



Photo by Watchung Schools

**ARBOR DAY AT BAYBERRY SCHOOL**

Bayberry Elementary School celebrated Arbor Day on Tuesday, May 7, with the Garden Club of Watchung and Galbraith Landscaping. Students from the Bayberry Garden Club had the opportunity to learn about the species of tree that was donated to the school. Following a brief presentation, the students assisted in planting and mulching the new tree on the front lawn of Bayberry Elementary School. In front, from left, are Kaan Uslay, Aaryan Chaudhary, Harley Nieves, Solomia Siutsou and Watchung Garden Club members Anne DeParto and Phyllis Juette. In back, from left, are Board of Education President Tina Kelly, Principal Jill Dobrowansky, Kartikeya Pant, Reese Nistorenko, Victor Lutsky, Jason Warren, Hasil Patel, and Michael Galbraith of Galbraith Landscaping.

**WARREN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**Warren adopts \$20 million municipal budget**

**WARREN TWP.** – The Township Committee voted unanimously on Thursday, May 9, to adopt its roughly \$20 million budget. The budget features a 3.8 percent tax levy increase and a tax rate hike of about 1.3 cents, from 29.3 cents per \$100 of assessed home value last year, to 30.65 cents per \$100 of assessed value this year. The rate hike means tax-

payers will pay an additional \$13.50 per \$100,000 of assessed home value, rising from \$293 to \$306.50. Residents with a home valued at \$500,000 would pay \$1,532.50 in taxes this year. The average homeowner, with a property valued at \$743,713, would pay about \$99 more in local purpose taxes in 2019. Committeeman Micael

Marion said during the budget introduction on April 11 the spike in the tax levy will be used to offset rising costs in salaries in benefits, as well as some revenue loss resulting from businesses losing town. The town will use \$1,325,000 worth of surplus funds for improvement projects, including \$1,035,000 for road maintenance.

**Warren school board adopts \$44 million budget**

**By CLAUDIA CEVA**  
STAFF WRITER

**WARREN TWP.** – The average Warren homeowner, with a property valued at \$743,713, will pay about \$208 more in taxes to the grades K-8 school district this year under the district's 2019-20 school year budget. The roughly \$44 million budget was adopted by a unanimous vote of the Board of Education on Monday, May 6. "As always, the Warren Township School District budget is crafted with a great deal of thought in

mind," Business Administrator Patricia Leonhardt said. The tax levy is increasing by 2.53 percent. The tax rate is rising by about three cents, from 86.6 cents per \$100 of assessed home value in 2018 to 89.4 cents per \$100 of assessed value this year. The increase means residents will pay an additional \$28.52 per \$100,000 of assessed value over what they paid last year. A resident with a home valued at \$500,000 would pay about \$142 more in taxes to the district. The board was able to

use banked capital funds to exceed the 2 percent cap on tax levy increases. Included in the budget is funding for a new autism program at Warren Middle School (WMS), a language and learning disabilities class, the second phase of the WMS fitness center project, continuing support for health and physical education time and new water bottle fillers, among other projects. Warren received an increase of \$153,445 in state aid this year, bringing to total aid number up to \$1,658,159.

**Dog rescue event Sunday at Warren Verizon store**

**WARREN TWP.** - The Verizon Wireless at The Cellular Connection (TCC), at 9 Mount Bethel Road, will team up with a local animal rescue organization to host a pet adoption event and supply drive at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 19. The program, TCC's inaugural Rescues Rock event, will promote pet adoptions

and collect supply donations for the rescue. The first families to adopt a dog and cat on-site will receive a pet supply kit from TCC, which includes a rescue car magnet, drawstring bag, collar, leash, food scoop, toys, treats and a bowl. "Of the six to eight million pets surrendered each year, approximately four mil-

lion of them are adopted," said Scott Moorehead, CEO of Round Room, parent company of TCC. "In our household, our four-legged friends are important members of the family, and we feel honored to work alongside local animal rescues across the country to encourage more people to give these pets a forever home."

**Donate canned goods at Warren, Watchung libraries**

Residents are encouraged to donate to the next Buy One, Bring One (BOBO) collection of food for Somerset County families and individuals in need by Friday, May 17.

BOBO Friday bins can be found locally at the Warren Township Library, located at 42 Mountain Boulevard, Warren, and the Watchung Library, located at 12 Stirling Road, Watchung.

Canned or boxed food items are accepted. The bins are available to donors every day during regular business hours, so even if one misses the third Friday of the month

when collections are held, one can still drop off donations at any time.

For examples of healthy foods to donate, visit <http://bit.ly/DonateHealthy>.

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**Warren school board debates merits of posting meeting videos online**

**By CLAUDIA CEVA**  
STAFF WRITER

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**PATRICIA ZOHN** **DAVID BREZEE**

**WARREN TWP.** – About a year since it began posting public presentations from school administrators online, the Board of Education for the grades K-8 school district is again discussing the idea of posting full meeting videos on the web.

Board member Patricia Zohn has spearheaded the renewed discussion. Using the Watchung Hills Regional High School District Board of Education as an example on Monday, May 6, she said providing video of board meetings would be a prudent decision.

"Clips of board meetings are pretty regularly showing up in various forms of media and, occasionally, social media," Zohn said.

"I, as someone who speaks to difficult issues, would feel better if there's a master recording of the entire meeting to provide context to any clips that might be created."

Fellow board member Christian Bellmann said he was conflicted on the matter. He said he could see where Zohn was coming from, but was not completely comfortable with giving the public access to the full meeting.

"Everyone can now copy out snippets of that, post it somewhere in a forum where it's totally out of context and use it to

portray a picture which is not true," Bellmann argued.

He said, so far, the video clips he has seen have not been edited to fit an untrue narrative and, thus, said he is "very comfortable with the status quo."

Zohn countered, saying it has been helpful to be able to view the Watchung Hills meetings.

"When there are important topics that come up there – and there have been – I'm able to go there and I'm able to listen to the comments from the public and how the board there handles issues they're facing," she said.

Board President David Brezee wondered if the idea would even be worth pursuing, based on the view counts on board presentation videos currently on the district's YouTube channel. For example, the tentative bud-

get had three total views and the Warren Middle School master schedule presentation garnered 17 views in a month's time.

Brezee said the view count most likely corresponds with the public interest in a given topic.

Board member Ayan Taylor said she agreed with Zohn in regard to providing the full video of board meetings moving forward.

"Particularly in the interest of transparency and public communication, I think it's important for us to videotape ourselves and have that available to the public," she said.

Brezee asked if Zohn had considered livestreaming as an option. She said she did, but said she would rather have a video made to post after the meetings are over, to be viewed at any time.

Brezee also wondered if the costs for these services had been discussed at all, to which Superintendent of schools Matthew Mingle confirmed they had not been.

Board member Naresh Chand suggested meeting minutes serve the same purpose as meeting videos without the added cost.

The board voted unanimously to have district administrators return with cost estimates for the service.

**SIX-WAY ARRANGEMENT Super Crossword**

- |   |   |   |                                  |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 Taken -- (surprised)  | 75 Lacking color                                      | 5 Posed to propose                          | 64 Employees' check time         |
| 6 Beach flier   | 78 Tippling type                                      | 6 "No Exit" dramatist                       | 66 "-- pigs fly!"                |
| 13 Opens, as some jackets   | 79 Tennis' Nastase                                    | 7 History units                             | 68 Weeper of Greek myth          |
| 20 "Gigi" star Leslie   | 80 Use as a dining surface                            | 8 Laos locale                               | 69 Get along                     |
| 21 Talk-show host Hall  | 82 Took to the slopes                                 | 9 Mil. title                                | 72 Seafood chain                 |
| 22 River of Washington, D.C.  | 83 Suffix with Timor                                  | 10 Start to cycle?                          | 73 Sharp scolding                |
| 23 Teaching a dog to stay in a pen                                  | 84 Musk of Tesla                                      | 11 Having one dimension                     | 76 Churchill's title             |
| 25 Law  | 85 Lacking color                                      | 12 Sound reasoning                          | 77 Rough--                       |
| 26 Ease off   | 86 One who may carry around a plate of hors d'oeuvres | 13 Raises                                   | 81 Dental buildup                |
| 27 Many, informally   | 89 Tarzan player Ely                                  | 14 Vary                                     | 82 "Undo" mark                   |
| 28 One, in Berlin   | 90 Emmy winner Woodard                                | 15 Least fresh                              | 86 Dough                         |
| 30 "Invisible" singer Moyet   | 91 Got a perfect score on                             | 16 'Sorry, can't, I'm late'                 | 87 Yearn                         |
| 31 Epsom product  | 92 Broadway loc.                                      | 17 Make smile                               | 88 Champagne bucket              |
| 33 Mineral required only in minute amounts                          | 93 Camporee participant                               | 18 "Cry, the Beloved Country" novelist Alan | 90 Protective sheet of film      |
| 36 Tex-Mex snack  | 94 "Jobs" star Kutcher                                | 19 Smell                                    | 93 Punched, e.g.                 |
| 37 Less tough   | 96 Terminal guesses, for short                        | 24 Stubbable body part                      | 94 Bow (to)                      |
| 40 Develop  | 100 Free rein   | 29 Closed in on                             | 95 Trojan War sage               |
| 41 Sorority letter  | 104 Involve in strife                                 | 32 "Unh-unh"                                | 97 Resident of an island kingdom |
| 44 Learning by repetition   | 107 Cautions  | 33 One of the Jackson 5                     | 98 Danny of "Off Key"            |
| 45 Brooklyn art institute   | 108 Mythical bird                                     | 34 Film segment                             | 99 One doing in a dragon, e.g.   |
| 46 EMT skill  | 109 Artist's prop                                     | 35 Pencil tip                               | 100 Bulk buys                    |
| 49 The mark "A"   | 111 Teachers' org.                                    | 38 Naval fleet                              | 101 Full of zip                  |
| 53 Quietude   | 112 Put in position                                   | 39 Cries hard                               | 102 Knot again                   |
| 54 "The Cosby Show" son   | 114 Have a pronounced response                        | 42 Steady                                   | 103 U.S.-Can. air watch          |
| 55 "I love," in Latin   | 118 Forced out  | 43 Elba, for one                            | 105 Body of eau                  |
| 56 False identity   | 119 Confess having done                               | 45 -- donna (vain sort)                     | 106 Fair-haired                  |
| 57 Castro of Cuba   | 120 Author Zora -- Hurston                            | 46 Group of matching dishes for fancy meals | 109 Kett of old comics           |
| 58 Pulitzer winner Dove   | 121 People on a quest                                 | 47 1975 World Series MVP                    | 110 Bubbly wine, familiarly      |
| 59 "NY Ink" design  | 122 Unintended radio silence                          | 48 Open-top, two-seater car                 | 113 Zine staffers                |
| 60 Stoop (over)   | 123 Grant giver                                       | 49 More apt to attract attention            | 115 Doc's gp.                    |
| 61 Regard as  | <b>DOWN</b>   | 50 City in Texas                            | 116 Spain's El --                |
| 63 Fretted  | 1 Allow in  | 51 Movement around an axis                  | 117 Prefix with colonial         |
| 65 Very slow pace   | 2 Entertainer Streisand                               | 52 Yang's partner                           |                                  |
| 67 Feature of the starts of 23-, 33-, 49-, 86-, 100- and 114-Across | 3 Syrian's language                                   | 54 Calc prereq, often                       |                                  |
| 69 Petri dish gelatins  | 4 Bivouac bed   | 57 Flowerless plant                         |                                  |
| 71 "Howdy"  |   | 61 Fix, as holey socks                      |                                  |
| 74 Use a pressing tool  |   | 62 Braggart's problem                       |                                  |

>> PLEASE SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

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