

## Lord & Taylor, Municipal Lots Redevelopment Plans Move Forward

By REBECCA MEHORTER  
Specially Written For The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Town Council met for the last time in 2020 on Tuesday, at which time officials discussed a new recycling vendor, redevelopment plans and multiple end-of-the-year resolutions to prepare for 2021.

Town Administrator Jim Gildea made a recommendation at the start of the meeting to accept a contract with Grand Sanitation Service for the curbside recycling program. The

council later in the meeting passed three resolutions related to the awarding of contracts.

The contract is for the hauler only, and the town then directs the hauler to a disposal site of its choice. The previous vendor decided not to bid for the next year, Mr. Gildea said, so the town had to look for a new group. The town rejected two bids for cost reasons, he said, but there still will be a rise in cost with the new vendor.

The program will still be every-other-week pickup for 1s, 2s, paper

and cardboard, and it will still be single-stream. With the new vendor is a new schedule for pickup. Instead of four collection zones for recycling, the town will have 10 zones. Residents should expect their pickup day to change and can check the town website for the new zones in the coming weeks.

The council passed a resolution to approve a conditional designation and interim-cost agreement with Streetworks Westfield LLC. Mayor Shelley Brindle explained in her opening remarks that the resolution designates Streetworks, a subsidiary of the Hudson's Bay Company (which owns the Lord & Taylor properties), to be the developer of the Lord & Taylor properties, the South Avenue and North Avenue train station municipal parking lots and municipal Lot 7, which is across from the post office.

"Rather than operate independently of the town's input to decide the best use of their property — something they would be within their rights to do — they understand that our success is their success, and as our largest downtown property owner, our futures are intertwined," Mayor Brindle said.

With this resolution, Streetworks has the power to present plans for the properties, using input from the public and guided by the Master Plan, to the town. Mayor Brindle said these plans should be ready by mid-2021. The town can then choose to adopt the plans or not, but Mayor Brindle emphasized the town will have no obligation to do so. Streetworks' designation will expire at the end of next year with the option for a renewal process if warranted. The resolution also allows the town to be reimbursed for the related development, planning and legal costs to date and for Streetworks to incur the costs going forward.

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## Health Bd. Reviews Vaccine, Funding, School Shutdowns

By REBECCA MEHORTER  
Specially Written For The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — As expected, the vast majority of the monthly Westfield Board of Health meeting revolved around the Covid-19 pandemic and the steep rise in cases seen throughout the state in the past few weeks. The board discussed updates related to the much-anticipated vaccine distribution, funding and schools.

Health Officer Megan Avallone said that the Westfield Regional Health Department is doing "nothing but disease investigation," and that November "was, by far, the worst month yet." In November alone, the department cleared 983 Covid cases, or 27 percent of the total cases it has seen in the entire pandemic.

Ms. Avallone said the disease investigations are taking "an extraordinary amount of time." The investigations involve reaching out to residents with positive cases to ask for symptoms, to give quarantine and isolation information and to find close contacts. Then, the county contact-tracer program contacts those close contacts. In the begin-

ning of the pandemic, the department was doing contact tracing on top of disease investigations.

"I'm hoping that December is a little more quiet, but it doesn't seem likely," Ms. Avallone said.

She said the department is struggling to keep up with its statutory requirements unrelated to the pandemic, including running child-health clinics, completing restaurant inspections, doing lead investigations and addressing complaints from residents.

Ms. Avallone spoke on what the department's role, or lack thereof, will be in the vaccination process.

She said that, as of now, "disease investigation is going to continue throughout the spring until the summer, and we're really finding it difficult just to do that. To layer on the biggest vaccination campaign that we've seen in our lifetime on top of that, it's just not realistic."

So, she continued, the regional health department did not enroll to be a vaccination provider as "there's just not enough bodies or not enough time" for

## Cranford Board Denies Dunkin' Drive-Thru

By ALEXANDRA LEBOVITZ  
Specially Written For The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — After multiple hearings and much deliberation, the Cranford Board of Adjustment carried a motion on Monday to deny Application No. ZBA 19-020 made by NATC Donuts Inc. to open a Dunkin' drive-thru location at 49 South Avenue West.

During the meeting, board members were given the opportunity to voice their opinions on the application after attending multiple hearings. Concerns about having a drive-thru restaurant located at the corner of South Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard were raised by various board members. Members voiced their concerns over the safety of having a left turn out of the site driveway on to South Avenue. The applicant conceded to not allow the left turn during the hours between the establishment's opening and noon,

but this did not eliminate the board's concerns.

The board members also voiced concerns over the impact the business would have on traffic. Various board members said that the opening of a Dunkin' would cause additional traffic on South Avenue, which was noted to be an already congested street. Secretary Dan Aschenbach said, "The intensity that will come just complicates what is existing." Concern over the stacking and queuing of the drive-thru also was raised. The traffic expert for Dunkin' said that 13 cars could occupy the space. Board member Justin Quinn said, "I am concerned over where exactly the spillover is going to go." He said the potential spillover would add to congestion and could possibly block the intersection. This concern was echoed by Alternate No. 2 Shaun Rees,

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## Planning Board OKs Historic Home Application

By REBECCA MEHORTER  
Specially Written For The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Westfield Planning Board members heard three applications during their nearly four-hour-long Monday meeting. Michael La Place acted as chairman for the meeting in place of Robert Newell, who died November 24. The board observed a moment of silence in honor of the late chairman, who served on the planning board for 30 years while also having been a member of other municipal entities.

Town Planner Don Sammet gave an update on the master plan before the board heard the evening's applications. According to Mr. Sammet, the master plan is "progressing nicely" and is on track to be completed by April 1. He said the board will receive a January status update that may call for a special meeting.

The first application the board heard was carried from the November 2 meeting and generated a lot of excitement from Mayor Shelley Brindle as well as the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC).

Property owner Ken Abraham's application for two lots located at 923 Central Avenue had previously gone to the board for a "proposed two-lot subdivision that would have called for the demolition of an existing home on the property," Mr. Sammet summarized. The house, however, demonstrated historic character, and the proceedings were adjourned. The HPC found the house had been built approximately in the mid-1700s. With input from the HPC, Mr. Abraham adjusted his application to the one presented at Monday's meeting.

The application proposes to subdivide the property but now retain the existing home on proposed lot 32.02 and to build a new single-family home



Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader

**BREAKING THE ICE...**Bob Johnson of Decorative Flairs creates a Santa ice sculpture on Quimby Street in downtown Westfield this past Sunday. The event was sponsored by the Downtown Westfield Corporation.

## Mental Health at Forefront of Board of Education Meeting

By JENNIFER GLACKIN  
Specially Written For The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Superintendent Margaret Dolan, Ed.D., and the district's director of counseling, Maureen Mazzaresse, on Tuesday presented the board of education with a video featuring counselors and students discussing the importance of mental health, especially in the new educational paradigm.

The counselors' "primary goal was to stay as connected as we can" to students, said Ms. Mazzaresse. Counselors are popping in on virtual

classes, making phone calls, hosting one-on-one and group teletherapy sessions with students, leading virtual lessons on resiliency and hope and meeting students for walks on school grounds when hybrid models are in session. There also is a virtual calming room and links to mental health resources on the district website.

While many students are finding ways to cope with the new system, Ms. Mazzaresse acknowledged that some students are struggling and that counselors are doing their best to identify those students and reach out. Teachers meet regularly with the counseling staff to alert them to any issues with students, such as drops in effort or work quality. Ms. Mazzaresse encouraged parents to reach out to teachers and counselors if their children need emotional support.

The mental health of the staff also is important, said Ms. Mazzaresse.

The stress and uncertainty of life in the Covid era "definitely impacts the mental health of both children and adults," said Heather Alvarez, a school psychologist for Roosevelt and Edison Intermediate Schools.

Board President Peggy Oster asked about advice for parents to help their children during this time. Parents and guardians can help their children contact a counselor by offering to make the call together, said Ms. Mazzaresse.

She also suggested adults model self-care habits, such as making an effort to get more sleep and by asking for help themselves.

Ms. Mazzaresse said she is proud of the work the counseling staff has done thus far, noting that counselors are receiving hundreds of emails each day. She also commended parents, students and teachers for their efforts.

Parent and former board of education candidate Deborah Feldman-Kahn suggested having the students fill out questionnaires on a regular basis to help counselors identify students in need, acknowledging the counselors are overextended.

The board has started to plan the budget for the 2021-2022 school year by accepting the "guiding change" document. This preliminary step in the budget process identifies district goals to be incorporated while also outlining possible financial issues. District Business Administrator Dana Sullivan said state aid will likely decrease next year as a result of the state's coronavirus-related financial difficulties.

State aid also is dependent on enrollment, which has decreased this year, said Ms. Sullivan, although she said she believes this is a temporary change. Board member Brendan Galligan said other towns may have a similar issue. This decrease in enroll-

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**HOLY CHILD...**Brothers from the Westfield Council of the Knights of Columbus gather this past weekend to set up the annual Nativity Crèche at the Westfield Train Station. The crèche was blessed by Monsignor Tom Nydegger, pastor of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.



Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader

**ICE, ICE, BABY...**Ice sculpting takes place in downtown Westfield last Sunday. Pictured is Jimmy's Artistic Creations with a sculpture in front of the Westfield train station.

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Photo courtesy of Bob Zuckerman  
AMERICAN DREAM TATTOO...The official ribbon-cutting takes place for American Dream Tattoo, with owners Paloma Yglesias, Oksana Weber and Ronak Patel, Mayor Shelley Brindle, Councilwoman Dawn Mackey and Bob Zuckerman, executive director of the Downtown Westfield Corporation.

## Health Board

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them to take on additional work. Instead, the department will support the county's distribution system.

The vaccine will first be distributed to healthcare providers, public health workers and long-term-care workers and residents. Healthcare workers will receive their vaccinations through their employers and/or facilities. Private companies, like CVS and Walgreens, will vaccinate the long-term-care workers and residents, she said.

Once the first group, called 1A, is fully vaccinated, "the pharmacies will play a large part in vaccinating the general public, which is wonderful," Ms. Avallone said.

She said that there was not yet a date for public distribution of the vaccine. She said the vaccine is "logistically challenging" to distribute widely as the brands that currently are ahead in the process require ultra-cold storage as well as second doses. The vaccination information also needs to be put into the state registry within 24 hours of the first shot, so vaccinating the eight million state residents will take a lot of manpower.

The board discussed the limitations of the vaccine as well. Namely, "it's protecting you, but you really need to continue to protect others and help your community," board member Dr. Lawrence Budnick said.

"The greatest problem I could see is people having a false sense of security and stop wearing masks, which is wrong," Dr. Budnick said. "People would need to continue to wear masks, physically distance — keep the six feet."

Ms. Avallone said she is telling residents who test positive for Covid-19 the same thing. She said health experts expect positive cases to retain immunity for three months, generally, but she also has seen people get re-infected with a different strain before that time period is up.

In terms of funding, Ms. Avallone said the department was awarded funding from the state to hire a vulnerable populations outreach coordinator, which will be a full-time position guaranteed for the next seven months. "We are getting a full year of funding that has to be spent in seven months," Ms. Avallone said. She noted she is looking to hire full-time and part-time employees, or even multiple of both, as "there is certainly enough work to be done."

Otherwise, she said, there is no new federal money coming for the Covid-19 public health response. "Everybody is hopeful that when the new administration takes over in January that we see more federal funding passed," she said.

The board also discussed schools as Westfield's public schools are closed

for two weeks after a surge in cases. Ms. Avallone said she is "constantly looking at numbers" with the schools' nurses and Superintendent Margaret Dolan, Ed.D., to see if schools can be opened. It is ultimately Dr. Dolan's decision to open or close, she reminded the board.

Ms. Avallone also clarified that while she believes classrooms are "one of the safest places for children," state guidance says that if there is activity within school populations that disease investigators cannot connect, schools should consider shutting down. She said "trying to connect dots when we're seeing dozens and dozens of school-age kids — it's really, really difficult when we don't have the information. We're not in the schools; we don't know all the activities." She further said she can tell if there are children who are in the same classroom, but she cannot tell if the same children are socializing outside of the classroom without parents telling her.

Ms. Avallone said that she did not have the 2021 budget ready, as "November was so, so insane," but that she would have the formal budget presentation ready for January. She said she reached out to the contract municipalities about a 3-percent increase for 2021 and has not heard negative feedback.

The Westfield Board of Health is expected to meet again in January 2021.

## Dunkin'

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who said he has looked at other drive-thru Dunkin' locations and has counted more than 13 cars in their queues.

The board was split on whether or not to approve the application, which Chairperson Ronald Marotta noted is a rare occurrence. A motion to deny the application was put forward by Mr. Aschenbach and was seconded by Vice-Chair Christine Daly. A motion to approve the application was then made by board member Chris Ashrafi and was seconded by Alternate No. 1 Chris Savino. The board voted for the motion to deny the application first, and only full board members were eligible to vote. Five board members voted to deny the application while Mr. Ashrafi and Alternate Secretary Kent Lucas voted to approve the application. The motion to deny the application was carried as it received the five votes needed.

The board thanked the applicant for its responsiveness to the board's suggestions and feedback. The public also was thanked for their time and feedback.

## Freeholders Pass Ordinance to Update Laws, Admin. Codes

By MICHAEL P. CARVALHO

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

COUNTY — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders passed an ordinance during its meeting last Thursday to amend "the laws of Union County: Administrative code and policies and general legislation."

This ordinance has four parts to it. The first part is to electronically update and/or to reprint any body of laws to change all gender-specific pronouns to appropriate gender-neutral pronouns.

This will cover any occurrence of gender-specific pronouns such as his, her, him, she, he, himself and herself. Any such word that can be changed to a title or other noun specific to the circumstance shall so be changed.

In all other instances, the gender-specific pronoun shall be changed to the appropriate gender-inclusive pronoun, such as they, them, their, themselves and theirs.

In addition to this change of wording, the name of the board itself will change in each and every instance within the written laws to "Board of County Commissioners." Each current freeholder will then be called "county commissioner" or simply, "commissioner."

The board re-naming takes effect Friday, January 1, 2021. "This is to effectuate the new state law" to change the board's name, according to Union County Counsel Bruce Bergen.

The second part of the new ordinance is a part of the administrative code for the Department of Human Services.

Within this department, the Division of Outreach and Advocacy will have updated functions and responsibilities, including identifying and assessing the needs of community residents.

Other redefinitions are to implement effective marketing; improve access to information and other resources through outreach, advocacy, referral and case management; identify areas in need of consumer and legislative advocacy to improve access to services and improve quality of life for county residents; assess social provision, workflow and efficiency in an effort to improve consumer satisfaction; and operate and maintain the Director's Action Line.

In addition, there will be a division head and subdivisions, including an Office of Human Services Constituent Relations and an Office of Analytics, Research and Evaluation.

Mr. Bergen said during the meet-

## Mental Health

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ment across towns may have something to do with students transferring to private schools during the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr. Galligan suggested the board talk to state legislators. Ms. Sullivan said her professional organization, New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, had discussed speaking to state representatives as a possible option as well.

Board members Kent Diamond, Brian Morrissey and Ms. Oster will leave the board at the end of the year and were thanked for their service to the community. All three outgoing board members congratulated newly-elected members Leila Morelli, Sonal Patel and Sahar Aziz, and said the district would be in good hands.

The next meeting of the board of education will be the reorganization meeting on Tuesday, January 5.

ing, "This is really going to use existing resources and staff, but it is going to put them all together to take care of looking at different statistics to make sure that what the county is doing is the most efficient way to deliver services."

The third part of the ordinance is for fiscal provisions regarding central payroll and advance payment for travel for county employees.

For central payroll, county employees shall be paid semi-monthly, on the 15th and 30th of each month.

Also authorized is the payment of advances to county officers and employees toward their expenses for authorized, official travel and related expenses.

Mr. Bergen explained that, "these are rules that are in effect per state law, and we are just putting them into our code to make sure that we comply with state law."

The last part of the ordinance concerns engineering and public works fees. This is to increase the fees for individual municipalities to be charged when utilizing the County of Union Compost Facility.

When an individual municipality drops off un-compacted leaves for composting at the Compost Facility, the municipality will pay \$4 per cubic yard, instead of the previous \$2 fee. The fee for compacted leaves will be changed from \$4 to \$6 per cubic yard.

"This facility is only used by the municipalities. It is a shared service offered by the county to the municipalities. The cost to the municipalities, even with this increase, is far less than what it would cost them on the open market," said Mr. Bergen.

Mr. Bergen concluded, "The idea is to keep up the money coming in to run the facility."

## Historic App.

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driveway plans.

The next applicant was Echo Lake Country Club, 515 Springfield Avenue, which sought an allowance of 37.38 feet for its building height, contrary to the 35-foot maximum in the land-use ordinance. The extra room would conceal equipment on the roof, architect Peter Boscio said. The board accepted the application as presented.

The last application the board heard was for Domenico Lettini of 2003 Grandview Avenue. The application proposed a minor subdivision and the construction of three new homes and requested five variances. Board members voiced concerns over storm-water management as well as issues like increased parking and traffic.

"Realize every applicant that comes before us says the change is nominal; it's not that significant. But lots of nominal changes equal a significant impact, and we're dealing with all those nominal changes that have accrued over time in the community," Mayor Brindle said.

One issue a few board members had concerned the lack of detail in the application for the proposed three buildings. "It would have been easier to consider the variances had there been a fuller package — more decisions made around how the properties would be developed," board member Ross Goldstein said. "The more information we have, the easier it is to make the right decisions," he noted.

The board voted unanimously to deny the application as presented.

One application was carried to January, and the meeting was adjourned. The board will next meet on Monday, January 4, 2021.



Photo courtesy of Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader  
SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP...Residents shop at Penelope's Traveling Boutique during the Holiday Market at Droscher's Mill in Cranford this past Sunday. The event was sponsored by Alluam Yoga.

## Cranford Board Recommends First Aid Squad Rezoning

By ALEXANDRA LEBOVITZ

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — During a brief meeting, the Cranford Planning Board made a determination on December 2 that Ordinance No. 2020-17 is consistent with the township's Master Plan and favorably recommended the ordinance to the Cranford Township Committee.

Ordinance No. 2020-17 is an ordinance to amend the Code of the Township of Cranford, Chapter 225 Land Development, to rezone 6 Centennial Avenue — the site of the Cranford First Aid Squad.

The First Aid Squad came before the township committee in early 2020 and then again on October 13 to discuss a possible renovation of its headquarters. The site currently is zoned as a residential district despite its location downtown. Rezoning the site to a Downtown Business zone, as proposed by the ordinance, would eliminate the need for almost all of the variance applications the First Aid Squad would need in order to renovate its headquarters.

The Master Plan consistency review of the ordinance was referred to the board by the township committee. Board Attorney Jonathan Drill carried out the review and provided it to the board. Nicholas Dickerson of Maser Consulting found the ordinance

to be not inconsistent with the 2009 Master Plan in his consistency review. He said the current zoning of the site is odd as it is a single-family residence zone surrounded by non-residential zones. He said there is nothing in the Master Plan that says why this zoning was done. Mr. Dickerson looked beyond the 2009 Master Plan to past Master Plans and re-exams but found no indication in any as to why the site was targeted for the current zoning.

"I agree with the assessment that is made in the proposed ordinance that points out that this seems to have been by mistake," Mr. Dickerson said about the site's current zoning to the board. "It would be my opinion," he continued, "looking at the goals and objectives of that 2009 Master Plan, that it would not be inconsistent with the Master Plan."

Deputy Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty agreed that the proposed ordinance would be correcting an error. "I feel confident stating that there was no intent for this to be zoned residential," she said.

The board passed a motion determining that it had found Ordinance No. 2020-17 not inconsistent with the Master Plan and favorably recommended its adoption with all board members voting in favor.

## Redevelopment Advances

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Councilman Mark LoGripio said he voted no on the resolution because he was concerned about crowded schools and overdevelopment. Mayor Brindle clarified that no plans have been determined as to what will be built on the properties. She also said the school board will be heard on the matter while the plans are made as well as after the plans are presented.

Resident Kerry Murphy spoke during the public-comment portion of the meeting with concerns. Ms. Murphy said she was concerned residents may not realize what has been occurring relating to redevelopment because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. "Given everything that's going on right now, is now the time to be doing that? Can we not shelve it until we get past this really difficult stage?" she asked.

Mayor Brindle thanked Ms. Murphy for her concerns but said that it was not her experience that residents are unaware and that she does not think redevelopment can wait specifically because of the pandemic.

"The last thing we can afford to do, economically, is shelve it and watch more and more businesses close and then spend our time figuring out what we're going to do," Mayor Brindle said. "We need to act with a sense of urgency that this pandemic has thrown at us."

The council also passed three ordinances at the meeting. Special Ordinance No. 2220 authorizes a special emergency appropriation related to coronavirus-associated revenue loss. The ordinance allows the town to potentially spread losses over a six-year period if needed. However, Councilwoman Linda Habgood said that town finances are "going quite well despite all the things going on this year," so the ordinance is more of a protective measure. Everyone but Councilman LoGripio voted in favor of the ordinance.

The council unanimously passed Gen-

eral Ordinance No. 2201 and No. 2202 as well. No. 2201 adjusts the town code to update town job titles and salary ranges starting January 1, 2021. No. 2202 adds two more members from the public to the Tree Preservation Commission. According to the ordinance, the commission "shall assist the Planning Board or the Board of Adjustment, as the case may be, in an advisory capacity on tree preservation and management matters pertaining to the Town."

Councilwoman Habgood practiced her monologue skills as she read over 30 resolutions for the finance policy committee. Many of the resolutions related to end-of-the-year responsibilities of the chief financial officer as well as resolutions to set the town up for 2021. The town council and Mayor Brindle also approved the resolution to receive their salaries — \$1 each — for 2020, although Mayor Brindle assured the public they do not cash their dollar.

The council also passed a resolution in support of New Jersey Senate Bill No. S-2964 and New Jersey Assembly Bill A-4925. The bills offer reform to make it easier for new restaurant owners to obtain liquor licenses, something Mayor Brindle said has become more urgent due to revenue loss related to the pandemic. She said licenses are so expensive that new and young restaurateurs lose the opportunity to get a license. The bills attempt to protect expected revenue losses from current license holders by giving them a tax credit. The council voted unanimously in favor of the resolution.

Mayor Brindle also thanked Danielle Walsh of the planning board and Recreation Commission Chairman Gary Fox, who both served at their last meetings on Monday night. Both Ms. Walsh and Mr. Fox served on their respective boards for 13 years before stepping down.

The Westfield Town Council will meet next on Tuesday, January 12, 2021.

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Photo courtesy of Rachel Pater  
SANTA VISITS MOUNTAINSIDE...Mountainside held a virtual tree lighting this past Saturday. The Soundscape Singers Cabaret sang carols and the Mountainside Fire Department escorted Santa for a greeting. The event was live streamed to Mountainside TV YouTube channel for all to enjoy.



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REALTY

26 Homes Sold Nov 29 – Dec 6, 2020 in Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield									
TOWN	ADDRESS	STYLE	RMS	BRS	BTH	GAR	SALE PRICE		
Cranford	5A PARKWAY VLG	TwnEndUn	5	2	1.1	0	\$270,625		
Cranford	16 BALMIERE PKWY	Colonial	8	3	1.1	1	\$466,000		
Cranford	6 SHETLAND DR	SplitLev	8	3	2.1	2	\$450,000		
Cranford	424 MANOR AVE	SplitLev	11	4	2.1	2	\$806,000		
Fanwood	131 KING ST	CapeCod	8	4	2.0	1	\$484,500		
Fanwood	105 MIDWAY AVE	Colonial	8	4	3.1	1	\$642,000		
Fanwood	133 RUSSELL RD	Colonial	11	4	3.1	2	\$875,000		
Mountainside	1168 RIDGE DR	SplitLev	10	5	2.1	2	\$620,000		
Scotch Plains	23 CANTERBURY DR	SplitLev	8	3	2.1	1	\$519,500		
Scotch Plains	2227 CONCORD RD	SplitLev	9	5	2.1	2	\$649,900		
Scotch Plains	944 RARITAN RD	Colonial	12	4	3.1	2	\$849,000		
Scotch Plains	2335 LONGFELLOW AVE	Custom	10	5	3.2	2	\$939,000		
Westfield	334 LIVINGSTON ST	Colonial	6	3	1.0	2	\$385,000		
Westfield	1037 RIPLEY AVE	SplitLev	9	3	1.1	1	\$560,000		
Westfield	490 OTISCO DR	SplitLev	9	4	2.1	2	\$685,000		
Westfield	47 UNAMI TER	SplitLev	9	4	3.0	2	\$699,000		
Westfield	226 EDGEWOOD AVE	Colonial	8	4	1.1	1	\$748,000		
Westfield	109 FRAZEE CT	Colonial	9	4	2.1	2	\$719,000		
Westfield	321 GROVE ST EAST	TwnEndUn	8	3	3.1	1	\$745,000		
Westfield	1015 COLUMBUS AVE	Colonial	8	4	3.1	1	\$795,000		
Westfield	322 PARK ST	Victorian	12	6	3.0	0	\$825,000		
Westfield	154 N EUCLID AVE	Colonial	12	5	3.1	1	\$890,000		
Westfield	135 N EUCLID AVE	Colonial	10	5	2.1	2	\$965,267		
Westfield	342 JOHN ST	Colonial	9	4	2.1	2	\$850,000		
Westfield	619 FAIRFIELD CIR	Colonial	11	5	4.1	2	\$1,354,000		
Westfield	1249 PROSPECT ST	Colonial	21	7	7.1	3	\$3,650,000		

\*Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield, NJ data according to the Garden State MLS, as of 11/29/20 – 12/06/20

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## Coles Students Provide Lunches to Those In Need

SCOTCH PLAINS — The J.A. Coles Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), a part of the J.A. Coles School in Scotch Plains, continues its Sharing Lunch Program despite the challenges posed by Covid-19. In November, Coles families made 93 lunches for people in need. These lunches were donated to the Salvation Army in Plainfield.

Each month, on a designated day, the children at Coles School (grades Pre-K through 4) typically pack an extra brown bag lunch and bring it in to “share.” This year, collections take place at volunteers’ homes. The lunches collected are brought to the Salvation Army in Plainfield, where they are given to patrons of the

organization’s daily soup kitchen. Bagged lunches are packed by students at Coles and make their way to children only a few miles away who are hungry, to families that are struggling, and to older people who have a need. This initiative is part of the Coles Kids Care program.

The Coles Kids Care program, sponsored by the J.A. Coles PTA, continues to give back to those in need in the local community throughout the school year.

The J.A. Coles PTA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, the mission of which is to enhance the educational experience of students and to support the staff and parents at the J.A. Coles School.



LUNCHES WITH LOVE...Families of J.A. Coles School in Scotch Plains show their support for disadvantaged area residents served by the Salvation Army in Plainfield. Pictured, the D’Alessandro family loads their car with lunches.

## App Design Competition Open to Youngsters

AREA — STEM Mindset, a teen-led, non-profit organization that provides free STEM virtual activities for elementary- and middle-school youngsters, has announced its app design competition.

STEM Mindset has partnered with the Make It Happen Club to host its #Happathon. The Happathon is described by STEM Mindset as “a simple and fun app design competition, which fosters youth to become

interested in becoming digital creators. It can also be a fun activity to share with families.”

The app design competition encourages children from grades 1 to 8 to be creative and innovative. The winning app design will be built and released on the App Store. For guidelines and additional details regarding the competition, visit STEM Mindset’s website, [stemmindset.org/app-competition](http://stemmindset.org/app-competition). Entries are due by Wednesday, January 6, 2021.

In addition to the #Happathon, STEM Mindset hosts STEM-oriented free and virtual workshops designed to introduce children ages 7 to 11 to the realm of computer science. Information on these workshops can be found at [stemmindset.org](http://stemmindset.org).

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HOLIDAY HAPPINESS...Brownie Troop 40541 was among the Girl Scouts of Cranford who recently lent their time and talents to decorating the township tree and taking part in The Festival of Trees in conjunction with local businesses. Troop members are pictured above with the tree at Cake Artist Cafe.

## Cranford Girl Scouts Help To Bring Holiday Cheer

CRANFORD – The Girl Scouts of Cranford has a decades-long tradition of crafting ornaments and then gathering together the day after Thanksgiving to decorate the township tree. In the midst of the Covid-19 health crisis this year, the troops and the township worked together to take a new approach that kept the tradition alive while adhering to safety guidelines. The troops also participated in The Festival of Trees, a new initiative sponsored by the Cranford Downtown Management Corporation (DMC).

“It showed our girls that in the face of challenge and change, we can adapt,” said Tara Giblin, one of the co-leaders of Brownie Troop 40455, which helped organize the event. “Our collective efforts continued that feeling of community and togetherness, and that is the most important thing.”

Troops were assigned 15-minute time slots to reduce the number of people in Mayor’s Park at the corner of Springfield and North Union Avenues across from the Cranford Municipal Building. By the end of the day, more than 400 Girl Scouts had added their ornaments to the tree. The tree decorating and lighting is organized annually by the Cranford Chamber of Commerce. This year, the lighting portion of the event — which usually draws a large crowd — was only broadcast on Channel 35 and online due to safety concerns.

During The Festival of Trees, shoppers can visit local merchants

who have decorated trees and vote for their favorite. Girl Scouts of Cranford partnered with 15 businesses to help them decorate. For example, Cadette Troop 40013 worked with Adriano Nery, owner of the newly-opened Sapore di Italia restaurant, on an Autism Awareness themed tree, an initiative that is close to his family’s heart.

“This has been a great experience,” said Mr. Nery. “I’m really looking forward to seeing how the girls interpreted this idea. Raising awareness of those with autism is something we are committed to whenever we can.”

The Festival of Trees will run through Wednesday, December 30. Girl Scouts of Cranford creations and collaborations may be seen as follows: Junior Troop 40794 — Fire Me Up! Studio; Ambassador Troop 40894 — Strands Salon; Cadette Troop 40013 — Sapore di Italia restaurant; Brownie Troop 40376 — Vanilla Bean Creamery; Troop 40624 — HOME power yoga; Brownie Troop 40558 — Reach for The Stars therapy; Cadette Troop 40196 — Mr. J’s Deli; Brownie Troop 40541 — Cake Artist Cafe; Cadette Troop 40744 — Vinny’s Pizza & Pasta; Ambassador Troop 40480 — Ambeli Greek Taverna; Troop 40560 — Max & Luna Baby And Kids; Brownie Troop 40455 — Cranford Movie Theater; Cadette Troop 40222 — Beyond Dance; Senior Troop 40693 — Old City Cafe & Grill.

For more information on the Girl Scouts of Cranford, visit [cranfordgirlscouts.com](http://cranfordgirlscouts.com).

## Annabelle Ponterdolph Is Initiated Into Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Annabelle Ponterdolph of Scotch Plains was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, which has its national headquarters in Baton Rouge, La. She was initiated at MCPHS University.

Ms. Ponterdolph is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees also may qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann, who had a desire to create a

different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States and the Philippines. Its mission is “To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others.”

Since its founding, more than 1.5 million members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. Among the organization’s notable members are former President Jimmy Carter, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist John Grisham and YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley. Each year, Phi Kappa Phi awards \$1 million to outstanding students and members through graduate and dissertation fellowships, undergraduate study-abroad grants, funding for post-baccalaureate development, and grants for local, national and international literacy initiatives. For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, visit [phikappaphi.org](http://phikappaphi.org).

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## WAYVE Teen Bd. Reveals Grant Award Recipients

WESTFIELD — WAYVE Teen Foundation Board Chairs Rachel Simpson and Sean Hazard have announced \$6,500 in grant awards to seven Union County organizations. After being delayed from in-person meetings due to the pandemic in May, the WAYVE Teen Foundation Board convened via Zoom this fall, where they reviewed nearly \$20,000 in grants from 14 Union County agencies.

Grants were awarded to Caring Contact, Community Coordinated Childcare, Elizabethport Presbyterian Center, Gateway Family YMCA, Institute of Music for Children, Mobile Meals of Westfield and The Neighborhood House Association.

The Westfield Area Youth Volunteer Experience (WAYVE) is made possible through a grant from the Westfield Foundation and is coordinated by Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey (JFSCNJ), a non-profit, non-sectarian health and social service agency that serves all residents of Union County.

In addition to the two co-chairs, members of the 2020 WAYVE Teen Foundation Board included Emma Aronowitz, Chloe Beaulieu, John Claiborne, Max Feldman, Dan Hazard, Samantha Katz, Drew Kornfeld, Jeremy Kornfeld, Emily Korth, Grace Lanza, Jack Rothfleisch, Madeline Silva, Samantha Smith and Julia Weinstein.

“Being involved with the WAYVE Teen Board for the last three years has taught me so much about nonprofits in the area, and the grants review process,” said Rachel Simpson. “Working with my peers and making a difference in my community is an experience that I will be proud of forever.”

Sean Hazard added, “It was an amazing experience that taught me valuable lessons and skills pertaining to a board like this while also allowing us to help people in need around Union County.”

All members of the WAYVE Teen Foundation Board have expressed an interest in community service and all have volunteered for a wide range of Union County-based charities, social service organizations, synagogues and churches.

“I am very impressed with the hard work of this board and the choices made by the teens,” stated Tom Beck, executive director of JFSCNJ. “Our community will be lifted up as a result.”

WAYVE Program Director Jill Dispenza likewise expressed her admiration and appreciation to the teen board for a job well done and thanked the Y Men’s Club for their donation.

The grants were for one-time, short-term projects that will improve the lives of Union County residents as it relates to Covid-19. The focus areas were technology/equipment and social service and advocacy for impoverished and/or vulnerable populations. Applicant agencies were all non-profit organizations with proof of 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, with strong board involvement and having demonstrated responsible financial stewardship.

## McKinley Fifth Graders Explore Family Heritage

WESTFIELD — Fifth graders at McKinley Elementary School in Westfield recently explored their family’s past during a cross-curricular assignment that combined reading, writing, research, geography, technology, speech, history, graphic design and interviewing skills.

Students interviewed a person in their family who knew someone or was someone who had emigrated from a different country to the United States. Fifth graders asked the interviewee such questions as “Why did you come to America?”, “What was your homeland like?” and “What did you do for work and housing when you arrived here?”

“Students then had to use the five themes of geography to determine the location of the person’s homeland, using global grid coordinate points on Google Maps,” said Joseph Paradise, who, with fellow McKinley fifth-grade teachers William Hannis, Ann McDonough and the fifth-grade team, created the “My Family’s Immigrant Story” project.

“The fifth-grade social studies curriculum has a ‘World Studies’ theme that focuses on regions and people and, more importantly, how geography influences the development of culture,” said K-12 Social Studies Supervisor Andrea Brennan. “All fifth graders focus on the five themes of geography — location, region, place, movement, human/environment interaction — at the start of the year.”

Mr. Paradise said fifth graders used Google Earth to research the natural

and constructed features of the person’s homeland. “The students then used the interview answers to create a third-person account of their family’s ‘immigrant story,’” he added. “All of the information was transferred into a flipbook, designed with illustrations and photographs.”

Each student used Flipgrid — an online interactive educational tool — to showcase his or her presentation and to give a three- to five-minute speech on what he or she had learned about his or her family.

“Before this project, I didn’t even know my great-grandparents’ first names, but now I know so much more,” said one student. “I got to learn more about Ireland and especially about their hometowns, Monaghan and Cork. I got to learn about cool places there and more about their life when they had to emigrate to America, and I couldn’t be more glad that they came!”

Another student was pleased to learn more about his mother’s life in her native Honduras. “I also got to know more about the geography of the country and some of the family members that I have over there,” he said. “I also got to know more about my ancestors, known as the ancient Mayans.”

“I like this project because it provides an opportunity for the kids to celebrate their diversity,” Mr. Paradise said. “I think the kids have a better appreciation for the sacrifices their family made to provide a better life for them. I hope this project brings families a bit closer during this challenging holiday season.”



YOUNG TALENT ON PARADE...The first-grade classes of Bethany Howell and Jennifer Molloy at the Wardlaw+Hartridge School in Edison recently transformed their classrooms into Makerspaces. They used various items to create and decorate balloon floats, which were all named in time for the main event of the day — a Thanksgiving Day Parade. The teachers created videos of the floats being pulled by Dash the Robot, as the students cheered for each other’s creations during the parade. Pictured, from top to bottom, Sydney Pfeffer of Westfield gets to work on her creation, while Mason Pena of Scotch Plains cuts paper to create his float.



Dean H. Huddleston

Sunrise: November 19, 1969

Sunset: November 14, 2020



Dean was graced with life in Westfield, N.J. He was the only son of Peggy Hudson-Huddleston and the late Richard (Vic) Huddleston. Dean leaves behind his mother, two beautiful daughters, Breana and Lanai, and three lovely grandchildren. In addition, he will be missed by many other family members and friends, especially Connie, Bill, and Jody.

Dean passed quietly during the night, due to complications of diabetes, and was cremated in Texas.

With love,  
The family of Dean H. Huddleston  
December 10, 2020

Westfield Teachers Receive Training In Racial Literacy

WESTFIELD — As part of a district-wide Racial Literacy initiative, Westfield Public Schools recently welcomed educational consultant David Schwartz, who conducted professional development sessions to provide educators with culturally-responsive teaching strategies aimed at enhancing student engagement and creating a respectful community of learners.

“At the beginning of our meetings, I requested that participants stay engaged, dialogue respectfully, and be able to be comfortable being uncomfortable,” said Mr. Schwartz about his sessions for teachers of grades K-5 on November 3. “Discussions on race and implicit bias often bring us to uncomfortable places in order to emerge with new learning,” he added.

Mr. Schwartz, a former social studies supervisor and teacher, previously worked as a senior program associate for “Facing History and Ourselves,” a program for students and educators that addresses racism, anti-Semitism and prejudice at pivotal moments in history. He now trains and supports K-12 and college educators through Creative Options for Progressive Educators to, among other things, help them “create safe spaces that motivate students to explore and learn, facilitate civil classroom discourse, and honor all student identities and ableness.”

“I was very impressed with the honesty of the participants and their very civil discourse,” he said about the Westfield teachers. “I also was impressed with the safety participants felt in this very large Zoom environment.”

“David’s workshop on racial literacy challenged K-5 teachers to approach this topic from two perspectives: as adult learners and as educators. They were also asked to reflect on their work with students,” said K-

12 Supervisor of Social Studies Andrea Brennan.

Mr. Schwartz’s workshop, along with administrator-facilitated sessions provided to English and social studies teachers for grades 6 to 12, are part of a larger district initiative to



David Schwartz

address racial literacy and to provide developmentally-appropriate lessons in and conversations about race and cultural diversity in Westfield Public Schools.

During the 2019-2020 school year, Ms. Brennan and then-Supervisor of K-12 English Language Arts Dr. Tiffany Jacobson – who is now interim principal of the Lincoln Early Childhood Center – ex-

amined classroom libraries in grades K to 5 before recommending additional titles that provide a richer and more diverse experience. The two collaborated to create the K-12 Racial Literacy Training Proposal.

The initiative was funded by a grant from the Westfield Education Fund, a nonprofit organization that relies on donations from the community to “support innovative projects that strengthen and enrich students’ academic experience but fall beyond the school district budget.” Information about the Westfield Education Fund is available at [westfieldfund.org](http://westfieldfund.org).

The district is planning Community Learning Nights in coming months as part of a broader outreach to students, families and other members of the community. The community is invited and encouraged to complete “Responding to Hate: A Community Survey,” which will be used to gauge community feedback and to plan future community learning experiences.

“If we are to survive as a nation, it will be because education and understanding have triumphed over hate and ignorance,” said Mr. Schwartz.

— Obituaries —

Paul Salomone, 63, Musician, Teacher, Vintage Baseball Team Captain

Paul Salomone, 63, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at his home in Westfield with his loving wife and family by his side. Born in Plainfield, he grew up in Scotch Plains and graduated from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School in 1975. He had been a resident of Westfield since 2000.

Paul had a lifelong passion for music and studied music at the Armed Forces School of Music, Kean College and Jersey City State College. He served in the U.S. Army from 1977-1983, where he played in the United States Army Band while stationed in Germany.

Paul spent over 35 years teaching and performing in the Westfield area. His teaching agenda and focus included piano technique, classical, jazz and popular repertoire and music theory. He was beloved by his many students and their families. His performance concentration was jazz and he had performed in many well-known venues in the New York/New Jersey area. He had also produced two jazz CDs. The first, “Quickstep,” featured original compositions and jazz standards and culminated in his quartet performing in the Forest City Jazz Festival in Ontario, Canada. His recordings featured original tunes and selections from the standard jazz repertoire.

Paul was instrumental in bringing vintage baseball to New Jersey. He started in 1999 by recruiting old friends and acquaintances to join his team, the Elizabeth Resolutes. The Resolutes was an historically accurate team that played professional baseball in 1873, but also functioned as a team before and after ’73 from

1866-1878.

By 2000, the Elizabeth Resolutes, with Paul serving as captain, were established and playing against teams from all over the northeast. They traveled to play teams in New York, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Connecticut and Maryland, and will continue to do so under new leadership/mentorship.

When Paul started the Resolutes, he became a member of the Vintage Base Ball Association, going on to serve four years as vice president.

He will be remembered for his passionate love of family, food, sports and animals, his sense of humor, and his great big booming voice and presence.

Paul is survived by his wife, Ruth; his children, Laura Geflic and Evan Fernandez; their spouses, Michael Geflic and Kristen Fernandez, respectively, and the newest member of the family and the apple of his eye, his granddaughter, Julia Sage Geflic. He was predeceased by his parents, Calpurnio and Beatrice, and his brother, Phillip. Surviving are his sister, Catherine Ochser, and his brother, Thomas Salomone.

Due to the current pandemic, a celebration of Paul’s life will be held at a later time, hopefully in the spring/summer of 2021.

The family welcomes donations to the T.J. Martell Foundation, the music industry’s leading foundation that funds innovative medical research focused on finding treatments and cures for cancer, and/or the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), as an expression of sympathy instead of flowers. Arrangements are by Dooley Colonial Home in Westfield.

December 10, 2020



Paul Salomone

Webinar Panelists to Address Current College Experience

WESTFIELD — The College Woman’s Club of Westfield will host a webinar entitled “I Wish I Knew Then What I Know Now” next Thursday, December 17, at 7 p.m.

Free and open to the public, this event will feature a panel that includes one college graduate and five current college students. It is designed as an opportunity for high-school students to learn from college students who are navigating the current college experience during the Covid-19 health crisis.

Panelists will reflect on their senior year of high school and discuss their experience at college. These young women have been away at school, coping with mask wearing and social distancing. They have been zooming classes, attending some classes in person with masks on, and navigating meeting new friends.

To register for this event, access <https://bit.ly/CWCZ5EventReg>. Details on joining the webinar will be sent upon registration.

For more information about the College Woman’s Club and its activities, visit [cwclubwestfield.org](http://cwclubwestfield.org).



UNITING AGAINST HUNGER...Greater Westfield UNICO held a second food drive in conjunction with Saint Helen’s Parish in Westfield on December 4. Pictured are Past Chapter President Richard Esposito, left, and Past Chapter President Vince Tomasso with food boxes from Greater Westfield UNICO. UNICO National is the largest Italian-American service organization in the nation.

Westfield Library Offers New ebook, Music Services

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Memorial Library has announced that it now has access to the New Jersey State Library shared collection of digital resources, made possible by CARES Act funding to the state. In an effort to make these resources available to library users statewide, the New Jersey State Library selected Baker & Taylor/Axis360 to partner in creating this collection.

To check out the new ebooks, Westfield patrons can visit the library’s website and click on the link to Axis360. Axis 360’s collection includes thousands of titles for adults, teens and children; fiction and non-fiction. Titles are automatically returned at the end of the loan period, and there are no late fees. Anyone needing help with using Axis360 on digital devices or personal computers can view the tutorials on the library’s website as well.

The library also has another new downloadable source for music known as the Freegal® Music Service. Patrons are entitled to three downloads per week and three hours of free streaming.

The Freegal® Music Service gives patrons access to a collection spanning over 15 million songs, music videos and audiobooks from more than 40,000 music labels worldwide, among them Sony Music, Epic, RCA and Columbia.

Some of the music that Freegal offers includes a strong retrospective collection from the 1940s and ’50s, one million classical tracks, and strong collections in jazz, world music, country, alternative, blues, gospel, Christian and children. Over 200,000 new songs are added monthly.

Freegal® Music also offers a completely rebuilt mobile app and website, which ensures that downloading is an easy experience. The free application is available for library cardholders and can be downloaded in the Apple® App Store and Google® Play Store.

Currently, the library is closed to the public until further notice due to an increase in Covid-19 cases in the area and out of concern for patrons and staff. Patrons can continue to reserve materials for checkout via curbside service.

Requests for library materials can be placed during the following hours: between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The process for reserving books (placing a hold) is demonstrated on the library’s YouTube channel.

Patrons will be able to pick up materials that they have placed on hold the day after they have placed the hold. Curbside service hours for pickup are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 4:30 p.m.

When returning materials, patrons should use Door 7 to the library, which leads to the Meeting Room. They should use the outside book drops when the library is closed. All items are quarantined for 72 hours before they are checked in as per American Library Association guidelines.

The library is not accepting any donated materials at this time. Inter-library loan (ILL) is still available. Any Westfield residents who do not yet have a library card can visit the library’s website at [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org) and complete the form on the Get a Card page. A library card will be mailed to the requester.

If patrons need any help with their accounts, they should call the library at (908) 789-4090, extension 6, and leave a voice mail. A staffer will return the call.

The library has added more programs to its YouTube channel, which can be found at [youtube.com/user/westfieldmemoriallib](http://youtube.com/user/westfieldmemoriallib), or by clicking on the YouTube icon on the library’s website. Other program information is provided on the library’s website and the library’s Facebook page, [facebook.com/wmlnj](http://facebook.com/wmlnj).

Alison Jaruzelski Is Awarded Dual Degrees From Michigan

WESTFIELD — Alison Jaruzelski of Westfield graduated with dual degrees in English and theater from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich., during virtual commencement ceremonies on May 2.

Ms. Jaruzelski earned a Bachelor of Arts in English with Distinction from the Residential College and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design and Production with High Honors from the School of Music, Theatre and Dance (SMTD). She was elected to the University of Michigan chapters of the Golden Key National Honor Society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

The Residential College is a living/learning community within the College of Literature, Science and the Arts that requires foreign-language

proficiency and interdisciplinary study. Ms. Jaruzelski completed a spring semester with the New England Literature Program, a six-week program in the New Hampshire wilderness that focuses on intensive reading and writing entirely free of electronic devices.

As a Stage Management major in SMTD, Ms. Jaruzelski worked on original dance, musical and dramatic works through University Productions. She also was active in MUSKET, the student-run musical theater organization, stage managing or producing six different shows including *Bare, In the Heights*, *Legally Blonde* and *Sister Act*. A 2016 graduate of Westfield High School, she is the daughter of Barry and Jennifer Jaruzelski of Westfield.

Local Students Are Recipients Of Colgate Dean’s Award

HAMILTON, N.Y. — Colgate University has announced that two local students received the Spring 2020 Dean’s Award for Academic Excellence. This award is given to students who receive a term grade point average of 3.3 or higher while completing at least three courses for a conventional letter grade.

Rachella Carlino is an undeclared major at Colgate and a graduate of

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, from Scotch Plains.

Saniya Dalvi is an astronomy/physics major at Colgate and a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, from Scotch Plains.

Colgate University offers 56 majors and supports 25 Division I athletic teams on a campus of about 3,000 students located in central New York.



IN SESSION

We Can Still Find Ways To Celebrate the Season

By Carol Pedro, Exec. Dir.  
Youth & Family Counseling Service

I have attempted to write this article several times. Call it “writer’s block,” but, I struggled. As 2020, the year of “anything could happen,” winds down and the holiday season is here, I can only reflect with awe.

Before mid-March of this year, things were status quo. Daily routines were just that, “routine.” Going off to work and school, grabbing the cup of coffee “to go” at the local Dunkin’ Donuts or Starbucks, sitting in traffic waiting for the bus or train. No big deal. Enter your office or other workplace, greet workers, complain about the boss, the weather, chat about a new book or drama series on HBO...and so on.

Suddenly, nothing was normal. From one day to the next, *everything* changed. The world shut down. The “virus,” the pandemic, Covid, whatever, took over and stole our “normal.” Although it has now been nine months of change, adjusting, rethinking, relocating, staying home, ordering in, hybrid school and work – we’re still here!

First thoughts of this happening felt overwhelming and scary for all of us. We have not been confronted with a universal catastrophe like this before (at least not in our lifetimes). Every person had to notice, had to take responsibility and had to change. Not always pretty and sometimes with resistance we persevered. The details and logistics may be very different but we are still here, still fighting.

The holidays are traditionally times of peace, joy, family, friends and religious gatherings filled with happiness and gratitude. Remember, the holiday season has always been what you make it. Honor your beliefs, safely interact and keep faith and hope. Just like every day, we choose how we will be present throughout the day. Choose gratitude, positivity and happiness. Choose to be mindfully safe. Focus on your health (and others’)

while creating new holiday experiences — one still filled with much goodness, joy, love and some peace.

We can all, together, overcome this difficult time and still send a card or gift, attend services virtually, call or facetime friends and family, etc...Please choose to have a safe and happy holiday season, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Be grateful and know our hearts are together with anyone who has suffered during this difficult time in our lives. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all...“God bless us everyone” (Dickens, “A Christmas Carol”).

\*\*\*

Carol M. Pedro is a licensed therapist with Youth and Family Counseling Service, 233 Prospect Street, Westfield, N.J. 07090; (908) 233-2042. Website: [yfpsnj.org](http://yfpsnj.org).

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# Gratitude: Pandemic Fatigue

By PATRICIA STECKLER, Ph.D.  
Specially Written For The Westfield Leader and The Times

“People are so done putting hearts on their windows and teddy bears out for scavenger hunts,” said Katie Rosenberg, the mayor of Wausau, Wisconsin. That was in mid-October as cases of the coronavirus started resurging here in New Jersey and throughout the United States. Mayor Rosenberg’s town hospital overflowed with new Covid-19 admissions, and residents’ spirits flagged. “They’ve had enough,” added the mayor.

What is pandemic fatigue, and how do we combat it?

The American Psychological Association reports that the isolation and deprivation caused by the pandemic increase “anxiety, depression, boredom, anger, frustration, and irritability.” We feel and see this weariness in our homes, our towns and ourselves.

Kids are angrier. Couples get on each other’s nerves. No longer does the work/life balance exist. Mask-shaming soars, whether it’s pro or con the necessity of wearing them. Drivers honk more readily and insistently. Social media posts, too often, accuse and condemn rather than unify and uplift.

What can we do, especially as winter approaches? Friends and family express sad feelings over a holiday season far lonelier than our usual joyful celebrations. We need tools for coping now.

Here are tips for feeling better: Take care of your body — eat nutritionally, sleep at least seven hours per night and exercise daily. A brief 20-minute walk reduces stress and increases well-being.

Limit your news intake — Too much exposure to negative news lowers mood and brings on hopelessness. When you do watch, choose reliable sources and set time limits.

Add calming activities — nature walks, meditation, yoga, reading, comedy, breathing exercises. Install meditation apps on your smart devices.

Connect with others — People are profoundly social beings. We need each other to feel alive, loved and valued. Laughter becomes uproarious when shared with others. Tears dry when friends can soothe sorrows with empathetic ears and kindly expressions.

Accept your feelings — “Challenging situations stir up a mix of emotions. Stuffing feelings down doesn’t

make them go away. Instead, acknowledge and name your feelings. Allow yourself to have them.” (UCLA)

Try positive self-talk — Watch for “what-if” thoughts, the ones that pose negative scenarios. Instead, think of what you’re grateful for each day.

Create new traditions — Do a family karaoke night or an after-dinner walk with everyone all bundled up. Join an online book group or start one. Take out that guitar to play again. Make suggestions to us using the contact information below.

I recommend that patients check to see how family members are faring mood-wise as the pandemic drags on. In response, I often hear, “Are you kidding me? I’m with everyone 24/7. I know how they feel. Believe me!”

We may all suffer from pandemic-fatigue, Zoom-fatigue and family-fatigue. But it’s surprising how little we know about how our loved ones truly feel during this incredibly trying time. So ask them. Listen quietly. Ask caring questions. You’ll feel better, as will they.

Share your coping tips with *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times* by writing “Gratitude” in the subject line and emailing press@goleader.com or pattisteckler@gmail.com.

# Educator’s Corner: Holiday Activities for All

By JENNIFER GLACKIN  
Specially Written For The Westfield Leader and The Times

The holiday season is in full swing, so here are some ideas to boost the festive spirit for you and the kids in your life!

For younger kids:

1. Old Classic with a Holiday Twist – Remember Pin the Tail on the Donkey? How about Pin the Carrot on the Snowman? Or the red nose on Rudolph? Ears on the Elf! Candles on the Menorah! (You get the idea!)

2. Holiday Rice Bin – Great for little hands to explore! Five cups of rice, food coloring (holiday themed, of course), 2-3 tablespoons of vinegar. Optional: a few drops of peppermint extract or scented oil. First, mix the food coloring with the vinegar. Next, put the rice in a plastic bag and pour in the colored vinegar. Third, smush the rice and the dyed vinegar until evenly distributed. Next, spread the rice out on one or two cookie sheets to dry it out (takes one to four hours). Gently stir once an hour. If you are adding scent, this is a good time to do so! Put the colored rice into a large plastic bin. Add in empty ornaments, pinecones, cookie cutters, plastic coins, dreidels, cups, funnels, etc.

3. Holiday Bowling – Fill six plastic water bottles with holiday-colored water and glitter. (Seal the tops really well!) Let kids bowl them over with balls you have around the house!

For older kids:

1. Party Game Holiday Twist – Have kids create a “Guess Who I Am?” game: Holiday Edition! Write names of mythical and historical holiday characters or even movie charac-

ters on cards. Hold the cards to one’s forehead and have other players give clues to guess the name on the card! 2. Holiday Movie Trivia – Put those extra TV minutes to good use! Have kids create trivia questions based on family-favorite holiday movies. Then see who will be crowned the holiday movie king or queen!

3. Gift wrap challenge – Wrap up things around the house – box of tissues, cans of soup, or go full-on 2020 and wrap up some toilet paper! Contestants can go head-to-head or beat the clock. If you don’t want to use regular wrapping paper, try some old newspaper! (Wink, wink!)

For staying connected:

With so many of us having smaller or virtual gatherings this year, why not have some fun meant to connect

with friends and family?

1. Winter Holiday “Boo!” – Take the Halloween tradition and give it a winter twist. How about “Gift the Gelt!” or “You’ve been Elfed!” For a grown-up (and more expensive) twist: “Cheers to the New Year!”

2. Ugly Sweater Cookie or Custard Cupcake contest – Get a few friends who are willing to participate. Bake and decorate treats, drop off at all participating homes. Meet virtually to vote on the ugliest or the cutest!

3. Virtual Story Time – Share a beloved holiday story via Zoom or Google Meet with loved ones near and far. Kids will get to show off their reading (or writing!) skills with family and friends.

However you choose to celebrate this year, happy holidays!

# Letters to the Editor

## How to Reopen Area Schools This Winter

Most N.J. schools reopened using hybrid scheduling this September, but they have had to return to all-remote learning recently. My advice to all local superintendents of schools in deciding how to reopen schools again is:

1. Have special education and special needs students be the first students to return to their in-school classes. These students generally need personal instruction from trained staff more than other students. Their special needs would typically require four days of in-school instruction per week. The total number of special education students can be socially distanced when they return, and

by mandating that everyone wear masks and follow other health guidelines, they can safely return to school. The sooner this action is implemented, the better it will be for these students.

2. Ensure that every student has an adequate electronic device that is needed for hybrid learning by publicizing a program to loan devices at no charge to every student whose parent submits a form requesting such a device. If the parent indicates on the form that Wi-Fi is not available at home and this is verified (e.g. by testing for Wi-Fi outside the home building), provide locations either in schools or in appropriate

# Letters to the Editor

## Bob Newell: Westfield’s Modern Architect

I was sad to hear that Bob Newell had passed away. Bob was the epitome of selflessness, volunteerism, warmth, wisdom and much more. Whether you lived in Westfield for the last 30 years or if you will be living here in the years to come, as a community, we should all applaud and cherish the impact Bob had on shaping this great town. His influence went beyond his individual vote for the 30 years he served on the town’s Planning Board. It made its impact with every question he asked each applicant or expert witness, every discussion in executive session with fellow board members and, ultimately, via his leadership as board chairman. Bob’s knowledge, service and influence on the town’s planning are arguably second to none.

I grew up in Westfield, and my love for the town has never waned. In 2005, I was honored with an appointment to the town’s Planning Board. I was excited to serve my hometown and help shape its future. While I was passionate to give back, I was also 25 years old and did not know the first thing about planning and zoning. To say I was terrified at my first meeting would be an understatement. I saw my nameplate right next to a gentleman named Robert Newell. Bob had been on the board for nearly 15 years when I met him that night. When I introduced myself, I was not prepared for the overly warm welcome I received. Instead of making me feel like a kid who did not belong, Bob immediately took me under his wing and

became a teacher, friend and mentor. No matter the issue, I could cover my microphone, lean over to Bob and quietly asked him to explain. He would always smile and teach me what I needed to know without hesitation. He never let on to anyone that I leaned on him the way I did that first year. Bob never pushed his views or opinions on me or the other board members. However, he was so knowledgeable, experienced, confident and persuasive, that he swayed a majority of the board on almost every application. In my final years on the board, after learning at the school of Bob Newell, I began to hit my stride. I will never forget our most contentious application, which took nearly eight meetings to finally decide. As I gave my reasoning for my vote, I attempted to articulate my feelings as a nearly lifelong resident who did not like to see the town change and how I balanced that with my views on personal property rights and the duty of a Planning Board member. After casting my vote, Bob leaned over and said, “That was very impressive; I’m proud of you.” I was nearly brought to tears in front of 200 attendees as I burst with pride at this wonderful man’s affirmation.

Rest in peace, Bob. Thank you for your service to Westfield and for your friendship. The town lost a giant with your passing.

Anthony Attanasio  
Somerville, NJ  
Westfield Planning Board 2005-08

## Lean In to Covid-19 Guidelines, Help Protect Our Community

You are tired. We get it. The pandemic is getting old, and we are all a bit worse for wear. Now the holidays are upon us, and in a year that has taken so much normalcy away, this virus has robbed us of our holiday traditions too. It is upsetting, plain and simple. And yet, we will celebrate; we are human after all. The real question is how. As healthcare professionals, neighbors and friends, we understand you are tired and frustrated. We hope to inspire and work with you to lean into this moment and reduce the risk of Covid-19 this holiday season.

While most of us are doing our part with masking, social distancing and hand-washing, things are getting hard, and some of us are slipping. Rates of infection, illness, hospitalization and death are rising all over the country, New Jersey, Union County and even here in Westfield. Covid-19 infections here in town, per the mayor’s last Friday update, are highest among those under 20 and those in the 50-59 age group. We even have a recent death, and the Covid-19 floors in our local hospitals are beginning to fill again. Sadly, Covid-19 loves the cozy environments that surround holiday traditions of eating, drinking and gather-

ing around a table. Even when we follow the guidelines of keeping those gatherings small, if someone outside your household attends who is infected, that could lead to illness for your whole family.

To decrease the risk of giving or receiving Covid-19, we have to heed these warnings. We have to lean in and talk about alternatives that will keep us, our families, our friends and our beloved community safe. Talk to your loved ones about masking, maintaining physical distance from those outside your household and making sure that any gatherings are well-ventilated – ideally outside.

This year, let’s get creative, explore options and choose activities that reduce the risk. How about a fire pit and pre-plated snacks outside? Maybe a hike with friends and outdoor cocktails or hot chocolate afterward? What is your recipe for reducing risk and avoiding infection or infecting others?

Check out the CDC website on holiday safety tips and even the website of our local health department.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/coping-holiday-stress.html

https://www.westfieldnj.gov/coronavirus

This virus is no joke, and for too many in our community, it’s not just the regular flu. So, let us take our part in prevention seriously. This pandemic will not last forever, but your memories of this year will, so please lean in and get creative to help protect our community. If we work together, we can prevent an uptick in infections.

We can let our families and friends know we love them, celebrate, stay safe and reduce risk. One gathering at a time.

Andrea Fleisch Marcus, PhD, MPH  
Elizabeth Talmont, DNP, ANP-BC  
Westfield

## Volunteers Sought for Garwood Committees

Volunteers are truly at the core of Garwood, the “small town with a big heart.” I am proud to continue the open application process for any Garwood residents to serve on our variety of boards and committees. I began this initiative shortly after I was elected mayor two years ago, and I continue to be impressed by the number of dedicated and talented residents who volunteer. It is now that time of year again for me to put out the call for volunteers as we prepare for 2021.

The simple application form can be found on the official borough website at www.garwood.org under the “Office of the Mayor” tab. A description of each of the boards and committees is included on the form. Information is also available for anyone interested in volunteering for one of our emergency service organizations or Garwood nonprofits.

Existing groups with open positions include the Planning/Zoning Board, Recreation, Board of Health, Library Board of Trustees, Celebrations Committee, Green Team and Historical Committee. I am also pleased to continue the first-ever Citi-

Below are four arcane words, each with four definitions – only one is correct. The others are made up. Are you sharp enough to discern this deception of diction?

If you can guess one correctly – good guess. If you get two – well-read individual. If you get three – word expert. If you get all four – You must have a lot of free time!

All words and correct definitions come from the board game Diction Deception.

Answers to last week’s arcane words.

1. Daddock – The rotten heart or body of a tree
2. Vagissate – To romp or frisk
3. Abacinate – To blind by placing a red-hot copper basin close to the eyes
4. Meretricious – Having the characteristics of a prostitute

DAEDALIAN

1. A rough or coarse cover for a bed
2. Ingenious or intricate
3. A guardian spirit
4. Pertaining to the Babylonian god of the earth

USTULATE

1. Discolored or blackened as if by burning
2. Having a beard, as with the bearded seal
3. Of little or no value; worthless
4. Versatile; competent

CUCKQUEAN

1. Having the shape or resembling a hood
2. A woman whose husband has committed adultery
3. A lunatic; a depraved individual
4. A meal table philosopher

SKILDER

1. To burn with hot water; scald
2. To live by begging or stealing
3. To skin or scale, as with fish
4. To wade in water

Letters to the Editor

The Deadline is Monday 9 a.m. for publication on the coming Thursday. The size limit is 200-500 words.

## All The News

www.goleader.com

## Rep. Pallone Voices Opposition to Sandy Hook Development

LONG BRANCH – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) spoke in opposition to the National Park Service’s proposal to allow private residential development at Gateway National Recreation Area. During a virtual public forum hosted by the National Park Service, Pallone expressed his strong disapproval of private residential development and expressed deep concern that the proposed private development would threaten one of New Jersey’s treasured landscapes.

“The wholesale conversion of public lands and facilities to private residential use would alter the nature of Sandy Hook and would be antithetical to the National Park Service’s founding values and mission. Sandy Hook serves as an important place for my constituents and all who visit to learn about our nation’s military history, recreate, and enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings,” Pallone said. “I am deeply concerned that the National Park Service’s plan would turn a significant portion of Sandy Hook into a place that only select permanent residents can enjoy. We must ensure that these places of beauty remain fully accessible to everyone.”

In March, Pallone sent a letter to the Superintendent of Gateway National Recreation Area opposing proposed development of permanent residential units at Sandy Hook.

August Ruggiero  
Scotch Plains

Sara Todisco  
Mayor of Garwood



# The Student View

A collaboration with the  
Westfield High School Journalism Program

## Why Christmas Doesn't Feel Like Christmas Anymore

By XENIA KOBORI  
*Specially Written For The Westfield Leader and The Times*

As the holiday season approaches, I am reminded of my love for winter and the month of December. With the end of Thanksgiving, my neighborhood becomes festive with decorations, my Christmas tree goes up and I start listening to my Christmas playlist. This season brings me immense joy, and I look forward to experiencing a “white Christmas” yearly. Yet my love for this time of year has halted with the realization that this season has changed significantly from when I was a child.

When I think back to this season when I was growing up, I am reminded of snow days, frigid temperatures and the quintessential “white Christmas” experience. Yet when was the last time we have seen such a climate? I am unable to think of the last time we had such a season. Past winters have been mild: There has been less snow fall and rising temperatures across the Northeast. What does this mean? This alarming trend is the cause of none other than climate change.

In the past decades, winter in the Northeast has warmed three times faster than the summer. There has been less snow and more rain recently. The Northeast experiences “weather whiplash,” or a sudden shift in weather patterns. Some days it is pleasant and then extremely cold. In the summer, there are heat waves, coastal flooding and shoreline shrinkage. These changes have impacted New Jersey’s infrastructure, agriculture, transportation, economy and various other sectors. These changes are alarming, and it is imperative that as a community we recognize these changes and do not turn a blind eye toward the climate reality.

So what can be done? The easiest way to get involved is to speak up.

Voice your concerns, educate yourself and contact representatives. By voicing your concerns directly to elected officials you can encourage Congress to enact new legislation that is concerned with carbon emissions, protecting public land and more.

On a personal level, you can make choices that are more eco-friendly. Look into powering your home with renewable energy or invest in energy-efficient appliances. You can promote businesses that are more eco-friendly and invest in products that are renewable. It is possible to get involved with this movement one step at a time. Start using renewable water bottles, unplug your devices when not in use and say no to plastic bags when you go out.

Change can be made, but we cannot remain passive. Choosing to ignore what is happening, not only in the Northeast but around the world, is cowardly and a mistake. We are already seeing the effects of climate change; if action is not taken the effects of climate change will only be exacerbated. We have to hold elected officials, governments and even ourselves accountable. I think of not only my future but the future of generations to come. What will their life look like if action is not taken?

As the holiday season approaches, I look forward to yearly festivities yet am cognizant of the recent changes this season has experienced. On a very surface level, I miss the weather this time used to bring, but I recognize that this pattern is attached to the much larger problem of climate change. This holiday season, I urge you to reflect on how this season has changed from when you were young. Start educating yourself on the effects of climate change, and let’s group together to enact change before it is too late.

## Dates and Locations Told for Free Walk-Up Flu Shots

COUNTY – The Freeholder Board announced dates and locations for upcoming flu shot drives in Union County in December. The county is offering two free flu shot drives to help ensure that everyone has access to a seasonal flu vaccine at a convenient location, especially residents who have no health insurance. No appointment is necessary.

The following dates have been scheduled for the Union County flu shot drive. Each event will take place from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.:

Saturday, December 12 – In Plainfield at the Jerry Green Building lobby located at 200 West Second Street.

Saturday, December 19 – In Elizabeth at the Union County Social Services Building located at 342 Westminster Avenue.

The free flu shot drive is open to Union County residents age four and up. Participation is on a walk-up, first-come, first-served basis. Masks are required in order to receive a flu shot. Temperatures will be taken when arriving.

“There is ongoing concern that our medical resources will be overwhelmed if a seasonal flu outbreak combines with the surge in Covid-19 cases,” said Union County Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella. “If you have never gotten a seasonal flu shot before, now is the time to do it. Let’s all do our part to help our Union County family stay safe during the flu season.”

Protection against the seasonal flu is more important than ever before due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Persons who have a fever, coughing, sneezing or other signs of illness will not be admitted to a flu drive site. Residents who are experiencing symptoms of illness should check with their doctor. People with health insurance are advised to visit their local pharmacy or doctor’s office to receive the flu shot.

For additional updates visit the “Upcoming Flu Drives” page on the county website, at [ucnj.org/flu](http://ucnj.org/flu).

Please note that the Union County flu shot drive is for seasonal flu vaccines only. There is no vaccine available for the Covid-19 virus at this time.

The Union County Flu Shot Drive is administered by the Union County Office of Health Management in the Department of Public Safety, the Visiting Nurse Association and volunteers from the Union County Medical Reserve Corps. The Medical Reserve Corps accepts volunteers with a variety of skills both in and out of the medical profession.

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## The Leader/Times Monthly Crossword Puzzle Answers

By Ruth B. Margolin

H	O	O	P		S	A	S	H	A		P	I	T	A
T	R	U	E		M	I	N	O	S		U	N	I	T
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D	I	M	E		Y	E	S	E	S		Y	O	Y	O



HELPING OTHERS...Andy Arkin, right, owner of Adlers Jewelers presents a check to Bill Crandall, volunteer at The Westfield Food Pantry. Adlers collected the funds by performing small repairs at no charge, and asked customers to donate a few dollars instead. By doing so they raised \$1,000 to support the food pantry at The Holy Trinity Church.

## Letters to the Editor

### Shop Local Beyond Small Business Saturday

This past Saturday I spent three hours on our village green talking to residents about the benefits of shopping local for Small Business Saturday, but it wasn’t enough. While the big box stores were allowed to remain open during the lockdown this year, most small businesses had to close or operate under severe limitations. Even in the best economy, to give them just one day of recognition per year seems unfair when the other 364 they’re up against the influence of their competitors’ Madison Avenue advertising. This terrible year, in which 31 percent of our state’s small businesses have permanently closed, I believe we need to shift our mindset and our buying habits. Instead of Small Business Saturday, we need to foster a Small Business Culture.

Of course I have nothing against big corporate stores. Most major corporations, from Apple to Walmart, started as small businesses and grew by being better than their competition in some way. But if you care about having access to professional expertise and true diversity of choice, we need to preserve the things you can find here that you can’t find anywhere else. When a town gains a big box store, it often loses its small businesses, and when that Walmart, Sears or Lord & Taylor closes, it leaves a hole that can’t easily be filled. Small

businesses are thus more than just the stores downtown: They are a community safety net made from local fabric.

If you’re looking for a 2021 New Year’s resolution, let me suggest to you to promise to make our small businesses an even greater part of your normal shopping routine. Scotch Plains is full of wonderful businesses with something for everyone: Barry’s Frame Shop won’t just frame your picture but offer years of design experience to make it look its best. Parents of young readers who are looking for a break from their screen time would have to travel an hour or more to find a store as well-stocked with graphic novels, manga and comic books as our Little Shop of Comics. Florence Ravioli offers homemade Italian food second only to your nonna’s. Massa Pizza and John’s Meat Market have both been ranked as the best in their respective categories in the state. I could fill this page with more examples, but at the risk of offending any of our other wonderful businesses, let me encourage you instead to take a walk downtown and do some shopping for yourself. Small businesses are the heart of our town but you, our residents, are the lifeblood that keeps them alive.

Al Smith  
Scotch Plains Mayor

### This Holiday Season, Don't Give the 'Gift' of Covid-19

The data from November is in, and as you can see from the chart, Scotch Plains had its highest-ever number of Covid-19 cases this month, at 195. We also had our first death from the virus since June. Although experts aren’t entirely sure what is driving this second wave, it is most likely a combination of several factors, including a change in the weather altering peoples’ behavior, increased testing and relaxed vigilance due to “Covid fatigue.” Whatever the reasons, the number of patients hospitalized and on ventilators, the most accurate measures of the virus’s spread, are climbing and are cause for concern. As winter and the holiday season approaches, we are headed into uncharted territory. If there is a silver lining, deaths are much lower than in

the spring, but even so, every positive test still brings great fear to those exposed and a hardship to our community. And until the vaccines are widely available, there is little we can do except take care individually to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

This holiday season, don’t give the “gift” of Covid-19 to anyone. Act responsibly by practicing social distancing, wearing a mask, washing your hands regularly and, above all, by being mindful when around others. As I said in my last message, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Until then, let’s fight the darkness as best we can, together. See you around town.

Al Smith  
Scotch Plains Mayor

## Local Publisher Speaks to Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Westfield has continued their regular Tuesday meetings at 12:15 through Zoom with a variety of guest speakers. The speaker on 12-1-2020 was club member Lauren Barr, Publisher of The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times.

Barr purchased the newspapers just weeks before the pandemic began, and described her journey from reporter to publisher.

Barr started her career at The Westfield Leader and The Times covering the Mountainside Council while attending Union County College and Thomas Edison State College. She quickly moved up the ranks at the newspaper covering Westfield Town Council, planning boards, local and state-wide elections; eventually becoming part of the newspapers’ editorial board. She briefly left the papers to work in marketing, but was quickly drawn back into reporting while raising her four children.

While becoming the publisher was a long time dream, the decline of print media was not a deterrent to Barr, who said that despite revenue losses due to the Covid-19 pandemic, subscriptions are up for the first time in several years. To subscribe to either newspaper go to [www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com)

“Westfield is a special place, and people still love to get their newspaper each week,” Barr told the club. “We serve as a one stop shop for information on local news, events and the amazing work of our non-profits. It’s important to me that we support all the good work going on in our communities.”

While she came in to the job with improvement plans, many of those were revamped in order to survive the pandemic. As essential employees, the staff pitched in to build a new website. Barr said her priorities are keeping the public informed on local news along with supporting non-profits and local businesses.

The Rotary Club of Westfield is a service organization of business men and women. Website [www.westfieldrotary.com](http://www.westfieldrotary.com) It is part of an International Organization of 1.2 million people in 200 countries around the world. [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) Local projects include hunger insecurity, helping homeless veterans, planting trees, supporting youth service clubs in the schools, and scholarships. Guests are always welcome to attend the Zoom meetings. For information contact Club Secretary Dr. D. Michael Hart at [drmhart@yahoo.com](mailto:drmhart@yahoo.com).

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## Garwood Resident Killed in Auto-Pedestrian Collision

GARWOOD — On December 2 at approximately 6:15 p.m., Garwood Police Officer Ian Rivera reported coming upon a woman lying face down in the roadway of Walnut Street near the intersection of Second Ave.

The investigating officers can confirm that a black Ford Explorer heading south bound on Walnut Street struck the pedestrian, who was crossing Walnut Street. The pedestrian was 81-year-old Garwood resident Catherine Flint. Officers on scene gave first aid until the Garwood First Aid Squad and a paramedic unit arrived. Soon after, Ms. Flint was pronounced dead on scene.

The driver, a 61-year-old Westfield resident, was in the process of calling 911 when police arrived and remained on scene. She is cooperating fully with the ongoing investigation. The preliminary investigation suggests that neither speed nor alcohol were contributing factors.

Anyone with information that can further this investigation are encouraged to contact Captain Douglas Stoffer at (908) 789-2212 or by email at [d-stoffer@garwood.org](mailto:d-stoffer@garwood.org).

## Non-Profits Covid-19 Grant Deadline is December 15

COUNTY — All Union County nonprofits that the deadline is nearing for the Union County CARES Act Non-Profit Grant program. Eligible nonprofits should submit applications before Tuesday, December 15 to ensure that application review takes place before the end of the year.

The CARES Act Non-Profit Grant program provides financial support for nonprofits to reopen or remain open safely while providing county residents with supports and services during the pandemic. It covers PPE, cleaning supplies, partitions and other supplies necessary to enable nonprofits to continue their operations during the pandemic. More recently, the county expanded allowable expenditures to cover some technology equipment and services costs.

The Union County CARES Act Non-Profit Grant program was approved at the September 3 Regular Freeholder Meeting and was allocated \$4 million in CARES Act funding. The grant supports the on-going work of approximately 200 local non-

profit organizations that provide critical services that support the County’s prevention, preparation and ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

To qualify for the grant each applicant must have an office physically located and operated in the County of Union; have evidence that the organization serves County of Union residents; have evidence of local needs specific to Covid-19 impacts; be operating and registered with the State of New Jersey as a 501(C)(3); and disclose if the nonprofit has received any other CARES funds, how much was allocated and what the funds were expended on.

To access the grant application and grant information sheet visit <https://ucnj.org/non-profit-grant-application>.

For additional information and questions about the CARES Act Non-Profit Grant, contact the Union County Department of Human Services Action Line at (888) 845-3434, (908) 558-2288 or [uccaresnonprofit@ucnj.org](mailto:uccaresnonprofit@ucnj.org).

## Proposal Would Designate Pot Revenue to Impact Zones

TRENTON – Senate President Steve Sweeney and Senators Sandra Cunningham, Nick Scutari and M. Teresa Ruiz issued the following joint statement announcing the introduction of a proposed constitutional amendment, SCR-138, which would dedicate state cannabis revenue and fees to programs to help “Impact Zones,” which are the communities that suffered the most from the failed drug laws.

“Based on the testimony we heard in the Legislature, it is clear that we need to do more to ensure that revenues from the legalization of adult-use cannabis are used primarily to remedy the devastating and disproportionate impact of the ‘War on Drugs’ on predominantly Black and Brown communities in our state.

“Therefore, we introduced legislation to put a constitutional amendment on next November’s ballot dedicating the majority of the state revenue from adult-use cannabis to support programs in Impact Zones – those cities that ranked disproportionately high in marijuana-related arrests and low in median income.

“It would also dedicate funding to law enforcement agencies to train officers as Drug Recognition Experts or provide needed equipment. This will provide direct support to state, county and municipal agencies in maintaining public safety.

“The constitutional amendment would apply to all state taxes and the Social Equity Excise Fees collected from the sale or cultivation of adult-use recreational marijuana, allocating 70 percent of sales tax revenue and 100 percent of excise fees to social justice reforms in the targeted communities.

“The remaining 30 percent would be divided up to support the work of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission, of law enforcement personnel trained as Drug Recognition Experts, and other restorative justice programs in Impact Zones. The optional two percent sales tax raised by municipalities choosing to allow adult-use marijuana businesses within their borders would be used at the local level.”

Sponsored by Senators Sweeney, Cunningham, Ruiz and Scutari, the legislation is co-sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg and Senators Nilsa Cruz-Perez, Dawn Addiego and Troy Singleton.

### Vaccine Center Open To Eligible Adults

ELIZABETH — The county’s free Vaccination Center expanded its services to eligible adults over the age of 18, beginning Monday December 8 at the clinic’s location on 40 Parker Road in Elizabeth.

The center, which had been open only for free shots for eligible children (and will continue to be open for that purpose), will now offer the following free vaccines: tetanus, hepatitis A and B, Pneumovax, meningitis, shingles and HPV shots for eligible adults.

The vaccines will be available for those who do not have insurance or have Medicaid A or any insurance that does not cover routine vaccinations. To find out if you qualify, and to make an appointment, call (908) 965-3627. The clinic is open between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from Monday to Friday.



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# Cougars Weathered Storm; Won Region Crown in Soccer

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Cancellations and postponements to their soccer schedule did not occur but after a relatively slow beginning the Cranford High School Lady Cougars definitely peaked at the right time to run the table and capture the Central East D Regional crown, finishing with a 9-5-1 record.

“We were one of the few schools in our area to not only stay healthy and complete our season, but not even

have a single game cancelled/postponed. I could not be more proud of how our team (and program as a whole) did their parts to ensure we all got our season. We followed protocol to the best of our ability and constantly reminded the team about being socially responsible. I think they really wanted to have a season, and they showed that with how they dealt with COVID-19 as a team,” Cougar Head Coach Andrew Gagliardo stressed.

When the region tournament time

came around, the Cougars received the fourth seed and hosted Jackson Liberty but they were not very nice hosts as they handed the Lady Lions a 7-0 thrashing and spent the final 35 minutes of the second half playing a game of keep away. Sophomore attacking midfielder Olivia Russomanno netted a pair of goals and an assist. Co-captain/defender Abby Ahern rushed forward and scored once, and senior Kirsten Wil-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



DEFENDING THE NET...Cougar senior Kirsten Williams slides to knock the ball away from Blue Devil Emily Weinstein as Morgan Heim, No. 20, Gabriella Baiada, No. 6, and company defend the Cranford goal.



JUST OUT OF HIS REACH...The pass from quarterback Mack Prybylski is just out of reach for receiver Trey Constantinou, No. 19, to grab in the game against the St. Joseph (Metuchen) Falcons at Gary Kehler Stadium on October 10, 2020.

# WF Blue Devils Disappointed Grid Season Got Cut so Short

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

No doubt about it that this year's Westfield High School football season was a disappointment in several ways due to the COVID situation. From the start, the Blue Devils had two weeks of practice cut off and their season opener cancelled. Next came a second bout of positive readings at WHS that halted practices and forced schedule cancellations. Then finally, the remainder of the season for all

WHS sports was cancelled due to a third series of positive readings.

“We're obviously very disappointed in how our season played out. The kids just wanted to play, it didn't matter who or where. They just wanted to get out there with their teammates, so this was tough to have to tell them three times that we had to shut down,” Blue Devil Head Coach Jim DeSarno expressed.

Despite having little opportunity to prepare, the Blue Devils did manage

to eke out two regular-season games but the outcomes would be predictable.

Their opening day came a week late when they hosted St. Joseph (Metuchen) on October 10 and the Falcons, fresh off a 17-12 win over the Elizabeth Minutemen, capitalized on a pair of interceptions, a long gun touchdown strike and a huge breakaway run to overcome the Blue Devils, 20-3.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



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Rich Vail  
Business Development  
Officer Team Leader





David B. Corbin (November 2019 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**GOOD 'OLE' STIFF ARM...**Blue Devil running back Tim Alliegro, No. 5, uses a stiff arm to get past a Ridgewood Maroon defender during the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 5 semifinal game at Ridgewood on November 15, 2019.



David B. Corbin (October 2016 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**THE EVERYWHERE GIRL...**Cougar senior co-captain Katie Romanovich, No. 6, with her special speed and alertness could be seen in the backfield, midfield or bringing the ball forward on the attack (Late November 2016).



David B. Corbin (November 2018 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**WHIZZING ONE PAST A RAIDER...**Minuteman Sebastian Diaz, center, rips a shot past Raider junior midfielder Alvaro Furfaro, No. 12, in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Championship game in Scotch Plains on November 8, 2018.

## \*\* A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Fall Sports Activities \*\*

From the archives of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-FanwoodTimes* - Full accounts available at [www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com) - year, month, week

22 yards and Nick Martini would have a 12-yard reception.

Unfortunately for the Blue Devils, the Maroon defense tightened up enough to limit them to three field

tudes of sloppy penalties and unavoidable sloppy plays set the stage for an “All-Madden” style of Thanksgiving Day football game between the Westfield Blue Devils and the Plainfield Cardinals at Hub Stein Field in Plainfield on November 27, 2014.

After all the slipping and sliding, the Blue Devils managed to score on their first series in overtime on a five-yard slide by running back Jack Curry then halted the Cardinals on theirs to emerge with very muddy uniforms and a 6-0 victory. Jackson Simcox and Luke Prybylski provided interceptions for the Blue Devils.

**November 8, 2018:** Very little time was wasted for the action to peak once the whistle blew to begin the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 boys soccer championship game between the second-seeded Elizabeth Minute-

senior Henry Chavez tapped it past Raider junior goalkeeper Danny Coyle with 29:27 on the clock. Moments later with 27:51 remaining, the hulky senior Youkendly Pacius headed in the ball after Chavez hooked the ball into the box from the right corner. Senior Jon Koseoglu scored the Raiders’ goal on a penalty kick.

**Mid November 2018:** Seemingly somewhat overshadowed by perennial Union County powerhouses Westfield and Kent Place, the Cranford girls tennis team buckled down and just kept winning and winning regular season games. The end result was a 19-3 record and the capturing of the Union County Conference Mountain Middle Division crown. The Lady Cougars also placed seventh in the Union County Tournament (UCT).

At second singles, Olivia Tardibuono finished 16-5 and placed eighth in the UCT. Alyssa Colombrita held the third singles spot, placed ninth in the UCT

68-yard TD return. The Cougars traversed 58 yards in six plays before senior Anthony Araujo swept into the end zone from 13 yards out to cut the



Marlene Iacoponi (November 2018 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**SURROUNDING A WOLFPACK MEMBER...**Blue Devils Charlie Riley, No. 57, Declan McCauley, No. 63, and Reid Colwell, No. 23, prepare to take down Wolfpack running back Jack DiPietri, No. 4, during the crossover game (2018).

**November 15, 2019:** A superb defensive effort by the fourth-seeded Westfield football team forced top-seeded Ridgewood to change its offensive tactics in the second half and it paid off with a pair of fourth-quarter TDs to earn the Maroon a 16-10 victory in the semifinal round of the NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Group 5 playoff at Ridgewood HS.

The Blue Devils’ defensive line and linebackers spearheaded by senior co-captain Will Kessler and Colin Freer stuffed the Maroon’s running game to just 22 yards, while the corners and safeties limited quarterback Liam Tarlton to one completion in five attempts for six yards, which included an interception by senior defensive back Dan Varano and a tipped pass by Freer. Junior Justin Ortiz would later recover a fumble which would set up QB Hank Shapiro’s one-yard TD.

Shapiro completed 11 of 18 passes for 107 yards in the first half, which included eight to senior Griffin Rooney for 79 yards. Shapiro would complete eight of 13 passes in the second half for 81 yards for a total of 188 yards. Rooney would add four more receptions for 44 yards for a total of 123 yards. Senior receiver John Czarnecki would finish with three receptions for

goal attempts in the first half. The first a 30-yard attempt was no good. The second a 28-yard attempt was blocked. The third attempt worked when junior Mack Prybylski split the uprights from 20 yards out to give Westfield a 3-0 lead at the half.

**Late November 2019:** What has been a grueling traditional clash of titans has become a nearly one-sided affair when it comes to the Annual Thanksgiving Day football game between the Westfield Blue Devils and the Plainfield Cardinals. Since the beginning of the 21st Century, the Blue Devils have won 15 of the meetings while the Cardinals won just four. The two foes will meet for the 115th time this Thanksgiving Day, November 28, at Gary Kehler Stadium.

At the turn of the 21st Century, the Blue Devils held a slim 47-41-7 edge, so their advantage now stands at 62-45-7. The Blue Devils, who shut out the Cardinals, 27-0, last year, have won the last seven meetings with the Cardinals eking out a 22-21 victory in 2011. The most interesting game during that span was the “Slop Bowl” of 2014 as described below when the Blue Devils managed to slip into the end zone in overtime for a 6-0 victory.

Sloppy conditions on a very muddy field covered with wet snow, multi-



David B. Corbin (October 2016 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**ALL-SCANJ...**Blue Devil Loukas Carayannopoulos, No. 19, received All-Soccer Coaches Association of New Jersey recognition (Late November 2016).

men and the hosting top-seeded SPF Raiders. And it also took very little time for the complexion of a 0-0 game to change drastically when the Minutemen scored twice within a span of 1:36 in the second half en route to a 2-1 victory and the title.

Minuteman co-captain Josser Amaya brought the ball down the right-center, beat a defender and crossed the ball into the box where

What definitely helped shoot the Cougars right to the top was a trio of very talented freshmen, who occupied the three singles positions.

Molly Gardiner took on the very competitive first singles spot and finished with an 18-2 regular-season record, won three matches in the UCT and added another win in the NJSIAA Singles Playoffs. Her 22 total wins was the most in a single season by a Cougar.

### Is 2019 the Last Westfield/Plainfield Thanksgiving Day Football Game?

#### Westfield/Plainfield Rivalry Westfield 63, Plainfield 45, Tie 7

1900	—	Westfield	26-0	1964	—	Plainfield	13-7
1901	—	Westfield	NA	1965	—	Westfield	21-0
1903	—	Plainfield	15-0	1966	—	Plainfield	33-12
1905	—	Plainfield	24-0	1967	—	Plainfield	12-7
1907	—	Tie	6-6	1968	—	Westfield	25-21
	—	Westfield	11-0	1969	—	Westfield	45-0
1908	—	Plainfield	12-6	1970	—	Westfield	49-6
	—	Plainfield	5-0	1971	—	Westfield	12-6
1909	—	Plainfield	35-6	1972	—	Westfield	27-6
1910	—	Westfield	6-0	1973	—	Westfield	20-0
1911	—	Plainfield	37-6	1974	—	Westfield	31-14
1912	—	Westfield	19-7	1975	—	Westfield	9-6
1913	—	Westfield	20-6	1976	—	Westfield	34-0
	—	Westfield	26-7		—	Westfield	14-0
1914	—	Plainfield	19-0	1977	—	Westfield	38-0
1915	—	Plainfield	7-0	1978	—	Westfield	6-2
	—	Westfield	6-0	1979	—	Westfield	3-2
1916	—	Tie	0-0	1980	—	Westfield	14-0
	—	Plainfield	7-3	1981	—	Westfield	28-6
1917	—	Plainfield	39-0	1982	—	Plainfield	21-3
1919	—	Plainfield	6-0	1983	—	Plainfield	14-6
1921	—	Plainfield	28-0	1984	—	Plainfield	14-0
1922	—	Plainfield	19-0	1985	—	Tie	0-0
1923	—	Westfield	3-0	1986	—	Westfield	27-14
1924	—	Plainfield	18-0	1987	—	Westfield	35-6
1925	—	Plainfield	7-2	1988	—	Westfield	7-6
1926	—	Plainfield	20-0	1989	—	Westfield	14-7
1931	—	Westfield	21-0	1990	—	Westfield	21-6
1932	—	Westfield	13-6	1991	—	Westfield	28-0
1933	—	Tie	0-0	1992	—	Plainfield	14-9
1934	—	Westfield	7-6	1993	—	Tie	0-0
1935	—	Plainfield	7-0	1994	—	Westfield	20-7
1936	—	Tie	0-0	1995	—	Westfield	28-20
1937	—	Tie	0-0	1996	—	Plainfield	38-7
1938	—	Plainfield	13-0	1997	—	Westfield	22-7
1939	—	Westfield	20-0	1998	—	Plainfield	21-7
1940	—	Westfield	13-0	1999	—	Plainfield	20-14
1941	—	Westfield	1-0	2000	—	Westfield	42-25
1944	—	Westfield	12-6	2001	—	Westfield	24-21
1945	—	Westfield	12-0	2002	—	Westfield	14-6
1946	—	Plainfield	6-0	2003	—	Plainfield	9-7
1947	—	Westfield	32-12	2004	—	Plainfield	40-0
1948	—	Westfield	14-6	2005	—	Plainfield	9-0
1949	—	Plainfield	19-6	2006	—	Westfield	17-7
1950	—	Plainfield	33-7	2007	—	Westfield	28-27
1951	—	Plainfield	14-6	2008	—	Westfield	21-19
1952	—	Plainfield	27-14	2009	—	Westfield	26-6
1953	—	Plainfield	25-6	2010	—	Westfield	35-6
1954	—	Plainfield	6-0	2011	—	Plainfield	22-21
1955	—	Plainfield	21-0	2012	—	Westfield	30-16
1956	—	Plainfield	19-6	2013	—	Westfield	34-0
1957	—	Plainfield	19-12	2014	—	Westfield	6-0
1958	—	Plainfield	21-0	2015	—	Westfield	33-6
1959	—	Plainfield	7-0	2016	—	Westfield	30-14
1960	—	Westfield	13-7	2017	—	Westfield	37-7
1961	—	Westfield	13-6	2018	—	Westfield	27-0
1962	—	Plainfield	27-7	2019	—	Westfield	24-0
1963	—	Westfield	14-12				



David B. Corbin (November 2012 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**HEADING FOR THE OUTSIDE...**Junior running back Sophia Goldschmidt heads for the outside in the game against the seniors (November 21, 2012).

Kessler’s fumble recovery. Westfield’s other TD came on a 55-yard hookup from Shapiro to Griffin Rooney.

**November 10, 2017:** The Cranford football team saw its 2017 season come to an end in a 48-21 defeat at Parsippany Hills during an NJSIAA, first round, North 2, Group III playoff game. Playing under brutally cold temperatures and gusty wind conditions, the seventh-seeded Cougars were blown away, not only by the elements but by a high-powered Viking passing game.

Elijah Arroyo took the opening kickoff and raced 88 yards for a TD to give Cranford a lightning quick 7-0 advantage. Parsippany Hills tried a quick kick that was fielded by Rob Schork at the Cranford 32. Schork scooped up the ball and made a decisive move upfield, racing through a line of Viking defenders and emerging ahead of the field on his way to a

offense and take some snaps. Three other primarily defensive players, Drew Ortiz (13 tackles), and co-captains Shea Elliott, who had an interception and fumble recovery, and Jacob Dayon (stripped ball that was recovered by Noah Levy) were inserted for blocking to assist co-captain John McCauley and the rest of the offensive line. It paid off. Vall-Llobera carried eight times for 31 yards, including TD runs of six yards and two yards.

**November 11, 2017:** Senior QB Cooper Heisey tossed five TD passes, all in the first half to lead the SPF football team to a 43-24 victory over Hopatcong in a consolation in Scotch Plains. Heisey went 18-for-26 and amassed 355 yards in staking the Raiders to 43-8 halftime advantage. The victory was the first of the season for the Raiders and first year Head Coach Marc Ciccotelli.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**SURROUNDED BY CARDINALS...**Blue Devil Peter Ondi, No. 27, tries to work his way around several Cardinal defenders in the Annual Thanksgiving Day Classic. The Cardinals won, 22-21 (November 24, 2011).

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## Blue Devils Disappointed Grid Season Cut Short

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Defensively with the leadership of co-captains Jon Heard, Will Heflin and Dan Shakal, the Blue Devils held up immediately when outside linebacker Matt Shinnners intercepted quarterback Matt Stanton's pass and returned it to the Falcon 35-yard line. Unfortunately the Blue Devils could not cash in with a touchdown but did settle for a 24-yard field goal by Mack Prybylski, who also assumed the quarterbacking duties.

The Falcons scored first on a 69-yard run by Omari Jones. An interception by Anai Brake set up the next

driver's seat. The Blue Devils actually had a 14-6 lead at the half before the breakaway touchdown by Ryan McKinney and the interception.

Prybylski completed 10 of 23 pass attempts for 104 yards and was intercepted once. Prybylski also carried 13 times for 75 yards, including a five-yard touchdown run. Senior running back Shane Carlin carried 19 times for 51 yards, including a two-yard touchdown plunge.

In both games, the Blue Devil defense was holding its own despite having a number of underclassmen as

guys were ready to ride their wave. We lost Jordan Ortiz, another returning senior defensive starter in preseason. A big loss for us but he was there every day helping and pushing everyone," Coach DeSarno pointed out.

The Blue Devils' offense was an even younger crew with a number of talented sophomores, which included backup quarterback Trey Brown. The senior starters included Prybylski (quarterback), running back Shane Carlin, Sean Maher (center), Drew Miller (tackle) and CJ Maz (split end) with juniors Trey Constantinou (flanker), Logan Howland (tight end), Jon Giglio and Nick Mase (both guards) and sophomore fullback Dylan Wragg and sophomore Brandon Love (tackle). Immediate backups were senior Russel Kobrin (split end), juniors Duke Edmondson (guard) and Justin Colby (running back), and sophomores Paul Cerro (flanker) and Brown.

"On Offense, we felt like we were coming together right before we were shut down the final time. Mack Prybylski, Shane Carlin, Drew Miller, Sean Maher our returning letter winners were all playing well. It was hard to see all the teams that were able to play," Coach DeSarno expressed.

As of December 1 according to Coach DeSarno, "Right now Will Heflin is going to play football at the University of Chicago and Mack Prybylski is going to play lacrosse at Villanova. Dan Shakal, Sean Maher and Drew Miller would all like to play football in college and are in the recruiting process."

The shutdown was quite a blow to the seniors but the valuable loss of in-action experience could be a setback for the underclassmen.

"The seniors didn't get the chance to have this special experience and that hurts a lot. The younger guys didn't get the reps on all three levels, so that will be a challenge moving forward. We are meeting right now with the underclassmen and they are motivated for next season," Coach DeSarno said.



Dale Horton (October 2020 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**BRINGING DOWN A PANTHER...Blue Devils Matt Shinnners, No. 12, and Sean Czarnecki, No. 11, bring down a Panther in Bridgewater on October 16, 2020.**

Falcon touchdown. Falcon co-captain Gianni Principato added a second interception then in the fourth quarter, Stanton fired a shot down the middle that was hauled in by Osiris Acevedo and turned into a 63-yard touchdown. Heard blocked the extra point attempt.

The following week, the Blue Devils traveled to face Bridgewater-Raritan and returned on the short end of a 27-14 score. Again it was mistakes that led to the Panthers' victory. A 23-yard fumble recovery that was returned for a touchdown, a breakaway touchdown run and a key interception put the Panthers in the

starters. The defensive starters included seniors Heard and Heflin (defensive ends), linebackers Shakal and Shinners, linemen Tyler Wragg and Will Torres, and cornerbacks Diego Ferrero and Jack Rudlow, juniors Tyler Sontz (linebacker) and safety James Csorba, and sophomore linebacker Dan Hanlon. Junior Jack Price also filled in on the line and sophomores Owen Shakal and Senu Glasco filled in as cornerbacks.

"Johnny Heard, Will Heflin, Dan Shakel and Matt Shinners our returning starters from last year on defense were playing at a high level. Our younger

## \*\* A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Fall Sports Activities \*\*

Heisey hooked up with Anthony Porter for three TD passes and Dwight Layler for two more. Running back Nick Palazzolo added to the offensive onslaught with a three-yard TD run.



David B. Corbin (December 2015 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**NORTH 2, GROUP 3 STATE CHAMPS...The Cranford Cougars celebrate after defeating the Chatham Cougars, 50-23, at Cougar Stadium at Kean University in Union on December 4, 2015. Cranford finished with a perfect 12-0 record.**

**November 15, 2016:** The third time proved to be the charm for Ryan Peterson and the SPF boys soccer team. Peterson finally scored the elusive golden goal with 2:57 remaining in the second overtime period to defeat a valiant Kearny team, 1-0, in the NJSIAA Group 4 semifinals played at Brooks Field in Somerville. The Raiders thought they had won the game on two other occasions only to have their game-winning celebrations halted by the officials' whistles.

**Late November 2016:** Facing a very rigorous schedule the Cranford girls soccer team proved to be very

competitive this season, going down to the wire with several state-ranked teams and finishing with a 9-11-1 record. Additionally, the Lady Cougars earned their respect fielding a

fine mix of veteran upperclassmen with a number of very talented sophomores and one freshman.

Senior co-captains Kat Mackenzie and goalkeeper Cam Hay, senior Maya Lawler, junior Caroline McCaffrey and sophomore Grace DiGiovanni displayed their defensive tenacity. Senior co-captain Katie Romanovich controlled the midfield but could be seen all over the field, dropping back for added defense or pushing forward on the attack. Sophomore Lauren Williamson was the power inside and led the team with 11 goals and was assisted by freshman Maggie Murray,



Charles Mulrooney (December 2015 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**STEPPING UP BIG...Junior defensive end Owen Kessler, No. 64, and senior Mike O'Connor, No. 42, crunch the Panther running back at MetLife Stadium on December 3, 2015. The Blue Devils won the North 2, Group 5 Crown, 10-7.**

who also hit a hat trick in goals early in the season, on several occasions. Sophomore midfielders Ana Dzunova and Kenzie Butler were close behind with six goals apiece.

**Late November 2016:** Ousting the owner of five straight Union County Tournament (UCT) championships and 19 overall finally happened on October 28 at Kean University when the Westfield boys soccer team defeated the SPF Raiders, 2-1, for its 11th UCT crown. The junior/senior loaded Blue Devils went on to finish their season with a 15-4-2 record.

The Blue Devils were led by three co-captains, midfielder Loukas Carayannopoulos, keeper Birkel and center back Kevin Reinhard. Carayannopoulos (7 assists) was selected (Coaches) All-Union County (UC) and All-Watchung Conference (WC) First Team, and received All-Soccer Coaches Association of New Jersey (SCANJ) recognition. Birkel received All-UC and WC First Team



Jim O'Connor (November 2014 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**WHOOOPS!...Raider co-captain Zach Lipshitz, No. 4, watches as Minuteman Eduardo Fuentes, No. 10, loses his balance while attempting to kick the ball in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 championship game on November 13, 2014.**

honors and All-SCANJ recognition. Reinhard coordinated the positioning of the backs but also pushed up front enough to score six goals. Reinhard was selected and All-UC Second Team and All-WC Honorable Mention.

**December 3, 2015:** Extraordinary performances backed up by a truly "team" effort rewarded the second-seeded Westfield football Blue Devils with a 10-7 victory over the first-seeded Bridgewater-Raritan Panthers for the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 5 championship before a large fan base for both teams at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford. Interestingly, it was 38 years to the day since the Blue Devils won their last state title with a 33-12 triumph over Barringer and, interestingly, like with



David B. Corbin (October 2020 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**WINNING THE AERIAL BATTLE...Cougar senior Kirsten Williams, front, had a knack of winning the aerial battles against her opponents.**

## Cougars Weathered Storm; Won Region in Soccer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Williams and junior Riley Korzeneski each contributed a goal and an assist. Senior Kristina Lynch and sophomore Lily Young also scored once. Co-captain/midfielder Sophia Montague added an assist.

Next was a 2-0 toppling of top-seeded Colts Neck. Russomanno and sophomore Meghan Normann each scored once and Montague had an assist. The championship game against Brick Township went smoothly with a 4-0 shutout. Russomanno scored twice, while Williams and sophomore Aileen McGovern scored once. Montague had two assists, while Normann and Aislinn McGovern each had one assist.

Coach Gagliardo commented, "The one that really sticks out is that we did not let up a single goal throughout the state tournament run. Thirteen goals scored for – none let up!"

The leadership of co-captains Ahern and Montague has been invaluable. Ahern According to Coach Gagliardo, she was, "One of the most consistent central defenders we have ever had here, and she's been that for four years straight. She always shows up and performs. She also led our team as one of the captains this season and did a great job."

Coach Gagliardo described Montague as, "One of the best, if not 'the best' midfielders I've had the privilege of coaching. She is coachable, has a tenacity for competing and winning, and always demands the best of herself and teammates."

Additional senior leadership has come from Williams. "Kirsten was an absolute aggressive, physical presence in the midfield for us. Kirsten continued that dominance this season. She won so many aerial battles for us that we always talk about as being pivotal," Coach Gagliardo pointed out.

Senior Amanda Vath was the last line of defense as the goalkeeper. "What more can I say about 'Mango' (as we refer to her)? She came up to varsity on an emergency step-up to finish her freshman year, and she has been our go-to goalkeeper ever since. She's aggressive, strong, smart, and a great team personality," Coach Gagliardo expressed.

Coach Gagliardo also described the similarity of his two defenders. "(Morgan) Heim and Ahern have been two peas in our defensive pod for the last four years. I've always called Morgan the 'quiet rookie'. She comes in every day, does her job to the best of her ability, and leads by example. She is

one of the smartest players we've had in the program, and she reads the game so well."

Coach Gagliardo also mentioned some of the underclassmen who stepped up this season, and who will continue to be good players for the team in 2021: Normann, Young, Korzeneski, Russomanno, Gabby Baiada, Caroline Morris, Aislinn McGovern and Aileen McGovern.

Coach Gagliardo concluded, "Winning the sectional state title was the best feeling of my coaching career thus far. This season had so many ups and downs, and was the most inconsistent one we've been through. Having not won a state title since 2000 (20 years), it was something we focused on and wanted. We wanted to be historic. It was our third year in a row getting to the sectional final, and after two defeats, we were determined to bring it home this year. With COVID-19 and this emotional rollercoaster of a season, ending with a state title win was icing on the cake – for our team, the program, but most importantly, for the seniors. They got to play their last season, and finished it with an exclamation point! I couldn't be more proud of the way the team carried themselves – on and off the field – this season."



David B. Corbin (November 2014) for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**HEAD ON COLLISION...Raider senior Paige Heiden gets her head on the ball in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 championship game against Ridge in Scotch Plains on November 14, 2014. The Raiders won 3-2 in the second overtime.**

yards and four TDs.

Schetelich wisely chose four receivers. Senior Joe Norton had four receptions for 75 yards, including TDs of 15 yards and a wide-open 39 yards. Junior Ryan Bakie had three receptions for 64 yards, which included a 20-yard TD. Bakie also had a 30-yard TD run. Senior Sean Leonard had four receptions for 77 yards, including TDs of 17 and 24 yards. Leonard (3 carries, 47 yards) also had a two-point conversion run. Will Budries had a 19-yard reception.

**November 13, 2014:** Senior Jassiem Wahtuse sent a clear message very early in the game then a 1-2-3 punch that resulted in a goal by sophomore Ryan Peterson awarded the Raider boys soccer team the North Jersey, Section

tin Rodrigues slid a ball into co-captain Jake Longo, who slid the ball back to Rodrigues on the left. Rodrigues then spotted Ryan Peterson in the center and slid the ball to him. Peterson banged the ball into the net with 16:01 on the clock.

**November 14, 2014:** One week after drudging North Plainfield, 52-20, in the final regular-season game, the top-seeded Cranford Cougar football team did it again with a 46-6 thrashing of the Canucks in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 tournament in Cranford.

Luke Christiano had an 86-yard return for a TD on the opening kickoff. QB Jack Schetelich had three TD runs. Joe Norton had a 10-yard TD

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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David B. Corbin (December 2009 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**SURROUNDED BY JUNIOR DEFENDERS...Senior quarterback Kim Wenson, with football, finds herself being hemmed in by junior defenders as she nears the goal during the Raider Powder Puff Game last Wednesday (November 28, 2009).**



David B. Corbin (SPF/Cranford game 2010 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**READY TO BOOT IT DOWNFIELD...Raider sophomore Christy Monroy, No. 13, prepares to kick the ball downfield as Cranford Cougar Hannah DeMars, No. 21, chases her (November 2010).**



David B. Corbin (December 2010 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**A LOT OF SPIRIT...The Blue Devil senior girls in black and the junior girls scramble to get possession of a pass during the annual Powder Puff game on November 24, 2010. The senior girls prevailed, 26-6.**

## \*\* A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Fall Sports Activities \*\*

reception. Donavin Walker added an 11-yard TD run. Jake Palumbo plunged in from the three for a TD.

**November 14, 2014:** Co-captain Tori Baliatico slipped the ball into co-captain Jodi Cornwell, who tapped it into the net with 3:49 remaining in the second overtime to earn the top-seeded Raiders girls soccer team the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 championship with a 3-2 victory over second-seeded Ridge at Scotch Plains.

The Raiders scored first off a header by Caroline Babis after a long free kick into the box by sophomore Christina Rodgers. Eleven minutes into the second half, the strong foot of Rodgers banged another free kick from 50-yards out, this time into sophomore Alyssa DiFrancesco, who also headed the ball into the net to give the Raiders a seemingly comfortable, 2-0 lead.

**November 15, 2013:** Big plays and hard hits were delivered by both teams, but in the end, it came down to an interception return for a TD, two key fumble recoveries to set up TDs and a kickoff return to midfield that gave the top-seeded Ridge Red Devils the edge to hold off eighth-seeded Westfield, 35-28, in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 5 tournament in Basking Ridge.

Blue Devil QB Chris Hogge completed 17 of 25 passes for 189 yards, including four TDs. Flanker Dylan Elliott hauled in nine passes for 114 yards, including TD receptions of 33 yards and four yards. Running back Eugene Rawles had two receptions for 42 yards, including a screen pass that he turned into a 37-yard TD. Tight end Dave Kane had a TD reception of nine yards to go with a 10-yard reception.

**November 15, 2013:** Sweet revenge from a shocking loss in last year's sectional semifinals became a reality for the Cranford Cougar football team when the Cougars battered the hosting Palisades Park Tigers, 47-

21, in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 tournament. Cougar QB John Oblachinski, who was a receiver in last year's game, blended a strong passing game with an effective running game to bewilder the 8-2 Tigers. As a matter of fact, the 7-3 Cougars totaled 196 yards passing and 196 yards rushing.

Oblachinski carried 25 times for 111 yards, including respective TD runs of five yards, one yard, five yards and 23 yards. He also completed nine of 13 attempts with TD passes of 59 yards and 15 yards to senior wide receiver Jack McCaffrey and 10 yards to junior running back Luke Christiano.

**November 17, 2012:** Quarterback Zach Martin completed 13 of 15 passes in the first half for 186 yards, including two TD passes, and went 8-for-8 with 101 yards and two more TD passes to lead the 4-6 Warren Hills Blue Streaks to a 34-7 victory over the Raiders in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 tournament in Scotch Plains.

The Raiders finally scored on a 13-play, 75-yard drive when junior running back James Lettieri scooted in from the three-yard line with 9:35 remaining.

**November 19, 2012:** Eighty minutes of superb soccer on the part of the 19th-ranked Westfield boys soccer team and seventh-ranked Millburn yielded a 2-0 Miller victory for the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 championship at Gary Kehler Stadium. Spenser Heller scored a goal midway through the first half, and Jared Darvin scored the insurance goal late in the second half for the 17-3-2 Millers. The Blue Devils finished their season with a 13-3-6 record.

**November 20, 2012:** Despite a sluggish second half and with a 0-0 deadlock in regulation and after two overtime periods, the No. 7 Ridge girls' soccer team rose to the top to defeat Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 4-3,

in a thrilling shootout to claim the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 crown in Scotch Plains. Christy Monroy, Jessie Klein and Jodi Cornwell netted the PKs. Goalkeeper Taylor Sebolao made eight saves.



David B. Corbin (December 2004 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**NERVOUS ANTICIPATION...The Westfield PAL "D" football players and Coach John Dugan await the end of the first half and prepare to run out of the chute and onto the field (November 28, 2004).**

**November 21, 2012:** One last-ditch but valiant effort to get on the scoreboard in the final minute of the annual Westfield Powder Puff football game came up short for the seniors, giving the juniors an 8-0 victory at Gary Kehler Stadium. After junior running back Karli Sottung scooted to the senior 16-yard line, quarterback Alex Kardias connected with Carli Friedman for the only TD.

**November 24, 2011:** Several school records were broken or extended, but Chad Jno-Lewis' two-point conversion in the first quarter would come back to haunt the Westfield football team as the Plainfield Cardinals managed to pull off a 22-21, come from behind victory in the Annual Thanksgiving Day classic at Gary Kehler Stadium. Blue Devil senior running back

James O'Rourke broke Dave Reitze's 1960 record of 249 carries in a season when he scooted into the end zone for Westfield's second TD. O'Rourke finished with 19 carries for 117 yards, which included a 64-yard TD run, to



David B. Corbin (December 2004 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**NERVOUS ANTICIPATION...The Westfield PAL "D" football players and Coach John Dugan await the end of the first half and prepare to run out of the chute and onto the field (November 28, 2004).**

bring his season total to 259 carries. O'Rourke also broke Jan Coccoziello's career interception total of 12, which he reached in 2003, when he snagged Cardinal quarterback Dii'Jon Allen-Jordan's pass in the third quarter. That interception also tied Marcus Allen Graham's season total of nine that he set in 2005 also against Plainfield.

**Late November 2010:** There was some uncertainty about how successful the SPF girls soccer team would be this season; however, the Raiders won their conference title and captured their fifth Union County Tournament championship in six years with a 2-0 win over Westfield, before dropping a 1-0 heartbreaker to Millburn in the state sectional tournament to finish with a 14-2-3 record. Avika Shah, a four-year starter, led the team with 12 goals and seven assists. Emily Nagourney used her powerful kicks to net nine goals.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD**  
Date Adopted: 12/03/20

Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an extraordinary unspecifiable service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) (11). This contract and the resolution authorizing it is available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-835**  
**AWARDED TO:** Union County Youth Services Commission  
**SERVICES:** Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Spending Plan  
**PERIOD:** January 1, 2021- December 31, 2021  
**COSTS:** in the total amount not to exceed: \$114,000.00  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$22.44

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-831**  
**amending (Resolution No. 2019-1127)**  
**AWARDED TO:** Michael C. Aromando, DVM, MS, Town & Country Veterinary Services Booton, New Jersey  
**SERVICES TO:** to provide veterinary services to Watchung Stables  
**PERIOD:** period ending December 31, 2021  
**COSTS:** to increase the contract by \$8,000.00 in a total amount not to exceed: \$217,000.00  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$23.97

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-341**  
**AWARDED TO:** Princeton Insurance Company, Princeton, New Jersey  
**SERVICES:** to renew the Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital Medical Malpractice Policy, General and Professional Liability Policy, and Excess Umbrella Liability Policy  
**PERIOD:** December 15, 2020- December 31, 2021  
**COSTS:** in the amount not to exceed: \$138,093.84  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$24.48

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-864**  
**AWARDED TO:** Hatfield Schwartz, LLC  
**SERVICES TO:** to represent the County of Union, Union County Prosecutor's Office and Acting Prosecutor Lyndsay V. Ruotolo in the matter Susan J. Gleason v. New Jersey Office of the Attorney General et al.  
**COSTS:** in an amount not to exceed: \$25,000.00  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$22.95

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-824**  
**AWARDED TO:** Dr. Vipul C. Mody, Bridgewater, New Jersey  
**SERVICES TO:** to serve as Medical Director of the Union County Pediatric Immunization Clinic  
**PERIOD:** January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021  
**COSTS:** in the amount of \$24,000.00  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-832**  
**AWARDED TO:** Union County Youth Services Commission  
**SERVICES:** to provide program services based on the Juvenile Justice Commission Points of Continuum, Prevention, Diversion Detention, Disposition and Reentry  
**PERIOD:** January 1, 2021- December 31, 2021  
**COSTS:** in the total amount not to exceed: \$511,656.00  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$24.99

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-839**  
**AWARDED TO:** Various Agencies  
**SERVICES:** to provide necessary services for the patients of the Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County  
**PERIOD:** January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021  
**COSTS:** in the amount not to exceed: \$15,000.00  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$22.44

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-860**  
**amending (Resolution No. 2019-635)**  
**AWARDED TO:** Renaud & DeAppolonio, LLC, Cranford, New Jersey  
**SERVICES TO:** in the matter entitled Tatiana Cunningham v. UC, et als.  
**COSTS:** in an amount not to exceed: \$10,000.00 for a total contract amount not to exceed: \$30,000.00  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$22.44

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Date Adopted: 12/03/20

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-836**  
**amending (Resolution No. 2020-804)**  
**AWARDED TO:** Various Agencies  
**SERVICES:** for the purpose of providing services to Union County residents 60 years of age or older and/or their caregivers  
**PERIOD:** January 1, 2020- December 31, 2020  
**COSTS:** in an additional amount not to exceed: \$13,230.00 to reflect a new total of \$6,165,248.00  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$23.97

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-837**  
**amending (Resolution No. 2020-526)**  
**AWARDED TO:** Various Agencies  
**SERVICES:** to reflect a three month extension to the FY2020Alliance Program Spending Plan grant term with no increase to the overall spending plan.  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$20.40

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Date Adopted: 12/03/20

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-842**  
**amending (Resolution No.2020-35)**  
**AWARDED TO:** Florio, Perrucci, Steinhart & Cappelli, LLC, New Providence, New Jersey  
**SERVICES TO:** special counsel for Labor and Personnel matters  
**COSTS:** to increase the contract by \$25,000.00 for a total amount not to exceed \$70,000.00  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$22.44

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**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-850**  
**AWARDED TO:** We Are One New Jersey, Inc. Trenton, New Jersey  
**SERVICES:** to provide social and human services that educate, empower, and uplift working families under the We Are One New Jersey Project  
**PERIOD:** January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021  
**COSTS:** in the amount not to exceed: \$245,000.00  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$23.97

most from a distance, and used her excellent field vision to contribute nine assists.

**November 25, 2010:** Thanksgiving Day was special for the seniors on the Blue Devils football team in the annual "Turkey Day" classic against Plainfield at Hub Stine Field. The 7-3 Blue Devils literally grounded the 4-6 Cardinals with their swarming defense, while trampling the Cardinals' defense with a ground game that chewed up 224 yards and blanketing them with an aerial attack that totaled 204 yards in a 35-6 triumph.

Senior tail back A.J. Murray, who galloped for 148 yards to break the 1,000-yard plateau for the season – had TD runs of 29 yards and 14 yards, and added another TD on a short screen pass that he turned into a 60-yard scoring play. Quarterback Danny Kerr hit junior James McCrea near the right pylon for a 16-yard TD. Senior Garrett Pryor bashed through the line for a seven-yard TD.

**November 28, 2009:** Friendly competition with a purpose resulted in a 6-0 senior girls victory over the juniors in the annual Raiders Powder Puff Football Game sponsored by DECA. Ally Prestridge followed a horde of great blockers around the right end to score a six-yard TD. Kim Wenson had a pair of interceptions.

**November 27, 2008:** Numerous key defensive plays, a five-yard TD run and a pair of breakaway TD runs from senior halfback Ricardo Johnson was just enough for the Blue Devil football team to absorb two fourth-quarter TDs by Plainfield in a 21-19 victory in the annual Thanksgiving Day classic at Hub Stine Field.

**November 25, 2006:** Senior running back George Cornell picked the right time to have his best game when the Blue Devil football team defeated Plainfield, 17-7, in the Annual Thanksgiving Day Classic that was actually held on November 25 in Plainfield. Cornell, who normally would carry seven to eight times per game but mostly block for Malcolm Allen, rushed 19 times for 121 yards, includ-

ing a one-yard TD plunge to seal the victory. Additionally, he had several key runs for first downs, including a 30-yard gallop that set up his TD bash.

**Late November 2006:** Blue Devil Physical Education Coordinator, former softball and field hockey Head Coach Maggie McFadden felt that the time was ripe to redirect her energies and ultimately have more leisure time to dabble on the golf course after coaching in the school system for more than two decades.

**Thanksgiving Day 2005:** An effort to make it four Thanksgiving Day victories in a row over powerhouse Elizabeth ended for the Raiders football team as visiting Elizabeth grabbed a 27-0 victory. Senior linebacker Nick Giannaci had a team-high, 13 tackles.

**Thanksgiving Day 2005:** Big plays have decided the outcome of a number of Thanksgiving Day showdowns between the Westfield football team and Plainfield. The 101st meeting was highlighted by one huge 67-yard TD run and a hit just inches from the goal line that prevented a TD, eventually leading to a 9-0 Cardinal victory before a massive crowd at Kehler Stadium. Blue Devil safety Marcus Allen Graham recorded his ninth interception of the season to break the all-time WHS season record of eight set by Jan Coccoziello in 2003.

**November 25, 2004:** Hurt but hungry "Wild Dogs" became very dangerous and the 11th ranked Elizabeth football team eventually realized it when the hosting Raiders emerged with a 13-12 upset victory on Thanksgiving Day. Senior quarterback Dan LaForge completed 11 of 26 passes for 170 yards, including respective TD passes of 20 yards and 61 yards to senior wide receiver/safety Sean Smith.

**November 28, 2004:** More than gaining yardage took place at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford. Thanks to the graciousness of Director of Youth Programs Beth Roche, staff and security personnel, the Westfield PAL "D" football team got the opportunity of a lifetime by performing during halftime of the Giants/Eagles game.



David B. Corbin (December 2004 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**HITTING THE BIG TIME AT GIANTS STADIUM...The Westfield PAL "D" offense and defense mix it up and get roars from the crowd of 76,000 people at Giants Stadium (November 28, 2004).**

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**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD**  
Date Adopted: 12/03/20

Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an Professional service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) (i). This contract and the resolution authorizing it is available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-858**  
**amending (Resolution No. 2019-1113)**  
**AWARDED TO:** French & Parrello, Associates, PA., Wall, New Jersey  
**SERVICES TO:** to provide additional On-Call MEP Engineering Services  
**COSTS:** in an amount not to exceed: \$15,000.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed: \$17,500.00  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD**  
Date Adopted: 12/03/20

Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an Professional service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) (i). This contract and the resolution authorizing it is available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-844**  
**amending (Resolution No.2020-32)**  
**AWARDED TO:** Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC, Warren, New Jersey  
**SERVICES TO:** special counsel for Labor and personnel matters  
**COSTS:** to increase the contract by \$15,000.00 for a total amount not to exceed \$125,000.00  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD**  
Date Adopted: 12/03/20

Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an Professional service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) (i). This contract and the resolution authorizing it is available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-343**  
**amending (Resolution No.2020-33)**  
**AWARDED TO:** Ruderman and Roth, LLC, Springfield, New Jersey  
**SERVICES TO:** special counsel for Labor and Personnel matters  
**COSTS:** to increase the contract by \$45,000.00 for a total amount not to exceed \$170,000.00  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD**  
Date Adopted: 12/03/20

Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an Professional service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) (i). This contract and the resolution authorizing it is available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

**RESOLUTION NO: 2020-859**  
**amending (Resolution No.2020-560)**  
**AWARDED TO:** DeCotiis Fitzpatrick Cole & Giblin of Teaneck, New Jersey  
**SERVICES TO:** for Special Legal Counsel for certain Redevelopment Projects  
**COSTS:** in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$130,000.00  
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$21.42



WESTFIELD

Sunday, November 29, between the hours of 3 p.m. and 5:13 p.m., a black-colored Trek bicycle was stolen from Westfield Municipal Lot No. 5. The bicycle is valued at \$500. There are no suspects.

Tuesday, December 1, a resident of the 800 block of Village Green reported that a suspect stole a delivered package from their front steps. The approximate value of the item in the package taken is \$600. This is an ongoing investigation.

Tuesday, December 1, at approximately 5:20 p.m., a 17-year-old female reported that she was followed by an unknown person in a medium-sized white pickup truck while she was jogging on the 900 block of Saint Marks Avenue. The suspect vehicle passed her multiple times before stopping ahead of her, at which time the driver exited the vehicle, causing the 17-year-old to turn and leave the area. The suspect was described as possibly male with a medium height and medium build. No further description of the suspect was provided.

Wednesday, December 2, a resident of the 700 block of Scotch Plains Avenue reported that their personal information was used by someone to apply for and receive a bank loan. The resident stated that they did not apply for said loan, and as such, their identity was stolen. The resident reported no monetary loss at that time, nor any other suspicious activity.

Thursday, December 3, Clifford Lawson, 62, of Newark was arrested and charged with shoplifting. A business on the 200 block of East Broad Street reported being the victim of a shoplifting and provided a suspect description. Police observed an individual matching the suspect's description and detained that person, who was arrested at the scene of the detention. A subsequent investigation led police to the determination that the suspect was involved in other shopliftings. The value of the stolen property was listed as \$280, \$320 and \$240.

Thursday, December 3, a resident of the 100 block of Nelson Place reported being the victim of fraud. The victim stated that one or more unknown suspects accessed her credit card and made a purchase of approximately \$709 on a HP website.

Friday, December 4, a business on the 100 block of Quimby Street reported being the victim of a shop-

PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWN OF WESTFIELD  
WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY**  
**SPECIAL ORDINANCE NO. 2220**  
**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53 COVID-19 SPECIAL EMERGENCY**

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the foregoing ordinance was approved for final adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield at a Regular Meeting held on December 8, 2020.

Tara Rowley, RMC  
Town Clerk  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$17.34

PUBLIC NOTICE

**SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
UNION COUNTY**  
**DOCKET NO. F-016988-19  
FILE NO. 28139-20**

NOTICE TO REDEEM

**TLF NATIONAL TAX LIEN TRUST 2017-1; PLAINTIFF VS. JOSE RODRIGUEZ; MRS. JOSE RODRIGUEZ, WIFE OF JOSE RODRIGUEZ; DEUTSCHEBANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF MORGAN STANLEY ABS CAPITAL I INC TRUST 2006-HES, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-HES; AMERICAN GENERAL FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.; THE PRUDENTIAL PROPERTY AND CASUALTY CO.; WELDON MATERIALS INC.; PORKY PRODUCTS INC.; STATE OF NEW JERSEY; DEFENDANT(S)**

**TO: JOSE RODRIGUEZ; MRS. JOSE RODRIGUEZ, WIFE OF JOSE RODRIGUEZ**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an order made on December 4, 2020, the Superior Court Fixed February 2, 2021, or the next business day, between regular business hours, at the office of the Tax Collector of PLAINFIELD, located at 515 WATCHUNG AVENUE, PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07060 as the time and place when and where you may pay to the plaintiff the amount so found due for principal and interest on its certificate of tax sale as follows:

LOT 2 BLOCK 135 on the tax duplicate of PLAINFIELD. Total amount required to redeem tax sale certificate no. 10-107 is \$94,620.62, together with interest from November 30, 2020 and costs of \$1,553.45.

And that unless, at the same time and place, you or one of you redeem by paying the aforesaid sum so found due to plaintiff, then you, and each of you shall be debarred and foreclosed of and from all right and equity of redemption of, in and to the lands and premises above set out and described in the complaint and every part thereof, and that the plaintiff be vested with an absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in fee simple in said lands and premises.

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, redemption shall be permitted until the entry of final judgment including the whole of the last date upon which judgment is entered.

Michael G. Pellegrino, Esq.  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
PELLEGRINO & FELDSTEIN, L.L.C.  
290 Route 46 West  
Denville, New Jersey 07834  
(973) 586-2300  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$59.16

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lifting. The suspect selected an item and left the business without paying for the item. The value of the item was approximately \$25. There is a suspect in this incident, but no arrest had been reported as of press time.

Friday, December 4, a caller reported graffiti on a telephone box in the area of the 300 block of Tuttle Parkway. The graffiti, described as writings in black-colored spray paint, was observed on the top and face of the telephone box. The graffiti appeared to be faded from age.

SCOTCH PLAINS

Tuesday, December 1, Frederick Wallace, 52, of Rahway was arrested during a motor vehicle stop on an outstanding traffic warrant out of Roselle. Wallace was released with a court date.

Thursday, December 3, a resident of Eastham Court reported being a victim of fraud. The victim reported money being taken from their checking account through a fraudulent PayPal account. The matter is under investigation.

Thursday, December 3, a resident of Little Falls Way reported being a victim of fraud. The victim reported that their bank account was hacked and money taken. The matter is under investigation.

Thursday, December 3, Joseph Malave, 22, of Perth Amboy was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana during a motor vehicle stop. Malave was transported to police headquarters, processed and released on a summons.

Thursday, December 3, Alexis Monroy, 21, of Colonia was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana during a motor vehicle stop. Monroy was transported to police headquarters, processed and released on a summons.

Thursday, December 3, a resident of Westfield Road reported being a victim of fraud. The victim reported that someone attempted to file for unemployment benefits under their name.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF FANWOOD  
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**  
**BOND ORDINANCE  
STATEMENTS AND SUMMARIES**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 20-21-S**

THE BOND ORDINANCE PUBLISHED HERewith HAS BEEN FINALLY ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 7, 2020 AND THE 20-DAY PERIOD OF LIMITATION WITHIN WHICH A SUIT, ACTION OR PROCEEDING QUESTIONING THE VALIDITY OF SUCH ORDINANCE CAN BE COMMENCED, AS PROVIDED IN THE LOCAL BOND LAW, HAS BEGUN TO RUN FROM THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS STATEMENT.

**BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE NO. 20-14-S**

KATHLEEN HOLMES  
BOROUGH CLERK  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Times Fee: \$21.42

PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWN OF WESTFIELD  
WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY**  
**GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2202**  
**NOTICE OF PENDING  
ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY**  
**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND  
THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF  
WESTFIELD, CHAPTER 29A**

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the foregoing ordinance was approved for final adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield at a Regular Meeting held on December 8, 2020.

Tara Rowley, RMC  
Town Clerk  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$17.34

PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF FANWOOD  
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**  
**NOTICE OF PENDING  
BOND ORDINANCE**

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the governing body of the Borough of Fanwood, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, on December 7, 2020. It will be further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of the governing body to be held at the Municipal Building, at 75 North Martine Avenue, in the Borough of Fanwood, New Jersey, on December 21, 2020 at 7:30 o'clock PM. During the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting copies of the full ordinance will be available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's office for the members of the general public who shall request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

**TITLE: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$7,200,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LIBRARY IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,702,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION**

**Purpose(s):** For the construction of a library, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.

**Appropriation:** \$7,200,000  
**Bonds/Notes Authorized:** \$3,702,500  
**Grants (if any) Appropriated:** \$3,497,500 expected to be received as a grant from the State of New Jersey, specifically from the Jersey Library Construction Bond Act.

**Section 20 Costs:** \$2,500,000  
**Useful Life:** 30 years

This Notice is published pursuant to N.J.S.A. 20A:2-17.

Kathleen Holmes,  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Times Fee: \$47.94

The matter is under investigation.

Friday, December 4, Mark Anthony, 51, of North Plainfield was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana during a motor vehicle stop. Anthony was transported to police headquarters, processed and released on a summons.

Friday, December 4, a resident of Evergreen Avenue reported being a victim of fraud. The victim reported that someone opened a cell phone in their name. The matter is under investigation.

Monday, December 7, a resident of Clark reported their motor vehicle stolen while working in the area of Country Club Lane. The victim stated that the keys were in the ignition with the vehicle running when they observed a suspect, described by the victim as a black male wearing a blue hoodie and orange vest, enter the vehicle and drive away north on Martine Avenue. The victim's vehicle is a 2014 Chrysler Wagon, white in color. The case is under investigation.

\*\*\*  
*Charges are merely an accusation and defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.*

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD  
RESOLUTION 20-12-212**

**CONTRACTOR:** T&M Associates, 11 Tindall Road, Middletown, New Jersey, Planner/Engineer Services  
**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Planning/Engineering Services  
**DURATION:** For a period not to exceed December 31, 2020  
**FEE:** Not to exceed \$4,500.00

A copy of this resolution and Contract relating to the services are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk.

Kathleen M. Holmes  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Times Fee: \$17.85

PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF FANWOOD  
COUNTY OF UNION**  
**ORDINANCE 20-20-S**

Notice is hereby given Ordinance No. 20-20-S

**AN ORDINANCE VACATING PORTIONS OF THE PUBLIC ROAD KNOWN AS OLD SOUTH AVENUE**

was passed and adopted on the second and final reading at a special meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fanwood held on December 7, 2020.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage and publication as required by law.

Kathleen Holmes  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Times Fee: \$18.87

PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWN OF WESTFIELD  
WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY**  
**GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2201**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2154 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD CHAPTER 2, "ADMINISTRATION," ARTICLE II, TOWN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, DIVISION 3, PERSONNEL POSITIONS AND SALARY SCHEDULE," SEC. 2-12.28, "SCHEDULE."**

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the foregoing ordinance was approved for final adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield at a Regular Meeting held on December 8, 2020.

Tara Rowley, RMC  
Town Clerk  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Leader Fee: \$22.44

REPORTERS WANTED

We are seeking detail-oriented, self-starting, disciplined journalists and communicators with integrity; who have a passion for reporting the facts. An individual who takes ownership of their news stories/beat and can work collaboratively with other reporters and editors. Report, write, capture visual content, edit and produce stories for multiple platforms on deadline. Experience in using social media for news gathering and promotion a plus. Please email resume and clips to: [press@goleader.com](mailto:press@goleader.com)

Santander Gives \$50K For New UCC Scholarship

CRANFORD – The Union County College Foundation received a \$50,000 donation from Santander Bank to fund The Santander First-Generation Honors Scholarship. This generous donation will provide a \$2,000 scholarship to 25 Union Honors students over the next year to help them remain on track toward the completion of their associate degree or certificate. Many will later transfer to a four-year college or university with junior-level status.

To qualify for The Santander First-Generation Honors Scholarship, a student must be a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the two-year honor society for community college students or enrolled in the American Honors program at Union County College. Each student must be the first in their family to pursue a college degree and preference will be given to students who are from underrepresented backgrounds.

"Santander believes in the power of education to shape our future generations and drive positive change in our local communities," said Seth Goodall, Executive Director, Corporate Social Responsibility at Santander Bank. "We are proud to support first generation students at Union County College and look forward to seeing their success in the years to come."

"Today, more than ever, support of our Foundation from our corporate partners is vital to ensure our ability to have a transformative impact on our community. We are deeply thankful to Santander Bank for this generous donation that will ensure that a student's economic reality is not a roadblock towards their academic success," stated Doug Rouse, Union County College Foundation Executive Director. "The scholarship will cover a significant portion of tuition for the year and will allow the recipients to focus on their studies for their continued success."

To learn more about how you can establish or donate to a scholarship with the Union County College Foundation, call (908) 709-7505.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF FANWOOD  
COUNTY OF UNION**  
**ORDINANCE 20-19-S**

Notice is hereby given Ordinance No. 20-19-S

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$110,000.00 OR SUCH OTHER AMOUNT CERTIFIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53(M)**

was passed and adopted on the second and final reading at a special meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fanwood held on December 7, 2020.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage and publication as required by law.

Kathleen Holmes  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 12/20/20, The Times Fee: \$22.95

CLASSIFIEDS

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PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF FANWOOD  
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE

**PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the foregoing ordinance was duly introduced and passed upon first reading at a regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Fanwood, in the County of Union, New Jersey, held on December 7, 2020. Further notice is hereby given that said ordinance will be considered for final passage and adoption, after public hearing thereon, at a regular meeting of said Borough Council to be held at the Municipal Building, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey, on December 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., and during the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting, copies of said ordinance will be made available at the Borough Clerk's Office to the members of the general public who shall request the same.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53(M) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125,000 TO FUND A DEFICIT IN OPERATIONS IN THE SEWER UTILITY FUND DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO COVID-19**

Kathleen Holmes,  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Times Fee: \$33.66

ROSELLE PARK ESTATE SALE

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Sat. 12/12 & Sun. 12/13  
10am -3pm**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF FANWOOD  
PLANNING BOARD**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Board of The Borough of Fanwood, after public hearing on October 28, 2020 granted approval to Lisa Santa Maria for setback and improvement coverage variances for property at 40 Arlene Court, Fanwood, being Block 40 and Lot 30.

Documents pertaining to this application are available for public inspection at Borough Hall during normal business hours.

Lisa Santa Maria  
40 Arlene Court  
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Times Fee: \$15.30

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD  
RESOLUTION 20-12-209**

**CONTRACTOR:** Axon Enterprises, Inc., 17800 North 85th Street, Scottsdale, Arizona 85255, Law Enforcement Support Services

**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Law Enforcement Support Services

**DURATION:** For a period not to exceed December 31, 2020

**FEE:** Not to exceed \$17,655.60

A copy of this resolution and Contract relating to the services are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk.

Kathleen M. Holmes  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 12/10/20, The Times Fee: \$18.87

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Mixing  
With Zest

By HILLARY SHOPE

Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

### Veggie Potato Cakes

This recipe is easy, delicious and filling! I had leftover mashed potatoes from Thanksgiving, so I used those as the base of this recipe. The mashed potatoes already had a bit of oat milk and butter in them from when I first whipped them up. This recipe makes about nine savory cakes. I recommend making them no larger than the size of the palm of your hand. Otherwise, they will be too difficult to flip in the pan and have a higher likelihood of falling apart. Enjoy!

**Ingredients:**  
2 cups mashed potatoes  
½ cup finely shredded carrot  
½ cup shredded parmesan cheese  
¼ teaspoon garlic powder  
¼ teaspoon onion powder  
¼ teaspoon sage  
¼ teaspoon black pepper  
¼ teaspoon salt  
¼ cup finely chopped broccoli (I recommend using only the head of broccoli and leaving the stems out. Chop the broccoli so it has the consistency of sand.)  
¾ cup panko bread crumbs (You will be splitting this up during the recipe.)



**Directions:**  
In a large bowl, mix together all of the above ingredients, including mashed potatoes, carrot, parmesan cheese, garlic powder, onion powder, sage, black pepper, salt, broccoli and ¼ cup of the panko bread crumbs. Pour the remaining 1/2 cup of panko bread crumbs onto a small plate. Set aside.  
Place your skillet over low heat and melt a pat of butter. (I used a cast iron skillet, but if you want to make more at once, you can use a large electric skillet.)  
Once your potato mixture is combined, use your hands to start forming the cakes. Take about 5 cups of the mixture and roll into a ball in the palm of your hand. Press down to form a patty. Make sure you don't make it too thin – you want it to be sturdy. Place the patty into the panko bread crumbs, making sure to coat all sides.  
Place your cake into the skillet and sauté until nicely browned (about 5 minutes on each side). Be sure to delicately flip them with a spatula as they will remain pretty soft in the middle. Since you're making your cakes in batches, be sure to add a pat of butter to the skillet each time you start a new batch.

## New Look at Westfield’s History Celebrates 300 Years

WESTFIELD — “The Fates Were Favorably Inclined: A History of Westfield, New Jersey” provides a fresh look at some of the artifacts, images and stories of the people who have shaped the town from a farming community to prosperous suburb. Those stories reflect times of turbulence and unrest as well as times of great progress.  
Released in conjunction with Westfield’s 300th-year celebration, the book begins with the glaciers and ends with the as-of-yet unfinished story of the Covid-19 pandemic.  
Westfield Town Historian Robert

Wendel noted, “This book builds on and updates older Westfield histories in an engaging and fun-to-read format. It helps us better understand how and why Westfield has developed into the dynamic town we have today.”  
Author Barbara Wolf Burton and designer Nina Ovrlyn Schwartz are both longtime Westfield residents. The book will be available Wednesday, December 16, at The Town Book Store, located at 270 East Broad Street, Westfield. Pre-orders may be placed by calling the store at (908) 233-3535 or online at westfieldnjbook.com.

## Arts & Entertainment

### WHS Theatre Dept. Presents 26 Pebbles Virtual Event

WESTFIELD — The Westfield High School (WHS) Theatre Department presents *26 Pebbles*, a play by Eric Ulloa. This pre-recorded virtual event will be streamed via BookTix on Saturday, December 12, and Monday, December 14.  
This powerful play is based on the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting and the aftermath of this event on the community of Newtown, Conn. The 26 deaths, described by one Newtown resident as “pebbles thrown into a pond,” created ripples that captured the attention of the entire nation and vibrations that were felt far beyond the initial rings. This is the story of those vibrations. The play takes place on the eighth anniversary of this horrendous tragedy.  
“Every so often, a piece of theatre like *26 Pebbles* comes along that has the opportunity to have an everlasting impact on those who view it,” said WHS Theatre Director Daniel Devlin. “The cast and crew of *26 Pebbles* have been working tirelessly to discover new ways of connecting with one another, reestablishing our community, creating meaningful, thoughtful theatre and continuing to tell these important

stories of courage and healing. We look forward to sharing this story of challenge, strength and renewal, and we hope the community will join us for this remarkable event.”  
Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic and the ripples that this event has sent throughout the town, state and nation, the WHS Theatre Department has been preparing for this production 100 percent remotely. All auditions, rehearsals, technical work and performances have been conducted online, which has presented myriad challenges as well as numerous learning opportunities. Due to the pandemic and the health precautions, the performances will be virtual only.  
WHS Theatre is sharing this pre-recorded performance as a special streamed event at whstd.booktix.com on Saturday, December 12, and Monday, December 14. The play’s publisher suggests that the target audience for this production is adults and teenagers between the ages of 14 and 18.  
Tickets currently are available through an online ticket vendor and will close 15 minutes before each performance. For additional information, visit whstd.booktix.com.



DAISIES SAY THANK YOU...Daisy Troop 40901 brought homemade cards to the Cranford Fire Department, pictured above, as well as to the Cranford Police Department, to express their appreciation to members who have served their country. They made their presentations last month in conjunction with Veterans Day.

### Local Girl Scouts Honor Veterans Near and Far

CRANFORD – Girl Scouts of Cranford recently honored veterans in their hometown and those serving all over the world with two different initiatives. Daisy Troop 40901 made homemade cards of gratitude and delivered them in person to members of the Cranford Police Department and Cranford Fire Department who also are veterans of the United States armed forces. The delivery was timed to coincide with Veterans Day, which is observed on November 11.  
“The girls were so proud to decorate the cards for our veterans. We also have more cards for the Cranford VFW and a poster,” explained Nikki Savino Mulcahy, co-leader of Daisy Troop 40901. “Many of our Daisy Scouts also gave cards they created to family members, friends and neighbors who are veterans. They did such a great job and are truly excited to be part of the Cranford Girl Scout family as Daisies.”  
Active-duty troops also will receive homemade holiday cheer from the Girl Scouts of Cranford thanks to the efforts of Girl Scout Ambassador Troop 40071. For the sixth year in a row, the troop coordinated a “Cards for Troops” drive and collected hundreds of cards and ornaments that will be distributed to military personnel stationed in the United States as well as overseas.  
Typically, the “Cards for Troops” event is held at the Cranford Community Center, but because Covid-19 restrictions prevented that type of gathering this year, the participation and collection was remote. Girl Scout Ambassadors from Troop 40071 created, packed and delivered 225 card-making/activity kits to more than 20 participating troops, who created 200 ornaments and 400 holiday cards — more than any other year to date.  
The Girl Scouts of Cranford includes over 1,139 Girl Scout members in 71 troops and Juliettes, making it one of the largest non-profit organizations in the township. The Cranford Service Unit is a part of the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey Council, which in turn is part of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Any family that is interested in learning more about local Girl Scouts or the Girl Scouts of Cranford is invited to visit cranfordgirlscouts.com.

Community Calendar

Brought to you by Trinitas Regional Medical Center

TRINITAS  
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**Free Gift Wrapping** at the Downtown Welcome Center, Westfield. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. throughout the month of December.  
**Westfield Area Y Men’s Club Christmas Tree Sale** at the Elm Street Athletic Field, Westfield. Monday through Friday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. throughout the month of December.  
**Online Local Shopping for Downtown Westfield** throughout the month of December. Visit [www.beyondmain.com/g/downtown-westfield/](http://www.beyondmain.com/g/downtown-westfield/)  
**Westfield Art Takes Flight Butterfly Auction** through Thursday, December 10 at 10 p.m. Visit <https://www.32auctions.com/westfieldbutterflies>  
**Scotch Plains Menorah Lighting** Thursday, December 10, 5 p.m. Virtual celebration only to be Streamed on Facebook Live.  
**Introduction to Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT)**, live zoom webinar Friday, December 11, 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The beginners course, sponsored by Trinitas Regional Medical Center, is designed for mental health professionals. Register at [www.dbtnj.org](http://www.dbtnj.org).  
**Holiday Home Decorating Contest** in Scotch Plains. Register your home by Friday, December 11 at [register.communitypass.net/scotchplains](http://register.communitypass.net/scotchplains).  
**The Grinch**, drive-up movie sponsored by the Union County Freeholders. Friday, December 11, 6:30 p.m. at The Union County Vocation and Technical Schools campus, 1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains. Reserve at: <https://ucnj.org/reserve>.  
**New Jersey Cares Coat Drive** through Friday, December 11. Collecting new and gently used winter coats. Drop off to Christine Cosenza, State Farm, 2 Elm Street, Westfield. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
**Wonderful Life: The Radio Play** live Zoom performances Friday, December 11 and Saturday, December 12, one pre-recorded Zoom performance Sunday, December 13. For more information and to purchase tickets visit, [www.thetheaterproject.org](http://www.thetheaterproject.org).  
**Garwood 2020 Santa Ride** Saturday, December 12 (rain date Saturday, December 19) starting at 12:30 p.m. on the North side.  
**Watching Arts Center Holiday Concert** Saturday December 12 at 8 p.m. AMANI will perform a selection of holiday favorites as well as some hits from a variety of genres on Zoom. Tickets: \$20 per person. Purchase tickets at [watchungartscenter.eventbrite.com](https://watchungartscenter.eventbrite.com).  
**6 Pebbles**, presented by Westfield High School Theatre Department Saturday, December 12, and Monday, December 14. This pre-recorded virtual event will be streamed via BookTix. visit [whstd.booktix.com](http://whstd.booktix.com). Visit [whstd.booktix.com](http://whstd.booktix.com).  
**Virtual Cookbook Club** Thursday, December 17, at 7:30 p.m. Register at [scotlib.org/](http://scotlib.org/).  
**Andrea McArdle: A Holiday Concert**, virtual performances presented by Kean Stage. Performances will be streamed Thursday, December 17 at 7 p.m.; Friday, December 18 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 19 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 20 at 3 p.m. All performances are in eastern standard time. Tickets for the streamed concert are \$30. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.keanstage.com](http://www.keanstage.com).  
**No Day But Today**, a musical theatre concert honoring the mission of World AIDS Day. Saturday, December 19 at 7 p.m. Tickets for the virtual performance are \$20 and can be purchased at [ucpac.org/NoDayButToday](http://ucpac.org/NoDayButToday).  
\*\*\*  
Submit events at [www.goleader.com/calendar](http://www.goleader.com/calendar)

## High School Senior’s Fat Dog Cookie Business Taking Off

By HILLARY SHOPE  
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
WESTFIELD — Westfield High School senior Amanda White is baking cookies Westfielders can’t seem to get enough of — the popular chocolate chip cookies sell out regularly.  
Amanda, a Westfield High School cheerleader, started selling cookies back in September when she learned cheer had been cancelled due to the pandemic. She loves baking and has always been interested in selling sweets.  
“I’m not a person that’s just going to sit around for two weeks watching TV; I am going to start a business,” said Amanda.  
Amanda has done a bit of advertising among local Westfield groups, Instagram (@FatDogCookie) and Facebook, but popularity has primarily spread through word of mouth.  
“It just took off so fast,” said Amanda, who balances maintaining the business and baking on top of her school work.  
Over the pandemic, she saw so many larger cookie companies selling their products for extremely high prices and thought she would buck the trend.  
“I want a more affordable product and I want something that’s more accessible to everyone,” said Amanda. “I wanted [to make] something people would love to enjoy, especially during this time. There’s lots of hardship, but everyone loves a chocolate chip cookie — that’s pretty universal.”  
Amanda named her business after her family’s rescued Yorkie, Scooby. He was a bit on the larger side, and was getting overlooked in the adoption process when Amanda’s family decided he was the perfect fit. After arriving at his forever home, he put on some weight and had to start dieting. So, when brainstorming a name for the business, “Fat Dog Cookie” was born.  
“On each box, there’s a sticker with my dog’s picture on it,” said Amanda. “The first two months [of business], I donated 10 percent of profits to the rescue that rescued him because they gave us him, so I felt like we should give back to them.”  
This holiday season, Fat Dog

Cookie is selling a variety of limited edition boxes, all of which include 12 of the classic chocolate chip cookie base and offer different toppings and decorations depending on the box a customer chooses.  
“The limited edition boxes are only here for December, and in January they’re gone,” said Amanda.  
When asked about what makes her cookies so special, Amanda said it’s hard to pinpoint an exact answer, but I can vouch that there’s some sort of magic in the cookies and locals agree, purchasing box after box.  
Amanda is still figuring out exactly what the future of Fat Dog Cookies looks like. She would love to grow the business, but plans to attend college next fall. So for now, she hopes to find more time to bake, find a larger space to bake in, and potentially expand the types of cookies she offers.  
“I use our home kitchen right now and I can only bake 14 cookies at a time, so I would love to find a kitchen where I’m able to make more cookies,”



Amanda White is

said Amanda.  
Although she’s limited by how many cookies she can bake at a time, she’s churning out order after order. So far, she’s baked over 3,600 cookies and business isn’t slowing down anytime soon.  
Each month Amanda donates 10 percent of her proceeds to a local organization. December proceeds will go to the Westfield United Fund, a local non-profit that aims to help people in Westfield and strengthen the community.  
“I feel like if I’m doing well I need to share the success with people that do really need it, so I will always do that,” said Amanda.  
If you’re interested in buying Fat Dog Cookie, Amanda recommends following her Instagram, as that’s where she posts sale dates, the boxes she currently is offering and more. If you are interested in reaching out to Amanda directly about a purchase, you can also fill out an inquiry form at [fatdogcookie.com](http://fatdogcookie.com). Customers can pick up their cookies directly from Amanda or pay a \$5 delivery fee to get them delivered to their home.



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**Thank you for showing that Westfield cares about its neighbors. With the “Be the Light” campaign of luminary sales in November, almost \$35,000 was raised to feed people in Union County who are struggling with food insecurity. Thank you to the groups and individuals who came together to make this project happen. Sponsored by the Westfield United Way, Westfield Rotary and The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, the project’s funds will be distributed to support the efforts of food pantries and food kitchens in our local community and Union County.**

## Thank You, Westfield





*Rearview Mirror on page 8  
of The Westfield Leader*



David B. Corbin (November 2018 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**WHIZZING ONE PAST A RAIDER...**Minuteman Sebastian Diaz, center, rips a shot past Raider junior midfielder Alvaro Furfaro, No. 12, in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Championship game in Scotch Plains on November 8, 2018.



David B. Corbin (November 2019 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**GOOD 'OLE' STIFF ARM...**Blue Devil running back Tim Alliegro, No. 5, uses a stiff arm to get past a Ridgewood Maroon defender during the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 5 semifinal game at Ridgewood on November 15, 2019.

## A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

From the archives of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* - Full accounts available at [www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com) - year, month, week

**November 15, 2019:** A superb defensive effort by the fourth-seeded Westfield football team forced top-seeded Ridgewood to change its offensive tactics in the second half and it paid off with a pair of fourth-quarter TDs to earn the Maroon a 16-10 victory in the semifinal

round of the NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Group 5 playoff at Ridgewood HS.

The Blue Devils' defensive line and linebackers spearheaded by senior co-captain Will Kessler and Colin Freer stuffed the Maroon's running game to just 22 yards, while the corners and safeties limited quarterback Liam Tarlton to one completion in five attempts for six yards, which included an interception by senior defensive back Dan Varano and a tipped pass by Freer. Junior Justin Ortiz

would later recover a fumble which would set up QB Hank Shapiro's one-yard TD.

Shapiro completed 11 of 18 passes for 107 yards in the first half, which included eight to senior Griffin Rooney for 79 yards. Shapiro would complete eight of 13 passes in the second half for 81 yards for a total of 188 yards. Rooney would add four more receptions for 44 yards for a total of 123 yards. Senior receiver John Czarnecki would finish with three receptions for 22 yards and Nick Martini would have a 12-yard reception.

Unfortunately for the Blue Devils, the Maroon defense tightened up enough to limit them to

three field goal attempts in the first half. The first a 30-yard attempt was no good. The second a 28-yard attempt was blocked. The third attempt worked when junior Mack Prybylski split the uprights from 20 yards out to give Westfield a 3-0 lead at the half.

**Late November 2019:** What has been a grueling traditional clash of titans has become a nearly one-sided affair when it comes to the Annual Thanksgiving Day football game between the Westfield Blue Devils and the Plainfield Cardinals. Since the beginning of the 21st Century, the Blue Devils have won 15 of the meetings while the Cardinals won just four. The two foes will meet for the 115th time this

Thanksgiving Day, November 28, at Gary Kehler Stadium.

At the turn of the 21st Century, the Blue Devils held a slim 47-41-7 edge, so their advantage now stands at 62-45-7. The Blue Devils, who shut out the Cardinals, 27-0, last year, have won the last seven meetings with the Cardinals eking out a 22-21 victory in 2011. The most interesting game during that span was the "Slop Bowl" of 2014 as described below when the Blue Devils managed to slip into the end zone in overtime for a 6-0 victory.

Sloppy conditions on a very muddy field covered with wet snow, multitudes of sloppy penalties and unavoidable sloppy

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Marlene Iacoponi (November 2018 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**SURROUNDING A WOLFPACK MEMBER...**Blue Devils Charlie Riley, No. 57, Declan McCauley, No. 63, and Reid Colwell, No. 23, prepare to take down Wolfpack running back Jack DiPietri, No. 4, during the crossover game (2018).

David B. Corbin (November 2017 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**ACES IN THE HOLE...**Blue Devil defensemen Jacob Dayon, No. 4, Shea Elliott, No. 43, and Drew Ortiz, No. 50, shifted to offense to block for Jake Vall-Llobera, No. 8, who scored both touchdowns against Ridge on Veterans' Day 2017.

## A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

plays set the stage for an "All-Madden" style of Thanksgiving Day football game between the Westfield Blue Devils and the Plainfield Cardinals at Hub Stein Field in Plainfield on November 27, 2014.

After all the slipping and sliding, the Blue Devils managed to score on their first series in overtime on a five-yard slide by running back Jack Curry then halted the Cardinals on theirs to emerge with very muddy uniforms and a 6-0 victory. Jackson Simcox and Luke Prybylski provided interceptions for the Blue Devils.

**November 8, 2018:** Very little time was wasted for the action to peak once the whistle blew to begin the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 boys soccer champi-

onship game between the second-seeded Elizabeth Minutemen and the hosting top-seeded SPF Raiders. And it also took very little time for the complexion of a 0-0 game to change drastically when the Minutemen scored twice within a span of 1:36 in the second half en route to a 2-1 victory and the title.

Minuteman co-captain Josser Amaya brought the ball down the right-center, beat a defender and crossed the ball into the box where senior Henry Chavez tapped it past Raider junior goalkeeper Danny Coyle with 29:27 on the clock. Moments later with 27:51 remaining, the hulky senior Youkendly Pacius headed in the ball after Chavez hooked the ball into the box from the right

corner. Senior Jon Koseoglu scored the Raiders' goal on a penalty kick.

**Mid November 2018:** Seemingly somewhat overshadowed by perennial Union County powerhouses Westfield and Kent Place, the Cranford girls tennis team buckled down and just kept winning and winning regular season games. The end result was a 19-3 record and the capturing of the Union County Conference Mountain Middle Division crown. The Lady Cougars also placed seventh in the Union County Tournament (UCT).

What definitely helped shoot the Cougars right to the top was a trio of very talented freshmen, who occupied the three singles positions.

Molly Gardiner took on the very competitive first singles spot and finished with an 18-2 regular-season record, won three matches in the UCT and added another win in the NJSIAA Singles Playoffs. Her 22 total wins was the most in a single season by a Cougar. At second singles, Olivia Tardibono finished 16-5 and placed eighth in the UCT. Alyssa Colombrita held the third singles spot, placed ninth in the UCT and finished with a 14-6 record.

**Mid November, 2018:** It was a game that had to be seen to be believed. A large number of fans from football squads sat through a bitterly cold Thursday night in the middle of November to watch Westfield stun host West Morris, 20-13. The back-and-forth con-

test was not decided until a four-yard TD pass from Hank Shapiro to Tommy Norris with just 17 seconds left in regulation.

Emmett Smith's second interception set up the winning score. Westfield had taken a 6-0 lead on two first-period field goals by sophomore Mack Prybylski. One was set up by Will Kessler's fumble recovery. Westfield's other TD came on a 55-yard hookup from Shapiro to Griffin Rooney.

**November 10, 2017:** The Cranford football team saw its 2017 season come to an end in a 48-21 defeat at Parsippany Hills during an NJSIAA, first round, North 2, Group III playoff game. Playing under brutally cold tem-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Charles Mulrooney (December 2015 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**STEPPING UP BIG...**Junior defensive end Owen Kessler, No. 64, and senior Mike O'Connor, No. 42, crunch the Panther running back at MetLife Stadium on December 3, 2015. The Blue Devils won the North 2, Group 5 Crown, 10-7.

David B. Corbin (October 2016 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**ALL-SCANJ...**Blue Devil Loukas Carayannopoulos, No. 19, received All-Soccer Coaches Association of New Jersey recognition (Late November 2016).

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## A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

peratures and gusty wind conditions, the seventh-seeded Cougars were blown away, not only by the elements but by a high-powered Viking passing game.

Elijah Arroyo took the opening kickoff and raced 88 yards for a TD to give Cranford a lightning quick 7-0 advantage. Parsippany Hills tried a squib kick that was fielded by Rob Schork at the Cranford 32. Schork scooped up the ball and made a decisive move upfield, racing through a line of Viking defenders and

emerging ahead of the field on his way to a 68-yard TD return. The Cougars traversed 58 yards in six plays before senior Anthony Araujo swept into the end zone from 13 yards out to cut the deficit to 34-21 with 5:25 left in the third quarter.

**November 11, 2017:** Full-back RJ Milligan proved to be a difficult individual to bring down but the Westfield Blue Devils, who bent somewhat, did not break and created some key turnovers to emerge with a 17-10

victory over the eighth-seeded Ridge Red Devils in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 5 playoffs in Westfield on Veterans' Day (*11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month*).

The "aces in the hole", were senior defensive end Jake Vall-Llobera and company. When the situation presented itself, Vall-Llobera would shift to the offense and take some snaps. Three other primarily defensive players, Drew Ortiz (13 tackles), and co-captains Shea Elliott, who had an

interception and fumble recovery, and Jacob Dayon (stripped ball that was recovered by Noah Levy) were inserted for blocking to assist co-captain John McCauley and the rest of the offensive line. It paid off. Vall-Llobera carried eight times for 31 yards, including TD runs of six yards and two yards.

**November 11, 2017:** Senior QB Cooper Heisey tossed five TD passes, all in the first half to lead the SPF football team to a 43-24 victory over Hopatcong in a con-

solation in Scotch Plains. Heisey went 18-for-26 and amassed 355 yards in staking the Raiders to 43-8 halftime advantage. The victory was the first of the season for the Raiders and first year Head Coach Marc Ciccotelli.

Heisey hooked up with Anthony Porter for three TD passes and Dwight Layler for two more. Running back Nick Palazzolo added to the offensive onslaught with a three-yard TD run.

**November 15, 2016:** The  
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David B. Corbin (December 2015 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**NORTH 2, GROUP 3 STATE CHAMPS...**The Cranford Cougars celebrate after defeating the Chatham Cougars, 50-23, at Cougar Stadium at Kean University in Union on December 4, 2015. Cranford finished with a perfect 12-0 record.

David B. Corbin (October 2016 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**THE EVERYWHERE GIRL...**Cougar senior co-captain Katie Romanovich, No. 6, with her special speed and alertness could be seen in the backfield, midfield or bringing the ball forward on the attack (Late November 2016).

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## A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

third time proved to be the charm for Ryan Peterson and the SPF boys soccer team. Peterson finally scored the elusive golden goal with 2:57 remaining in the second overtime period to defeat a valiant Kearny team, 1-0, in the NJSIAA Group 4 semifinals played at Brooks Field in Somerville. The Raiders thought they had won the game on two other occasions only to have their game-winning celebrations halted by the officials' whistles.

**Late November 2016:** Facing a very rigorous schedule the Cranford girls soccer team proved to be very competitive this season, going down to the wire with several state-ranked teams and finishing with a 9-11-1 record. Additionally, the Lady Cougars earned their respect fielding a fine mix of veteran upperclassmen with a number of very talented sophomores and one freshman.

Senior co-captains Kat

Mackenzie and goalkeeper Cam Hay, senior Maya Lawler, junior Caroline McCaffrey and sophomore Grace DiGiovanni displayed their defensive tenacity. Senior co-captain Katie Romanovich controlled the midfield but could be seen all over the field, dropping back for added defense or pushing forward on the attack. Sophomore Lauren Williamson was the power inside and led the team with 11 goals and was assisted by freshman Maggie

Murray, who also hit a hat trick in goals early in the season, on several occasions. Sophomore midfielders Ana Dzunova and Kenzie Butler were close behind with six goals apiece.

**Late November 2016:** Ousting the owner of five straight Union County Tournament (UCT) championships and 19 overall finally happened on October 28 at Kean University when the Westfield boys soccer team defeated the SPF Raiders, 2-1, for

its 11th UCT crown. The junior/senior loaded Blue Devils went on to finish their season with a 15-4-2 record.

The Blue Devils were led by three co-captains, midfielder Loukas Carayannopoulos, keeper Birkel and center back Kevin Reinhard. Carayannopoulos (7 assists) was selected (Coaches) All-Union County (UC) and All-Watchung Conference (WC) First Team, and

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Jim O'Connor (November 2014 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**WHOOOPS!...Raider co-captain Zach Lipshitz, No. 4, watches as Minuteman Eduardo Fuentes, No. 10, loses his balance while attempting to kick the ball in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 championship game on November 13, 2014.**



David B. Corbin (November 2104) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**HEAD ON COLLISION...Raider senior Paige Heiden gets her head on the ball in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 championship game against Ridge in Scotch Plains on November 14, 2014. The Raiders won 3-2 in the second overtime.**

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## A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

received All-Soccer Coaches Association of New Jersey (SCANJ) recognition. Birkel received All-UC and WC First Team honors and All-SCANJ recognition. Reinhard coordinated the positioning of the backs but also pushed up front enough to score six goals. Reinhard was selected and All-UC Second Team and All-WC Honorable Mention.

**December 3, 2015:** Extraordinary performances backed up

by a truly "team" effort rewarded the second-seeded Westfield football Blue Devils with a 10-7 victory over the first-seeded Bridgewater-Raritan Panthers for the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 5 championship before a large fan base for both teams at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford. Interestingly, it was 38 years to the day since the Blue Devils won their last state title with a 33-12 triumph over Barringer

and, interestingly, like with Bridgewater-Raritan, it was a battle between two unbeaten teams.

The 11-1 Panthers led by 6'4" 220-lb quarterback Eric Nickel put together three serious drives and the first came midway through the first quarter. With the ball on the Westfield seven, Nickel connected with wide receiver Ricky Tate at the three where the ball was jarred loose

and Blue Devil junior defensive tackle Nick Maher pounced on it at the two. Free safety Sid Douglas batted down a pass. Junior defensive tackle Jeff Gagum, chased down Nickel and threw him for a 15-yard loss setting up a fourth down and a 37-yard field goal attempt but junior defensive end Owen Kessler blocked it.

Blue Devil Mike Moriarty kicked a 23-yard field goal with 9:36 left

in the half. Kessler forced a Panther punt after recording a six-yard sack. QB Zach Kelly connected with Jack Shirk, Jelani Pierre and junior tight end Kyle Dombrowski twice for 11 yards each. His second reception sat the ball on the Panther five. On fourth-and-goal from the one, junior Matt Varano nosed in for the TD with 8:20 remaining in the game.

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David B. Corbin (Thanksgiving Day 2014) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**NEAR THE END OF THE SLOP BOWL...**The Blue Devils and Plainfield Cardinals were nothing but a muddy mess near the end of "The Slop Bowl" in Plainfield (2014).

David B. Corbin (November 2012 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**HEADING FOR THE OUTSIDE...**Junior running back Sophia Goldschmidt heads for the outside in the game against the seniors (November 21, 2012).

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## A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

**December 4, 2015:** One year of waiting and very hard work allowed the Cranford football team to achieve their goal, securing a North 2, Group 3 championship, by defeating the Chatham Cougars, 50-23, at Kean University's Cougar Stadium. How ironic, Cougars verses Cougars at the home of the Cougars and it was the Cranford Cougars who boosted their record to 12-0, the best in school history.

Cranford senior QB Jack

Schetelich did not need to carry the ball much but when he did, he plunged through the Chatham lines for a pair of one-yard TDs. The most damage he did, however, came through the air when he connected for 12 of 15 passes for 235 yards and four TDs.

Schetelich wisely chose four receivers. Senior Joe Norton had four receptions for 75 yards, including TDs of 15 yards and a wide-open 39 yards. Junior Ryan Bakie had three receptions for 64 yards, which included a 20-yard

TD. Bakie also had a 30-yard TD run. Senior Sean Leonard had four receptions for 77 yards, including TDs of 17 and 24 yards. Leonard (3 carries, 47 yards) also had a two-point conversion run. Will Budries had a 19-yard reception.

**November 13, 2014:** Senior Jassiem Wahtuse sent a clear message very early in the game then a 1-2-3 punch that resulted in a goal by sophomore Ryan Peterson awarded the Raider boys soccer team the North Jer-

sey, Section 2, Group 4 championship after shutting out Elizabeth, 2-0, in Scotch Plains. Wahtuse scored less than four minutes into the game. In the second half, Justin Rodrigues slid a ball into co-captain Jake Longo, who slid the ball back to Rodrigues on the left. Rodrigues then spotted Ryan Peterson in the center and slid the ball to him. Peterson banged the ball into the net with 16:01 on the clock.

**November 14, 2014:** One week after drudging North

Plainfield, 52-20, in the final regular-season game, the top-seeded Cranford Cougar football team did it again with a 46-6 thrashing of the Canucks in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 tournament in Cranford.

Luke Christiano had an 86-yard return for a TD on the opening kickoff. QB Jack Schetelich had three TD runs. Joe Norton had a 10-yard TD reception. Donavin Walker added an 11-yard TD run. Jake Palumbo

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David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**SURROUNDED BY CARDINALS...**Blue Devil Peter Ondi, No. 27, tries to work his way around several Cardinal defenders in the Annual Thanksgiving Day Classic. The Cardinals won, 22-21 (November 24, 2011).



David B. Corbin (SPF/Cranford game 2010 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**GETTING READY TO BOOT IT DOWNFIELD...**Raider sophomore Christy Monroy, No. 13, prepares to kick the ball downfield as Cranford Cougar Hannah DeMars, No. 21, chases her (November 2010).

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plunged in from the three for a TD.

**November 14, 2014:** Co-captain Tori Baliatico slipped the ball into co-captain Jodi Cornwell, who tapped it into the net with 3:49 remaining in the second overtime to earn the top-seeded Raider girls soccer team the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 championship with a 3-2 victory over second-seeded Ridge at Scotch Plains.

The Raiders scored first off a header by Caroline Babis after a long free kick into the box by sophomore Christina Rodgers. Eleven minutes into the second half, the strong foot of Rodgers banged another free kick from 50-yards out, this time into sophomore Alyssa DiFrancesco,

who also headed the ball into the net to give the Raiders a seemingly comfortable, 2-0 lead.

**November 15, 2013:** Big plays and hard hits were delivered by both teams, but in the end, it came down to an interception return for a TD, two key fumble recoveries to set up TDs and a kickoff return to midfield that gave the top-seeded Ridge Red Devils the edge to hold off eighth-seeded Westfield, 35-28, in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 5 tournament in Basking Ridge.

Blue Devil QB Chris Hogge completed 17 of 25 passes for 189 yards, including four TDs. Flanker Dylan Elliott hauled in nine passes for 114 yards, including TD receptions of 33 yards and four

yards. Running back Eugene Rawles had two receptions for 42 yards, including a screen pass that he turned into a 37-yard TD. Tight end Dave Kane had a TD reception of nine yards to go with a 10-yard reception.

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**November 15, 2013:** Sweet revenge from a shocking loss in last year's sectional semifinals became a reality for the Cranford Cougar football team when the Cougars battered the hosting Palisades Park Tigers, 47-21, in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 tournament. Cougar QB John Oblachinski, who was a receiver in last year's game, blended a strong passing game with an effective running game to bewilder the 8-2 Tigers. As a matter of fact, the 7-3 Cougars totaled 196 yards passing and 196 yards rushing.

Oblachinski carried 25 times for 111 yards, including respective TD runs of five yards, one yard, five yards and 23 yards. He

also completed nine of 13 attempts with TD passes of 59 yards and 15 yards to senior wide receiver Jack McCaffrey and 10 yards to junior running back Luke Christiano.

**November 17, 2012:** Quarterback Zach Martin completed 13 of 15 passes in the first half for 186 yards, including two TD passes, and went 8-for-8 with 101 yards and two more TD passes to lead the 4-6 Warren Hills Blue Streaks to a 34-7 victory over the Raiders in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 tournament in Scotch Plains.

The Raiders finally scored on a 13-play, 75-yard drive when junior running back James Lettieri

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David B. Corbin (December 2009 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**SURROUNDED BY JUNIOR DEFENDERS...**Senior quarterback Kim Wenson, with football, finds herself being hemmed in by junior defenders as she nears the goal during the Raider Powder Puff Game last Wednesday (November 28, 2009).

David B. Corbin (December 2010 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**PLAYING WITH A LOT OF SPIRIT...**The Blue Devil senior girls in black and the junior girls scramble to get possession of a pass during the annual Powder Puff game at Kehler Stadium on November 24, 2010. Both teams played with enthusiasm, but the senior girls prevailed, 26-6.

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scouted in from the three-yard line with 9:35 remaining.

**November 19, 2012:** Eighty minutes of superb soccer on the part of the 19th-ranked Westfield boys soccer team and seventh-ranked Millburn yielded a 2-0 Miller victory for the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 championship at Gary Kehler Stadium. Spenser Heller scored a goal midway through the first half, and Jared Darvin scored the insurance goal late in the second half for the 17-3-2 Millers. The Blue Devils finished their season with a 13-3-6 record.

**November 20, 2012:** Despite a sluggish second half and with a 0-0 deadlock in regulation and after two overtime periods, the No. 7 Ridge girls' soccer team rose to the top to defeat Scotch

Plains-Fanwood, 4-3, in a thrilling shootout to claim the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 crown in Scotch Plains. Christy Monroy, Jessie Klein and Jodi Cornwell netted the PKs. Goalkeeper Taylor Sebolao made eight saves.

**November 21, 2012:** Onelast-ditch but valiant effort to get on the scoreboard in the final minute of the annual Westfield Powder Puff football game came up short for the seniors, giving the juniors an 8-0 victory at Gary Kehler Stadium. After junior running back Karli Sottung scooted to the senior 16-yard line, quarterback Alex Kardias connected with Carli Friedman for the only TD.

**November 24, 2011:** Several school records were broken or extended, but Chad Jno-Lewis' two-point conversion in the first

quarter would come back to haunt the Westfield football team as the Plainfield Cardinals managed to pull off a 22-21, come from behind victory in the Annual Thanksgiving Day classic at Gary Kehler Stadium.

Blue Devil senior running back James O'Rourke broke Dave Reitze's 1960 record of 249 carries in a season when he scooted into the end zone for Westfield's second TD. O'Rourke finished with 19 carries for 117 yards, which included a 64-yard TD run, to bring his season total to 259 carries.

O'Rourke also broke Jan Cocozziello's career interception total of 12, which he reached in 2003, when he snagged Cardinal quarterback Di'Jon Allen-Jordan's pass in the third quar-

ter. That interception also tied Marcus Allen Graham's season total of nine that he set in 2005 also against Plainfield.

**Late November 2010:** There was some uncertainty about how successful the SPF girls soccer team would be this season; however, the Raiders won their conference title and captured their fifth Union County Tournament championship in six years with a 2-0 win over Westfield, before dropping a 1-0 heartbreaker to Millburn in the state sectional tournament to finish with a 14-2-3 record. Avika Shah, a four-year starter, led the team with 12 goals and seven assists. Emily Nagourney used her powerful kicks to net nine goals, most from a distance, and used her excellent field vision to contrib-

ute nine assists.

**November 25, 2010:** Thanksgiving Day was special for the seniors on the Blue Devils football team in the annual "Turkey Day" classic against Plainfield at Hub Stine Field. The 7-3 Blue Devils literally grounded the 4-6 Cardinals with their swarming defense, while trampling the Cardinals' defense with a ground game that chewed up 224 yards and blanketing them with an aerial attack that totaled 204 yards in a 35-6 triumph.

Senior tail back A.J. Murray, who galloped for 148 yards to break the 1,000-yard plateau for the season – had TD runs of 29 yards and 14 yards, and added another TD on a short screen pass that he turned into a 60-

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David B. Corbin (December 2004 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**NERVOUS ANTICIPATION...**The Westfield PAL "D" football players and Coach John Dugan await the end of the first half and prepare to run out of the chute and onto the field (November 28, 2004).



David B. Corbin (December 2004 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**HITTING THE BIG TIME AT GIANTS STADIUM...**The Westfield PAL "D" offense and defense mix it up and get roars from the crowd of 76,000 people at Giants Stadium (November 28, 2004).

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yard scoring play. Quarterback Danny Kerr hit junior James McCrea near the right pylon for a 16-yard TD. Senior Garrett Pryor bashed through the line for a seven-yard TD.

**November 28, 2009:** Friendly competition with a purpose resulted in a 6-0 senior girls victory over the juniors in the annual Raiders Powder Puff Football Game sponsored by DECA. Ally Prestridge followed a horde of great blockers around the right end to score a six-yard TD. Kim Wenson had a pair of interceptions.

**November 27, 2008:** Numerous key defensive plays, a five-yard TD run and a pair of breakaway TD runs from senior halfback Ricardo Johnson was just enough for the Blue Devil football team to absorb two fourth-quarter TDs by Plainfield

in a 21-19 victory in the annual Thanksgiving Day classic at Hub Stine Field.

**November 25, 2006:** Senior running back George Cornell picked the right time to have his best game when the Blue Devil football team defeated Plainfield, 17-7, in the Annual Thanksgiving Day Classic that was actually held on November 25 in Plainfield. Cornell, who normally would carry seven to eight times per game but mostly block for Malcolm Allen, rushed 19 times for 121 yards, including a one-yard TD plunge to seal the victory. Additionally, he had several key runs for first downs, including a 30-yard gallop that set up his TD bash.

**Late November 2006:** Blue Devil Physical Education Coordinator, former softball and field hockey Head Coach Maggie

McFadden felt that the time was ripe to redirect her energies and ultimately have more leisure time to dabble on the golf course after coaching in the school system for more than two decades.

**Thanksgiving Day 2005:** An effort to make it four Thanksgiv-

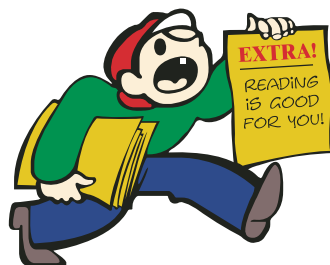
ing Day victories in a row over powerhouse Elizabeth ended for the Raiders football team as visiting Elizabeth grabbed a 27-0 victory. Senior linebacker Nick Giannaci had a team-high, 13 tackles.

**Thanksgiving Day 2005:** Big plays have decided the outcome of a number of Thanksgiving Day showdowns between the Westfield football team and Plainfield. The 101st meeting was highlighted by one huge 67-yard TD run and a hit just inches from the goal line that prevented a TD, eventually leading to a 9-0 Cardinal victory before a massive crowd at Kehler Stadium. Blue Devil safety Marcus Allen Graham recorded his ninth interception of the season to break the all-time WHS season record of eight set by Jan Coccoziello in 2003.

**November 25, 2004:** Hurt but hungry "Wild Dogs" became very dangerous and the 11th ranked Elizabeth football team eventually realized it when the hosting Raiders emerged with a 13-12 upset victory on Thanksgiving Day. Senior quarterback Dan LaForge completed 11 of 26 passes for 170 yards, including respective TD passes of 20 yards and 61 yards to senior wide receiver/safety Sean Smith.

**November 28, 2004:** More than gaining yardage took place at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford. Thanks to the graciousness of Director of Youth Programs Beth Roche, staff and security personnel, the Westfield PAL "D" football team got the opportunity of a lifetime by performing during halftime of the Giants/Eagles game.

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