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ONE DOLLAR

## Westfield BOE Adopts Budget; Names New Assistant Principal

By JENNIFER GLACKIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Board of Education adopted a budget for the 2021-2022 school year. As previously reported by *The Westfield Leader*, the total budget is just over \$127 million, with 94 percent, or \$105.5 million, being raised through the tax levy. The average assessed house should expect an increase of approximately \$170 for the school budget portion of their taxes.

Business Administrator Dana Sullivan said Westfield is a low-spending district, according to state calculations, when compared to similar-sized K-12 school districts. Westfield has a \$13,803 per-pupil cost, which is \$2,000 lower than the state average. Ms. Sullivan also noted that Westfield

puts a higher percentage of its budget towards direct instruction — 61.73 percent — compared to the state average of 59.03 percent.

Cooperative purchasing, self-insured health benefits, solar panels and in-district special-education programs are some of the district's cost-saving measures. Out-of-district special-education costs are projected to increase next year due to raises in tuition, said Ms. Sullivan.

Mary McCabe will be the new assistant principal at Franklin Elementary School. Ms. McCabe currently is the interim assistant principal. In addition to spending this past year as interim assistant principal, Ms. McCabe is a Westfield High School graduate, parent of students in the district, and a former teacher at

Franklin. "The Westfield School district is an exceptional community to be a part of, and I am just so proud to be the official Franklin School assistant principal," she said.

The board also addressed ongoing parental concerns regarding opening for full-day, in-person learning. During the public-comment section of the meeting, Stephanie Siegel reported that 246 school districts are fully open, according to Governor Phil Murphy's recent report. Superintendent Margaret Dolan, Ed.D., clarified that districts that have any students, such as elementary students, five mornings a week "is defined as fully open" by the state. Districts currently do not need to offer lunch and an in-person afternoon session to be considered fully open.

While some districts have reopened with lunch, many of those districts, said Dr. Dolan, have 30 to 40 percent of their student population in-person, as opposed to Westfield's 90 percent. During the Long Range Planning report earlier in the meeting, board member Gretchen Ohlig reported that many people point to Hoboken as an example of a full-day, in-person district, but that Hoboken only has 35 percent of its student population in person.

Assistant Superintendent Paul Piniero addressed the ongoing concern about potential learning loss this year. In lieu of state tests this year, the state department of education required school districts to report on student achievement. The data was presented in three categories: above grade level, on grade level, and below grade level in reading, mathematics and science. Mr. Piniero said the data seemed consistent with results from a typical year, although these are different data points than are usually used by the district.

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A JOB WELL DONE...Retiring Library Director Phil Israel receives a Westfield commemorative rug from Marcy Lechner during the Library on the Lawn lecture event at the Reeve House in Westfield this past Saturday. The event was sponsored by the Westfield Historical Society and Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library.

## WalletHub Ranks Westfield Worst Small City to Start a Business

By MARTA ESQUIROZ  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The personal finance website WalletHub published its "2021 Best and Worst Small Cities to Start a Business," in which Westfield came in last among 1,337 cities across the United States.

The listing looked at cities with a population of between 25,000 and 100,000 residents and focused on the proper city, excluding the surrounding metro area.

Princeton was the first New Jersey

town to appear in the ranking, at number 831. Of the other Union County towns on the list, Rahway was ranked 1,178, Linden at 1,224, and Plainfield at 1,305. The other Union County towns, such as Cranford and Summit, were not included in the ranking as their populations did not meet the criteria. Union, which does meet the population criteria, also was not included.

Westfield Mayor Shelley Brindle characterized the article as "off the mark" and said that these websites create rankings based on "the clicks." "Anybody can make any story based on certain data," Mayor Brindle said, stating that the WalletHub list missed "the context...They are not in the downtown talking to the business owners."

The methodology used in the study was based on three categories, using 20 metrics. The first category, with the heaviest weight, entitled The Business Environment, included the average daily Covid-19 deaths and cases, the length of the work week, the startups per capita and the average growth of business revenues, among factors.

The second category, Access to Resources, included financing accessibility, investor access, human-resource availability, higher-education assets, working-age population growth, job growth and workforce education attainment.

The third category, Business Cost, took into account office-space affordability, labor costs, corporate taxes and cost of living.

Topping the list was St. George, Utah, which got a total score of 67.67 — a 1 for Business Environment, 395 for Access to Resources and 211 for Business Cost. Westfield's score totaled 34.5, with a 1,228 for Business Environment, 369 for Access to Resources and 1,332 for Business Cost.

When it comes to the stores that Westfield has lost in the last couple of years, Mayor Brindle explained that most of them were "chain stores that were very hurt during the pandemic." She remarked that the town has been doing "the groundwork for creating an equal system for the downtown that enables the business to fly."

"We've been changing ordinances to make the process easier for busi-

nesses. And we declared the entire downtown an area in need of rehabilitation to incentivize the property owners to actually invest in their properties," she said.

Helen Rentoulis, the owner of Vicki's Diner, explained that despite the efforts of the Downtown Westfield Corporation to make the downtown "more vibrant," as well as support from the local government, the problems are caused by "the landlords."

"When you have a landlord that during a pandemic says, 'you have to pay me on time or you are going to pay a fine,' that is not cool," Ms. Rentoulis said.

"We have an amazing landlord who has helped us a lot through this. But landlords in general in town are the reason why everything is empty. They want so much money, making it harder to start a business," Ms. Rentoulis claimed.

In the case of Michelle Hannen, owner of Woof Gang Bakery and Grooming, she has had to move her business to neighboring Cranford because she could not "afford the rent" after five years in Westfield.

"The landlord didn't offer to help at that point. We went to a couple of different places, all of them with the same issue, so we decided to look out of the town," Ms. Hannen said.

Reflecting on the decision to leave, Ms. Hannen added the loss of big brands, such as Victoria's Secret, was "a big hit."

She said, "With all the chain stores closing around us, it was getting harder because that was a destination for people."

"We love Westfield, but we couldn't afford it anymore," Ms. Hannen remarked.

Gene Jannotti, executive director of the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC), said that besides businesses going through "a big turnaround in the economy" related to the Covid-19 pandemic, "online shopping" has had a significant impact.

"The huge surge in online shopping seems to have changed forever the way we shop. These factors make it more difficult for businesses, as we know them, to survive and succeed," Mr. Jannotti explained.

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## Commissioners Approve \$519-Mil. County Budget

By MICHAEL P. CARVALHO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

COUNTY — During its regular meeting Thursday, the Union County Board of County Commissioners adopted two ordinances and 26 resolutions.

One of the resolutions was to adopt the 2021 County of Union budget, which was put together under the guidance of Commissioner Christopher Hudak, Fiscal Committee chair. The budget totals \$519,836,107, with \$367,295,299 to be raised through property taxes.

Board Chairman Al Mirabella introduced that part of the meeting by saying, "With the county and the nation as a whole continuing to feel the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, I once again instructed Fiscal Chairman Hudak and the county manager to deliver a zero-percent tax increase. For the second year in a row, we've delivered on that zero percent."

Mr. Hudak said, "We continue to face a challenge with the Covid-19 pandemic, and we are ever mindful of the profound impact on all residents of Union County. We worked hard with our county manager and our

finance director to build a budget that will fund the response to Covid-19, our safety net, and the normal county services."

Mr. Mirabella added, "This budget once again maintains all essential services. We also maintain the county's bond rating, which is the highest attainable."

After the budget hearing was opened to the public for comment, the eight present members of the board who were present voted unanimously to approve it.

The two ordinances that were adopted were in regard to agreements in relation to the Union County Administration Complex Project and the lease revenue bonds that will be issued for the large project.

The county has agreed to pay the principal of and interest on the county-guaranteed lease revenue bonds in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$120 million.

The county's Administration Complex Project includes constructing two new office buildings on the former site of the county's Division of Motor Vehicles facility. The completion of

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## Cranford Comm. Discusses North Ave. Gateway Project

By MARTA ESQUIROZ  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty defended during the township committee's official meeting Tuesday night the importance of the North Avenue Gateway Project that seeks redevelopment on "a physical part of the downtown."

"The township decided to designate an area in need of rehabilitation because it presents tremendous opportunities to transform a big, important part of Cranford," Mayor Miller Prunty said.

Mayor Miller Prunty explained that this project's parameters will focus on preserving the firehouse, preserving or expanding parking, creating public space for community gatherings, and creating a more friendly area. Furthermore, the mayor remarked that the project "takes into consideration the Master Plan and the Downtown Vision Plan" in addition to creating "mixed-used development with not more than 40 residential units."

"This meets not only our current needs but future needs," Mayor Miller Prunty remarked as she pointed out that this is an "invitation for developers, architects, and planners to share their concepts about how the area may be developed."

In addition, Deputy Mayor Brian Andrews explained further in a post on his Facebook page that the plan involves "the heart of the downtown,"

and he wants to make sure "it is consistent with Cranford's architecture and style while adding a dynamic new feature to town."

"It is important that the project has attractive retail space that diversifies our local economy," he wrote, and which "will take advantage and complement" the "rail and bus lines." Along with these aspects, Deputy Mayor Andrews hopes that it "enhances our town's walkability" and "encourages more foot and bike traffic that will support existing and new local business."

While the project has failed twice, in 2008 and 2018, Mayor Miller Prunty claimed that "Cranford will make it right this time," as she expects that this redevelopment "will inspire and promote ongoing investment and revitalization of the business district that began more than 50 years ago."

In other business, the committee passed a resolution to contact U.S. Senators Robert Menendez and Cory Booker, along with Congressman Tom Malinowski, regarding "the increase of low-flying aircrafts in the community since May 2018." According to the resolution, "the increased flight traffic has created excessive noise in the community throughout various times of the day and night" that impacts residents' "health, safety and welfare."

During the workshop meeting on

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## Garwood Plans for New Livestream Meeting Platform

By JULIA BONAVITACOLA  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — At last Thursday's governing body meeting, Councilman Vincent Kearney outlined future plans to livestream Borough Council meetings in a more effective and accessible manner. The new changes would make it easier for the public to watch these meetings from the comfort of their homes while remaining cost-effective.

Councilman Kearney gave his report on the Communications Committee during the meeting. The committee has been working for a few months on procuring equipment and coming up with ideas in order to livestream different local government meetings held in Garwood. "We've determined that we can't livestream a Ringcentral meeting, like this one, without the use of a third-party soft-

ware and at least one additional device, like a laptop or iPad," said Councilman Kearney.

Councilman Kearney said that trying to livestream their meetings from Ringcentral, the platform that has been used to hold council meetings for several months, would put additional pressure on the current moderator, who Mr. Kearney acknowledged already had several jobs. "With the goal of both creating the permanent record and ensuring easy access to the public and also having an environment that is a little easier for our staff to moderate, the Communications Committee is suggesting changing the virtual meeting platform to Zoom's video webinar plan," said Councilman Kearney.

Councilman Kearney said that it was not possible last year to set up

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GIVING IS GOOD...Residents drop off used items to be given away for free during the Westfield Green Team's Free Market this past Saturday morning in the South Avenue train station parking lot.

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## Westfield PD Announces Arrest for Vehicle Burglaries

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Police Department announced the arrest of a 16-year-old male on Sunday, April 25, 2021, at approximately 6:14 AM while responding to a report of a person attempting to gain access to parked vehicles on the 500 block of Topping Hill Road.

It was reported the suspect was apparently accompanied by another person who was following the suspect while operating a white sedan.

As Officer Frank Moya arrived in the area in his marked police patrol vehicle, he observed the suspect white sedan pull alongside a parked vehicle on Kimball Turn and its driver reach out the open window and pull on the parked vehicle's driver side door handle.

As Officer Moya continued his approach, the white sedan sped directly towards him, traveling on the wrong side of the roadway, and forcing him to make an evasive maneuver to avoid a head-on collision. Following a crash with Officer Moya's police vehicle while passing him on the right, the white sedan became disabled on several large rocks located on the front lawn of a nearby residence.

Both the male driver and a male passenger exited the vehicle's front driver's side door and attempted to flee on foot, disregarding the Officer Moya's commands to stop.

Officer Moya was able to detain and apprehend the vehicle's passenger, subsequently determined to be a 16-year old male from Newark. It was also determined afterwards the

white sedan, a 2018 Nissan Altima, was stolen.

The 16-year-old male was charged with Receiving Stolen Property, 2C:20-7A, a third degree crime, and Obstruction of the Administration of Law, 2C:29-1B, a fourth degree crime. He was also determined to be wanted on a juvenile warrant issued by the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey, Essex County.

Following a canvass of the area, the Westfield Police Department identified at least two (2) unlocked vehicles that were burglarized and several more attempted burglaries.

A 2020 Lexus RX was also reported stolen from the 500 block of Highland Avenue. It was reportedly left unlocked with its key fob in it at the time of the theft.

Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro commended Officer Moya for his extraordinary actions to avoid what would likely have been a very serious, head-on collision with a fleeing stolen vehicle and for his ability to quickly recover and then detain and arrest a fleeing suspect following a crash.

"Responding to these reported motor vehicle burglaries and thefts has become extremely dangerous for our officers," stated Chief Battiloro. "Officer Moya performed admirably and, as a result, no one was injured as a result of this incident."

The marked police patrol vehicle Officer Moya was operating was rendered unserviceable as a result of the crash.



Photo courtesy of Kim Forde

**TREE CITY USA...**The town of Westfield was named a 2020 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation during the April 20 town council meeting, in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. Pictured, from left to right, are: Recreation Director Don Bogardus, Councilman David Contract, Public Works Director Greg O'Neil, DPW Forestry Supervisor Robbie Kosciolk, Tree Preservation Commission Chair Marc Nissim, Councilwoman Dawn Mackey and Mayor Shelley Brindle.

## Cranford BOE Adopts Budget for 2021-2022

By JENNIFER GLACKIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — The Cranford Board of Education adopted a \$71.67-million budget for the 2021-2022 school year at its meeting Monday night. According to Business Administrator Robert Carfagno, the budget was approved by the county with no changes prior to the official adoption.

As previously reported in *The Westfield Leader*, 87.85 percent of the budget will come from the tax levy, which is in line with similar suburban districts. Each average assessed house will see a tax increase of \$115.54.

Also as previously reported, the budget will keep all existing programs and add a new child study team of three staff members and two math interventionists, which will be paid for by state aid funding. These were previously-planned staffing additions that were cut when state aid was reduced. The new child study team will help alleviate a current extraordinarily heavy caseload of 60 to 80 cases per team, said Mr. Carfagno. The new math interventionist program will mirror the literacy interventionist program already in place, he added.

The budget also accounts for technology upgrades and integration, said Superintendent Scott Rubin, Ed.D. SMARTboards will be replaced around the district, and new professional development will be incorporated for using the updated technology. The district also is committed to keeping a one-to-one student-to-device ratio. Other technology programs in this year's budget are PebbleGo, SORA, the "wildly successful" NEWSELA program and many others, said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Brian Heineman, Ed.D.

Enrollment is expected to drop slightly next year due to a population "bubble" moving through the grades,

## WF BOE

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Mr. Piniero said that plans are underway for a summer program to help students rebuild confidence in their learning and also for enhanced intervention programs in the fall, such as a possible expansion of the basic skills program and adding more academic labs.

In other news, Board President Amy Root said the board is close to announcing a new superintendent, but that there are still details that need to be addressed. Ms. Root said the board hopes to be able to share the news soon.

The next meeting of the Westfield Board of Education will be on Tuesday, May 4.

said Mr. Carfagno. Staff members whose positions changed due to the pandemic will be moved back to their normal positions, he added.

Mr. Rubin said that he is happy to welcome back more students to the classrooms. Most preschool through fifth-grade classes have students spaced six feet apart or "somewhat under six feet," which is in line with the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. The guidelines for middle- and high-school students are different and require those students to remain six feet apart while the county is in a high-transmission rate, reported Mr. Rubin. When the county returns to a moderate level, middle- and high-school students may be placed three feet apart.

Mr. Rubin said when that happens, the district is ready to welcome back more in-person students to the middle and high schools. "We are trending in that direction," he said. The district is monitoring the data and will let families know if and when anything changes. "We appreciate your patience, flexibility, partnership and support," said the superintendent.

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## WalletHub

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As a piece of advice, Mr. Jannotti added that the current businesses need to "adapt" to the town's changes.

"People continue to buy homes in Westfield, some at a cost over listing, just to live in our area, to send their children to our schools, and to shop and dine in town. Businesses need to adapt in the future to meet the changing needs of their customers and local communities," Mr. Jannotti said.

In a joint statement, the Republican candidates for mayor and council pointed out that there are "55,000 square feet of vacancies" in Westfield's downtown.

"The abandoned stores and constant turnover of new business are obvious to anyone who passes through. We acknowledge that the private sector and specifically small businesses have shouldered the majority of the pain as a result of Covid-19; however, it appears as if competing downtowns such as Cranford and Summit are not struggling nearly as much as Westfield." The full statement is on Page 11.

The WalletHub ranking and methodology can be found at [wallethub.com/edu/best-small-cities-to-start-a-business/20180](http://wallethub.com/edu/best-small-cities-to-start-a-business/20180).

## Historic Preservation Comm. Welcomes New Member

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Historic Preservation Commission met Monday evening and welcomed its newest member and Historic Preservation officer, Barton Ross, of Barton Ross Partners LLC Architects, located in Livingston N.J., and in Chestertown, Md.

According to his biography from his firm, Mr. Barton is a preservation architect and city planner who has advised on Master Plans for the World Trade Center, Princeton University and the Virginia State Capital.

He has an undergraduate degree from Columbia University and from the Virginia Tech School of Architecture. He also has earned a Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in historic preservation.

Prior to establishing his own firm, Mr. Ross has worked in design firms in New Jersey, Florida, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York and Vermont. He is licensed to practice architecture throughout the mid-Atlantic Region.

Mr. Ross addressed the commission, saying, "I am happy to be here and a part of things here. You are doing all the right things here in Westfield and I applaud you for that."

Mr. Ross gave a presentation on the origin of historic preservation and cited examples, such as the making of Madison Square Garden, that show the importance and the necessity of

such efforts.

He went over the revisions of design guidelines and noted that preservation means keeping the greatest amount of historic retention of a building. He noted that some guidelines for preservation included if someone prevalent in history visited the site, like "if Washington slept here." He also noted that criteria was met if there was a famous battle on a site, or if a certain type of architecture representing a historic period was present.

He noted that rehabilitation and making upgrades also sometimes are needed, in addition to restoration, in order to return a building to its origins. Finally, he noted that sometimes reconstruction is needed, and in that instance, replicating a certain period of time in a building's structure may be needed.

Mr. Ross was thanked for his presentation and for being a part of the commission.

Outgoing member Greg Blasi also was thanked for his contributions to the group.

In other business, commission members discussed doing an upcoming Instagram Challenge in conjunction with the Westfield Historical Society. It was stated that more needed to be worked on with the project before introducing it.

The next Westfield Historic Preservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 24.

## Livestream

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Zoom accounts via purchase order, which is the reason that this had not been done before. A Zoom account could be configured to livestream the meeting directly from the Zoom platform.

The Communications Committee also has suggested using YouTube as the host of the livestream because an account does not have to be made in order to watch the meeting going on, unlike platforms like Facebook. This change would not take place until at least June, when the contract with Ringcentral expires.

Mayor Sara Todisco said that she was in support of this change and thanked Councilman Kearney for his continuous work on the technological side of the council meetings.

Council President Jen Blumenstock also expressed her support for the change. "I also wanted to point out that one of the reasons I do support it...I think it could be a little bit easier in terms of helping our other committees and groups in the town as well, not just for the council meeting itself," she said.

Mayor Todisco also said that this new setup would be cheaper to maintain than Ringcentral, which makes the move cost-effective in the long term.

In other business, Mayor Todisco announced that a new committee had been formed in Garwood that would focus on small businesses throughout the borough. The Garwood Small Business Advisory Board will bring business owners together in order to help other businesses in town. Councilman Kearney will be the liaison to the board, and the Business and Industry/Chamber of Commerce Liaison Carol Kearney also will be involved. The inaugural members are Joshua Rosenberg, Stephanie Civino, Eric Weiss, Jim Morano, Vince Vera and Lee Frankel. Mayor Todisco thanked all of them for volunteering their time to this new board.

Councilman Michael Ince announced the start of the Street-Smart campaign. "During the next several weeks, officers of the Garwood Po-

lice Department will be out observing our major intersections...with the goal of educating motorists and pedestrians alike to the laws in the state of New Jersey and their responsibilities," said Councilman Ince. The Street-Smart campaign also will include new pedestrian beacons and LED stop signs, which will be installed by the end of May.

Pending state approval, the budget adoption meeting is set to take place at the next council meeting, scheduled for Thursday, May 13.

## County

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this project will allow the county to consolidate its administrative services into one location while eliminating rent payments for its current office spaces.

A resolution was adopted by the board authorizing the county manager to enter into an agreement with the County of Essex for the relocation of inmates from the Union County jail on an as-needed basis, for a five-year period spanning July of this year through the end of June 2026.

The per diem/per inmate housing fee is to be paid by Union County to Essex County for the duration of the agreement in accordance with a fee schedule specified in the agreement.

Mr. Mirabella, in his closing statement for the meeting, said, "This is one of the most historic meetings in all my 23 years as a freeholder/commissioner. The votes we took tonight are going to transform county government as we know it."

"Not only did we pass a budget for a second year in a row of zero tax increase, but we voted to save \$103 million over the next five years by closing the Union County jail and housing the prisoners in a neighboring county, saving millions and millions of taxpayers' dollars," continued Mr. Mirabella.

"This really is the result of some visionary thinking on the part of our county manager, Ed Oatman. He has done a terrific job of navigating this program to the point where we are tonight to vote on this," stated Mr. Mirabella.

Mr. Mirabella explained more by saying, "There was a lot of negotiations with our neighboring county. There has been a lot of consideration done for the employees and corrections officers who work there. Mr. Oatman has worked tirelessly to make sure that as many and all of the employees that wanted an opportunity to work in either Essex or neighboring Hudson County had that opportunity."



Photo courtesy of Jeanette Pelikan

**PICTURE PERFECT PARK...**Mindowaskin Park is looking picture-perfect this Spring with trees and flowers blooming all around the pond.

## Westfield Announces Food Waste Recycling Program

WESTFIELD – The Town of Westfield will relaunch Union County's first free food waste recycling program at its Conservation Center today, April 29. The original program launched in late 2019 but was suspended during the pandemic due to limited vendor operations.

"We are thrilled to restore this program which Westfield residents loved," said Ward 3 Councilman and Green Team Liaison David Contract. "Now residents can bring food waste of any kind to the Center instead of throwing it out and it will get turned into bio-fuel to help provide green energy for Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority."

Westfield has partnered with Green Bucket Compost, a new home composting company, to pick up the food waste collected at the Conservation Center and bring it to Waste Management's processing facility in Elizabeth, NJ. Once processed, the food waste is brought to the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority where it is turned into bio-fuel.

The program guidelines remain the same. Residents can bring any type of food waste to the Conservation Center during hours of operation, with no permit required, where lidded containers for food waste collection will be placed next to the recycling sheds. All types of food waste are acceptable including vegetables, fruits, meats, seafood (except shells), dairy and grains. Food waste can be placed in bins either stand-alone or in any type of packaging except glass con-

tainers and black plastic bags.

This program relaunch was spearheaded by Westfield's Green Team and the Westfield Public Works Department in partnership with Waste Management and Green Bucket Compost.

For more information on the Westfield Green Team, visit [www.westfieldnj.gov/green](http://www.westfieldnj.gov/green).

For more information about Green Bucket Compost, visit <https://greenbucketcompost.com/>

For more information about Waste Management, visit [www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com).

## Gateway

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Monday night, Mayor Miller Prunty said that the township is requesting an explanation for the change in flight patterns.



During the comments section, the commissioner of finance, Mary O'Connor, applauded the township's decision, after the request of Commissioner of Public Works and Engineering Thomas H. Hannen, Jr., to move the adoption and public hearing of the regulations for the Neighborhood Commercial zoning district to Monday, May 17.

"There is a number of projects going on that are going to keep our boards pretty busy, and we need to keep the public as informed as possible," Ms. O'Connor said. She urged the township to "make the decision based on facts, not on social media posts and opinions."

"We need to make sure that the public discussions take place in the proper arena, that is in meetings that we set, so people get the right information that comes from sources," she said.

The next township committee meeting will be on Monday, May 10, and will take place at the municipal building.

**Got news?**  
**Let us hear it!**  
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The Library Building is now open to Westfield Resident Cardholders

Visit [www.wmlnj.org](http://www.wmlnj.org) for rules and safety protocols

*Westfield Resident patrons: you must bring your library card or license with a Westfield address to enter the library, and your mask, of course! Visit our website.*

Visit our website or Facebook page for more information 550 East Broad Street 908.789.4090 [www.wmlnj.org](http://www.wmlnj.org) [facebook.com/wmlnj](https://facebook.com/wmlnj)

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Sunday & Monday: Closed • Tuesday & Wednesday: 10am - 5:30pm  
Thursday: 10am - 6pm • Friday & Saturday: 10am - 5pm



## Mary Ann Lahue Wood, Worked For United Fund; Active With St. Helen’s

Mary Ann Lahue Wood passed away on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, from complications of Covid-19. Mary Ann grew up in Westfield, N.J. She attended Holy Trinity schools and graduated from Immaculata College in Pennsylvania. She later received her master’s degree from Seton Hall University in New Jersey.

Mary Ann worked for many years for the United Fund of Westfield, N.J. Mary Ann was free-spirited, intelligent and loving, always kind, never harsh. She was an active member of St. Helen’s Roman Catholic Church in Westfield for many years, helping with mass and other activities of the church.

She was especially loved by her husband of 43 years, Michael Wood; her dearest brother, Michael, and his wife, Robin; her dear niece and nephew, Christina PioCosta-Lahue of Essex Fells and Michael Anthony Lahue of North Caldwell; her grandnieces, Sophia Lahue and Yasmin Cardoso, and her grand-nephews,

Anthony Lahue and Lafayette PioCosta Lahue Williams. Her family loved being with her, enjoying fun holidays and outings.

Mary Ann additionally leaves a brother, Robert, and his wife, Mary, of Wilmington, N.C.; a sister, Kathleen, and her husband, Mathew Price, of Ridgefield, Conn., and a brother, Brian, of Elizabeth, N.J.; six nieces and nephews and grandnieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents, Robert Henry Lahue and Claire Mac Minn Lahue.

Services were held on Friday, April 23, through Dooley Colonial Home in Westfield, N.J. A mass of remembrance followed at St. Helen’s Roman Catholic Church on Rahway Avenue in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey, 3540 Crain Highway, Suite 675, Bowie, Md. 20716, would be appreciated.

April 29, 2021

## Scotch Plains Rescue Squad Tip: Schedule Routine Exams

SCOTCH PLAINS — We all know it’s important to keep up with annual physicals and medical screenings to catch any health issues early on. Often, early detection saves lives. Due to Covid-19, many of us have postponed getting these crucial checkups. Don’t delay any longer — schedule those appointments!

During an annual physical exam, your doctor will most likely order blood work to check for, among other things, glucose, cholesterol, iron and vitamin D levels. Blood pressure, pulse rate, weight and other vital statistics will also be assessed.

During these visits, your doctor may also refer you for medical screenings that are age, sex and risk appropriate. Here is a list of the more common ones:

**Colonoscopy** — If you’re 50 or older and at an average risk of colon cancer, your doctor may recommend a colonoscopy every 10 years (or sometimes more often) to screen for colon cancer.

**Mammogram** – At age 40, many women begin having mammograms to check for breast cancer, and then have them every one to two years. Professional groups differ on their age and frequency recommendations, so speak with your doctor to see what he or she recommends for you.

**Prostate cancer screening** — Men in their 50s should discuss the pros and cons of prostate cancer screening with their doctors. This discussion should include a review of your risk factors and any preferences about screening.

**Total body skin exams** – Yearly

or more often depending on risk factors for skin cancer. Can begin as early as the teenage years.

**Osteoporosis screening** — Women are usually at higher risk for osteoporosis and will be screened more regularly. A baseline is usually taken at 65 years old.

Don’t let Covid-19 put you at risk for other health issues. Speak with your doctor and find out what screenings you may need right now, and then go ahead and get them. Just because you’re not experiencing any signs or symptoms of an illness or disease, doesn’t mean you’re in the clear. Stay on top of your health, stay safe, and do whatever’s necessary to live a long and healthy life.

\*\*\*

*Contributing Author: Susan Baldani, a life member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad.*

### Program to Address Consumer Fraud

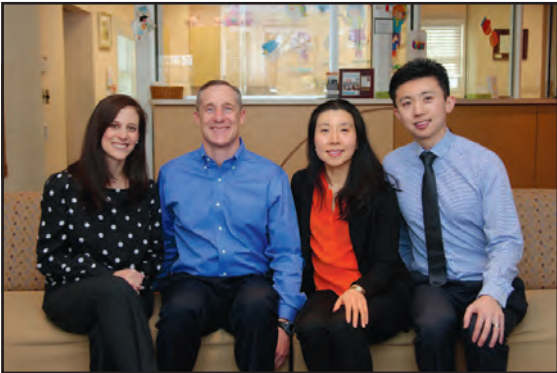
SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Public Library will host a Consumer Fraud Protection Program on Monday, May 3, at 7 p.m. A representative from the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs will join the library for a virtual presentation on how to avoid being scammed.

Such scams range from the IRS phone scam to lottery and sweepstakes schemes to the so-called grandparent scam, among others. Imposter frauds and other criminal scams prey on potential victims in New Jersey through phone calls, emails and other means.

Registration is required to receive the Zoom link to this program. The registration form, and information about the library’s entire month of programming, can be found on the library’s website, [scotlib.org](http://scotlib.org).

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## — Obituaries —

### Harold Oslick, Devoted Family Man, Engineer, Boater, Temple President

Born in Philadelphia, Pa. in October, 1935 to Sander and Eva (Schwartzman) Oslick, Harold Oslick died suddenly at Overlook Medical Center in Summit, N.J., on Thursday, March 25, 2021, at age 85.

Educated in Philadelphia public schools, he graduated from Central High School, Class of 1953, the 200th graduating class; and from the University of Pennsylvania, B.S.C.E. 1957 and M.S.C.E. 1959.

He married Marlene Tannenbaum in 1959, and their children, Marci Lynn, Rochelle, Harvey and Jeffrey, graduated from Westfield High School, where he was active with the Band Parents from 1976-1979.



Harold Oslick

He was employed as an Engineer at North American Aviation, Columbus, Ohio; Connecticut Aircraft Nuclear Engine Laboratory, Middletown, Conn. and Pratt & Whitney, East Hartford, Conn.; and Combustion Engineering, Windsor, Conn. After attending night classes for five years while working full-time, he graduated from University of Connecticut Law School, Hartford, Conn., in 1967, first in his class. He and his family relocated from Connecticut to Westfield, N.J., in 1968 and remained a resident of Westfield 51 years until 2019, moving to Canal Walk in Somerset, N.J. In 1968 he joined EBASCO Services, Inc. in New York City and continued through mergers with Boise Cascade, Halliburton, Enserch and Raytheon until his retirement in 2002. For many years, his office was at the World Trade Center. Having started at EBASCO heading licensing of nuclear power plants in Maryland, Vermont and Louisiana, he was then project manager for several nuclear electric power plants in Florida, North Carolina and South Korea. He was project manager of Co-Generation plants, Envirosphere and capped his career as project manager of the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail.

His interest in boating led him to membership in the Watchung Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons. He taught Safe Boating and rose through the ranks to become Commander of the Watchung Sail and Power Squadron, taking all the courses offered by the Power Squadron to be a Senior Navigator, Full Certificate. He moved on to participate in District 4

(New York City and most of New Jersey) of the United States Power Squadron and became District Commander. His activities included being the safety officer during OPSail 2000, the international tall ship gathering in New York Harbor, where he coordinated the Power Squadron participation with the U.S. Coast Guard.

He was a leader in the Jewish community, helping build Beth Hillel in Bloomfield, Conn., then as Education Chairman at what was then Temple Israel in Scotch Plains and for the last 43 years at Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim in Cranford, where he served as President and was still active on the Board of Directors.

He is survived by his wife, Marlene, of 61 years; his children, Marci and her husband, Philip Welscher, of Hillsborough, N.J., Rochelle of Oxnard, Calif., Harvey and his wife, Deborah (Hall), of Rocklin, Calif., and Jeffrey and his wife, Stephanie (Sapper), of Fullerton, Calif.; grandchildren, Stephanie Welscher (Tzvi Heit) of Pennsylvania, Alex Welscher (Abigail Levinson) of New Jersey, Sarah and Marissa Oslick of Rocklin, Calif., Aiden and Zachary Oslick of Fullerton, Calif., and two great-grandsons, Hayden Welscher and Jack Heit; brothers, Jerome Oslick (Eileen) and Barry Oslick (Pearl); sister-in-law, Edie Peterson (Donald Peterson), and two nieces and three nephews.

After many years touring the United States and Canada, Harold and Marlene expanded their horizons and went to Israel, Mexico, Asia (living in Seoul, South Korea), Egypt, the Caribbean, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, some on cruises. His business travels took him to Canada, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, Germany, Switzerland, England and France. Among his hobbies was photography.

Harold and Marlene are members of the Heritage Society of the Overlook Foundation. Donations can be made to Children’s Specialized Hospital, Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim or Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ.

Arrangements are by Menorah Chapels. A U.S. Power Squadron service was held before the funeral at Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim in Cranford on Sunday, March 30, with burial following at Montefiore Cemetery in Jenkintown, Pa.

April 29, 2021

### Library Slates Cookbook Club, Mediterranean Diet Program

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Public Library has announced two upcoming Zoom programs related to meal planning. Pre-registration is required for both events, in order to receive the Zoom links.

The library’s ever-growing Cookbook Club will meet virtually on Thursday, May 13, at 7:30 p.m., to explore make-ahead meals, big-batch and freeze cooking, and other meal-prep methods that make it easier to prepare home-cooked meals on a regular basis.

Participants are invited to try a meal-prep recipe and then join the club via Zoom to share their experiences and hear about what worked (or did not).

On Wednesday, May 26, at 7 p.m., Dr. Karen Ensle, RDN, family and community health sciences educator and department head at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County, will present “Nine Staples of the Mediterranean Diet.”

Eating a Mediterranean diet may lower a person’s risk up to 30 percent for a heart attack, stroke or death, according to a highly-publicized study done in Spain and published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

Participants in Dr. Ensle’s program will learn how they can help their heart and overall health by adding key staple foods to their daily meals. The Mediterranean Diet was listed again as the number-one dietary plan by *U.S. News and World Report* in 2020.

Registration forms and information about the library’s entire month of programming can be found on the library’s website, [scotlib.org](http://scotlib.org). For more information, call (908) 322-5007, extension no. 204.



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## Helen Guididas, 98, Dedicated Her Life to Family, Service and Faith

For many years, Helen Guididas spent much of her spare time caring for the sick and dying. Helen and her husband, Ed, found joy in bringing comfort and happiness to those who were living their final days at the Center for Hope Hospice in Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

Helen and Ed were such dedicated volunteers that in 2002, they were named “Hospice Angels” at an awards dinner, honoring their years of service.

Helen, a mother, a friend and a strong woman of faith, passed away on Thursday, April 22, in that same hospice center where she cared for so many others. She was 98 years old.

Service and religion were at the core of Helen’s life. A lifelong member of the Catholic Church, she was one of the founding members of a Westfield church that bore her same name — The Parish Community of Saint Helen. She always insisted that it was just a coincidence.

Born November 28, 1922 in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Helen was raised by Delia and Patrick McNamara, both of whom were immigrants from Ireland. She grew up in an Irish neighborhood as the youngest of six children. All of the kids learned Irish step dancing.

Helen met Ed Guididas through her brother, Jimmy Mac. The two were married in a small ceremony before Ed left for the war.

In 1958, the couple moved to Westfield with their young sons, Ed, Jim, Bob and Bill. Nancy and Jean were born shortly thereafter. They picked Westfield, in part, for its Catholic private schooling system, Holy Trinity Elementary and High School. It was there the couple raised their six children. They were also immensely proud that all of their children graduated from college.

Being a mother and an involved church member were both strong parts of Helen’s identity. Helen was not only one of the founding members of St. Helen’s, but she was one of two trustees of the parish for more than three decades. Members of the church respected and trusted her. Throughout the years, Helen served as a Eucharistic minister, was an active member of a weekly faith group, and was the driving force behind a number of social programs; for example, she helped run a program that temporarily housed the homeless at St. Helen’s Parish.

Helen had a special ability to make lasting friendships in every stage of her life, and even in her later years spent hours talking on the phone with friends and family. She saw people for who they were, and could connect with anyone — young or old.

Helen also became close friends with Catholic clergy during her life, and welcomed them into her home for holidays, birthdays and other celebrations as part of the family.

Family members described her as a person who focused on the good, not the bad. She was always looking towards the future.

Helen and Ed had a strong sense of wanderlust. They visited dozens of countries over the years, from sightseeing in southern Spain to taking a pilgrimage in Jerusalem, where they collected holy water from the Jordan River. Ed took meticulous notes of their travels to countries that the typical American tourist might not visit.

They went behind the Iron Curtain when it was still under communist rule. They uncovered their roots in Lithuania and Ireland. Beyond the tourist sites, the most memorable parts of their trips were riding on local transit or interacting with local residents.

Helen and Ed were true soul mates and their love for each other was evident to anyone who met them. After Ed passed, Helen looked forward to reuniting with him in heaven, in addition to her grandson Russell, her son Bob and her son Jim.

Helen is survived by her son Edward Guididas and his wife, Mary Lou, of Martinsville, New Jersey, son William Guididas and his wife, Elizabeth, of Dunkirk, Maryland, daughter Nancy Kinney and her husband, Brian Kinney, of Mountainside, New Jersey, daughter Jean Landergan and her husband, Thomas, of Newburyport, Massachusetts, and her daughter-in-law, Diane Guididas of Leland, N.C. She also leaves behind 28 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Helen, Mom, Grandma, will be remembered for her phenomenal memory, insightful advice and sharp wit that she maintained until the end of her life. She always spoke her mind; there was never a doubt as to what her opinion was on something. She knew who she was, and what her values were. She cared so deeply about her family and friends, and her level of empathy was unmatched.

Her love for others was on her mind even in her final days. She didn’t want any of her children to feel pain after she had passed, reminding them that she had lived nearly a century filled with beautiful memories.

“Don’t cry when I’m gone,” she said. “Be joyous that I’ve lived a good life.”

The funeral services will be held on Friday, April 30, at 11:30 a.m., at The Parish Community of Saint Helen in Westfield, followed by a private burial. In lieu of flowers, Helen wished that donations be made to St. Helen’s.

April 29, 2021



## Residents Enjoy Fairview Cemetery Arboretum Tour

WESTFIELD – Fairview Cemetery and Arboretum hosted its spring arboretum walking tour on April 18, highlighting some of the numerous cataloged species of trees which reside within the cemetery grounds. Under a beautiful sky, the tour was led by Dr. Tom Ombrello. Over 30 participants enjoyed his comments about specific trees as well as various historical details he provided surrounding them.

Fairview Cemetery is a member of the American Public Gardens Association (APGA) and is accredited as

a level 1 arboretum. Dr. Ombrello, Professor of Biology at Union County College, is currently assisting Fairview Cemetery with accreditation as a level 2 arboretum. Dr. Ombrello and his students have worked diligently over the years to catalogue and inventory what was originally 60 species within the cemetery grounds and has now grown to 103.

As a level 2 arboretum, Fairview intends to expand its educational programs, increase the cataloged number of species, and develop a comprehensive collection program. The public is always welcome to walk the grounds during regular business hours to view the majesty of the rolling hills, flowering trees and observe the variety of birds and wildlife which live on the grounds. Fairview Cemetery is located at 1100 East Broad Street, Westfield, and is open from dawn until dusk. Limited on-premises parking is available.

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# Pranav Muralikrishnan Is Merit Scholarship Winner

SCOTCH PLAINS — The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) has released the names of the first group of winners in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Pranav Muralikrishnan of Scotch Plains, a student at Union County Vocational-Technical High School in Scotch Plains, whose probable career field is science/research, is the recipient of a National Merit ADP Henry Taub Memorial Scholarship.

Automatic Data Processing, Inc. (ADP), with more than \$7 billion in revenues and 500,000 clients, is one of the largest independent computing services in the United States. Merit Scholarship awards are funded by the ADP Foundation for the children of ADP employees.

Scholars were selected from students who advanced to the Finalist level in the National Merit Scholarship competition and met criteria of their scholarship sponsors. Corporate sponsors provide National Merit Scholarships for Finalists who are children of their employees, who are residents of communities the company serves, or who plan to pursue college majors or careers the sponsor wishes to encourage.

Most of these awards are renewable for up to four years of college undergraduate study and provide annual stipends that range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 per year. Some provide a single payment between \$2,500 and \$5,000. Recipients can use their awards at any regionally-accredited United States college or university of their choice.

Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program when they took the 2019

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

In September 2020, approximately 17,000 Semifinalists were designated on a state-representational basis in numbers proportional to each state's percentage of the national total of graduating high-school seniors. Semifinalists were the highest-scoring program entrants in each state and represented less than 1 percent of the nation's seniors.

To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship, Semifinalists had to fulfill requirements to advance to Finalist standing. Each Semifinalist was asked to complete a detailed scholarship application, which included writing an essay and providing information about extracurricular activities, awards and leadership positions. Semifinalists also had to have an outstanding academic record, and be endorsed and recommended by a high-school official. From the Semifinalist group, some 16,000 met Finalist requirements.

By the conclusion of the 2021 competition, about 7,500 Finalists will have been selected to receive National Merit Scholarships totaling nearly \$30 million. Winners are the Finalist candidates judged to have the strongest combination of academic skills and achievements, extracurricular accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program.



**SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE...**The Friends of the Cranford Public Library is offering the Gerard Paradiso Scholarship to a Cranford resident who currently is pursuing or intends to pursue a graduate degree in library/media information science or media specialist. Named in honor of former Friends of the Library President Gerard Paradiso, the scholarship is worth \$1,000. The award is not based on need. The candidate must furnish proof of acceptance to an accredited university, a letter of reference and an essay. Applications are available online at [cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php](http://cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php). The deadline to apply is Tuesday, June 1, 2021. For more information, contact Michael Maziekien, library director, at (908) 709-7272 or [m-maziekien@cranfordnj.org](mailto:m-maziekien@cranfordnj.org).

## Local Residents Initiated Into Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Six local residents recently were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. They are as follows.

Rebecca Barnes of Cranford, at Kean University; Hannah Bass of Westfield, at Kean University; Brianna Becker of Scotch Plains, at Kean University; Kristen Conlan of Scotch Plains, at Kean University; Cheryl Swift of Westfield, at Kean University, and Chelsea Wolf of Westfield, at Kean University.

They are 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. Some of the organization's notable members include former President Jimmy Carter, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist John Grisham and YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley. Each year, Phi Kappa Phi awards more than \$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).



Photo courtesy of Ashley Talwar

**SCIENCE ON HER MIND...**Westfield High School 11th grader Ashley Talwar has been selected as a New Jersey Governor's School Scholar for the 38th New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences, which will take place during the summer.

## Ashley Talwar Is Scholar At N.J. Governor's School

WESTFIELD — Westfield High School 11th grader Ashley Talwar has been accepted into the prestigious New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences, to be held July 11 to 31.

"As a Governor's School Scholar, you will be one of a group of outstanding high school juniors from all parts of the state who have been chosen to participate in the program," the program directors wrote in an email to Ashley.

In its 38th year, the New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences is a three-week program for rising high-school seniors where students are immersed in intense, college-level research at Drew University. Normally a residential program held on the Drew campus, the organizers announced that, "the engaging and challenging curriculum, including genuine research experiences, expected for this distinguished program" will be in a virtual format this summer. "I feel honored to be selected as a New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences scholar this summer, as this remarkable experience will propel my scientific interests to

greater heights and serve as a major stepping stone towards my career in the biomedical field," said Ashley.

"Collaborating on a team research project, gaining a diverse family of friends and professors, and learning about neuroscience and biochemistry at the college level is a dream come true," she added.

K-12 Supervisor of Science Thomas Paterson noted that the Governor's School is "where New Jersey's brightest teen students have the opportunity to broaden their understanding of science through coursework, laboratory investigations, and interaction with professional scientists.

"Acceptance to the New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences is a tremendous achievement and opportunity for Ashley," he continued. "The Science Department at Westfield High School is proud of Ashley and all of the hard work she has put into her education, allowing her to be part of this elite group."

Mr. Paterson also commended the teachers of Westfield, "who have supported and helped guide Ashley in her studies."

## Westfield Students at TCNJ Elected to Phi Beta Kappa

EWING, N.J. — Two Westfield students have been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most widely-recognized academic honor society, through the Delta of New Jersey chapter at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ).

They are Allison Bronander, sociology, and Maxwell Cerro, chemistry (ACS — Research).

This distinction signifies outstanding academic achievement and a commitment to the spirit of lifelong learning. At TCNJ, only

116 students received this honor this year. Typically, fewer than 10 percent of the candidates for degrees in liberal arts and sciences are elected each year.

TCNJ is one of only four colleges in New Jersey with a Phi Beta Kappa chapter. Nationally, only 10 percent of United States colleges and universities have chapters.

Founded in 1855 as the New Jersey State Normal School, TCNJ is situated on 289 acres in suburban Ewing Township, N.J. A strong liberal arts core forms the foundation for degree programs offered through the college's seven schools: Arts and Communication; Business; Education; Engineering; Humanities and Social Sciences; Nursing, Health, and Exercise Science; and Science.

### Local Church Plans Greekfest to Go

WESTFIELD — The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church will present NJ Greekfest to Go! on Friday, June 4, from 4 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, June 5, from noon to 9 p.m. This event will be held rain or shine.

Greek specialties will be available for takeout and online ordering. Walk-ins/drive-ins also will be welcome. The church is located at 250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield.

Proceeds will benefit the Ministries of Holy Trinity and its local community partners. For more information, email [joyd@htgocnj.org](mailto:joyd@htgocnj.org), call (908) 233-8533 or visit [njgreekfest.com](http://njgreekfest.com).

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Cranford	17 KENSINGTON AVE	Colonial	9	5	3.0	2	\$685,000
Mountainside	286 SUMMIT RD	RanchExp	8	4	3.0	1	\$670,000
Scotch Plains	27 YARMOUTH VLG	TwEndUn	8	2	2.1	1	\$380,000
Scotch Plains	2051 JERSEY AVE	CapeCod	8	4	1.0	1	\$412,770
Scotch Plains	1285 WHITE OAK RD	Splitlev	7	3	1.1	1	\$540,000
Scotch Plains	2284 NORTH AVE	Colonial	9	4	2.1	0	\$640,000
Scotch Plains	1510 KING ST	Custom	7	4	2.1	2	\$751,510
Scotch Plains	2063 NEWARK AVE	Colonial	12	4	2.1	1	\$865,000
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Westfield	354 ORENDA CIR	Colonial	8	4	3.0	2	\$974,000
Westfield	204 WYOMING ST	Colonial	11	5	4.1	2	\$999,000
Westfield	1 MAX PL	Colonial	11	4	5.0	2	\$1,425,000
Westfield	688 WESTFIELD AVE	Colonial	15	7	6.1	2	\$1,425,000
Westfield	24 CAROL RD	Colonial	12	6	6.1	2	\$1,770,000

\*Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield, NJ data according to the Garden State MLS, as of 4/18/21 – 4/25/21. Featured properties may not have been listed or sold by the office/agent presenting this data. Information deemed RELIABLE. A home is one of the most important and significant purchases or sales you will make in your lifetime. If you are thinking about a move, now is the time to prepare. I will provide you with a market evaluation and mortgage update, create a thorough marketing plan and let you know my suggestions in staging. For more information on these or other real estate matters, contact Susan Massa Broker CRS SRES ABR at 908-400-0778, [susan@susanmassa.com](mailto:susan@susanmassa.com) or [susanmassa2@gmail.com](mailto:susanmassa2@gmail.com). [www.NJHomeShowcase.com](http://www.NJHomeShowcase.com) [www.summitwestfieldhomes.com](http://www.summitwestfieldhomes.com).

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## Local Gettysburg Students Make Dean's Honor List

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — Gettysburg College has revealed those students who recently were named to the Dean's Honor List. Students whose semester averages were 3.6 or above were placed on this list. The following 13 local residents have been recognized for this outstanding academic achievement for the Fall 2020 semester:

Samantha Alfano of Westfield, Caitlin Amman of Westfield, Samantha Anastasiou of Scotch Plains, Samuel Arkin of Westfield, Elizabeth Gately of Westfield, Maria Gerckens of Westfield, James Harcourt of Fanwood, Catherine McCaffery of Cranford, John Rosenberg of Westfield, Justin Sawina of Westfield, Maria Schmidt of Scotch Plains, Dylan Weinstock of Fanwood and Jakob Wolf of Westfield.

Founded in 1832, Gettysburg College is a four-year residential college of liberal arts and sciences. Alumni include Rhodes Scholars, a Nobel laureate and other distinguished scholars. The college en-

rolls 2,600 undergraduate students and is located on a 200-acre campus adjacent to the Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania.

### Eight Residents Garner Dean's Commendation At Gettysburg College

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — Gettysburg College has revealed the names of those students who were named to the Dean's Commendation List for Fall 2020. Students with a quality point average in the range of 3.300 to 3.599 for a semester's work earn placement on this list. Eight local residents are among the honorees and include the following:

Michael Carracino of Cranford, Antoinette Chango of Fanwood, Aedan Collins of Westfield, Jessica Ken-Kwofie of Westfield, Erika Muskus of Scotch Plains, Claire Readie of Cranford, Laurel Teel of Cranford and Keelyn Weber of Westfield.

Founded in 1832, Gettysburg College is a four-year residential college of liberal arts and sciences. Alumni include Rhodes Scholars, a Nobel laureate and other distinguished scholars. The college enrolls 2,600 undergraduate students and is located on a 200-acre campus adjacent to the Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania.

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Photo courtesy of Westfield Public Schools

**PERFECT SCORES...**Five Westfield High School 11th graders earned perfect scores of 800 on subject area tests of the March 13, 2021 and December 5, 2020 SATs. They are as follows: Math – March 13, 2021, Anjali Jain, Zachary Roitman and Vijay Sreenivasan; Math – December 5, 2020, Ashley Talwar, and Math Level 2 – December 5, 2020, Justin Anderson. Pictured, from left to right, are: Justin Anderson, WHS Principal Mary Asfendis, Ashley Talwar, Anjali Jain and Zachary Roitman. Not pictured is Vijay Sreenivasan.



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# Educator’s Corner: Plant the Marigolds

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

One thought on a lot of parents’ minds is that of learning loss. How do I know this is on parent minds? It’s been asked at various board of education meetings over the last few months.

So much has been lost in the last year. Hugs. Playdates. Birthday parties. Recess. Lunch. And we can’t forget the big, heavy pieces like financial and food stability or the loss of a loved one. While some of these losses are slowly returning, some never will.

We can never get back those hours the kids lost in the classroom. We can’t. We won’t get life back in exactly the same way that we had it. We can’t.

Learning loss has to be addressed, but we don’t have to dwell on it. Dwelling on loss has never done anyone any good. We’ve learned from this pandemic and we should use that knowledge for the better.

A professional development trainer gave me some of the best education advice. This new method

of teaching reading was going to take time and time, as always, was in short supply. When teachers began to pepper her with questions about making it all fit, she told us a story about a garden.

Her mother had planted a garden and surrounded it with yellow daffodils. When her mother awoke the next day, everything had been eaten by deer. A friend then suggested planting marigolds around the garden. It would give her the same, yellow-framed effect, but also act as a deer repellent. At the end of this story, the trainer reminded us that while many of the things in our classroom lives were wonderful, we needed to find what was a daffodil and what was a marigold. We had to decide which of those daily activities would serve a greater purpose, do double duty.

Teachers have gotten really good this year at planting those marigolds. Digging down to the roots to give their students the best foundation they can in the time allotted.

There is not going to be an all-

encompassing answer to the learning loss problem we are facing. Some schools have announced plans for summer catch-up sessions. Some parents already have tutors lined up. Others may decide that the year has been stressful enough and their child needs a break this summer. Each family will use the best method for them. Be kind.

Think about the things your kid has done in school this year that made them excited. Become a Flipgrid or SeeSaw superstar? Watched Tik Tok lessons from teachers around the country and found their inner scientist? Use the good parts of this shift in educational methodology and apply it to the parts your child may be struggling with. Plant the marigolds.

The point is to acknowledge that learning loss is real. It’s not going to go away magically, but it doesn’t need to be hammered down right now either. Decide what is most important. Then, let’s put our best foot forward because forward is the only way we can travel.

# A Kentucky Story: How Acts of Kindness Create Ripple Effects

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

Setting: LaGrange, Kentucky  
Population: 8,000  
Time: Global Pandemic  
Starring: Tween Sisters, Raegan and Rylyn Richins

\*\*\*

On a dreary ride home from a neighboring community, “my family was hungry and cold, and not in the best mood,” explained 9-year-old Rylyn to a National Public Radio (NPR) reporter. A brightly colored sign reading “Just Be Kind” caught Rylyn’s eye and put a smile on her face. That fortuitous moment catapulted Rylyn and her twelve-year-old sister Raegan into a kindness project, sparking happy echoes throughout their town and beyond.

Raegan and Rylyn asked their mom, Rhonda, if they could create colorfully lettered lawn signs with just one message, “Be Kind,” and decorate them with rainbows, unicorns, or stars. Rhonda and the girls’ dad supplied them with wooden letters to stencil, spray paint in favorite colors onto canvas or corrugated boards. At first, the girls aimed to craft 40 posters, then 60, when they decided to take their enterprise further. They began to sell each one for \$10 and donate the proceeds to local charities. In less than two months, they’d produced 3,000 unique signs!

Even though the Richins family has five kids, three with special needs, mom, Rhonda, says “she had no hesitation supporting the girls but admits she had

no idea how big the project would grow.” The girls chose seven charities, including Blessings in a Backpack, which feeds hungry kids nationwide; Pillar for developmentally disabled folks, the Red Cross, and the Humane Society. Each charity reaped the bounty from the “Be Kind” campaign.

What is it about kind acts that feels so good? Science tells us that we’re hard-wired to be altruistic and kind. Acts of kindness improve moods and unify people. Our immune systems strengthen with our kind words and deeds. We generally accept that undue stress can tax our immune systems, leaving us more vulnerable to physical illness. Being kind has the opposite effect. Giving and generosity fortify our immune systems. Plus, kindness kicks in the feel-good hormones and neurotransmitters that stimulate healthy highs.

Back in LaGrange, Kentucky, local Councilwoman Andrea Essenpreis was “so inspired by the display of signs she asked the city council last year to proclaim the City of LaGrange, ‘Kentucky’s Kindness Capital.’” Raegan and Rylyn told their story to the council, which voted ‘yes.’ The mayor signed an official proclamation.

Word spread far about this kindness project, creating a ripple effect. A Pennsylvania Rotary Club, a Scout troop in Michigan and a family in California all reached out to emulate Raegan and Rylyn. “The girls’ ultimate goal is to

encourage other communities to start campaigns,” said their mom.

Councilwoman Essenpreis says she’s proud of Raegan and Rylyn, “What they did was show that you can make a difference no matter how old you are, no matter what gender you are, no matter how much money you have.”

Share your kindness stories with me at The Westfield Leader and The Times by writing Gratitude in the subject line and emailing: press@goleader.com or pattisteckler@gmail.com.

Gratefully yours,  
Patti

## Letters to the Editor

### The George Floyd Verdict Is a Beginning

Social Justice Matters, Inc. was heartened by the verdict in the George Floyd trial in Minneapolis.

Elation spread across the country within seconds of the verdict. It was a respite from the unforgettable details of Derek Chauvin’s knee bearing down on Floyd’s neck for an excruciating 9 minutes and 29 seconds.

But, as important and welcome as the verdict is, the fact is that it is just one verdict. It doesn’t mean an end to police brutality or systemic racism. It’s only a temporary solace against a backdrop of increasingly disturbing developments, such as efforts to restrict voting access. The case of George Floyd is seared onto our nation’s history and our individual consciences.

The verdict can, however, be viewed as a beginning. It can spur us to find ways of defining the parameters of the monumental work ahead, including the

need for reform in police interactions with the public. The courts are not the place to solve this. At that point, it’s too late.

The lesson of the tragedy of George Floyd’s death is clear: We need to work harder to find our common humanities so we can affect positive change.

Social Justice Matters saw a rise in membership and community involvement immediately after the death of George Floyd. The verdict must spur us to double down on our efforts as we work toward a more equitable community by doing our part to move the needle from accountability to true justice. Let us move forward together as a community.

Please go to [socialjusticematters.org](https://socialjusticematters.org) to find out more.

**Social Justice  
Matters, Inc. Board  
Scotch Plains**

### Think Local Before You Wander to Wonder

There’s a shiny new object in Westfield. Take a walk, bike, or car ride any given evening and you’ll see the mighty fleet of “Wonder” Sprinter vans rolling through our streets delivering meals to “Hungry?” residents. You can also swing by the Stop & Shop, Lord & Taylor, or Knights of Columbus which seem to be serving as stables for these mobile kitchens. On a recent Saturday evening, a total of 18 trucks were situated across these three locations awaiting orders.

Wonder represents itself as a new home dining experience with a kitchen that comes to you. Per their marketing literature, Wonder’s meals are chosen from their vetted selection of celebrated restaurants across the country, crafted on board and delivered straight to your door. Although Wonder chose Cranford as its base of operations, it selected Westfield as its target “proof of concept” service location. Those fortunate enough to fall

in Wonder’s target market receive consistent direct mail and see their streets congested daily by the fleet of trucks which seem to be multiplying. Aside from increasing local traffic, the trucks are loud while in motion and even louder while idling in the street preparing a meal.

Our downtown businesses and restaurants need the community’s continued support. Many of these businesses and restaurants have a long history of giving back to our community. Wonder appears convenient and I’m guessing a good product, however, these are mobile kitchens - as quickly as they rolled in, they can roll out. Their impact on businesses/business owners who chose Westfield remains to be seen. Next time your family orders in or dines out, choose Westfield.

**Paul Collins  
Westfield**

### Mayor Todisco Shares Road Project Information

I hope everyone is able to get outside and enjoy some of this beautiful spring weather! Anyone who ventures out on the north side of Garwood will notice many newly paved roads. I wanted to write this letter to share information regarding this recent project.

This round of road paving was done by a contractor for Elizabethtown Gas to follow through on negotiations made about two years ago for repaving after their main and meter work in the Borough. I was personally involved in these negotiations along with our Borough Engineer and I thank the Council for their support in this endeavor. In previous years, Elizabethtown would have only repaved 50 percent of the roads, from one curb to the midline of the street. We all recognized this is inefficient as it does not increase the lifespan of the road (half being new, but half being in poor condition).

We negotiated for the following streets to be paved full width (curb to curb) with condition of the road, proximity to other newly paved streets (to accomplish a continuation look), and frequency of use (such as Second Avenue by Lincoln School) as the deciding factors. The streets paved include Fourth Avenue from the Cranford end or dead end block to the beginning of the Fourth Avenue cul-du-sac (the rest of the cul-du-sac was done also, but that is actually Cranford’s road), Third Avenue from Oak Street to Cedar Street, Cedar Street from Third Avenue to North Avenue, Walnut Street from Third Avenue to Fourth Avenue, Second Avenue from Walnut Street to Maple Street, and the first 25 feet or so on Maple Street off of Fourth Avenue. I recognize some may wonder why certain parts of roads were not paved. In the case of Oak Street and Cedar Street, they will be paved in the future as part of already planned municipal projects.

I received a question from a resident as to why Belgian block curbing was not installed during this project. The simple answer is Elizabethtown Gas was required to pave, but they are not required to replace curbs. The town negotiated to have them pave curb to curb on as many streets to the fullest amount we could, including my asking for the dead end of Fourth Avenue to be paved just about a month ago. Elizabethtown really did not need to say yes, but I am certainly very glad they did agree to add this additional block to the arrangement. One block, the 200 block of Third Avenue, had Belgian block curbing installed last year at the cost of the Borough ahead of Elizabethtown’s paving because many lengths of curb on that block were either non-existent or in very poor condition,

literally only one inch of curb showing.

After numerous discussions during council meetings over the past few years, the Borough decided to switch to Belgian block curbs to replace concrete curbs in poor condition. I promoted and supported this decision because the price is the same, Belgian blocks are easier to maintain, and they look nicer. Much time and thinking goes into making decisions like this because paving and curbs are very expensive (roughly \$100,000 just for curbs on the 200 block of Third Avenue) and our goal is to get as much paved as possible in an efficient way through the guidance of our engineer.

I also want to thank Chief Wight and the Garwood Police Department for getting out several Nixle alerts to make people aware of the streets affected by construction. They were instrumental in helping to lessen the impact of all this construction going on from April 16th to April 21st. Their work is appreciated.

I look forward to more paving coming to Garwood in the near future. I support the Council in deciding to continue annual road projects this year, which are typically funded in part (50 to 75 percent) by State Department of Transportation grants. The upcoming municipal project of Pine Avenue from Center to West, Union Street, and Liberty Court should be underway in the coming weeks.

I am always available to answer resident questions and to listen to feedback. Please email me at [STodisco@garwood.org](mailto:STodisco@garwood.org) or call me at (908) 377-7890. Stay well!

**Sara Todisco  
Mayor of Garwood**

### Policy on Political Endorsements

We publish letters to the editor in the printed newspaper on issues of importance to our readers at the discretion of the editors.

Those who would like their political endorsements published in the printed newspaper can do so by using the paid service at [www.goleader.com/advertorial](https://www.goleader.com/advertorial).

Candidates for elected office are invited to submit op-ed columns for the printed newspaper each week at no charge. Columns should be between 250 and 500 words, and be issue based with no personal attacks on opponents. Columns should be emailed to [editor@goleader.com](mailto:editor@goleader.com) by Monday at 9 a.m. for print in Thursday’s newspaper.

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. Senescent – Growing old  
2. Sepicolous – Growing in hedges  
3. Amygdaline – Resembling almonds  
4. Sitology – The study of foods, nutrition, etc.

#### GUTTATE

1. Spotted, as with drops
2. Rotund, obese
3. Capable of being torn apart or dis-united
4. To puncture; pierce

#### SEPELITION

1. A formation of new flesh in a wound; a cicatrix
2. Separation; division
3. Burial; interment
4. A heated debate or dispute

#### THILL

1. To saturate; soak
2. A shaft to which a horse is hitched to a wagon
3. To mix; mingle
4. Untidy or dirty

#### DIRDUM

1. A wartlike lump or node
2. A fight or contest for mastery
3. A song of lamentation; a dirge
4. A loud outcry of blame or rebuke

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](https://www.goleader.com)

### Cranford Gateway Plan Should be Stopped

Planned Redevelopment of a Large Township-Owned Parking Lot #1, surrounded by the Presbyterian Church, Municipal Building and Firehouse for the Purpose of Building a Multiple-Story Apartment Building at Springfield Ave. and North Union Ave.

For the Township Mayor and Commissioners to consider this vital public site to be developed and remove parking with its history of facilitating so many public services: convenient parking in a busy central area in DOWNTOWN CRANFORD is a serious mistake when available parking is -most people agree- already the major problem DOWNTOWN.

This location has served as a frequent and popular site for community affairs; parades; holiday celebrations at the TOWN CHRISTMAS TREE with live Choral groups and handmade ornaments decorated and hung by young girl scouts; fundraiser events; necessary and convenient parking for shoppers; for the Presbyterian Church; for the resident visitors to important township meetings in the municipal building; as well as vital and necessary space for performing maintenance on large fire engines and emergency vehicles. Development of the parking lot would create a major loss with significant inconvenience for Cranford residents in many ways.

If the overall plan is chosen from three proposals remotely it represents a serious insult to all Cranford residents unable to participate in person. The decision must require a town meeting with open Cranford public input in May instead of April, before a vote on a proposal.

A multiple-story proposed apartment complex will obscure and spoil the attractive view of the Presbyterian Church which has proudly received Historic designation and the municipal building and fire house.

We respectfully request you to withdraw this ill-advised and shortsighted plan and just decontaminate, then repair and repave the surface of the parking lot, respect the needs of shop owners, businesses, and residents. They come before outside developers who could care less about our community and leave Cranford looking like a “Gateway” Hoboken or Jersey City. There must be alternative smaller footprint proposals with lower profile, and without obliterating the entire parking lot, creating chaos in multiple ways.

**Barbara Krause  
Cranford**

<b>Deadlines</b> General News - Friday 4pm Weekend Sports - Monday 12pm Classifieds - Tuesday 12pm Ad Reservation - Friday 4pm Ad Submittal - Monday 12pm	<b>To Reach Us</b> Visit Us - 251 North Ave. West E-Mail - <a href="mailto:editor@goleader.com">editor@goleader.com</a> Phone - (908) 232-4407 Mail - The Westfield Leader/Times PO Box 250, Westfield 07091	<b>Letters to Editor Deadline</b> Monday 9 AM for the coming Thurs. Email Photos in color Email Ads as pdf files in color For more information, see <a href="https://www.goleader.com/help">www.goleader.com/help</a>
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## Letters to the Editor

### Message from Councilperson Ellen Zimmerman

Over the past few weeks, Scotch Plains has had a number of opportunities to demonstrate its compassion and empathy for residents of the entire community. When my husband, Josh, and I decided to move to town and then proudly raise our three children here, we've been consistently drawn to being part of such a welcoming, diverse place.

As a social worker employed at a food bank, I am well attuned to the needs of all parts of the community, including those who often have little voice. There is plenty of struggle all over, and in every perspective you can imagine. But towns like Scotch Plains strongly embrace our neighbors; this is just one of those special communities where you are never, ever alone.

Most recently, I was inspired by our next generation by attending a rally organized by high school students to voice opposition to Asian hate. There are many, many people in this community who are justifiably appalled by the treatment that Asians receive, amplified and aggravated over the 14months of this lingering pandemic.

I was proud to stand with Mayor Josh Losardo and other township officials to denounce hate in any form. I also pledged, as did other attendees at the rally, to do my part to identify Asian hate when I see it and voice my

support for my fellow neighbor – be that person Asian or any other ethnicity who continue to face widespread discrimination in America.

April also happens to be the time to show support for people with autism and their families. It is called “Autism Awareness Month,” but I join the chorus of individuals who believe the name should be changed to “Autism Acceptance Month.” That is because there are so many people with autism who make tremendous contributions to society, yet they are consistently labeled as “disabled.”

The numbers of Americans with autism keeps rising, and it is incumbent upon all of us to share and celebrate in the differences of these residents. They continue to offer new perspectives on life and contribute gifts to society through the magic of their uniqueness.

As we continue to celebrate spring, and slowly recover from the pandemic, I urge us all to find ways in which we are different and to celebrate those differences. There is a lot of that magic in all of us. As we further open up and discover more about one another, Scotch Plains can become an even more inclusive and accepting community.

**Councilwoman Ellen Zimmerman  
Scotch Plains**

## I Support David Contract for Re-Election as Ward 3 Councilman

I am writing this letter to enthusiastically endorse David Contract for re-election as Ward 3 Councilman. I have lived in Westfield for over 30 years and I have never seen my councilman work as hard and care as much about our community as Councilman Contract. I know he will continue doing this to move Westfield forward if he is re-elected on November 2.

I first met David when he was knocking on every door in Ward 3 while campaigning back in 2017. I remember his energy and his message that he wanted to bring fresh ideas and proactive leadership to help make Westfield a better town, and to institute an ongoing dialogue with Ward 3 residents. I was impressed by how refreshing this message was since I had never really heard from my previous council representatives except during an election year.

I have had the pleasure of watching David fulfill his promises over the past three plus years. I live in Ward 3 and I am the beneficiary of his relentless email and social media communications. He is our first councilman that I know of that sends out an email update after every council meeting (most of the time the same night). Even during the year-old COVID pandemic, he still continues to send out an email update almost every night.

I have also gotten to know David inside the town government. I am the co-chair of Lifelong Westfield, the

senior advisory committee that David helped me create back in 2018, and for which he now serves as our Council Liaison. David has helped champion our initiatives at the town level, which have made a huge difference for our Westfield seniors. He has brought many fresh ideas to Lifelong Westfield about how we can better meet the needs of our senior community. These include some of our major initiatives, like conducting surveys to gauge the needs of seniors, holding annual senior service fairs (pre-COVID), holding COVID vaccine safety seminars, and putting together a community calendar of events and programs for seniors on the town website. He also eagerly volunteers for many of the events that we hold, and is not afraid to roll up his sleeves to help out. In fact, David helped Lifelong Westfield volunteers clear storm debris from the homes of more than 50 seniors in March 2020.

David has impressed me so much as a councilman that I told him I would assist his re-election campaign in any way needed. This letter is the first, but not the last action I will take to spread the word about how great David is for Westfield and Ward 3 and why you should re-elect him to Ward 3 Council.

**Brad Chananie  
Westfield**

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## Neighbors of Ward 2

I appreciate you taking a few minutes to read this. I realize your time is precious. That said, please join me in supporting Michael Dardia for re-election to Westfield's Town Council Ward 2.

Like many of you, my wife and I have been neighbors of Mike and his wife Meredith for years. The Dardias and I also have the good fortune of being parents of lacrosse goalies. And for those lacrosse parents out there, you know how unique and cherished lacrosse goalies can be!

That said, I recently asked Mike if he was interested in running for re-election; he didn't hesitate and gave me an emphatic YES! When asked why, he relayed to me how he found being a town council member an extremely rewarding volunteer opportunity because it allows him to engage and collaborate with various municipal agencies and external organizations, as well as advocate on behalf of his neighbors in our ward and for families town-wide. Most importantly, his role provides opportunities to creatively solve complex and consequential problems that really matter to constituents.

While on the town council, he has served on the Public Works Committee and liaised with the Board of Education, Board of Health, Recreation Commission, and Access and Inclusivity Council. His biggest impact has been as the Chair of the Public Safety, Transportation and Parking (PSTP) Committee. With a reputation as a problem-solver, he is actively seeking re-election so that he may continue fulfilling one of his key campaign platform promises: making our community roads safer for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

His campaign pledged to build relationships with residents and work with his colleagues to create a collaborative vision for Westfield, and he's done that. Under Mike's leader-

ship, the work is ongoing. Nonetheless, the PSTP Committee has achieved the following:

- Started the Pedestrian Safety Task Force focused on improving Central Avenue walkability, which eventually evolved into a town-wide bike/walk assessment plan.
  - Advocated for and successfully installed five pedestrian beacon crossing signals.
  - Worked closely with Police Chief Battiloro and the WPD Traffic Bureau to prioritize speed enforcement in high-risk areas throughout town.
  - Introduced other traffic calming measures such as the installation of center islands, updated and relevant road striping and solar-powered radar speed signs.
  - Collaborated with other Town Council members to launch the “Caught Wearing a Helmet” Bike Safety Initiative. Mike also secured additional helmets that the WPD gave away to children who they saw riding their bikes without helmets.
  - Reinvigorated the Bicycle Advisory Board, an updated committee intended to leverage the experience and interest of Westfield residents who are seeking to consistently advanced bicycle safety and culture on behalf of the community.
  - Represented numerous of other public safety concerns from residents across Westfield.
- Please consider re-electing Mike Dardia for another term on the Westfield Town Council so that he can continue to vigorously advocate for his neighbors in Ward 2, as well as the town, with a proven track record of bettering the lives of the families in our community.

In Unity,

**Glenn Johnson  
Westfield**

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## Elections 2021

### The Smoke Screen Around the Cannabis Commission

Last week the recreational marijuana community celebrated “4/20” and we have yet to hear anything from the mayor's Cannabis Commission. What should have been a slam-dunk opportunity for this administration to show some leadership and protect Westfield's families by preventing a marijuana dispensary from opening in town is now dragging into its second month without a single public hearing.

I recently wrote to this publication regarding this issue and, although I used humor in that piece, I am very serious about dispensaries. Among my many responsibilities while an FBI agent was enforcing federal narcotic statutes and I have seen firsthand the devastating effects that dangerous drugs have had on our communities.

While New Jersey has chosen to legalize marijuana, it is still considered a Schedule I narcotic by the Federal government. This presents several challenges locally—chief among them is how to handle the proceeds of drug transactions. Dispensary owners have their own hurdles but, if towns collect taxes from what is still considered federally as illicit drug trafficking, then Westfield is assuming significant liabilities and passing those on to taxpayers.

Some also equate the recent legalization of marijuana to alcohol, which has been legal in New Jersey and the United States since the repeal of Prohibition. While only 30 of NJ's 566 municipalities prohibit the sale of alcohol, at least 70 municipalities took

action prior to legalization to prohibit marijuana sales in their towns. Newly-enacted legalization provides local governments with an opt-out clause specifically for that purpose. I imagine many (if not all) of these towns will do so again and will now likely be joined by many others who do not want these sales to take place within their borders.

Despite the creation of the Cannabis Commission, this administration has already heard from residents on this issue. According to the much-touted Master Plan Reexamination Survey, over 57 percent of residents disapproved of marijuana retail businesses in Westfield, as compared to 21 percent who approved. This same survey has been used by the mayor to push other initiatives, including involuntary historic preservation and massive, no-bid redevelopment downtown. Marijuana dispensaries are not the answer to the question of downtown vacancies and if these are the types of businesses town hall and Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) seek to attract, then perhaps it's time for new leadership at both.

While the Cannabis Commission conducts its business in secret and the mayor ignores the will of the people, Westfield's public safety, health and welfare hang in the balance. It's time to make the decision that's in the best interest of our citizens: No marijuana dispensaries in Westfield.

**Shawn Mullen  
Candidate for Westfield  
Town Council - Third Ward**

## Can You Meet Me for Coffee?

“Can you meet me for coffee? I have an idea”. So it begins, Dawn Mackey has put her mind to a project. Although this simple question may seem like she is just conceiving it, this powerhouse Councilwoman is many steps ahead in her mind. She sees the entire event unfolding, smiling children, happy parents, the town coming together for a morning, a day, an evening to celebrate, Westfield, our restaurants, our downtown, an underserved park, and while you are hearing about this one event, Dawn is planning others in her mind. These will be revealed when the time is right.

I believe that what makes Westfield great are the connections we have to each other. Dawn is a leader that makes opportunities for connections. AddamsFest is a great example. Charles Addams grew up in Westfield. His legacy has been there for other administrations to enhance. However, it was this administration, and, in particular Dawn, who had the vision to create an event that touched the various age groups and interests of the residents of Westfield. The event featured an ale garden for the adults, miniature golf for the kids with holes themed after the Addams family—created by local builders, red carpet movies at the Rialto, original Charles Addams artwork and drawings located at the Ward Mansion where the exhibit could take on the elegance worthy of Gomez and Morticia. The capstone event, the masquerade ball, was complete with eerie drinks that smoked. It took the creativity of Dawn Mackey to come up with these ideas and it took her tenacity, business sense and hours and hours of work to bring this to fruition. Dawn looked to volunteers in town to bring this event together and to make it special to everyone who helped.

AddamsFest is just one of Dawn's ideas. The Chili and Chowderfest highlighted many of our downtown restaurants, the Wicked Windows at Halloween showcase our talented artists and the Gingerbread houses highlight our many bakers. The Butterflies ex-

hibit is a great example of Dawn's vision bringing a spotlight on Westfield and drawing visitors from all over to photograph themselves at this public art exhibition. Not only do events like these bring people to our town for the day to enjoy our restaurants and shops, but it also makes our town desirable as a potential place to live and raise a family.

Dawn is also exceptionally attuned to the both the concerns and needs of residents in regards to Tamaques Park. When I was moving to Westfield I asked a friend living here already, “What's this Tamaques Park I hear so much about?” She described it as “Westfield's own Central Park”. Truly, what an apt description. Not only is the park a naturally landscaped gem, but it also evokes the same hustle and move-ment of NYC's central park where every inch has some special use. As plans for the park evolve, Dawn has not waited to beautify some areas of the park that needed an extra touch to make them special again. This past summer, during the Pandemic, she conceived and oversaw the painting of the bocce court as well as the beautification of the gazebo area including painting the picnic tables and the incorporation of a giant compass on the floor. The cost effective project created with the artistic talents of some of our local Ward 4 residents adds charm to an area of the park that had been overlooked for years.

I personally appreciate all of the hard work Dawn has done on behalf of Westfield. I hope you agree that Dawn should be reelected to another 4 years on Town Council. The entire town will benefit and I just can't wait to see what she has in store for us next. And if you get that call to meet for coffee, you can bet there is something exciting on her mind.

**Bonnie Stewart  
Westfield**

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## Thankful for Councilwoman Linda Habgood

As a resident of Ward 1, I am so happy to hear that Councilwoman Linda Habgood is running to be our Town Council representative again. She has been such an asset to our town and our community over the last three and a half years.

I remember learning about our incoming town council members back in 2017 and thinking how fortunate we were to have someone like Linda Habgood representing us. Each member brings something to the table. Councilwoman Habgood has brought her strong background in finance with an MBA from Wharton and years of experience financing smart and effective public/private partnerships. As a member of the town council, Linda has applied her skills, listened to her constituents, and thought outside the box. An example of this is the partnership she helped facilitate with Elizabethtown Gas to repave our roads, limiting our town's expenses. Thanks to her financial acumen, Councilwoman Habgood has been able to minimize the increases to our municipal taxes, while reducing our town's budget and still maintaining our AAA bond rating.

Furthermore, I have been impressed to see how Councilwoman Habgood's contributions go beyond finance. As a

member of our town leadership, Linda co-founded the Westfield Mental Health Council, coining the acronym C.A.K.E. (Compassion, Acceptance, Kindness and Empathy). This message is so incredibly important. As the mother of two young kids, I am concerned about their future exposure to social media. We have all seen the bullying and negativity that circulates. And now, this global pandemic has changed everything for everyone. Children have not been able to experience milestones the way they anticipated. Adults are dealing with financial struggles and some have endured tragic losses. As a community, we need to remember to be compassionate and kind to one another. Linda is the perfect person to spread this inspiring message because, as someone who has watched her serve this town as councilwoman, I know that LINDA stands for Leadership, Integrity, (K)nowledge, Dedication, and Accountability! Thank you for all your hard work, Linda, and thank you for running again!

**Keira Marcus  
Westfield**

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## The Student View

A collaboration with the  
Westfield High School Journalism Program

### Why Nine is Nifty: Don't Pack the Courts

By KATIE HAMILTON  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

One of President Biden's recent initiatives has been to examine ways to reform the United States Supreme Court. He created a commission composed of 36 people dedicated “to provid[ing] an analysis of the principal arguments in the contemporary public debate for and against Supreme Court reform,” according to whitehouse.gov.

Part of the committee's purpose is to examine the membership and size of the Court. This begs the question about President Biden's intentions to raise the number of Supreme Court Justices in an effort to pack the court with judges who hold similar political views.

During Trump's term he created a conservative majority of six to three. To counteract this majority, a recent bill was introduced by Democrats, titled Judiciary Act of 2021, which seeks to expand the Supreme Court from nine to 13 justices, in effect providing Democrats the opportunity to regain a liberal majority of six to seven.

Although the Constitution leaves it to Congress to decide how many justices should reside on the Court, as a form of checks and balances, the concept of court-packing oversteps this authority as it undermines the very purpose of the judicial branch.

In “Federalist No. 78,” one of Alexander Hamilton's principal arguments is that the judiciary needs to be independent from the other two branches of government. Mr. Hamilton writes that the “independence of the judges is equally requisite to guard the Constitution and the rights of individuals.”

### Thank You WHS Community Service Club

Throughout 2020 and continuing into 2021, the Community Service Club (CSC) of Westfield High School has been a tremendous support to the Westfield High School Helping Hands (WHSHH) fund. The board of the WHSHH fund wish to thank all the students, faculty advisors and staff who continue to make a difference in the lives of others. Donations made by the CSC directly impact the lives of families within Westfield High School.

Over the years, faculty, staff, students and their families at Westfield High School have suffered serious illness or death of an immediate family member or extraordinary and unexpected financial expenses. The WHSHH fund, established in 2012, helps ease the financial burden placed on families during these stressful times. Since WHSHH's inception in 2012, WHSHH has distributed over \$50,000 to 48 families.

The WHSHH fund would not be where it is today without the support of the students of the CSC at WHS. With so much disruption in these lives,

In contradiction to Mr. Hamilton's emphasis on an independent judiciary, court-packing provides the legislative and executive branches considerable influence over the Court by allowing them to manipulate those that preside over it in an attempt to promote their political agendas.

For example, in 1937, Franklin Delano Roosevelt tried to pack the Court in order to get his New Deal programs passed. His goal was to appoint justices who would not challenge his policies. President Roosevelt proposed a plan that would allow him to appoint one judge for every judge over 70 who didn't want to retire, in the hopes he could then tailor the Court to his needs.

Although his plan did not pass, President Roosevelt's clear intention was to use the Court to advance his political agenda which entirely disregards Mr. Hamilton's words about having an independent judiciary.

The judicial branch has neither the power of the purse, nor the power of the sword; its principal power is judgement. If Congress and the executive branch try to craft a Court that perfectly aligns with their views, then they are intentionally undermining this key power of judgement.

While it's understandable for Democrats to want to increase the number of justices to regain the majority, they would set the precedent going forward that Congress can manipulate the Court to suit their own political agendas.

The Supreme Court has survived with nine justices for 152 straight years, so there is no need to damage this streak and risk jeopardizing the very legitimacy of the judicial branch through court-packing.

they have continued their acts of kindness in many ways. There are currently over 200 students who are actively and safely participating. Throughout November, dozens of CSC members participated in the annual leaf raking fundraiser. The fundraiser was coordinated by Anna Tichenor and Rachel Simpson. Funds generously donated by those who participated were donated to the WHSHH fund. The CSC has previously run ‘A Day Without’ campaigns in the winter. Their fundraising over the years has resulted in over \$10K being donated to the fund.

WHSHH continues due to the generosity and kindness of the CSC. We wish all the students the best in their final term at school. Thank you for everything you do.

Learn more about the Westfield High School Hands fund and how you can help our Westfield High School community here: <http://bit.ly/WHSHH2020Flyer>.

**Ingrid McKinley  
On behalf of the WHSHH Board**

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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
Pages 7-10

**SILVA HR, 2 DBL, 4 RBI; PETSCHOW PREVAILS ON MOUND**

## No. 1 Cranford Cougars Control Pesky New Prov. Pioneers, 7-3

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

Junior Tony Silva exploded at the plate, while junior starting pitcher Kurt Petschow and sophomore reliever Matt Chapman kept the scrappy New Providence Pioneers in check to earn the No. 1-ranked Cranford High School baseball team a 7-3 victory at Memorial Field in Cranford on April 23.

The Cougars totaled seven hits but four of them went for extra bases and Silva provided three of them with a pair of RBI doubles and a two-run home run. Ryan Jaros rapped a double and a single, while adding an RBI sacrifice fly and scoring once. Lead-off hitter Marcus Johnson singled, scored twice, walked, had an RBI, and was hit-by-a-pitch. The other hit was a single from Will Gallagher, who was also hit-by-a-pitch and

scored (Jack Conley - pinch runner). Petschow pitched a complete four innings before being relieved by Chapman with one out in the fifth. Petschow, who was charged with one earned run, yielded three hits, two walks and a hit batter. Chapman allowed just one run on one hit, walked two and hit three batters, while fanning one.

"They both came in and did a nice job. Kurt got his first varsity start. He did a great job and he was able to keep them off-balance. That's a good team over there and he was able to put us in the position to go with the lead in the game and Matt Chapman came in and did a great job," Cougar Head Coach Dennis McCaffery said.

Silva, like Petschow and Chapman, along with several players on the varsity, had been a product of the very successful Cranford Youth Baseball

Association that had won many District titles.

"I played most of my life here. I stopped playing Travel Ball around when I was 10 or 11 then I went to play Club ball," Silva answered.

The Club ball experience paid off through the lost 2020 season due to the Covid situation.

"I skipped a beat for baseball in town but I still had my Club team, so I didn't really miss much there. I still got games in and I still got work in, so I think it really helps now," explained Silva, who added, "The ball has been looking really big lately. I have been just trying to stay aggressive, just hit the ball hard and when I hit the ball hard, good things happen."

"Tony had some good at-bats and he was able to get runs across when there were runners in scoring position

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



AVOIDING THE DOUBLE PLAY...Pioneer Nick Bisaccia steps on first in time to avoid being doubled up by Cougar first baseman Tony Silva in the fifth inning. The Cougars defeated the New Providence Pioneers, 7-3, in Cranford on April 23.

**HOBSON HAMMERS 2 HOMERS, K'S 11; CALUGAY 3 HITS**

## Blue Devils Pour It on in Sixth; Beat UC Vikings in Softball, 12-2

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

Senior pitcher Michaela Hobson demonstrated total control on the mound but also provided impressive offense with a pair of two-run home runs as the Westfield High School softball team separated itself from the Union Catholic Vikings with three runs in the fifth inning and another six runs in the sixth to claim a 12-2 victory in Westfield on April 24.

It certainly has been quite a relief for the team to be back on the field again after missing an entire 2020 Spring season.

"Last year when this Covid hap-

pened, we were obviously really upset. We are all really glad to be playing now because the season was taken away from us last year. I think it brought us closer together. We are trying so hard because we obviously want to win counties and states and go as far as we can," Hobson answered.

"A time like that is unprecedented in a lot of ways but as much as they lost the opportunity to play on a team, they still had the opportunity throw and get better. Luckily for a lot of them, by the time summer came around and restrictions loosened up they were able to get a Summer season in but missing an entire Spring season is a tough thing to

come back from but our players have done a really nice job of coming back hard," Blue Devil Head Coach Caitlin Cheddar explained.

"I play for a Club team. We didn't play during the Spring because of Covid but once it started getting better, we did have a Summer season but there were a lot of precautions. During quarantine, there's a park right down from my house so my dad and I would go and practice," Hobson explained.

Hobson certainly did demonstrate her effectiveness on the mound. In the six innings, she recorded 11 strikeouts and allowed only four hits.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



GUNNED DOWN AT SECOND...Blue Devil shortstop Kalea Calugay gets the throw from catcher Aden Brooks in time to put the tag on UC Viking Olivia Patikowski in the second inning in Westfield on April 24. The Blue Devils won 12-2.



OUT AT THE PLATE...Blue Devil Jake Watson becomes the victim of a great throw from Dayton leftfielder Justin Teixeira in the fifth inning at Bob Brewster, Sr. Field in Westfield on April 20. The Blue Devils beat the Bulldogs, 9-5.

**BENCIVENGA BLASTS 3-RUN HOME RUN, GRANTZ FANS 8**

## Baseball Blue Devils Muzzle Jonathan Dayton Bulldogs, 9-5

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

Senior shortstop Jake Bencivenga blasted a three-run home run in the first inning and senior pitcher Holden Grantz tossed six innings of four-hit ball while striking out eight as the Westfield High School baseball team muzzled the Jonathan Dayton Bulldogs, 9-5, in Westfield on April 20. Just the day before in another crossover game, the Blue Devils produced a 15-5 rout of Oratory Prep, which included home runs from Jake Watson and Leo Mangiamale, and would play David Brearley on April 22.

"They did the crossover games first this year. When I saw a schedule like this, by all rights, we should pretty much win each of these games because we are a bigger school. We have much more depth. We got more pitching than anybody, so if we are playing our number three pitcher against their number three, we will pick our three over their three any day

there," Coach Brewster expressed.

"My curveball felt good. My changeup was really good today. I felt good from the beginning. It was a beautiful day so it was good for my arm. Later in the game my slider was feeling really good," Grantz explained.

In the top of the first inning, Grantz did walk leadoff batter Justin Teixeira but a ground ball to second baseman Mike McKenna resulted in a second-to-first double play. The third out came when Tom DeSarno lined out to McKenna.

Miserek drew a walk to lead off the Westfield first then proceeded to swipe second and third. Senior Chris Ho drew a one-out free pass then Bencivenga got a hold of Logan Solomine's fastball and yanked it over the leftfield fence.

"There was two strikes. I wanted to put the ball in play. He threw me the ball right there and I just turned on it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



SLIDING HOME SAFELY...Cougar Ava Manfra, No. 7, takes advantage of a wild pitch to score in the third inning as Viking Pitcher Jules Hart tries to get the throw. The Cougars tacked on 11 runs in the inning and defeated the Vikings, 17-1.

**DeMARCO BLASTS GRAND SLAM, 2-RUN DOUBLE, K'S 5**

## Cougar Softballers Turn Back Union Catholic Vikings, 17-1

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

Freshman Sophia DeMarco became a wrecking crew on offense and was nearly unhittable on the mound as the Cranford High School softball team improved to 3-0 with a 17-1, three-and-a-half inning rout of the Union Catholic Vikings at Adams Field in Cranford on April 22. The Cougars totaled eight hits and took full advantage of the nine walks and two hit-by-pitches that they received.

On the mound, DeMarco, a

lefthander who bats right, yielded two hits, a double to Caroline Parker and an RBI single to Alaina Frederique, while striking out five batters and walking no one. DeMarco's pitching performance just fortifies the Cougars' mound presence with senior right hand pitcher Morrihan "Mugs" Gardiner, who just happens to bat from the left side.

"It was good today. I wanted to come out, do my best and I think I did that today in my first start," said DeMarco, who seems comfortable

working with junior Emma Ingraham behind the plate.

"She works very hard, so we work very well together. I love to pitch to her," answered DeMarco, who revealed that her screwball was her favorite pitch.

"Having the two of them working together is just all I could ask for. They do so well. In the past couple of games, Morrihan has started and Sophia comes in. They both have their strengths. Sophia really deserved

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

INTO THIRD WITH A TRIPLE...Union Catholic Viking Olivia Patikowski slides into third with a triple as Blue Devil Alivia Macaluso puts on the tag.

## Blue Devils Pour It on in 6th; Beat Union C. Vikings, 12-2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Two of them never got out of the infield and one was a grounder past short. The only time she was tagged was when Olivia Patikowski (2-for-2) pounded an RBI triple to right field in the fifth. Additionally, Hobson permitted zero walks, which is a far cry better than in her 2019 season.

“I throw a lot of curve and rise balls. They are my go-to pitches. When I’m on the mound, I try not to think like, ‘I’m going to do this, I’m going to do that.’ I just try to relax and it naturally happens,” Hobson said.

“Michaela has been an excellent leader period. She is leading by example. She is doing her job really, really well. She’s setting the tone for everybody else. Her command has been excellent. Her pitches have exactly the kind of bite you want not to mention her at-bats have been pretty darn good today,” Coach Cheddar pointed out.

Kalea Calugay (3-for-4, RBI, 2 runs) singled in the first inning and Grace Loder (2-for-3, double) singled in the second and Aden Brooks (2-for-2, RBI, run) walked but in both cases, the Viking defense prevented the Blue Devils from scoring. But in the third, Calugay singled and after Viking centerfielder Jules Hart made a great running catch, Hobson tagged a two-run homer over the right-centerfield fence. Emma Pietrewicz (2-for-4, 2 runs) rapped a leadoff single in the fourth but was doubled up when shortstop Olivia Magliacane snagged a liner and fired to first. Brooks hit a looping double and Cat Heflin drilled an RBI single to right.

“I have to give credit to Union Catholic because there were a number of times where we had them on the ropes and they made plays. The fact that they made those plays kind of killed our momentum. The third baseman picked two balls that were as hard hit as anything. The centerfielder, the second baseman caught a couple of sky high pop flies. If those balls drop, it’s a

different game,” Coach Cheddar acknowledged.

The Vikings scored both of their runs in the fifth when Jessica Sot beat out an infield single, Patikowski pounded her RBI triple and Caroline Apicella followed with an RBI groundout. Leading 3-2, the Blue Devils added three runs in the fifth. With Loder and Pietrewicz aboard, Gabbi Scipioni slashed a two-run double to right and Brooks bopped an RBI single into left.

The Westfield sixth did the trick. Molly Stogner hopped a single past short, Calugay cracked an RBI Ground Rule double, Alivia Macaluso ripped an RBI single and Hobson whacked her two-run homer over the right field fence to make the score 10-2.

“When I hit it off the first pitcher, I go to the plate relaxed and think base hit. I saw the pitch coming right down the middle. The second one I was thinking I’m going to hit the ball hard and it went right over the right field fence,” Hobson described.

“The good thing about her is that she can do a lot of things as far as hitting the ball hard. Both home runs happened to be right-center. She doesn’t pull everything, she hits it where it’s pitched. She certainly isn’t swinging for the fences. Sometimes that’s where it ends up,” Coach Cheddar commented.

But two more runs were yet to come. Loder hopped a double down the leftfield line, Pietrewicz hooked an RBI double to right and junior Emily Gordon slapped an RBI single past first to conclude the game.

“We have some new varsity players. They are really fitting in and doing a nice job. We have a freshman at first who has done a great job defensively and had strong at-bats. Emily Gordon played a little centerfield and plays a lot of different roles, pinch hitter, courtesy runner. We have a collective team and in a year like this, we need that,” Coach Cheddar emphasized.

Union Catholic	000	002	0	2
Westfield	002	136	x	12

### Cougars Beat Pioneers In Golf Match, 153-191

Brandon Quach scored a one under par 32 and Elliott Parker followed with a 33 to lead the 4-0 Cranford High School golf team to a 153-191 victory over the New Providence Pioneers on April 21. Derek Gutierrez came in with a 40, Nick Ret tied for fifth with a 48 and Tim O’Donovan recorded a 49.

## Union County Seniors 50+ Softball League Results:

### 50+ A DIVISION:

TEAM	W	L
Douglas VW	2	0
Deegan Roofing	1	1
Jun’s Pro Services	1	1
Phenomenal Boyz	1	1

### 50+ B DIVISION:

TEAM	W	L
All Pipes Plumbing	2	0
Cranford VFW	1	1
Contact Lens & Vision	1	0
Linwood Tap House	1	1
Rocky’s Bar & Grill	1	1
FutoWorld	0	2
Sonia’s BCE	0	2

### 50+ C DIVISION:

TEAM	W	L
AJ Jersey	1	1
Garwood Metal	1	1
Suspenders	1	1
Linda’s Driftwood Bar & Grill	0	1

Contact Lens 12, FutoWorld 7

Leading the offense for CLV were Neil Kaufman (HR, 3B) Mike Medina, Pablo Olivais, Steve Wiczerek and Jimmy Sydllo. Futo - John Tropeano (3 hits, 3-run HR), Pete Corvelli (3-for-3), Billy Resaino (2 3-run HRs).

All Pipes 22, Linwood Tap 16

Pipes - Jason Czornomor and Vinnie Rappa (4 hits), John McClung, Joe Han, Matt Hoynowski and Alan Dente (3 hits). Tap House - Mark Hochenberg, Paul Cassidy, Steve D’Amato, and Mark Grossman (3 hits each).

Douglas VW 14, Phenom Boyz 12

Douglas - Hector Munoz, Mike Shriner and Harold Zayas (all with 3 hits), outstanding defense of Al Genova, Pat Mooney, Dan Righetti and Geno Antonucci.

Suspenders 18, Linda’s Drift 2 11

Suspenders - Eric Hastrup, Rob Dlugosz, Roy Alexander and Ricky Gregorio (combined 8 hits with 2 HR, 2 3B, 2B, 3 walks, 11 RBI).

Garwood Metal 20, AJ Jersey 7

MetalMakers - Carey Durrett (4 hits), Rich Polonitza, Whitey McCormack and Lou Collins (3 hits), Paul Falzarano (2-run HR). AJ - Dave Ciarrocca (2 RBI), Rob Rowland (3-for-3).

Jun’s Pro Service 28, Deegan 17

Jun’s, - Tom Ulichny, Mike

McKenna, Glenn Gang, Joe Oporto, Rob Stratton (4 hits each), Nick Mennona (3 hits, 2B), Pete Matarazzo, Bruce Evans, Dave Eckert (2 hits each), Walt Patrylo (HR) e park homerun. Deegan - Nelson Santiago, Scott Mugele, Doug Fischer, James Nardello (3 hits), Tom Baldowski (2 hits, HR).

Rocky’s Bar 18, Sonia’s BCE 12

Rocky’s Bar - John Rachko (4 hits), Matt Walsh (3 hits), Jerry Isolda (3 RBI), David Grandmaison (3-run HR).

AJ Jersey 15, Suspenders 10

AJ - Rob Rowland, Gary Roman, Rob Farin, Jeff Hoffman (3 hits), Dave Rizzo (2-run 2B), Suspenders - Tony Taddeo (4-for-4), Carl Brennan and Angelo Puerai (3RBI, 2B, HR) each 3 hits.

Phenomenal Boyz 27, Jun’s Pro 26

Jun’s - Joe Oporto (HR), Dave Eckert (Grand Slam), Jack Thorburn (2 tough catches).

Cranford VFW 37, Garwood 29

Cranford - Tom Klein (6-for-6, 2 HR, 10 RBI), Jerry Veglia and Bob Ghiretti (4 hits). Garwood - Ron Kulik, Rich Polonitza and Lou Collins (4 hits).

Deegan Roofing 23, Sonia’s BCE 5

Deegan - Doug Fischer (strong pitching), Nelson Santiago (3 2B, 3B), Joe Sheridan (3 doubles), Marty Bernstein (2 2B) all with 4 hits.

Douglas VW 24, FutoWorld 13

Douglas VW - Mike Hoffmann (4 hits, 3 2B), Joe Caliguari, Dan Righetti, Billy Bateau and Geno Antonucci (all 3 hits). Futo - Pat Peterpaul (3 hits, 3-run HR, 3B, 5 RBI), John Tropeano (3 hits, 2B, 3B, 3RBI), Tom Renna (3B, spectacular catch in right).

All Pipes Plumbing 23, Contact 10

All Pipes Plumbing - Chris Morrison, Matt Hosnowski and John McClung (5 hits apiece), AJ Dente (5 RBI), Joe Han (HR). Contact Lens - Neil Kaufman (3 hits, HR), Mikey Ramirez (4 hits).

Linwood Tap 21, Rocky’s Bar 5

Tap House - Ron Patterson, Tim Mulhall, Paul Cassidy and Richard Sergeant (all triples), Kevin Robinson (4 hits), Brian Latham (4H, HR), Slope Rzewuski & Steve D’Amato (3H).

### Linwood Tap 16, Yogi’s Boys 4

Tap House - Steve Lerner and Glen Marrone (3 hits apiece), Joe Sarica, Jack Helfrich, Mike DiRienzo, Jeff Villani and Leo DiGuilio (2 hits apiece), Tom Siano (great pitching).

Kenilworth VFW 21, DeBellis 14

VFW - Ron Kulik, Carey Durrett, Donnie Montefusco and Jose Jimenez (3 hits each).

Liberty Lighting 26, Awnings 21

Awnings - Frank Green and John Campanella (3 hits), Tom Pasko, Paul Newton (2B), Bruce Crawford, Rich Polonitza, Rick Demsey and Pete Osborn (2 hits each).

Renda Roads 21, Linwood II 16

Renda - Tom Baldowski (3-4, HR, 5RBI), John Mazur (3-3), Bill D’Amico (3-4), Steve Barba (2-2, HR).

Linwood Tap 20, Cranford VFW 6

Linwood Tap House - Steve Lerner (4 hits), Glen Marrone, Mike DiRienzo, Jack Helfrich, Jeff Villani, and Tony “Bird” Joe (3 hits apiece).

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens and consistent with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., through standards promulgated by the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs, and Executive Orders 103 and 107, the regular meeting of the Planning Board of the Township of Scotch Plains scheduled for Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. will be held by **only**. In addition to the regular business as outlined in the agenda, the following application will be heard:

**1805 Front Street, LLC and M&E Stage House, LLC** who are seeking Minor Subdivision approval and Preliminary and Final Site Plan approval with any variance or other relief for property located at 1815 Front Street and 366 Park Avenue, Block 1001, Lots 59 and 54.0101. The applicant is proposing a lot line adjustment transferring approximately 10,109 square feet from Lot 54.0101 and to Lot 59, as well as preliminary and final site plan approval for additions to the southeast corner of the existing restaurant building located on Lot 54.0101.

The agenda for the meeting on May 10, 2021 will be posted on the Township of Scotch Plains Website. Members of the public who wish to monitor and/or participate in the public meeting may join from a computer or capable device at:

**Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82198947334?pwd=TWtEbnB0b0U0dFZmFhZmRlRjZlUkZTcz09>

If any difficulty is encountered with the link, the information to access manually when prompted is:

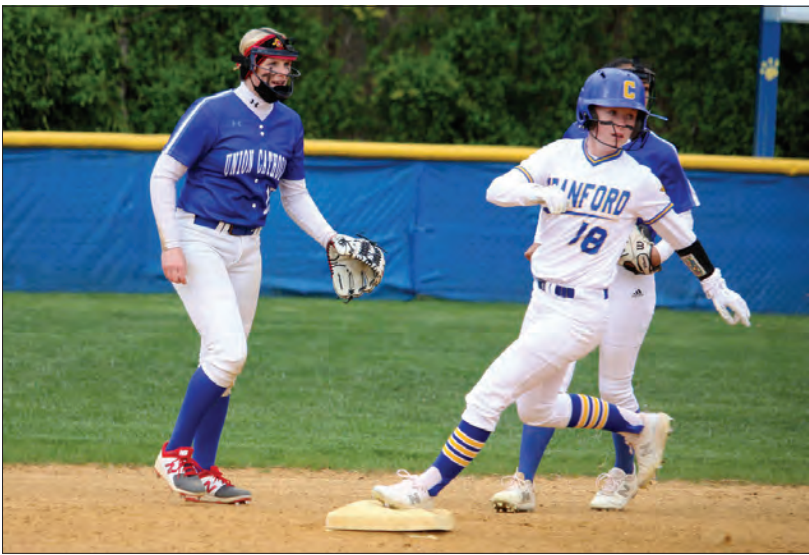
**Meeting ID:** 821 9894 7334  
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If unable to access by computer as noted above, the meeting can be joined by telephone by dialing 1 646 558 8656 and entering the above noted Meeting ID and information as prompted.

The application(s) and supporting materials are on file and will be available for public inspection, free of charge, at least ten (10) days prior to the online/virtual hearing at:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14GxhIw-RTsYqSzR9q5B3z3mLSO4Fy17>

Alternately, members of the public may contact the Clerk/Land Use Secretary by email at [srapant@scotchplainsnj.com](mailto:srapant@scotchplainsnj.com) or by phone, during regular business hours, at (908) 322-6700 x 307 prior to the meeting in order to ask any questions if encountering any difficulty with the options described in this notice.

Shannon Rapant  
Clerk/Secretary to the Planning Board  
1 T - 04/29/21, The Times Fee: \$60.18



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SCOOTING TO SECOND...Cougar Liz McCaffery takes second on a wild pitch in the first inning as Viking shortstop Olivia Magliacano looks at the action.

## Softball Cougars Turn Back Union Catholic Vikings, 11-1

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

a start today. She can do it out here (mound), she can play first base, she can hit the ball,” Cougar Head Coach Christine Permoule expressed.

At the plate, DeMarco singled in the first inning, blasted a grand slam home run in the second inning and yanked a two-run double to left for six RBI.

As to her home run, DeMarco explained, “It was an outside pitch. Usually I have a problem with pulling them but not that one. I work very hard on my hitting. I do it a lot in the morning.”

Her double went sharply to left. “It was an inside pitch and I turned on it,” she added.

Two more varsity newcomers were solid at the plate. Freshman Maddy DeLong went 2-for-3 with a bunt single and a two-run single, while scoring twice. Sophomore Giulia Olear poked a two-run single, walked and scored twice. Olear has also drawn notice with her success at the plate in the previous two games.

“Giulia! She’s just really stepped up. She starts at third base. She’s really a second baseman but I wanted her to get comfortable at third base and she is doing a great job for us at third and up at the plate too. It’s great! Young players mixed with our older players has really been good for us so far,” Coach Permoule said.

Gardiner, who was playing first base, delivered an RBI single, an RBI walk and scored twice. Senior shortstop Liz McCaffery was hit-by-a-pitch, walked and scored twice. Senior Mia Markase walked in all three of her at-bats, scored all three times and added an RBI. Senior Ava Manfra singled and walked once and scored both times.

DeMarco was throwing smoke and struck out all three Vikings in the top of the first inning then McCaffery got things started when she took a fastball

to the foot then sped to second after a pitch in the dirt. Gardiner stepped to the plate and slapped an RBI single past short for a 1-0 lead. DeMarco singled then Ingraham drilled a sharp liner that was snagged by shortstop Olivia Magliacano. Manfra tapped a soft popup to pitcher Jules Hart for the third out.

Three Vikings went down in order in the second then the Cougars erupted with five runs. With Markase, who walked, on third, McCaffery on second and Olear on first, Gardiner drew an RBI free pass then DeMarco hammered her grand slam over the right-centerfield fence.

The only dent in DeMarco’s armor came in the third inning. Parker arched an RBI double over the right fielder’s head and Frederique looped an RBI single into shallow center. But the Cougar merry-go-round of 11 runs immediately followed.

Manfra hopped a single to second, Emma Grace Pachkowski put down a sacrifice bunt, Markase walked and DeLong beat out a bunt single to load the bases. With McCaffery at the plate, a pitch in the dirt allowed Manfra to score the first of the runs. Olear plopped a two-run single into center. Gardiner’s one-hopper back to the mound resulted in a force out at third. DeMarco lined her two-run double to left. Ingraham and Manfra both walked and Pachkowski was hit on her foot for an RBI free pass. Ingraham was permitted to skip home on Markase’s walk then DeLong curled a single over first as Manfra and Pachkowski both scored. A series of bad throws allowed Markase and DeLong to score.

After DeMarco retired all three batters in the fourth, the Vikings waived the white flag.

Union Catholic	00	1	0	1
Cranford	15	(11)	x	17

## Blue Devils Pass By Montclair, 9-8; Nip Mendham Laxers in 2OT, 10-9

Trailing 5-3 at the half, the Westfield High School girls lacrosse found the mark to score six goals in the second half to edge Montclair, 9-8, in Westfield on April 19. Ella McLane netted three goals and LJ Kehler scored twice and added an assist for the Blue Devils.

Avery Hoeft netted a goal and an assist. Sofia Della Rocco, Addie Cummings and Ellie Kate Brown each scored once and Lily Dickerson added an assist. Goalkeeper Mia Fleming made nine saves. Katie Giordano

scored five goals for the Mounties and Liz Giordano scored twice.

In the triumph over 10th-ranked Mendham, Ellie Kate Brown found the mark to notch four goals, while Maggie Aslanian scored twice. Della Rocco and Kehler each scored once and had an assist. McLane and Cummings each scored once. Fleming made 17 saves. Megan McIntyre scored four goals for Mendham and Ashley Peck scored twice.

Westfield	4	5	0	1	10
Mendham	2	7	0	0	9

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TOWN OF WESTFIELD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR VIRTUAL HEARING TOWNSHIP OF WESTFIELD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, In compliance with the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law, the General Ordinances of the Township of Westfield and the Rules and Regulations of the Township of Westfield Board of Adjustment, and in order to comply with the Executive Orders signed by Governor Murphy and in an effort to follow best practices recommended by the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC), PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that **The Board of Adjustment of the Town of Westfield, New Jersey** will hold a virtual meeting on **May 10, 2021, at 7:30 pm** to hear and consider the following appeals for bulk (c) and/or (d) variance relief from requirements of the Westfield Land Use Ordinance.

**Jacob Kriss, 1300 Overhill Street.** Applicant is seeking approval to construct a second story addition contrary to Section 12.04G, 11.08E9, 12.04F1, 12.04F2, 13.01B of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance allows a maximum coverage by improvements of 50%. Proposed is 53.90%. Ordinance allows a maximum floor area ratio of 37%. Proposed is 37.17%. Ordinance allows a maximum building coverage of 20%. Proposed is 24.83. Ordinance allows a maximum building coverage with a deck of 22%. Proposed is 31.02%. Ordinance requires accessory structures to be located at a minimum setback of 15 feet from the principal structure. Proposed is 9 feet.

**1929 Central Avenue, LLC., 1929 Central Avenue.** Applicant is seeking approval to construct an addition contrary to Section 12.04E, 11.09E5, 12.04F1, 12.03C, 11.09E7 of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance allows a maximum building coverage of 20%. Proposed is 25%. Ordinance allows a maximum floor area ratio of 37%. Proposed is 39%. Ordinance requires a minimum front yard setback of 40 feet. Proposed 35.2 feet. Ordinance requires a minimum street side yard setback of 20 feet. Proposed is 14 feet 5 inches. Ordinance requires a minimum rear yard setback of 35 feet. Proposed 22 feet 2 inches.

**Kimberly Tosh, 617 Lawrence Avenue.** Applicant is seeking approval to

expand the garage contrary to Section 13.01G1B of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance requires accessory structures having a coverage greater than 500 square feet to be setback a minimum of 10 feet from the rear lot line. Proposed is 3 feet.

**Craig Hunsinger, 150 Stanmore Place (736 Clark Street).** Applicant is seeking approval to construct an addition contrary to Section 11.08E6 and 11.08E13 of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance requires a minimum side yard setback of 10 feet. Proposed is 8.73 feet. Ordinance allows a maximum continuous wall length of 25 feet. Proposed is 28 feet 8 inches.

**Lauren & Marc Shanker, 1621 Rising Way.** Applicants are seeking approval to install an open style fence contrary to Section 13.02D5 of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance requires a pool to be enclosed by a 6-foot stockade, board on board or other solid fence. Proposed is a 6-foot open fence.

**Matthew Archer, 1601 Boynton Avenue.** Applicant is seeking approval to expand an existing deck contrary to Section 13.02C2 of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance requires a minimum rear yard setback of 25 feet for a deck. Proposed is 18 feet.

The public can join the meeting and participate electronically or by phone by accessing the following link <http://bit.ly/WFBOAmeeting>. Meeting Dial-In Information: Phone #: 470.381.2552 or 646.518.9805 Webinar ID: 602 589 976 and press # on your phone. Passcode: 788726. The application plans, and all documents submitted in relation to the application are on file in the office of the Town Engineer, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, New Jersey. A digital copy is available by contacting the Board Secretary Linda Jacus at [ljacus@westfieldnj.gov](mailto:ljacus@westfieldnj.gov), or by viewing the documents on the Town of Westfield website: <https://www.westfieldnj.gov/>. Members of the public who have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the remote meeting process, or who are unable to access the plans digitally, should contact the Board Secretary Linda Jacus at (908) 789-4100, extension 4602, or by email [ljacus@westfieldnj.gov](mailto:ljacus@westfieldnj.gov).

Linda Jacus  
Board Secretary  
1 T - 04/29/21, The Leader Fee: \$95.37

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301 South Ave., W. (Leader)

Westfield Tobacco & News  
108 Elm St. (Leader)



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**BEATING OUT A SINGLE...Blue Devil Ian Gannaway beats out a single in the first inning against the Jonathan Dayton Bulldogs on April 20.**

## Baseball Blue Devils Muzzle Jonathan Dayton Bulldogs, 9-5

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Fastball,” Bencivenga recalled. Bencivenga’s blast definitely provided Grantz with some cushion. “That was very nice. We scored on them from the beginning. We got three home runs in two games. We got to get the bats going,” Grantz commented. “We got some exciting players. Jake Watson is one of the players who hit a home run yesterday and the sophomore (Mangiamiele) hit one. Both in their first varsity game hitting home runs,” Coach Brewster added. The Blue Devils scored twice in the second and it began with Mizerek’s two-out single to right-center. Melao drilled an RBI double to center and Chris Ho poked an RBI single to center. Two more Blue Devils scored in the third to up the lead to 7-0. Mangiamiele hammered a leadoff double to deep center. Jayden Edwards scorched an RBI single off the top of the first baseman’s glove. McKenna wiggled a single into right then Edwards scored on Watson’s RBI groundout to second. In the Dayton fourth, Brady Rosenstock (2-for-4) scribbled a single past short. Kevin Lora was hit-by-a-pitch then Montrell Mayo-Smith hit a low liner that slipped under the diving right fielder’s glove, resulting in a two-run double. In the Westfield fourth, Melao, who walked, and Bencivenga, who singled and swiped second, would respectively score on a throwing error and Ian Gannaway’s RBI sacrifice fly. Dayton added an unearned run in the fifth then Westfield nearly an-

swered. Watson wobbled an infield single, moved to second on Mizerek’s single and attempted to score on Owen Callahan’s single to left but he was thrown out at home. The Bulldogs added a pair of unearned runs in the seventh to finalize the scoring. After a whole year of no baseball after that wonderful finish in 2019 when the eighth-seeded Blue Devils ran the table to defeat the Ridge Red Devils, 4-2, to claim their second straight North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 crown there was a sigh of relief to be back on the field. “The feeling of being back is great. We just got to do what we got to do and hopefully we can still play and nothing ruins our season. It’s nice to be out here and playing ball with the kids that I have been playing with forever,” Bencivenga said. Grantz added, “Feels great after missing last season. I really wanted to get back out here and now to be a senior. This team’s really good. Can’t wait!” “I told them, ‘Guys we are still the defending sectional champions since 2018. I don’t remember anyone ever winning three sectional championshipships in a row from our section. In the big schools, the talent is spread out all over the place. As long as we can keep getting good pitching! I think we’ve given up 10 runs in two games and eight are unearned runs. Yesterday we did it with our regulars making errors. Today it was our subs making errors,” Coach Brewster said.

Dayton	000	201	2	5
Westfield	322	200	x	9

## Delbarton Prevails at Westfield Invt’l Tennis

The No. 2 Delbarton Green Wave swept all five flights at the Blue Devil Invitational boys tennis Tournament in Westfield on April 24. Delbarton totaled 25 points, No. 17 Millburn totaled 13 points and Westfield finished with seven points. At first singles, Mike Zheng defeated Millburn’s Mattias Feoli in three sets and Blue Devil Adam Contract in two sets. Feoli beat Contract in two sets. Johns Walentowicz blanked Blue Devil Zander Ainge and

topped Miller Aaruch Gupta in three sets at second singles. Nick Gritz stopped his Millburn opponent in two sets and won in three sets over Blue Devil Jordan Cafiero, who would take second at third singles. Will Robinson and Sam Wash halted Blue Devils Aidan Morrison and Cole Hornback in two sets and their Millburn opponents in three sets at first doubles. At second doubles, Chris Lalin and Cam Scarpati prevailed over Blue Devils Jackson Jordan and Andrew Popa.



Photo courtesy of Lynne Ainge

The Westfield High School Blue Devil boys tennis team at the Invitational

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT, BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES  
1035 PARKWAY AVENUE, PO BOX 600  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Notice is hereby given that bid proposals will be received from Bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:7-35.2 via the Internet until 10:00:59 A.M. on **05/13/21** at which time the bid proposals submitted will be downloaded, and publicly opened and read, in the CONFERENCE ROOM-A, 1st Floor F & A Building, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; for:

Route 82, Caldwell Avenue to Lehigh Avenue, Contract No. 001114040, Pedestrian Safety Improvements, Township of Union, Union County  
Federal Project No: HSIP-0082(301); UPP NO: 114040; DP No: 21114

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Specifically, the contractor, sub recipient or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, contractor must submit the Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue Business Registration of the contractor and any named subcontractors prior to contract award or authorization.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.51, contractors must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance at the time of bid.

The Department, in accordance with Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252 U.S.C., 49 C.F.R., Parts 21 and 23 issued pursuant to such Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will afford minority business enterprises full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any bidder on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, or handicap in the project award.

Plans, specifications, any addenda to the specifications, and bidding information for the proposed work are available at Bid Express website [www.bidx.com](http://www.bidx.com). You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe, follow the instructions on the web site. Fees apply to downloading documents and plans and bidding access. The fee schedule is available on the web site. All fees are directly payable to Bid Express.

Plans, specifications, and bidding information may be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contracting organizations at our various Design Field Offices at the following locations:

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One Executive Campus Rt 70 West  
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856-486-6623

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Fee: \$214.20

## Raider Lax Boys Rap Mo-town Beard, 16-2

With only four returning players from the 2019 season - senior defenseman Kenny Yeager, senior midfielder Alex Werkheiser (both captains) and junior midfielders Chase Alber and Matt Power, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys lacrosse team definitely looked like it knew what it was doing by rapping Morristown Beard, 16-2, in Scotch Plains on April 24. Alber recorded three goals and two assists, while junior attacker Jake Monroy netted three goals. Junior attacker Mikey Kloefer netted a goal and an assist, while junior attacker Sandro Frias stuffed in a pair of goals

and added a pair of assists. Face-off man Ethan Filler, who won 13 of 16 face-offs and scooped eight ground balls, fired in a pair of goals. Werkheiser scored twice as did Giovanni Marra. Yeager shored up the defense, along with senior Max Oross and juniors Ben Root, who had five ground balls against Mo-town Beard, and Isaiah Nathaniel. Due to the stubborn defense, goalkeeper/captain Sam Oross received very little threat. According to Head Coach Nick Miceli, the Raiders are a, “Very inexperienced group but very cohesive unit that is excited to get on the field together the season.”



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**LOOKING TO SCORE...Raider attacker Mikey Klopfer, No. 25, looks to get around a Morristown Beard defender in Scotch Plains on April 24.**

## Raiders Humble Jefferson, 19-2; Cougars, 17-5, in Girls Lacrosse

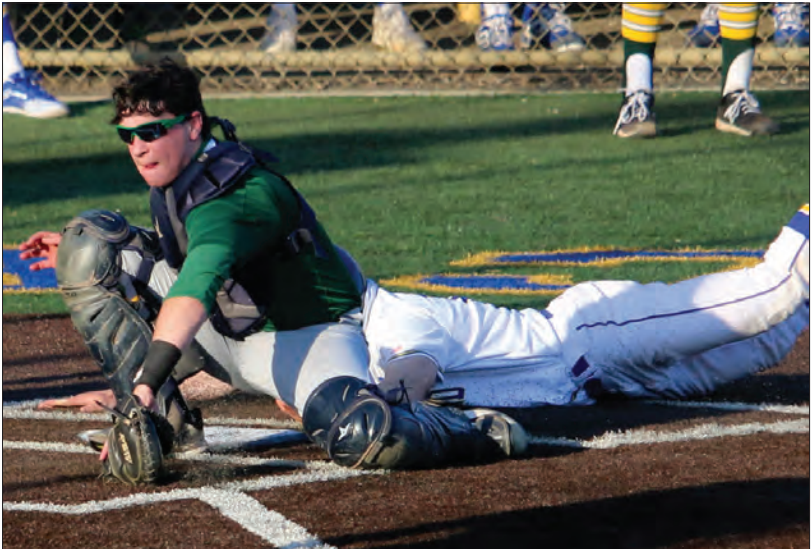
Hailey Kinard netted five goals and Trish Gillen had three goals and two assists to lead the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls lacrosse team to a 19-2 triumph over Jefferson on April 20. Elle Priesing had three goals and an assist. Isabella DiLollo and Kathryn Power each had two goals and three assists, while Carly Walker scored twice. Ruby Calabrese had a goal and an assist. Ryann Wall scored once and goalkeeper Alyssa Barbossa made five saves. In a home game against the Cranford Cougars on April 22, the Raiders emerged with a 17-5 victory and, once again, Kinard netted five goals. Gillen had four goals and four assists. Priesing had four goals and an assist. Power had two goals and two assists, and Walker scored twice. Isabella DiLollo had two assists, while Wall and Francesca DiLollo each added an assist. Karena Andreassen scored twice for the Cougars. Erin Esposito, Delaney Bertrand and Sylvie Fernandez each scored once. Clare Roussey and Kristina Lynch each added an assist.

Karen Andreassen scored twice for the Cougars. Erin Esposito, Delaney Bertrand and Sylvie Fernandez each scored once. Clare Roussey and Kristina Lynch each added an assist. DiGiovanni Places 7th At NJSIAA Wrestling Cranford High School senior Luke DiGiovanni worked his way to place seventh at 138-lbs at the NJSIAA Wrestling Tournament in Phillipsburg this past weekend. DiGiovanni began with a 5-1 decision over Nick Canonica (Hunterdon Central) then lost 10-8 to Ed Hummel (Southern). After winning his next match, 11-3, he lost, 3-2, to wrestle for seventh where he edged Myles Leonard (Waldwick), 5-3. Blue Devil sophomore Mike Murphy (152-lbs), Cougar sophomore Shane Kanterman (195-lbs) and SPF Raider junior Rob Lerner (195-lbs) all lost in the first round. Delbarton freshman Lou Cerchio (160-lbs) placed sixth. Senior Pat Phillips (Brearley) placed fifth at 132-lbs.

## No. 5 Summit Defeats Cougar Boy Laxers

Luke DiNola netted six goals and two assists, and Dylan Sebastian netted three goals and four assists as the No. 5 Summit Hilltopper boys lacrosse team defeated the Cranford Cougars in Cranford on April 21. Also Mike Bonomo recorded three goals and an assist. Cougar Nate Caldwell netted a pair of goals and Andrew Cumen scored once. James Kosty had an assist and Drew Goldfeder won half of his face-offs.

Summit	6	3	6	1	16
Cranford	0	2	1	0	3



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**DIVING HOME SAFELY...Cougar pinch runner Jack Conley dives home safely in the third inning as Pioneer catcher Jeff Policarpio catches the relay.**

## Cranford Cougars Control Pesky N. Prov. Pioneers, 7-3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

tion. He was very effective today, which really helped us,” Coach McCaffery said. The Cougars scored first in the bottom of the first inning when Johnson singled to right field, Jaros followed with a single to right then after a double play, Silva looped an RBI double down the leftfield line. But the Pioneers scored once in the second. Dean Licari was hit-by-a-pitch. Bob Cushing singled to center but a relay throw home was way off the mark and Licari easily trotted home. Johnson drew a free pass and stole second to lead off the Cranford third inning. Lucca Limeira also drew a free pass and also stole second but when the throw was off course, Johnson dashed home to score. Silva stepped to the plate and lashed an RBI double to center. Trailing 3-1, the Pioneers got it going in the fifth. George Lordi wiggled a one-out single to right and Zach DeGeorge slashed a single past first. Chapman relieved and got the next batter to ground into a force out at second. Chapman’s fastball hit Jason Graham in the back then Licari drilled a two-run single to right, knotting the score. But in the Cranford fifth, Jaros lined a double down the right field line and Silva whacked his home run over the centerfield fence. “I was looking fast ball. I got a fast ball middle, in and that is my pitch to hit. That is the pitch I like to swing at,” he explained. There was, however, some discussion as to how the ball cleared the fence. “I thought it was a double in my opinion but I will take it. They just said it was a homer. That’s what the home plate umpire said,” Silva said. Two more Cougars scored in the sixth. Shane Van Dam walked, Gallagher took one on his back, Jake Carter walked and Johnson was also hit to earn an RBI. Jaros followed with an RBI sac fly to right. The Pioneers did manage to get two runners on base via hit batters in the seventh but Chapman got the final batter to ground out to second. “Last time we played New Providence we lost to them, so I know what they are capable of. They are a good program and in baseball, anybody can beat anybody any day,” Coach McCaffery emphasized. Defensively, Gallagher made a great diving play at shortstop that he converted to a putout. Sophomore Shea Grady, who initiated a double play in the first inning, made a smooth back-hand grab at second that also led to a putout. “I think we are great! I think we are really a contender to win it all this year. Just keep hitting, pitching, fielding and we will be fine,” Silva expressed.

New Providence	010	020	0	3
Cranford	012	022	x	7

## Baseball Blue Devils Down P-Burg, 13-2

Senior Chris Ho tossed a one-hitter, while striking out nine, walking three and hitting a batter as the visiting Westfield High School baseball team improved to 5-0 with a 13-2, five-inning victory over Phillipsburg on April 24. Jadon Edwards rapped a pair of singles, scored once and had three RBI, while Mike McKenna doubled, singled, had two RBI and scored once. Enzo Miserek singled, walked, had two RBI and scored twice. Jake Watson doubled, was hit-by-a-pitch and scored twice. Matt Melao singled twice, scored once, had two RBI and stole a base. Leo Mangiamiele doubled, had three RBI, scored twice and walked. Ian Gannaway walked and scored once. Jake Bencivenga was hit, walked and scored once. Ho was hit twice, scored twice and had an RBI.

More HS sports next page

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the following Ordinances were passed on first reading by the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, County of Union, New Jersey on the 20th day of April 2021, and that said Ordinances will be considered for final adoption at a meeting of the said Township Council to be held virtually and by remote means, on the 18th day of May 2021 at 6:00 p.m., at which time and place a public hearing will be held prior to final passage of said Ordinances and all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the same. Copies of said Ordinances can be obtained from the Township Clerk's Office at any time prior to final adoption at no cost to any member of the general public who requests same.

**ORDINANCE 2021-9**  
**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ALL CLASSES OF CANNABIS LICENSED BUSINESSES IN RESIDENTIAL AND DOWNTOWN ZONES ( R-1, R-2, R-2A, R-2B, R-2C, R-2D, R-3, R-3A, B-1, B-1A, B-2, P, C, ML-1, ML-2, ML-3, R-3B AND SC-1); PERMITTING THE OPERATION OF CANNABIS LICENSED BUSINESSES CLASSES 1-6 AND CONSUMPTION AREAS ONLY IN THE B-3 ( HIGHWAY BUSINESS ) ZONE; AND PERMITTING LICENSED CANNABIS BUSINESS CLASSES 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 6 ONLY IN THE M-1 AND M-2 ZONES WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS BY AMENDING CHAPTER 23 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS ENTITLED "ZONING" AND BY CREATING A NEW CHAPTER ENTITLED "ESTABLISHMENT OF CANNABIS TRANSFER AND USER TAX".**

BOZENA LACINA, RMC  
MUNICIPAL CLERK  
1 T - 04/29/21, The Times Fee: \$47.43

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD**  
**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with the ordinances of the Township of Cranford and the statutes of the State of New Jersey, and in order to comply with the Executive Orders signed by Governor Murphy and in an effort to follow best practices recommended by the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an application for development, Application No. ZBA-21-002 to be located in Zone R-1, on the premises known as 8 Georgia Street, Cranford, New Jersey, Block No. 456; Lot No. 13, has been submitted by Manuel Perez of 8 Georgia Street.

The development involves and requires the granting of relief from zoning requirements and any such other variances/waivers as may be required in order to allow:

Applicant is seeking to install an in-ground pool with 4 feet of pavers around it and a dry-well for drainage. In addition, applicant requests any other variances, waivers or relief that the Board may require. Due to impervious coverage, owner is required to ask for relief through a variance. There will also be a drywall installed for any storm drainage that would need to be required in case of drainage issues.

The Zoning Board will conduct a VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING on this matter on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:45 p.m. Residents who wish to participate in the virtual meeting for purposes of making a public comment or to participate in the scheduled public hearing can join with Google Meet at:

meet.google.com/hwc-mdbv-zco or by calling 1-406-905-1550 and entering PIN 998063405.

Any person or persons affected by this application will have an opportunity to present any objections to the proposed development. The Board does, however, have the right to exclude repetitious testimony.

All documents relating to this application are on file in the Zoning/Planning Office, Cranford Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016. The documents related to the application will be posted to the Zoning Board Webpage 10 days prior to the hearing at: <https://www.cranfordnj.org/zoning-board-adjustment>. Anyone interested in reviewing the application and supporting documents in-person, may contact the Board Secretary (Kathy Lenahan: Office: 908.709.7211; email: [k.lenahan@cranfordnj.org](mailto:k.lenahan@cranfordnj.org); however, all such review requests are accommodated by appointment only. There will be no in-person review of the related documents, in the event that the Municipal Building is closed due to the on-going public health emergency. The documents related to this application may be sent by electronic means upon request to the Board Secretary or to counsel for the applicant.

AGAIN, THIS HEARING WILL BE A VIRTUAL HEARING VIA GOOGLE MEET

Applicant  
Manuel Perez  
8 Georgia Street  
Cranford, New Jersey 07016  
1 T - 04/29/21, The Leader Fee: \$63.75

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## Local High School Sports Shorts:

### Cougars Top Summit Hilltoppers, 4-3, Dayton Lady Bulldogs, 6-2, in Softball

With the game tied 3-3 after five innings, Sophia DeMarco stepped on the mound and held the Summit Hilltoppers scoreless for three innings, while the Cranford High School softball team scored once in the top of the eighth to claim a 4-3 victory in Summit on April 19. DeMarco also doubled, singled and had two RBI.

On April 21, senior Morrigan Gardiner struck out 11 Lady Bulldogs, while walking six in four and two-thirds innings, and DeMarco relieved for the remainder of the game, adding a pair of strikeouts, in a 6-2 victory over Jonathan Dayton in Cranford.

Against the Hilltoppers, senior Liz McCaffery tripled and scored twice. Gardiner, who pitched the first five

innings, singled twice, and Giulia Olear singled twice, scored once and had an RBI. Ava Manfra walked and scored once. Mia Markase had an RBI single. Emma Grace Pachkowski and Maddy DeLong both singled.

Against the Bulldogs, Pachkowski had a double, two RBI, walked once and swiped a base. Olear singled and scored twice. Emma Ingraham singled, scored once and had an RBI. Manfra and McCaffery both scored once and stole a base. DeMarco had an RBI single and scored once. Gardiner rapped a single. Kaya Mahy did all the scoring for the Bulldogs with a home run and a double.

Cranford	100	020	01	4
Summit	100	110	00	3
Dayton	100	100	0	2
Cranford	100	041	x	6

### Cougar Nine Unloads on Hilltoppers, 10-0

Rob Salvatore tossed a two-hitter, walked one and struck out seven as the Cranford High School baseball team shut out Summit, 10-0, in five innings on April 20. Marcus Johnson went 2-for-3 with two runs and an RBI. Ryan Jaros doubled, singled, scored once and stole a base and Antonio Silva whacked a home run and had two RBI.

Will Gallagher walked twice, scored twice, stole a base and had an RBI. Shea Grady and Jake Chapman both walked and scored once. Jake Carter had an RBI double and scored once. Lucas Limeira walked twice and had an RBI. Jack Conley stole a base and scored.



**BURROWING DOWN...**The Girls Softball League of Westfield 4th-5th grade Gophers don't plan to be in a hole against their opponents.

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE																																																
<b>TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS</b> <b>BOND ORDINANCE# 2021-5</b> <b>STATEMENT AND SUMMARY</b>  The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, has been finally adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey on April 20, 2021 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. Copies of the full ordinance are available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's office for members of the general public who request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:  <b>TITLE: BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AND NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,780,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.</b>  <b>The purposes, appropriations and bonds/notes authorized in this multipurpose bond ordinance are as follows:</b>  <b>SCHEDULE OF IMPROVEMENTS, PURPOSES AND AMOUNTS</b>  A. Undertaking of the following road improvements: (i) improvement of Jerusalem Road (Phase 1) and (ii) the 2021 Road Improvement Program at various locations, as set forth on a list on file with the Township Clerk and hereby approved and incorporated herein by this reference thereto. Depending upon the contract price and other exigent circumstances, and upon approval by the Township Council, there may be additions to or deletions from the list referred to in clause (ii) of the preceding sentence. It is hereby determined and stated that the roads being improved are of "Class B" or equivalent construction as defined in Section 22 of the Local Bond Law (Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated, as amended; the "Local Bond Law"). <table><tr><td>Appropriation and Estimated Cost</td><td>\$ 970,000</td></tr><tr><td>Down Payment Appropriated</td><td>\$ 46,200</td></tr><tr><td>Bonds and Notes Authorized</td><td>\$ 923,800</td></tr><tr><td>Period of Usefulness</td><td>10 years</td></tr></table> B. Acquisition of new additional or replacement equipment and machinery and a new automotive vehicle, including original apparatus and equipment, for the use of the Fire Department consisting of (i) turnout gear and (ii) a command vehicle. <table><tr><td>Appropriation and Estimated Cost</td><td>\$ 150,000</td></tr><tr><td>Down Payment Appropriated</td><td>\$ 7,150</td></tr><tr><td>Bonds and Notes Authorized</td><td>\$ 142,850</td></tr><tr><td>Period of Usefulness</td><td>5 years</td></tr></table> C. (i) Resurfacing and enlargement of the Southside Fire Station parking lot and (ii) acquisition of new additional or replacement equipment and machinery consisting of thermal imaging cameras for the use of the Fire Department. <table><tr><td>Appropriation and Estimated Cost</td><td>\$ 152,500</td></tr><tr><td>Down Payment Appropriated</td><td>\$ 7,270</td></tr><tr><td>Bonds and Notes Authorized</td><td>\$ 145,230</td></tr><tr><td>Period of Usefulness</td><td>10 years</td></tr></table>	Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 970,000	Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 46,200	Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 923,800	Period of Usefulness	10 years	Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 150,000	Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 7,150	Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 142,850	Period of Usefulness	5 years	Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 152,500	Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 7,270	Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 145,230	Period of Usefulness	10 years	<b>TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS</b> <b>BOND ORDINANCE# 2021-5</b> <b>STATEMENT AND SUMMARY</b>  The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, has been finally adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey on April 20, 2021 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. 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### Raiders Top Millburn In Boys Lacrosse, 13-5

Mikey Kloeffer scored four goals and added an assist, Chase Alber netted three goals and Sandro Frias added two goals and two assists to lead the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys lacrosse team way past Millburn, 13-5, on April 20. Matt Power scored twice, Jake Monroy had a goal and an assist and Tim Paprocki scored once. Alex Werkheiser had an assist and Ethan Filler scooped seven ground balls. Goalkeepers Sam Oross and Alex Lo had five and four saves, respectively.

### Blue Devil Nine Bombs Brearley Bears, 22-7

Enzo Miserek whacked a home run, tripled, drove in three runs, scored three times and stole a base, and Mike McKenna had two hits, four RBI and scored twice as the Westfield High School baseball team bombarded the hosting Brearley Bears, 22-7, in five innings on April 22. Jake Bencivenga went 3-for-4 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored, and Ian Gannaway also went 3-for-4 with a triple, three RBI and two runs scored for the Blue Devils.

Jake Watson singled, walked twice, scored four times, had an RBI and swiped a base. Leo Mangiamele singled, walked twice, scored three times and had three RBI. Owen Callahan went 2-for-3 with two RBI and two runs scored. Jadon Edwards singled, walked twice, scored twice and had two RBI. Chris Ho singled, walked, scored twice and had an RBI. Chris Iacoponi started on the mound for the Blue Devils and was relieved by Brandon Tso with two outs in the second. Mizerek stepped to the mound and tossed the final three innings. Matt Simms doubled and had four RBI for the Bears.

Westfield	482	17	22
Brearley	061	00	7



**CREATING A STIR...**The Girls Softball League of Westfield 6th-8th grade Hurricanes plan to create quite a stir this season.

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE								
D. Acquisition of new information technology equipment consisting of computer upgrade equipment for the use of various Township departments, offices and agencies. <table><tr><td>Appropriation and Estimated Cost</td><td>\$ 35,000</td></tr><tr><td>Down Payment Appropriated</td><td>\$ 1,670</td></tr><tr><td>Bonds and Notes Authorized</td><td>\$ 33,330</td></tr><tr><td>Period of Usefulness</td><td>5 years</td></tr></table>	Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 35,000	Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 1,670	Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 33,330	Period of Usefulness	5 years	
Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 35,000								
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 1,670								
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 33,330								
Period of Usefulness	5 years								
E. Acquisition of new additional or replacement equipment and machinery and a new automotive vehicle, including original apparatus and equipment, for the use of the Department of Public Properties ("DPP") consisting of (i) a pickup truck with liftgate and snow plow and (ii) dump truck bodies. <table><tr><td>Appropriation and Estimated Cost</td><td>\$ 66,000</td></tr><tr><td>Down Payment Appropriated</td><td>\$ 3,150</td></tr><tr><td>Bonds and Notes Authorized</td><td>\$ 62,850</td></tr><tr><td>Period of Usefulness</td><td>5 years</td></tr></table>	Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 66,000	Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 3,150	Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 62,850	Period of Usefulness	5 years	
Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 66,000								
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 3,150								
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 62,850								
Period of Usefulness	5 years								
F. Acquisition of new additional or replacement equipment and machinery consisting of a backhoe loader for the use of the DPP. <table><tr><td>Appropriation and Estimated Cost</td><td>\$ 98,000</td></tr><tr><td>Down Payment Appropriated</td><td>\$ 4,670</td></tr><tr><td>Bonds and Notes Authorized</td><td>\$ 93,330</td></tr><tr><td>Period of Usefulness</td><td>15 years</td></tr></table>	Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 98,000	Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 4,670	Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 93,330	Period of Usefulness	15 years	
Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 98,000								
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 4,670								
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 93,330								
Period of Usefulness	15 years								
G. Acquisition of new additional or replacement equipment and machinery consisting of mowers for Scotch Hills Country Club for the use of Parks and Recreation. <table><tr><td>Appropriation and Estimated Cost</td><td>\$ 100,500</td></tr><tr><td>Down Payment Appropriated</td><td>\$ 4,790</td></tr><tr><td>Bonds and Notes Authorized</td><td>\$ 95,710</td></tr><tr><td>Period of Usefulness</td><td>15 years</td></tr></table>	Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 100,500	Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 4,790	Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 95,710	Period of Usefulness	15 years	
Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 100,500								
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 4,790								
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 95,710								
Period of Usefulness	15 years								
H. Acquisition of new automotive vehicles, including original apparatus and equipment, consisting of SUVs for the use of the Police Department. <table><tr><td>Appropriation and Estimated Cost</td><td>\$ 148,000</td></tr><tr><td>Down Payment Appropriated</td><td>\$ 7,240</td></tr><tr><td>Bonds and Notes Authorized</td><td>\$ 140,760</td></tr><tr><td>Period of Usefulness</td><td>5 years</td></tr></table>	Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 148,000	Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 7,240	Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 140,760	Period of Usefulness	5 years	
Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 148,000								
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 7,240								
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 140,760								
Period of Usefulness	5 years								
I. Acquisition of new traffic calming signs and signals, and undertaking of traffic calming improvements at various locations, for pedestrian safety. <table><tr><td>Appropriation and Estimated Cost</td><td>\$ 60,000</td></tr><tr><td>Down Payment Appropriated</td><td>\$ 2,860</td></tr><tr><td>Bonds and Notes Authorized</td><td>\$ 57,140</td></tr><tr><td>Period of Usefulness</td><td>10 years</td></tr></table>	Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 60,000	Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 2,860	Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 57,140	Period of Usefulness	10 years	
Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 60,000								
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 2,860								
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 57,140								
Period of Usefulness	10 years								
Aggregate Appropriation and Estimated Cost Aggregate Down Payment Appropriated Aggregate Amount of Bonds and Notes Authorized <b>Grants (if any) Appropriated: \$-0-</b> <b>Section 20 Costs: \$76,000</b> <b>Useful Life: 9.43 years</b>	\$1,780,000 \$5,000 \$1,695,000								

BOZENA LACINA  
Township Clerk  
Township of Scotch Plains  
County of Union  
State of New Jersey  
Fee: \$193.80  
1 T - 04/29/21, The Times

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**WESTFIELD**  
Thursday, April 22, a resident of the 1100 block of Rahway Avenue reported being a victim of identity theft and fraud. The victim stated that one or more unknown suspects used his identity and filed an unemployment claim with the New Jersey Department of Labor. He was alerted to this fraudulent activity after receiving a notification from his current employer. The victim suffered no monetary loss as a result of this fraudulent claim.

Friday, April 23, a resident of the 700 block of First Street reported being a victim of identity theft and fraud. The victim stated that her personal information was used to commit tax fraud. She received correspondence from the Internal Revenue Service informing her that someone had filed a claim in her name with a proposed income of \$33,362. According to the victim, she was never employed by the company listed on tax documents and she did not file this IRS claim. No monetary loss resulted from this fraudulent income-tax claim.

Saturday, April 24, Richard Devino, 20, of Kenilworth was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) in the area of East Broad Street and Wychview Drive, pursuant to a motor vehicle violation. Devino was transported to police headquarters for processing and later released to a sober adult.

Saturday, April 24, a victim stated that while they were attending the Earth Day event located at the south-side train station lot, unknown individuals stole their Radio Flyer wagon along with a beige tote bag. The victim stated that the value of the items is \$150.

Sunday, April 25, a resident of the 500 block of Topping Hill Road reported that a suspect entered their unlocked motor vehicle. The suspect then stole two garage-door openers from the unlocked vehicle. Each garage-door opener is valued at \$10. The total amount of the theft was \$20. There were multiple incidents in the area of this motor vehicle burglary. A suspect, described by police as a juvenile from Newark, was later arrested in the area and is believed to be involved in this incident.

Sunday, April 25, a resident of the 500 block of Topping Hill Road reported that a suspect attempted to enter their locked motor vehicle while it was parked in their driveway. This attempt was captured on surveillance video. Entry was not made and no damage occurred. A juvenile was arrested and believed to be involved in this incident as well as others.

Sunday, April 25, an attempted motor vehicle burglary was reported on the 800 block of Kimball Avenue. While responding to the area of reported burglaries to motor vehicles, a police officer located the suspect vehicle. The officer observed the driver

of the suspect vehicle attempt to gain access to the victim's vehicle; however, the vehicle was locked. The suspect vehicle then attempted to flee the area, but could not. The driver of the vehicle fled on foot; however, the officer arrested the passenger in the vehicle, a juvenile, with the assistance of another officer.

Sunday, April 25, a resident of the 500 block of Topping Hill Road reported that one or more unknown suspects entered their motor vehicle. The vehicle was left unlocked and parked in their driveway. The victim stated that no items were stolen from the vehicle. This incident appears to be related to several other burglaries to vehicles and items stolen from vehicles. There were no arrests pertaining to this exact incident at press time.

Sunday, April 25, a resident of Topping Hill Road reported observing suspects entering motor vehicles and committing burglaries to these vehicles. As police arrived in the area, Kimball Turn, they observed the suspects in the suspect vehicle. The vehicle was subsequently stopped, with one occupant fleeing on foot. The second occupant attempted to flee on foot, but was apprehended by police. This suspect was a juvenile from Newark. The juvenile was later charged with receiving stolen property, as the vehicle he was in was stolen from Elizabeth. The juvenile also was charged with obstructing the administration of law by fleeing on foot. The juvenile was later released on a summons for a future appearance in Essex County Superior Court.

Sunday, April 25, a resident of the 500 block of Highland Avenue reported that their motor vehicle was stolen from their driveway. The vehicle was unlocked with the keys inside at the time of the theft. The vehicle is described as a 2020 Lexus RX, blue in color, valued at approximately \$50,000. There were no suspects at press time.

Sunday, April 25, a resident of the 500 block of Wychwood Road reported that their motor vehicle was burglarized. The vehicle was parked and unlocked in the victim's driveway. The victim reported no items stolen from the vehicle. This incident is related to several other burglaries and items stolen from vehicles.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY**  
**CHANCERY DIVISION**  
**UNION COUNTY**  
**DOCKET NO: F-000978-21**  
**FILE NO: 51333-862**  
**NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS**  
**STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO VENUS GILES, HER HEIRS, DEVISEES AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR OR ANY OF THEIR SUCCESSORS IN RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST**

YOU ARE HEREBY summoned and required to serve upon the Law Offices of Goldenberg, Mackler, Sayegh, Mintz, Pfeffer, Bonchi & Gill, A Professional Corporation, Attorneys for the Plaintiff, whose address is 660 New Road, First Floor, Northfield, New Jersey 08225, an answer to the Complaint filed in a civil action in which Phoenix Funding, Inc. is plaintiff and Venus Giles, her heirs, devisees and personal representatives and their or any of their successors in right, title and interest, et al. are defendants pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey within 35 days after April 29, 2021, exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the rules of Civil Practice and Procedure. You are further advised that if you cannot afford an attorney, you may call the Legal Services Office in the county where you live or the Legal Services of New Jersey Statewide Hotline at 1-888-LSNJ-LAW (1-888-576-5529). If you do not have an attorney and are not eligible for free legal assistance, you may obtain a referral to an attorney by calling one of the Lawyer Referral Services. The names and telephone numbers of such agencies are as follows: Lawyer Referral Services: (908)353-4715, Legal Service: (908)354-4340.

THIS ACTION has been instituted for the purpose of foreclosing Tax Sale Certificate #2018-0029 dated April 19, 2018 [an apparent error] but acknowledged December 7, 2018 made by Rich Lorentzen, Collector of Taxes of the City of Rahway, County of Union and State of New Jersey, to Phoenix Funding, Inc. and covers real estate at 535 East Milton Avenue, in the City of Rahway, County of Union and State of New Jersey, known as lot 10, Block 335, as shown on the Tax Assessment Map and Tax Map duplicate of the City of Rahway. Said tax sale certificate was recorded in the Clerk's Office of Union County on January 15, 2019, in book 14525, page 0998, as instrument #668118.

YOU, VENUS GILES, are made a defendant in the above entitled action because you are the record owner of the property. YOU, HEIRS, DEVISEES AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF VENUS GILES, AND THEIR OR ANY OF THEIR SUCCESSORS IN RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST, AND EACH OF you are made a defendant in the entitled action because Venus Giles, died intestate on February 10, 2014, and no estate has been found to date. Therefore, plaintiff joined Venus Giles, her heirs, devisees and personal representatives and their or any of their successors in right, title and interest as party defendants.

The nature of which and the reason set forth with particularity in the Complaint, a copy of which will be furnished you on request addresses to the attorneys of the plaintiff at the above address.

Dated: April 29, 2021  
MICHELLE M. SMITH, Clerk  
Superior Court of New Jersey  
GOLDENBERG, MACKLER, SAYEGH, MINTZ, PFEFFER, BONCHI & GILL  
660 New Road, First Floor  
Northfield, New Jersey 08225  
(609) 646-0222  
1 T - 04/29/21, The Leader Fee: \$81.60



## Letters to the Editor

### Share Your Vaccine Selfie Now Says Cranford Deputy Mayor

You can have a major impact to end the Covid-19 pandemic. Yes, you.

Over the past 14 months, we've witnessed the bravery and selflessness of our medical professionals and first responders. The brightest minds have been working on vaccines, treatments, and preventative measures. We've seen countless neighbors helping neighbors, and sacrifices large and small to keep one another safe. Now you need to step up and tell the world you've been vaccinated.

Across the United States, everyone over 16 is now eligible for the vaccine. Amazingly, a quarter of the U.S. population is fully vaccinated, and we are on track to have around half of all adults in America fully vaccinated by this time next month. Here in New Jersey, we are among the top states in terms of doses administered daily and percentage of residents who have received at least a first dose, or are fully vaccinated.

While it can still be difficult to secure a vaccine appointment, we are quickly approaching the pivot point where the constraint on our recovery will not be the supply of vaccine, but individual willingness to take it.

That is where you come in. Vaccine hesitancy and skepticism are pervasive forces. They feed on fear, misinformation, and ignorance. Scientific studies, public awareness campaigns, and government officials can only do so much to convince people.

You, however, touch many lives, more than you probably realize. Family, friends, neighbors, friends on Facebook you haven't actually seen in years, and followers on Twitter and Instagram you will never meet. Sharing your vaccine story is powerful proof that taking the vaccine is important and safe. As more and more people share that they are vaccinated, it helps set the expectation that getting vaccinated is the right thing to do and everyone is doing it, subtly encouraging others to as well.

So, if you haven't yet, get your shot. There are many tools to help (@C19VaxxUpdates on Twitter helped me land my appointment). Then, share that selfie and tell the world you've been vaccinated. It is hopefully the last thing we do alone, yet all together, to end this pandemic.

**Brian Andrews**  
Deputy Mayor, Cranford

### Westfield Rated 'Worst Small City to Start a Business'

We have lived in Westfield for many decades and, until recent years, believed its downtown was a key attraction. On our first trip to downtown for dinner in over a year, after vaccination permitted us to safely escape what amounted to Covid house arrest, it was a shock to see all the vacant or closed stores. From that walk around town, "This looks like a dying town" does not seem too out of line. For years there just have not been the Mom and Pop or otherwise unique stores to browse in. Can a large retail base survive on hair salons, financial institutions, restaurants and health care places?

Imagine my surprise to return home from dinner and see a news story that WalletHub put Westfield dead last in a nationwide list of 1,337 "Best & Worst Small Cities to Start a Business". Having been a patron of Woof Gang Bakery, which recently moved to Cranford, their comment about their rent being raised "substantially" was interesting. Rents have been a perennial problem in Westfield. We loved to shop in Periwinkle's years ago, before they moved to Cranford. If rent increases drive up the costs of an already high fixed cost business and online shopping, Covid and Covid-related State edicts drive traffic down, the result is predictable.

We are not confident in the outcome of the town's partnership with

Streetworks Development to redevelop the vacant Lord & Taylor property and the train station parking lots. Mixed use residential and retail would add more retail capacity, when it appears that we already have too much. Fully residential development would increase the town's population and possibly improve foot traffic downtown, but might add more children to the schools, with the potential for tens of millions of dollars required for school construction. (A publicly mentioned decline in school enrollment this year may partly reflect the fact that families can go to private schools to find full time in-person instruction, not available in public schools.)

There may be no good solution for the problems of our downtown. However, the situation appears to never have been worse and a great deal of the town's surplus funds has been spent over the last several years, that might have been helpful to still have now. The condition of our downtown and what we are getting for incremental spending will be the issues that we will be most interested in hearing about from Mayor Brindle and JoAnn Neylan in the coming Mayoral campaign.

**Jeff Bash**  
Westfield



**CLEANING UP...**On April 24, on the last day of Earth Week, the Garwood Democratic Club launched its first cleanup as part of its adoption of North Avenue (Route 28) through the NJDOT Adopt a Highway program which the Club registered with in 2019. The club picked up seven bags of litter and recycling, with cigarette butts being by far the single most item. Those interested in assisting in future North Avenue cleanups are encouraged to contact the Garwood Democratic Club.



### GOP Candidates Comment on Westfield's WalletHub Rating

This has been an eye-opening and frankly embarrassing week for our community, after multiple news outlets reported on a national study that cited Westfield as the worst small town in America to start a business.

Westfield is a special place that has long been defined by our attractive downtown, and the unfortunate reality now is that our local economy is failing. While it should not take a bad news cycle to spark change, hopefully this can serve as the motivation for us to act.

For those who have not seen it, a recent study by WalletHub looked at over 20 different metrics to determine the best and worst small towns in America to start a small business. Unfortunately, Westfield came in dead last out of 1,337 cities.

Additionally, the New Jersey Senate Budget Committee singled out Westfield as an example of abusing Covid-19 grant monies distributed by the state for small business relief. Senator Sam Thompson wrote, "Westfield's agency was given money to waste on frivolous expenditures. Their funded requests included: purchasing 3,000 canvas tote bags emblazoned with the agency's logo; buying new 'canvas covers for parkettes'; hiring a New York City-based consultant at a proposed cost of more than \$200 per hour; and renting a storefront for a holiday greeting office."

The fact is there are over 55,000 square feet of vacancies in our downtown, not counting Lord & Taylor. The abandoned stores and constant turnover of new business are obvious to

anyone who passes through. We acknowledge that the private sector and specifically small businesses have shouldered the majority of the pain as a result of Covid-19; however, it appears as if competing downtowns such as Cranford and Summit are not struggling nearly as much as Westfield.

When Mayor Brindle ran for office, she said her top priority was revitalizing our downtown. While she may have tried to make a difference, her approach has simply failed. She has ignored concrete, well thought-out solutions in favor of splashy events and quick fixes. Her frivolous actions have drained 60 percent of the town's surplus when what our local economy needed was long-term investment in our small businesses.

It is time for a change in local leadership in Westfield. The mayor and council are elected to serve as our leaders, not an exclusive party planning committee that doles out the tough decisions to commissions. We are a group of serious, innovative leaders with the experience and readiness to make a difference and put Westfield back at the top, rather than dead last in the country.

**JoAnn Neylan, Candidate for Westfield Mayor**  
**Amanda Como, Candidate for Westfield Town Council Ward 1**  
**Denise Garrett, Candidate for Westfield Town Council Ward 2**  
**Shawn Mullen, Candidate for Westfield Town Council Ward 3**  
**James Restivo, Candidate for Westfield Town Council Ward 4**

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
<b>NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</b> <b>DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT, BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES</b> <b>1035 PARKWAY AVENUE, PO BOX 600</b> <b>TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625</b>  Notice is hereby given that bid proposals will be received from Bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:7-35.2 via the Internet until 10:00:59 A.M. on <b>05/13/21</b> , downloaded, and publicly opened and read, in the CONFERENCE ROOM-A, 1st Floor F & A Building, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; for:  <b>ITS Maintenance Job Order Contract North-2021; 100% State Funded</b> <b>UPC NO: N/A; DP NO: 21600</b>  Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 (P.L. 1975, c. 127); N.J.A.C. 17:27. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.19, contractors must provide a Certification and Disclosure of Political Contribution Form prior to contract award. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, contractor must submit the Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue Business Registration of the contractor and any named subcontractors prior to contract award or authorization. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.51, contractors must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance at the time of bid. Plans, specifications, and bidding information for the proposed work are available at Bid Express website <a href="http://www.bidx.com">www.bidx.com</a> . You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe, follow the instructions on the web site. Fees apply to downloading documents and plans and bidding access. The fee schedule is available on the web site. All fees are directly payable to Bid Express. Plans, specifications, and bidding information may be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contracting organizations at our Design Field Offices at the following locations: 200 Sterli Court Mt. Arlington, New Jersey 07856 973-601-6690 One Executive Campus Rt 70 West Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002 856-486-6623 <b>3 T - 04/22/21, 04/29/21 &amp; 05/06/21, The Leader Fee: \$165.24</b>	<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b>  <b>STATE OF NEW JERSEY</b> <b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL</b> <b>WINERY SALESROOM</b>  Take notice that Sharrott Estate Winery, LLC, trading as Sharrott Winery has applied to the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for a Winery Salesroom to be situated at Turning Point of Westfield 137 Central Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey 07090. Objections, if any, should be made immediately in writing to the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, P.O. Box 087, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0087. Sharrott Estate Winery, LLC 370 South Egg Harbor Road Blue Anchor, New Jersey 08037 <b>2 T - 04/22/21</b> <b>&amp; 04/29/21, The Leader Fee: \$37.74</b>

PUBLIC NOTICE
<b>BOROUGH OF GARWOOD</b>  <b>ORDINANCE NO. 21-05</b>  <b>CALENDAR YEAR 2021 ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)</b>  <b>STATEMENT</b>  TAKE NOTICE THAT ORDINANCE NO. 21-05, WAS PASSED ON THE FINAL READING AFTER PUBLIC HEARING AT A MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD ON, THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021  ATTEST: Christina Ariemma Municipal Clerk <b>1 T - 04/29/21, The Leader Fee: \$16.32</b>
PUBLIC NOTICE
<b>UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS</b> <b>NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD</b> <b>Date Adopted: 04/22/2021</b>  Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of County Commissioners 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.  <b>RESOLUTION NO: 2021-316</b> <b>amending (Resolution No. 200-814)</b> <b>AWARDED TO: Lum, Drasco &amp; Positan, LLC of Roseland, New Jersey</b> <b>SERVICES TO:</b> for legal representation in regards to Redevelopment Projects in the City of Elizabeth, New Jersey <b>COSTS:</b> in an amount not to exceed: <b>\$50,000.00</b> for a total sum not to exceed: <b>\$100,000.00</b> James E. Pelletiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners <b>1 T - 04/29/21, The Leader Fee: \$22.44</b>
PUBLIC NOTICE
<b>UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS</b> <b>NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD</b> <b>Date Adopted: 04/22/2021</b>  Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of County Commissioners 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.  <b>RESOLUTION NO: 2021-306</b> <b>amending (Resolution No. 2020-893)</b> <b>AWARDED TO: Various Agencies</b> <b>SERVICES:</b> for the purpose of proving services to Union County residents 60 years of age or older and/or their caregiver <b>PERIOD:</b> January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021 <b>COSTS:</b> contract amount by not to exceed <b>\$2,669,089.00</b> for a new total of not to exceed: <b>\$4,642,891.00</b> James E. Pelletiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners <b>1 T - 04/29/21, The Leader Fee: \$23.97</b>

PUBLIC NOTICE
<b>UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS</b> <b>NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD</b> <b>Date Adopted: 04/22/2021</b>  Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of County Commissioners 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.  <b>RESOLUTION NO: 2021-301</b> <b>AWARDED TO: ShopRite of Union, New Jersey</b> <b>SERVICES TO:</b> for the purpose of providing food for the Union County of COVID-19 Emergency Food Distribution events <b>PERIOD:</b> April 23, 2021-June 30, 2021 <b>COSTS:</b> in an amount not to exceed: <b>\$515,000.00</b> James E. Pelletiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners <b>1 T - 04/29/21, The Leader Fee: \$21.42</b>
PUBLIC NOTICE
<b>UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS</b> <b>NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD</b> <b>Date Adopted: 04/22/2021</b>  Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of County Commissioners 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.  <b>RESOLUTION NO: 2021-302</b> <b>AWARDED TO: Gargiulo Produce, Hillside, New Jersey</b> <b>SERVICES TO:</b> for the purpose of providing food for the Union County of COVID-19 Emergency Food Distribution events <b>PERIOD:</b> April 23, 2021-June 30, 2021 <b>COSTS:</b> in an amount not to exceed: <b>\$300,000.00</b> James E. Pelletiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners <b>1 T - 04/29/21, The Leader Fee: \$21.42</b>
PUBLIC NOTICE
<b>UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS</b> <b>NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD</b> <b>Date Adopted: 04/22/2021</b>  Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of County Commissioners 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.  <b>RESOLUTION NO: 2021-317</b> <b>AWARDED TO: Renaud &amp; DeAppolonio, LLC, Cranford, New Jersey</b> <b>SERVICES TO:</b> to represent Director Ronald Charles in the matter entitle Michael David Vancich v. UC, et als, <b>COSTS:</b> in an amount not to exceed: <b>\$25,000.00</b> James E. Pelletiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners <b>1 T - 04/29/21, The Leader Fee: \$21.42</b>

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## Letters to the Editor

### Mayor Losardo Gives Township Update

The most important responsibility the Town Council has each year is to vote on a municipal budget that meets our residents' needs without burdening them financially. For over half a decade, the Scotch Plains budget has been relatively flat, and I am proud that this year we are following this belt-tightening trend.

Despite sharp, but unavoidable increases in the cost of recycling and state pension payments, we have worked hard to ensure that our budget strikes the right balance between expenditures and appropriations.

With an average tax increase of less than three dollars a month, we are expanding and improving as many services as possible, including dedicating more money toward road paving, improvements and design projects than in any of the last 10 annual budgets.

Residents will recognize these improvements at Kramer, Jerseyland and Frazee Parks, as well as at the Scotch Hills Golf Course. We are also purchasing a new snow plow for our Department of Public Works to help keep our roads safe.

In the long term, the only way to keep taxes down is to broaden our tax base through responsible development. If you did not get a chance to see this month's Downtown Redevelopment meeting, I urge you to check it out here: <https://www.facebook.com/ScotchPlainsTwp/videos/1397296227289613>.

As you will see, downtown Scotch Plains will soon break ground on more development projects than we have had in the past quarter century.

These projects will enhance currently vacant or underused properties and provide new spaces for residents to shop and live. Every project has been painstakingly reviewed to ensure it meshes with the character of our town and its value to residents.

As my generation works to make the best possible town for our children to inherit, the most inspiring event I witnessed this month was seeing how engaged the next generation already is.

The Stop Asian Hate Rally held on the Village Green on April 17 was organized by students in response to recent attacks on Asian-Americans across the country. In attendance was a large and diverse crowd calling us to find our shared humanity.

As awful as it sounds, as I write this, there have been 165 mass shootings in the United States since New Year's Day. These tragic events remind me that no one group has a monopoly on perpetuating hate. We cannot let the differences that distinguish us divide us. From the passion I saw in the crowd that day on the Scotch Plains Village Green, I am optimistic we will get there.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this great community as Mayor. It continues to be the honor of my life.

**Mayor Joshua Losardo**  
Scotch Plains

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The Law Offices Of  
**Lisa M. Black, LLC**  
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[lmb.blacklaw@gmail.com](mailto:lmb.blacklaw@gmail.com)  
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## Open Quimby Returns to Downtown Westfield April 30

WESTFIELD – Open Quimby, Downtown Westfield’s popular pedestrian plaza, will return for another season, featuring enhanced aesthetics, expanded outdoor dining and retail space, and entertainment for all ages. The season will kick off on Friday, April 30, at 5:00PM with a ribbon cutting ceremony and reception hosted by Mayor Shelley Brindle and members of the Town Council, including DWC liaison Dawn Mackey; the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) Executive Board, including Chair Patricia Hanigan and Executive Director Bob Zuckerman; and downtown property and business owners.

Open Quimby was created in 2020 as the result of the restrictions placed on retail and restaurant establishments arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. “The DWC believed that it was critically important last year to provide outdoor space in our downtown to allow residents and visitors to dine outside and safely congregate in small groups,” said Mr. Zuckerman. “While some of those restrictions have been eased, the pedestrian plaza concept proved so popular that the DWC voted to bring the plaza back again this year.”

This year’s version of Open Quimby will be significantly enhanced from last year, with the advent of beautiful new tents for outdoor dining and activities, state-of-the-art bistro lighting that will illuminate the plaza, and aesthetic features such as a newly in-

stalled sign pole displaying the distance between Quimby Street and local and international destinations.

“I am thrilled that Open Quimby is returning for another great season,” said Mayor Shelley Brindle. “Throughout the pandemic, our local businesses have shown such resiliency and dedication, and Open Quimby is a great community asset to assist in supporting them. I’m looking forward to welcoming residents and visitors to experience the fantastic dining and retail offerings of Downtown Westfield in this enhanced outdoor gathering space.”

In addition to expanded outdoor dining space, Open Quimby will feature a variety of entertainment and programming.

Live music will be performed on Friday and Saturday nights, weather permitting.

Sweet Sounds Downtown Music Festival returns on Tuesday nights from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in July and August, located in three socially-distanced locations (Quimby Street., Central Avenue, and Foundation Park on South Avenue West).

The Midday Madness Clue Hunt (Saturday, May 1) is a family-friendly activity that requires the players to decipher clues that lead them to various locations throughout Downtown Westfield. Register at WestfieldToday.com.

Westfield Wellness Week (May 14 to 21) will feature healthy choices from Downtown Westfield restaurants

and promotions from health and wellness businesses.

Weekend Fitness Classes (beginning Saturday, May 1): bring a mat, mask, and water to Quimby Street and enjoy an outdoor class from Satsang Yoga (10 a.m. on Sundays; register at [www.satsangyogastudio.com](http://www.satsangyogastudio.com)), Brassy Buddha Yoga (10 a.m. on Saturdays and 8:30 a.m. on Sundays; contact Brandi to register at [brandilook@gmail.com](mailto:brandilook@gmail.com)), or new local business Barre3 (9 a.m. on Saturdays; register at <https://linktr.ee/barre3westfield>).

Residents and visitors are reminded that, effective Friday, April 30, Quimby Street will become a one-way street, with cars moving in the direction from Central Avenue to Elm Street. One-way traffic will flow on this side of Quimby seven days a week. The eight non-angled parking spots on the north side of the street will be open seven days a week specifically for 15-minute curbside pickup and delivery vehicles only, which will be strictly enforced by the Westfield Police Department.

For more information on Open Quimby’s programming as the season unfolds, visit [westfieldtoday.com](http://westfieldtoday.com).

### Mountainside Teens Named as Finalists in Music Competition

AREA — Two local teens have earned recognition for her original substance use prevention song created for the Your Song! Your Voice! Shout Down Drugs New Jersey high school music competition, sponsored by the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey (PDFNJ), 95.9 WRAT and the New Jersey Broadcasters Association. The music competition’s virtual Prevention Concert will be held as an audio show on the Shout Down Drugs website ([www.ShoutDownDrugs.com](http://www.ShoutDownDrugs.com)) on Friday, May 7 at 5:30 p.m. and the winners to be announced live on air on 95.9 WRAT immediately following concert.

Lauren Gomez and Meg Smith of Governor Livingston High School are finalists in the statewide program, which challenges high school students to create original music with lyrics that contain peer-to-peer substance use prevention messages. They entered together as a musical group entitled Laugret with their original song, Bad Decisions/Bad Conditions. This year there were 14 finalists from seven different counties throughout the state. Online voting has been ongoing and will remain open through midnight on Thursday, May 6.

“This is the 17th year we have held this competition,” states Angelo Valente, PDFNJ’s Executive Director. “Today’s youth are going through some trying times right now, and hopefully these substance use prevention songs will inspire their peers with the messages they convey.”

“The New Jersey Broadcasters Association is honored to be a part of Your Song! Your Voice! Shout Down Drugs New Jersey music competition,” said Paul Rotella President and CEO of the New Jersey Broadcasters Association. “This is a great platform for these teens to showcase their talents and share these important messages.”

The first, second and third place winners will be announced live by Jimmy Steel, WRAT’s Creative Services Director and Afternoon Drive Host on 95.9 WRAT. The audio show will also remain online for listeners on the Shout Down Drugs website.



Photo Courtesy of Elisabeth Lynch Photography  
**PREPARE YE...**The Westfield High School Theatre Department presents *Godspell*. Tickets are on sale now for the virtual event, which will be streamed on Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1, at [westfieldperformingarts.org](http://westfieldperformingarts.org).

## The Westfield High School Theatre Department Presents *Godspell*

WESTFIELD – The Westfield High School (WHS) Theatre Department is pleased to virtually present *Godspell*, a musical written by visionary playwright John-Michael Tebelak with music by three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*). This pre-recorded virtual event will be streamed on Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at [westfieldperformingarts.org](http://westfieldperformingarts.org).

This celebrated rock opera was first produced on Broadway in 1971, where it broke new ground for its stage treatment of a story based on gospel. Throughout the musical, a small group of people help Jesus (played by Matthew Meixner) tell different parables by using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comic timing. In an eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, messages of kindness, tolerance, and love come vibrantly to life.

Most recognized for the international hit, “Day by Day,” *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including “Prepare Ye,” “Learn Your Lessons Well,” “All for the Best,” “All Good Gifts,” “Turn Back, O Man,” and “By My Side.”

“While there are obviously numerous ‘lessons’ in *Godspell*, our focus as a cast has been on the universal messages of the story. The significance of reestablishing a sense of community, treating other people with respect and dignity, and working together to resolve problems. Obviously, as we all work to return to some semblance of normal during the Covid pandemic, the message of community is one that greatly resonated with most of the members of our theatre department, who finally had the opportunity to perform together for the first

### Eighth Graders

#### Participate in Poetry Slam

EDISON – Part of last week’s Eighth Grade Summit at The Wardlaw+Hartridge School in Edison offered students an opportunity to share their voice through poetry. Twelve students participated in an afternoon poetry slam in the amphitheatre, including nine reciting original poems in a judged competition.

Julia Machado of Scotch Plains won the poetry slam for her original “Standards” about race and identity. Other individual poems were read by runner-up Jessie Grimes of South Plainfield, Vinay Karthik of Edison, Abigail Ibironke of Piscataway, Ancel DeJesus of Rahway, Ruhee Hegde of Edison, Emma Rothrock-Steinfeld of South Plainfield and Shourya Chhabra of Roselle Park.

time in over a year. In the musical, the full cast commits to the community as their characters learn life’s greatest lessons through stories and songs,” said Westfield High School Theatre Director Daniel Devlin. “We were grateful to have had both virtual and in-person, Covid-safe rehearsals, and to record parts of the musical together as a company. It has been a wonderful experience watching the students overcome the barriers and isolation that we have all been experiencing and coming together to safely and joyfully perform this optimistic and meaningful production.”

The cast includes: Matthew Meixner (Jesus), Evan Leone (John the Baptist/Judas), Olivia Ebel, Kayla Louison, Joshua Madera, Sarah Rappoport,

Sophia Rossetti, Sophie Tananbaum, McKenzie Waddell, and Ryan Williamson. The company includes: Sammy Bauer, Michael Bonner, Sierra Ciasco, Maeve Collins, Jeremy Dudzinski, Sophia Ermeta, Joey Gamba, Bella Jarecki, Rachel Klem, Skyler Lipkind, Olivia Mazzola, Caroline Morrelli, Max Russitano, Lucie Saint-Denis, Meredith Shepherd, Alyrie Silverman, Jessica Strauss, Chloe Walpole, and Ethan Young.

Due to the pandemic and the health precautions, WHS Theatre is sharing this pre-recorded performance as a streamed event. To buy a StreamPass, visit [westfieldperformingarts.org](http://westfieldperformingarts.org) to see the performance on Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m.

### Community Calendar

Brought to you by Trinitas Regional Medical Center



### Potato, Bacon and Egg Breakfast Bake

#### Ingredients:

- 1 package bacon
- ~20 mini yellow potatoes (or mini potatoes of your choice)
- 2 tablespoons butter (you’ll also use this melted butter to grease your cast iron skillet)

#### Directions:

- Sprinkle of Salt
- Sprinkle of Pepper
- ½ cup shredded cheddar cheese
- Preheat the oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Bake the bacon on a foil lined baking sheet for about 20 minutes or until nice and crispy. Remove from the oven and set aside. Feel free to move the bacon onto a paper towel lined plate to help remove some of the grease.
- Then, set the oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit as you’ll be using it again later.
- Bring a large pot of water to a boil.
- Add baby potatoes to boiling water and boil until soft to the touch (about 15-20 minutes)
- Remove potatoes and let cool for 5 minutes.
- Place the potatoes on a parch-



ment lined baking sheet and smash with the bottom of a glass until thin.

- Melt your butter and brush onto the smashed potatoes (don’t feel like you need to use all the butter, just make sure to lightly coat both sides of the potato). Sprinkle with salt and pepper.
- Place in the 425 degree oven and bake for ~20-25 minutes until golden brown and crispy.

Remove from the oven.

- Turn the oven down to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
- In a medium size bowl, whisk together 8 eggs.
- Grease a cast iron skillet with butter.
- Line the bottom of the cast iron skillet with the smashed potatoes. Crumble a few pieces of bacon on top. Pour the eggs on top. Then crumble a few more pieces of bacon on top (altogether, I used about

5 pieces of bacon). Add any leftover potatoes on top. Sprinkle shredded cheddar cheese and black pepper on top.

Put the cast iron skillet in the oven and bake for ~20 minutes until the eggs are fully cooked. Remove from the oven, slice and enjoy! (Store leftovers in an airtight container and heat up in the microwave).

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Story on page 7  
of The Westfield Leader

***BENCIVENGA BLASTS 3-RUN HOMER; GRANTZ FANS 8, ALLOWS 4 HITS; MISEREK 2 HITS, 2 RUNS***

# Baseball Blue Devils Muzzle Jonathan Dayton Bulldogs, 9-5

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

Senior shortstop Jake Bencivenga blasted a three-run home run in the first inning and senior pitcher Holden Grantz tossed six innings of four-hit ball while striking out eight as the Westfield High School baseball team muzzled the Jonathan Dayton Bulldogs, 9-5, in Westfield on April 20. Just the day before in another crossover game, the Blue Devils produced a 15-5 rout of

Oratory Prep, which included home runs from Jake Watson and Leo Mangiamele, and would play David Brearley on April 22.

"They did the crossover games first this year. When I saw a schedule like this, by all rights, we should pretty much win each of these games because we are a bigger school. We have much more depth. We got more pitch-

*Probitas Verus Honos*

ing than anybody, so if we are playing our number three pitcher against their number three, we will pick our three over their three any day because many times our third and fourth are as good as some of the smaller schools' number one and two," Blue Devil Head Coach Bob Brewster explained.

Against the Bulldogs, the Blue Devils scored all of their runs in the first four innings and totaled 12 hits (11 from the starting lineup) before bringing in their reserves to finish the game. Bencivenga finished 2-for-3 and stole a base. Leadoff hitter Enzo Mizerek went 2-for-3 with a walk, scored twice and stole a pair of

bases. Mizerek also swiped four bases against Oratory Prep. Matt Melao rapped an RBI double, walked and scored twice.

Grantz, who walked only two and hit a batter, confused his

opponents so much that all eight of his strikeout victims were caught looking.

"That's great! He's a solid pitcher. He wanted to finish the game but he was up to 90 (pitches). We said, 'No! We don't need it. We will go from there,' Coach Brewster expressed.

"My curveball felt good. My changeup was really good today. I felt good from the beginning. It was a beautiful day so it was good for my arm. Later in the game my slider was feeling really good," Grantz explained.

In the top of the first inning, Grantz did walk leadoff batter Justin Teixeira but a ground ball to second baseman Mike McKenna resulted in a second-to-first double play. The third out

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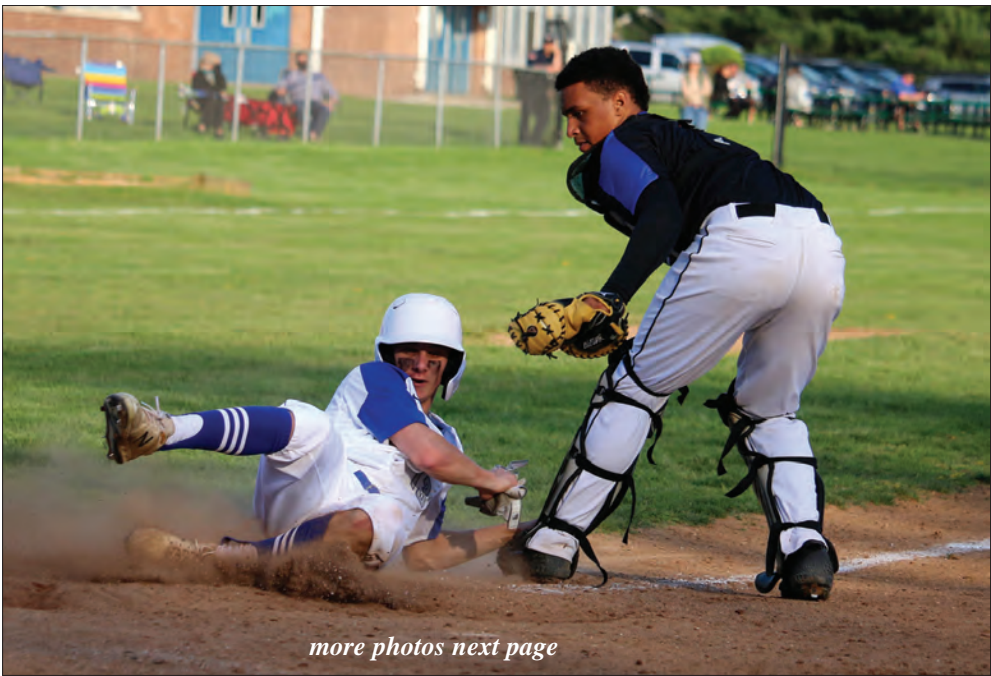
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# Baseball Blue Devils Muzzle Jonathan Dayton Bulldogs, 9-5

came when Tom DeSarno lined out to McKenna.

Miserek drew a walk to lead off the Westfield first then proceeded to swipe second and third. Senior Chris Ho drew a one-out free pass then Bencivenga got a hold of Logan Solomine's fastball and yanked it over the leftfield fence.

"There was two strikes. I wanted to put the ball in play. He threw me the ball right there and I just turned on it. Fastball," Bencivenga recalled.

Bencivenga's blast definitely provided Grantz with some cushion.

"That was very nice. We scored on them from the beginning. We got three home runs in two games. We got to get the bats going," Grantz commented.

"We got some exciting players. Jake Watson is one of the players who hit a home run yesterday and the sophomore

(Mangiamele) hit one. Both in their first varsity game hitting home runs," Coach Brewster added.

The Blue Devils scored twice in the second and it began with Mizerek's two-out single to right-center. Melao drilled an RBI double to center and Chris Ho poked an RBI single to center.

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Two more Blue Devils scored in the third to up the lead to 7-0. Mangiamele hammered a lead-off double to deep center. Jayden Edwards scorched an RBI single off the top of the first baseman's glove. McKenna wiggled a single into right then Edwards scored on Watson's RBI groundout to second.

In the Dayton fourth, Brady Rosenstock (2-for-4) scribbled a single past short. Kevin Lora was hit-by-a-pitch then Montrell Mayo-Smith hit a low liner that slipped under the diving right fielder's glove, resulting in a two-run double. In the Westfield fourth, Melao, who walked, and Bencivenga, who singled and swiped second, would respectively score on a throwing error and Ian Gannaway's RBI sacrifice fly.

Dayton added an unearned run in the fifth then Westfield nearly

answered. Watson wobbled an infield single, moved to second on Mizerek's single and attempted to score on Owen Callahan's single to left but he was thrown out at home. The Bulldogs added a pair of unearned runs in the seventh to finalize the scoring.

After a whole year of no baseball after that wonderful finish in 2019 when the eighth-seeded Blue Devils ran the table to defeat the Ridge Red Devils, 4-2, to claim their second straight North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 crown there was a sigh of relief to be back on the field.

"The feeling of being back is great. We just got to do what we got to do and hopefully we can still play and nothing ruins our season. It's nice to be out here

and playing ball with the kids that I have been playing with forever," Bencivenga said.

Grantz added, "Feels great after missing last season. I really wanted to get back out here and now to be a senior. This team's really good. Can't wait!"

"I told them, 'Guys we are still the defending sectional champions since 2018. I don't remember anyone ever winning three sectional championships in a row from our section. In the big schools, the talent is spread out all over the place. As long as we can keep getting good pitching! I think we've given up 10 runs in two games and eight are unearned runs. Yesterday we did it with our regulars making errors. Today it was our subs making errors," Coach Brewster said.

Probitas Verus Honos				
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Westfield	322	200	x	9





Baseball Blue Devils Muzzle Jonathan Dayton Bulldogs, 9-5







## Baseball Blue Devils Muzzle Jonathan Dayton Bulldogs, 9-5







*more photos next page*

## Cougar Softballers Turn Back Union Catholic Vikings, 17-1



*Story on page 7  
of The Westfield Leader*







## Cougar Softballers Turn Back Union Catholic Vikings, 17-1







## Cougar Softballers Turn Back Union Catholic Vikings, 17-1







## Raiders Overwhelm Morristown Beard in Boys Lacrosse, 16-2







*more photos next page*

## Raiders Overwhelm Morristown Beard in Boys Lacrosse, 16-2







## Raiders Overwhelm Morristown Beard in Boys Lacrosse, 16-2







## Blue Devils Pour it on in 6th; Beat UC Vikings in Softball, 12-2







## Blue Devils Pour it on in 6th; Beat UC Vikings in Softball, 12-2



*more photos next page*





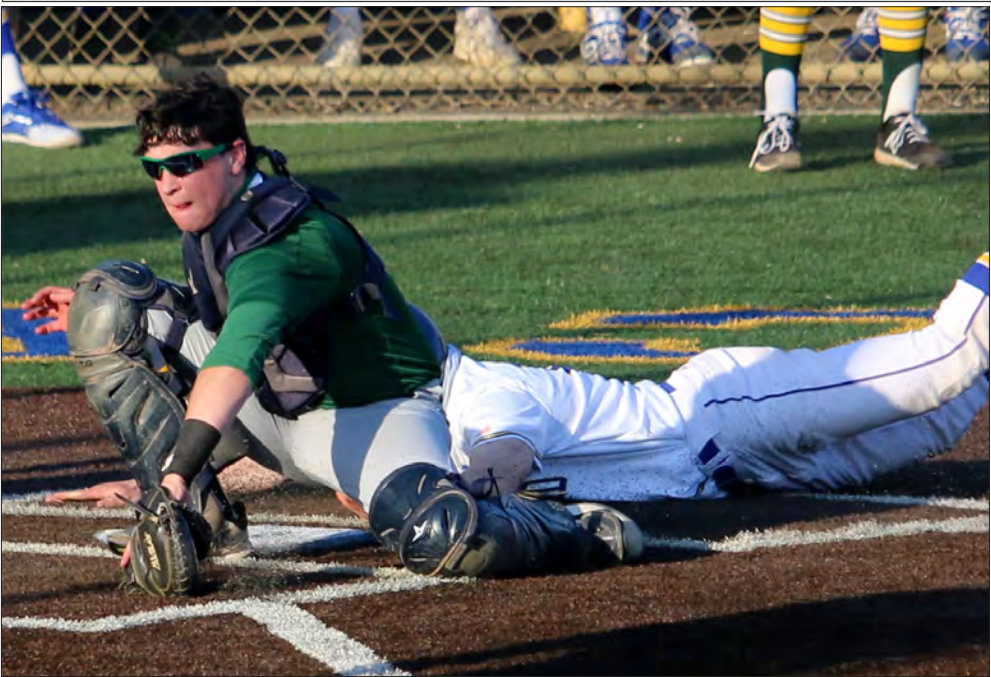
## Blue Devils Pour it on in 6th; Beat UC Vikings in Softball, 12-2







## No. 1 Cranford Cougars Control New Providence Pioneers, 7-3







## No. 1 Cranford Cougars Control New Providence Pioneers, 7-3

