25. For more information or to enter the contest, visit the Children's Department desk at the library.

This contest is made possible by a grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Cranford Public Library is located at 224 Walnut Avenue.

"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.

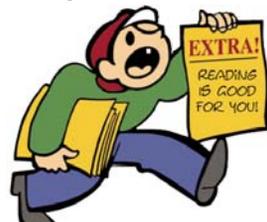
Ms. Tweedle has been a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Garwood Fire Department for 20 years, currently serving as the vice-president.

"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.

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## Garwood BOE Adopts Budget

said.

Before the budget meeting, a safety meeting was held, during which community members could voice concerns and ask questions regarding the school's safety policies in response to recent national school violence.

Former board member Adele Lewis said she has been committed to volunteering for the Sandy Hook Promise Foundation. The program helps educators provide relief for students exposed to psychological stress, stated Ms. Lewis. Ms. Lewis said the program identifies and addresses mental health issues within the student population.

Ms. Lewis said she is going to coordinate programs with administration to implement within Lincoln School, assist parents, and promote gun violence prevention.

Resident Rachel Herz said she was concerned with procedures regarding "lockdown" or total security situations at the library. Ms. Herz said she felt she was in the door's sight or, if the situation arises, an active shooter's sight.

"I was clearly visible from the door. Not sure if everyone is aware you should be away from the door," Ms. Herz said.

Superintendent Quigley said the librarian has full correspondence with the school regarding lockdown or emergency situations via a speaker system, a feature not available to the previous librarian. The new librarian is being "fully updated" on all appropriate procedures, Ms. Quigley said.

"The speakers make a big difference," the superintendent said, describing how they act as an immediate communication tool.

Councilwoman Jennifer Blumenstock said "specialized door stoppers," preventive win-

dow blinds and an "outside drop-box" for parents dropping off materials during school hours are preventive measures to consider. Ms. Blumenstock said these measures have been employed by the Clark school district.

Resident Christian Zowosky said he was concerned with students safety during Hartman Park recreation time. Mr. Zowosky said further comments from the police chief and police captain would bring "ease to parents' minds."

Mayor Charles Lombardo said he remains committed to preventing gun violence and is willing to coordinate safety measures with district and safety programs if ever needed. Mayor Lombardo said he signed a mayor's pledge against gun violence prohibiting firearms capacity and distribution within N.J.

"Sadly, this issue has been politicized, so I am here as an elected official," Councilman Richard McCormack said.

Mr. McCormack said all three of his children and grandchildren have attended Garwood public schools. Mr. McCormack said he wanted to "thank Dr. Quigley and the board of education for always keeping school safety top of mind."

"Why do we have to do something for the sake of doing something when in fact it might make our school less safe by telling the world via social media that Lincoln School needs to take better safety measures?" Mr. McCormack asked.

He said school safety is "always on his mind."

"I find it appalling a sitting council person decided to politicize something as sacred as the safety of our children," Mr. McCormack said.

*Probitas Verus Honos*