

## Uptick in Covid Cases Reported

By JESSE WINTER  
For The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Westfield, like the rest of New Jersey, is feeling the effects of a Covid-19 resurgence, with the Westfield Board of Health reporting an uptick in cases during its August 2 meeting.

Board of Health Secretary and Director of the Westfield Regional Health Department Megan Avallone announced as of August 2, that for the month of July, Westfield has recorded 48 cases of Covid-19, up from 19 recorded cases in June.

“Putting it in perspective, even though it’s more than the month before, it’s still much less than July 2020, when we had 108 cases,” said Ms. Avallone. “But we are certainly seeing a slight uptick, as is the rest of the state and the nation.”

Moreover, Ms. Avallone noted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has classified Union County as having “substantial transmission” rates. Currently, 70 percent of Westfield residents, of all ages, have received at least one shot of a Covid-19 vaccination, reported Ms. Avallone, who plans on finalizing the numbers at the end of this week before they are submitted to Mayor Shelley Brindle.

Ms. Avallone was optimistic due to the high vaccination rates in Westfield and said the health department would continue its vaccination efforts in the month to come. A vaccination clinic is slated for Wednesday, August 11, at Town Hall, followed by another one to be held Thursday, August 19, at Garwood Borough Hall, and a third clinic scheduled for Saturday, August 21, at the Mountainside Pool. All vaccinations are free.

According to Ms. Avallone, there is increasing concern regarding the potential Covid-19 health impact on those children under the age of 18, with nine kids in New Jersey currently hospitalized due to the virus. “A larger number than we previously had,” noted Ms. Avallone.

Currently, 59 percent of kids ages 12 to 17 have received at least one vaccination shot, reported Ms. Avallone, who would like to see that number rise to 70 percent before kids get back to school in September.

Clarification regarding masking policy also was provided by the board of health, with Ms. Avallone reiterating that the board does not set policy, but merely advises governing entities like the municipality and the Westfield Board of Education.

“We will be providing guidance this year again, just like we did last year,” explained Ms. Avallone. “Ultimately, each school district determines what policy is best for their specific school community.”

According to Ms. Avallone, the board of health is waiting to see what the state health department advises in terms of policy heading into the next school year, with policies like mandatory masking currently under re-

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UP, UP, AND AWAY...The Westfield Rescue Squad provides demonstrations to kids, including lifting them up on a stretcher and into the ambulance at Westfield’s National Night Out this past Tuesday.

Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader

## Lack of Bag Distribution Sparks DWC Controversy

By LAUREN S. BARR  
For The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Last week, two articles appeared on newjerseyglobe.com regarding canvas bags that were purchased but not distributed by the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) using money from a Covid relief grant. The bags, according to a statement in the article from DWC Board Chair Patricia Hanigan, did not arrive on time to be handed out during the holiday shopping season.

The DWC is a Special Improvement District (SID), funded by a tax assessment on properties within its boundaries. It was established by town ordinance and has its own governing body appointed by the mayor and council, comprised of: one councilperson, two property owners, two business owners, two residents who neither own property nor operate a business in the SID, and two ex officio non-voting members. The DWC’s budget is approved by the mayor and council each year.

The grant, which was funded by the federal CARES Act, was part of a Main Street New Jersey Covid-19 Relief program administered by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and was originally reported in *The Westfield Leader* in November of 2020.

The grant application was filed on October 16, 2020, and according to Executive Director Bob Zuckerman, “We only had 10 days between when we received notice of the grant award and when we started our ambassador program and opened our visitors center.”

Westfield’s application and award totaled \$72,530. The DWC’s application specified the purchase of the bags for \$6,000, along with \$10,000 to rent an empty storefront to serve as a welcome and wrapping center; \$10,000 to hire ambassadors; free delivery service from local businesses to residents through Delivery Now for \$7,500, and \$20,000 for a retail market study. The grant specified that the bags were to be given out during the holiday shopping season and beyond.

More than 20 ambassadors and gift wrappers were hired by the DWC to hand out maps and masks, along with a free gift-wrapping service to shoppers during the holiday season. Among those employed were children of Mayor Shelley Brindle and Councilwoman Dawn Mackey, who both sit on the DWC board. Mayor Brindle is a non-voting ex-officio member of the board. The children employed

total \$976.50 of the \$12,527 spent on the ambassador program, according to documents received by *The Westfield Leader*. The purchase of the tote bags totaled more than \$8,000, also over the amount allocated in the grant, according to the documents.

“We had some surplus funds in last year’s budget due to a few events that we never produced due to Covid, so we appropriated some of that money to help pay for our entire holiday program,” Mr. Zuckerman stated in an email to *The Leader*.

In the grant application the DWC indicated that no member of the board of directors/trustees would receive any direct or indirect personal or monetary gain from the funding of the grant. When asked if the hiring of board members’ children was a violation of the grant use, the DCA told *The Leader*, “Without knowing all

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## Fate of Private Cemetery Is Still Unknown

By JESSE WINTER  
For The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — A piece of Westfield and the nation’s earliest history still exists in the form of a colonial cemetery dating back to 1730. What has been called “the Miller-Roll cemetery” by local history enthusiasts is located on private property off of Springfield Avenue. The graveyard is the final resting place of 19 of the town’s earliest

inhabitants and includes names such as Jacob and Elizabeth Miller and James and Catherine Roll.

The cemetery is located on a lot adjacent to 330 Springfield Avenue and is rumored to be for sale by its owners, Janice Devlin Silletti and Frank Silletti, after Jacqueline Brevard, a member of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), reported the property and its adjoining lot, the Miller-Roll cemetery, was up for sale. Speaking at the July HPC meeting, she also said a private developer was potentially interested in the property.

As of the publishing of this story, no record of a transaction, or a deed changing hands, has been filed with the county. The owners, moreover, could not be reached for comment.

A Zillow listing for the home at 330 Springfield Avenue indicates that the home has a pending offer. The listing indicates that the house was built in 1700 and sits on 1.01 acres. It is unknown if the 0.1153-acre cemetery lot is included in the sale. Tax records indicate that the cemetery lot is listed as being owned by Janice Devlin since 2002.

The property, a tax-exempt lot, has changed hands four times since 1945, with online public records extending back to Abraham C. Clarke, who deeded the property at 330 Springfield Avenue and the adjacent Miller-Roll Cemetery to Elizabeth and Edward Carlbom.

## Opposition to School Masks Heard by Health Board

By JESSE WINTER  
For The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Public-health concerns dominated Monday’s board of health meeting, with more than 30 residents filling the municipal court chambers. Public comments covered safety concerns such as the turf fielding at the proposed Edison fields complex and parental frustration over a potential mask mandate for Westfield’s students as the new school year approaches.

With a mask mandate back in effect for those entering town hall, residents focused on a potential mask mandate as public schools look to reopen a little more than a month from the date of the board of health meeting. Board of Health Secretary Megan Avallone pointed out that the state has yet to render a decision regarding whether masks for students will be required. Moreover, Ms. Avallone, who also acts as Westfield Regional Health director, emphasized that the board of health has no decision-making power, but rather acts in an advisory capacity to assist the Westfield Board of Education in its policy-making decisions.

With the exception of one resident, the parents who spoke during the August 2 meeting made the argument that they should have the ultimate decision-making power when it comes to determining whether their child wears a mask to school.

Remarks made by Jennifer Andretta of Warren Street revolved around the concern she has for her children when it comes to prolonged mask-wearing in school. She shared an incident where her child’s heart rate increased significantly, an event attributed to long-term mask use, according to Ms. Andretta. Not long after that incident, which occurred at a theme park, Ms.

Andretta brought her son to a pediatrician, where the doctor observed the elevated heart rate, according to her comments.

“My job is to protect my children, and to determine what’s best for their well-being,” said Ms. Andretta. She said she has been unable to find research or studies that indicate long-term mask use is safe.

“You are all doctors; that’s your job. I’m trusting you. Please, I beg you, show me the research,” said Ms. Andretta.

Ms. Andretta said she “knows there’s a risk” with Covid-19. “I’m not minimizing that,” she noted. “But I also know there’s a risk for the masks as well. I’m asking for the right to choose.”

Another resident, Risa Kaban of Manchester Drive, also spoke during the meeting’s proceedings and expressed concern over “the schools’ plan for the fall,” — specifically, in terms of reopening with a potential mask mandate.

During her comments, Ms. Kaban pointed to studies indicating that kids 17 and younger are at significantly less risk for Covid-19 than adults. She also mentioned that there is “no research explaining long-term mask use is safe for children.”

Citing further research, Ms. Kaban warned of the adverse effects of long-term mask use such as oxygen deprivation and oxygen deficiencies — in addition to side effects such as headaches, drowsiness, slow reaction time and difficulty concentrating.

She also echoed concerns of other parents who spoke during the proceedings regarding the inability for children’s faces to be a part of the classroom and the importance of expressing emotions and non-verbal

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## Mountainside Preps for New Personnel, Appointments

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL  
For The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — During their agenda-setting meeting held Tuesday evening, members of the Mountainside Council announced many new borough appointments.

During the regular council meeting to be held in two weeks, council members and Mayor Paul Mirabelli will appoint Brenden Carlos as a Mountainside police officer. It was reported that Officer Carlos had worked for the last four years in the Union County Sheriff’s Office and was a member of the National Guard. A graduate of Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights, he currently resides in Kenilworth. His official start date was reported to be Wednesday, August 11.

James Pisuro is scheduled to be appointed as the part-time fire sub-code official for the borough, having been chosen from among four candidates. It was stated that he will earn \$45 per hour in this position and that it shall not exceed six hours a week.

It also was reported that Mauro Wolfe, Esq., would be appointed to the borough’s library board. Mayor Mirabelli commented that, “Mr. Wolfe is a very practical person and he will help the library tremendously.”

It was noted that Patricia Keane would be appointed to the library board as well. The mayor described Ms. Keane as a “good fit” for the library, noting that she currently works in the library at the Valley View Middle School in Watchung.

Other appointments include Robert DeNora and Edward Kwesela III

as volunteer firefighters. Additionally, approval is being sought at the next meeting for Rocco Menoni to join the Junior Fireman’s Auxiliary program.

In other business, two ordinances will receive a second reading and public hearing at the governing body’s Tuesday, August 17 meeting.

Ordinance 1297-2021 will be on the agenda for a second reading to appropriate the sum of \$820,000 for the purchase of 90 New Providence Road and 903 Mountain Avenue.

This area, as reported in earlier meetings, will be preserved by various Mountainside volunteer groups as well as the borough’s governing body for the enjoyment of Mountainside residents. Grants and fund-raising efforts are reported to be the main funding sources for the project.

Ordinance 1298-2021 also will be on the agenda for a second reading and public hearing, to allow businesses with a liquor license to open at 11 a.m.

During separate business, officials discussed that a resolution would be read at the next meeting to authorize an application for a 2021 Recreation Trust Grant. The grant was said to be used for various upgrades within the borough such as bleachers for the field in back of municipal hall, in addition to re-grading the infield. Also included were outdoor games at the pool and playground such as corn-hole games and Ping-Pong.

The next meeting of the Mountainside Council is scheduled for August 17, at 7:30 p.m.

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SCOUTS AND THEIR LEADER...Nineteen Scouts from Westfield Troop 72 attended Rodney Scout Reservation in North East, Md., from July 18 to July 24, bringing along *The Westfield Leader*. The Scouts earned approximately 75 merit badges, including first aid, swimming, kayaking, climbing, rifle shooting, art, sculpture, environmental science, geocaching and woodcarving.

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First Responders Back HQ  
Relocation Out of Downtown

By FRED T. ROSSI  
For The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS – Township emergency-services leaders signaled their support for relocating their headquarters from the downtown to a site on Plainfield Avenue, a proposal that has drawn opposition from residents in that neighborhood.

At a two-hour meeting on Monday evening with about 20 homeowners, the heads of the police and fire departments and the rescue squad all said that their operations would be improved by relocating into a consolidated headquarters on the three-acre lot across from Memorial Field that has long been used as a storage area during the township’s fall leaf collection.

Deputy Fire Chief Skip Paal said that the current fire station located behind the municipal building, which originally housed the public works department decades ago, is too small to house some of the department’s larger firefighting apparatus. He also displayed a township map that showed moving the firehouse to Plainfield Avenue would widen the area the north-side fire station could serve and also give firefighters responding to a call more and better options to travel to those calls.

Currently, fire trucks often have to pass through the congested downtown area as well as the busy traffic light at the corner of Park Avenue and East Second Street. And those calls often involve trucks having to drive through a number of school zones.

Police Chief Ted Conley said he was “100 percent” in favor of moving his headquarters out of the municipal building. He pointed out that with the population expected to increase significantly in the next several years, his department will require additional officers, and more space than currently is available at town hall. “We are maxed out” at present, he said.

Rescue Squad President Dan Sullivan said his group is supportive of moving to a single building with the police and fire departments. The rescue squad has occupied its Bartle Avenue headquarters since 1937, he said, and parts of the building itself were built in the mid-1800s. Being situated between the library and a municipal parking lot, he said, has led to problems with rescue squad vehicles exiting the site due to double-parked cars blocking the driveway and the street.

About a dozen residents living on Westfield Avenue, Westfield Road,

Evergreen Avenue and Henry Street spoke at Monday’s session, but their comments opposing the relocation of the emergency-services headquarters mostly centered on what they said were unsafe conditions in the area. The residents spoke of speeding cars and trucks on Westfield Avenue being dangerous to pedestrians and children walking to school. Others questioned why tractor-trailer and heavy-construction trucks were often traveling on Westfield Road. Several commented on traffic accidents at the intersection of Westfield Avenue and Westfield Road.

One resident said the township should sharply reduce speed limits on Plainfield Avenue and Westfield Avenue, and enforce that lower limit in a way similar to what is done on Kenilworth Boulevard, where most drivers are well aware of the 25-mile-per-hour speed limit on that stretch of roadway because Kenilworth police are known to enforce it.

Colleen Gialanella, a member of the downtown redevelopment committee and a resident who lives near the high school, said she viewed having public-safety headquarters near her home as “an asset.” She also noted that the accidents cited by neighborhood residents were not caused by emergency vehicles.

All three chiefs defended the professionalism and driving skills of their personnel during emergency calls, with Mr. Paal saying that fire department drivers are familiar with how to safely drive past school zones. He also noted that the department averages about two calls per day, not a

constant stream of calls. Police Chief Conley said his officers do not account for a lot of traffic because officers report for their shifts, get in their patrol cars and are out on the road for most of their shift. Police cars rarely leave headquarters at a high speed, he said. Mr. Sullivan also said his drivers do not drive fast or with sirens blaring during calls.

Redevelopment coordinator Thomas Strowe cautioned residents that the process of moving the headquarters has only just begun. He said a number of steps will be taken before any final decisions are made by the committee and the township council, including studies of the Plainfield Avenue site, public hearings, the drafting and approval of redevelopment and financial plans and the drafting and approval of final site plans, with public comments during all of these stages. “It’s very early in the process,” he said.



SPRAY LOT...The Westfield Fire Department pulls up at Westfield’s National Night Out on August 3 to teach kids how to use the fire hose.

Bag Distribution

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the details surrounding the organization’s hiring practices, we cannot respond to this question.”

The jobs were advertised on the DWC’s Facebook and Instagram pages. “We hired a Westfield resident named Denise Edwards, who had a logistics background, and she did a great job managing both our Holiday Welcome Center and our ambassador program,” Mr. Zuckerman told *The Leader*. “Therefore, all the applications for both the ambassador and

gift-wrapper positions were directed to Denise. Denise interviewed every candidate, vetted them, and then scheduled those who met our qualifications.”

While the grant application indicated that the DWC intended to hire two short-term employees, that plan shifted, according to Mr. Zuckerman. “There weren’t that many people who wanted to work long hours as gift wrappers for \$12 an hour because this period was before vaccinations, and spending long hours inside was still extremely risky for many people. There also weren’t many people who wanted to work long hours outside as ambassadors for \$15 an hour because of the cold weather, so we had to hire more people than we originally thought to make up for this. We also didn’t know how busy we would be in the visitors center, so we hired more people than we had originally planned to prepare for all eventualities,” he told *The Leader*.

Mayoral candidate JoAnn Neylan posted a video on Facebook taking issue with the expenditures, contrasting it to Summit Downtown, which also received a DCA grant. Summit applied for and received \$120,000 to be used for small business grants. Ms. Neylan said that the town “missed a real opportunity to give direct and substantial support to our local economy.”

However, more than \$270,000 was given to over 175 local businesses at the height of the pandemic by The Westfield United Fund. The campaign, spearheaded by Mayor Brindle, was dubbed “We Love Local,” and businesses who applied for and received grants were not required to be within the bounds of the DWC.

A full statement from the DWC regarding the Globe story can be found on Page 12.



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Photo courtesy of Philip Ziegler

ALGAE ISSUE...Westfield residents are concerned for the pond at Tamaques Park, as fish begin to die due to the overwhelming amount of algae. Local park-goers ask for the pond to be tended to before unpleasant odors, leeches and other undesirable effects begin to occur. A similar event reportedly occurred at Brightwood Park this week.



CARMEN CELEBRATES 100TH...Lifelong Westfield resident Carmen Shordone enjoyed a 100th birthday celebration at the Primavera Regency in Stirling on July 10 with over 100 friends and family. Born July 6, 1921 in Westfield, he built a home on Central Avenue in 1946 and married Elizabeth Pellegrino in 1947. Shortly after, he and a partner started S & C Mason Co. and did a lot of work in Westfield and surrounding areas. After many wonderful years together, Elizabeth passed in 1980 and later Mr. Shordone married Katherine Udice and enjoyed many years with her and her son, Richard. Mr. Shordone enjoys good health and still lives in the home he built on Central Avenue.



LEAVING FINGERPRINTS...This past Tuesday at Westfield’s National Night Out, the Westfield Police Department showed kids the process of how they take fingerprints.

Masks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

communication in a learning environment.

Johnathan Schaffer of Colonial Avenue provided the lone dissenting voice in the discussion.

“Wearing masks isn’t a huge imposition on kids,” remarked Mr. Schaffer. “Everyone can talk about their own facts,” he said. “I encourage the board to follow the science, and look out for our children.”

Monday’s meeting also saw a strong turnout of residents from streets and neighborhoods surrounding Edison field, who urged the board to consider the health impacts of the proposed Edison fields project.

The proposed project would overhaul the Edison School Field and create multi-purpose fields over the existing two baseball diamonds. The project would include LED lighting and turf fielding. The proposed expansion of the facility to a multi-use field complex would add sport fields that would accommodate lacrosse, field hockey and soccer. The size of the lit turf fields would be approximately 400,000 square feet, with the cost estimated to be around \$18.2 million.

While issues such as traffic impact and pedestrian safety, along with environmental concerns such as runoff into local water sources, were mentioned, the majority of the comments directed at the board revolved around the safety and health impact of turf fielding.

Allison Emery of Rahway Avenue spoke out against the proposal. She moved from Brooklyn with her family more than 10 years ago and said she was drawn to Westfield as a “green town.”

She called having a sports stadium in her residential community “the

complete antithesis” of a green town’s “ideals.”

She questioned the safety of turf fields, in addition to the environmental consequences of runoff into local water sources. Ms. Emery also raised concerns regarding synthetic turf heating up more than regular grass fields and how that might impact the health of athletes and potentially limit recess for Edison’s students during hot days.

Another resident and mother, Erin Skurdal, also spoke out against the fields project. With her children set to become Edison students in the future, she argued that a turf field “is not a good fit for the middle school.” Citing research that advises showering after playing on a turf field, Ms. Skurdal pointed to the fact that middle schoolers “aren’t able to shower after using the fields,” when attending gym classes.

Residents such as Norman Yang of Normandy Drive and Gregg Lehmberg of Grove Street echoed their neighbor’s opposition to turf fields, citing research examining adverse health effects of synthetic turf fields.

The next board of health meeting will be held on Monday, September 6.

Uptick

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view by the state.

In other news, the board of health introduced an ordinance on first reading that would increase fees for restaurants or eateries receiving a less than satisfactory rating from \$150 to \$200. According to Ms. Avallone, the increased fee takes into account the substantial amount of time health inspectors put into inspecting different establishments. The \$150 fee was set 10 years ago, noted Ms. Avallone.

The health department also continues to promote awareness when it comes to potential health risks associated with noise pollution from two-stroke leaf blowers. According to officials, the town recently sent out information covering the dangers associated with two-stroke leaf blowers and hopes to take an educational approach in combating the negative effects from their usage.

According to *The Washington Post*, leaf blowers emit carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides and hydrocarbons “in large quantities,” where nitrous oxides and hydrocarbons contribute to smog formation. *The Washington Post* also reports hydrocarbons can be carcinogenic and nitrous oxides can cause acid rain.

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Lauren S. Barr for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**WELCOME HOME...**Westfield Mayor Shelley Brindle, left, and Councilwoman Dawn Mackey, right, joined Andrew McMaster to cut the ribbon for the opening of the new apartment building on the corner of South Avenue and Summit Avenue. Mr. McMaster is the owner developer of the former Pan-Am Cleaners lot. The new building, which is almost fully rented, is home to 35 units; 30 market rate and five affordable. Mr. McMaster reports that several of the new tenants have recently sold their homes in the area.

## Watson Coleman Issues Statement on Decision to Return To Prison Inmates

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On July 20, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12) issued a statement following reporting that the Biden administration has approved the return of thousands of federal convicts who were previously released to home confinement to reduce the spread of Covid-19 after the official state of emergency ends. The decision upholds a last-minute Trump administration memo ordering those released back to prison.

“This is an extremely disappointing decision,” said Rep. Watson Coleman. “It directly conflicts with President Biden’s commitments to criminal justice reform and the overall reduction of our prison population. In order to accomplish those goals we have to prioritize alternatives to incarceration and replace it with other strategies wherever possible. The unanticipated reprieve brought on by Covid-19 proved it is possible to safely reduce the prison population. Meanwhile, these inmates have shown to be contributing members of society, improving the wellbeing of their families and communities.

“The United States incarcerates more people than any other country, negatively impacting our moral standing in the world. It is a sign of a deeply unhealthy society to continue to spend tens of billions of dollars a year on incarceration while over 10 million children live in poverty, 1.4 million veterans are at risk of homelessness, and nearly 30 million Americans are

underinsured. Today’s decision by the Biden administration is a failure to address the overpopulation crisis in a way that does not require Congress or the Courts. In this respect, this action is both cruel and unnecessary.”

On April 8th and May 27th of this year Congresswoman Watson Coleman sent bipartisan letters to President Biden and Attorney General Garland respectively, calling on them to officially rescind the Trump era memo noting:

...These individuals have not only shown that they can be contributing members of society, they’ve laid bare the fact that we are imprisoning far too many people in this country. Attorney General Garland should reverse the Justice Department Memo and give thousands of families the peace of mind of knowing their loved ones will not be taken away from them.

The decision of the Biden administration applies to about 4,000 nonviolent inmates.

## Bill Assisting Service Members, Veterans Becomes Law

TRENTON -- Legislation that will help service members and veterans continue their education and attend college classes, sponsored by Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean, was signed into law.

“New Jersey is becoming more accommodating to the brave men and women who are willing to put

## Legislation to Require Automobile Policy Limits to be Disclosed to Attorneys Now Law

TRENTON – Legislation sponsored by Senator Nicholas Scutari which would require automobile insurers to disclose policy limits upon request by an attorney was signed into law today.

“This bill is a good piece of consumer legislation and it will have the effect of cutting down on unnecessary lawsuits,” said Senator Scutari (D-Middlesex/Somerset/Union). “Having a pre-litigation right to request documentation related to an insurer’s ability to pay out on an insurance claim and its policy claim could be a deciding factor in an attorney’s decision to take on any given case.”

The new law requires insurers who receive a request by a licensed attorney for disclosure of their policy limits under a private automobile insurance policy to provide written notice of the policy limits within 30 days from receipt of the request. The disclosure must indicate the limits of all of the automobile insurance policies and any applicable umbrella or excess liability policies issued to the insured.

Additionally, disclosure of policy limits would remain confidential and available only to the individual injured, the attorney representing them and personnel in the office of the attorney.

their lives on the line to protect our freedoms,” said Senator Kean (R-21). “It is challenging enough to work and attend classes, but for those in the military, juggling schedules and managing deadlines is even more cumbersome. The new law will ease some of the burden of earning college credits for members of the military by offering them the flexibility when registering for classes or when military obligations conflict with course schedules.”

Under the new law (S-278), public colleges and universities in New Jersey would be required to refund course tuition and fees to military members who are unable to complete a course due to deployment, reassignment or other military obligation.

The law also directs colleges to waive late fees and permit the registration of a student who is a veteran or a service member upon return from assignment.

“Expanding enrollment options and supporting our veterans is our way of thanking members of our armed forces who have left the safety of their homes to serve our nation,” added Senator Kean. “We appreciate them for heroically answering the call to defend our country.”

In addition, the law includes considerations for service members who are unable to complete the course due to military obligations.

## 20 Members, Associates of Violent “Get Money Boys” Gang Indicted, Linked to Shootings

TRENTON—Acting Attorney General Andrew J. Bruck today announced the indictment of 20 alleged members and associates of the “Get Money Boys” or “GMB,” a violent gang allegedly linked to multiple shootings in Trenton, including a December 2019 murder of a 32-year-old man, the attempted murder of a police officer in February 2020, and a June 2020 shooting that wounded several bystanders on Wood Street, including a 12-year-old girl who was critically injured.

Acting on intelligence from the Trenton Police Department about alleged gun violence by GMB members, the Division of Criminal Justice Gangs & Organized Crime Bureau began investigating the gang and its alleged leader, Charles M. Willis, aka “Charly Wingate” or “Gate,” in late 2019. They collaborated with the Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office, New Jersey State Police, Trenton Police Department, West Windsor Police Department, Hamilton Police Department, Ewing Police Department, Mercer County Shooting Response Team, and Mercer County Corrections.

The investigation led to numerous arrests last summer as violence linked to GMB escalated during the COVID pandemic, culminating in the June 3, 2020 shooting on Wood Street. Alleged GMB member Davion Fenderson allegedly attempted to murder a man, firing from a car at a crowded porch. The targeted man was only grazed, but gunfire struck three other victims, critically injuring two—a man who was shot in the chest, and the 12-year-old girl, who was shot in the abdomen.

Investigators—who had already arrested Willis and five associates in connection with the December 2019 murder, the attempted murder of the police officer, and another prior shooting—arrested 10 more alleged GMB members beginning two days after the Wood Street shooting.

The July 23, 2021 indictment charges all 20 defendants with first-degree racketeering. Fenderson was directly indicted for attempted murder and aggravated assault in the Wood Street shooting, and the indictment also charges Willis with those offenses for allegedly ordering the shooting. In addition, On February 12, 2020, GMB members allegedly shot at two men, causing them to crash their car, and when a police officer pursued the GMB members, they allegedly fired at him. The officer was not hit. Those men and Willis are charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault in the shooting involving the two civilians.

“We can and must end gun violence in New Jersey, and this latest indictment reflects our commitment to doing so,” said Acting Attorney General Bruck. “We are using every tool and resource at our disposal to keep the residents of New Jersey safe.”

“The Division of Criminal Justice and its partners acted with a sense of urgency when they arrested members of this gang last summer as violence escalated,” said Director Lyndsay V. Ruotolo of the Division of Criminal Justice. “Because of the intelligence-driven investigation we had conducted, we were prepared to act swiftly to protect Trenton residents. This indictment is an important next step in our efforts to keep the community safe by keeping these alleged gang members behind bars.”

“The Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office is extremely proud of major collaborative investigations such as the one that led to these indictments,” said Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri. “When we all partner together to stop the criminal activities that threaten the safety of our citizens, we send a message to these violent gang members that their destruction won’t be tolerated in our communities.”

“We remain steadfast in our commitment to our law enforcement partners and the residents of Trenton to continue to aggressively pursue violent criminals and criminal organizations whose actions far too often have tragic and unintended consequences—like the shooting of an innocent 12-year-old child,” said Colonel Patrick Callahan, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. “Today’s indictments are the first step to ensuring that those responsible are held accountable.”

It is alleged that the Get Money Boys, under the leadership of Willis, controlled heroin and cocaine distribution in the area around the Oakland Street Apartments in Trenton. Willis allegedly gave orders to lower ranking GMB members to carry out acts of violence against rivals on behalf of the gang. In addition to being charged with other defendants in first-degree counts of murder, attempted murder, and conspiracy to commit murder, Willis is charged with first-degree leader of a narcotics trafficking network and first-degree promoting organized street crime.

Many of the defendants face narcotics and/or weapons offenses. In addition, the 61-count indictment charges defendants in connection with the following shootings:

Sept. 17, 2019 Shooting Shaiquan Hearn is charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault, and weapons offenses for allegedly shooting a man in the leg in the early morning hours of Sept. 17, 2019 on Lambertson Street in Trenton.

Dec. 27, 2019 Murder of Michael Barnes. Michael Barnes, 32, was shot in the face on Commonwealth Avenue in Trenton on the night of Dec. 27. Davion Fenderson, Willis, Hearn, and Richard Fenderson are charged with murder.

Feb. 12, 2020 Shooting of Civilians and Attempted Murder of Police Officer. On Feb. 12, GMB members allegedly shot at two men, causing them to crash their car. When a police officer pursued the GMB members, they allegedly fired at him. He was not hit. Hearn, Dion Battle, and Yahanatan Salter are charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault in the shooting involving the officer. Those men and Willis are charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault in the shooting involving the two civilians.

May 1, 2020 Shooting. On the night of May 1, 2020, five GMB members allegedly opened fire on a group of individuals on Sanhican Drive in Trenton, wounding two men. Willis, Shawn Anderson, Bobby Hood, Zaire Jackson, and David Williams are charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault, and weapons offenses in that shooting.

## Rep. Malinowski Legislation Secures Safer Drinking Water

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Legislation cosponsored by Rep. Tom Malinowski will protect millions of Americans from harmful chemicals in their water

The July 21 House passage of the PFAS Action Act, cosponsored by Rep. Tom Malinowski, marks a milestone in Democrats’ efforts to improve national drinking water standards and protect Americans, military bases, and the environment from harmful forever chemicals known as PFAS.

The legislation will: Ensure the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes a national drinking water standard for certain forever chemicals within two years that better protects public health, including the health of vulnerable subpopulations; ensure the EPA places discharge limits on industrial releases of PFAS and provide \$200 million annually for wastewater treatment; and ensure comprehensive PFAS health testing.

“Rep. Tom Malinowski has fought to expand access to clean drinking water and today’s bill passage is a landmark moment in securing better standards that will seriously strengthen the public health of NJ-07,” said DCCC Spokesperson James Singer. “Thanks to Rep. Malinowski and House Democrats, millions of Americans and hundreds of military bases across the country subjected to contaminated drinking water will now be better protected from these harmful chemicals.”

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## Cranford Police Arrest Roselle Man on Firearms Charges

On Thursday, July 29th, 2021 at approximately 8:05 PM, Sergeants Steven D’Ambola and Thomas Stiansen were on patrol in the area of Springfield Avenue and West End Place when they were flagged down by a township resident reporting that an individual had pointed a firearm at them. The victim described the suspect vehicle as a white Ford van operated by a white male suspect.

When both the victim and suspect vehicles stopped in the area of Springfield Avenue and Lafayette Place, during a confrontation the suspect displayed a firearm to the victim.

Sergeants D’Ambola and Stiansen immediately located the suspect vehicle and coordinated with other patrol units to conduct a felony motor vehicle stop in the area of Municipal Lot #7 on Miln Street. Following an on-scene investigation, Sergeant D’Ambola identified the sole occupant of the white Ford van as suspect Alexander Truzzolino, 37, of Roselle NJ, who was found in possession of a loaded firearm believed to be a “ghost gun” with 11 rounds of ammunition. Truzzolino was placed under arrest and transported to police headquarters without incident for processing.

Truzzolino was subsequently charged with 2nd Degree Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, 2nd Degree Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, and 4th Degree Possession of Large Capacity Magazine. Truzzolino remained in the custody of the Cranford Police Department awaiting transfer to the Union County Jail for a detention hearing.

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## Free Immunizations Available to Residents

COUNTY – The Union County Board of County Commissioners reminds residents that free immunizations are available to eligible children and adults at the Union County Immunization Center. The Immunization Center is located at 40 Parker Road in Elizabeth.

“Union County’s immunization clinic helps to ensure that every infant and child in our community can receive protection from preventable diseases, regardless of their insurance status or family circumstances. We encourage everyone who may be eligible to contact the clinic and find out if their children qualify for this free service,” said County Commissioner Chairman Alexander Mirabella.

Residents who are uninsured, underinsured, or who are covered by Medicaid Plan A are eligible for services. To receive vaccinations for a child, parents or guardians are required to provide the eligible child’s birth certificate, current vaccination records, parent or legal guardians ID and proof of address. Legal guardians must also have guardianship papers from the Court. If the child is in school, a referral by a school nurse must be presented. For adults looking to get vaccinated, photo ID is required as well as proof of address.

The Immunization Center provides information about available health services to families in need, screenings and more than a dozen immunizations for eligible children starting at two months of age as well as adults. Offerings have since been expanded to include the three Covid-19 vaccines currently authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

“Historically, immunizations have helped to eliminate many transmissible diseases,” said Chair of the Public Safety Committee Commissioner Sergio Granados who also serves as Liaison to the Human Services Advisory Council. “The Commissioner

Board is proud to provide this vital service to residents who lack sufficient medical coverage and want to get immunized.”

The following vaccinations are available at the Union County Immunization Center:

TD – Tetanus and Diphtheria  
DtaP – Whooping Cough or Pertussis

HIB – Haemophilus Influenza Type B  
Prevna – Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (for bacterial infections that cause pneumonia, blood, and brain infections)

Gardasil  
Proquad  
Rota  
Meningococcal  
Pentacel

MMR – Measles, Mumps and Rubella (German or 3-day Measles)

Hepatitis B

Varicella – Chickenpox

Flu

Pediarix – DtaP; Hepatitis B; and

IPV (inactivated polio vaccine)

Shenrix – Shingles

Covid-19 Vaccines: Pfizer (12 years

and up), Moderna (adults) and J&J (adults)

To make an appointment at the Union County Immunization Center, to determine eligibility for free immunization, or to find out more about available programs, call the Immunization Center weekdays during regular business hours at (908) 965-3627/3868. Appointments for immunizations can usually be scheduled within 48 to 72 hours of calling.

The Union County Immunization Clinic opened in 2013 and is run as a service of the Union County Department of Human Services. Since opening, free immunizations have been administered for thousands of uninsured and underinsured children. Adult immunization began last year. The Immunization Clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Free Covid-19 Vaccines Available to Home Bound

COUNTY – Union County residents who are home bound or have difficulty leaving their home can use a new toll-free number to make an appointment to receive a Covid-19 vaccination at home. The number to call is (833) 256-2478, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The service is available to all home bound Union County residents free of charge, as part of the Union County Commissioner Board’s efforts to ensure that Covid-19 vaccines reach every household in the community as quickly as possible. There is no income eligibility cutoff.

“The Commissioner Board is determined to help get the Covid-19 vaccines to our residents without delay, and the new toll free number removes barriers to access for people who would otherwise find it difficult if not impossible to travel to a vaccination clinic,” said Union County Commissioner Board Chairman Alexander Mirabella. “Please don’t hesitate to call 1-833-256-2478 if you need help getting vaccinated at home.”

The home vaccination service is offered by the Commissioner Board through the firm Mobile Medical Services & Technology. Mobile Medical Services currently provides a choice of all three vaccines approved for use in the United States: Pfizer (ages 12 and older), Moderna (ages 18 and older), and Johnson & Johnson (ages 18 and older).

To request an appointment, home bound residents can call Mobile Medical Services at 1-833-256-2478 during regular weekday business hours to speak with an operator. Appointments are generally available within five days or less.

Residents can also contact Mobile Medical Services by email at vaccine@mmst.io to request a callback for an appointment. In addition, residents can call (833) 256-2478 during off-hours to leave a voice message requesting a callback. Messages are returned on the following business day.

“We are excited to partner with Union County to bring a comprehensive homebound Covid-19 vaccination program. Patient feedback has been incredible, and it feels great to be able to meet people where they are,” said Madeline De Ferrari, Founder and CEO of Mobile Medical Services & Technology.

Seniors and residents with disabilities who have additional questions are welcome to contact the Union County Division on Aging and Disability Resources for assistance at (888) 280-8226 during regular weekday business hours.

The Commissioner Board strongly urges residents who have not been vaccinated to get their jab as soon as possible, as new variants of the Covid-19 virus emerge and spread.

Union County residents who do not need a home visit can use any of the free vaccination clinics established by the Commissioner Board, including three permanent vaccination sites and a mobile unit that comes to different municipalities on a rotating basis. To book an appointment online at any of these sites, and to see locations and hours of operation, visit [ucnj.org/covid19](http://ucnj.org/covid19).

Any resident who needs help making an appointment at a Union County vaccination site can contact the Union County Covid-19 Call Center for assistance, at (908) 613-7829 during regular business hours.

## Free COVID-19 Tests and Vaccines in Union County

COUNTY – The Union County Board of Commissioners reminds residents that it is easy and convenient to make an appointment for free Covid-19 testing and vaccination in Union County.

“Free tests are available for any resident who is concerned about their exposure to Covid-19, and we continue to encourage everyone age 12 and up to get their free Covid-19 vaccination as soon as possible,” said Commissioner Chairman Alexander Mirabella. “If you need help booking an appointment online, staff at the Union County Covid-19 Call Center can assist you.”

Union County’s free COVID-19 Test Center is available free of charge to all Union County residents who wish to be tested, whether or not they are experiencing symptoms. A doctor’s note is not required. The test center is located in Downs Hall at the Kean University campus, at 1000 Morris Avenue in Union Township.

To make an appointment online at the Test Center, visit the Union County Covid-19 portal at [ucnj.org/covid19](http://ucnj.org/covid19). The online system is available on a 24/7 basis.

The Test Center is not a drive-through service; no car is needed. After booking an appointment, residents can walk, bike, take mass transit, or drive to the Kean University campus. Free parking is available on campus for those arriving by car. Follow the signs to walk from the parking lot to Downs Hall.

Union County also runs free Covid-19 vaccination clinics at Downs Hall, at the Dunn Sports Center in Elizabeth, and at Plainfield High School in Plainfield. In addition, the County’s mobile vaccination team visits local neighborhoods on a rotating basis. To book an appointment online for any

of these sites, and to see a list of neighborhood locations, visit [ucnj.org/covid19](http://ucnj.org/covid19).

Any resident who needs help making an appointment for a COVID-19 test or vaccination can contact staff at the Union County Covid-19 Call Center for assistance, at (908) 613-7829 during regular business hours.

To retrieve vaccine information in case of a lost or damaged vaccine card, download the free “Docket” app recommended by the New Jersey Department of Health. More information is available at [ucnj.org/covid19/lost-your-covid-19-vaccination-card](http://ucnj.org/covid19/lost-your-covid-19-vaccination-card).

Residents can also request a copy of their vaccination records from the Department of Health Immunization Information System at [njdeptofhealth.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal](http://njdeptofhealth.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal).

The vaccines currently approved for use in the U.S. are Pfizer (ages 12 and older), Moderna (ages 18 and older), and Johnson & Johnson (ages 18 and older). Children and teens ages 12 to 17 must be accompanied by an adult to receive the Pfizer vaccine at Union County’s vaccination sites.



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## County Launches Rent Relief Program for Tenants

COUNTY – The Union County Board of County Commissioners is launching a new grant program to provide financial relief for Union County residents unable to meet their rental obligations during the Covid-19 pandemic. Under the new Emergency Rental Assistance Program, eligible tenants can receive up to 12 months of assistance for unpaid back rent and utility bills.

The funds will be awarded to landlords and utility providers on behalf of tenants who are eligible for the grant.

Landlords and tenants are encouraged to register for this program in order to expedite the grant process. The registration portal for landlords opened on July 26, at [ucnj.org/rental-assistance](http://ucnj.org/rental-assistance). The application portal for tenants opened on August 2, also at [ucnj.org/rental-assistance](http://ucnj.org/rental-assistance).

“Our goal is to get the word out to every building with tenants who are qualified to participate in the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and get relief to those who need it as quickly as possible. We strongly encourage landlords and tenants to communicate with each other about the availability of relief through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, so applications can be reviewed without delay,” said Commissioner Board Chairman Alexander Mirabella.

The landlord and the tenant portals will both remain open throughout the application phase of the program. The portals include guidance on assembling the information and documents

necessary to apply for funding.

In an effort to reach as many landlords and eligible tenants as possible, the Commissioner Board is advertising the Emergency Rental Assistance Program on television, radio, printed media, online media, and social media.

To qualify for Union County Emergency Rental Assistance funding, applicants must meet the following criteria: Union County resident primarily responsible for paying rent; Make less than 80 percent of the average median income of Union County (e.g., less than \$78,500 for a family of four); Experienced a loss of income since March 13, 2020 related to the Covid-19 pandemic; Provide required supporting documentation (copies of identification, tax returns, lease or other proof of income/residence may be acceptable, etc.).

Once the application is submitted, applicants will be notified of the funding decision. If approved, the funds will be provided to the landlord or utility provider on their behalf.

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program is funded through the Federal CARES Act for Covid-19 emergency relief. Additional CARES Act programs created by the Commissioner Board include child care assistance for low-income families and respite assistance for those caring for children with special needs and disabilities, and as well as grants for libraries, schools, restaurants and other small businesses, and non-profit organizations.

## Free Scrap Metal Recycling On Tap Today and August 21

COUNTY — The Union County Board of County Commissioners reminds residents that Union County’s free scrap metal recycling drop-off program continues in August. A wide variety of metal goods, from household appliances to gutters and sheds, will be accepted at two countywide collection sites in Cranford and Rahway every month from April to November.

“This countywide program helps to fill a service gap in some Union County municipalities that currently have no outlet for scrap metal recycling,” said Board of Commissioners Chairman Al Mirabella. “As a community, we benefit across the board by recycling more and throwing away less waste – and we also stand to gain some revenue from the program.”

Scrap metal drop-off will be accepted today, August 5 and Saturday, August 21 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at two drop-off centers:

Cranford: Emergency Services Building, 151 Kenilworth Boulevard  
Rahway: Rahway River Park (follow Park Drive Rahway off St. Georges to service yard across from swimming pool)

Scrap metal from residents in any Union County municipality may be brought to either of these sites.

The drop-off sites are available on the first Thursday and third Saturday of each month, from April through

November.

To receive schedule alerts, and to stay up to date with Union County and local recycling programs, download the free Recycle Coach mobile app.

For everyone’s safety, residents must wear face coverings, keep their windows closed and remain in their vehicles at all times. Materials should be placed in trunk, cargo area or truck bed, easily accessible to staff, for safe no-contact removal from vehicle.

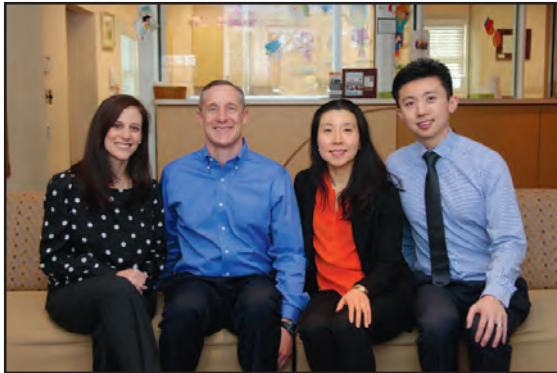
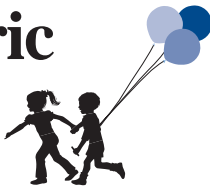
Acceptable items for recycling include air conditioners, aluminum scrap, aluminum siding, bicycles, brass, copper, dishwashers, electric fans, fencing (chain/wire), freezers, gutters, irons, lawn furniture, metal cabinets, metal sheds, microwaves, pots and pans, railings, refrigerators, stoves, tire rims, toasters, washers and dryers, window frames (no glass), and wire hangers.

Please note that plastic-encased dehumidifiers are not accepted.

For more information, upcoming dates and directions to all Union County recycling programs and locations, visit the Bureau of Recycling and Planning website at [ucnj.org/recycle](http://ucnj.org/recycle) or call the Union County Recycling Hotline at (908) 654-9889.

Quick links to all Union County environmental programs and activities are available at The Green Connection, [ucnj.org/green-connection](http://ucnj.org/green-connection).

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## Close the Gap Reception Raises Over \$50,000

CRANFORD – The Union County College Foundation raised over \$50,000 at their 6th Annual Close the Gap Reception on July 14. Held in a virtual environment, this event is a strategic initiative to increase graduation rates among African American students. This year, the Foundation honored the brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Omicron Chi Chapter for their years of service as avid supporters and mentors of the College’s Project Achievement Program.

Since 2015, the Close the Gap campaign has raised nearly \$300,000 which has been invested in scholarships, grant and program support, and has provided emergency funding to students who are on track to graduate. Since that time, the College’s graduation rate for African American male students has more than quintupled.

Otis Livingston, of WCBS TV, served as the Master of Ceremonies. Entertainment was provided by well-known jazz pianist Isaijah J. Thompson. Union’s Coordinator of Student Success Initiatives Dr. Lavon Williams shared his experience from working with our African American male students and the joy and excitement felt by the Project Achievement team and our students on graduation day. Finally, student speaker Ricard Charles shared the impact that the

program has had on him and his fellow classmates.

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Omicron Chi Chapter is from Plainfield, New Jersey. The Chapter was established in 1955 and is being honored for its commitment to building the next generation of leaders. They achieve this through their Omega Leadership Institute. High School and Community College mentoring programs, essay contests, and scholarships. The Omicron Chi Chapter has been a dedicated supporter of the Union County College Foundation and was one of the first advocates of the Close the Gap Campaign.

“The Foundation is so thankful that the support of the Close the Gap event continues to grow each year,” stated Union County College Foundation Executive Director Doug Rouse. “This allows the College to continue to raise the graduation rate for our young male African American students.”

Anyone interested in donating to the Close the Gap Campaign, or would like to learn more about how they can provide financial assistance for students at Union County College, may call (908) 709-7505, email [foundation@ucc.edu](mailto:foundation@ucc.edu), or visit [www.uccfoundation.org](http://www.uccfoundation.org).

## Janna Williams Elected Women’s Veterans Rep

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Janna Williams, veterans service coordinator for Union County, was elected as women’s veterans representative of the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers at NACVSO’s Annual Business Meeting and Training Summit.

Ms. Williams is an Air Force veteran and former local Board of Education member. As NACVSO’s women’s veterans representative, she will lead the organization’s efforts to serve the unique needs of the growing ranks of women veterans across the country. She will represent NACVSO in dealings with federal, state, and local governments regarding women veterans’ issues, and chair the organization’s Women Veterans Issues Committee. She will also serve as a member of the Executive Board, NACVSO’s governing body.

“It’s an honor to serve the veterans of Union County every day, and this position provides opportunities to

advocate for them and for veterans around the country,” Ms. Williams said. “As the national voice for thousands of local government employees who advocate for the veterans in their communities, NACVSO plays a vital role in helping connect veterans and their families to the services they need and have earned. I’m excited about the work we have ahead of us to build on NACVSO’s decades of advocacy and education.”

Since 1989, NACVSO has advocated for government policies that serve veterans and supported the nation’s nearly 1,700 county veterans service officers. CVSOs are local government employees responsible for helping veterans and their families in their communities access their benefits. CVSOs can help advocate for veterans and their families with the VA, connect them to state and local resources and identify gaps in policies that serve the veterans in their communities.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the offices of the newspapers at  
P. O. Box 250, Westfield, New Jersey 07091

Published every Thursday by Gale Force Media, L.L.C.

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# Gratitude for Red Toy Tractors And Evocative Objects

**By Patricia Steckler, Ph.D.**  
*For The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Years ago, on a cross-country flight, my mother sat next to an elementary school-aged girl with a sweet and pensive face. My mom peppered her with questions about her favorite classes, weekend activities, and best friends. After answering a long array of queries—my mother could be intense—the little girl said politely, “My thinking is getting tired.” Then, with an acknowledging grin and a nod of the head, my mother returned her gaze to her book.

Is your *thinking* tired? Mine is. After one and a half years of pandemic madness, heart-breaking racial tensions, and now sweltering, high heat blanketing our country, many of us feel weary. Too many worrisome and sad thoughts have permeated our minds.

Let’s pep up our *thinking* by focusing on beloved objects, especially ones that evoke good memories. We all have them. Here is an example about a red toy tractor recently shared by my dear friend, Ellen. Currently, she lives in Duluth, Minnesota, and grew up in a farm town called Fergus

Falls in Otter Tail County.

Pause with me for a brief tangent. Call me a word nerd, but don’t you just love the romance conjured up by a town called Fergus Falls and a county named Otter Tail? No insult intended toward our Union County or Westfield, but words like these Minnesota places can also be beloved objects. (More about words that resonate in a future column.)

Ellen’s dad was a farmer and loved tractors, especially the red John Deere tractors of his youth. He even collected antique toy tractors, mini-versions of the full-sized models he’d treasured. Then, just as the pandemic began, he became ill and moved into a rehabilitation facility. The kindly doctor, who cared for him, shared his fondness for old farm machinery. At every appointment, the dad and his doctor swapped stories about favorite bygone tractors.

When Ellen’s dad passed away, this doctor took the time to write a hand-written sympathy note to her. His devotion was a rare source of delight for Ellen’s dad during his pandemic-isolated final year.

“My dad asked me to set aside a

specific John Deere toy tractor for his doctor,” explained Ellen. “He was hoping to recover enough to deliver it to him in person, but he could not. So I mailed it on his behalf this week. Hopefully, it will be a pleasant surprise for his doctor, and he’ll know how much we appreciated his care.”

What are your favorite or meaningful objects? A charming Limoges porcelain box of a psychoanalyst’s couch covered in an animal print design graces my desk. My heart warms for the person who gave this to me years ago. That little box is always there, inspiring memories and gratitude.

Identify your precious, poignant objects. Then, share the history and significance of these evocative items with your loved ones. When you tell these stories, you’ll notice how light you feel. Your *thinking* will no longer be tired.

Share your stories of evocative objects with me by writing “Gratitude” in the subject line and emailing: [press@goleader.com](mailto:press@goleader.com) or [pattisteckler@gmail.com](mailto:pattisteckler@gmail.com)

**Gratefully yours,  
Patti Steckler**

# Educator’s Corner: Featuring Nonfiction

**By JENNIFER GLACKIN**  
*For The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Text features are (almost) uniquely nonfiction. Writers use these components to convey extra information and using them will benefit a reader’s overall comprehension. They can also be a source for additional or fascinating facts! Back in middle school, my class was preparing questions for a Jeopardy! style test review. I pulled a fact from a photo caption. (Let’s just say the opposing team was not happy with losing those points!)

Many of these features work together.

The table of contents helps readers find information more readily. The titles, headings, subtitles and subheadings listed in the table of contents are separate features which help readers focus on the specific topic.

Bold or italic words can usually be found in the glossary at the end of the book. This can help readers identify a word that might be new to them or one that is important to the overall idea of the book or section. It is also useful in learning important vocabulary related to the subject.

Photographs and illustrations are often followed by a caption. The

caption provides information on the specific photograph, typically identifying the subject of the picture along with a date, location, or connection to facts mentioned in the text.

Data visuals such as graphs, charts, and diagrams offer more specific information. In nonfiction for young readers, diagrams will often describe the parts of an animal or vehicle or to help readers identify a new vocabulary word.

If your learner is exploring nonfiction, you can plan a few activities to bump up their comprehension. For early readers, try a scavenger hunt! Kindergartners, first, and second graders can search for photographs and captions. Many of the early reader, leveled nonfiction books have a table of contents, headings, bold words, and glossaries. Though these types of books are hard to find in bookstores, libraries often have hardcover beginner nonfiction that contain these features. Older elementary students can expand that list.

A more challenging activity for older or more advanced readers requires some set up. Use sticky notes to cover a chapter title or section heading. Have kids read

and then try to deduce a good heading for that part of the book. This requires higher order thinking. (The same activity can be extended to fiction chapter titles.)

For budding nonfiction writers, challenge them to put a few of these features into their work. Wrote a book about your favorite athlete? Find a picture from the internet, and create a coordinating caption.

It’s summer, so if writing a book doesn’t fit with your child or your idea of summer – totally fine! If your child is really into vehicles, find or draw a picture and create a diagram of the parts. Learn a new word from a book or a real-life adventure? Write it in bold on an index card and hang it on their door. Challenged themselves at camp? Draw a picture and date it. Our lives are nonfiction, so use what you’ve got!

## All The News

[www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com)

## Letters to the Editor

### Political Power Players Have No Business in Westfield Elections

Westfield is a lovely town where its citizens tout welcoming neighbors, good schools and an active downtown filled with live music that brings families and friends together. Felons and political power players coordinating with local candidates to drum up fake scandals should not factor into our halcyon summer days, but unfortunately, as we saw in the past week, it did.

An article from political news site NJ Globe was published on July 29 and widely shared to various Westfield social media pages. At issue was the purchase by the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) of canvas tote bags using grant monies under the Main Street New Jersey COVID-19 Relief Program. The author of the NJ Globe article, David Wildstein, is the architect of “Bridgegate,” for which he pled guilty to two felony counts of conspiracy. Wildstein founded NJ Globe with the support of Ken Kurson, a political consultant pardoned by former President Trump on charges of harassment and cyberstalking and current NJ Globe contributor. The article was further shared on the Westfield Facebook page (run independently of the town and which has almost 20K members) by Harrison Neely, of Goldfinch Partners and who was named to NJ Globe Power list in 2019 and 2020 and PolitickerNJ Power list in 2017. Mr. Neely editorialized the article as “Shameful abuse of critical funding by the Brindle Administration.”

The same afternoon the NJ Globe article was published, Republican mayoral candidate JoAnn Neylan posted a video and quickly thereafter, Westfield citizens of all parties received a robotext from Candidate Neylan. Both the video and robotext called the NJ Globe article a “bombshell report” and alleged misuse of Covid relief funds by Mayor Brindle. The timing of the video and robotext smacks of clear coordination between the Neylan Campaign and the NJ Globe site in an effort to create an aura of “scandal” around the Brindle administration in the run up to the mayoral election this November.

The mayor and council members are volunteer positions. So are the board positions of the DWC. They all work hard on behalf of our town and its citizens and should not be subjected to scurrilous accusations of wrongdoing.

Do Westfield citizens want political power players such as Wildstein, Kurson and Neely interfering in our local election and flooding our electorate with claims of scandal and corruption? Further, what will Candidate Neylan owe these players and will she be able to keep Westfield’s best interests as her top priority if elected? These are questions Westfield voters must consider as we hurdle towards November.

**Olivia R. Gonzalez  
Westfield**

### Steve McCabe’s ‘Minor Inconveniences’ Are Not Minor to the Neighbors

Mr. McCabe penned a letter in last week’s *Leader* in which he expressed support for the town’s Edison Sport Complex project and characterized the objections of local residents to the project as “minor inconveniences”. Allow me to detail some of those inconveniences.

First, a little specificity as to the project, which specifics Mr. McCabe deemed unnecessary to describe. Almost the entire area behind Edison Intermediate School will be transformed from a natural grass area with two baseball fields to a plastic grass covered area the size of seven football fields surrounded by 14 stadium lights. Only 250,000 of the 400,000 square feet of the plastic grass will be usable for playing fields, however. The remainder will be necessary merely to complete the design of the complex. The complex will literally be a stone’s throw from about a dozen and a half properties on three sides of the complex.

Mr. McCabe, will the sky glow from the 14 stadium lights and whistles, yelling, clapping and possible P.A. system night time noise be a minor inconvenience to the present resident families with children with autism who are highly sensitive to stimuli and whose homes border the complex? How about other families with very young children whose homes border the complex? Will it be a minor inconvenience for residents of the area to have to walk in the many streets without sidewalks at night during times when vehicles are arriving at and leaving the complex because there’s nowhere in the area to add significant lot parking?

Will it be a minor inconvenience when the entire residential area along Robinson’s creek bordering one side of the complex, which is already a flood zone in places, gets flooded

because the fields won’t be able to absorb all the water at times of exceptionally heavy or extended rainfalls? Will it be a minor inconvenience to the senior gentleman on whose property there’s a bridge over the creek when noisy groups of athletes are traipsing through his property at night to get from their cars on the street in front of his house to the Complex and then back to their cars later on? Will it be a minor inconvenience to the property owners bordering the complex that, following the realtor’s mantra “Location, location, location”, their property values will become significantly diminished?

And of course these minor inconveniences must be considered in tandem with the ridiculously expensive \$18.2 million cost of the sports complex, health and safety hazards of such a huge area of plastic grass, inconvenience to Edison students who at times, unlike their counterparts at Roosevelt Intermediate School, will be deprived of recess time, and other issues presented at the meeting you attended but which issues you ignore.

And the biggest question of all that I have for you is why create all these problems when there’s a much better solution to the problem of a shortage of playing fields for the youth of Westfield? That would be to improve the existing ill maintained fields and construct new fields in available areas around town such that plastic grass and stadium lights are unnecessary and no one neighborhood, especially the one that is already subject to the parking, traffic congestion and noise problems from Kehler Stadium across the street from Edison, is forced to bear the burden for the entire town.

**Robert Shire  
Westfield**

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. Garrote – To strangle
2. Riparious – Growing or living along the banks of a stream
3. Cymophanous – Having a wavy, floating light
4. Rhapontic – Rhubarb

**ZOKOR**

1. A burrowing rodent that looks like a mole rat
2. Calcium tungstate
3. A Turkish dish consisting of boiled rice, mutton or fish and spices
4. A wedge

**CULPON**

1. A roof prop used in a coal mine
2. A heavy javelin used by the Roman infantry
3. An arrow or arrowhead
4. A shred or splinter

**TEFF**

1. To make or look smart; to dress up
2. A mild, friendly slap on the back or shoulder
3. A grain plant of Abyssinia from which flour is made
4. Excessive grief; very sad

**SARCOID**

1. Like or consisting of flesh
2. Slow-moving; sluggish
3. Rust-colored
4. Scaly, as with fish

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

**Read More  
Letters on Page 12**

**Letters to  
the Editor**

### Mayor Welcomes New Garwood BA

I am proud to welcome our new Garwood Borough Administrator, Kyle Harris. He has been serving in an interim role for the past five weeks and officially started in full capacity as of August 2nd. The transition has been smooth with our retired Administrator/Clerk, Christina Ariemma, leading the training. I thank Ms. Ariemma for her dedicated service over the past 25 years and wish her all the best in retirement.

Mr. Harris brings much energy to this new position and considerable experience. Previously, Mr. Harris served as the Director of Public Works for Old Bridge Township and Supervisor of Grounds at Monmouth University. He holds a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from Monmouth University and is a Registered Municipal Clerk. Additionally, he recently studied and sat for an exam to become a Qualified Purchasing Agent.

I am optimistic as we embark on a new chapter in the Borough of Garwood. I am confident in Mr. Harris and appreciate his open door policy. Please do not hesitate to contact him or myself about any issue.

**Sara Todisco  
Garwood Mayor**

### Mayor Suprised by Garwood Senior Citizen Concerns

As Mayor, I pride myself in having an open door policy. As such, I have published my personal cell phone number and my email many times in numerous places, including in a weekly email newsletter that I started at the beginning of the pandemic. With this policy, I’ve gotten all kinds of inquiries and do my best to address each of them, from filling potholes to having a neighboring town clean out their brook on our border to how to report a spotted lanternfly.

Therefore, I was surprised to read a letter signed by a few Garwood senior citizens in last week’s paper with concerns over our senior program because this was the first I was hearing of them. The concerns were also news to our Senior Citizen Director who I spoke with last Friday after the letter came out.

Senior meetings and activities were only put on hold due to the pandemic and in accordance with advice from our Health Department. Activities returned this past spring when we were advised it would be safe. Senior meetings are going to start up in September with a catered lunch and a DJ to welcome everyone back. Despite the pandemic, Council President Jen Blumenstock, who is the Senior Citizen Liaison, personally organized a safe socially distanced walk last summer, but only two seniors attended.

Garwood senior programs are funded by both a Community De-

velopment Block grant and municipal taxes. The only reason funding was reduced in the 2020 and 2021 municipal budgets was because it was offset by existing grant money and it would not be prudent to budget tax dollars to the full amount when programs were on hold during the pandemic.

I understand and empathize with the situation regarding the size of our meeting room at the Recreation Complex, but this is not a new issue. It has been the case for the past six years. However, the Borough Council and myself negotiated with the developer of the Paperboard site for a 4200+ square feet community center and \$150,000 from the developer to fit it out. This will be a solution to the need for more meeting space for many of our town groups, especially our seniors.

Lastly, I am not aware of the suggestion of going to Clark for meetings. As I stated earlier, meetings are starting back up in September in Garwood. I know a campaign event, since it was hosted by two Council candidates, was attempted and some seniors were unhappy that a municipal property could not be used for it. However, no political party can use municipal property for political events and I am sure all residents would agree that taxpayer money should not be used for any political event. Also, I know that in addition to the programs offered by our Senior Director who is a full-

time Garwood employee, our Recreation Director who also works in Clark, offered Garwood seniors the opportunity to join some activities in Clark. Since Garwood seniors did not want to go to Clark, that was dropped and the Recreation Director has set up additional programs in Garwood for seniors.

To close, my door remains open. Please contact me anytime at (908) 377-7890 and/or email me at [STodisco@garwood.org](mailto:STodisco@garwood.org).

**Mayor Sara Todisco  
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](http://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.





## Letters to the Editor

### What are the Town’s Priorities For Brightwood Park?

Last week, Linda Habgood published a letter updating the public on the town’s position regarding Brightwood Park. She acknowledged that the town needs to spend money on its parks and recognized the strong opposition to the mountain bike proposal made by JORBA. She wanted to make clear to her constituents that she has listened. Her words suggest that there will be no mountain biking in the park. However, she did not mention that the town is still open to allowing biking on existing trails. The small size of the park does not support multi-use trails yet Jen Gilman, Chairwoman of the Recreation Commission has recently said that the commission “supports mountain biking as a permitted use in Brightwood Park.” It seems they are determined to find a way for biking to be allowed in the only nature park in town.

Unfortunately, the town has ignored Brightwood Park for many years, and now major areas of concern need to be addressed if there will be a nature park remaining for future generations. The health of Brightwood Park is at a tipping point. Invasive plant species are choking out native plants. The pond is in poor shape. The park is overrun with deer, who are further spreading invasive plants and cause habitat destruction. The aeration system of the pond is inadequate to maintain a healthy water environment for fish and flora, as evidenced by the fish kill that occurred this week. This fish kill could have been avoided had the pond health been prioritized.

The natural habitat of the park is being damaged. The town is failing to prioritize its ecological needs and is in no hurry to address it. Fencing around the park is too low or damaged to keep deer out. The town acknowledges that these are areas of concern that need attention yet there is no itemized agenda outlining a schedule to fix these threats over a specific period of time. Instead of focusing on addressing the pond’s aeration,

### Mayor and Council Do Not Control DWC Operations

A false claim that started with an article in an online political blog suggesting that the Mayor misused COVID relief funds to buy 2,000 tote bags has consumed more oxygen than it deserves. The grant for the purchase was applied for, and awarded to, the Downtown Westfield Corporation, an entity whose existence and function are little known and even less understood.

The DWC’s relative anonymity has allowed a misleading political campaign claim about the tote-bag purchase to gain unmerited traction, which is a disservice to everyone in Westfield except for those doing the misleading.

The DWC is the management company for a self-funded entity called the Special Improvement District. Both are creatures of State law that any municipality may create by ordinance. Westfield adopted such an ordinance in the mid-

### Town Should Restore Brightwood Ecology, Not fund Trail Eval.

I recently read that the Recreation Commission is seeking a “trail expert” for Brightwood Park. The 1.6 miles of trails in Brightwood Park are currently adequate for the recreation of hikers, runners, and bicyclists and also for the recreation of people who like to stand still: birders, fishermen, painters, and people who sit still to be calm surrounded by nature.

However, as the recent fish kill in the pond demonstrates, the ecology of the park is at a tipping point. The town must first spend our tax dollars to restore the park’s ecology. This includes fixing the aerators in the pond and controlling the invasive plants and insects, such as the spotted lanternfly.

The fish kill occurred due to low oxygen levels in the pond. If the pond had had adequate aerators for its size and depth, the dissolved oxygen level of the pond would have been adequate for the health of the fish. Without adequate aerators, the pond’s dense duckweed covering its surface caused dangerously low oxygen levels. The duckweed had to be treated to improve the oxygen level. However, when treated last week with an herbicide, the duckweed died causing a further decline in dissolved oxygen. With dangerously low dissolved oxygen levels, the fish suffocated. Only when the pond is properly aerated and duckweed is proactively controlled, can oxygen levels be maintained to sustain aquatic life.

The good news is that the town has many allies in a citizen group that has expended considerable time and energy and is even willing to help financially to restore Brightwood Park to a healthy natural state. But if the town continues to mispend our tax dollars on trail evaluations and delays the most crucial improvements, the enthusiasm of the citizen group will fade. Please, Mayor Brindle, Commissioner Gilmann, and Councilwoman Habgood, spend our dollars on the immediate needs of Brightwood Park, not on trail evaluations.

Trudy Burke  
Westfield

the town has remained steadfastly focused on bike trails.

So, what is the town committed to doing? Immediately hiring a trail consultant to address how the trails in Brightwood Park can be improved for ALL users.

Why does the town want to prioritize a trail consultant over new aerators, water treatments, fencing, and invasive species removal? Because it is an election year, and the politicians do not want to anger any group of constituents. Mountain bikers who thought they had a lock on creating bike trails in the park are disappointed, so the idea of a trail consultant may appeal to them.

Over 3,500 people have signed a petition requesting the town not permit biking in the park. I hope the rec. commission, the town council and mayor will listen to their constituents. Hiring yet another consultant, a trail expert at that, doesn’t fix the park. It squanders funds better spent addressing all of the other problems identified in the original study.

The first consultant the town hired to create a Master Plan for parks found a town need for walking and hiking trails, followed closely by natural areas/nature parks. Recommendations from this consultant tell us what would make Brightwood Park better: restoration of natural areas and preservation of the park’s character. The plan’s recommendation for Brightwood Park is to protect this natural resource. Allowing biking in this natural resource is at odds with these recommendations. Why are we set on hiring yet another consultant? Are we trying to get a different answer?

What are the administration’s priorities and intention in Brightwood Park? I want to know from those running for office before I vote in November.

Manette Scheininger  
Westfield

1990s. The following is the substance of what the ordinance says about the powers of the DWC:

The Downtown Westfield Corporation shall have the authority to exercise the following powers:

(a) Adopt bylaws to regulate its affairs and conduct its business;

(b) Employ such persons as may be required, and fix and pay their compensation;

(c) Apply for, accept, and administer the appropriation of funds, gifts, grants, property, or money;

(d) Make and execute contracts necessary or convenient to the exercise of the powers and functions of the corporation;

(e) Administer and manage its own funds and pay its obligations.

There are three specific activities for which the DWC must obtain Town Council approval, all of which either potentially affect its financial viability, such as borrowing short-term funds, or that change the look, character, or ownership of its real property in the Central Business District.

The Mayor or her/his designee sits as a non-voting ex-officio member on the DWC Board.

The money for the tote bags, about 10 percent of a \$72,000 grant, came from a fund administered by the New Jersey Department of Consumer Affairs. The employees of the DWC — who are not employed by the mayor or the town — applied for and obtained the funds under the grant of authority set forth in Section (c), above, without the knowledge or participation of either the Mayor or the Council. The intent was apparently to drive foot traffic to downtown merchants by allowing them to give free promotional tote bags to their customers during the 2020 and 2021 holidays.

The mayor and council do not now have, nor have they ever had, operational control of the affairs of the DWC. It has been, by law and since inception, a separate and autonomous corporate entity under every administration, both Democratic and Republican.

The mayor and council had nothing to do with the grant for, or the purchase of, tote bags for Westfield merchants. All claims to the contrary deserve to suffocate for lack of further oxygen.

Carl A. Salisbury  
Westfield

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Editor’s Note: Mr. Salisbury is a Former First Ward Councilman

### Charting a Path Forward for Our Parks and Fields

Ever since I was elected to the Westfield Town Council 10 years ago, adding additional field space for youth sports in town has been a topic of conversation. Back then, I had two young children beginning in Westfield sports programs. I learned first-hand the need for better playing fields and the limited space for this in town. We would travel to neighboring towns and the conversation was usually the same: “Why can’t Westfield have better facilities?”

During my town council tenure, Westfield voted down a referendum for lighted turf fields at the high school. When the Westfield Soccer Association installed temporary lights at Kehler Stadium, there was understandably much opposition from nearby residents. A better solution was needed.

As a result, our local sports leagues, the town council, and the Westfield Recreation Committee began working on a plan that included two lighted turf fields at Tamaques Park along with expanded parking, new basketball courts, and a new, larger central park building with restrooms, equipment storage, concessions, and a multi-purpose community room. By late 2017, the town was on the verge of moving forward with that designed plan, one our children could have been already playing on. Unfortunately, the plans were cancelled with the change in administration, Mayor Brindle’s decision was to do a re-examination of our town parks.

The following year, I was asked to be on the Parks Master Plan Steering Committee, and I was happy to be included in conversations with the town’s consultant. Over the next several months, there were four meetings with the consultant, who reviewed the results from the public survey on our parks and fields. The consultant confirmed what we already knew: namely, that our youth sports required additional field space.

The Parks Master Plan was delivered to the town in January 2020, nearly two years after the cancellation of the Tamaques Park plan. Interestingly, because Tamaques Park and Edison School have been topics of conversation lately, it is worth noting that 2020 Parks Master Plan recommends \$7.87 million in improvements at Tamaques Park, largely in line with the prior plan rejected by Mayor Brindle, and only \$3.55 million in investment for the Edison School fields. Mayor Brindle’s current proposed spend for the Edison project alone is more than \$18 million.

At the town council meeting June 15, I like you became aware of the \$18.2 million Edison School mega-project as it was publicly introduced. After seeing the plan, I immediately knew it was far too dense for a residential neighborhood, and particular the Edison School area. Having two children at Edison these past couple years, I see how congested this area is when there is an Edison school event or game at Kehler. I am fully aware how the parking impacts the residents in these neighborhoods. Quite often I receive calls of residents sharing their frustration about parked vehicles blocking a homeowner’s driveway. Notwithstanding the immense cost of the project, no additional parking was part of the plan. I also am aware of the drainage, lighting, and other issues that a massive complex like this could cause.

I would like to see a scaled-down version of improved fields at Edison School, and a return to the Tamaques Park plan. If we truly have over \$18 million, all town and school fields should be improved across Westfield as they all need an upgrade. It is time that we come together to build a comprehensive plan. I look forward to moving a plan forward and welcome input.

Councilman Mark LoGrip  
Westfield

### Lights Are the Stalemate on Edison Fields Project

The proposed “Edison Fields Project” announced at the June 15 Town Council meeting has become a hot topic of conversation, particularly in Wards 3 and 4 and within the various sports associations with “Westfield” in their name. The proposed project at Edison Intermediate School would include almost nine acres of continuous synthetic turf, virtually all the grassy area behind the school. Three multi-use athletic fields would be integrated into the existing JV and Varsity baseball fields. Lighting towers (14) and a building for restrooms, storage and concession stand round out the plan at an enormous cost of \$18.2mm.

While there is nearly unanimous agreement that the town has suffered for years from a lack of field capacity, there’s no consensus as to a solution. If I were to point to the root of the stalemate, it would be with one word: lights. There are essentially no options left in town where a lit field would not impact residents. Any time a project is proposed, synthetic turf and lights are part of the scope. Synthetic turf is “needed” for playability and the cost of turf necessitates maximizing playing time which leads straight to lights. Lights generate nighttime activity on the field as well as traffic on the streets, both of which

are unnatural in suburban residential neighborhoods after sunset. Resistance to the project is met and inevitably it gets shelved. So goes the cycle for the past 15 years.

The proposed project at Edison is no different. It’s a massive proposal with synthetic turf and lights, requiring about a million pounds of ground up tires as infill creating a 400,000 sq.ft. heat island. It’s also right across the street from Kehler Stadium which already brings tons of activity, traffic and parking issues into the neighborhood. It directly impacts dozens of homes that border the property. I can’t think of a more invasive, unhealthy, less green solution to this problem.

So, here’s a wild thought. Break the cycle! Skip synthetic turf and lights in favor of improved grass fields. Broaden the proposed partnership with the Board of Education (BOE) to include more of their properties whose fields desperately need improvement. Build multiple grass fields on BoE and Town properties with proper soil, drainage and grass varieties so they offer far more playable hours than today. Hire a certified Sports Turf Manager to ensure that all fields in town (grass and synthetic) are safe and properly maintained for sports activity.

The BOE wins from improved school properties for student’s gym classes and recess. Taxpayers win from the much lower cost of grass fields vs. synthetic (more money for other park improvements). The sports programs win from additional field capacity after a 15-year stalemate. The mayor and town council win by delivering a “green” solution to the town’s lack of athletic field capacity. Most importantly our children benefit from having a healthy, natural surface to play on.

Gregg Lehmberg  
Westfield



## Elections 2021



### Communication Breakdown

In 2019 Verizon applied for approval to erect a 148 foot cell tower on the UCC campus in Cranford. There was much public outcry over this cell tower from residents of the surrounding areas including those in Westfield, mostly in the Washington School district area of Ward 2. The objections included the visual impact the tower would have on the landscape along with the unknown potential health risks from living so close to this type of tower. Mayors of both Cranford and Westfield encouraged residents to attend meetings and have their voices heard on the subject.

In March of this year the Cranford Zoning Board voted against approving variances that would have allowed for a cell tower to be built in Cranford. This decision was praised by the Westfield Town Council with Ward 2 Councilman Michael Dardia calling it “great news for our ward” at the March 23 Westfield Town Council meeting. Our Mayor agreed.

Surprisingly, after this display of support for a cell tower project being stopped in another town, the Westfield Town Council will now issue an RFP for a cell tower in Ward 4. What has changed in the last few months? Are cell towers less intrusive to the landscape and safer now? Technology moves fast, but not that fast. No, the difference here is that Westfield will get something from this project.

The Houlihan Sid Fay Field complex needs work. Anyone who has attended an event at the complex or driven by knows there is insufficient parking which creates a safety issue with people darting across Lamberts Mill Road or walking in the street and the two blue porta potties speak for themselves. It is also unkept and when empty is a bit of an eyesore. The mayor and council know this and needed improvements are noted in the Parks Master Plan, the same one being used as the justification

for the \$18.2 million dollar field renovation at Edison School. But they have failed to make them, even after decreasing our surplus by almost \$9 million dollars. This is exactly the type of project surplus should be used for.

Instead, the mayor and council are looking to have a cell service provider make the improvements for them in return for allowing a cell tower to be built on the property. The same tower that was so bad for Ward 2 is now fine for Ward 4. The concerns about visual impact and health risks that our Northside neighbors expressed over a tower in a neighboring town apparently are not concerns for the Southside residents when it comes to a tower in our town. Why is that? This tower will be next to the busiest fields in town, across the street from a church and a school, near a fitness center and most importantly, a stone’s throw from hundreds of Westfield residents. It will also be about a mile away from a tower that already exists in Clark near the Westfield border.

Partnering with outside companies to get capital improvements done is not a bad idea, but opposing a cell tower near one side of town and then proposing a cell on the other is a bad idea. The council should be consistent and show the Ward 4 residents the same respect they showed the Ward 2 residents. The needed improvements and safety upgrades should be made to the Houlihan Sid Fay complex along with aesthetic improvements using the surplus that this council has described as abundant. The Ward 4 council members should support the Ward 4 residents in that area opposing this the way the council did the Ward 2 residents. As your council member, that’s what I would do. Can you hear me now?

James Restivo  
Council Candidate, Ward 4  
Westfield

### Candidate Nolde Introduces Herself to Garwood Residents

As a resident of Garwood for the past 21 years, my family and I have benefited from its excellent services, reasonable taxes, and traditional small-town feel. My husband and I have raised our three kids here and have loved being able to walk everywhere we need to go around town, especially the parks.

I am a classically trained flutist and music educator by profession. After finishing my musical studies at Northwestern University and the Juilliard School, I was fortunate to live and work in Spain as an orchestral flutist. The experience of learning a new language and culture really opened my world of understanding and spurred a lifelong love of learning. In 2009, I became a public school instrumental music teacher in the New Brunswick Public Schools after many years as a self-employed flutist and private teacher. Since 2003, I have been co-chair of the scholarship committee for a local non-profit, providing financial assistance to students from Union County pursuing a degree in music.

The desire to help and serve others is a value I share with many of my Garwood neighbors. From food and toy drives to creating gardens for everyone to enjoy,

our community knows how to show we care about each other. In the coming months and years, Garwood will be welcoming many new neighbors to our town through new development, and I would like to ensure that as we grow and move forward, these shared values continue to flourish.

As a musician, arts educator, and advocate, I know that access to vibrant visual and performing arts programming enriches people’s lives in many ways while creating opportunities for local businesses. If elected, I would like to create an Arts and Culture Commission to bring a variety of arts and cultural experiences for us to share as a community.

If I am so honored to be elected to Garwood’s Borough Council, I would work collaboratively with my colleagues on the Council to provide the fiscally responsible quality services the people of Garwood expect and deserve. As a team we will be guided by our shared commitment to a balanced budget, quality services, and most importantly to the residents of Garwood.

Clarissa Nolde  
Candidate for Borough Council  
Garwood

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## Registration Is Underway For Grief Seminar Series

CRANFORD – The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford is preparing for its free, seven-week seminar entitled “Journey Toward Wholeness — Healing the Grieving Heart.” It will take place every Sunday, from September 12 to October 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sessions will be conducted via Zoom.

Registration is now taking place and is required to attend this event. A meeting link will be provided upon registration or in person at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, located at 11 Springfield Avenue.

The seminar is open to all who have experienced loss of any kind, past or present, and all previous attendees wishing to return for a refresher. The Zoom option offers participants a unique opportunity to attend with friends or family from other states.

## Library to Host Programs With Astrono-Educator

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Public Library invites all community members to explore the skies with astrono-educator Bob Reichman on two evenings during August. Mr. Reichman is an active member of the New Jersey Astronomical Association and a Qualified Observer at the Paul Robinson Observatory in High Bridge.

On Wednesday, August 11, at 7 p.m., Mr. Reichman will present “Our Place in Space” virtually via Zoom. Participants will be able to deepen their understanding of some of the big concepts of size and scale, phases, eclipse and tides, rotation versus revolution, astronomical units, light years and more. Registration is required in order

Sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, the seminar grew out of an idea from the Reverend Dr. Bruce Williams, who co-created this program 21 years ago. The co-leaders of the program are Patti Williams, RN, a certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Virginia Waters, Ph.D. Both have personal and professional training and experience in the field of grief and loss. They are joined by a team of trained facilitators who provide support and lead breakout groups for individuals who have experienced a similar loss.

Free and open to all faiths, the program has served 3,500 people in its 21-year history. To register, call Patti Williams at (908) 709-1341. For more information, visit [firstprescranford.org/journey-to-wholeness-healing-the-grieving-heart/](http://firstprescranford.org/journey-to-wholeness-healing-the-grieving-heart/).

to receive the Zoom link.

Astronomy enthusiasts will have a chance to meet Mr. Reichman in person on Monday, August 30, at 8 p.m., and use their newly-acquired knowledge to understand the night sky. They will be able to take a turn at the telescope to view the moon, the stars, and even some planets. In the event of poor viewing conditions, the rain date is Tuesday, August 31, at 8 p.m. Registration is recommended.

The registration forms, along with information about the library’s entire month of programming, can be found on the library’s website, [scotlib.org](http://scotlib.org). The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue.

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31 Homes Sold July 25 – Aug 1, 2021 in Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield									
TOWN	ADDRESS	STYLE	RMS	BRS	BTH	GAR	SALE PRICE		
Cranford	9 Roger Ave	CapeCod	10	4	3.0	1	\$430,000		
Cranford	77 Thomas St	CapeCod	10	3	2.0	2	\$470,000		
Cranford	87 Glenwood Rd	SplitLev	8	4	2.0	1	\$465,000		
Cranford	32 Normandie Pl	SplitLev	8	4	1.1	1	\$650,000		
Cranford	129 Thomas St	Colonial	10	4	2.1	1	\$625,129		
Cranford	204 Richard St	SplitLev	7	4	3.0	2	\$700,000		
Cranford	25 Berkeley Pl	Colonial	9	4	1.2	2	\$720,000		
Cranford	17 Bloomingdale Ave	Colonial	10	4	2.1	2	\$720,000		
Fanwood	188 Tillotson Rd	CapeCod	8	4	2.0	1	\$575,000		
Garwood	236 Hemlock Ave	SplitLev	7	3	1.1	1	\$510,000		
Mountainside	1376 Wood Valley Rd	SplitLev	9	4	2.0	2	\$540,000		
Mountainside	1001 Charles St	SplitLev	9	5	2.2	2	\$630,000		
Mountainside	467 Hillside Ave	Custom	14	6	4.1	2	\$1,540,000		
Scotch Plains	389 Montague Ave	Colonial	7	3	1.1	1	\$545,000		
Scotch Plains	2212 Jersey Ave	SplitLev	8	3	2.1	1	\$581,000		
Scotch Plains	936 Crestwood Rd	Colonial	9	4	2.0	1	\$600,000		
Scotch Plains	2083 Princeton Ave	Colonial	9	4	1.2	1	\$760,100		
Scotch Plains	13 Green Hickory Hl	Colonial	9	4	2.1	2	\$670,000		
Scotch Plains	607 Taylors Way	Colonial	9	4	3.1	1	\$981,450		
Scotch Plains	2098 Nicholl Ave	Colonial	10	4	2.1	2	\$969,000		
Westfield	534 W Broad St	Colonial	7	3	1.1	0	\$420,000		
Westfield	654 W Broad St	Colonial	6	3	2.1	1	\$422,500		
Westfield	120 Cedar St	Ranch	5	2	1.0	1	\$465,000		
Westfield	260 Prospect St# 18	OneFloor	5	2	2.0	1	\$525,000		
Westfield	731 Sherman St	Colonial	8	4	2.1	1	\$765,000		
Westfield	913 Harding St	Colonial	8	3	1.1	1	\$724,449		
Westfield	48 Michael Dr	Bi-Level	11	4	2.1	2	\$875,000		
Westfield	609 Saint Marks Ave	Colonial	10	5	3.1	2	\$999,999		
Westfield	704 Highland Ave	Medittor	10	5	4.1	2	\$1,850,000		
Westfield	1041 Tice Pl	Custom	15	6	5.1	2	\$1,885,000		
Westfield	251 E Dudley Ave	Colonial	16	8	5.3	4	\$2,550,000		

\*Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield, NJ data according to the Garden State MLS, as of 7/25/21 – 8/1/21. 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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## — Obituaries —

### Marilyn ‘Lynn’ Kolterjahn, 95, Devoted To Her Family, Faith and Community

Marilyn “Lynn” Kolterjahn, 95, of Westfield, N.J., passed away on Sunday, July 25.

Lynn, as she was known to all, was born in Derry, Pa., on June 25, 1926, to parents Paul and Helen Hammer. Her mom was a dedicated elementary school teacher and her father was a lifelong employee of Westinghouse. They imparted to Lynn their love of God, country and family, allegiance to the spirit of the community and a solid work ethic.

She had a wonderful childhood and was a good student while learning to play both the piano and organ. Her Aunt Martha introduced Lynn to Fred Rogers, a neighbor, and Lynn spent many enjoyable Sundays going to church with her childhood friend. Her teenage years were spent in Christian Endeavor and youth choirs. After she completed her music studies, she became a substitute organist at the local churches in Derry and Latrobe. She went to Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pa., and majored in music and history. There she met Paul Kolterjahn, on a blind date. They married in 1949 and, following graduation, moved to North Jersey, where she taught sixth grade and Paul began his career at Citigroup.

Falling in love with Westfield during a visit, the couple moved to the town in 1954. Lynn immediately joined the Newcomers Club and the Jefferson School PTO. Later on, she served as president of the Edison Intermediate School PTA. When her two sons started school, she worked with the Superintendent of Schools to facilitate meetings in her home to prepare members of the community for the opening of Tamaques School. Lynn became a Cub Scout den mother and a trusted “Mom’s Taxi” for her sons’ many travels to football, basketball, baseball and hockey practices, games and camps.

Lynn was committed to supporting Westfield’s civic organizations. She was both generous and dedicated in her support. She was a founding member of the Youth Employment Service (YES), president of the Westfield Hospital Association, and a member of the Board of Youth and Family Counseling Service, the United Fund and many others. She was honored to receive the 2004 Charles F. Bailey Humanitarian Award and to be named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

She was deeply committed to the Westfield Memorial Library and was instrumental in getting a public referendum passed to build the new library. She was also a founding member of the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library and held many offices in the organization, including terms as president and chairman. In 1994, she was honored to receive the



Marilyn Kolterjahn

Kenneth Gaston Award.

In 1976 Lynn joined the Auxiliary to the Board of Trustees of Children’s Specialized Hospital and began volunteering as a pre-school recreation assistant and member of the Transportation Corps. She volunteered every week in the Linen room for over 35 years, stocking carts with bed linen, and her generosity helped support many capital projects undertaken by the hospital. She was elected to the hospital Board of Trustees and served from 1988 to 2000. She co-chaired the Annual Ball for many years. She also served as an honorary trustee of the board and the Foundation.

Her faith in God guided her throughout this wondrous life. At the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, she taught Sunday School, was a substitute organist, director of the adult and young people’s Handbell Choirs, a Deacon and an Elder, wedding coordinator, co-facilitator of the Parkinson’s Disease Support Group, member of the Senior Network and volunteered in the church office.

Lynn loved sports, cooking, crossword puzzles, bridge and travel. In her spare time, you could find her watching the Giants football team, golf tournaments or simply doing the *New York Times* puzzles. Lynn loved food and no dish was too challenging to prepare, and she especially enjoyed making the Sunday family dinner. The holiday parties were filled with Lynn’s cooking and of her playing holiday classics on the piano, to everyone’s delight. She leaves behind many enjoyable recipes for the family to enjoy. Bridge was a game she loved to play, as much for the skill involved as for the conversations with friends. She was quite good at it and consistently beat out her husband, Paul, in couples bridge as well as in individual games. Her travels took her to Japan, Europe, South America, the Middle East and all over the Caribbean and the U.S.

Lynn was predeceased in 1992 by her beloved husband of 43 years, Paul Henry Kolterjahn, and leaves behind her grateful and loving sons, Paul (Linda) of Harmony, N.J., and Don (Jean) of Westfield, N.J. She was the adoring grandmother of Paul (Jessica), Stephanie (Scott), Jason (Lisa), Tim and Bob. She also leaves five great-grandchildren.

The family welcomes all to a Memorial Service at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, 140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield, N.J., on Saturday, September 11, at 11 a.m. A festive reception will follow!!

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, Children’s Specialized Hospital or The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library.

August 5, 2021

## ELL Summer Experience Features Olympic Theme

WESTFIELD — An Olympic theme was the focus of the English Language Learners (ELL) Summer Experience, a camp for Westfield students that provides meaningful enrichment activities to help students continue their English-language acquisition.

This year’s ELL program ran from July 12 to 23 at Wilson Elementary School and welcomed 14 students in grades 1 to 5 whose native languages include Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Polish, Russian and Portuguese.

“The first week we learned about the Olympics — the origins, traditions, and the modern practices/games,” said Edison Intermediate School world language teacher Jillian Martinez, who runs the program with fellow world language teacher Mercedes Poyntz. “The second week, we focused on playing games, practicing sportsmanship, and being a good team member and part of a community.”

Ms. Martinez said students were given hands-on opportunities to create arts and crafts to represent their

native countries and cultures, while also playing games modeled after actual Olympic events.

“The idea was to have them bond with their peers about their unique backgrounds and hopefully create fun moments watching the real Olympics with their families,” Ms. Martinez added.

K-12 World Languages and ELL Supervisor Enrique Pincay said the 2021 ELL Summer Experience has been a success. “Given the many restrictions our students faced this past year, our teachers focused their efforts on hands-on activities and kinesthetic learning,” Mr. Pincay said. “Capitalizing on the 2020 Olympics — postponed last year due to the pandemic — our teachers brought the games into the classroom and playground.”

Mr. Pincay said social and emotional learning also was addressed with daily yoga, friendly competition and collaborative activities.

“We are happy that we have been able to offer our students an opportunity to learn through play, especially after such a challenging year,” he said.

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## Eleven Area Youth Attend 75th Session of Boys State

WESTFIELD — The American Legion Post 3 in Westfield sponsored 11 young men to attend the 75th session of Boys State from June 20 to 25 at Rider University. This program is held under the auspices of the American Legion Department of New Jersey. The candidates were chosen for this college-credit, five-day conference based on their school involvement, academic excellence, leadership qualities and character.

The goal of this conference is to develop good citizens by inspiring the youth to take a more active interest in the operations of their town, county, state and federal government. The students learn how privileged they are to be Americans and the responsibilities of good citizenship. The program also helps young people understand the sacrifices made by United States veterans on behalf of their nation.

Every student at the conference had the opportunity to participate in the political-party process by running for an office. By the end of the week,

delegates were elected as governor, lieutenant governor and two Boys Nation senators, who will attend the national program in Washington, D.C., this month and meet the President of the United States.

The following boys attended: Nicholas Battista, Ciaran Bowler, Christopher Riemann and Cristian Simms, from Oratory Preparatory School in Summit; C.J. Estevez, from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, and Colin Whiteside, Abhijay Upadhyay, Joseph Sebastian, Joseph Paglia, Jonathan Colamedici and Michael Palacio, from Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains. Michael earned the rank of lieutenant governor for the State of New Jersey. He also received a \$2,500 scholarship from The American Legion Department of New Jersey.

American Legion Post 3 of Westfield members and past Boys State Alumni parents sponsored these boys to attend this conference. Jack Ford and Rob Whitehead are co-chairmen of Boys State Post 3 in Westfield.

## Virtual Walk/Run+ Event to Benefit JFSCNJ Programs

ELIZABETH — Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey (JFSCNJ) will hold a Virtual Walk/Run+ — Choose Your Own Adventure in support of the organization’s many services. It will take place Monday through Sunday, August 9 to 15.

Participants can choose any type of activity and have friends, family and co-workers support their adventure on behalf of JFSCNJ. There will be an In Person Walk/Run Gathering and Brunch on Sunday, August 15, from 8 to 10 a.m., for those who register at the minimum level. It will take place at Oak Ridge Park, 136 Oak Ridge Road, Clark. Kosher dietary laws will be observed.

The event is being chaired by JFSCNJ Assistant Treasurer Gerri Rothfleisch of Westfield. Her fellow committee members include Ann Beckerman, David Brooks, Elyse Deutsch, Toby Goldberger, Michael Gottlieb, Eric Harvitt, Mark Hauptman, Jason Hoberman, Jodi Zolkin Kiste, Susan Klapper, Daniel Krausz, David Levenberg, Ruth

Margolin, Jennifer Marshall Sofield, Phyllis Reich, Michelle Rosen, Steven Rosen, Eugene Rosner, Donald Shapiro, Marc Singer, Arielle Traub and Janice Weinberg.

JFSCNJ is a non-sectarian health and social-service agency serving all residents of Union County. It offers a kosher food pantry, Meals on Wheels, mental-health services and an Urban Community Garden. Additionally, JFSCNJ provides programs for Holocaust survivors, counseling for individuals, families and children, caregiver support for children with special needs, support for families caring for loved ones with Alzheimer’s/Dementia, nursing and home-health-aide services, and transportation for the homebound elderly.

To participate in or donate to the Virtual Walk/Run+ event, visit [jfscentralnj.org/run4JFS](http://jfscentralnj.org/run4JFS). Individuals can email [info@jfscentralnj.org](mailto:info@jfscentralnj.org) or call (908) 352-8375 to RSVP for the In-person Walk/Run Gathering on August 15. The event is organized by Generosityseries.com.

## Library Activities to Feature Bees, Dogs and Book Club

GARWOOD — The Garwood Public Library, located at 411 Third Avenue, has revealed multiple events that it has planned for the month of August.

“What’s the Buzz?” is scheduled for Wednesday, August 11, at 7 p.m. Bee expert Suzanne Luciano will present an introduction to honey bees via Zoom. Participants will learn all about bees, including what people can do to protect them. Once registered, participants will receive a link for the program.

An hour-long program for adults entitled “Understanding Your Dog” will be presented via Zoom on Thursday, August 12, at 7 p.m. It will feature a brief introduction to dog psychology, common mistakes dog owners make that can lead to behavioral issues in their pets, and some quick tips for dog owners to improve their

relationship with their dog. Once registered, participants will be provided with a Zoom link.

The library’s Book Discussion Group will meet via Zoom on Monday, August 16, at 1 p.m., for a lively discussion of this month’s book. The book is “Such a Fun Age” by Kiley Reid. Once individuals are registered for the club, a Zoom link will be sent via email.

The Garwood Public Library is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. It is closed on Saturdays in August. Ten people are permitted in the library at a time for one hour; no appointments are necessary. One-hour computer use is permitted. Staff is available to copy and fax for the public. Curbside service also is available.



FRIENDS IN ANY LANGUAGE...Westfield students in grades 1 to 5 enjoyed Olympic-themed activities during this year’s English Language Learners (ELL) Summer Experience. The program provides enriching activities to help the young participants continue their English-language acquisition.



## F-SP College Club Reveals Scholarship Recipients

FANWOOD-SCOTCH PLAINS — Celebrating its 88th anniversary, the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains continues its tradition since its inception in 1933 of supporting the pursuit of a college education for young women in the Scotch Plains and Fanwood communities by providing scholarships.

To date, the club has awarded approximately \$720,000 in scholarships to 563 young women.

This past May, the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains awarded a total of \$31,500 in scholarships to 11 students. Of this group, five graduated from high school in June and five currently attend college. These awards included a special education award donated in honor of a current College Club member, Elaine Carmen, and memorial awards in honor of two College Club past presidents, Marie Walford and Angela Hopes.

The 2021 college recipients for academic year 2021-2022 are Aubrey Bagdonas, daughter of John and Jean Bagdonas, arising junior at Villanova University, who received an Angela Hopes Memorial Award; Olivia Barcia, daughter of Vincent and Michele Barcia, a rising senior at Lafayette College, who received the Marie Walford Memorial Award; Catherine Buren, daughter of Kenneth and Susan Corrigan Buren, a rising sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania; Antoinette Chango, daughter of David and Lisa Chango, a rising sophomore at Gettysburg College, who received the Elaine Carmen Education Award, and Audrey Davis, daughter of Andy and Sally Davis, a rising junior at Boston Uni-

versity, who received an Angela Hopes Memorial Award.

The 2021 high-school recipients for academic year 2021-2022 are Tracy Ann Bagdonas, daughter of John and Jean Bagdonas, who will attend Fordham University; Abigail Conklin, daughter of Joe and Cheryl Conklin, who received an Angela Hopes Memorial Award and will attend the University of Delaware; Alexis Gutierrez, daughter of German Gutierrez and Marguerite Sahaj, who will attend Stony Brook University; Evelyn Liang, daughter of Yue Huang Liang and King Hwa Fung, who will attend Rutgers University, and Margaret Smith, daughter of Sean and Patricia Smith, who will attend Temple University.

The Academic Award of Excellence was presented to Erica Schug, the top female student in the 2021 graduating class at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS). Erica, daughter of Lorraine and Edward Schug, will attend Stevens Institute of Technology.

This is the 85th year that female students, seeking financial assistance to pursue a four-year college degree, have been helped by the club's fund-raising efforts. Two of the club's largest efforts are the annual spring luncheon and the clothing drive in the fall.

The high-school awards were presented at the SPFHS virtual annual awards assembly.

The College Club hosts programs presented by guest speakers on the third Monday of every month, September through May, which are free and open to the public. Anyone interested in more information about the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains or wishing to become a member is invited to visit the club's website, fspcollegeclub.org.

### Area Students Attain Dean's List Status At Centenary U.

HACKETTSTOWN, N.J. — Centenary University President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., has announced the Dean's List for the Spring 2021 semester. To qualify for this honor, full-time students must achieve a semester grade point average of 3.8 or above and complete a minimum of 12 semester credits.

Union County residents who earned Dean's List honors include Isaiah Anderson and Luke M. Jayroe, both of Westfield, and Veronica Gaspar of Linden.

Founded in 1867 by the Newark Conference of the United Methodist Church, Centenary University has its main campus in Hackettstown, with its equestrian facility in Washington Township. The Centenary University School of Professional Studies offers degree programs in Parsippany, as well as online and at corporate sites throughout New Jersey. For more information, visit centenaryuniversity.edu.

## Leah Norton Named to MAC Academic Honor Roll

ANNVILLE, Pa. — Leah Norton of Westfield recently was named to the Middle Atlantic Conference's (MAC) 2020-21 Academic Honor Roll.

Ms. Norton, a graduate of Westfield High School, is a member of the Lebanon Valley College women's outdoor track and field team(s) and is majoring in early childhood education and special education.

The academic honor roll is comprised of student-athletes who compete in varsity-level sports and register a GPA of 3.20 (on a 4.00 scale) or higher for the entire 2020-21 academic year.

The MAC honored 5,482 student-athletes across all of the conference's institutions who competed in field hockey, football, men's and women's

cross-country, men's soccer, women's soccer, men's and women's volleyball, wrestling, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's ice hockey, men's and women's indoor track and field, men's and women's swimming, beach volleyball, baseball, softball, men's and women's golf, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's outdoor track and field, and men's and women's tennis.

Lebanon Valley College is a private, coeducational college located in Annsville, Pa. The college offers more than 45 undergraduate majors plus self-designed majors and a range of minors, concentrations and pre-professional options. Lebanon Valley College also offers online and in-person graduate-degree programs. For more information, visit lvc.edu.



Alessandra Scrofani



Maxwell Pugliese



COMPASSION...Father Kingsley Ihejirika, pictured comforting a widow in his native country, recently spoke to the Rotary Club of Westfield about the medical clinic his organization is building in Nigeria, with support from Rotary, to serve vulnerable people who currently do not have easy access to health care.

## Westfield Rotary Assists Nigerian Widows, Orphans

WESTFIELD — Father Kingsley Ihejirika spoke to the Rotary Club of Westfield on July 20 to update members on the progress that is being made on the medical clinic in Nigeria that the club is supporting with a Rotary International Global Grant.

The Rotary Club Board of Directors voted to contribute \$7,000 to the project. Several other Rotary Clubs joined Westfield in this humanitarian endeavor, including those of Irvington, N.J., Hartford, Conn., and the Rotary Club of Owerri, Nigeria. The Rotary District matched funds raised by the clubs, and The Rotary International Foundation matched the whole package, so the Global Grant amounted to \$32,000.

Rotary is using these funds to purchase medical supplies for the clinic. Rotary Club of Westfield Past President Clark Lagemann has done the lion's share of the work, while Rotarian Dr. D. Michael Hart, the Rotary District 7475 Foundation chair, has been guiding the Global Grant process. Rotary Club of Westfield Immediate Past President Liz Ensslin has been very supportive of the project, and has motivated club members.

A Nigerian native, Father Kingsley is the founder of the Divine Mercy International Widows & Orphans Organization (DMIWO), a non-profit that utilizes advocacy and fundraising to bring relief, education and self-sufficiency to the poor and oppressed widows and orphans of Obike, Nigeria.

Father Kingsley has organized several field medical clinics over the past years, which have brought doctors to people who have never seen one. But people need care on a year-round basis. This is why DMIWO has moved forward with the construction of the Divine Mercy Medical Clinic building. This will allow doc-

tors and other medical personnel to visit every week.

Mr. Lagemann showed club members a video of Father Kingsley touring the two-story medical facility, which will include a birthing center, an emergency room, operating rooms and outpatient services. It will be equipped with a generator to supply power and a bore hole well with a water tower to supply water. The building is almost finished and is ready to receive furniture and equipment. The video will be posted on the Rotary Club of Westfield website, westfieldrotary.com.

Father Kingsley showed club members the foundation of the primary school that will be located next to the medical facility. The nearest school is an hour walk away. Plans call for the construction of three schools — nursery, primary and secondary schools — to serve about 400 children in the local village.

Father Kingsley sends a container of supplies to Obike several times a year. The container is shipped from Meriden, Conn. It needs to be packed two weeks before leaving, is shipped to Lagos, Nigeria, then needs to be transported inland to the village. It takes more than a month to arrive.

The advantage of a Rotary Global Grant is that the funds raised by the club are matched by the district, then matched again by Rotary International, multiplying the funds and increasing the effectiveness of the grant.

The Rotary Club of Westfield meets three times a month, twice by Zoom, and once in person. Rotary is a service club and business networking club, providing successful business people with opportunities to give back to the community. Guests are welcome at the meetings. For information, contact Secretary Dr. D. Michael Hart via email at: drmhart@yahoo.com.

## Calligy and Leonardis Make U. of Sciences Dean's List

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — Gianna Calligy of Scotch Plains and Peter Leonardis of Cranford have been named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List at University of the Sciences.

Selection for this award is based on students completing and passing all assigned courses with no grade below a "C" and attaining an academic average of at least 3.4 for courses taken in the Spring of 2021.

Ms. Calligy is a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences student. Mr. Leonardis is a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science student.

Since its founding in 1821 as the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, the first college of pharmacy in North America, University of the Sciences has grown to over 30 degree-granting programs from bachelor's through Doctoral degrees in the health sciences, bench sciences, and healthcare business and policy fields. To learn more, visit uscience.edu.

## Jin Ko, Isabelle Zacharia Graduate From Emerson

BOSTON, Mass. — Emerson College awarded over 950 undergraduate degrees and more than 470 graduate degrees for the Class of 2021 on May 2 at Fenway Park in Boston, Mass., during its 141st commencement exercises, and virtually on May 9. The college also honored the Class of 2020 graduates in an additional ceremony at Fenway Park on May 2.

Jin Ko of Cranford received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Media Arts Production.

Isabelle Zacharia of Scotch Plains graduated in December 2020 and received a Bachelor of Arts in Media Arts Production.

Based in Boston, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College enrolls 3,700 undergraduates and 1,400 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. For more information about Emerson College, visit emerson.edu.

## Matthew DeBenedetto Among Scranton Award Recipients

SCRANTON, Pa. — Matthew M. DeBenedetto of Westfield was among the 63 members of The University of Scranton's undergraduate class of 2021 honored for academic excellence, service or both. The awards were presented at a virtual Class Night ceremony on May 21.

Students with the highest GPA in each of the university's three undergraduate colleges were presented with Frank J. O'Hara Awards for General Academic Excellence, a memorial to the late administrator who served the university for 53 years.

Mr. DeBenedetto, a recipient of the Excellence in Operations Management Award, earned a bachelor's degree in both operations and infor-

mation management and philosophy. He participated in the university's Business Leadership Honors Program and the Special Jesuit Liberal Arts Honors Program. He is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu and Phi Sigma Tau honor societies. On campus, he was president of the Operations and Information Management Club and vice-president of the Business Club. He served as a resident assistant, BLDR administrative assistant and on the Dean's Student Advisory Board. Mr. DeBenedetto is a graduate of Westfield High School.

The University of Scranton is a Jesuit university located in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

## Six Local Residents Make Muhlenberg Dean's List

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — Muhlenberg College congratulates six local residents for being named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2021 semester. They include Sullivan Grace of Cranford, Francesca Jones of Scotch Plains, Gabrielle Klausner of Scotch Plains, Thomas McGuire of Westfield, Maxine Stone of Westfield and John Veglia of Scotch Plains.

Muhlenberg College students and Muhlenberg College School of Continuing Studies students with a term GPA of 3.50 or higher were recognized for this academic achievement. Founded in 1848, Muhlenberg is a

private, four-year residential, liberal arts college. It has an undergraduate enrollment of approximately 2,200 students and is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Muhlenberg offers academic programs in the arts, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences, as well as selected pre-professional programs, including accounting, business, education and public health. A member of the Centennial Conference, Muhlenberg competes in 22 varsity sports. For more information about the college, visit muhlenberg.edu.

## Trevor Tanella Earns Place On Providence Dean's List

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Trevor Tanella of Westfield has earned Dean's List honors at Providence College for the Spring 2021 semester.

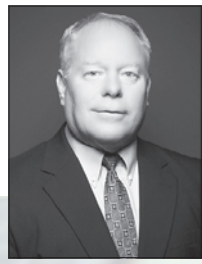
Dean's List honors are earned by full-time undergraduate students who, at the end of the semester, have attained a GPA of 3.55 or better (on a 4.0 scale), with no grade lower than "C," and with no incomplete grades ("I" or "NM").

Part-time students in the School of Continuing Education must be in good academic standing (defined as a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above) and, at the end of the semester term,

have attained an average of 3.25 or higher with no grade less than "C." They also must have carried a minimum of nine credit hours during that semester and be enrolled in a degree program.

Founded in 1917, Providence College is the only college or university in the United States administered by the Dominican Friars. The Catholic, liberal arts college has an undergraduate enrollment of approximately 4,000 students and offers degrees in 50 academic majors. For more information about the college, visit providence.edu.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

WESTFIELD — Each year, the Westfield Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recognizes eighth-grade students in each of Westfield's intermediate schools for outstanding work in American History and Youth Citizenship. The schools include Roosevelt Intermediate School, Edison Intermediate School and Holy Trinity School.

This year, the eighth-grade student selected at Roosevelt Intermediate School for her work in American History was Alessandra Scrofani. She was awarded a DAR certificate in recognition of her hard work and strong performance in that subject. The DAR Youth Citizenship Award went to Maxwell Pugliese and Elle Romano, also eighth-grade students at Roosevelt

School, who both received a DAR certificate and pin. The Youth Citizenship Award is given to students who exemplify honor, service, courage, leadership and patriotism.

The DAR is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education.



Cranford/Branchburg 10U

USA Game - August 12 Issue

# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section

Pages 9-11

KWIATKOWSKI TOSSES 5 SHUTOUT INNINGS, WELSH 2 HITS

## FB Braves Hold Off Cranford For USA League 11U Crown, 5-3

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
*For The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Chances of tying the game or even seizing a come-from-behind victory evaporated in a flash for the Cranford Blue 11Us in the bottom of the sixth inning when the FB Braves pulled off a stunning and unusual double play that would earn them the USA Baseball League Central Metro Division crown with a 5-3 win at Memorial Complex in Cranford on July 30. The Cranford Blue entered the showdown with a 9-0-1 record, while the FB Braves, based out of Fairfield, entered with a 5-4 record.

The FB Braves scored all five of their runs (2 earned) in the top of the first inning off Cougar starter Evan Ketschke, who allowed just one big hit but permitted three walks and a hit batter, while striking out two. Owen

Kwiatkowski relieved in the second inning and proceeded to pitch five shutout innings, yielding just three singles and two walks, while striking out four Braves.

Will Mazewski pitched the first four innings for the FB Braves and allowed three runs (2 earned) on five hits and four walks, while striking out six Cougars. Dave Estevez stepped on the mound for the fifth and sixth innings and permitted no runs on two hits and two walks, while striking out one batter.

Leadoff hitter Logan Walch had two of the Cougars' hits and scored once in his three at-bats. Ronan Lynch tapped an RBI single, walked and scored once. Jackson Muccigrosso had an RBI single and walked in his two plate appearances. Jake Friedman singled, walked and scored once.

Cooper Sawicki smacked a double and Dylan Muccigrosso singled once. Sam Ellacott walked once. Christian Merk covered third base and Joey LeTourneau patrolled leftfield.

Of the Braves' four hits, Estevez went 2-for-2 with a walk and scored once. Ben Ross delivered a three-run home run and Mason Newan singled and scored once. Mazewski walked and scored once and Anthony Romano scored once.

The Cranford Blue was forced into a catch up mode immediately when the FB Braves tallied five runs in the top of the first. Romano, the leadoff batter, reached first on a throwing error and Newan walked. Ross stepped to the plate and launched his three-run homer over the right field fence. Mazewski and Estevez both walked.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



WAY OFF THE MARK...FB Brave third baseman Frankie Lavarone lunges for an off-the-mark throw from the catcher as Cranford Blue's Jake Friedman gets into third in the second inning of the USA League title game in Cranford on July 30.

LYNCH, SAWICKI 3 RBI; WELCH 3 HITS; SCHOENING 3 RUNS

## Cranford 11Us Outhit Hitmen In USA League Semifinals, 14-4

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
*For The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Hits came quickly off the bats of the Cranford Blue Cougars in a very big way in their USA Baseball League 11U semifinal game against the Caldwell-Verona Hitmen at the Memorial Complex in Cranford on July 26. The Cougars amassed 12 of their 17 hits and 12 runs in the first two innings en route to a 14-4, four-inning victory over the Hitmen.

Although no one had more than three plate appearances and four went to the plate only twice, all 12 of the Cranford players managed to reach

base safely at least once. Leadoff hitter Logan Welch went 3-for-3 with a double, a run scored and an RBI. Ronan Lynch also went 3-for-3 with three RBI, which included the game ending RBI. Cooper Sawicki rapped a pair of singles, scored twice and had three RBI. Jackson Schoening went 2-for-2, walked once and scored three times.

Evan Ketchke whacked a two-run double, singled and scored twice. Owen Kwiatkowski knocked a two-run single, walked and scored twice. Christian Merk (walk), Jake Friedman (hit by pitch), Sam Ellacott and

Dylan Muccigrosso all singled once and scored once. Joey LeTourneau was hit-by-a-pitch, walked and had an RBI. Jackson Muccigrosso reached base safely on a throwing error.

Kwiatkowski pitched all four innings for the Cougars, coached by Jim Kwiatkowski, Joe LeTourneau and Matt Ketchke, and permitted only a single to Cooper Metz and a three-run double to Hunter Hochkeppel. He also walked four batters and struck out five. Luca Cifelli started for the Hitmen and was relieved by Charlie Emma with no outs in the second

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



ALMOST A CLOSE PLAY...Hitman Cooper Metz plows into second as the throw skips away from the grasp of Cranford Blue shortstop Evan Ketschke in the second inning of the USA League semifinal game in Cranford on July 26.



CAUGHT IN THE ACT...Clark Bomber Derek Gunsiorowski gets tagged out at second base by Westfield Blue shortstop Drew Walsh after a fine throw from catcher Luke Germond in the second inning of the New Providence Gold League 11U Championship game at Gumbert Field 2 in Westfield on July 28. Westfield Blue won 5-2.

STOGNER, WALSH WHACK 2 HITS EACH; TEMO TAPS 2 RBI

## WF Blue Stops Clark Bombers For N. Pr. Gold 11U Crown, 5-2

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
*For The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Colin McGeehan pitched five solid innings and reliever Ian Dickey slammed the door in the sixth inning to help the Westfield Blue 11U baseball team claim the New Providence Gold League Championship with a 5-2 victory over the Clark Bombers at Gumbert Field 2 in Westfield on July 28.

Prior to the game, the second-seeded Westfield Blue had been on a hot streak winning seven of their past eight games. The Clark Bombers, seeded fourth, knocked off top-seeded Union to make it possible for the game to be played at Westfield.

In his five innings on the mound, McGeehan permitted just two hits and two unearned runs, while walking two, hitting a batter and striking

out five. Dickey retired all three of the Bombers he faced in the final inning. Matt Talarico started for the Clark Bombers and allowed five runs (4 earned) on four hits and four walks in three innings. Vincent Lettini pitched the fourth and fifth innings and yielded no runs on three hits and two walks, while striking out two batters.

Offensively for the Westfield Blue, coached by Jim McCue, Scott Stogner, Dave Germond and Mike Dickey, Drew Walsh went 2-for-2 with a run scored. Brady Stogner rapped a pair of singles and scored once. Ryan Temo smacked a two-run single and Conor Dunn went 1-for-1 with a walk and a run scored. Peter McCue singled and walked once. Ian Dickey walked twice in his two at-bats and scored once. McGeehan and Ian Shultis both had

an RBI. Luke Germond walked and scored once and Max Hymans walked once. Tobin Garrett and Beckett Johnson both made sharp contact in their two at-bats.

Justin Majewski doubled and scored once for the Clark Bombers, coached by Benny DelVirginia, Tim Brand and Brian Majewski. Xavier Barnes singled in his three at-bats. Lettini scored the other run. Derek Gunsiorowski and James Hackett both walked once and Gabriel Wood took a fastball to the foot. Christopher Brand covered first base, Alessandro DelVirginia covered second and Logan Downey patrolled right field.

The Bombers scored once in the top of the first inning. Lettini reached base on an error then scored when DelVirginia's grounder was over-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Union County Senior 50 + and 60+ Softball League Playoffs Have Begun



GEARING UP FOR THE PLAYOFFS...Frist baseman Neil Kaufman makes the putout on Mario Fastiggi during a Union County Senior 50+ game at Rahway River Park (August 2019). The 2021 playoffs have just begun.

## Union County Senior 50+, 60+ Softball Highlights, Playoffs:

50+ A DIVISION:		
TEAM	W	L
Douglas VW	14	5
Deegan Roofing	14	5
Jun's Pro Services	12	8
Phenomenal Boyz	11	9
50+ B DIVISION:		
TEAM	W	L
All Pipes PLumbing	14	6
Linwood Tap House	14	6
Rocky's Bar & Grill	11	9
Cranford VFW	10	10
Contact Lens & Vision	8	12
Sonia's BCE	7	13
FutonWorld	5	15
50+ C DIVISION:		
TEAM	W	L
Suspenders	10	9
Linda's Driftwood Bar & Grill	8	11
Garwood Metal	7	12
AJ Jersey	2	17

**50+ Senior Division:**  
**Deegan Roofing 12, Rocky's Bar & Grill 6**

Deegan Roofing broke the game open with a six-run third inning and never looked back. Doug Fischer took the hill for the Roofers and stifled Rocky's bats while being backed up by flawless defense. The hitting star for Deegan was Scott Mugele who had three hits on the night, including two long home runs and four RBI. The Rocky's Bar & Grill team was led by Dave Martorano going 3-for-3 at the plate with a triple. Other contributing players include Dave Grandmaison, Larry Pacifico and Bruce Crawford all batting 2-for-3.

Despite a solid defensive performance, the Barmen came up short offensively.

**Douglas VW 20, Sonia's BCE 12**

Games are won by scoring runs, this one however was won on the arm of Al Genova who ended two potential Sonia's rallies with laser putouts at home and at third. On the offensive end, Genova led the charge by going (3-for-3 with 2 triples), Mario Lopez (4-for-4 including 2 doubles), Pat Mooney (3-for-3) and Mike Hoffmann (3-for-3). Also chipping in a home run was Farlan Alusik.

**Phenomenal Boyz 7, Jun's Pro Service 0**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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A BASE TOO FAR...Cranford Blue base runner Logan Welch gets tagged out by Hitman third baseman Charlie Emma in the first inning of the USA League semifinal game at Memorial Complex in Cranford on July 26.

## Cranford 11Us Outhit Hitmen in USA Semi, 14-4

inning. Cifelli was charged with nine runs on eight hits, two walks and two hit batters, while striking out none. Emma was charged with five runs on nine hits and two walks, while striking out one.

Ben Caporino led off for the Hitmen in the top of the first inning and drilled a hard shot to center that was hauled in by Welch. After walking Luke Lipari, Kwiatkowski fanned the next batter and got Cifelli to pop up to first.

Welch led of the Cranford first with a hard, hacking single past short. After swiping second, he attempted to steal third but was thrown out by catcher Ethan Fiss. Kwiatkowski walked, Ketchke singled up the middle and Schoening walked. Sawicki yanked a two-run single to right field and Friedman took a fastball to the leg. Lynch chopped an RBI single and LeTourneau brought in another run when he was hit-by-a-pitch. Friedman came home to make the score 5-0 when Jackson Muccigrosso's grounder to third was overthrown.

The Caldwell-Verona Hitmen decided to make it a game when they scored three runs in the second. Metz plooped a single over first then Charlie Crinion and Fiss both walked to load the bases. Max Marrero hacked a chopper back to the mound which

resulted in a force out at the plate then Hochkeppel hit a low liner that took a bad hop over the centerfielder's glove, resulting in a three-run double.

But the Hitmen's hopes collapsed when the Cougars hammered out seven runs on eight hits in the bottom of the inning. Dylan Muccigrosso beat out an infield single and Welch slashed a double to right-center. Kwiatkowski bounced a two-run single past short and Ketchke skid a two-run double down the third base line. After Ketchke scored on a wild pitch, Schoening singled over second and Merk looped a single near third. Sawicki hooked an

RBI single into right and Lynch poked an RBI single to center.

In the Cranford third, Ellacott wiggled an infield single and later scored on Welch's infield single. The Hitmen scored once in the fourth to make the score 13-4 when Metz walked and later scored when Fiss grounded out to short. Schoening led off the Cranford fourth with a single down the third base line. Merk walked, Friedman laid down a perfect bunt single and Lynch ended the game with an RBI single into shallow right field.

Hitmen	030	1	4
Cranford Blue	571	1	14

## WHS Boys Golf Team Ranked 16th In United States for 2020-2021

The National High School Golf Association recently announced its 2020-2021 high school golf rankings, with the Westfield High School Boys Golf Team ending its season ranked 16th in the United States.

The WHS Blue Devil golfers dominated the season, winning the Tournament of Champions along with state and sectional competitions as well. Team captain Colin Summers also won individual state and Tournament of Champions titles.

"Many teams work hard to try to reach their goals, but this team fostered

a mindset to fulfill their goals. From the beginning, they expressed their desire, dedication and fortitude to attain the state championship and TOC titles," said WHS Supervisor of Athletics Sandra Mamary. "Our captain set the tone during the preseason virtual meetings, our coaches scheduled very competitive tournaments throughout the season, and the student-athletes performed to their capabilities. The smiles on their faces when they walked off the bus after the TOC competition was priceless. It was an amazing way to end a chaotic school year."



Photo courtesy of WHS Athletics Department

The 2020-21 Westfield High School boys golf team

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE PLANNING BOARD**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT memorializing resolutions were adopted at the July 27, 2021, meeting in the following matters:

**1. RESOLUTION PB 21-R19**  
CASE NO.: 21-17; David Realty  
1429 Route 22 East  
BK: 10.06 LT: 3.01  
Represented By: Stephen F. Hehl, Esq.  
O-B ZONE  
Approved: 6/22/21

**2. RESOLUTION PB 21-R20**  
Case No. 21-13; Rolo  
1272 Virginia Avenue  
BK: 16.10 LT: 7  
Represented By: Stephen F. Hehl, Esq.  
R-2 Zone  
Approved: 6/22/21

Resolutions are available for review in the Board office by appointment. To receive a copy of a Resolution, email Theresa Snyder at tsnyder@mountainside-nj.com. By order of the Planning Board,

Theresa M. Snyder,  
Board Clerk

1 T - 08/05/21, The Leader Fee: \$26.01

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## Union County Senior 50+, 60+ Softball Highlights

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

<b>60+ A DIVISION:</b>			
<b>TEAM</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	
Renda Roads	19	2	
Linwood II	19	2	
Linwood TapHouse 2	10	11	
Liberty Lighting Group	9	12	
Cranford VFW	4	17	

<b>60+ B DIVISION:</b>			
<b>TEAM</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	
Kenilworth VFW	16	5	
Awnings Galore	15	6	
Yogi's Boys	8	13	
NJ Governmental Services	4	17	
DeBellis Associates	1	20	

### 60+ Super Senior Division: Linwood Tap House 13, Cranford VFW 4 Regular Season Game

This game was close through four innings, Linwood holding a 6-2 lead thanks to excellent defensive play by Cranford. Cranford's offense struggled all night to get runs leaving a total of 13 runners on base. For VFW: Gary Schaller went 3-for-4 scoring a run, Vic Trindade went 2-for-3 scoring Cranford's final run. Bill Early and Gerard McDermott went 2-for-4 with Gerard scoring once, while Kevin Carroll, Dave Rothenberg and George Merlo had one RBI apiece.

**DeBellis Associates 23, NJ Gov't Services 16**

For NJ Gov't: At the plate Steve Falco, James Massarelli and Keith McDede had four hits each. Joe Attanasi (HR), Anthony Abbaleo, Bill Moore and Doc Henley Black each blasted three hits. Joe Brown and Tom Connolly added two hits apiece.

DeBellis Associates leads the best

<b>UC 70+ DIVISION:</b>			
<b>TEAM</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	
Green Machine	13	7	
Mellow Yellow Fever	12	8	
Red Foxes	9	11	
Lou's Blues	6	14	
Lou's Blues 15, Green Machine 14			
Green Machine 9, Lou's Blues 7			
Yellow Fever 16, Redd Foxes 13			
Redd Foxes 21, Yellow Fever 13			

of 3 series 1-0

### NJ Gov't Services 7, DeBellis Associates 5

For NJ Gov't: Solid pitching by Neil Koch and solid defense which included a super catch in the outfield by Keith McDede to stop a late inning rally by DeBellis. At the plate, Steve Falco had three hits, Keith McDede, Joe Attanasi, Bill Moore, Doc Henley Black and Neil Koch added two hits each.

Best of 3 series tied at 1 game each

Liberty Lighting Group leads the series 1-0

### Liberty Lighting Group 23, Cranford VFW 8

Cranford's offense was better in Game 2. They scored runs in all but one inning. Their most productive inning was the fifth scoring three runs after two outs on hits by Vic Trindade (1-for-3 with a run and an RBI), Ken Murray (3-for-3 with 3 runs and an RBI), and George Merlo (3-for-3 with 2 RBIs). Gerard



David B. Corbin (August 2020 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**ACTION AT SECOND BASE...Deegan's Tom Baldowski slides into second base with a double as Rob Stratton gets the ball during a UC Sr. 50+ game (2020).**

### Liberty Lighting Group 21, Cranford VFW 6

For Cranford, Gerard McDermott went 3-for-3 with a RBI. Kevin Carroll went 2-for-3 scoring once and driving in a run. Others contributing to the cause were Charlie Wischusen (2-for-3 with a RBI), and Vic Trindade (1-for-2 with a run and an RBI). Cranford opened up the scoring in the first with four runs but had trouble the rest of the way stringing together hits.

McDermott, who had a perfect night at the plate going 3-for-3 scoring once and driving in a run.

Here is a recap of the offensive leaders for Liberty Lighting Group for the two games vs. Cranford VFW: Pat Nigro, Don Miller, and John Garced all went 6-for-6. Lou Ballestere was 6-for-7 as Mike Backus had 5 hits in 6 trips.

Liberty Lighting Group wins the series 2-0.

*D. Blair Corbin's*

**Raiders**

**Blue Devils**

**Cougars**

**Walk Down Memory Lane**

**JULY 20, 2011:** Gearing up for the playoffs, the Westfield White 12U baseball team honed its pitching skills in a 7-2 victory over Long Hill at Gumbert 2 Field in Westfield on July 20 the 42nd anniversary of man's landing on the moon (July 20, 1969).

Starting pitcher Alex Pansini made good use of his breaking ball to curb Long Hill in the first three innings, yielding two runs on four hits, while walking none and striking out one. Owen Bartok pitched the next three innings, giving up just two singles and walking one.

**AUGUST 1, 2011:** Perhaps in an effort of energy conservation to avoid being dethroned from the "B" Division title of the Scotch Plains Men's Softball League like they were last year by DJ's Limos, the top-seeded Sofa Kings decided not to endure the tedious chore of placing numbers on their uniforms this season.

Numbers offensively also seemed to be a problem for the Sofa Kings and the Neighborhood Painters in Game 1 of the "B" Division semifinals, at least for the first five innings, at Jerseyland Field in Scotch Plains on August 1. Perhaps it was just the "Dog Days" of summer.

However, as the evening progressed, the Sofa Kings slowly got off their backside to score two runs in the bottom of the fifth before springing into action with six more runs in the seventh to overshadow the Neighborhood Painters, 8-6.

**JULY 22, 2014:** North Edison scored four runs in the top of the fifth inning and appeared to be on the verge of victory, but the Westfield 14U girls regained their composure to plate three in the bottom of the inning and another three in the sixth to emerge with a 7-4 win in Parkway Invitational Softball League action at Memorial Field 2 in Westfield on July 22.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**WESTFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Westfield Memorial Library will hold a special meeting on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM. Zoom links are available on the library's calendar of events found on the library's website and will be posted on the library's Facebook page the week of the meeting.

1 T - 08/05/21, The Leader Fee: \$12.75

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD**

Notice is hereby given that the PLANNING BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, after public hearing on March 24, 2021 granted approval to Dave Scordato for setback and lot size variances, for property at 243 Belvidere Avenue, Fanwood, being Block 110 and Lot 3.

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

Mr. Dave Scordato  
243 Belvidere Avenue  
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023

1 T - 08/05/21, The Times Fee: \$15.81

Both teams' pitchers made it difficult for each teams' batters and Maria Panarese took to the mound first for Westfield and tossed shutout ball un-



David B. Corbin (July 2014 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**TRYING TO GET THE PICKOFF...Westfield 14U first baseman Natalie Patterson stoops to get the ball on a pickoff attempt as North Edison's Emily Tavaras dives back to the base in the second inning at Memorial 2 Field on July 22, 2014.**

til she ran into difficulty in that fifth inning. Muriel Maloney relieved with two out in the fifth and pitched the remainder of the way, allowing just two singles, no runs and no walks, while striking out four.

**JULY 28, 2014:** Sign of things to come? Maybe! Westfield Black finally found the Achilles Heel in the bottom of the sixth inning to earn a 5-1 victory over Berkeley Heights for the Parkway Invitational Softball League 12U championship at the Westfield High School JV Field on July 28.

Three of the past four years at the varsity level, Westfield and Governor Livingston, comprised of girls from Berkeley Heights and Mountainside, have battled for the Union County Tournament championship, with the Blue Devils winning two of the three.



David B. Corbin (July 2014 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**WHIZZING RIGHT BY...Berkeley Heights 12U batter Erica Kulback does not swing at a high pitch as Westfield catcher Erica Lawrence prepares to catch it in the WHS JV Field on July 28, 2014. Lawrence launched a grand slam homer in the sixth inning to earn Westfield a 5-1 victory and the Parkway Invitational Softball League championship.**



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7-11 Westfield

1200 South Ave., W. (Leader/Times)

Mountain Deli

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Baron's Drug Store

243 E. Broad St. (Leader)

Shoprite Supermarket

563 North Ave. (Leader)

Fresh Mart

1928 Westfield Ave. (Leader/Times)

Westfield Mini Mart

301 South Ave., W. (Leader)

Westfield Tobacco & News

108 Elm St. (Leader)

FB Braves Hold Off Cranford for USA 11U Title

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Mazewski scored on a wild pitch and Estevez scored on a failed pickoff attempt at third base.

Welch led off the Cranford first inning with a single down the right field line. He stole second and third bases and scored when Kwiatkowski struck out and the ball was dropped forcing the catcher to throw him out at first. Cranford Blue added another run in the second inning. Friedman out-legged an infield single, stole sec-

a hard single off first baseman Ellacott's shoulder and Frankie Lavarone followed with a walk. Marcou tipped a low popup in front of the plate but Sawicki, the catcher, made a diving snag and alertly fired to second to double up Estevez. Kwiatkowski then got Jake Simmons to ground out to first base.

The Cougars had another opportunity in the third inning. Walch drilled a leadoff single to center and

to first.

In the fourth, Cranford Blue added a run to tighten the score 5-3. Lynch walked, skipped to second on a wild pitch then scored on Jackson Muccigrosso's looping infield RBI single that plopped just behind the pitcher. From there, Kwiatkowski retired three of the Braves he faced in the fifth inning and all three in the sixth.

The dramatic Cranford sixth inning



ALSO STEALING SECOND BASE...Cranford Blue's Jake Friedman steals second as FB Brave shortstop Jason Ortiz gets the throw in the second inning of the USA Baseball League title game in Cranford on July 30.

ond, skipped to third on a wild pitch and scored on Lynch's infield RBI single. Jackson Muccigrosso and Ellacott both walked to load the bases with two outs but the next batter popped up to the second baseman.

In the Braves' third, Estevez hacked

Kwiatkowski followed with a walk. Ketschke grounded out to third for the first out. Kwiatkowski and Ketschke both advanced to third and second, respectively, on a passed ball. Mazewski struck out the next batter then got the third out with a grounder

## St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League Standings:

STANDINGS (July 30):				
TEAM	W	L	T	
St. Sebastian	12	4		
St. George	11	4		
St. Wolfgang	11	6		
St. Joseph	8	6	1	
St. Anthony	7	8	1	
St. Vincent	7	11		
St. Ignatius	5	9		
St. Francis	2	14		

**Congrats Joe!**

Congratulations to our own Joe McEvoy who was recently inducted into the Union County Softball Hall of Fame. The UCHOF is committed to celebrating the legendary players, managers, umpires and sponsors who have each in their own way made the game better by their participation. Joe has played in the St. Bart's league since its inception in 1978. (42 years



A TOWER OF POWER...Joe McEvoy has been a "Tower of Power" with the St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League since it began in 1978. McEvoy has been inducted into the Union County Softball Hall of Fame.

and still going strong! Joe served as a captain for 37 years and is a friend to all. As one player stated - "at the worst time of my life, Joe was there for me". Joe, along with his black slacks, is truly legendary!)

**St. Ignatius 11, St. Francis 8**

The game was tied at eight with St. Ignatius batting in the bottom of the sixth when Colum Keough tripled on a 0-2 count, scoring two runs. St. Francis scored five runs in the first inning, but the Iggy boys still managed to pull out the victory. St. Ignatius racked up 20 hits. Rich Reich, Rick Wustefeld (3-for-3, 2 RBI), Stan Lesniewski, captain Bob McGuinness, Tom Litterio, Pete Chemidlin and Rick Cintron each had multiple hits for St. Iggy. St. Francis tallied 17 hits in the game. Rob Stratton (4-for-4, 2 RBI), Ben LoBrace, Bruce Logan, NamJoe, Harold "Hop" Hopler, Coady Brown and Pat McDonnell each racked up multiple hits for St. Francis.

**St. Sebastian 19, St. Anthony 3**

The balls were flying off the St. Sebastian bats Friday evening at

the first, singled in the third, tripled in the fourth, and homered in the sixth. The Wolfies tallied 26 hits on the day. Vinny Fumero (HR), Brian Weber, Ed DeFrancesco, Gary Leichter, Vru Baboomian, Jimmy Barba (HR) and Daniel Roy also collected multiple hits for St Wolfgang. Joe DiBernardo and Joe Oporto each had multiple hits for St Ignatius, with DiBernardo belting a home run and triple.

**St. Vincent 10, St. Francis 0**

Both teams traded outs for the first three innings until St. Vincent put up five runs in the fourth inning and cruised to victory. Bryan Healy was stellar on the mound for St. Vinny, limiting Francis to just nine hits and collecting a rare shutout. St. Vincent's offense was led by Jack Kennedy, "Tiny" Villegas, Healy, "Commish" Jim Killeen, Frank "White Lightning" Apicella and Danny "Come get some!" Shneyder, who each collected multiple hits. Rob Stratton collected a pair of hits for the Frannies. Longtime league veteran Larry Szenyi tightened his jeans and hit a scorching single down the third base line for St. Francis.

began with Sawicki hammering a double to deep right field. His courtesy runner Merk dashed to third on a ball in the dirt. Friedman walked to set up a first-and-third situation with nobody out. As Friedman stole second, the catcher fired to the shortstop and Merk headed for home; however, he was quickly gunned down at the plate. Friedman also attempted to take third on the play but the catcher nailed him for the second out. Instead of two runners in scoring position with no outs, in a flash, there were two outs with nobody on base. The final batter popped up to short.

FB Braves	500	000	5
Cranford Blue	110	100	3

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TOWN OF WESTFIELD

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that sealed bids will be received by the Town of Westfield, Union County, New Jersey on or before September 2, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., prevailing time, in the Town of Westfield, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090. The Town of Westfield is seeking proposals for:

**LEASE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF A CELL TOWER FACILITY, AND ANCILLARY SUPPORT EQUIPMENT WITH SIMULTANEOUS LEASING AND CO-LOCATION OF ALL QUALIFIED SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS AT THE SAME SITE, ON THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 5403, LOT 1, HOULIHAN/SID FAY FIELDS, LOCATED AT 1602 RAHWAY AVENUE, WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07090.**

A bid package consisting of this Notice to Bidders, Instructions to Bidders, Specifications, Proposal Sheet and required Affidavits may be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office of Town of Westfield between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. Inquiries regarding the project can be directed to the Town of Westfield Administrator.

Proposals must be submitted on forms provided by the Town and placed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the bidder, and clearly marked, "BID for Lease for a Communications Facility ENCLOSED — DONOT OPEN" in the lower left corner, or they will not be considered. All proposals must be returned on or before September 2, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m., prevailing time.

Proposals can be delivered or mailed to:

Town of Westfield  
425 East Broad Street  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
Attn: Town Clerk

The Town assumes no responsibility for bids returned by mail.

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any minor informalities or irregularities in the Proposal received and to accept the bid which is in the best interest of the Town.

Required bidder information can be found in the bid documents. Bidders are required to comply the laws of the State of New Jersey, including the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:56-27 and the New Jersey Local Lands and Buildings Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 et seq.

Tara Rowley  
Town Clerk

2 T - 07/29/21  
8/08/05/21, The Leader Fee: \$112.20



IN SECOND BEFORE THE THROW...Acting as a courtesy runner, Westfield Blue's Ian Shultis steals second base in the second inning of the New Providence Gold Leauge 11U Championship game at Gumbert Field 2 in Westfield on July 28.

## WF Blue Stops Clark Bombers for Gold 11U Title

thrown. Westfield right fielder Haymans alertly grabbed Barnes' sinker and fired to second in time to get a force out on Del Virginia. Walsh, behind the plate, gunned down Barnes attempting to steal second then Talarico grounded out to short for the third out.

Clark third baseman Barnes pulled off a dazzling double play to prevent Westfield Blue from scoring in the bottom of the inning then Germond, from his catcher's position, gunned down Gunsiorowski attempting to steal second in the Clark second inning.

Westfield Blue seized the lead with four runs in the second inning. Germond grounded to third but the throw eluded the first baseman. After swiping second and skipping to third on a ball in the dirt, Germond scored on McGeehan's groundout to second. Bomber second baseman Del Virginia followed with a fantastic play to rob Garrett of a hit for the second out. Walsh dropped a single into shallow right field then would later score on a pair of tosses in the dirt and a wild pitch. Dunn, Dickey and Hymans all walked to load the bases then Temo skid a two-run single past third to give Westfield a 4-1 lead.

Westfield Blue extended its lead to 5-1 in the third. Stogner poked a loop that slid under the glove of the leftfielder, stole second, dashed to third on McCue's groundout to second and scored on Shults' sacrifice fly to right field. After Germond walked, centerfielder Majewski snagged McGeehan's low liner just before it hit the grass.

Westfield posed another threat in the fourth. Walsh punched a one-out single into center, stole second, sped to third on a wild pitch and also attempted to score but Lettini, the pitcher, flicked to Majewski, now catching, in time for the out. Dunn followed with a single and Dickey walked but Hymans popped up to short.

The Clark Bombers came a run closer in the fifth. Majewski bashed a leadoff double to center. Gunsiorowski popped up to the pitcher and Hackett hacked a chopper to first for the second out. Downey's grounder to second was muffed as Majewski scored. After Wood took a fastball to the foot, McGeehan struck out Lettini.

After Westfield left Stogner, who singled, and McCue, who walked, stranded in the fifth inning, the Bombers came to the plate in the sixth. Shultis made a great leaping grab at second for the first out then Stogner at

short, corralled Barnes' steaming grounder and tossed to first for the second out. A popup to short earned Westfield Blue the title.

Clark Bombers	100	010	2
Westfield Blue	041	00x	5



GETTING A PIECE OF THE BALL...Westfield Blue leadoff hitter Brady Stogner gets a piece of the ball in the New Providence Gold Leauge 11U Championship game. Stogner went 2-for-3 and scored a run

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 **08/26/21**, 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:

**Maintenance Machine Sweeping Contract, North - 2021, Various Locations, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union and Warren (Including and North of Route 57) Counties; 100% State Funded; DP No: 21458**

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 [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 Design Field Offices at the following locations:

200 Stierli Court  
Mt. Arlington, New Jersey 07856  
973-601-6690

One Executive Campus Rt 70 West  
Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002  
856-486-6623

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Part Time Assistant Position Available. 20 Hours a week - Cranford Office, Basic Computer Skills and Office Skills Required  
**Mail resume to:**  
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**Cranford, NJ 07016**

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**PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED**  
We are seeking freelance photojournalists for multiple assignments. Assignments include local events, nature photography, fire and police emergencies and sporting events. Please email resume and photos to: [editor@goleader.com](mailto:editor@goleader.com)

*Random Acts of Kindness*  
**The Westfield Foundation**  
For good...for ever...for Westfield

On July 31, Westfield Police Detective Sergeant Lauren Maloney, Officers Joseph Saunders and Paul Neri, along with members of the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad and Medic 1 responded to a 9-1-1 call from a Westfield resident requesting assistance for his pregnant wife, resulting in an in-home delivery of a baby boy.  
The father recently reached out to commend the responding officers. He stated "As rare an event this is, the three officers were true heroes and their work in the field beyond commendable." He added "It will be a memory and story for a lifetime for our family. We are forever grateful to these officers. All of [them] are great role models and reflections of the town we all love. They have forever changed our lives and words will never be enough to thank them."

\*\*\*  
*Share random acts of kindness you witness by emailing [editor@goleader.com](mailto:editor@goleader.com)*

**Deadlines**  
General News - Friday 4 p.m.  
Weekend Sports - Monday 12 p.m.  
Classifieds - Tuesday 12 p.m.  
**Ad Reservation** - Friday 4 p.m.  
**Ad Submittal** - Monday 12 p.m.

**Letters to Editor Deadline**  
Monday 9 a.m.  
Letters should be no more than 500 words. Due to the volume of letters we receive we are unable to respond to each letter. Not all letters will be published.



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**WESTFIELD**  
Sunday, July 25, a resident of the 900 block of Willow Grove Road reported that an unknown suspect attempted to gain access to their motor vehicle while it was parked. The suspect was unable to gain access to the victim's vehicle because it was locked. There was no damage to the victim's vehicle. The resident became aware of the attempted burglary to the vehicle after reviewing home surveillance footage. The suspect is a male with a thin build.  
Sunday, July 25, a Normandy Drive resident reported that they reviewed home surveillance footage and that said recording revealed that an unknown suspect had entered their unlocked motor vehicle while it was parked in their driveway. The resident reported that no items were stolen from the vehicle.  
Sunday, July 25, a resident of the 400 block of Beechwood Place reported that between 10 p.m. on July 24 and 7 a.m. on July 25, one or more unknown suspects stole their 2020 Dodge Durango. The value of the vehicle is approximately \$52,000. The vehicle was parked in the resident's driveway, unlocked with the vehicle keys inside it, at the time of the theft. Inside the vehicle at the time of the theft was sporting equipment valued at approximately \$1,000.  
Monday, July 26, a resident of the 400 block of Kimball Circle reported an incident of fraud and theft of services. On December 21, 2020, the resident signed a contract with Gallagher Memorials of Philadelphia, Pa., and deposited a total of \$3,436 to purchase two gravestones. According to the victim, the gravestones were never delivered as agreed and the company stole his \$3,436 deposit.

## Assistance Continues for those Impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic

The country is gradually re-opening and Covid-19 restrictions are lifting, however, our residents are still suffering from the economic fallout of the pandemic.  
In support of our residents in need, Union County is launching an Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to provide financial relief for Union County residents unable to meet their rental obligation during the Covid-19 pandemic. This program allows eligible applicants to receive up to 12 months of assistance for unpaid back rent, as well as gas and electric utility expenses.  
To make sure that every eligible tenant has an opportunity to apply for a grant, we are creating an online information portal in both English and Spanish. The portal opened for landlords to pre-register on July 26, and opened for tenant applications on August 2.  
To qualify for Union County ERAP funding, applicants must meet the following criteria: Union County resident primarily responsible for paying rent; Make less than 80 percent of the average median income of Union County (e.g., less than \$78,500 for a family of four); Experienced a loss of income since March 13, 2020 related to the Covid-19 pandemic; Provide required supporting documentation (copies of identification, tax returns, lease or other proof of income/residence may be acceptable, etc.).  
Once the application is submitted, applicants will be notified of the funding decision. If approved, the funds will be provided to the landlord or utility provider on their behalf.  
More information on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program will be available soon. Please check the County website, [ucnj.org](http://ucnj.org), or follow us on social media for updates.  
Additionally, we will continue to hold our emergency food distribution events in July. The upcoming food distribution events are open to all Union County residents.  
The Union County Commissioner Board created the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and the food distribution events with funding from the Federal CARES Act for COVID-19 emergency relief. Additional CARES Act programs created by the Commissioner Board include child care assistance for low-income families and respite assistance for those caring for children with special needs and disabilities, and as well as grants for libraries, schools, restaurants and other small businesses, and non-profit organizations. For more details, please visit [ucnj.org/covid19/cares-act-grants](http://ucnj.org/covid19/cares-act-grants).  
We are also continuing to intensify our efforts to ensure that every Union County resident can get a free COVID-19 vaccine at a convenient, easily accessible location. In addition to three permanent vaccine centers, our mobile unit visits local communities. We also bring vaccines to home bound residents, and we are extending our outreach to ensure that everyone has access to reliable, fact-based information about the vaccines. For hours and locations, and to book an appointment, visit [ucnj.org/vax](http://ucnj.org/vax) 24/7 or call (908) 613-7829 during weekdays.  
The fight is not over and the Commissioner Board will continue to seek every opportunity to provide assistance, services, and support during the pandemic. We are all in this together.

**Alexander Mirabella**  
Chairman, Union County Board of Commissioners

## POLICE BLOTTER

Your business can sponsor the Police Blotter  
Call 908-232-4407 or email [sales@goleader.com](mailto:sales@goleader.com)

Tuesday, July 27, Mariah Lewis, 24, of Garwood was arrested on the strength of a Mountaintop Municipal Court traffic warrant in the amount of \$500 pursuant to a motor vehicle stop on East Broad Street near Karen Terrace. Lewis was transported to Westfield police headquarters, where she was processed and released with a new court date.  
Tuesday, July 27, a resident of the 800 block of Grant Avenue reported that an unknown individual knocked on their door at 12:50 a.m. Shortly after, the resident heard a car door close and a motor vehicle sped off.  
Tuesday, July 27, a police officer observed a black Mercedes convertible in the area of East Broad Street and Davis Court with the driver wearing a neck gaiter obscuring his face. As the vehicle passed the officer, the driver attempted to hide in the seat. The vehicle then increased in speed and made a right turn on to Springfield Avenue, at which time the officer lost sight of the vehicle.  
Tuesday, July 27, the owner of a HVAC company reported being a victim of theft. Between 8 a.m. and noon on July 27, one or more unknown suspects stole \$1,500 worth of HVAC equipment which was left by his employee on the front lawn of a residence located on the 1000 block of Rahway Avenue.  
Tuesday, July 27, a resident of the 500 block of Sherwood Parkway reported being the victim of a fraud/identity theft attempt. The resident reported that an unknown suspect text messaged and then called her cellular phone, claiming to be a representative of Bank of America. The suspect was able to convince the victim to text message personal identifying information and images of her driver's license to a number provided. The victim then realized this was most likely a scam. There was no monetary loss at this time.  
Wednesday, July 28, a resident of the 600 block of Hillcrest Avenue reported being a victim of theft. The victim stated that on July 22, one or more unknown suspects stole three packages off her front porch. The owner estimated the total value of the stolen merchandise contained inside the packages is \$500.  
Wednesday, July 28, a resident of the 1100 block of Central Avenue reported that they were supposed to receive a bulk Nike order that, when tracked online, stated it was delivered. The resident reached out to the shipping company and the driver returned to their residence and stated that it may have been delivered by another driver. The resident believes that an unknown suspect stole the package from their front porch. The approximate value of the shoes taken came to a total of \$800.  
Thursday, July 29, a resident of the 600 block of Fairfield Circle reported that an unknown suspect had opened a Verizon and T-Mobile cellular account in their name, which subsequently went into collections, alerting the victim of this activity.  
Friday, July 30, an employee of an establishment on the 1100 block of West South Avenue reported a shoplifting that had occurred. The employee stated that an unknown suspect had wandered throughout the aisles and grabbed various items throughout the store. The individual was observed exiting the establishment with a black-colored drawstring bag filled with hair products and razors. The individual was not observed paying for the items. The total estimated value of the items taken was \$300.  
Saturday, July 31, Timothy O'Donnell, 18, of Westfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) pursuant to a motor vehicle accident which occurred on the 100 block of Prospect Street. O'Donnell was transported to police headquarters for processing and later released to a sober adult.

Residents of multiple addresses reported that they were victims of identity theft; specifically, that an unknown suspect used their identity to make a fraudulent claim of unemployment in their name to the New Jersey Department of Labor. The victims reported no other suspicious activity and suffered no monetary loss.  
One incident was reported on Tuesday, July 27, on Fairhill Drive. Two others were reported on Friday, July 30, on the 700 block of Norman Place and the 600 block of Boulevard.  
**SCOTCH PLAINS**  
Tuesday, July 27, Isaiah J. Boone, 21, of Rahway was arrested on an active warrant out of Rahway during a motor vehicle stop. Boone was transported to police headquarters and processed.  
Tuesday, July 27, a resident of Mountain Avenue reported that someone had fraudulently applied for unemployment benefits in their name. The matter is under investigation.  
Wednesday, July 28, a resident of Evergreen Boulevard reported that someone had fraudulently applied for unemployment benefits in their name. The matter is under investigation.  
Sunday, August 1, Mustafa Shabazz, 39, of Vauxhall was arrested during a motor vehicle stop and charged with driving under the influence. Shabazz was transported to police headquarters and processed.  
Sunday, August 1, a resident of North Avenue reported fraudulent activity on several bank accounts. The matter is under investigation.  
Sunday, August 1, the management at Advance Auto Parts, located on Terrill Road, reported damage to a work vehicle. The matter is under investigation.  
Monday, August 2, a resident of Beechwood Place reported fraudulent activity on a bank account. The matter is under investigation.  
Monday, August 2, a resident of Valleyscent Avenue reported that their motor vehicle was burglarized. The vehicle was left unlocked and was entered during the overnight hours. The matter is under investigation.  
Monday, August 2, the management at the CVS located on Park Avenue reported a shoplifting. Store personnel confronted a Black male dressed in all black who they had witnessed placing items in a bag. The suspect left the store and responding units were unable to locate him. The matter is under investigation.  
\*\*\*  
*Charges are merely an accusation and defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.*

## DWC Issues Statement on NJ Globe Article

WESTFIELD -- The July 28th misleading article in the *New Jersey Globe* allows us the perfect opportunity to highlight the creative and innovative initiatives set forth by a completely volunteer board comprised of the key stakeholders to downtown which consists of residents, property owners, business owners, and a council person. At a time when many of the board members were dealing with personal situations such as loss of a job, sickness, struggling businesses and loss of family members due to a global pandemic, they came together to ensure that the downtown had a successful holiday season. This dedicated group of professionals graciously lent their time and expertise to rally around

our struggling merchants and restaurants.  
The following highlights some of what the board focused our resources on during the 2020 holiday season:  
• Provided COVID-19-safe family-friendly events  
• Invested in tents, plants, and safety barrier covers to support outdoor dining for our restaurants  
• Invested in a website to allow an alternative to Amazon for our small businesses that did not have an online presence  
• Engaged Delivery Now to make home deliveries to residents who were not comfortable leaving their homes  
• Created a "Shop Local-Love Westfield" campaign that highlighted business owners and encouraged residents to support them  
• Ordered logo reusable shopping bags to be given out during the holidays and at future town events to advertise our town  
• Opened a visitor center that offered free gift wrap to folks purchasing items downtown  
• Hired high school and college students to serve as ambassadors to assist visitors to town by offering them directions and a map of our businesses.

What the *Globe* article failed to mention is that the shopping bags were just a small part of the DWC holiday effort to drive much needed foot traffic into our downtown businesses. It's worth noting that our grant application specifically identified that these bags would be purchased, and would be used throughout 2021 if not all were given out in 2020. It's further worth noting that the State, through the Department of Community Affairs' Main Street Program, specifically approved of the purchase of these bags.

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWN OF WESTFIELD PLANNING BOARD**

Notice is hereby given that the Westfield Planning Board, at their meeting on August 2, 2021 adopted the following resolutions for applications acted upon at the July 7, 2021 meeting.

**PB 21-06 Prospect Street Ventures, LLC 133 Prospect Street, Block 2506, Lot 5.** Applicant sought site plan approval to convert existing third floor office space into a single residential dwelling unit. Variances were requested from Section 11.25E3.a, 12.03B3, 17.05C, 17.02C of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance requires a minimum rear yard setback of 35 feet. Proposed is 27 feet 10 inches. Ordinance requires a 31 feet rear yard setback for the fire escape and 23 feet is proposed. Ordinance requires a minimum 24 feet wide access aisle in the parking area and 15 feet 8 inches is proposed. Ordinance requires a minimum of 15 parking spaces and 4 parking spaces are proposed. Application approved.

Plans and applications are on file in the office of the Town Engineer, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, New Jersey and may be seen Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Kristine Burd  
Planning Board Secretary  
1 T - 08/05/21, The Leader Fee: \$29.58

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

**PLEASE BE ADVISED** that at the Zoning Board of Adjustment special meeting held on July 29, 2021, the Board memorialized the following Resolutions:

**Megan Rauch**, 1949 Glenville Road, Block 12502, Lot 23, R-2 Zone, was **approved** to construct an in-ground pool as well as a pavilion at the aforementioned address.

**Ricardo Sosa**, 10 Karen Court, Block 14502, Lot 18, R-1 Zone, was **approved** to construct a pool house of approximately 1,218 square feet at the aforementioned property.

Copies of said Resolutions have been filed in the office of the Board and/or the office of the Municipal Clerk and are available for public inspection during regular business hours.

Melissa Szeman  
Secretary to the Zoning Board  
1 T - 08/05/21, The Times Fee: \$22.95



# Premiere Stages Announces Live Performances This Fall

UNION – Premiere Stages at Kean University has announced its return to in-person, indoor performances, with a full production in the Bauer Boucher Theatre Center in September and a staged reading in the Liberty Hall Academic Center in October.

Premiere Stages 17th condensed season will kick off with Erik Gernand’s *Year One*, a finalist of the 2020/2021 Premiere Play Festival, the theatre’s annual competition for unproduced scripts written by playwrights affiliated with the greater metropolitan area. Following *Year One*, will be the staged reading of Certain Aspects of Conflict in the Negro Family, a new play about the 1967 Plainfield, New Jersey riots by Tylie Shider, recipient of the 2021/22 Liberty Live Commission. The Liberty Live commission is awarded biennially, in partnership with Kean University’s Liberty Hall, and seeks to develop and produce new plays that celebrate New Jersey’s rich and diverse history.

“We greatly appreciate how supportive our patrons have been of

our virtual and outdoor events, but there is nothing like the shared experience of watching a live performance in a theatre,” stated Producing Artistic Director John J. Wooten. “We are so pleased to welcome our audiences and artists back to Premiere!”

In Mr. Gernand’s *Year One* (September 9 to 26, Bauer Boucher Theatre Center), a populist’s rise to power exacerbates mounting political and social divisions. When Anna’s brother Max arrives unexpectedly, harboring a dangerous secret, the family matriarch is forced to choose between embracing a radical new country or saving those she loves. Erik Gernand’s play The Beautiful Dark premiered at Premiere Stages to rave reviews in 2013. The production was nominated for an American Theatre Critics Association New Play Award and the play was subsequently produced in New York by the Barrow Group. Additional plays have been in production and/or development at theaters including Redtwist, American Theater Company, Chi-

cago Dramatists, and Actors Theatre of Louisville. As a filmmaker, Erik’s award-winning short films have screened at more than 100 film festivals around the world including SXSW, Chicago International Film Festival, and Cinequest, as well as been broadcast on IFC, PBS, and the Logo Channel. Erik is an Associate Professor of Instruction in Radio-TV-Film at Northwestern University.

Next up is Mr. Shider’s *Certain Aspects of Conflict in the Negro Family* (October 29 to 31, Liberty Hall Academic Center). *Certain Aspects of Conflict in the Negro Family* explores a family’s internal divisions in response to the 1967 Plainfield, New Jersey riots. As tensions reach an all-time high between Newark residents and police, racial and civil unrest begins spilling into surrounding communities. Clif and Peach moved their family to Plainfield for the promise of a better future, but as the riots begin, the family contemplates a return to the South. Tylie Shider is a two-time recipient of the Jerome Fellowship at the Playwrights’ Center (PWC) and an I Am Soul playwright in residence at the National Black Theatre (NBT). His recent plays include Whittier (PWC) and The Gospel Woman (NBT). He holds a BA in Journalism from Delaware State University and an MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU. A proud member of the Dramatist Guild, he is currently a Professor of Playwriting at Augsburg University. Performances of *Certain Aspects of Conflict in the Negro Family* will be produced under Premiere’s AEA production contract. *Certain Aspects of Conflict in the Negro Family* is made possible in part by a 2021 HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant from the Union County Board of County Commissioners.

To ensure the safety of all patrons and staff, Premiere Stages will be implementing specific safety protocols for all indoor performances. All artists and staff will be fully vaccinated. Masks will be required for audiences attending indoor performances, regardless of vaccination status. All seating will be sanitized between performances and hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the lobby. Touchless ticketing as well as, printed and digital playbills will be available for all patrons. Premiere’s safety protocols can be found on [www.premierestagesatkean.com/shows/safety-protocols](http://www.premierestagesatkean.com/shows/safety-protocols).

## Westfield Duo Highlighted in July 2021 Issue of NJ Monthly

Westfield’s Michael and Ellie Mroz of Michael Robert Construction and Ellie Mroz Design are currently featured in the July 2021 issue of NJ Monthly. Entitled, “It Takes Two,” the feature focuses on the duo’s jointly designed and built family home on Shadowlawn Drive in Westfield. “When clients want to see how distinct our work is, we bring them here and show them what we can do,” Ellie notes in the article.

With over half a million readers of the print magazine and 3 million unique visitors annually to NJMonthly.com, NJ Monthly is one of the preeminent magazines sold throughout New Jersey.




Photo courtesy of Ellie and Mike Mroz  
**PERFECT PAIR...**The talented design team of Ellie and Mike Mroz designed their own home as a showcase to their unique talents. The front stoop is an ideal space to literally hang out.

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Community Calendar

Brought to you by Trinitas Regional Medical Center



**2021 Sweet Sounds Downtown Music Festival** every Tuesday in August, 7 p.m. at three different locations in downtown Westfield - in front of Turning Point on Central Ave, on Quimby Street, or at Foundation Park across from the Lion’s Roar Brewing Company on South Ave. For more information, please visit [downtownwestfieldnj.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=75](http://downtownwestfieldnj.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=75).

**2021 Screen on the Green Movie Series** Thursdays, August 5, 12. Enjoy free summer movies on the Village Green in Summit. For more information, please visit [summitcommunityprograms.com/177/Screen-On-the-Green](http://summitcommunityprograms.com/177/Screen-On-the-Green).

**Balance Awareness with Yasmin Ofek** Fridays, August 6, 27, 10 a.m. Join the Scotch Plains Public Library on Zoom for a different approach to exercise. All you’ll need is a chair and sneakers to experience this gentle but effective approach to moving confidently. To register, please visit [scotplib.org](http://scotplib.org) or call (908) 322-5007 ext 204.

**GWACCBreakfast Networking** Tuesday, August 10, 8 a.m. Coffee and breakfast treats will be available for you to enjoy at The Westfield Leader located on 425 North Avenue East while you meet business professionals and business owners from the area. Members \$10, prospective members \$20.

**Tom and Jerry at Warinanco Park** Tuesday, August 10, 7:30 p.m. The movie will begin at dusk, with everyone encouraged to bring a blanket or beach chair to the lawn. For more information, call the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation at (908) 527-4900 or visit [ucnj.org](http://ucnj.org).

**2021 Hot Summer Nights Concert Series** Tuesdays, August 10, 17, at 7 p.m. Enjoy free musical performances on the Village Green in Summit. Refreshments will be available at food trucks during each concert. For more information, please visit [summitcommunityprograms.com/178/Hot-Summer-Nights-Concert-Series](http://summitcommunityprograms.com/178/Hot-Summer-Nights-Concert-Series).

**Fanwood Recreation Presents: Movies Under the Stars** Tuesdays, August 10, 17. View free movies at La Grande Park on an inflatable outdoor movie screen. For more information, please visit [fanwoodrecreation.org](http://fanwoodrecreation.org) or call (908) 370-7092.

**Our Place in Space** Wednesday, August 11, 7 p.m. Join the

Scotch Plains Public Library via Zoom with Bob Reichman to deepen your understanding of some of the big concepts of size and scale, phases, eclipse and tides, rotation vs revolution, astronomical units, light years and more. For information or to register, please visit [scotplib.org](http://scotplib.org).

**Black Panther at Warinanco Park** Tuesday, August 17, 7:30 p.m. The movie will begin at dusk, with everyone encouraged to bring a blanket or beach chair to the lawn. For more information, call the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation at (908) 527-4900 or visit [ucnj.org](http://ucnj.org).

**Tails & Tales Virtual Trivia** Monday, August 23, 7 p.m. Test your knowledge with our summer reading trivia challenge. Each round will be based on the summer reading theme in some way. Register as a team or on your own to get the link for this virtual quiz. To register or for more information, please visit [scotplib.org](http://scotplib.org).

**Aladdin – Live Action at Rutgers Avenue Park** Tuesday, August 24, 7:30 p.m. The movie will begin at dusk, with everyone encouraged to bring a blanket or beach chair to the lawn. For more information, call the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation at (908) 527-4900 or visit [ucnj.org](http://ucnj.org).

**Westfield Street Fair and Craft Show** Saturday, August 28, 11 a.m. Visit downtown Westfield for a day of family fun with arts and crafts, shopping, kid’s rides, music, dancing, food and more.

**Williams Nursery Plant Swap** Saturday, August 28. If you have a plant you can take a plant at the second annual plant swap. For more information, visit [facebook.com/williamsnursery](http://facebook.com/williamsnursery).

**Night Sky Observation with Bob Reichman** Monday, August 30, 8 p.m. Join the Scotch Plains Public Library and explore the skies with astrono-educator Bob Reichman outside the library. For information or to register, please visit [scotplib.org](http://scotplib.org).

**Garwood STILL Rocks** Sunday, September 19, 11 a.m. The Garwood Rocks Car Show & Street Fair returns on Center Street in downtown Garwood for live music, food trucks, vendors and more. For more information, follow [facebook.com/GarwoodRocks](http://facebook.com/GarwoodRocks) on Facebook.

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Submit events at  
[goleader.com/calendar](http://goleader.com/calendar)

## The Leader/Times Monthly Crossword Puzzle

By Ruth B. Margolin

Summer at the (not Jersey) Shore

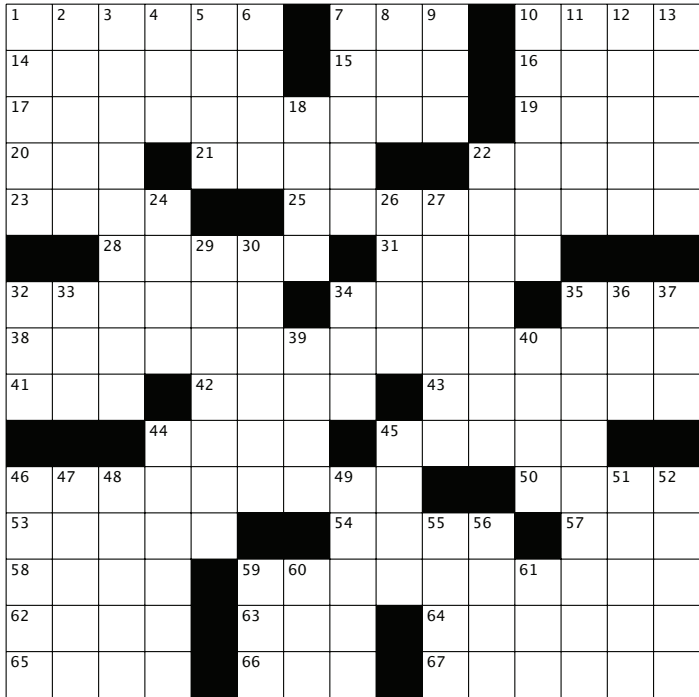
### ACROSS

1. Icy residence for 6-Down
7. Sidewalk smooch, for short
10. Voting against
14. Honest admission
15. Fireplace fuel
16. Consider
17. \*Melted butter for everyone at the clambake?
19. Lad's love
20. "\_\_\_ not too late to seek a newer world": Tennyson
21. Trendy caramel topper
22. Earl or Duke
23. Kid's vehicle on snow
25. \*Sailing rental for a family with toddlers?
28. Low man at the opera (Italian)
31. Watercolor alternatives
32. Curvy ski race
34. With 34-Down, summer vacation spot where you might hear the answers to the starred clues (Say them aloud with your best New England accent for proper effect!)
35. Barnyard bleat
38. \*Swim at your own risk --- We're vigilant, but we're only human!" beach sign?
41. Texter's teehee
42. Stomped
43. Areas of expertise
44. Annoyance, like a little brother
45. Musical half step up from D
46. \*Result of going barefoot on hot dunes?
50. Shiny flaky mineral
53. Braid
54. Qualifying race, perhaps

57. "What's Montague? It is \_\_\_ hand \_\_\_ foot \_\_\_ arm \_\_\_ face": Romeo and Juliet
58. Cheryl of "Charlie's Angels"
59. \*Good outcome of time spent fishing?
62. Surrounded by
63. DMV demands them and issues them (Abbr.)
64. Glimpes
65. Johnson or Churchill, politically
66. Busy buzzer
67. Thin

### DOWN

1. Treaties
2. "Sk8er Boi" singer L'Avigne
3. It's up for grabs at a Nets game
4. "So-o-o cute!"
5. Scoundrels
6. "Frozen" queen
7. Disney character or dwarf planet



© 8/5/2021

8. Disney character dwarf
9. "It's just a number", say those who are getting older
10. Doesn't use a script
11. No longer cool "Cool!"
12. Electric car maker
13. "No more, thanks"
18. Brand for beagles
22. Advil alternative
24. Mustachioed surrealist
26. Mature tadpole, but not a frog
27. Informant's inside info
29. Least firm, like Mama Bear's bed
30. Bond's "Casino Royale" foe
32. "Live from New York, it's..." show
33. London lav
34. See 34-Across
35. Adding two cents, uninvited

36. Had dinner
37. Shakespearean assents
39. Attend, as a party
40. Smidgen of Scotch
44. Onetime alias of Sean Combs
45. \_\_\_ out a living (barely got by)
46. Sound of Jackson Pollock painting?
47. Avis alternative, or San Antonio sight
48. Rock bottom
49. Opted
51. Sacha Baron, or the character he plays in "The Spy"
52. Like Etsy vendors
55. Unreturnable tennis serves
56. To-do list item
59. "I love the gift!", perhaps (a little lie)
60. Poem of praise
61. News agency inits.

Earth Matters

By MARIA & BILL NIERSTEDT

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

I have never totally understood how water running through turbines or natural gas burning creates electricity, but I am grateful it does every time I flip a switch. I am sure we all are! Total electricity use in the United States in 2020 was about 3.8 trillion kWh, which is 13 times greater than electricity use in 1950. With more and more technological devices needing charging every day, and electric car usage becoming more mainstream every year, our usage will only increase.

In 2020, residential use accounted for almost 39 percent of total electrical sales, the largest use sector – ahead of industrial and commercial use. Within this component, space heating, space cooling, water heating, refrigerators and freezers, lighting, television and related equipment accounted for more than half of all usage.

But there are environmental impacts of this electrical generation. Without getting into the nuclear vs. other energy sources argument, what are we going to do with all those spent nuclear rods? And what is their long-term impact on our environment? Electricity produced from burning coal produces Sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, ozone, suspended particulate matter and non-methane hydrocarbons. Thermal sources (coal/natural gas/

nuclear/geothermal/biomass) use water as a cooling agent which heats the surrounding waterways when released, which has impacts on marine life. Energy from hydroelectric power may seem innocuous, but dams prevent fish from swimming to their spawning grounds. Our electrical usage does negatively impact our environment, but there are steps that we can take to reduce it. I urge readers to visit web sites that promote ways to reduce electrical use. With a hot summer here, electrical usage will increase and your reduction can help prevent blackouts.

• Space cooling/heating – Turn the AC on in the morning of a day predicted to be hot; waiting until it actually gets hot makes the AC work harder (use more electricity.). Keep shrubs away from the outside unit, set it at 74 degrees, and close doors to rooms that don't need AC. Use blinds to keep the sun's rays out. Turn fan blades counter clockwise in summer. Wear layers during the winter and insulate the house!

• Use a clothesline when the weather is suitable rather than the dryer (Dryers produce heat in the house!). Clean the dryer lint trap and increase efficiency by 75 percent! Wash clothes in cold water.

• Run the dishwasher only when full and at off times; air dry when possible, or actually wash dishes by hand in a

dish basin!

• Switch to LED bulbs -they can last 25 longer than incandescent; turn them off in empty rooms.

• Keep the refrigerator temperature at 38-40 degrees; freezer around 5 degrees. Open and close them as quickly as possible. Don't place them where the sun shines; vacuum refrigerator coils.

• Turn off the oven/cook top a little early when cooking - residual heat will continue to cook the food. Don't broil food, thaw food before cooking, and cover pots when boiling water. Use the microwave to cook small meals- (microwaves also don't heat a house - which would require more energy to cool it down.)

• Turn off TV and other appliances when not in use; use green power strips if possible and unplug them when not in use. Power is still being used when you think the appliance is turned off.

We saved our three favorites for last – the three G's. Get solar power – we can get it for free! Go green – plant trees to block the southern sun on the house; the more greenery we have, the more to absorb the sun's rays, and Get outside. We use less energy when we are not in the house! Maybe we can't do all of these things but if we could do one or two and you can get someone else to do one or two, maybe then there might be a difference, because Earth Matters.

## Goods & Services Directory

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# Seattle Has Lots of Parks, Clean Air and Interesting Neighborhoods

By FRED T. ROSSI  
*For the A&E Summer Travel Series*

When I visited the Pacific Northwest for the first time a few months ago, spending five days in Seattle, I wondered what would surprise me. First was the view from the plane -- snow-capped mountains in all directions, with the awesome Mount Rainier protruding from the earth and looking almost fake. Second was the smell of fresh air everywhere, in the center of the city and in the surrounding neighborhoods, with a strong whiff of cedar most noticeable. Third was the weather, which was absolutely perfect -- blue skies, temperatures in the upper 70s and no humidity. And fourth, Seattle is a very green city -- parks galore, especially along the many miles of waterfront, as well as big trees, shrubs and flowers on seemingly every street, even in the center of the city and underneath highway overpasses.

You can't go very far when driving or walking around Seattle without coming across some type of green space. In the University District, where I stayed, the University of Washington's gorgeous campus includes expansive lawns and huge trees lining the walkways connecting the beautiful academic buildings. At the District's southern end, in the shadow of the I-5 bridge, along Portage Bay, is a park where people sunbathe, kayak and ride bikes.

On the other side of the bridge is Gas Works Park, a 20-acre former site of an oil plant whose large and rusting hulk still stands in the center of the hilly expanse of grass where visitors picnic, play music and take in the views. Just south of the University District is Washington Park Arboretum, 230 acres of rare and interesting trees, a Japanese garden and plenty of wooded walking trails that meander through this beautiful preserve.

A bit further south, on the western shore of Lake Washington, is Madrona Park, which offers breathtaking views of the majestic 14,411-foot high Mount Rainier that is located some 60 miles away but looks as if you could reach out and touch it. The affluent Lake Washington Blvd. neighborhood along the water includes a number of interesting homes as well as the house where grunge musician Kurt Cobain killed himself in 1994 and, next door, a small park in his memory. About 10 miles to the north, you'll find Warren Magnuson Park and its 350 acres of walking and biking trails and clear views across the blue water of the town of Kirkland.

Woodland Park, on the southern shore of Green Lake, and the adjoining Woodland Park Zoo, a 92-acre zoo with nearly 300 species, are on the other side of I-5 from the University District. And a few miles to the northwest along Puget Sound is Golden Gardens Park, which offers the perfect spot to take in the lovely sunsets. A few miles to the south is Seattle's biggest park, Discovery Park, which encompasses 534 acres

and includes 12 miles of walking trails and more sunset-viewing spots.

The center of Seattle feels much like any city, with the main draw being Pike Place Market on the waterfront. The market is one of the oldest continuously operated public farmers' markets in the country. It reminded me a bit of the South Street Seaport in Manhattan, with its seafood, fruit and vegetable and crafts stands, little shops and eateries. I had considered going to the top of the



Fred T. Rossi for The Leader and The Times  
**GAS WORKS PARK...**This park in Seattle is a former site of an oil plant, the rusting remains of which are still standing.

famed Space Needle, but was told it wasn't such a big deal and besides, the views it offered were kind of disappointing.

Unlike other metropolises where the skyscrapers crowd out the sun, the tall buildings in Seattle are few and there wasn't the feeling of being in a concrete jungle devoid of sunlight. Seattle's outer neighborhoods -- akin



Fred T. Rossi for The Leader and The Times  
**GOLDEN HOUR...**Hundreds of people gather every day at Golden Gardens Park in Seattle to watch the sun set over Puget Sound.

to New York City's outer boroughs -- are where you should spend most of your time.

The University District is a few miles northeast of downtown and dominated by the University of Washington and its beautiful campus, where a large plaza offers a clear view of Mount Rainier. The District itself is about a mile square and reminded me of certain neighborhoods in Brooklyn and West Hollywood -- busy thoroughfares here and there but mostly charming tree-lined residential streets with many uniquely-painted and landscaped modest single-family homes and architecturally-interesting apartment buildings. There are plenty of casual hangouts to grab a drink or a

meal, some interesting street art to view and lots of interesting shops including Scarecrow Video, the largest independent video rental store in the world with more than 100,000 titles covering every imaginable genre and sub-genre.

The Capitol Hill neighborhood south of the University District gained recognition last year during intense protests in the wake of the George Floyd killing when a portion of the neighborhood around the police station was barricaded by protesters and declared to be an autonomous zone. Capitol Hill features lots of bars and clubs, coffee shops and small eateries and is a very diverse and open-minded neighborhood where everyone is welcomed. Volunteer Park in the center includes a small reservoir, walking trails, museum and playground. Next door is Lake View Cemetery, where Seattle's founders, and martial arts star Bruce Lee, are buried.

Between the zoo and Golden Gardens Park is Ballard, a pretty and hip waterfront neighborhood with trendy restaurants, small shops, bars and craft breweries. The homes are mostly modest and neatly kept in this area, which in places is very hilly.

There's even a narrow waterway off Puget Sound with locks that are still in use. Ballard's weekly farmers' market is huge and not to be missed. The same goes for the nearby Ballyhoo Curiosity Shop, where you can buy everything from skulls and offbeat memorabilia to taxidermied animals and various antiques.

South of Ballard is Fremont, a small bohemian neighborhood with a few interesting things to see. Located beneath a highway overpass, the 18-foot high Fremont Troll sculpture clutches an actual Volkswagen Beetle as if it had swiped it from the highway above. Several blocks away is a 16-foot high bronze statue of Vladimir Lenin, originally displayed in Czechoslovakia in the 1980s before it was discovered in a scrapyard in the early 1990s and brought to Fremont, where it stands in a small public plaza where it's been both decorated and vandalized over the years. When I saw it, there were large splashes of red paint on it.

Seattle's weather was perfect, the people there were friendly, its restaurants were varied and tasty and the neighborhoods were interesting and walkable. I was happy that my maiden trip was so enjoyable and relaxing and will soon be out there again.

## The Student View

A collaboration with the  
Westfield High School Journalism Program

# The Olympics Are What America Needs Right Now

By CAROLINE DONNELLY  
*For The Westfield Leader and The Times*

After the postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics as a result of Covid-19, the world is finally graced with the opportunity to watch thousands of talented athletes compete. It has been a long wait for fans since the previous Summer Olympics, which took place in Rio de Janeiro five years ago. While many countries were excited to return to this historic international tradition, other countries are worried that the world is bringing it back too soon.

There are indeed downsides to holding this year's Olympic games, particularly for Japan where Covid-19 is still a major struggle. According to *Insider*, 83 percent of Japanese citizens wanted to cancel or postpone the Tokyo Olympics because of the low rates of Covid-19 vaccine distribution and the high rates of infection. As of July 22, merely 23.2 percent of Japan's population was fully vaccinated.

Although a total of 90,000 athletes and Olympic Games employees have entered Japan, the International Olympics Committee (IOC) refused to cancel or postpone the Tokyo Olympics, stating that they will be holding the games in a safe manner by restricting fans, conducting daily Covid-19 testing and enforcing mask usage.

While many would believe that the IOC would be motivated to postpone the Tokyo Olympics until Japan's vaccination rates are higher which would allow them to hold live audiences and profit off of ticket sales, the IOC generates most of its money by selling television rights.

Instead of considering Japan's op-

SUMMIT -- Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre, professional Theatre in Residence at Oakes Center in Summit, is changing its name to Vivid Stage.

"We have an opportunity, as we reopen in person, to rethink how we express who we are and who we have become over the past 27 years," said artistic director Laura Ekstrand.

When the original name was chosen in 1994, it used the symbol of the dreamcatcher to describe how the company would share only the most positive stories and let the negative ones go. But since the company has no connection to Native American culture or tradition, it became clear that the time to choose a new name had come.

Over the past several months, the staff, board and ensemble have held discussions and brainstorming sessions. An online audience survey was sent out, and the artistic director spoke to several consultants about identity branding. After all of these investigations, the name Vivid Stage was selected.

"We wanted to communicate our energy and the kind of storytelling you'll see on our stage. We produce emotional, intimate, contemporary plays, and the rest of our programs are also very immediate and visceral, like improv, classes and new play readings," said Ms. Ekstrand. "Everything we do is up close and personal. The acting ensemble is especially gifted at being emotionally transparent in a way that encourages the audience to have a similarly vivid experience."

Vivid Stage has announced its new season. This professional company will bring four productions, including three world premieres and one workshop production, to the stage in addition to improvisational comedy, play readings, and educational programs for teens and adults. As always, the Vivid Stage Resident Acting Company and their guests will tell stories that reflect our shared experience of being human with heart and humor.

Vivid's fall mainstage production is the World Premiere of *The Portrait of the Widow Kinski* by Sara Jean Accuardi. A promising artist falls into obscurity. Decades later, his widow works tirelessly to find an audience for his neglected work. But the opportunity to finally secure her husband's legacy forces her to take a hard look at the past and what was left behind. *The Portrait of the Widow Kinski* will open on Thursday, September 30 and will run until Sunday, October 10.

The second mainstage production of the season, opening in December, is the World Premiere of *Water in My Hands* by Emma Gibson. Sorrel is busy preparing for her wedding even though her fiancé has just died, and Maria's eyebrows are still not growing back. Gerry wants to know if the weather will improve so that he can lie on his back in the grass. Through a series of intertwining accounts, *Water in My Hands* lays bare the power of grief, and asks, "How do we move on when we are haunted by the life that we have not yet lived?" *Water in My Hands* runs Thursday, December 2 through Sunday, December 12.

Next is the workshop production of the new play *Twirl* by Joe Sutton. Do you recall the famous phone call Ginni Thomas, wife of Justice Clarence Thomas, made to Anita Hill years after her original testimony? Ginni Thomas left a message on Anita Hill's answering machine asking her to apologize. Why? That is the question explored in *Twirl*, which was inspired by that original phone call. The Justice involved is nothing like Clarence Thomas, but the issues surrounding that call are very similar indeed. And they all raise the question -- what did she hope for? *Twirl* runs February 17 through 27.

Vivid's final mainstage production of the season will be the World Premiere of *Life's Work* by Laura Ekstrand. In this comic drama, two couples discover what happens when their agreements around work and money shift and evolve. Chip suddenly decides to quit his corporate job, blindsiding his wife Lynn, who is just returning to her career after years as a primary caregiver. Shelly, a photographer who earns her living as a barista, navigates her relationship with the practical Eduardo, a restaurant manager. This play asks, "Is it possible for a partnership to survive when the ground rules change?" *Life's Work* runs from Thursday, April 21 through Sunday, May 1.

Vivid's improv comedy group The Flip Side will bring its own brand of silliness and spontaneity to life for two evenings during the season. The first TFS show will be on Saturday, September 11, 2021 and the second will be Saturday, March 19, 2022.

Improv classes for teens and adults are available throughout the season, with four sessions enrolling now. A bilingual improv class for teens is offered in collaboration with Summit's Empowering Kids organization.

Two special events occur early in the season. The first is a reading of Will Eno's *Middletown* featuring the entire Vivid ensemble on September 18. *Middletown* is a deeply moving and funny play exploring the universe of a small American town. On Saturday, October 16, Vivid will present a

reading of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* with passages translated into Spanish by Nilo Cruz and Creole by Jeff Augustin. This multilingual treatment of the classic play emphasizes the diverse nature of our region while highlighting our shared human experience.

In May, four "Meet the Artist" new play readings will be held each Wednesday, thought-provoking experiences which include the opportunity for audience discussion with the writer, director and actors after the performance.

Vivid's podcast, LOCAL with Laura Ekstrand, runs throughout the season featuring conversations with guests in the creative community of New Jersey and beyond. LOCAL can be found on iTunes and through the Vivid Stage website.

Throughout the year, Dreamcatcher offers internships for high school and college students and many volunteer opportunities. In addition, the theatre provides a menu of outreach programs for students and seniors that travel to other venues. All of Dreamcatcher's activities center on the collaborative nature of theatre and creating a comfortable environment for artists and audiences of all ages to explore and grow together. The company's work is supported by grants from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and several other corporate and individual donors that believe in the power of the arts to bring people together and promote understanding between them.

Season passes may be purchased that provide substantial discounts to all events, and special rates for groups are also available. The theatre at Oakes Center is wheelchair accessible, and such access services as large print scripts, assistive listening devices, and audio description will be available by prior arrangement throughout the season. Performances will be held at Oakes Center, 120 Morris Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901. For more information and tickets for any of Vivid Stage's programs, please call (908) 514-9654, and visit [www.vividstage.org](http://www.vividstage.org).

# Library Posts Date For Virtual Trivia Game

SCOTCH PLAINS -- The Scotch Plains Public Library has announced it will host its third virtual trivia challenge for adults. It will take place on Monday, August 23, at 7 p.m.

Participants can test their knowledge of "Tails & Tales," an homage to this year's summer reading theme. They may register as a team or on their own to get the link for this live virtual quiz hour.

If a team includes people who are not in the same household, they will need to arrange a means of communication (group text, Google Meet, etc.)

so they can privately discuss their answers.

Registration is required to receive the Zoom link. More specific details about the game structure will be sent to registered participants before the 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). For more information, go to [scotlib.org](http://scotlib.org), email [library@scotlib.org](mailto:library@scotlib.org) or call (908) 322-5007, extension no. 204.

## Mixing With Zest

By HILLARY SHOPE  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

# Sautéed Sesame Vegetables and Rice

Since joining the Westfield Area Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), I've been experimenting with different ways to cook my veggies. I recently discovered sesame oil and it's quickly become one of my go-tos. This recipe uses simple, healthy ingredients that end up packed with flavor. It's also super versatile, so feel free to make this with whatever veggies you have in the house, just don't skimp on the sesame oil and seasonings. You'll need to stir the veggies every so often to prevent them from sticking to the bottom of the pan, but aside from that, this is the kind of recipe that allows for some multitasking - especially during a busy weeknight. Enjoy!

- Ingredients:
- ~4 Tablespoons olive oil
  - 4 teaspoons sesame oil
  - 1 medium eggplant
  - 2 zucchini
  - 1 bell pepper (any color)
  - 1 small onion
  - 2 large carrots
  - 2 sweet potatoes
  - 1 cup kale (I rinse my kale leaves and tear them into small, bite size pieces)
  - 1 teaspoon black pepper

- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
  - 1/2 teaspoon cayenne
  - 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
  - Optional: sesame seeds for topping
  - Optional: chopped peanuts for topping
  - Optional: melted peanut butter for drizzling on top
- Directions:
- Pour the olive oil and sesame oil into a large frying pan (I like to use one that's a little deeper, because you want to make sure all your veggies will fit without falling out).
  - Dice all your veggies and place into the frying pan.
  - Place the pan over low heat and add your seasonings (feel free to adjust according to your taste).
  - Sauté until the veggies are soft and lightly browned, stirring often so they don't stick to the bottom of the pan. (I like to sauté my veggie for ~30 minutes).
  - While your veggies are cooking, make your rice and set aside. I love to use Basmati rice for this recipe.
  - To serve, place rice in the bottom of a bowl or plate and top with veggies! If you're feeling extra fancy, you can top with a little melted peanut butter and sesame seeds.



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Story on page 9 of The Westfield Leader



**STOGNER, WALSH WHACK 2 HITS EACH; TEMO KNOCKS IN 2 RUNS; McGEEHAN 2-HITS CLARK**

## WF Blue Tops Clark Bombers for N. Pr. Gold 11U Title, 5-2

**By DAVID B. CORBIN**  
*For The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Colin McGeehan pitched five solid innings and reliever Ian Dickey slammed the door in the sixth inning to help the Westfield Blue 11U baseball team claim the New Providence Gold League Championship with a 5-2 victory over the Clark Bombers at Gumbert Field 2 in Westfield on July 28.

Prior to the game, the second-seeded Westfield Blue had been

on a hot streak winning seven of their past eight games. The Clark Bombers, seeded fourth, knocked off top-seeded Union to make it possible for the game to be played at Westfield.

In his five innings on the mound, McGeehan permitted just two hits and two unearned runs, while walking two, hitting a batter and striking out five. Dickey

retired all three of the Bombers he faced in the final inning. Matt Talarico started for the Clark Bombers and allowed five runs (4 earned) on four hits and four walks in three innings. Vincent Lettini pitched the fourth and fifth innings and yielded no runs on three hits and two walks, while striking out two batters.

Offensively for the Westfield Blue, coached by Jim McCue, Scott Stogner, Dave Germond and Mike Dickey, Drew Walsh went 2-for-2 with a run scored. Brady Stogner rapped a pair of singles and scored once. Ryan Temo smacked a two-run single and Conor Dunn went 1-for-1 with a walk and a run scored.

Peter McCue singled and walked once. Ian Dickey walked twice in his two at-bats and scored once. McGeehan and Ian Shultis both had an RBI. Luke Germond walked and scored once and Max

Hymans walked once. Tobin Garrett and Beckett Johnson both made sharp contact in their two at-bats.

Justin Majewski doubled and scored once for the Clark Bombers, coached by Benny DelVirginia, Tim Brand and Brian Majewski. Xavier Barnes singled in his three at-bats. Lettini scored the other run. Derek Gunsiorowski and James Hackett both walked once and Gabriel Wood took a fastball to the foot. Christopher Brand covered first base, Alessandro DelVirginia covered second and Logan Downey patrolled right field.

The Bombers scored once in the top of the first inning. Lettini reached base on an error then

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## WF Blue Tops Clark Bombers for N. Pr. Gold 11U Crown, 5-2

scored when DelVirginia's grounder was overthrown. Westfield right fielder Haymans alertly grabbed Barnes' sinker and fired to second in time to get a force out on DelVirginia. Walsh, behind the plate, gunned down Barnes attempting to steal second then Talarico grounded out to short for the third out.

Clark third baseman Barnes pulled off a dazzling double play to prevent Westfield Blue from scoring in the bottom of the inning then Germond, from his catcher's position, gunned down Gunsiorowski attempting to steal second in the Clark second in-

ning.

Westfield Blue seized the lead with four runs in the second inning. Germond grounded to third but the throw eluded the first baseman. After swiping second and skipping to third on a ball in the dirt, Germond scored on McGeehan's groundout to second. Bomber second baseman DelVirginia followed with a fantastic play to rob Garrett of a hit for the second out. Walsh dropped a single into shallow

Probitas Verus Honos

right field then would later score on a pair of tosses in the dirt and a wild pitch. Dunn, Dickey and Hymans all walked to load the bases then Temo skid a two-run single past third to give Westfield a 4-1 lead.

Westfield Blue extended its lead to 5-1 in the third. Stogner poked a looper that slid under the glove of the leftfielder, stole second, dashed to third on McCue's groundout to second and scored on Shults' sacrifice fly to right field. After Germond walked, centerfielder Majewski snagged McGeehan's low liner just before it hit the grass.

Westfield posed another threat in the fourth. Walsh punched a one-out single into center, stole second, sped to third on a wild pitch and also attempted to score but Majewski, now catching, flicked the ball to Lettini in time for the out. Dunn followed with a single and Dickey walked but Hymans popped up to short.

The Clark Bombers came a run closer in the fifth. Majewski bashed a leadoff double to center. Gunsiorowski popped up to the pitcher and Hackett hacked a chopper to first for the second out. Downey's grounder to second was muffed as Majewski

scored. After Wood took a fastball to the foot, McGeehan struck out Lettini.

After Westfield left Stogner, who singled, and McCue, who walked, stranded in the fifth inning, the Bombers came to the plate in the sixth. Shultis made a great leaping grab at second for the first out then Stogner at short, corralled Barnes' steaming grounder and tossed to first for the second out. A popup to short earned Westfield Blue the title.

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## WF Blue Tops Clark Bombers for N. Pr. Gold 11U Crown, 5-2







## WF Blue Tops Clark Bombers for N. Pr. Gold 11U Crown, 5-2







## Cranford 11Us Outhit Hitmen in USA League Semifinal, 14-4







## Cranford 11Us Outhit Hitmen in USA League Semifinal, 14-4







## Cranford 11Us Outhit Hitmen in USA League Semifinal, 14-4







## Cranford 11Us Outhit Hitmen in USA League Semifinal, 14-4







## FB Braves Hold Off Cranford for USA League 11U Crown, 5-3







## FB Braves Hold Off Cranford for USA League 11U Crown, 5-3







## FB Braves Hold Off Cranford for USA League 11U Crown, 5-3

