

Town Residents Receive Degrees From Rutgers

Jane Livesey O'Hara and Joseph Penczak, both of Westfield, were awarded degrees from Rutgers University on May 21.

Mrs. O'Hara earned a Master of Social Work Degree. She is the widow of Daniel O'Hara, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James F. Livesey of Westfield. She is a graduate of the Holy Trinity High School in Westfield and of Kean University in Union.

Mrs. O'Hara was awarded her degree during commencement exercises in Piscataway by Dean Mary E. Davidson.

Mr. Penczak was awarded a master's degree in Liberal Arts during the Rutgers University graduation ceremony in Newark.

Mr. Penczak is a graduate of Roselle Catholic High School and of Edison College. An actor, he has appeared in many local plays, including the lead in *Hamlet* at the Townsquare Playhouse in Rockaway.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Penczak of Roselle, he is married to Joan Marie Livesey, and is the father of Joseph Philip, Elizabeth Murphy and Julia Jane. He is employed by the ADP Company in Jersey City.



MOVING UP IN RANK...Mountainside Police Officer Andrew Sullivan takes the oath of office as he is sworn in by Borough Police Commissioner and Councilman, Ronald Romak, to the rank of corporal during Tuesday's Borough Council meeting. Looking on are his wife, holding the Bible, and Police Chief James Debbie. Also promoted to corporal were Officers Richard Latargia and Thomas Murphy.

Integrating Technology Into Curricula Addressed By Strategic Plan Committee

Editor's Note: The following is the third of a seven-part series outlining the initiatives of the committees which worked on the Strategic Plan for the Westfield Public Schools District.

Integrating technology into the curricula of the Westfield Public Schools was the goal of Action Committee No. 1, a group of 21 volunteers who submitted their recommendations to the Westfield Board of Education prior to summer break.

Led by Director of Technology Darlene Nowak, the group was divided into three sub-committees which examined technology in regard to curriculum, infrastructure and staff development. Each group was represented by parents, teachers, administration, or community members.

Members of the curriculum sub-committee included Hal Johnson, Jennifer Linnell, David LiSoeey, John Martoglio, Robert Pinheiro, Stacie Saam, Kenney Steinbrecher, and Carol Wenk.

The group studying the infrastructure included Martin Heneck, Susie Hung, Gary McCready, Andrew Perry, Andrew Scher, and Julie Walsh.

Those looking at staff development opportunities were Christine Cassu, David Frette, Karen Lust, Amy Stone, Nancy Vogler and John Yingling.

After months of meetings, the committee made extensive recommendations, including the following:

- Adopt technology competencies for each grade cluster - Kindergarten

through grade 2, grades 3 through 5, 6 through 8, and 9 through 12.

- Provide the infrastructure to support goals and strategies. Provide support for each school to help classroom teachers integrate technology successfully and comfortably.

- Demonstrate uniform and consistent use of software and hardware across all schools.

- Provide the capability to computerize administrative functions of teachers.

- Establish volunteer technology committees.

- Create websites at each school to support the curriculum and provide communication to the community.

- Adopt technology competencies for all professional staff.

- Provide a consistent and comprehensive staff development program for technology.

- Provide incentives for staff development by establishing a program of mini grants for innovative use of technology in the classroom.

According to Ms. Nowak, "The technology plan emphasizes how infrastructure, curriculum and staff development areas are interwoven. All three components must be present to ensure success in any strategic projects selected for implementation."

"The committee is eagerly awaiting final recommendations from the board," noted Ms. Nowak. "In the meantime, the district has hired an additional technician for the elementary schools to support the fifth grade technology infusion this coming year."



TECHNOLOGY RECOMMENDATIONS...Volunteers on the Strategic Planning Action Committee studying technology in the Westfield Public Schools wrapped up months of meetings with a report to the Board of Education this summer. Those committee members who attended a reception honoring their volunteer efforts, pictured left to right, are: Bob Pinheiro, Carol Wenk, Karen Lust, Westfield Public Schools Director of Technology Darlene Nowak, Gary McCready, David LiSoeey, Andy Scher, and Julie Walsh.

Lambertsmill Road To Close for Repairs

The Union County Division of Public Works has announced that Lambertsmill Road in Westfield will be under construction in the vicinity of Rahway Avenue beginning on or about Tuesday, July 28. The hours of operation will be approximately 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The work being performed on Lambertsmill will consist of resurfacing and restriping the roadway.

"Due to the nature of the work involved and the amount of men and machinery required, partial or full closure of the road may be warranted in the area of work to optimize the safety of the work crews and motoring public alike," said Superintendent of Roads and Bridges, Joseph Polacy.

It is anticipated that the work will take approximately two days (excluding weekends) to complete, weather permitting.

A clearly marked detour route will be established and maintained by county forces. The road will be opened to traffic at the conclusion of each workday and emergency vehicles will be allowed through at all times.

Access to residences will be allowed as much as possible, however, it is possible that during specific paving operations in the immediate vicinity access will be temporarily denied.

For more information on the road project, please call (908) 789-3660 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

For any emergencies that may arise, residents are asked to call their local police department.

Westfield Residents Are Pingry Graduates

Westfield residents Kevin Schmidt and Michael Warren were among 128 students who were graduated from The Pingry School during its 137th commencement ceremonies held on June 7 on the Martinsville campus.

Kevin, who will attend the University of Maryland, received the Dick Gradwohl Boys' Soccer Award for Most Team Spirit at commencement.

Michael, who will attend Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in the fall, received a Special Director's Award in Technical Theatre.

The Pingry School is an independent, co-educational country day school for students in grades 7 through 12 which maintains campuses in Short Hills and Bernards Township near the community of Martinsville.

Three Police Corporals Sworn In At Mountainside Council Meeting

By **KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The Mountainside Borough Council on Tuesday swore in three police corporals who were promoted from patrolmen. Friends and family looked on as Richard Latargia, Andrew Sullivan and Thomas Murphy accepted the positions and were awarded their new badges.

After the corporals were sworn in by Councilman Ronald Romak, Mayor Robert F. Vigilanti praised the department, saying "It is the finest police department that the borough has ever had, and is probably the finest in New Jersey."

The Mayor went on to explain that the department was "in a new era due to the fact that many persons on the force have recently been retiring."

Corporal Latargia has been on the force for over four years; Corporal Sullivan has been with the department more than five years, and Corporal Murphy has served the borough community for over six years.

In other business, a resolution was awarded to life guard Ariel Wagner in recognition of her heroic efforts on July 6, when she saved a young swimmer who accidentally fell into the borough pool.

Mayor Vigilanti pointed out that Ariel demonstrated a swift and efficient response, and praised her for her ability and training. The Mayor pointed out that all of the pool life guards work hard to protect the lives of residents.

On another matter, it was reported that a judgment on a tax appeal had awarded the owners of a Central Avenue residence a \$5,544.25 refund.

Indian Trail resident Joseph Chieppa said he wanted to know the names of the property owners in the tax appeal judgment. The council referred Mr. Chieppa to the borough clerk.

Elsa Wegner of Cherry Hill Road reported to the council that the Echo Brook Rest Area has become littered with debris such as mattresses, glass, bottles and garbage. She noted that Route No. 22 was a state road, but wanted to know if there was anything that could be done on the local level.

Mayor Vigilanti told Ms. Wegner

Elizabeth Mlynarczyk, Michael Fisher Make Vanderbilt Dean's List

Elizabeth Ann Mlynarczyk and Michael L. Fisher have been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 1998 semester at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Both are enrolled in the College of Arts and Science at the university. To qualify for the Arts and Science Dean's List, students must receive grades equivalent to a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Peter J. Mlynarczyk. Michael is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Steven D. Fisher. Both families are from Westfield.

that he called the state Department of Transportation last week about removing the garbage, and that he would follow up on the matter.

Resident Louis Thomas of Friar Lane told the council that he had recently received his tax bill and was surprised at the "lack of savings that was promised."

Mr. Thomas said that although the temporary 38-point budgetary increase, which followed last year's disbanding of the Union County Regional High School Board of Education, had been removed this year, he had expected to receive a greater tax break.

Mayor Vigilanti assured Mr. Thomas that the municipal portion of his tax bill had been lowered as promised. He confirmed there had been a reduction from \$1.20 to 81 cents per \$100 of assessed property value from the previous year, but that the community had "no jurisdiction over what the Board of Education does or what the county does."

Union County taxes represent 26 percent of the total bill, while school taxes take a 60 percent bite out of the pie. Municipal expenses account for 24 percent of the total figure.

The Mayor asked Mr. Thomas to look over the school budget portion of his tax bill, which rose from \$1.28 to \$1.64 since last year. The Mayor pointed out that this increase "is out of the hands of the council."

He further stated that, "the school board proposed a budget increase and the voters voted in favor of it. It is completely out of my hands."

It was noted during the discussion between Mayor Vigilanti and Mr. Thomas that the county's portion of the latter's tax bill had gone up from 83 to 88 cents.

He said he was unhappy with the

situation and that "there should be no talk of savings if there is none."

In other business, Councilman David M. Hart, who is the Liaison to the borough Library Committee, reported that the Mountainside Free Public Library recently received a \$5,992 grant for technology upgrading.

According to Councilman Hart, the money will be used to upgrade the computer hardware for the children's and young adult sections. The funds will also be used to buy a scanner and color printer.

Also, Gregory Bonin, the borough's new Administrator, said he is presently working on an Internet Web page for the municipality which may be accessed by the address www.mountainside-nj.com.

Lastly, a moment of silence was observed for William Van Blarcom, who died earlier that day at the age of 72. Mr. Van Blarcom served on the Borough Council from 1971 to 1973, and was Chairman of the local Republican Committee. He was also a member of the borough's rescue squad.

Road Work Scheduled On Brightwood Avenue

The Westfield Department of Public Works (DPW) has confirmed that milling and repaving work will be completed on Brightwood Avenue in Westfield within the next couple of weeks.

Residents will be informed in advance of when the street will be closed for repaving, which is expected to take no more than a day, weather permitting, a DPW spokesman said Tuesday.



CONGRATULATIONS...The Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association (SPBPA) recently awarded three \$500 scholarships to local high school students. It was the first year the association awarded scholarships and, according to SPBPA Scholarship Coordinator Steve Goldberg, "the association is confident that its scholarship fund will grow in the coming years due to the generosity of its members. Association President Ray Pardon said "the SPBPA was very pleased to have been able to create the scholarship fund this year as one of the many ways that the association contributes to our community." Pictured, left to right, are: Mr. Goldberg, scholarship recipients Rianna Liss, Adam Baumwoil and Vaneisha Paynter, and Mr Pardon.