

Volunteers Are Sought To Serve on Television Advisory, Town Boards

WESTFIELD — The naming of nine residents to the newly established Westfield Community Television Advisory board will be among the appointments made by the Mayor and Town Council when the town's government reorganizes in early January.

Following a long tradition of volunteer citizen participation in Westfield government, the Community TV Board, which was officially formalized last week by the council, will advise the governing body on matters relating to the community access channel, currently TV-36, on Comcast cable television.

In an effort to ensure wide citizen participation, Mayor Thomas C. Jardim and members of the Town Council asked interested residents to submit resumes and other letters of interest for positions on each of the community boards and commissions.

Among the other positions subject to appointment in January, with the number of positions to be appointed in parenthesis, are:

- Board of Adjustment (two positions plus one alternate).
- Board of Architectural Review (three seats).
- Local Assistance Board (two seats).
- Board of Health (two seats).
- Planning Board (one seat, plus one alternate).
- Recreation Commission (two seats, plus one alternate).
- Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee (two seats plus two alternates).
- Historic Preservation Commission (one seat).
- Insurance Advisory Board (one seat).
- Tree Preservation Commission (one seat).
- Housing Commission (five seats).
- Downtown Westfield Corporation (special improvement district) Board (one seat for business owner and one resident seat).
- Solid Waste Advisory Board (two seats).
- Union County Transportation Advisory Board (two seats).
- Cultural & Heritage Programs Advisory Board (two seats).
- Air Traffic Noise Advisory Board (two seats).

For more information, please call (908) 789-4040. Resumes may be sent via email to MarthaK@i-2000.com, Faxed to (908) 233-3077, or send copies to Mayor and Council, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, 07090.



'TIS IS THE SEASON...Members of the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association dressed as elves during the organization's annual holiday festivities on December 5. Pictured, left to right, are: Vi Brown, Joe Donatelli, Nancy Woodward, Debbie Di Giuseppe as Mrs. Claus, Jeannine Arena, Steve Goldberg and Terry Mitchell. In front, are: Jennifer DiGiuseppe, left, and Brittany Pasquarella.

Despite Constant Warnings on Y2K Transition, Stores Report No Rush to Stockpile Supplies

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www.bog.frb.fed.us/Y2k, the Federal Reserve Board has deposited \$194 billion into the nation's federally insured banks over the past 13 weeks to insure maintaining the stability of the financial system during the millennium transition. That is the biggest expansion of money supply in the history of banking.

However, according to The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's (FDIC) Web site at www.fdic.gov/about/Y2K, the FDIC and other regulators have been conducting on-site examinations of all FDIC insured financial institutions to ensure Y2K readiness.

The extra contingency cash is only to insure that there is enough cash flow should depositors panic and withdraw more cash than usual.

Karen Martino, Senior Vice President and Auditor for First Savings Bank in Fanwood, reported that Y2K preparations for that bank began with tests in 1998 to insure readiness. Ms. Martino advised that customers need to withdraw only the usual amount of funds they would normally need for an extended weekend.

"We fully expect business as usual with no computer problems out of the ordinary," Ms. Martino commented.

Like the banks, most of the major utility companies are also reporting their Y2K readiness.

"We are more likely to experience power outages due to typical winter storm conditions than because of Y2K computer problems," Joey Anderson, spokesman for Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) stated. "Be prepared as you would for a storm outage with a few extra supplies, such as flashlights and bottled water."

The Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority is also more likely to experience a glitch because of power outages than because of computer problems, said Richard P. Tokarski, Executive Director of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority.

Mr. Tokarski pointed out that many of the pumps are manually operated. Computer equipment that the authority does have has been added in the last year is compatible with the year 2000.

He added that an outside consultant and internal staff have evaluated the authority's total operation and have deemed it ready for the new year.

Unlike many other sewer authorities, the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority is a system that is 100 percent "gravity flow" and requires

no pumping systems in municipalities, which reduces the chances of sewage back-up.

Still, concern over the chances of problems with the turn of the new year lingers among the public.

The ABC Evening News reported last week that many Y2K gala celebration events at major hotels have been canceled due to a lack of interest. Many local residents are planning to spend a quiet evening at home to usher in the New Year with their usual "watch-the-ball-drop-on-TV" celebration.

For those who wish to experience something more special, there is Westfield's town-wide First Night event, an evening which includes a wide variety of entertainment events for the whole family.

The general consensus of town officials and industry leaders seems to be that the world is not going to end on Friday, December 31, and most likely, everyone will have to return to work on Monday, January 3, for business as usual. To borrow a timeless phrase, the Y2K millennium scare may just be, "Much Ado About Nothing."

Kim Kinter contributed to this story.

Mountainside's Board of Ed. Reviews Goals for 2000

By SONIA V. OWCHARIW
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MOUNTAINSIDE — At the Mountainside Board of Education's last meeting of the 20th century Tuesday night, the importance of district goals for the next millennium was discussed.

During past school board meetings, Dr. Gerard A. Schaller, Chief School Administrator, had outlined budget guidelines for 2000-2001.

Those guidelines included producing a fiscally sound budget; supporting increased enrollment based on a demographic study currently being conducted by Whitehall Associates Inc. of Kinnelon; continuing funding for books and in-service workshops; investigation of food services, if necessary, and revamping teachers' forms to facilitate the gathering of information on students.

Whitehall Associates Inc. is helping the district to better utilize its classroom space and facilities based on research of what grades at Deerfield School have experienced increased enrollment.

Student enrollment at Deerfield School, ending last June, was 574. By September, another 41 students had been added through increases at the kindergarten, fifth-, sixth- and seventh-grade levels. Currently, each classroom has approximately 21 to 23 students, according to Dr. Schaller.

Whitehall Associates Inc. is currently looking at available space at Deerfield, as well as at the former Beechwood School, which is currently being leased to the Morris-Union Jointure Educational Services Commission, according to Dr. Schaller.

Results of the demographic study will be used to improve and to optimize space utilization for teachers and students in their classrooms. Information from as far back as the 1930s can help to determine how the school's pattern of enrollment for each school year has increased or decreased, according to Dr. Schaller.

In other news, seven eighth-grade students from the Gifted and Talented program at Deerfield were honored for their seventh-place honors in the fourth Annual Seton Hall Prep Pirate Open, "Quiz Ball," which took place on No-

ember 13.

The Gifted and Talented students, who comprised the team with three alternates, included Justin Polce, Michael Amalfe, David Apigo and Michael Biel.

The three alternates were Jonathon Landis, Alex Caffrey and Eric Feller. The team's coordinator from Deerfield was teacher Elaine Fass.

"This was the first time that we (Deerfield) competed in the competition at Seton Hall, and we are so proud of them," Mrs. Fass commented.

During the November 13 competition, team members answered questions asked by a moderator. The team made it all the way to the "Top Eight." They accumulated 4,000 points by answering questions correctly. Each round consisted of 40 questions.

"I didn't think we were going to get there, because the returning champions from last year, Glen Rock, was really tough to compete against," Justin Polce said.

Regarding prospective implementation of a dress code in the Mountainside school district in the year 2000, it was announced that there will be a poll in January to gauge parents' positions on this matter, according to Dr. Schaller.

"We will discuss whether or not there is further interest to pursue this subject any further," Dr. Schaller said.

During a Safety Forum meeting this past spring, the board discussed a possible dress code of khaki pants and polo shirts to increase school spirit and decrease the competitive pressure among students at Deerfield.

More than 100 members of the community attended a special forum on November 23, sponsored by the district's Uniformly Dressed Committee, at which time the results of a recent survey of parents were discussed.

Uniforms were favored by a percentage of 52 to 24, with another 24 percent of survey respondents indicating they were undecided on the proposed policy. Half of the parents with students in the school participated in the survey. The school has a student population of slightly more than 600.

The next Board of Education meeting will be on Tuesday, January 11, at 8 p.m. at the Deerfield Media Center.

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