

## Mayor Brindle Outlines Goals For Town Redevelopment In '21

By REBECCA MEHORTER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Town Council hosted its annual reorganization meeting Tuesday night, in which Mayor Shelley Brindle gave her annual State of the Town Address, which can be found in its entirety on the town's Facebook page or website. In her address, she highlighted the town's 2020 accomplishments as well as outlining 2021 priorities, specifically related to the town's redevelopment process.

"First and foremost, I'm happy to report that the state of our town remains strong and our future prospects are very bright, in spite of the uncertainty brought on by the pandemic," Mayor Brindle began.

Mayor Brindle said that the top priority is "to continue to ensure the health and welfare of our employees, residents and businesses," and that, as the vaccine becomes more widely available, "we, as a forward-looking community, need to be ready to capitalize on our post-pandemic future through the groundwork we have laid over the last few years."

Mayor Brindle and the town council took steps in 2020 to advance downtown redevelopment plans — notably by designating Streetworks Development, a subsidiary of the Hudson's Bay Company (which owns

the Lord & Taylor properties) as the developer for the Lord & Taylor properties as well as the North and South Avenue train station municipal parking lots and municipal Lot 7.

In the next year's redevelopment actions, Mayor Brindle said she hopes to diversify the town's tax base, increase downtown foot traffic, "diversify our housing stock by providing housing opportunities for newcomers and downsizers," integrate the Lord & Taylor site into the overall downtown plan and "identify flexible, post-Covid parking solutions for commuters, downtown residents, employees and shoppers."

Mayor Brindle asked residents to continue to stay informed and provide input to town officials as redevelopment planning continues.

Other 2021 goals presented by Mayor Brindle included establishing a short-term downtown economic recovery plan beginning Thursday, April 1, expanding community policing, launching a new town website and maintaining and enhancing town parks, namely, Brightwood, Tamaques and Mindowaskin.

The Finance Policy Committee passed 19 resolutions, including resolutions to appoint Green Team members and the Westfield Senior Advisory Council members. The committee also passed resolutions to appoint Suplee, Clooney & Company as the town's auditor, Town Attorney Tom Jardim, Howard Egenberg as municipal prosecutor, Robert Bohrod as public defender, Robert Goldsmith as redevelopment attorney and Philip



FIVE MORE YEARS...Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi is sworn in by Governor Phil Murphy at the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth on Sunday.

## Union County Govt. Reorganizes With Theme of 'Rising 2021'

By MICHAEL P. CARVALHO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

COUNTY — The newly-named Union County Board of County Commissioners (previously Board of Chosen Freeholders) held an Installation Ceremony and Reorganization Meeting on the courthouse steps at 2 Broad Street in Elizabeth on Sunday.

Welcoming remarks and introductions of the 165th Reorganization of the Union County Government were made by Nicholas Scutari, New Jersey State Senator for the 22nd Dis-

trict.

The Installation Ceremony was held outside the county courthouse. Immediately following the ceremony was the commissioners' meeting, which was a hybrid event — starting outside the courthouse and, after a brief recess, finishing inside with each commissioner in his or her own office or returning to his or her home office.

Senator Scutari introduced the administration of the oath of office for Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi, Union County Sheriff Peter Corvelli

and Commissioners Angela Garretson, Christopher Hudak and Lourdes Leon.

Ms. Rajoppi, Mr. Corvelli, Ms. Garretson and Mr. Hudak were each reelected to their roles, and Ms. Leon is serving her first term as a county commissioner. Ms. Leon also is the first Hispanic woman to be elected to the Board of County Commissioners and brings the board's member total back up to nine.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy was on hand to swear in Ms. Rajoppi and Ms. Garretson. Governor Murphy then gave a short speech to end the ceremony part of the day.

Senator Scutari then called upon the clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, James Pelletiere, to call to order the 2021 reorganization meeting.

The first order of business for the commissioners was to elect a chairman. Alexander Mirabella, the current chairman, was nominated, unanimously voted for and then subsequently sworn in by Senator Scutari.

The next order of business was to nominate, vote for and swear in Vice Chairman Rebecca Williams.

Mr. Mirabella then announced that the 2021 installation speeches and the 2021 Chairman's Address would be delivered remotely via livestream on Facebook and Zoom.

The remote portion of the proceedings kicked off with pre-recorded speeches given by U.S. Senator Cory Booker, U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, New Jersey Senate President Stephen Sweeney and New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, each giving praise to Union County and wishing everyone a safe and prosperous new year.

Following that were pre-recorded installation speeches given by Ms. Rajoppi, Mr. Corvelli, Ms. Garretson, Mr. Hudak and Ms. Leon.

The last of the pre-recorded speeches was by Mr. Mirabella. In his speech, Mr. Mirabella introduced the theme for this year's county initiatives, called Union County Rising 2021.

The first item on Mr. Mirabella's list concerns vaccinating the public against Covid-19. He noted the "County of Union is finalizing plans

## Local Efforts Help to Feed Community During Covid

By JENNIFER GLACKIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Covid-19 pandemic is on track to "erase nearly a decade of gains in food security," according to a report from the Community FoodBank of New Jersey (CFBNJ). The report, published in September of 2020, states that food insecurity levels in New Jersey are expected to rise above the levels from the 2008 recession and that one in five New Jersey children will experience food uncertainty as a result. As of December, approximately 1.2 million New Jerseyans struggle getting food on the table.

New Jersey's food insecurity, which CFBNJ defines as "a lack of consistent access to adequate food," is projected to increase 56 percent, 10 percent more than the projection of the national average. This will affect every area of New Jersey, the report states, and "the public and charitable sectors must prepare for a coordinated, long-term response."

These responses are made more complex by other pandemic-related matters. According to Stefanie Shuman Schwartz, external communications manager, Stop & Shop stores were unable to run their annual holiday box program due to supply-chain

difficulties.

Knowing that the food banks rely on those annual donations, Westfield Stop & Shop Manager Robin Kupsch and her employees took the initiative to run their own version. Customers purchased bags for \$10 that would then be donated to the Westfield Food Pantry (WFP) at the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church. Each had food pantry staples such as pasta and tuna, along with paper products, toiletries and hand sanitizer. "The community was so generous," Ms. Kupsch told *The Westfield Leader*.

In the four weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Westfield Stop & Shop donated 600 bags to the food pantry, exceeding its goal of 500. "We feel honored and privileged," said Ms. Kupsch, "to help our local community."

Ms. Kupsch said the store would like to run a similar program around Easter and Passover to help bolster the food pantry's holiday supplies.

"They deserve a lot of credit," said Rose O'Hare of the Westfield Food Pantry, referring to the efforts of Ms. Kupsch and her team.

Ms. O'Hare said requests for assistance have grown since November. The WFP provides nearly two weeks of groceries to 200 to 250 families per month. "It's sad to see so many people in need," said Ms. O'Hare, but thanks to generous donations from community groups like the Boy Scouts, the Westfield YMCA, local businesses and individual families, the pantry has been able to offset the growing demand.

Local-level efforts such as these can be "very effective in ensuring communities have needed resources," the CFBNJ report states. Pre-Covid, Union County's food insecurity rate was 8.2 percent. It is expected to rise to 12.9 percent, an increase of approximately 30,000 people.

For more information on New Jersey's growing food insecurity or

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FOOD DRIVE FOR THE WESTFIELD FOOD PANTRY...Robin Kupsch, manager of the Stop & Shop in Westfield, organized a holiday bag food drive for the Westfield Food Pantry. Customers purchased a total of 600 bags of food that were donated to the food pantry. Pictured is Robin Kupsch and Deacon Keith Gibbons.

## Cranford Committee Names Miller Prunty as New Mayor

By MARTA ESQUIROZ  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — The new Cranford Township Committee took office on Tuesday evening during its annual reorganization meeting at the township's municipal building. Among the attendees were State Senate Republican Minority Leader Tom Kean, Jr. and reelected Congressman Tom Malinowski, representing New Jersey's 7th District.

The governing body's goals are to focus on overcoming the Covid-19 pandemic and stimulate the economy in the midst of a deep crisis.

The committee elected Kathleen Miller Prunty as Cranford's new mayor, following her tenure during 2020 as deputy mayor. "Cranford is more than buildings; it's about people," remarked Mayor Miller Prunty. "No matter what your background is or how long you have lived here, Cranford is your community, and we welcome your input."

Reflecting on the impact of Covid-19, she said that "we began 2021 with a pandemic still casting a dark shadow." The new mayor added that, "dealing with Covid did teach us once again that business and governments need to be innovated in our approach to customer services."

As an example of this statement, Mayor Miller Prunty talked about the positive impact of using the streets for "mutual activity."

"It worked for businesses, and it provided spaces for the public to be outside," she said.

She expressed her commitment to keeping the residents of Cranford informed. "I am going to make sure that you have accurate information, based on facts," she said.

The second-ranking official elected by the committee was Deputy Mayor Brian Andrews, who also will be the new commissioner of public affairs. He and his Democratic running-mate, Jason Gareis, the new commissioner of public safety, are the new faces on the township committee following their wins in last November's General Election. Congressman Malinowski administered the oath to Mr. Andrews, joining the meeting via Skype while he was in Washington, D.C., in the words of Mr. Andrews, "working for our democracy."

The new deputy mayor said that "2020 was a rigid year," observing that "we saw sickness, death, isolation and division. We saw at a national level the case of the failure of the government. But here in Cranford, thankfully, we saw a local government level that was responsive, transparent, respectful (of) science and healthcare guides (and) creative in terms to find new ways to support business." His priorities for 2021 will be to "keep us safe, be a responsible government and keep our business open" while "we wait for the vaccine."

The other commissioners include Thomas Hannen, Jr., serving as commissioner of public works and engineering for the second year in a row, and Mary O'Connor as the commissioner of finance. Ryan J. Cooper will continue as township attorney

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**A HAPPY HOLIDAY FOR FIRST RESPONDERS...***Ken Zierler for The Westfield Leader*  
The First Responders Children's Foundation (FRCF) presents toys to first responders at the Cranford Fire Department the morning of December 24. The toys were gifted to the children of first responders including the Cranford Fire Department, Police Department, EMTs and to children in first responder communities. In 2020, over 500,000 toys were distributed to children throughout the United States. Donors included Mattel (American Girl and Hess Toy Trucks) and others. Pictured, from left to right, are: Fire Department Battalion Chief Jon Wojcik, FRCF Executive Director Scott Perrin and Anthony Lacorazza.

## Losardo Sworn In As Mayor; Zimmerman Joins Council

**By FRED T. ROSSI**  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

SCOTCH PLAINS – Joshua Losardo was sworn in as mayor last Friday and promised to “work extremely hard” to “do my best for the people of Scotch Plains.”

Under overcast skies and chilly New Year’s Day temperatures, Mr. Losardo took the oath as the township’s fifth directly-elected mayor on the front steps of the municipal building — the first such ceremony to be held outdoors — before a small crowd of well-wishers and township employees along with Union County Commission member Christopher Hudak and former Assemblywoman Linda Stender.

State Senator Nicholas Scutari, who also serves as Union County Democratic Party chairman, administered the oath to Mr. Losardo, who was elected to the township council in 2018, and also to Ellen Zimmerman, who won a seat on the five-member governing body in November, cementing an all-Democratic council for the first time ever.

Mr. Scutari called it “a joyous day in Scotch Plains” and said the township was “moving in an excellent direction” while pledging the support of the county commissioners and the local state legislative team.

In brief remarks, Mr. Losardo said he had “looked forward to today for a long time,” saying that he “always wanted to serve the community in this capacity” before admitting that it “took a really long time to get up the nerve to run” two years ago. He complimented his fellow council members, which besides Mrs. Zimmerman includes Elizabeth Stamler, who was named deputy mayor for 2021, and Roshan White. Mr. Losardo’s council seat was set to be filled for the remainder of this year on Tuesday night (see related

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## Three Begin New Terms On Cranford School Board

**By JENNIFER GLACKIN**  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

CRANFORD — Re-elected members of the Cranford Board of Education (BOE) Kurt Petschow, Jr., Lisa Carbone and Kristen Mallon were sworn in at Monday night’s virtual BOE meeting. Mr. Petschow and Ms. Carbone also were reelected as the president and vice president of the board, respectively.

The three reinstalled members were joined by their families and oaths were administered by Board Attorney Jennifer Osborne.

The board passed a resolution acknowledging January as School Board Recognition Month. Superintendent Scott Rubin, Ed.D., dubbed the Cranford BOE the “hardest-working, most dedicated board” with which he has ever worked.

Mr. Rubin said Cranford will be exempt from the New Jersey QSAC (Quality Single Accountability Continuum) virtual, on-site visit because of recently-passed legislation. School districts designated as “high performing” in their last evaluation

## Rising

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

to make the Covid-19 vaccine available to our residents and is ready to begin vaccinations as soon as they arrive.”

“Having administered Covid-19 tests throughout the County of Union, the infrastructure is in place to allow for a transition to a vaccination program immediately,” without disrupting the current Covid-19 testing and contact tracing programs, continued Mr. Mirabella.

Mr. Mirabella then went on to say, “We have purchased freezers and ancillary supplies to deliver the vaccines. Union County will provide the vaccinations according to the priorities established by the state of New Jersey. When mass vaccinations are provided by the state, Union County will be ready.”

“We urge all adult residents to get vaccinated,” concluded Mr. Mirabella. The county has set up a website at [ucnj.org/vaccination](http://ucnj.org/vaccination) for those seeking medical information about the Covid-19 vaccines.

Mr. Mirabella pointed out that there were a number of initiatives that were disrupted last year by the pandemic but now require attention.

“This year we will be completing many of them and are adding new programming as well,” he said.

## Efforts

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

how to help, visit [cfbnj.org](http://cfbnj.org).

The Westfield Food Pantry is accepting donations from individuals as well as from food drives. All donations are welcome, but items particularly needed are toilet paper, paper towels and cleaning supplies, said Ms. O’Hare. Donations can be dropped off at the Westfield Food Pantry Monday through Friday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., or at the church rectory Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For larger donations, call the church rectory at (908) 232-8137 to arrange a drop-off.

can submit their self-assessment only. While the district was prepared to share “the wonderful things happening in Cranford,” said the superintendent, “it is nice to have one less thing.” Cranford will go through QSAC reevaluation again in three years.

The district plans to return to hybrid learning on Monday, January 11. “We owe the faculty and staff a huge debt of gratitude,” said Superintendent Rubin. “It is really hard to pivot back and forth, and we thank them for all of the hard work they do,” he continued. Any parents who wish to switch their child from virtual to hybrid (or vice versa), should fill out the district questionnaire. Changes will become effective on Monday, February 1.

As previously reported, Cranford did not qualify for Title I funds for the 2020-2021 school year but is able to spend any outstanding money from the previous year. The remaining \$1,613 will be used for the basic skills program, according to Business Administrator Robert Carfagno.

The next meeting of the Cranford Board of Education will be on Monday, January 25.

## WF BOE

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Post-pandemic Future” presentation also mentioned possible changes to the future of education, such as scheduling, recorded learning activities and remote instruction instead of school closures for inclement weather. These and other topics are still in the early phases of discussion. The district also is looking for ways to identify student learning gaps while continually addressing social and emotional needs.

Student assessments are a concern, said Ms. Aziz, who noted the recent cancellation of midterms at the high school. Mr. Piniero said that teachers will still be assessing their students but that it will be done in alternative ways. State testing, known as New Jersey Student Learning Assessment or NJSLA, is scheduled for later in the year, Mr. Piniero said, but the district has yet to receive any guidance on how those tests will be administered.

District architect George Duthie will be at the board’s Tuesday, January 19 meeting to discuss plans for continued heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) projects, reported board member Michael Bielen. While improvements were made during 2020, including the installation of bipolarization units, the next phase of the project will update the HVAC systems in multipurpose rooms, such as the cafeterias, gymnasiums and auditoriums in the elementary schools; nurses’ suites, and other offices. The new units for these spaces will have air-conditioning capabilities, said Mr. Bielen.

The next meeting of the Westfield BOE will be on January 19, with the time and place to be announced at a later date.

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**SOCIALLY DISTANT...***Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader*  
Former Cranford Mayor Patrick Giblin and County Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski speak with residents at the Union County Installation Ceremony and Reorganization Meeting on Sunday at the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth.

## Fanwood Govt. Reorganizes; Carter Is Council President

**By SUSAN ALACCHI**  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

FANWOOD — The governing body of the Borough of Fanwood held its annual re-organization meeting on Monday. Invocations were given by Rabbi Joel Abraham of Temple Sholom in Scotch Plains and the Reverend David Jahnke, senior pastor of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church.

Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi’s certification of elections was read, confirming the reelection of Councilmen Anthony Carter and Jeffrey Banks, both of whom were sworn into new terms in office. Additionally, Daniel Antonelli was sworn in as borough prosecutor and Jill LaZare was sworn in as borough public defender. Officers of the Fanwood Rescue Squad also took their oaths.

## Redevelopment

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Abramson as redevelopment planner. Councilman Mark LoGrippo asked if the fees spent on the redevelopment attorney would be reimbursed by Streetworks.

“Yes, much of the fees for both the planner and the redevelopment counsel will be now charged escrow accounts, depending on the project they’re serving us on,” Town Administrator Jim Gildea said.

The council also approved resolutions from the Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee, Code Review and Town Property Committee and Public Works Committee to appoint an on-call traffic consultant, a municipal housing liaison and a C-3 sewer operator, respectively.

Mayor Brindle also announced mayoral and council appointments as well as proposed resolutions for employee and board appointments, all of which were unanimously approved by the town council members. The full list of 2021 appointments is available on [westfieldnj.gov/agendaminutes](http://westfieldnj.gov/agendaminutes) under Westfield Town Council Meeting Agendas and Addendums.

Of note is the 2021 appointment of Jennifer Gilman as chair of the recreation commission. Mayor Brindle said during the meeting that she believed it was the first time the recreation commission will be chaired by a woman. “We know it’s been at least 30 years, and I think we can say it’s a safe bet it’s the first woman chairing the rec commission,” she said.

The town council will next meet on Tuesday, January 12, at 8 p.m. Residents are encouraged to participate via Zoom or watch the meeting via Facebook Live on the town’s Facebook page.

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## Miller Prunty

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

and Mark J. Cassidy as municipal court judge.


Monday night was the only and last in-person meeting for the near future after the committee voted to shift the meetings to remote format due to increasing virus cases — 26 new cases as of last night. Mr. Hannen was the only one who rejected the proposal because, for him, “the buildings are open.”

“We go to the church; we go to the grocery store, and I don’t see it too much imposition for us to be here in person, to meet the public and allow them to offer their concerns,” he said.

With the majority in favor, the council meetings will be held virtually between now and April 30. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 12, at 6:30 p.m.




**CRANFORD COMMITTEE MEETINGS GO REMOTE...***Marta Esquiroz for The Westfield Leader*  
The new Cranford Township Committee took office on Tuesday evening during its annual Reorganization Meeting at the township’s municipal building and voted to go remote. Pictured, from left to right, are: Commissioner of Public Works and Engineering Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.; Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty; Deputy Mayor and Commissioner of Public Affairs Brian Andrews; Commissioner of Public Safety Jason Gareis and Commissioner of Finance Mary O’Connor.




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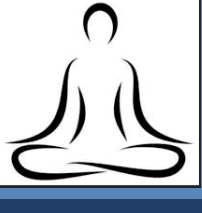
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## Maurice Workman, Jr., 92, Executive; Dedicated to His Family and His Faith

Maurice Cliffly Workman, Jr., age 92, of Lakewood, N.J., went peacefully to be with his Lord Saturday, January 2, 2021. Born in Chicago, Ill., and son of Maurice Sr. and Lilian Workman. He also had a residence in Bradenton, Fla., where he enjoyed spending his winters. Graduated University of Illinois with a degree in Accounting. Played in the Marching Band there and loved music. Served our country for the Army in the Korean War and then in 1953 came home to marry his wife of 61 years, Helen Roberta Patterson “Pat” (deceased 2014). They had their first son, Greg (deceased 2003), that same year and started a family. He began his career with Benjamin Moore & Company in 1950 and became their President in 1970, where he resided for 26 years until retiring in 1996. Maurie served on the Board at BM & Co. for another four years until Warren Buffett and Berkshire Hathaway purchased the company. He also served on the Board of Directors of Eastern Baptist Theology Seminary at Eastern University in Wayne, Pa. Maurie enjoyed watch-



Maurice C. Workman, Jr.

ing Yankee games and playing, singing, conducting and listening to music. He started a choral group in The Fairways development in Lakewood. He was a dedicated Christian his entire life and donated his time and talents to the Lord. Most recently a member of Living Word Baptist Church in Beachwood, N.J. He will be forever loved, cherished, and remembered by his family and friends. He leaves behind his sons Geoff, Paul (Mary) and Steve (Valerie) and daughter Susan. Fortunate to have six grandchildren (Christina, Brian, Brittany, Erika, Jessica and Stephen), four great-grandchildren (Lily, Eli, Avery and Benjamin) and sister (Dolores). Arrangements are under the direction of the D’Elia Funeral Home, 1300 Vermont Avenue, Lakewood, N.J. 08701. Burial will be held privately at the Scotch Plains Baptist Church Cemetery in Scotch Plains, N.J. Memorial contributions should be made to VNA Hospice of Central New Jersey.

January 7, 2021

## Jane Lois Montgomery Huckeba 1929-2021

Jane Lois Montgomery Huckeba, 91, of Amsterdam, New York, passed away on Sunday, January 3, 2021, at Wilkinson Residential Healthcare Facility in Amsterdam, New York. She was born on November 16, 1929 in Saranac Lake, New York, to Frederick W. and Helen Rankin Montgomery. Jane graduated from Westfield High School in Westfield, New Jersey, with the Class of 1947, where she was a member of the New Jersey State Field Hockey Team. She attended Wittenberg College in Springfield, Ohio, majoring in Physical Education, and graduated from St. Luke’s Hospital School of Nursing in New York City, New York, in 1952. She married Billy Ray Huckeba and together they had a daughter, Carol. They later divorced and he preceded her in death. Jane served in the United States Air Force as a staff nurse during the Korean War. After her honorable discharge, she worked as a nurse at Sweetwater Hospital in Texas before returning home to New Jersey. In 1962, Jane became a staff nurse at the Children’s Country Home in Mountainside, New Jersey. She was promoted to Head Nurse and then became Director of Nursing. During her tenure as Director, she coordinated the capital project to build a new, larger facility that opened in 1977 as Children’s Specialized Hospital. Jane was a devoted and extremely experienced nurse who loved caring for children; she retired from nursing in 1979. After her retirement, she moved from New Jersey to Maryland so she could be closer to her daughter and grand-

children. Jane continued to work part-time in the medical field for the next ten years while spending most of her time helping to care for her grandchildren. She was a member of the American Society for Hospital Nursing Service Administrators of the American Hospital Association and held Registered Nursing licenses in New Jersey, New York, Maryland and Missouri. Jane had a love for all animals and enjoyed watching sports, especially the St. Louis Cardinals and the former St. Louis Rams. She was a loving and devoted mother and grandmother and will be greatly missed. She is survived by a daughter, Carol (Henry) Beaudin of Gloversville, New York; three granddaughters, Jennifer (Jon) Gonzalez of O’Fallon, Missouri, Lisa (Jamie) Warren of Bloomfield, Iowa, and Cynthia (Stephen) Peltier of Cohoes, New York, and eleven great-grandchildren, Isabela, Max, Joseph, Cooper, Charlie, Frankie, Johnnie, Corah, Benedict, Edison and Hudson. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frederick and Helen Montgomery. Jane’s wish was to be cremated, with inurnment next to her parents at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield, New Jersey. A graveside memorial service will take place at a later date. Memorial contributions in Jane’s honor may be made to Children’s Specialized Hospital in Mountainside, New Jersey; the Alzheimer’s Association, or ASPCA, and can be mailed c/o Carol Beaudin, 8 Raven Street, Gloversville, N.Y. 12078.

January 7, 2021

## Lampert on McDaniel Dean’s List

WESTMINSTER, Md. — William Lampert of Westfield has been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the McDaniel College Fall 2020 Dean’s List with Highest Honors. Highest honors are earned for a semester grade point average of 3.90 or higher, high honors for a grade point average of 3.70 to 3.89, and honors for a 3.50 to 3.69 grade point average. McDaniel College, founded in 1867, is a four-year, independent

college of the liberal arts and sciences offering more than 70 undergraduate programs of study, including pre-professional specializations and student-designed majors, and over 20 graduate programs. The community of 1,800 undergraduates and 1,400 graduate students offers access to both Baltimore, Md., and Washington, D.C., plus a European campus in Budapest, Hungary. For more information, visit mcdaniel.edu.

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## — Obituaries —

### John L. Donnelly III, Family Man, Ret. Bank Executive, Avid Volunteer

John Lawrence Donnelly III passed away suddenly on Wednesday, December 30, 2020, at Jersey Shore Medical Center. He was born on May 20, 1936 to John and Anne (née Healey) at Margaret Hague Hospital in Jersey City. He attended St. Joseph’s Grammar School and St. Peter’s Prep, and graduated from St. Peter’s University with the Class of 1958. He then accepted a Regular Commission in the Marine Corps. In July of that year, he married Mary Barbara Butler. Together they went to Quantico, Virginia, to begin a five-year career in the Marines. While on active duty at Camp Pendleton, California, John received orders to be the Combat Cargo Officer on the USS Skagit, AKA 105, in the Western Pacific. He served in that capacity for two years. In 1963, John resigned his commission, attaining the rank of Captain, and began a successful 35-year career in banking. He retired in 1997 as a Senior Vice President at PNC Bank. Also in 1963, he and Barbara and their children moved to Westfield, New Jersey, where they resided for 37 happy years. While living in Westfield and commuting daily to New York City, he volunteered on the Westfield Senior Citizens Board of Directors, rising to be President of the board. Seeing that project grow from an idea to two apartment buildings housing Westfield seniors was a source of pride. He was a communicant of the Church of Saint Helen in Westfield. After retiring from banking, he and Barbara moved to Wall Township, New Jersey, which proved to be a magnet for family gatherings at his beloved Shore. He volunteered for Meals on Wheels. He was a member of the Church of St. Catharine in Spring Lake, New Jersey.

John L. Donnelly III

In 2017, he and Barbara moved to Seabrook Village in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. Among his favorite things, his family always came first, then his love of Jersey City, especially the Prep and his monthly lunches with fellow Prepsters; his boat, the “Valhalla”; fishing, and an audience for his wonderful stories. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, his daughter Mary Ann Little and her husband, Iain, of Oxford, England, and their children, Tom, Kate and Rosie; daughter Elizabeth Clancy of Hopkinton, Mass., and her children, Connor and Caroline; son John IV and his wife, Paula, and their triplets, Katie, Matthew and Sean, of Ramsey, N.J.; son Thomas and his wife, Laura, and their children, James and Emma, of Hingham, Mass.; a niece, Patricia Boardman, and nephew, George Voloshin. He was predeceased by his parents, his sister, Audrey Voloshin, and her daughters Barbara and Joanne. Visitation will take place today, Thursday, January 7, 2021, from 2 to 5 p.m., at O’Brien Funeral Home, 2028 Hwy 35, Wall, N.J., www.obrienfuneralhome.com. A Funeral Mass will be offered on Friday, January 8, 2021, at 10:30 a.m., at St. Catharine Church in Spring Lake, followed by interment at The Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Arnetown, N.J. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Peter’s Prep in Jersey City or The Resident Care Fund at Seabrook Village, 3000 Essex Road, Tinton Falls, N.J. 07753. Due to the Covid-19 executive orders of Governor Murphy, please be mindful that all gatherings must follow capacity limitations, the wearing of masks, and the maintenance of social distancing.

January 7, 2021

## SP-F Foundation Seeking Scholarship Applicants

SCOTCH PLAINS/FANWOOD — The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation currently is accepting applications for scholarships from high-school seniors graduating in 2021 who reside in Scotch Plains or Fanwood, and those residents attending college or other post-high-school institutions. The multiple scholarships offered by the Foundation range in criteria; some awards are need-based, while others have criteria such as the intent to pursue an education focused on teaching, nursing, mathematics, veterinary science, foreign language, music or fine arts, among many others. The major criterion for eligibility is that the applicant resides in Scotch Plains or Fanwood; an applicant need not be a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Applications can be obtained through the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Counseling Office and online at spfscholarshipfoundation.org. In addition to the application, the Foundation requires a personal essay from the applicant, a letter of reference, and an official high-school or college transcript. The Foundation recognizes that Covid-19 has presented many challenges to students, and wants applicants to know that the unique circumstances of this year will be taken into account when applications are reviewed. Submissions must be domestically

postmarked by Saturday, February 13, and mailed to SPF Scholarship Foundation, Attention: Screening Committee, P.O. Box 123, Fanwood, N.J. 07023, in order to be eligible for consideration. Applications postmarked after Feb. 13 will be returned, and incomplete or unsigned applications may not be considered. Applications may be completed on the Foundation’s website, spfscholarshipfoundation.org, but must be printed and mailed as directed for consideration. Since its inception in 1966, the Foundation has awarded more than \$3,500,000 in scholarships to 3,310 deserving recipients. Scholarships are funded through a community-wide appeal for donations to the Foundation’s Dollars for Students program. Other scholarships are administered by the Foundation, but are funded by community organizations; for example, every Parent-Teacher Association in the district funds at least one scholarship. Given the challenges posed to students amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Foundation recognizes that the need for scholarship assistance is greater than ever, and encourages all eligible students to submit their application. Applications are reviewed by a Screening Committee consisting of at least four trustees from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation and PTA representatives from the public schools. For further information, visit spfscholarshipfoundation.org.

## Emilie Claros Howarth, 85, Devoted To Family, Church and Community

Emilie Claros Howarth, 85, of Plainville, Mass., formerly of Corinth, Vt., died Thursday, December 24, at Rhode Island Hospital in Providence, after a sudden stroke. She was born on February 4, 1935 in Newark, N.J., a daughter of Felix E. and Margaret (Wagner) Claros. She was then raised in Irvington, N.J., and in 1947 her family moved to Manchester Township, N.J. Emilie led a life of service. Her father, Felix, was a veteran of World War I; both he and her mother, Margaret, were active members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Emilie was active in the Daughters’ Unit during her childhood. She was elected president of the Daughters’ Unit, Robert Rummel Post No. 164, Newark, New Jersey, when she was 12. Emilie graduated in 1956 from Lakewood High School, and after an apprenticeship with Dr. Louis Harrison of Lakewood earned her Dispensing Optician License from the State of New Jersey in 1960. She was a Licensed Guild Optician for nearly 10 years, until she started her family. Her optical work brought her to Union County, first Westfield and then Scotch Plains, N.J. Across the street from the optical store was the Scotch Plains Police Department. She caught the eye of a patrol sergeant, Sgt. Walter Howarth, Sr., who was friends with the store owners and her co-workers. They encouraged her to go on a date with him, and after many more dates, they were married in September 1967. As the wife of a police officer, she was asked to join the newly-formed Scotch Plains Police Wives Association (1968). The service organization helped to improve police and community relations. Emilie served as vice-president. She spearheaded efforts to help fire victims and chaired their dinner-dance fundraiser. Emilie’s greatest joy was becoming a mother (and later grandmother) to their daughter, Debbie, and son, Robert. She left her career to become a full-time mom. Her service moved to the PTA, class mom, den mother, and Scout leader. Upon Walter’s retirement in 1979, the family moved to their home in Vermont. Emilie took great pride in that she helped Walter build their home.

Emilie Howarth

Emilie was a 38-year member of the United Church of Chelsea. Over the years she has served on a variety of committees, such as the Christian Education Committee; was a Sunday School superintendent and Vacation Bible School director, and fundraised for the church elevator fund. However, her greatest accomplishment was developing the church’s Writing Ministry. For over 20 years she sent cards to housebound and semi-housebound people, those in need, those celebrating joys, and active military from the Chelsea area. Emilie felt it was important for people to be remembered and to feel the connection to God and home. Emilie was also an active member of the Corinth Historical Society. She worked on their town meeting and auction fundraisers, helped with event PR, and other writing and telephoning tasks. Emilie enjoyed the theatre – from both sides of the stage. In 1966 she was a member of the Scotch Plains Players (SPP), where she was cast in Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *South Pacific* and worked on costumes for *Waltz of the Toreadors*. She also served on the SPP Membership Committee. She enjoyed attending productions at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, N.J., and in later years the Old Church Theater in Bradford, Vt. Emilie was predeceased by her husband, Walter, in 1997; her granddaughter, Shelby Lynn Howarth, in 2004, and her sister, Juliana Claros Corrigan, in 2018. Survivors include a daughter, Debbie Howarth of Plainville, Mass.; a son, Robert Howarth, and his wife, Cynthia, of Washington, Vt.; a stepdaughter, Marcia Howarth Loughner, and her husband, John, of Mansfield, Pa.; 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Memorial contributions may be made to the United Church of Chelsea, P.O. Box 98, Chelsea, VT 05038, or to the Corinth Historical Society, c/o Norm Collette and Connie Longo, 2283 Backway Road, Corinth, VT 05039. A service celebrating Emilie’s life will be planned for later in 2021. A private message of sympathy for the family can be shared at www.boardwayandcille.com. The Boardway and Cilley Funeral Home of Chelsea, Vt., is in charge of the arrangements.

January 7, 2021

RETREAT REIMAGINED...Senior peer leaders Olivia Brown of South Plainfield, Michele Peruzzo of Westfield and Leila Hernandez-Webster of Edison meet with freshmen Anushka Dalal of Scotch Plains, Sarah Shao of Green Brook and Raiya Patel of Edison in person while freshmen Samina Aziz of Mountainside, Owen Hillard of Westfield, Andy Ma of Edison and Naomi Valcourt of South Plainfield participate virtually.

## W+H Students Bond During Peer Leadership Retreat

AREA — The Wardlaw+Hartridge School in Edison, which enrolls students from multiple area municipalities, hosted an on-campus retreat as part of its Peer Leadership Program in mid-November. Traditionally, this retreat takes place on the two days leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday, with the senior peer leaders and the entire freshman class traveling to northwest New Jersey for an overnight trip at Fairview Lakes YMCA Camp. As with many of its plans this year, Wardlaw+Hartridge had to reimagine what the retreat experience would look like with some of its ninth graders and peer leaders attending via Zoom. “While we can’t discuss what was said (because what happens at PL stays at PL), I can share that I saw lots of smiles throughout the day!” said Tanda Tucker, faculty advisor to the Peer Leadership Program. “The peer leaders put a lot of thoughtful planning into making our reimagined retreat just as special as the one they experienced as ninth graders.” “The retreat went really well,” peer leader Zane Lee-Briggs of Avenel said. “Our group really seemed to thrive during the discussions. Everyone was open and bold. It was great to see them

share. I think everyone got a lot out of it. I really enjoyed the experience.” “Despite the retreat looking different this year, being shortened and on-campus, our peer group, including all those on Zoom, was still able to bond and form the deeper connections that the retreat intended us to,” peer leader Olivia Brown of South Plainfield added. Miss Tucker and Upper School Peer Leadership Co-Advisor Tim Head have made sure the program has not missed a beat in this unprecedented time. They also expressed thanks to Dina Congregane and Ryan Oliveira for their assistance and support during the retreat. Going into the retreat I was a bit nervous as to how exactly we’d keep it interesting while stuck in the same room for practically four hours,” peer leader Noah Apter of Springfield said. “Thankfully, that wasn’t an issue, as Mikayla (Cole) and I kept our peer kids engaged for the entire time. Overall, the retreat went a lot smoother and better than I initially expected, especially considering the circumstances. The peer leaders were able to come together and create a good experience for the freshmen.”



# PCW Tells Nativity Story From Unique Perspective

WESTFIELD — Every year, The Presbyterian Church in Westfield presents a Live Nativity and petting zoo on a Sunday afternoon in December. With Covid awareness firmly in place, the leaders of the church knew that an in-person meeting of the costumed characters from the birth of Christ was not going to be possible this year.

To keep up the tradition another way, Lisa Black, Faith Formation moderator at the church, and her writing partner, Fred Denehy, penned a version called “Zoom to Bethlehem.” The age-old story from the perspective of a narrating donkey, Yala (played by Nancy Lau), was the creative twist.

Most Christians know the story of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem, traveling by donkey, and how they found “no room” at the inn. They delivered the baby Jesus to the amazement of shepherds, singing angels and wise men. This original production used an intergenerational cast for the

characters. Musical interludes of familiar Christmas carols interspersed throughout the dialogue were provided by the church’s musical director, Paul Sanner.

For the benefit of families viewing the Zoom production, two activities were provided for the children. The fun game of “I Spy,” with a checklist of words used in the play, was the first one. Additionally, a printable paper nativity scene craft to cut out was offered to the families.

While The Presbyterian Church in Westfield may not have been able to provide its annual Live Nativity in 2020, writer/director Ms. Black’s insight and talent enabled the show to go on. “The pandemic has opened up new ways of learning and coming together,” Ms. Black explained in her introductory message to the audience.

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield is located at 140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield. For more information, visit [westfieldpc.org](http://westfieldpc.org).



**EYEWITNESS TO HISTORY...**Yala the donkey (Nancy Lau) tells the story of the birth of Jesus Christ via a Zoom presentation by The Presbyterian Church in Westfield. This special program was offered as an alternative to the in-person Live Nativity traditionally held at the church as part of the celebration of Christmas.

## Virtual/Outdoor Programs Keep Girl Scouts Connected

WESTFIELD – Since March, the Girl Scouts organization has not been able to operate in the same manner it has been accustomed to for the past 100 years. While the mission of the Girl Scouts remains the same and being a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™ is still part of its core, the delivery model was forced to change in 2020. Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) has transitioned to a new way of Girl Scouting for tens of thousands of girls across seven counties of New Jersey.

Over the past several months, as troops could no longer meet in person, leaders have found new ways to give their girls a quality Girl Scout experience — to continue to earn patches or badges and contribute to their communities.

To remain a robust, relevant, vital part of girls’ lives, GSHNJ had to reengineer its entire programming menu in response to Covid restrictions. In-person summer camp was cancelled, but week-long virtual experiences imbued with the camp spirit were offered alongside family pod overnight camping.

“Even as other extracurricular activities are suspended during the Covid pandemic, GSHNJ has quickly and effectively found new ways to keep our membership engaged, and to fill the gap left by the suspension of after-school activities,” said Jamie Kay Discher, director of Girl Experience at GSHNJ.

For example, a program that traditionally would have been geared toward troops was instead adapted to encourage a girl’s entire family to participate. The Family Ramblers Hiking Club uses technology to connect families and subject matter experts who share tips and best practices for hiking in New Jersey. As families hike, girls report their experiences and earn recognitions. Over the summer, The Ramblers collectively logged

more than 650 miles through 243 outdoor adventures.

Online meeting platforms enable girls to meet and engage with influential, inspiring women role models without the limitations of travel. Since the start of the pandemic, GSHNJ has virtually connected members with leading women from around the world working in industries ranging from STEM to politics to environmental stewardship.

Another important aspect of Girl Scouting that has not changed is the commitment to community service. “At GSHNJ, service is the heart of our program,” Ms. Discher explained. “This year, from April through September, girls earning their Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards met the challenges presented during the pandemic, accomplishing more than 10,000 service hours and affecting real change within their communities.” Natasha Hemmings, the chief executive officer of GSHNJ, has been an instrumental part of the transition. “Yes, this has been a very challenging year for Girl Scouts, but we are still offering quality, engaging programs to girls throughout our council footprint,” she said. “We have just embraced a new type of delivery system, and are offering opportunities that are more family-based.”

Ms. Hemmings created her own patch for the girls to earn. With some direction from her daughter, she created a patch that states “Be the Change.”

This year, any currently registered Girl Scout can earn her patch by fulfilling certain criteria at home. “Handing out CEO patches is intended to encourage girls to share their ideas and feedback about their experiences; this temporary patch program reimagines the ways girls engage with me so we can still get to know each other,” Ms. Hemmings explained.

To register for the many programs GSHNJ has planned this winter, visit [gshnj.org/events](http://gshnj.org/events).



Laverne Williams, CSW

## Program to Address Emotional Wellness During Pandemic

AREA — Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey will present “Emotional Wellness and the Covid-19 Pandemic” on Tuesday, January 12, from 11 a.m. to noon, via Zoom. This free program will be led by Laverne Williams, a Certified Social Worker with the Mental Health Association of New Jersey.

The program is funded by the Lavy House Senior Resource Center and the Standish Foundation. All those who register and attend will be entered for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to Starbucks.

To register for this program and receive a Zoom invitation, contact [info@jfscentralnj.org](mailto:info@jfscentralnj.org) or call (908) 352-8375.



**KEEPING HUNGER AWAY...**Members of the Fanwood Community Foundation present a check benefiting the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Food Pantry in Scotch Plains. Pictured, from left to right, are: Sara Johnston, Nancy Magelinski, Richard Wagner, IHM; Steve Magelinski and Peter Chemidlin.

## FCF Has Successful Year With Community Support

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Community Foundation (FCF) reports that it had a stellar year of giving in 2020, thanks to generous donations from the community. FCF raised more than \$11,500 for the New Jersey food pantries, with \$4,041 of that going directly to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Food Pantry in Scotch Plains. Additionally, with community support, FCF provided grants to three local organizations: Caring Contact, Resolve Community Counseling Center, and Wolves Basketball Academy.

Last spring, in response to the Community FoodBank of New Jersey’s need for food due to Covid, FCF launched a virtual food drive offering to match \$2,020 and give that amount directly to the IHM Food Pantry. The goal was surpassed and FCF delivered a check to IHM for \$2,020.

Leading into Thanksgiving, FCF launched a second virtual food drive, “looking forward to 2021,” this time offering to match \$2,021. Again, thanks to the community, the goal was met and surpassed. For those wishing to give, FCF’s link to the Community FoodBank of New Jersey is <https://give.cfbnj.org/fanwoodcommunityfoundationholidays2021goal>.

This year’s FCF grant recipients include:

Caring Contact, a non-profit, tax-exempt, Section 501(c)(3) charitable organization. This award-winning, volunteer-staffed caring and crisis hotline and listening community pro-

vides active listening support and best-in-class education to the central and northern New Jersey community.

Resolve Community Counseling Center, a private, non-profit mental health agency in Scotch Plains. The agency is dedicated to providing quality and affordable counseling, advocacy and educational programs for children, adolescents and adults, individuals and families.

Wolves Basketball Academy is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, charitable organization that provides a fun, instructional and competitive environment where every young person has an opportunity to enjoy playing basketball and is given the personal attention to develop skills at his or her own pace.

The all-volunteer leadership of the FCF includes Peter J. Chemidlin, Jen Cooney, Sara Harrison Johnston, Judi Guttenberg Lynch, Nancy Magelinski, Stephen Magelinski, Thomas Ryan and Neil F. Schembre. Anyone interested in joining FCF’s team, donating or applying for a grant, or seeking more information, is invited to visit [fanwoodcommunityfoundation.org](http://fanwoodcommunityfoundation.org).

Founded in 1998, the Fanwood Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, making donations tax-deductible. Its mission is to help where the needs are the greatest and the benefits to Fanwood and its citizens are most substantial, and provides public-spirited donors with a vehicle for using their gifts in the best possible way now and in the future.

## W+H Students Share Ideas In Global Benchmark Series

SCOTCH PLAINS — Shiv Tickoo of Scotch Plains was among four Wardlaw-Hartridge Upper School students who participated in a global student dialogue on “Youth Action for Global Causes” on December 9. The other three participating students were Gurinder Singh of Carteret, Shankari Theivanayagam of Summit and Jenelle Valera of Piscataway.

More than 250 students from 13 different countries, including Belarus, Canada, Chile, England, France, Ghana, India, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Turkey and the United States, representing 43 different schools, all came together to discuss their perspectives. Student participants shared the causes about which they are inspired, and they collectively developed understandings about the competencies required to tackle these challenges today and in the future.

This virtual student dialogue gave these young people an opportunity to learn how to engage in respectful dialogue, communicate across differences and understand multiple perspectives around a complex global issue. The program was organized by the Global Education Benchmark Group (GEBG), a non-profit association of schools with global education programs.

The GEBG is a leading organiza-

tion of kindergarten-to-grade 12 schools that researches and establishes best practices in the field of global education and prepares students to thrive in increasingly interconnected world systems.

The GEBG supports member schools through a myriad of benefits, including in-depth professional development, collaborative student and faculty travel, discounted travel assistance and insurance, curricular development, conferences, institutional evaluations and endorsement, resource library and a supportive network of member schools. These initiatives help schools es-

tablish structures and programs that enable students to develop the knowledge, skills and empathic orientation required of global citizens.



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Fanwood	10 HELEN ST	Colonial	8	3	2.0	1	\$614,500
Fanwood	380 NORTH AVE	Colonial	12	5	2.2	2	\$685,000
Mountainside	1407 ORCHARD RD	Colonial	8	3	1.1	1	\$705,000
Mountainside	1 EGAN CT	Colonial	11	5	3.1	3	\$875,000
Scotch Plains	2356 SENECA RD	Ranch	7	2	1.1	1	\$425,000
Scotch Plains	211 KATHERINE ST	Colonial	7	3	1.1	1	\$415,000
Scotch Plains	324 MONTAGUE AVE	Colonial	7	3	2.1	1	\$585,000
Scotch Plains	1985 PROSPECT AVE	Colonial	9	4	2.1	2	\$821,000
Scotch Plains	1140 MAPLE HILL RD	Colonial	10	4	2.1	2	\$898,888
Scotch Plains	1676 COOPER RD	Colonial	13	4	2.1	2	\$949,000
Westfield	110 OXFORD TER	CapeCod	6	3	1.0	1	\$460,000
Westfield	103 MARLBORO ST	SplitLev	7	3	2.1	1	\$565,000
Westfield	36 TAMAQUES WAY	CapeCod	8	4	3.0	1	\$656,036
Westfield	367 BRIGHTWOOD AVE	Colonial	10	6	3.0	0	\$645,000
Westfield	1747 BOULEVARD	Colonial	11	4	2.1	1	\$785,000
Westfield	1128 GRANDVIEW AVE	Colonial	9	4	2.1	2	\$849,999
Westfield	530 WESTFIELD AVE	TwnEndUn	9	5	4.1	1	\$990,000

\*Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield, NJ data according to the Garden State MLS, as of 12/27/20 – 1/3/21. Featured properties may not have been listed or sold by the office/agent presenting this data for more information on these or other real estate matters, contact Susan Massa at 908-400-0778. Information deemed RELIABLE. Home is one of the most important and significant purchases and sales you will make in your lifetime. It's important to stay informed. If you are thinking about a MOVE now is the time to prepare. CALL me, the time is now [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)

## Anti-Racism Training Series To Begin This Month

AREA — The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey Anti-Racism Ministry will offer 20 hours of virtual anti-racism training that takes a historical approach to help participants understand systemic racism and empower them to confront and organize against racism, inequality and injustice. This program is open to the community and can be streamed to participants’ computer, tablet or mobile phone.

Lecture and discussion topics will include “What is Race?”, “Systemic Racism and White Privilege,” “Internalized Racism,” “The Role of the Church,” “Settler Colonialism,” “Racism in Immigration and Naturalization Legislation” and “The Prison Industrial Complex.”

The program features five, two-hour live interactive discussions to be held on January 29, February 5, February 12, February 19 and February 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. each evening. The follow-up debriefing session will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 26, via Zoom.

After each session, participants will be presented with recorded lectures and print, video and audio lessons via Moodle, an online training platform.

Registration presently is open for the January session. To register online,

visit <https://tinyurl.com/Anti-Racism-January2021> by Thursday, January 7. The fee for the course is \$100. Scholarships are available. Participants need not be Episcopalian, nor follow any particular religious creed. Enrollment is open to all.

For further information, contact the Reverend Theodore Moore at [tmooore12@comcast.net](mailto:tmooore12@comcast.net) or Canon Noreen Duncan at [noreen.duncan@att.net](mailto:noreen.duncan@att.net).

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# Revive Reading Aloud To Get Kids Off Screens

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

“Help! How can I get my kids off of screens?” “School is on computers. Homework, too.” “After school, my daughters/sons chat with friends by text, on FaceTime, Instagram, TikTok, play games or watch YouTube videos!” “I rarely see my family’s faces looking up or making eye contact.”

Each day of every week, parents whom I see in my psychotherapy practice, already stressed from juggling hybrid or all-remote school in a packed house, bemoan what has become almost 24/7 screen usage. Together, we try to troubleshoot this universal problem.

One suggestion that I urge all families to follow: No screens during meals. Cell phones should not sit next to forks or spoons, even if turned upside down or placed inside pockets. Rather, all devices should be in non-dining areas of the house. When phones share the kitchen or dining table with the family, every buzz, beep and vibration distracts from conversations about the day or precludes silence, an almost absent luxury

in our tech-wired lives.

Here’s another recommendation to break screen addiction, one that can work exceptionally well during our at-home lives: Restore reading aloud!

While we know that reading stories to little children is a cherished bedtime ritual, once kids can read by themselves, we end that precious tradition. Why stop? Hearing *Madeline*, *Thomas the Train*, *Fancy Nancy* and *Dr. Seuss*, spoken and shared, is such a sweet part of the day. Everyone piles on the bed and takes turns reading aloud in dimmed light, snuggling, laughing, asking “why” questions about a confusing narrative and often reciting familiar passages by heart and in unison.

Why end this tradition, and why limit reading aloud only to little ones?

In Jane Austin’s time, reading aloud with the family gathered by the fireplace marked the day’s end and brought a tranquil conclusion to the hardships of pre-industrial life. Many fiction and nonfiction tales capture past read-aloud traditions, enjoyed by every culture and all generations. Although books-

on-tape provide an aural version of a story, most people listen alone.

Data abound to support how unifying, peaceful and engrossing reading aloud is for the entire family.

Meghan Cox Gurdon, the author of *The Enchanted Hour: The Miraculous Power of Reading Aloud*, says that “the time we spend reading aloud is like no other time. A miraculous alchemy takes place when one person reads to another, one that converts the ordinary stuff of life — a book, a voice, a place to sit, and a bit of time — into astonishing fuel for the heart, the mind, and the imagination.”

Let’s restore this tradition. Set aside one half-hour each evening, free from electronics, choose a book that the family will enjoy and take turns reading to one another. Ignore the eye-rolling that may arise as you launch this new routine. Insist. Just do it.

Share your read-aloud experiences with *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times* by emailing press@goleader.com or patisteckler@gmail.com and writing “Gratitude” in the subject line.

# Educator’s Corner: Go for the Goals

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

Happy New Year! The start of a new year is a hopeful time, and it is human nature to wish for improvement. It’s a time to set goals and resolve to achieve them. It’s a great time for grown-ups, kids and families to figure out how to make their lives a little bit better.

Surveys have shown that an estimated 180 million adults in the United States set resolutions each year. But despite our best intentions, research has also shown that 80 percent of adults that set New Year’s resolutions give them up after a few months. This year, planning a long-range goal might be harder than ever since things have a way of changing so quickly.

So, let’s flip the script. Have you heard of SMART goals? They are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely. Instead of a resolution for the entire year, let’s think about smaller targets that can be done on a monthly, weekly or daily basis. Looking for ideas?

Monthly goals: hold a family fun activity (host a game night, hike,

fly kites on the beach), learn a new skill together (hula dancing, photography), finish a family project (build a bookshelf, organize old photos), take a virtual trip or stay connected by organizing an extended family or friends Zoom call.

Weekly Goals: complete shared chores, eat healthier, purge closets or toys, exercise as a family, enforce no phones at family dinner, engage in a small service project (drawing pictures for a nursing home, mailing “just because” letters to family and friends).

Daily Goals: go outside, learn a new word each day, practice gratitude, create a self-care routine, practice math facts, read for 15 minutes, do random acts of kindness, hold a screen-free day. (These can be everyday routines or mini goals that change daily.)

Sometimes choosing a goal can seem like a Herculean task. In this case, have everyone in the family write down one idea and put it in a jar. Pick one, and go with it! It gets everyone involved in the goal setting and more likely to participate if their idea is a part of it.

Whatever you choose, write it down where everyone can see. (Our five-year old certainly holds us accountable for our game nights when they are written on the calendar!)

Celebrate your accomplishments! Do a family cheer, eat a piece of candy, blast music and throw a mini dance party – whatever works for your family!

Track your progress visually. Fill a clear container with marbles or pom-poms, create a “thermometer” to color in or draw tally marks on a board. If saving money is a family goal, add a quarter or a dollar each time you accomplish a goal and deposit your savings at the end of the month.

Give yourselves some grace if things didn’t go as planned that week. Life happens. Use it to problem solve. What works? What doesn’t? How can we accomplish our next goal?

It’s important to keep working for goals. It teaches kids determination, problem solving, self-awareness and self-esteem.

A new year is a new start — a chance to make things better. Let’s get to it!



## Letters to the Editor

### Residents Must Wake Up and Address Vehicle Thefts

There is a reason why our area has seen a proliferation of stolen cars and/or motor vehicle burglaries — our apparent indifference has made us easy targets. This criminal activity has been consistent over the past several years in our area as well as the New York/New Jersey/Connecticut metro area in general. The overriding factor regarding these vehicle thefts and burglaries has been victims leaving their cars unlocked, especially in the overnight hours. In addition to leaving vehicles unlocked, keys or key-fobs are being left in victim’s cars, making them easy pickings for criminals. Make no mistake, these are organized, or loosely organized, criminal groups who are seeking valuables left in our cars — or the cars themselves. Ideally, these thieves are looking for cash, credit cards, personal identification and electronic devices such as phones, laptops and the like. Theft of items such as these then can lead to ID theft, the illicit use of credit cards and stolen funds from bank accounts, for example. Stolen cars are taken for joy rides, used to commit other crimes, sold or turned into parts. Keep in mind there is a criminal market for specific makes, models and years of vehicles.

This past year, law enforcement has made an effort to remind residents to lock their cars and at the same time remove valuables from plain sight. Many of us have seen the flashing billboards on our local streets reminding us to take these steps. Just like we routinely secure our homes when at work, school or in the night time hours — we have to be in the habit of locking our vehicles and at the same time removing any valuables. These criminals most often strike at night simply by going up and down our streets and pulling door handles — those found unlocked become vic-

tims. There is no feeling more unsettling than to come out in the morning and finding your driveway empty where your car had been the night before.

You may wonder what spurred me to comment on this subject — other than the fact it has been an ongoing problem in our area. Recently *The Leader’s* “Police Blotter” reported the local theft of a motor vehicle while it was parked in the victim’s driveway, unlocked with the keys inside at the time of the theft. What really stuck me was the vehicle was described as a 2019 high-end SUV with an approximate value of \$84,000 — really! Similar thefts have been reported in the area on a routine basis — when are we going to wake up? My own vehicles are important to me — but certainly if I owned a latest model, \$84,000 vehicle, I would protect it! Although I can’t speak to the insurance side of such motor vehicle thefts, I have to wonder whether insurance companies cover such careless and preventable losses.

I am under no illusion, having almost had a company car stolen at night from in front of our house some years ago — that car was locked — my saving grace was our alert dog.

Michael C. Ince  
Garwood

### Correction

In the December 31, 2020 edition of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*, a letter from Maria Constantinou should have contained an editor’s note stating that the letter was originally sent to Westfield Schools Superintendent Margaret Dolan. We regret the error.

### Scotch Plains Council Meeting Should Be Accessible to Residents

Why is the Scotch Plains Council starting all of its 2021 meetings at 5 p.m.?

It’s a great question, right? Why in the world would a council elected by us to best represent us hold its public meetings at 5 p.m.? Let me ask you these questions – Are you even done working yet by that time (I know I’m not)? Are you on your ride home? Are you preparing/eating dinner? Are you picking up/dropping off your children? On these simple questions alone, I think, even during the pandemic, we’d find ourselves busy at this time, which again begs the question why start these meetings at 5 p.m.?

The stark reality behind starting this early is to keep the public away from these meetings. Our elected officials know you’re busy. They know the questions I listed above exist. But they didn’t care because they don’t want your input on the process. They do not want your public comment to make it into the local press or on the township Facebook live feed. This is happening despite the fact that we’ve stood up for a host of issues this past year, right? I watched this town march in support of George Floyd and racial injustice, in support of keeping the Columbus monument in place to where it is today and in support of opening our schools up for in-person learning, which is a hot debate item ongoing today. I’m blown away that the response after 2020 from this board is to start its public meetings while you are at the busiest time of your day! These meetings should be held at 7 p.m. or later to accommodate your busy schedule and give you a chance to be on top of the issues that mean the most to you.

So what can we do about it? Call our new mayor Josh Losardo at (908)322-6700 extension 313 or email him at jlosardo@scotchplainsnj.com, and ask him to change the council meeting time to be in line with our Zoning Board of Adjustment (7 p.m.), Planning Board (7:30 p.m.), the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education (7:30 p.m.), Fanwood

#### Union County Commissioners

Elizabeth, New Jersey  
(908) 527-4200  
Ed Oatman, Mgr., eoatman@ucnj.org  
Alex Mirabella  
amirabella@ucnj.org  
Sebastian D’Elia, Public Info.  
(908) 527-4419  
sdelia@ucnj.org

#### State LD-21

Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R)  
425 North Ave. E.  
Westfield, N.J. 07090  
(908) 232-3673  
Asm. Jon Brannick (R)  
251 North Ave. West  
Westfield, N.J. 07090  
(908) 232-2073  
Asm. Nancy Munoz (R)  
57 Union Place, Suite 310  
Summit, N.J. 07901  
(908) 918-0414

LD-21 includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford.

#### State LD-22

Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D)  
1514 E. Saint Georges Ave.  
Linden, N.J. 07036  
(908) 587-0404  
Asm. Jim Kennedy (D)  
34 E. Cherry St.  
Rahway, N.J. 07065  
(732) 943-2660  
Asw. Linda Carter (D)  
200 West 2nd St., Suite 102  
Plainfield, N.J. 07060  
(908) 561-5757

LD-22 includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, Clark, Rahway and Linden.

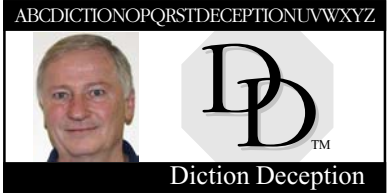
#### 7th Congressional District

Representative Tom Malinowski (D)  
75-77 N. Bridge St., Somerville, N.J. 08876  
(908) 547-3307  
[Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford are in the 7th Congressional District]

#### 12th Congressional District

Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D)  
850 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 201, Ewing, N.J. 08628  
(609) 883-0026  
[Fanwood, Plainfield and most of Scotch Plains are in the 12th Congressional District]

senkean@njleg.org, senscutari@njleg.org  
asbbrannick@njleg.org, aswmunoz@njleg.org  
asmkennedy@njleg.org, aswcarter@njleg.org



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. Perrier – A medieval catapult for hurling stones
2. Pontacq – A type of red wine
3. Hematemesis – To vomit blood
4. Spiv – A person who lives by his wits, without doing any work

#### LEVIGATE

1. To run abandon; decamp
2. To rub or grind; to make smooth
3. To impose a tax
4. To consume by swallowing

#### DROGUE

1. A West Indian slow-moving coasting craft built for carrying goods
2. A buoy attached to the end of a harpoon line
3. A sad, mournful song used in funerals
4. Roily; muddy; filthy

#### SIBILANT

1. Prophetic; oracular; mysterious
2. Hissing sound
3. Childish; pertaining to childhood
4. Having to do with blood relationship

#### SPLUENCHAN

1. In anatomy, a small supplementary spleen
2. Shiny; glossy; beaming with light
3. A street vender; a seller of fruits and vegetables
4. A tobacco or money pouch

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

Got news?  
Let us hear it!

[goleader.com/contact-us](http://goleader.com/contact-us)

Join the Rotary Club  
of Westfield



[westfieldrotary.com](http://westfieldrotary.com)

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

#### 2021 TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

January 19, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	5:00 PM
February 16, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	5:00 PM
March 16, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	5:00 PM
April 20, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	5:00 PM
May 18, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	5:00 PM
June 15, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	5:00 PM
July 13, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	5:00 PM
August 17, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	5:00 PM
September 14, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	5:00 PM
October 19, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	5:00 PM
November 9, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	5:00 PM
December 14, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	5:00 PM

#### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Council *Business Meetings* will be held in the Municipal Building Council Chamber (Court Room) and will be open to the public. Council *Conference Meetings*, when scheduled, will be held in the Council Conference Room located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Municipal Building or the Municipal Building Council Chamber (Court Room) and will be open to the public. Council Conference and Business Meetings will be broadcast on Scotch Plains Television (SPTV).

- Council *Executive Sessions* will be held in the Council Conference Room located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Municipal Building or the Municipal Building Council Chamber (Court Room) and will not be open to the public or broadcast on Scotch Plains Television (SPTV).

- Council *Workshop Meetings* (i.e. Budget) will be held in the Council Conference Room located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Municipal Building and will be open to the public. These meetings will be scheduled and advertised separately during the year by the Office of the Township Clerk.

- In light of the public health emergency caused by Coronavirus, and the subsequent issuance of the Governor’s Executive Order 107, The Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains (Township Council), effective January 1, 2021 and until further notice, will conduct all future meetings remotely and by electronic means without providing a physical meeting place.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 (the “Open Public Meetings Act”) and in adherence to the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) guidelines, the Meeting will be open to the public by electronic means, and as such, members of the public may view the meeting by livestream on our public access Channels FIOS 22 and Comcast 34; or on Facebook Live; Public Comment will be available through call in during the appropriate comment portions at 908-322-2076.

Members of the public who prefer not to, or do not have the means to, participate in the teleconference, may continue to participate in all meetings by emailing comments relative to agenda items and/or on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of Scotch Plains to the Township Clerk at blacina@scotchplainsnj.com. All relevant comments received will be read into the record during each Meeting’s Public Comment Portion, prior to the Township Council’s consideration of ordinances or resolutions for adoption, and will be addressed accordingly by the Township Council. All emails must be submitted and received by the Township Clerk **no later than 3 p.m. of the corresponding Conference-Business Meeting date** and, as is always the case, **must** include the public member’s **full name and address and agenda item or governmental issue** to which comments are being referred for the record. Agendas will be posted for the public’s viewing on the Township’s official website at scotchplainsnj.gov

Dated: January 1, 2021 by Resolution 2021-4

BOZENA LACINA, RMC  
Township Clerk  
Fee: \$105.06

1 T - 01/07/21, The Times





The Leader/Times Monthly Crossword Puzzle

By Ruth B. Margolin

Let's Get Down to Business

ACROSS

1. Sacred Egyptian cross

5. Rain delay roll-out

9. Speedboat's trail

13. "\_\_\_ Lisa Smile"

14. Epic poem by Homer

16. Baseball stats

17. Jonathan Swift's cannibalistic satire

20. Balloon material

21. Actor Hawke of "Boyhood"

22. Soul-for-success swap

28. Prankster

29. Apt. divisions

30. Cyber-send to the IRS

31. Sauce often used in a Bloody Mary

35. Snake eyes

36. Biblical trio of night visitors

39. Menotti's "\_\_\_ and the Night Visitors"

40. Ed and Mel of baseball

41. Apple desktop computer

42. Patronized, as a restaurant

44. Actor Nick, who voiced Kuiil in "The Mandalorian"

46. Slender swimmer

47. UK military pilots' org.

50. 1787 agreement that shaped representation in each house of the U.S. Congress

55. "Rebel Without a \_\_\_"

56. Many a book club selection

57. Why make such a fuss?

62. "Othello" evildoer

63. \_\_\_ Hall University

64. Minor or Major bear in the sky

65. Elation

66. Cleopatra's snakes

67. Simon \_\_\_

7. Become edible, as fruit

8. Medicare section that covers flu shots

9. Bad thing to get off on

10. "Crunched" muscles

11. Korean automaker

12. Immigrants' subj.

15. Capital of Qatar

18. Crowd-scene performer

19. Trim, as an apple

23. Repeated lyric in a 1987 Michael Jackson #1 hit

24. "Me, too," more formally

25. "Isn't," less formally

26. "Can \_\_\_ you in on a secret?"

27. Scottish lake with a monster

31. Game played on a hashtag

32. \_\_\_ Andreas Fault

33. Baby bird's call

34. Like a big brother

36. Chinese dynasty known for its vases

37. Latin love

38. Strong wind

43. "\_\_\_ came a spider..."

45. EWR postings

47. Yankee reliever Mariano

48. Comparable to pie? (simple)

49. Guys

51. Snips, as hair

52. Actor Milo, whose final appearance was in "The West Wing"

53. Track events

54. \_\_\_ operandi

57. Faux 'fro?

58. Computer in '2001'

59. Mature

60. Hit on the head

61. Connections

DOWN

1. Scenic Italian coast

2. Polite refusal

3. Get tense and hard, as a muscle

4. Underworld, or its mythic ruler

5. "My country, \_\_\_ of thee..."

6. Mtn. statistic

Creativity Flourishes Amid Pandemic

For Playwright Jared Kelner

**By SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY**  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

AREA -- We've all seen it — ingenuity and creativity from late-night talk show hosts to Broadway actors who are still able to produce unique and original work during this time of imposed and necessary shutdowns.

Close to home, Jared Kelner's creative juices are flowing. An actor, director, playwright, producer and drama teacher who has both performed at and had his plays performed through Union County Performing Arts Center (UCPAC) in Rahway, Mr. Kelner is producing and performing in his latest play at its Hamilton Stage.

In a recent phone interview with *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*, Mr. Kelner revealed he is now working on a production of his original play *Thanks, Brother*, which will be offered to the public January 22 through 24 at the 199-seat theater.

Mr. Kelner said the play was inspired by two plays that he saw years ago: 1983 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award nominee *night, Mother*, by Marsha Norman, and Pulitzer Prize nominee *True West*, by Sam Shepherd. Those two plays "stuck with him for decades," he said, and by writing this play, he wanted to show his admiration for them in the relationship between his two characters.

Expecting Mr. Kelner to say that he had written the play during the last few months of solitude, I was surprised to hear that he had written it well before the Covid-19 pandemic began. Another surprise was his unique process of writing his plays. "I've heard other artists say that they devote a certain time of

day to write and to sit down at the computer," he said. But for him, he moves around his room to "find the character's animal." He said he has an imaginary dialogue with the unknown characters, and the story begins to evolve in his imagination as he physically gets into the character. He said he commits the thoughts to paper only after he has come up with the foundation of the play. When he thought he was "finished" with this part of the writing process, he sent this draft to dozens of actor and director friends to get their feedback. He said he hoped the play would support universal themes and wanted to make certain there were not relational inconsistencies that he was overlooking. Feedback demanded edits. He estimates at least 25 edits birthed the final script. "I kept chiseling away, yes, like a sculptor," he explained. At the conclusion of the editing, he was ready to start rehearsals in November. The first rehearsals were on Zoom, which he says "forced me to listen. It forced me to a new moment of discovery, seeing it from a new perspective." From there, in-person rehearsals took place. "Thanks to the generosity of Patrick Starega and Brian Remo (from UCPAC), I was given the ability to use a room to rehearse at the Hamilton Stage," he said. Covid-19 precautions were and are evident on every hand. Along with fellow actor Jim Walsh and director Mike Burdick, Mr. Kelner will play the one brother, Jeremy, and Mr. Walsh will play the other brother, Tommy, a character who was a foster child in their household. "Jim Walsh has lived with the script," Mr. Kelner said. "You should see it — coffee

stains, crumpled corners, side notes."

Mr. Kelner said he selected both his fellow actor and the director because of their life experiences. "I knew of their work and respected it," he said of his choices. "As a director, Mike is so prepared — thoughtful in how to communicate his vision." Because Mr. Kelner wears not only the hat of playwright, but actor and producer, tension could have arisen. When asked how it might be awkward delivering lines that he had written if the director had a different vision of the reading, Mr. Kelner replied, "He has a tender, gentle way of bringing to life what's on the page. He takes me aside after rehearsal, and we explore and discover the text together."

Although the play has a serious plot — two 40-something brothers not seeing each other for quite a while, but are reunited after the mother's death — there are plenty of lighthearted moments. In the one-set play, there is an old upright piano, which Mr. Kelner said he bought online. He spent a week and a half tuning the relic himself and wrote the music that finds its way into the play.

"Learning the workings of that piano from the inside out became a personalization, a metaphor for me," he shared. It is like that unique way he has of finding his characters: from the inside out.

In-person viewing (with masks and social distancing) will be available to no more than 50 people for each performance in the 199-seat auditorium of the Hamilton Stage in Rahway. For tickets or directions, see [ucpac.org](http://ucpac.org) or call (732) 499-8226.

Arts & Entertainment

NJ Locals Going Nuts over Bon Nut Butters And Sweets, and Soon-to-Be Cookie Butters

**By HILLARY SHOPE**  
*Specialty written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

AREA -- Jennifer Nikitczuk, owner and creator of Bon Nut Butter and Sweets, is continuing to grow her business one jar at a time. She creates small-batch nut butters and plans to offer even more delicious flavors and products in the new year.

Ms. Nikitczuk, also referred to as the "nutty professor," is the backbone behind the business and still touches each part of the production process — from the grinding and packaging to the labeling and shipping. Ms. Nikitczuk grew up in Union County and currently makes all of her nut butters and chocolates in Hillsborough, New Jersey.

"I create exceptionally good nut butter. They're all made using an old-school technique of stone grinding stone," said Ms. Nikitczuk. "What most people don't realize, because they're so accustomed to a grocery store nut butter, is that my nut butters will grind for 13-plus hours and, in some cases, up to 18 hours per batch."

Each batch results in a maximum of 13 jars of nut butter, making it a time-consuming labor of love.

"What you're going to find inside of the jar is a really smooth, an exceptionally smooth, product," said Ms. Nikitczuk. "You're going to notice no grit to them, and that's what people have come to love about the product."

Ms. Nikitczuk created the business by happenstance and said she never imagined herself in the food industry.

"Growing up, my parents migrated here from Brazil — they literally started with nothing," said Ms. Nikitczuk. "They had an ice cream business, [and] they ran the ice cream business out of Elizabeth and Newark, New Jersey."

Ms. Nikitczuk said she told her parents that she didn't want anything to do with food in the future and that she wanted something different.

She then went to college, received a degree in interior design and worked on the corporate side of Calvin Klein designing their retail stores around the world. When she got pregnant, she said, she didn't want to go back to corporate life.

"I actually fell into a really deep postpartum depression, and on a whim I said to my husband, 'You know, I really want to learn the art of chocolate.'"

So for Christmas, he enrolled her in school. "So I learned the art of chocolate," said Ms. Nikitczuk. "I got my certification to be a chocolatier. That was my way of expressing myself artistically."

From there, it turned into a passion that drove Ms. Nikitczuk to explore chocolate even more.

"I ended up buying some machines where I could buy my own beans, and I was creating bean-to-bar chocolates. That's how I started," Ms. Nikitczuk said.

At her first farmers' market, however, her chocolate bars melted, and she struggled to sell her product. She decided she just needed to make back the money she lost and break even.

"I ended up taking some hazelnuts, I threw them in my grinder and I said, 'I'm just going to do whatever I can do to try to recoup my money and I'm just going to be done,'" said Ms. Nikitczuk.

She bought mason jars at the grocery store, ground up the hazelnuts, mixed in her homemade milk chocolate and decided to create a Nutella-type product.

"It truly was an accident. I didn't know at the time it was going to spark such an interest in the community," said Ms. Nikitczuk.

The following weekend, Ms. Nikitczuk returned to the farmers' market with her homemade hazelnut spread

in tow, and the line to try her products wrapped around the entire market.

"I came out with a hazelnut spread first, and then came back with my next two flavors, coconut almond and cinnamon cashew, and it picked up from there," said Ms. Nikitczuk.

That was back in 2015, and ever since then, Ms. Nikitczuk has been growing her company.

Ms. Nikitczuk takes pride in sourcing her nuts domestically and shares a close relationship with the farmers she works with.

"I source all my nuts domestic, here in the U.S., with the exception of coconut and cashews because they literally just don't grow here. But I'm very careful about where I source those particular nuts from," said Ms. Nikitczuk. "For the nuts that I source here in the U.S., I have tried over the years to start sourcing from smaller farms because I can pinpoint exactly to where the nuts are coming from; I know the practices that they're using."

Ms. Nikitczuk said the small farms she sources from have been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. When she called her hazelnut farmer, based in Oregon, earlier in March to place an order, they said they weren't sure if they would be able to stay open as they were struggling to pay their electric bills and their workers.

Since then, Ms. Nikitczuk has been rallying to support those farmers — buying nuts in larger quantities than she normally would and selling bags of pre-packed hazelnuts on her website. Ms.

Nikitczuk also called a few New Jersey retailers to see if they wanted to carry the hazelnuts in their farms stores.

"When I tell you I really get to know the farmers and where these nuts are coming from, it's true," she said.

Each jar of nut butter takes hours of work, and Ms. Nikitczuk says it's worth every second.

"I love what I do so much it doesn't feel like work to me. If someone likes my product, I feel like I'm doing them a service, so it makes me feel good," said Ms. Nikitczuk.

"I'm mom-run, she said. "I have the responsibility of a four-year-old and a six-year-old and virtual schooling and home-schooling and my business. I treat each of these as a big part of my life, so it's very difficult. It's a juggling act, but I'm honestly so thankful this year that people remembered about me and about small business."

Ms. Nikitczuk said she is very excited to be launching a new line of nut-based cookie butters in the new year.

"These cookie butters are going to give you a little bit more crunch, a little bit more grit," she said. "It has to be perfect before I give it to my customers. Hopefully soon these will be up on the website."

Ms. Nikitczuk urges others to continue to shop local and support small businesses. She will be doing a nut-butter giveaway to followers in early January, so follow along on Instagram and Facebook @bonbutters.

Customers can order online at ([bonbutters.com/](http://bonbutters.com/)).

Mixing With Zest

By HILLARY SHOPE

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

Sweet & Spicy Blondie

These blondies are soft, spiced and just the right amount of sweet. The dough is pretty thick, so don't worry if you have trouble spreading it into the pan. Just make sure the dough is evenly distributed when putting it into the pan and it will come out just fine. Once cooled, I

**Ingredients:**

- 1 stick butter (unsalted)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup all-purpose flour (sifted)
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar (make sure to pack it into the measuring scoop)
- 1/2 cup lactose free evaporated milk
- 1 1/2 tsp vanilla
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon cookie butter
- 1/2 cup chopped Cocoa Chile Spiced Pecans from Trader Joes + a few extra chopped pecans for the topping

**Directions:**

1. About an hour before you're ready to start making these bars, set your butter on the counter to soften.
2. Preheat your oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit.
3. Line a 9x9 in baking pan with parchment paper.
4. In a medium bowl, cream your butter and sugar (Combine them until it's a smooth and creamy texture. I suggest creaming them using the back of a large metal spoon)
5. In a separate bowl, mix your dry ingredients, including: sifted all-purpose flour, salt, baking powder, cinnamon and light brown sugar.
6. Then add the following to your dry mixture: milk, vanilla, maple syrup and cookie butter. Mix well.
7. Add your creamed butter into the mixture and combine.
8. Lastly, add the chopped pecans and mix.
9. Spread evenly into your parchment lined baking pan using a rubber spatula.
10. Bake on 325 for ~30 minutes, until a toothpick comes out clean. It will be golden brown on the top. Store in an airtight container once fully cooled. Enjoy!



Read More A&E News on Page 10

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This Month in Westfield Rotary

For December Veteran distribution, the Westfield Rotary gave out winter coats, gloves, pj's and homemade cookies from WHS Interact Club and hand made cards from our Westfield community. Rotarians from Westfield, Morristown, Somerset Hills and Watching-Warren Club were in attendance to distribute the items.

For more information about Westfield Rotary's support of veterans at the Community Hope Shelter at Lyons VA, or to get involved, contact Burim Regjaj at [outtahandpizza@gmail.com](mailto:outtahandpizza@gmail.com)

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



High School Boys & Girls Basketball “Tentatively” Set for Late January - Let’s Hope!



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

**MAKING HIS MOVE...**Blue Devil Jake Walsh, No. 13, makes his move to get the ball down court in the first round game against the AL Johnson Crusaders at the Butch Kowal Holiday Tournament in Rahway on December 27, 2019.



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

**BATTLE OF TITANS...**Blue Devil Brendan Loder, left, tries to work a bearhug on Raider Ed Smith in their 220-lb bout during the Wounded Warrior Project benefit match at Westfield High School on December 21, 2018.

\*\* A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at High School Sports Activities \*\*

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

assists, and point guard Peter Echausse (2 assists, 5 points, 2 steals) to thank. But others got into the scoring act, especially Walsh, who banged in 19 points, including five 3-pointers, Lo-

after the final bout at 285-lbs, the Piscataway Chiefs nudged out West Essex 185-184 for the team title and Westfield placed third with 170.5.

The Blue Devils sent seven matmen to the finals and claimed three champions with freshman Ethan Composto (106-lbs), and seniors Luke Hoerle (126-lbs) and Andrew Silber (138-lbs), while sophomore Luke Jacobs, who won last year at 106-lbs, took second at 113-lbs. Freshman Mike Murphy placed second at 145-lbs, senior Luke Scanlan took second at 170-lbs and junior Jon Heard took second at 220-lbs.

**December 21, 2018:** Super fine performances on each squad propelled the Westfield boys and girls swim teams past rivals Scotch Plains-Fanwood at the Westfield “Y”. The Lady Blue Devils topped the Raiders for the second straight year (regular season meet), 101-69, while the Blue Devil boys defeated the Raiders, 94-76.

The Lady Blue Devils took first in all three relays and won five of the eight individual events. Blue Devil Abby McKinney’s winning time of 58.25 in the 100-butterfly was second on the all-time WHS list. McKinney

mission. The mission was that all proceeds from the showdown would go to the Wounded Warrior Project and a large crowd was on hand to witness the event. Westfield presented one of its best teams in memory, while the Raiders arrived with a lot of new faces to fill in the vacated slots due to graduation, and the Blue Devils prevailed, 63-6. But the enthusiasm was still abundant.

Despite a 1-0 Blue Devil victory, the showdown between two tough and talented opponents, Raider Ed Smith and Brendan Loder, at 220-lbs, was anything but boring. At 195-lbs., Blue Devil Tim Miller recorded a 9-5 decision over Zach Zimmerman. Blue Devil Luke Scanlan put on a takedown clinic in his 14-5, majority decision over Tim Roden at 160-lbs. Jordan Simpson used his football experience to bulldog Tom Ryan in a 4:15 pin at 170-lbs. Raider Alex Oslislo finally earned his team six points when banged Devin DeRosa with a lateral drop in 50 seconds at 182-lbs

**December 22, 2017:** The Westfield girls swim team scored its biggest victory in quite some time with an

of spectators at the Westfield “Y” pool.

Paced by victories from Eric Bebel in the 50 and 100 freestyle sprints, Westfield surged to a 61-33 lead after

Alex Oslislo and Blue Devil junior Tim Miller, who would come up with a 5-1 victory. Blue Devil Brendan Loder pinned Bobby Mount in 3:23 at 220-lbs.



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

**TRYING TO GET POSITION UNDER THE BASKET...**Raider Christian Piesch, No. 10, attempts to get a good position under the board in the first round of the Anthony Cotoia Memorial Tournament against Perth Amboy Tech at South Plainfield on December 26, 2019. After defeating Perth Amboy Tech, the Raiders topped South Plainfield for the title.

**December 26, 2019:** Leading 22-17 at the half, the SPF boys basketball team separated itself from the Perth Amboy Tech Panthers in the third quarter with a 22-7 run en route to a 56-43 victory in the first round of the Anthony J. Cotoia Tournament in South Plainfield. Team captain Justin Fletcher with seven of his 14 points and Raul Lugo with nine of his 11 points would guide the 1-1 Raiders offensively in the first half. As he had in the first half, junior point guard Hayden Widder proved to be the man who controlled the pace in the second half.

**December 27, 2019:** Immediate acts of thievery that were converted to points guided the Westfield boys basketball team on a direct path that would result in a 70-45 victory over the AL Johnson Crusaders in the first round of the “Butch” Kowal Holiday Tournament in Rahway. That slight of hand in the first quarter earned the 2-2 Blue Devils a 20-10 lead and the primary thieves were seniors Jake Walsh and Griffin Rooney, who finished with four steals apiece.

Rooney would score 12 of his game-high 22 points in the first quarter and he had Walsh, who finished with five

gan Howland with eight points, Jack Spellman with seven points and Hank Shapiro (2 steals) with six points.

**December 27, 2019:** Far less mistakes, success driving to the basket and better positioning under the boards, among other things, by the visiting Immaculata Spartans led to a 69-37 victory over the hosting Cranford Cougars in the first round of the Cougar Christmas Tournament.

Senior captain Gianna Toretta led the 1-2 Cougars with 12 points, while pulling five rebounds and adding a pair of steals and an assist. Junior forward Amanda Vath (6 rebounds, block) and Liv Merriman (3 rebounds, block, steal) each put up seven points. Junior Liz McCaffery (4 rebounds, 2 assists, took a charge) and freshman Sarah O'Donnell each sank four points. Junior Kirsten Williams, who had two points and three rebounds, led the team with four steals. Junior Natalia Kruk grabbed six rebounds.

**December 28, 2019:** Nine teams competed for the title but only three were in contention when it came to the championship round at the Roselle Park Panther Holiday Wrestling Tournament. When the points were tallied



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

**LEADING THE COUGARS...**Senior captain Gianna Toretta, No. 13, led the Cougars with 12 points, while pulling five rebounds and adding a pair of steals and an assist in the game against the Immaculata Lady Spartans (December 27, 2019).

also took top honors in the 200-Individual Medley (IM) with a time of 2:11.6. Julie McGann also won two events, the 200-free at 1:57.6 and the 500-free in 5:23.3. Raider Chloe Howell won the 100-free in 55.03. Lily Hughes won the 100-backstroke at 58.78. Raiders Sofia Leonetti at 1:11.13 and Abby Ryan at 1:12.23 finished 1-2 in the 100-breaststroke.

The Raider boys won six individual events and one relay but the Blue Devils turned in a number of seconds, thirds, and fourths, which included a 1-2-3 sweep in the 100-breaststroke. Raider Josh Cohen took first in the 100-free at 47.5 and first in the 100-back at 53.07. Corey He won the 200-free in 1:49.14 and led a 1-3 Raider finish in the 500-free at 4:35. Blue Devil Cooper Prieto won the 50 free in 22.18. Tom Brennan led the Blue Devil sweep in the 100-breast at 1:01.46, followed by Barney Veres at 1:02.1 and Jeremy Kronheimer at 1:03.24.

**December 21, 2018:** Mission accomplished! The outcome of the match between the hosting Westfield wrestling team and the SPF Raiders was not nearly as important as the

impressive, 96-74 win over previously unbeaten Scotch-Plains Fanwood at the Westfield “Y”. Keeley Thompson took first in the 50 free and Muriel Maloney did likewise in the 100 back to help lead the Blue Devils to their fifth straight win of the season after dropping their season opener to Bridgewater-Raritan. The win was also Westfield’s first over the Raiders since the 2013 season.

Double victories by Raider standouts Rachel Maizes (200 IM, 500 free) and Dee Dee Maizes (100 free, 200 free) were not enough to overcome a wave of strong performances by Westfield swimmers that racked up points in the place and show spots.

**December 22, 2017:** The Westfield boys swim team got in the fast lane again. The Blue Devils beat Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 108-62, in a showdown between two of the top teams in Union County. It was the fourth straight win for Westfield since suffering a loss to Bridgewater-Raritan in the season opener. The latest chapter in this annual early-season border war played out on December 22 before a raucous and fully packed crowd



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

**DOUBLE WINNER...**Blue Devil Abby McKinney works the breaststroke portion of the 200IM that she won during the meet with the Raiders on December 21, 2018. McKinney also won the 100-butterfly in 58.25 (2nd all-time WHS).

six events. Raider Josh Cohen continued to dominate the 200 free by recording a first place time of 1:42.41. Cohen also won the 500-free in 4:47.2. Alan Shao captured the 200 Individual Medley (IM) in 1:58.19 and the 100 back in 53.50. Westfield’s Steve Warren won the 100 breast in 1:00.66 heading up a 1-2-3 sweep in the event with Tommy Brennan (1:04.77) and Lessner (1:06.28) finishing second and third, respectively.

**December 22, 2017:** Key matchups and some very close bouts highlighted the Annual “Pin Cancer” showdown between the hosting SPF Raider wrestling team and the Westfield Blue Devils. But after trailing 22-15, the Blue Devils got into the strength of their order and reeled off six straight victories beginning at the 106-lb class and into the 138-lb class en route to a 40-25 victory.

A highly anticipated showdown arrived in the third bout of the evening at 170-lbs between Raider Nick Palazzollo and Blue Devil Isaiah Reese. Palazzollo managed to fend off a few attempted double-leg tangles then caught Reese with a lateral drop in 3:03. The 182-lb bout featured two strongmen, Raider junior

**December 23, 2016:** Freshmen with extensive mat experience plus a total team effort earned the Westfield Blue Devils a 34-32 victory over the SPF Raiders at the Annual “Pin Cancer” Wrestling Classic in Westfield. The event not only featured outstanding efforts on the part of both teams before a packed gym but also began with a stirring rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner” by Blue Devil Gymnastics Co-Head Coach Laurie (Hogan) McCormack (WHS ’99 & gymnastic standout).

The Blue Devils received a key pin from co-captain Jack Miller, who jumped up to 220-lbs to pin Bobby Mount late in the second period. Raider Nick Palazzollo clamped Matt Dente in 2:31 with a nearside cradle at 152-lbs. Two athletes, Blue Devil Isaiah Reese and Alex Oslislo, stepped onto center circle at 160-lbs. In a very physical match-up, Reese emerged with a 5-1 decision. Raider junior Sam Wustefeld, an NJSIAA qualifier last year, went to work on Russ Weber at 182-lbs and recorded a 13-1 majority decision.

**December 27, 2016:** The SPF boys basketball team won their fourth

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



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

**CHAMPION AT 138-LBS...**Blue Devil senior Andrew Silber, top, hit Joe Witcoski (Hillsborough) with a lateral drop in the final seconds to win the 138-lb crown at the Roselle Park Panther Tournament on December 28, 2019.

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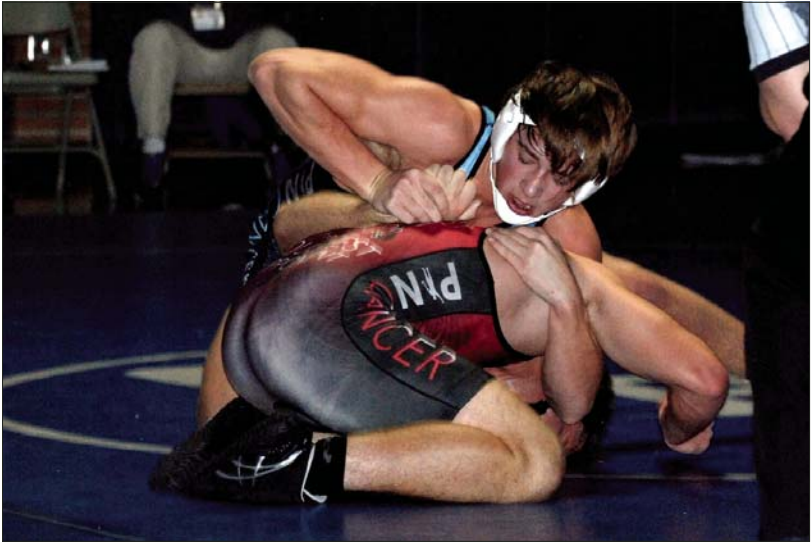




David B. Corbin (January 2013 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**SHIFTING FROM THE JACOBS' HOOK...**Cougar Gavin Murray, top, shifts from a Jacobs' hook to a head smother to pin Brearley's Kevin Torres in 1:08 in his 132-lb bout. The Cougars sent a clear message to topple the No. 20-ranked Bears (December 27, 2012).



David B. Corbin (January 2017 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**SURROUNDED BY COUGARS...**Cougars Tom Curry, No. 2, Brian Oblachinski, No. 1, Chris Librera, No. 12, Alex Gall, No. 14, and Ryan Bakie, right, surround a Mt. Olive player during the Cougar Holiday Tournament. Mt. Olive "slipped" past the Cougars, 50-47 (December 28, 2016).



(December 2017 files) Photo courtesy of Carolyn Miller  
**WORKING A STRETCH HAMMER...**Blue Devil Tim Miller, top, works a stretch hammer lock on Raider Alex Osloilo in his 182-lb bout during the Annual "Pin Cancer" Classic wrestling showdown at Scotch Plains on December 22, 2017. Miller won 5-1 and the Blue Devils defeated the Raiders 40-25.

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

straight game to start the 2016/17 campaign with a 60-46 thrashing of South Plainfield in the opening round of the 8th annual Anthony J. Cotoia Holiday Tournament held in South Plainfield. Seniors Teddy Wilmott and Nigel Nelson each scored 10 points to lead the winning effort.

**December 28, 2016:** The Scotch Plains-Fanwood boys basketball team kept its perfect record intact with a 59-39 blowout win over JP Stevens (2-3) in the championship game of the 8th Annual Anthony J. Cotoia Holiday Tournament in South Plainfield. Lamont Cruse led all Raider scorers with 11 points and senior Nigel Nelson added nine points on his way to being named tournament MVP. While still very early in the schedule, the Raiders' fast start has got players excited as the team has already surpassed their total number of victories (3)

defensively with 10 points, four assists, six rebounds and three steals.

**December 28, 2015:** Junior Phil Ricca was one of six Westfield Blue Devils who entered the finals of the Roselle Park Wrestling Tournament but he was the only Blue Devil who was able to grab the top spot when he pinned Roselle Park Panther Sebastian Leo with a half nelson pry in 4:20 in the 220-lb championship bout.

Jarek Gozdieski placed second at 160-lbs, Jack Miller placed second at 170-lbs, Zach Rabinowitz placed second at 106-lbs, Chris Hoerle placed second at 113-lbs and freshman Emmett Smith placed second at 120-lbs.

**December 29, 2015:** Delaware Valley staged a late comeback, rallying from a 10-point first half deficit to overcome the Cranford girls basketball team in the finals of the Cougar Classic at the Martin Gymnasium in

Westfield and came away with a powerful, 99-71, victory over the Blue

sive rebounds and five defensive rebounds, and added two assists. Norris



Courtesy of Joe Rinaldi (January 2015 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**DRIVING TO THE BASKET...**Blue Devil Owen Murray, No. 15, drives to the basket in the game against the Raiders in Westfield on December 23, 2014. The Blue Devils won 74-43.

Devils at the jam packed Westfield "Y" pool. Led by super sophomore Stephanie Judge, who set a new school record in winning the 100 butterfly (58.84), the Raiders took first place in eight of 11 events and served notice to perennial power Westfield that a serious challenger resides on the western side of the city limits.

Sarah Davis was one of two Raider girls who scored multiple wins. Davis took first in the 50 freestyle (24.27). Davis also won the 100 freestyle (53.04). Isabella Iacona touched first in the 200 freestyle (2:00.15) and also won the 500 freestyle (5:24.06). Westfield got a pair of first place performances from Caroline Basil, who prevailed in the 200 IM (2:14.57) and the 100 backstroke (59.75).

**December 22, 2014:** The Westfield boys swim team proved that it will, once again, be tough to beat this season with a dominating, 107-63, win over Scotch Plains-Fanwood at the Wallace Pool. Before a raucous crowd, the defending three-time, Public A state champs took down a strong Raider squad by winning all but three events on the day.

Blue Devil Aedan Collins was the individual star of the meet. The sensational sophomore won the 200 freestyle, the 500 freestyle, anchored the 400-freestyle relay and served as the third leg of the winning 200-free relay effort (1:32.23). Raider Alex Skoog took first in a thrilling battle with Westfield's John Lindros in the 50 freestyle with a time of 22.18, barely enough to nudge past Lindros (22.21). Skoog also triumphed in the 100 freestyle (47.89).

**December 23, 2014:** High pressure tactics on the part of the Westfield boys basketball team threw the visiting SPF Raiders out of their game plan, resulting in a 74-43 Blue Devil victory. The Blue Devils managed to convert a multitude of steals into easy points. Right in the thick of creating turnovers were senior forward Sean Elliott and junior guard Owen Murray, who were responsible for four steals apiece. Tim Norris, Jelani Pierre and Dan Mitchell also contributed a pair of steals apiece.

Murray was all over the court with four offensive rebounds and eight defensive boards. He also bucketed 10 points and added four assists. Elliott sank nine points, including a pair of 3-pointers, while grabbing four offen-

had eight points and five rebounds. Junior Chris Boutsikaris banged in 10 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, while adding an assist. Junior Parker Hess scored nine points and had an assist. Mitchell had six points with a pair of 3-pointers.

Senior Leo Ramos led the Raiders with 11 points, five steals, five assists and seven rebounds. Senior Emendo Thomas put in seven points, while adding a pair of assists and two steals. Bryce Edwards banged a pair of 3-pointers and Dan Baliko netted six points, including a 3-pointer.

**December 27, 2013:** Quadruple overtime! Who would have "thunk" it? With his team trailing by one point, senior guard Tommy Trotter grabbed a rebound after a missed free throw, dribbled the full length of the court and rolled in a lay-up as time ran out to give the Cranford boys basketball team an emotionally charged 86-85 victory over the Marlboro Mustangs after four overtime periods in the opening round of the Cougar Classic in Cranford.

Trotter, who also had seven assists, scored half of his 22 points in the overtime periods, and senior forward John Oblachinski, who grabbed eight of his team-leading 13 rebounds in overtime, finished with 17 points and five assists. Mike Guarriello netted 20 points and pulled seven rebounds. Cameron Kutzer had five points and five rebounds. Luke Christiano scored eight of his 14 points in overtime, Jack McCaffrey sank six points and Jack Schetelich added two points.

**December 27, 2013:** Converting from not using hands during soccer season to becoming chief thieves played out very well in a 45-8 Cranford girls basketball team victory over the Kent Place Lady Dragons in the opening round of the Cougar Classic. In fact, rebounds took a back seat to steals as the Cougars committed, at least, 26 acts of thievery, and three



(January 2014 files) Courtesy of Phyllis Mirabella for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**WINNING THE 145-LB CROWN...**Raider Brian Lapham, top, captured the 145-lb crown at the John Lobos Tournament in Washington on December 27, 2014.

an arm bar and a half nelson.

Barber's championship bout was with a familiar foe in Panther Bobby Vail, who took a 2-0 lead with a first-period takedown, but Barber escaped. Barber added another escape in the

victory as the Cranford wrestling team sent a clear message and toppled the No. 20-ranked Brearley Bears in Cranford. The 6-1 Cougars needed to get bonus points wherever they could and did, beginning with Weiss when



David B. Corbin (January 2013 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**TOUGH MAN TO HANDLE...**Raider forward Tom Bonacum, No. 1, was very tough for Bishop Ahr to handle. Bonacum scored 29 points and had five assists, six rebounds and three steals (December 27, 2012).

second period to knot the score, but Vail took a 3-2 lead with an escape in the third period. Barber came back to score a takedown with :08 remaining

he lifted Jordan Velez with a Claw and pried him to his back for the fall in 4:45 at 220-lbs. With the Cougars leading 35-12, Birch jumped up to 152-lbs and tore into Bear Eoghan Sovona recording four takedowns, a reversal and a pair of nearfalls to seal the team victory.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF GARWOOD  
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
PLANNING BOARD**

#### 2021 MEETING DATES

TAKE NOTICE THAT the following meeting dates have been established for the Garwood Planning Board.

Meetings of the Planning/Zoning Board will be virtual meetings (there will be no in-person meetings until further notice). Access information is below.

Garwood Planning/Zoning (a joint) Board commence at 7:30 pm. In response to the COVID-19 emergency, pursuant to Governor Murphy's 2020 NJ Executive Orders Nos. 103, 107, et seq., and per the corresponding guidelines issued by the N.J.D.C.A. Division of Local Government Services, the public meeting will be conducted virtually, via RingCentral, and the meeting will be accessible to the public at the below login:

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j6432970558>

Alternatively, you may dial in to hear/participate at audio dial-in: Telephone: Dial: +1 (646) 357-3664 Meeting ID: 643 297 0558

Meeting agenda and related documents are available on the Borough Website: <https://garwood.org/publicnotices>

#### MEETING DATE

January 13 & 27  
February 24  
March 24  
April 14 & 28  
May 26  
June 23  
July 28  
August 25  
September 22  
October 13 & 27  
November 10  
December 8  
And January 12, 2022

Adele Lewis,  
Board Secretary  
1 T - 01/07/21, The Leader Fee: \$42.33

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF FANWOOD  
PLANNING BOARD**

Please take notice that on January 27, 2021 at 7:30 PM the Planning Board will hold a virtual hearing on the application of the undersigned. The property in question is located at: 136 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey, also known as Block 16 Lot 2, as shown on the Fanwood Tax Map, owned by Oscar Lasluisa and Claudia Diaz.

The applicant requests to construct a new second floor addition over the existing footprint of the existing first floor which is in violation of:

Section 184-115 (E5) of the Fanwood Land Use Code. Variance Requested: Sideyard; Permitted: 10 feet; Present: 7.63 feet; Proposed: 7.63 feet.

Section 184-115 (E1) of the Fanwood Land Use Code. Variance Requested: Lot Area; Permitted: 7,500 square feet; Present: 7,450 square feet; Proposed: 7,450 square feet.

The applicant will also seek such other relief as may be determined necessary at the public hearing based upon review of the application or amendment(s) to the application.

The file pertaining to this application is available for public inspection 10 days prior to the hearing at <https://www.fanwoodnj.org/departments/planning-board/>.

Any interested party at said hearing may participate therein in accordance with the rules of the Fanwood Planning Board. Instructions for virtual participation can be found at <https://www.fanwoodnj.org/departments/planning-board/>.

Applicant: Claudia Diaz and Oscar Lasluisa  
136 North Martine Avenue  
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023  
1 T - 01/07/21, The Times Fee: \$38.25

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF FANWOOD  
PLANNING BOARD**

Please take notice that on January 27, 2021 at 7:30 PM the Planning Board will hold a virtual hearing on the application of the undersigned. The property in question is located at: 14 Birchwood Terrace, Fanwood, New Jersey, also known as Block 44 Lot 32, as shown on the Fanwood Tax Map, owned by Christopher and Jenna Schiro.

The applicant requests front yard porch which is in violation of:

Section 184-115 E 4 of the Fanwood Land Use Code. Variance Requested: Front Yard Setback; Permitted: 30 feet; Present: 31.84 feet; Proposed: 25 feet.

The applicant will also seek such other relief as may be determined necessary at the public hearing based upon review of the application or amendment(s) to the application.

The file pertaining to this application is available for public inspection 10 days prior to the hearing at <https://www.fanwoodnj.org/departments/planning-board/>.

Any interested party at said hearing may participate therein in accordance with the rules of the Fanwood Planning Board.

Instructions for virtual participation can be found at <https://www.fanwoodnj.org/departments/planning-board/>.

Applicant: Chris Schiro  
14 Birchwood Terrace  
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023  
1 T - 01/07/21, The Times Fee: \$32.64

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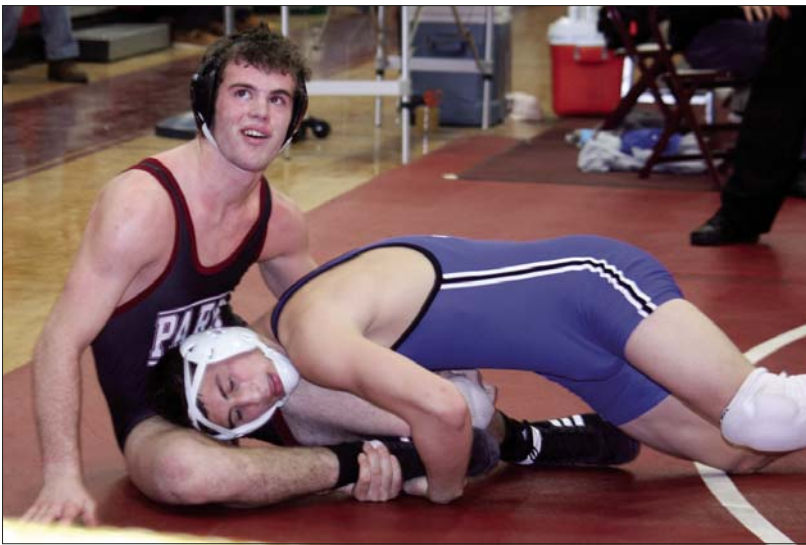


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**SEALING THE VICTORY...Blue Devil Nick Velez, right, seals the 152-lb crown**  
with this takedown at the edge of the mat during the Roselle Park Tournament on  
December 28, 2013.

**December 30, 2008:** Kaylin Jaichon put up 13 points and pulled down 11 rebounds to lead the Raiders.



Fred Lecomte (January 2006 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**MANEUVERING AROUND A RAM...Raider Greg Bayard, left, maneuvers**  
 around Ram defenders in a John "Butch" Kowal consolation game. Bayard scored  
 11 points as the Raiders defeated Warlaw-Hartridge 73-32 (December 29, 2005)

**December 28, 2010:** The Cougar girls basketball team evened its record to 2-2 with a 45-21 thrashing of the Livingston Lancers in the first round of the Mountaineer Tournament in West Orange. Jess McCoy bucketed 11 points and added two blocks, two steals and three rebounds. Kate McGovern netted 10 points. Sara Gagliucci finished with eight points. Brie Capece hit a pair of 3-pointers. Jenna Goeller had three points and Maureen McKearney had two points.

**December 28, 2010:** Westfield junior Mike Kalimtzis and senior Christian Barber won their respective weight classes at the Roselle Park wrestling tournament in Roselle Park. The Blue Devils placed fourth, just behind Hanover Park. The Howell Rebels repeated as champions and the hosting Panthers finished second. Seeded first at 103-lbs, Kalimtzis claimed the title with a 6-1 victory over Anthony Arce (Hanover Park).

Fee: \$174.42

By Order of the Planning Board:  
Theresa M. Snyder,  
Board Clerk  
COUNTY OF UNION  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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# 2020 Year In Review - July to December

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems as the first day of school inched closer.

Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi and the Union County Board of Elections quickly prepared for the November General Election. The United States Postal Service played an enormous role in the primarily vote-by-mail election, and citizens around the country voiced concern over the service's ability to handle the election.

During the Union County Freeholders' meeting of September 10, Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella commemorated "our solemn day" in the history of the nation. This year marked the 19th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

## OCTOBER Westfield

Dozens of teens roamed around Mindowaskin Park at night, leaving trash, vandalizing equipment and exasperating Westfield police and town officials.

The town council introduced an ordinance to adopt the Downtown Westfield Scattered Site Redevelopment Plan. It would affect the designated Lord & Taylor properties, the eight municipal parking lots and the Rialto property.

## Cranford

The Cranford Board of Adjustment again carried over an application for a drive-thru Dunkin' at the corner of South Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard to the board's October 26 meeting.

The board of education approved the purchase of more than 1,600 Chromebooks for the district, inching the district closer to a one-computer-per-student ratio.

The township committee discussed the renovations the municipality's rescue squad requested. Either many variances would need to be made or the area would need to be rezoned.

## Garwood

Garwood Planning Board members applied their newly-created cancellation fee for a last-minute application postponement at their October meeting.

## Scotch Plains

A Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education meeting went past midnight due to the many residents who called in to discuss the field lights that were installed over the summer and the way in which the board handled the project.

Mayor Smith urged those township residents who had yet to complete and submit their federal census forms to do so in order to have as complete a count as possible.

Democrats sought to expand their 3-to-2 majority on the township council in the General Election, in which the mayor's seat and a council seat were up for grabs.

## Fanwood

The Fanwood council passed three resolutions: One to provide a grace period for property taxes to be paid without penalties through Monday, November 16, because tax bills were mailed late; one to lower sewer tax interest rates to 4 percent; and one to approve funding for the Train Station Project.

## Regional

A bill banning the use of single-use plastic carry-out and paper bags passed both houses of the New Jersey State Legislature.

The upcoming election had already

begun, and New Jersey residents took advantage of early-voting options. Governor Phil Murphy announced on October 15 that more than one million New Jerseyans had already cast their votes.

## NOVEMBER Westfield

The Westfield Planning Board approved an ordinance to adopt the Downtown Westfield Scattered Site Redevelopment Plan. The ordinance, which refers to the Rialto property, the Lord & Taylor sites and the municipal parking lots that were recently designated as areas in need of redevelopment, adds new redevelopment standards and requirements to the properties but does not change the underlying zoning of the properties.

Westfield High School classes were moved to remote instruction until after Thanksgiving. Superintendent Dolan announced. All extracurricular activities, including athletics, also were suspended. Westfield High School athletes protested after learning fall sports would be discontinued.

Mayor Brindle gave an update on the "dramatic uptick" in Covid-19 cases that Westfield and the surrounding areas had been facing.

The Westfield Police Department created a new branch within the department solely to process and assist residents with firearms paperwork after receiving an unprecedented number of applications in 2020.

Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro announced several arrests resulting from two separate incidents recently occurring in Mindowaskin Park.

Residents called into a council meeting to voice concerns over the town's winter décor choices, namely the snowflake lights in the downtown area. "People are dying around here, people are in the freaking hospital, we've got people who can't gather at Thanksgiving, and this is how people are spending their time?" Mayor Brindle responded.

## Cranford

Mayor Giblin read Resolution No. 2020-380, authorizing that TV Studio 35 be renamed and dedicated as the H. Edward Davenport TV 35 Studio in recognition of H. Edward Davenport, TV 35's studio manager, and his tireless efforts and dedication to Cranford's community.

## Garwood

Eighteen new NJ Transit routes were added to Garwood train schedules, as reported at a council meeting.

## Mountainside

The council passed a resolution to hire Kim Moriak as a full-time senior citizen coordinator, and passed a resolution memorializing longtime resident and former mayor Bruce Geiger, who died November 13 at age 91.

The borough was awarded a Union County Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$395,000 from the state for Garwood's 2021 repaving and the recurfing of such streets as Maple, Hazel and Third Avenues.

## Scotch Plains

One week after welcoming all elementary students back to school buildings and less than 24 hours before opening the middle schools and high school for hybrid learning, Superintendent Mast shifted all Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools to remote learning until January 19.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD RESOLUTION 21-01-23**

**CONTRACTOR:** Direct Development, 97 Apple Street, Suite 2, Tinton Falls, New Jersey 07724

**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Newsletter/Editorial Services

**DURATION:** For a period not to exceed December 31, 2021

**SEE:** \$5,000.00

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

Kathleen Holmes  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 01/07/21, The Times Fee: \$17.85

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD RESOLUTION 21-01-03**

**CONTRACTOR:** Russell J. Huegel, Esq., Borough Attorney, 190 Middlesex Essex Turnpike Suite 200, Iselin, New Jersey 08830

**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Legal Services

**DURATION:** For a period not to exceed December 31, 2021

**SEE:** Fee paid by

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

Kathleen Holmes  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 01/07/21, The Times Fee: \$17.85

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD RESOLUTION 21-01-19**

**CONTRACTOR:** Millennium Strategies, LLC, 60 Columbia Road, Morristown, New Jersey

**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Grant Writing Services

**DURATION:** For a period not to exceed December 31, 2021

**SEE:** \$15,000.00

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Kathleen Holmes  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 01/07/21, The Times Fee: \$18.87

The failure to secure a state grant to help fund construction of a new public library "is going to make things more challenging for us," according to the township's redevelopment coordinator.

Redevelopment officials are now looking to relocate township administrative offices not to Plainfield Avenue — as had been the plan for the past few years — but instead within the same building as the new library being planned on Bartle Avenue.

After a lengthy vote-counting process, Democrat Joshua Losardo won the mayoral election while running-mate Ellen Zimmerman won the open township council seat, giving the Democrats unanimous control of the governing body for the first time.

## Fanwood

The Fanwood Council held its monthly agenda meeting November 2. However, those attending the virtual meeting were shut out of the proceedings as there was no audio.

## Regional

New Jersey residents approved an amendment to the state constitution to legalize regulated marijuana for adults age 21 and older via a ballot question on Election Day.

Democrats swept elections around the area this month. Victories in Scotch Plains and Garwood gave Democrats unanimous control of their governing bodies, while the party retained its unanimous control of the Fanwood Borough Council.

## DECEMBER Westfield

The Westfield community mourned the passing of Robert Newell, who died November 24 after a battle with cancer. Mr. Newell, a resident of Westfield for almost 40 years, was chairman of the Westfield Planning Board.

The council passed a resolution to approve a conditional designation and interim-cost agreement with Streetworks Westfield LLC.

## Cranford

After multiple hearings and much deliberation, the Cranford Board of Adjustment denied the application to open a Dunkin' drive-thru location at 49 South Avenue West.

The planning board recommended rezoning the area where the first aid squad exists as the current zoning seems to have been done by mistake.

## Scotch Plains

The coronavirus-related shutdowns negatively affected numerous local businesses this year, but one that managed to thrive — and then some — has been the Scotch Plains Farmers Market. Mayor Smith, who was defeated for re-election last month by Deputy Mayor Joshua Losardo,

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD RESOLUTION 21-01-24**

**CONTRACTOR:** CME Associates, 3141 Bordentown Avenue, Parlin, New Jersey

**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Professional Planner & Land Use Services

**DURATION:** For a period not to exceed December 31, 2021

**SEE:** \$1,000.00

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Kathleen Holmes  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 01/07/21, The Times Fee: \$17.85

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD RESOLUTION 21-01-08**

**CONTRACTOR:** NW Financial Group, 2 Hudson Place, Hoboken, New Jersey

**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Financial Services

**DURATION:** For a period not to exceed December 31, 2021

**SEE:** \$1,000.00

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Kathleen Holmes  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 01/07/21, The Times Fee: \$17.85

looked back on his tenure, which was dominated by the start of downtown redevelopment and then, this year, by the coronavirus shutdowns and protests against racism.

Redevelopment officials hailed last month's confirmation by a judge that the township is in full compliance with the affordable-housing settlement agreement it reached with developers in early 2019.

## Fanwood

The borough council held a special meeting during which officials confirmed receipt of a formal letter awarding Fanwood a matching grant through the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act. The grant will match funds provided by the borough for the realization of a new library facility.

## Regional

The Union County Prosecutor's Office and Acting Prosecutor Lyndsay Ruotolo added another lawsuit to their collection after Victim-Witness Unit employee Maria Reynolds-Jerussi filed a suit in mid-November alleging workplace discrimination based on Ms. Reynolds-Jerussi's pregnancy as well as unlawful retaliation from Ms. Ruotolo. The suit also names the county and the state attorney general's office as defendants.

The New Jersey Senate and Assembly voted in favor of the Economic Recovery Act of 2020, which offers nearly \$14 billion in corporate tax breaks.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD RESOLUTION 21-01-22**

**CONTRACTOR:** Jalloh & Jalloh, 21 West Blancke Street, Linden, New Jersey

**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Legal Services

**DURATION:** For a period not to exceed December 31, 2021

**SEE:** \$5,000.00

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

Kathleen Holmes  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 01/07/21, The Times Fee: \$17.34

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD RESOLUTION 21-01-10**

**CONTRACTOR:** Brown & Brown Insurance, 56 Livingston Avenue, Roseland, New Jersey 07068

**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Insurance Services

**DURATION:** For a period not to exceed December 31, 2021

**SEE:** \$1,000.00

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

Kathleen Holmes  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 01/07/21, The Times Fee: \$17.85

# Westfield Council Supports Liquor License 'Reform'

By REBECCA MEHORTER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Town Council passed a resolution at its December 8 meeting in support of proposed state legislation for liquor-license reform to make it easier for restaurants to obtain licenses to serve certain types of alcohol.

The bills, New Jersey Senate Bill No. S-2964 and identical bill No. A-4925 in the Assembly, would create a new permit for restaurants to serve alcohol tableside along with the purchase of food. The holders of such licenses would be "entitled, subject to rules and regulations, to sell any malt alcoholic beverage, wine, or cider by the glass or other open receptacle in or upon the premises of a restaurant with a full-service kitchen regularly and principally used for the purpose of providing food to customers," the bill says.

The license holders also would be able to charge a corkage fee to restaurant goers who bring their own drinks. Most importantly, the permits would be much less expensive than liquor licenses currently are as well as paid for annually.

Liquor licenses in New Jersey are notoriously scarce and expensive to obtain. "Our laws are very archaic, dating back from the Prohibition," Mayor Shelley Brindle said to *The Westfield Leader*. Liquor licenses are limited to one per 3,000 residents in New Jersey, meaning Westfield is granted 10 licenses. These licenses allow restaurants to sell cocktails and other drinks barside and without the sale of food. The "without the sale of food" clause was added in 2014, when the Westfield Town Council passed a resolution re-codifying the licenses.

According to the resolution the town council passed, the laws have "caused an extreme supply imbalance," as exhibited by the recent license purchase by Bareburger for \$750,000 and a currently unused license bought by the Hudson's Bay Company for \$950,000. Bar Americana in Cranford sold its liquor license to IOP Cranford Spirits for \$650,000 in August. In 2018, Northjersey.com reported that the average price of a liquor license was thought to be approximately \$350,000.

The high costs of licenses, Mayor Brindle said, prevents new restaurants from opening.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD RESOLUTION 21-01-20**

**CONTRACTOR:** Clarke Caton & Hintz, 100 Barrack Street, Trenton, New Jersey

**NATURE OF SERVICE:** Historic Architectural Services

**DURATION:** For a period not to exceed December 31, 2021

**SEE:** \$1,000.00

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

Kathleen Holmes  
Borough Clerk  
1 T - 01/07/21, The Times Fee: \$19.89

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Community Calendar

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**New Year, New Goals** Free Virtual Workshop Thursday, January 7 throughout the month of January. This month-long series is hosted by Stop & Shop Nutrition Partners. Topics will focus on goal setting, weight loss and healthy habits. Visit [stopandshop.com/nutrition](http://stopandshop.com/nutrition).

**Moving With Awareness for Better Balance and Fitness** Fridays, January 8 through April, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Scotch Plains Public Library is offering a series of gentle fitness classes live via Zoom, led by instructor, Yasmin Ofek. Register at [scotlib.org/events](http://scotlib.org/events).

**Hamilton: One Shot to Broadway** Friday, January 8, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Online viewing of the story about the hit musical that changed Broadway forever. Visit [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org).

**2021 Virtual Anti-racism Training** via Zoom. Registration is online through Saturday, January 9 at [tinyurl.com/Anti-Racism-January](http://tinyurl.com/Anti-Racism-January). Discussions will be held Fridays, January 29, February 5, February 12, February 19, February 26 and March 26, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. \$100 for the course.

**Eyes of the Wild - Meet the Animals** Saturday, January 9, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Kids can get up close and personal meetings with animals and learn about their fascinating habits and adaptations. This show will be presented via Zoom. Everyone who signs up will receive an e-mail with the Zoom link. Visit [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org).

**Virtual Zumba** Mondays, January 11 through February 15, 10 a.m. Join licensed fitness instructor, Audrey Raney, in our 7 week series of hour-long Zumba classes. Visit [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org).

**Adult Craft Program: Lattice Bookmarks** Tuesday, January 12, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Follow along with Marge as she demonstrates how to fold greeting cards into beautiful lattice bookmarks. Be one of the first fifteen to register and you will be eligible to pick up a free craft kit with everything you need to complete this project. Visit [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org).

**Zoom Trivia Night** Tuesday, January 12, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Everyone ages 16 and over are welcome to play. Visit [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org).

**Reprogram Your Brain: Reduce Stress & Anxiety** Wednesday, January 13, 4 p.m. Join hypnotist and mindset coach, Joel Elfman, via Zoom to learn the secrets of how your brain works and some tools you can use to

make positive changes in your life. Learn how you can be more relaxed, energized, happy, motivated and more. Register at [us02web.zoom.us/j/84123456789](http://us02web.zoom.us/j/84123456789).

**Virtual Meditation** Thursday, January 14, 7 p.m. Join long-time meditator, Gerry Gorman, in a powerful workshop on meditation. Visit [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org).

**Storytime and Grab-and-Go Craft for Kids** Thursdays, January 14 through February 18, 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a story and then create a special craft centered around the book we read. We will provide the supplies, which you can get beforehand using our grab-and-go pickup. Visit [facebook.com/groups/WMLKidsRoom](http://facebook.com/groups/WMLKidsRoom).

**Superhero Stroll** Saturday, January 16 to January 17. Downtown Cranford will be partnering with CHS Project Graduation Seniors 2021 to create a Superhero Stroll. For more information, contact [chspg2021@gmail.com](mailto:chspg2021@gmail.com).

**12th Annual Scotch Plains-Fanwood MLK Day of Service** Monday, January 18, 10 a.m. For more information or to register for volunteer opportunities, visit [spfmilkday.org](http://spfmilkday.org).

**Virtual Cheese Tasting** Thursday, January 28, 7 p.m. hosted by Birchrun Hills Farm in Chester Springs, P.A. Five cheeses will be shipped to your home and you will learn about the cheese making process, how to pair cheeses, and how to create a cheese board. Register by January 21 at [one.bidpal.net/dfscheesetasting](http://one.bidpal.net/dfscheesetasting).

**Charlie Chaplin: His life and Work** Friday, January 22, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Online viewing of his success in detail with clips from his movies providing a backdrop to this intimate biography. Visit [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org).

**My Fairytale Dream Princess Storytime** Saturday, January 23, 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Experience a special Zoom visit from a Princess who will read stories. Visit [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org).

**Snakes-n-Scales Reptiles + More** Saturday January 30, 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Join Snakes-n-Scales on Zoom for a wonderful program all about reptiles and amphibians. Visit [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org).

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

## 2020 Year In Review - July to December

**JULY Westfield**  
The town council passed a resolution designating eight parking lots in Westfield as areas in need of redevelopment.

The council re-introduced General Ordinance No. 2183, which revises the town's historic preservation regulations.

The Downtown Westfield Corporation assisted in the closure of Quimby Street to vehicles to set up activities and outdoor seating in order to promote safety as the downtown reopened.

The Primary Election was held as the state's first primarily vote-by-mail election.

Posters and banners in Westfield supporting the Black Lives Matter movement were torn down from both the South Avenue traffic circle and Westfield High School.

The planning board approved Ordinance No. 2183, which revises the historic preservation regulations, after discussing its alignment with the goals outlined in the Master Plan.

Mayor Brindle introduced Lyndsey Knight as the new town zoning officer. The mayor also appointed Gwen Fisher and Eric Hreha as replacements for two unexpired terms on the Westfield Public Arts Commission.

After much reflection, George Brummer said he decided to close the doors of his East Broad Street store, "Brummer's Handmade Chocolates," and retire.

Westfield Planning Board members approved the Rialto Theatre property and the three Lord & Taylor properties as areas in need of redevelopment at a special meeting.

The 19th Annual Downtown Westfield Pizza Run 5K took place in a virtual format. Three-hundred and seventeen runners took to the streets to complete their 5Ks by July 19.

**Cranford**  
For the first time since March, the Cranford Board of Education held its meeting in person. Clad in masks and spaced six feet apart, members of the board brought their own folding tables and a large container of antibacterial wipes.

**Garwood**  
Members of the Borough Council voted unanimously to pass a bond ordinance to appropriate \$225,000 for sidewalk replacements and improvements within the borough.

**Mountainside**  
The Borough Council unanimously passed a resolution to give a partial refund to all borough pool members who paid full price for their 2020 pool memberships.

**Scotch Plains**  
After listening to several young African-American women speak about their experiences with local police officers, the police chiefs from Scotch Plains and Fanwood pledged to continue conversations on how to improve relations and interactions to lessen tensions and build more trust.

Scotch Plains residents were divided after resident George Ullerio started a petition asking the mayor and council to remove the white marble statue of a hand holding a sphere dedicated to Christopher Columbus. A counter petition was created by resident Joseph Sarvo, who said Columbus represents the journey of many immigrants.

The township council unanimously agreed July 21 that the monument honoring Christopher Columbus should remain outside of the municipal building.

**Fanwood**  
The Union County Prosecutor's Office assumed control of the Fanwood Police Department following the abrupt departure of Chief Richard Trigo.

**Regional**  
A bill to decriminalize the possession of 10 grams or less of marijuana passed both the New Jersey Senate and Assembly.

The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission had been shut down for almost three months when it reopened. What followed were photos and videos of lines extended up and down sidewalks, little to no social distancing and wild wait times. Residents took to Facebook pages to share their experiences or give advice.

conversation point after a proposal to explore adding bike trails to the park was made known through several meetings.

"Art Takes Flight," Westfield's public art project, opened downtown with the installation of painted butterflies.

As a way to generate revenue for the town, and potentially increase foot traffic, Westfield began soliciting proposals from restaurateurs to turn the historic North Avenue train station building into a restaurant and bar.

**Cranford**  
After an evening full of lengthy testimony and resident comments, Cranford Planning Board members voted August 19 to condemn the North Avenue Study Area in the township's downtown.

**Garwood**  
Members of the borough governing body passed an ordinance to register all in the borough who do landscaping work for Garwood residents. The board of education prepared for borough schools to be open for in-person learning five days a week with a shortened day.

**Mountainside**  
The board of education reviewed its reopening plan and approved 17 new hires for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Scotch Plains**  
James Leitner, a Scotch Plains native, ran 30 miles every day for 30 days and raised \$36,000 for his non-profit, Mission Clean Water, surpassing his original goal of \$30,000.

"With great sadness and a heavy heart," the committee organizing the annual St. Bartholomew/UNICO Italian Festival announced that 2020's four-day Labor Day weekend event was cancelled due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Just days after parents made their choice between in-person or distance learning, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district applied to the state to start the year virtually.

Neighbors of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School were successful in obtaining an order prohibiting the board of education from using the newly-installed lights at Perry Tyson Field.

The township council's final passage of three ordinances to put into place overlay zones on properties in the seven phases slated for development as part of the downtown redevelopment effort was a "big milestone for us," said Mayor Smith.

**Fanwood**  
The Joint Committee on Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT) heard from parents of minority students regarding negative experiences their children had in the local school system. The committee was provided some suggestions about how schools can become more inclusive.

Mountainside, sued the Westfield Police Department, the Town of Westfield, Lieutenant Frank Padovano, Officer Nicolas Bagan and Officer David Went for allegedly violating her Fourth Amendment rights, for wrongful arrest and imprisonment and for obstructing investigation, among other counts.

Department of Public Works (DPW) employee Christopher Bohnyak filed suit against the town and DPW Director Greg O'Neil alleging that they created a hostile work environment where he was harassed and discriminated against.

Westfield Public Schools opened September 10 for excited students, teachers and administrators, marking the first in-person school day in almost six months.

The board of education announced that the Westfield High School courtyard would be redesigned in memory of the late principal Derrick Nelson, Ed.D. Dr. Nelson passed away in April 2019 from complications related to donating his bone marrow to a teenage boy in France.

Mayor Brindle told the public she anticipated no further official discussion on the future of Brightwood Park for approximately six months — the amount of time she said she anticipates it will take to complete the environmental review.

Westfield High School pivoted to an all-virtual model until October 1 due to six students who tested positive for Covid-19. All extracurricular activities also were cancelled, including sports.

Town Administrator Jim Gildea said there was a huge amount of interest in the North Avenue train station for a restaurant and bar.

**Cranford**  
The 2020-2021 school year was "off to a great start," said Superintendent Scott Rubin, Ed.D., at a board of education meeting. Mr. Rubin thanked and praised teachers, custodians, administrators, all other staff and parents for navigating this "new educational paradigm."

Cranford Planning Board members voted September 16 to recommend to the township committee that the 750 Walnut Avenue Study Area be designated as a condemnation area.

**Garwood**  
The borough council passed an ordinance to update planning board application fees that were considered to be outdated and to put in place a last-minute cancellation fee for applicants not giving adequate notice for meeting cancellations.

**Scotch Plains**  
Superintendent Joan Mast, Ed.D., announced that the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district would start the school year virtually. This pivot was made, according to Dr. Mast's communication, based on the filtration system in the school's HVAC system. Parents called in to the virtual board of education meeting to express their displeasure at the decision and asked for more transparency regarding the change.

**Fanwood**  
Former borough police chief Richard Trigo filed a lawsuit against Acting Union County Prosecutor Lyndsay Ruotolo, alleging that she had renegeed on an agreement that he would step down early as chief in exchange for her office not investigating him for various remarks he was alleged to have made.

Mayor Mahr held a moment of silence at a council meeting to honor Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who had recently passed away.

Borough Clerk Kathleen Holmes announced that Max Whiteside of the Community Outreach said Fanwood is one of the best places to live in New Jersey for 2020.

**Regional**  
Teachers and students prepared to be face to face for the first time in months, and educator unions looked to verify the safety of their districts'

## FAIRVIEW CEMETERY



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David B. Corbin (January 2020 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**TRYING TO GET POSITION UNDER THE BASKET...Raider Christian Piesch, No. 10, attempts to get a good position under the board in the first round of the Anthony Cotoia Memorial Tournament against Perth Amboy Tech at South Plainfield on December 26, 2019. After defeating Perth Amboy Tech, the Raiders topped South Plainfield for the title.**



David B. Corbin (January 2020 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**MAKING HIS MOVE...Blue Devil Jake Walsh, No. 13, makes his move to get the ball down court in the first round game against the AL Johnson Crusaders at the Butch Kowal Holiday Tournament in Rahway on December 27, 2019.**

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

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

**December 26, 2019:** Leading 22-17 at the half, the SPF boys basketball team separated itself from the Perth Amboy Tech Panthers in the third quarter with a 22-7 run en route to a 56-43 victory in the first round of the Anthony J. Cotoia Tournament in South Plainfield. Team captain

Justin Fletcher with seven of his 14 points and Raul Lugo with nine of his 11 points would guide the 1-1 Raiders offensively in the first half. As he had in the first half, junior point guard Hayden Widder proved to be the man who controlled the pace in the second half.

**December 27, 2019:** Immediate acts of thievery that were converted to points guided the Westfield boys basketball team on a direct path that would result in a 70-45 victory over the AL

Johnson Crusaders in the first round of the "Butch" Kowal Holiday Tournament in Rahway. That slight of hand in the first quarter earned the 2-2 Blue Devils a 20-10 lead and the primary thieves were seniors Jake Walsh and Griffin Rooney, who finished with four steals apiece.

Rooney would score 12 of his game-high 22 points in the first quarter and he had Walsh, who finished with five assists, and point guard Peter Echausse (2 assists, 5 points, 2 steals) to thank. But others got into the scoring act, especially Walsh, who banged in 19 points, including five 3-pointers, Logan Howland

with eight points, Jack Spellman with seven points and Hank Shapiro (2 steals) with six points.

**December 27, 2019:** Far less mistakes, success driving to the basket and better positioning under the boards, among other things, by the visiting Immaculata Spartans led to a 69-37 victory over the hosting Cranford Cougars in the first round of the Cougar Christmas Tournament.

Senior captain Gianna Toretta led the 1-2 Cougars with 12 points, while pulling five rebounds and adding a pair of steals and an assist. Junior forward Amanda Vath (6 rebounds, block) and Liv Merriman (3 rebounds, block, steal) each put up seven points. Junior Liz McCaffery (4 rebounds, 2 assists, took a charge) and

freshman Sarah O'Donnell each sank four points. Junior Kirsten Williams, who had two points and three rebounds, led the team with four steals. Junior Natalia Kruk grabbed six rebounds.

**December 28, 2019:** Nine teams competed for the title but only three were in contention when it came to the championship round at the Roselle Park Panther Holiday Wrestling Tournament. When the points were tallied after the final bout at 285-lbs, the Piscataway Chiefs nudged out West Essex 185-184 for the team title and Westfield placed third with 170.5.

The Blue Devils sent seven matmen to the finals and claimed three champions with freshman

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David B. Corbin (January 2020 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**LEADING THE COUGARS...**Senior captain Gianna Toretta, No. 13, led the Cougars with 12 points, while pulling five rebounds and adding a pair of steals and an assist in the game against the Immaculata Lady Spartans (December 27, 2019).



David B. Corbin (January 2020 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**CHAMPION AT 138-LBS...**Blue Devil senior Andrew Silber, top, hit Joe Witcoski (Hillsborough) with a lateral drop in the final seconds to win the 138-lb crown on December 28, 2019.

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

Ethan Composto (106-lbs), and seniors Luke Hoerle (126-lbs) and Andrew Silber (138-lbs), while sophomore Luke Jacobs, who won last year at 106-lbs, took second at 113-lbs. Freshman Mike Murphy placed second at 145-lbs, senior Luke Scanlan took second at 170-lbs and junior Jon Heard took second at 220-lbs.

**December 21, 2018:** Super fine performances on each squad propelled the Westfield boys and girls swim teams past rivals

Scotch Plains-Fanwood at the Westfield “Y”. The Lady Blue Devils topped the Raiders for the second straight year (regular season meet), 101-69, while the Blue Devil boys defeated the Raiders, 94-76.

The Lady Blue Devils took first in all three relays and won five of the eight individual events. Blue Devil Abby McKinney’s winning time of 58.25 in the 100-butterfly was second on the all-time WHS list. McKinney also took top honors in the 200-Individual

Medley (IM) with a time of 2:11.6. Julie McGann also won two events, the 200-free at 1:57.6 and the 500-free in 5:23.3. Raider Chloe Howell won the 100-free in 55.03. Lily Hughes won the 100-backstroke at 58.78. Raiders Sofia Leonetti at 1:11.13 and Abby Ryan at 1:12.23 finished 1-2 in the 100-breaststroke.

The Raider boys won six individual events and one relay but the Blue Devils turned in a number of seconds, thirds, and fourths, which included a 1-2-3

sweep in the 100-breaststroke. Raider Josh Cohen took first in the 100-free at 47.5 and first in the 100-back at 53.07. Corey He won the 200-free in 1:49.14 and led a 1-3 Raider finish in the 500-free at 4:35. Blue Devil Cooper Prieto won the 50 free in 22.18. Tom Brennan led the Blue Devil sweep in the 100-breast at 1:01.46, followed by Barney Veres at 1:02.1 and Jeremy Kronheimer at 1:03.24.

**December 21, 2018:** Mission accomplished! The outcome of

the match between the hosting Westfield wrestling team and the SPF Raiders was not nearly as important as the mission. The mission was that all proceeds from the showdown would go to the Wounded Warrior Project and a large crowd was on hand to witness the event. Westfield presented one of its best teams in memory, while the Raiders arrived with a lot of new faces to fill in the vacated slots due to graduation, and the Blue Devils pre-

*CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE*





David B. Corbin (December 2018 files) for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*  
**DOUBLE WINNER...**Blue Devil Abby McKinney works the breaststroke portion of the 200IM that she won during the meet with the Raiders on December 21, 2018. McKinney also won the 100-butterfly in 58.25 (2nd all-time WHS).



David B. Corbin (December 2018 files) for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*  
**DOUBLE WINNER...**Raider senior Alan Shao won the 200IM in 1:57.49 and later won the 100-butterfly in 53.33 during the meet with the Blue Devils at the Westfield “Y” on December 21, 2018.

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

ailed, 63-6. But the enthusiasm was still abundant.

Despite a 1-0 Blue Devil victory, the showdown between two tough and talented opponents, Raider Ed Smith and Brendan Loder, at 220-lbs., was anything but boring. At 195-lbs., Blue Devil Tim Miller recorded a 9-5 decision over Zach Zimmerman. Blue Devil Luke Scanlan put on a takedown clinic in his 14-5, majority decision over Tim Roden at 160-lbs. Jordan Simpson used

his football experience to bulldog Tom Ryan in a 4:15 pin at 170-lbs. Raider Alex Oslislo finally earned his team six points when banged Devin DeRosa with a lateral drop in 50 seconds at 182-lbs

**December 22, 2017:** The Westfield girls swim team scored its biggest victory in quite some time with an impressive, 96-74 win over previously unbeaten Scotch-Plains Fanwood at the Westfield “Y”. Keeley Thompson

took first in the 50 free and Muriel Maloney did likewise in the 100 back to help lead the Blue Devils to their fifth straight win of the season after dropping their season opener to Bridgewater-Raritan. The win was also Westfield’s first over the Raiders since the 2013 season.

Double victories by Raider standouts Rachel Maizes (200 IM, 500 free) and Dee Dee Maizes (100 free, 200 free) were not enough to overcome a wave of

strong performances by Westfield swimmers that racked up points in the place and show spots.

**December 22, 2017:** The Westfield boys swim team got in the fast lane again. The Blue Devils beat Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 108-62, in a showdown between two of the top teams in Union County. It was the fourth straight win for Westfield since suffering a loss to Bridgewater-Raritan in the season opener. The latest chapter in

this annual early-season border war played out on December 22 before a raucous and fully packed crowd of spectators at the Westfield “Y” pool.

Paced by victories from Eric Bebel in the 50 and 100 freestyle sprints, Westfield surged to a 61-33 lead after six events. Raider Josh Cohen continued to dominate the 200 free by recording a first place time of 1:42.41. Cohen also won the 500-free in 4:47.2.

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

**BATTLE OF TITANS...**Blue Devil Brendan Loder, left, tries to work a bearhug on Raider Ed Smith in their 220-lb bout during the Wounded Warrior Project benefit match at Westfield High School on December 21, 2018.



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

**DOUBLE INDIVIDUAL WINNER...**Raider Dee Dee Maizes touched first in the 100-free and the 200-free in the meet against the Blue Devils at the Westfield “Y”. The Blue Devils, however, shocked the Raiders, 96-74 (December 22, 2017).

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

Alan Shao captured the 200 Individual Medley (IM) in 1:58.19 and the 100 back in 53.50. Westfield’s Steve Warren won the 100 breast in 1:00.66 heading up a 1-2-3 sweep in the event with Tommy Brennan (1:04.77) and Lessner (1:06.28) finishing second and third, respectively.

**December 22, 2017:** Key match-ups and some very close bouts highlighted the Annual “Pin Cancer” showdown between the hosting SPF Raider wrestling team

and the Westfield Blue Devils. But after trailing 22-15, the Blue Devils got into the strength of their order and reeled off six straight victories beginning at the 106-lb class and into the 138-lb class en route to a 40-25 victory.

A highly anticipated showdown arrived in the third bout of the evening at 170-lbs between Raider Nick Palazzollo and Blue Devil Isaiah Reese. Palazzollo managed to fend off a few attempted double-leg tackles then

caught Reese with a lateral drop in 3:03. The 182-lb bout featured two strongmen, Raider junior Alex Oslislo and Blue Devil junior Tim Miller, who would come up with a 5-1 victory. Blue Devil Brendan Loder pinned Bobby Mount in 3:23 at 220-lbs.

**December 23, 2016:** Freshmen with extensive mat experience plus a total team effort earned the Westfield Blue Devils a 34-32 victory over the SPF Raiders at the Annual “Pin Can-

cer” Wrestling Classic in Westfield. The event not only featured outstanding efforts on the part of both teams before a packed gym but also began with a stirring rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner” by Blue Devil Gymnastics Co-Head Coach Laurie (Hogan) McCormack (WHS ’99 & gymnastic standout).

The Blue Devils received a key pin from co-captain Jack Miller, who jumped up to 220-lbs to pin Bobby Mount late in the second

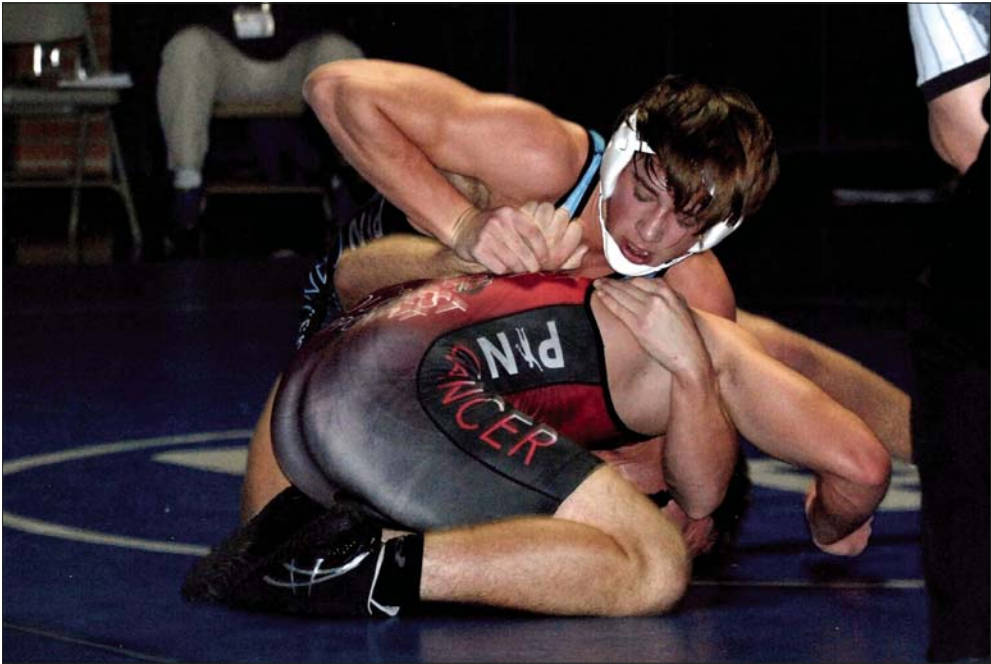
period. Raider Nick Palazzola clamped Matt Dente in 2:31 with a nearside cradle at 152-lbs. Two athletes, Blue Devil Isaiah Reese and Alex Oslislo, stepped onto center circle at 160-lbs. In a very physical match-up, Reese emerged with a 5-1 decision. Raider junior Sam Wustefeld, an NJSIAA qualifier last year, went to work on Russ Weber at 182-lbs and recorded a 13-1 majority decision.

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David B. Corbin (January 2017 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**SURROUNDED BY COUGARS...**Cougars Tom Curry, No. 2, Brian Oblachinski, No. 1, Chris Librera, No. 12, Alex Gall, No. 14, and Ryan Bakie, right, surround a Mt. Olive player during the Cougar Holiday Tournament (December 28, 2016).



(December 2017 files) Photo courtesy of Carolyn Miller  
**WORKING A STRETCH HAMMER...**Blue Devil Tim Miller works a stretch hammer lock on Raider Alex Oslislo in his 182-lb bout during the Annual “Pin Cancer” Classic wrestling match at Scotch Plains on December 22, 2017. Miller won 5-1 and the Blue Devils defeated the Raiders 40-25.

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

**December 27, 2016:** The SPF basketball boys won their fourth straight game to start the 2016/17 campaign with a 60-46 thrashing of South Plainfield in the opening round of the 8th annual Anthony J. Cotoia Holiday Tournament held in South Plainfield. Seniors Teddy Wilmott and Nigel Nelson each scored 10 points to lead the winning effort.

**December 28, 2016:** The Scotch Plains-Fanwood boys basketball team kept its perfect record intact with a 59-39 blow-out win over JP Stevens (2-3) in the championship game of the 8th Annual Anthony J. Cotoia Holiday Tournament in South Plainfield. Lamont Cruse led all Raider scorers with 11 points and senior Nigel Nelson added

nine points on his way to being named tournament MVP. While still very early in the schedule, the Raiders’ fast start has got players excited as the team has already surpassed their total number of victories (3) from the previous season.

**December 28, 2016:** Mt. Olive hit key 3-pointers at the end of the second quarter, at the beginning of the third quarter and near the very end of the final quarter to slip past the Cranford boys basketball team, 50-47, in the consolation game of the Cougar Holiday Tournament. Those untimely lapses just seemed to be part of the growing pains experienced by the 1-4 Cougars, who have only one returning starter from last year.

Senior Ryan Bakie proved to be valuable offensively and defensively as he led the team with 18 points with four assists, and added three steals and four rebounds. Chris Librera also contributed all-around offensively and defensively with 10 points, four assists, six rebounds and three steals.

**December 28, 2015:** Junior Phil Ricca was one of six Westfield Blue Devils who entered the finals of the Roselle Park Wrestling Tournament but he was the only Blue Devil who was able to grab the top spot when he pinned Roselle Park Panther Sebastian Leo with a half nelson pry in 4:20 in the 220-lb championship bout.

Jarek Gozdieski placed second at 160-lbs, Jack Miller placed

second at 170-lbs, Zach Rabinowitz placed second at 106-lbs, Chris Hoerle placed second at 113-lbs and freshman Emmett Smith placed second at 120-lbs.

**December 29, 2015:** Delaware Valley staged a late comeback, rallying from a 10-point first half deficit to overcome the Cranford girls basketball team in the finals of the Cougar Classic at the Martin Gymnasium in Cranford. Veronica Christ scored 24 points for the victors who improved their season record to a perfect 5-0. Christ proved to be a troublesome match-up for the Cougars throughout the contest.

A back-and-forth first quarter saw Cranford take a 9-8 lead. The Cougars took control late in the second by going on a 14-2

run that put them up, 23-13. Camryn Wichelns was key to the effort; scoring 15 of her team high 19 points in the first half. During one stretch, Wichelns scored 10 straight points, helping them to a 19-11 lead. Cerys MacLelland finished with 13 points and 13 rebounds for the Cougars.

**December 22, 2014:** The SPF Raider girls’ swim team stormed into Westfield and came away with a powerful, 99-71, victory over the Blue Devils at the jam packed Westfield “Y” pool. Led by super sophomore Stephanie Judge, who set a new school record in winning the 100 butterfly (58.84), the Raiders took first place in eight of 11 events and

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Courtesy of Joe Rinaldi (January 2015 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**DRIVING TO THE BASKET...**Blue Devil Owen Murray, No. 15, drives to the basket in the game against the Raiders in Westfield on December 23, 2014. The Blue Devils won 74-43.



David B. Corbin (January 2014 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**MARATHON GAME...**Cougar Mike Guarriello, No. 3, keeps close tabs on a Marlboro Mustang during the Cougar Classic in Cranford on December 27, 2013. The Cougars pulled out an 86-85 victory in quadruple overtime.

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served notice to perennial power Westfield that a serious challenger resides on the western side of the city limits.

Sarah Davis was one of two Raider girls who scored multiple wins. Davis took first in the 50

freestyle (24.27). Davis also won the 100 freestyle (53.04). Isabella Iacona touched first in the 200 freestyle (2:00.15) and also won the 500 freestyle (5:24.06). Westfield got a pair of first place performances from Caroline Basil, who prevailed in the 200 IM (2:14.57) and the 100 backstroke (59.75).

**December 22, 2014:** The Westfield boys swim team proved that it will, once again, be tough to beat this season with a dominating, 107-63, win over Scotch Plains-Fanwood at the Wallace Pool. Before a raucous crowd, the defending three-time, Public A state champs took down a strong Raider squad by winning all but three events on the day.

Blue Devil Aedan Collins was the individual star of the meet.

The sensational sophomore won the 200 freestyle, the 500 freestyle, anchored the 400-freestyle relay and served as the third leg of the winning 200-free relay effort (1:32.23). Raider Alex Skoog took first in a thrilling battle with Westfield's John Lindros in the 50 freestyle with a time of 22.18, barely enough to nudge past Lindros (22.21). Skoog also triumphed in the 100 freestyle (47.89).

**December 23, 2014:** High pressure tactics on the part of the Westfield boys basketball team threw the visiting SPF Raiders out of their game plan, resulting in a 74-43 Blue Devil victory. The Blue Devils managed to convert a multitude of steals into easy points. Right in the thick of creating turnovers

were senior forward Sean Elliott and junior guard Owen Murray, who were responsible for four steals apiece. Tim Norris, Jelani Pierre and Dan Mitchell also contributed a pair of steals apiece.

Murray was all over the court with four offensive rebounds and eight defensive boards. He also bucketed 10 points and added four assists. Elliott sank nine points, including a pair of 3-pointers, while grabbing four offensive rebounds and five defensive rebounds, and added two assists. Norris had eight points and five rebounds. Junior Chris Boutsikaris banged in 10 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, while adding an assist. Junior Parker Hess scored nine points and had an assist. Mitchell had six points with a pair of 3-pointers.

Senior Leo Ramos led the Raiders with 11 points, five steals, five assists and seven rebounds. Senior Emendo Thomas put in seven points, while adding a pair of assists and two steals. Bryce Edwards banged a pair of 3-pointers and Dan Baliko netted six points, including a 3-pointer.

**December 27, 2013:** Quadruple overtime! Who would have "thunk" it? With his team trailing by one point, senior guard Tommy Trotter grabbed a rebound after a missed free throw, dribbled the full length of the court and rolled in a lay-up as time ran out to give the Cranford boys basketball team an emotionally charged 86-85 victory over the Marlboro Mustangs after four overtime periods in the

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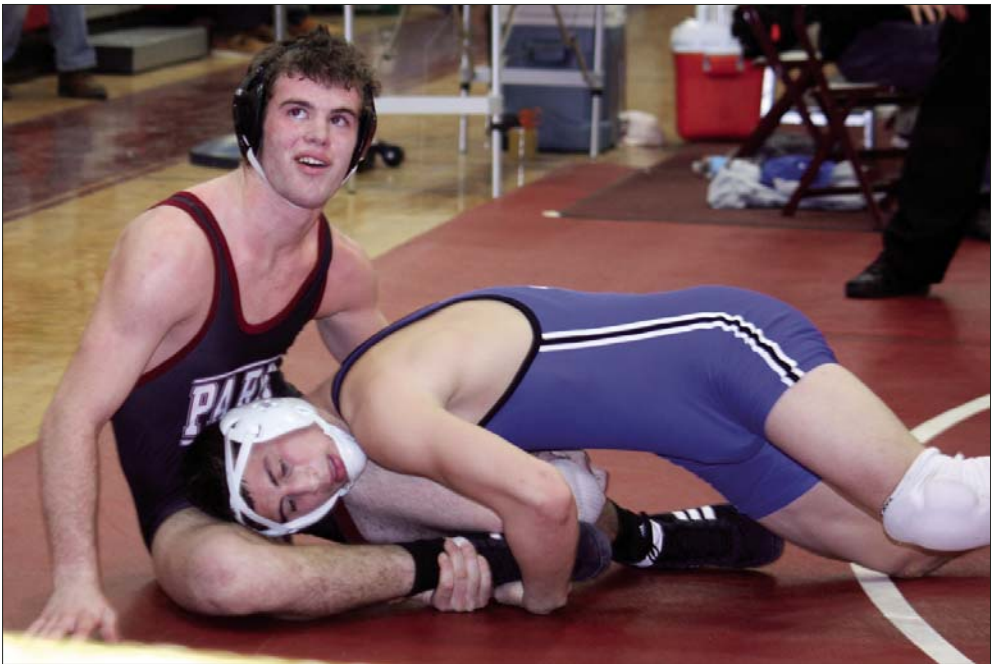
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(January 2014 files) Courtesy of Phyllis Mirabella for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**WINNING THE 145-LB CROWN...**Raider Brian Lapham, top, captured the 145-lb crown at the John Goles Tournament in Washington on December 27, 2014.



David B. Corbin (January 2014 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**SEALING THE VICTORY...**Blue Devil Nick Velez, right, seals the 152-lb crown with this takedown at the edge of the mat during the Roselle Park Tournament on December 28, 2013.

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

opening round of the Cougar Classic in Cranford.

Trotter, who also had seven assists, scored half of his 22 points in the overtime periods, and senior forward John Oblachinski, who grabbed eight of his team-leading 13 rebounds in overtime, finished with 17 points and five assists. Mike Guarriello netted 20 points and pulled seven rebounds. Cameron Kutzer had five points and five rebounds. Luke Christiano scored eight of his 14 points in overtime, Jack McCaffrey sank six points and Jack Schetelich added two points.

**December 27, 2013:** Converting from not using hands during soccer season to becoming chief thieves played out very well in a 45-8 Cranford girls basketball team victory over the Kent

Place Lady Dragons in the opening round of the Cougar Classic. In fact, rebounds took a back seat to steals as the Cougars committed, at least, 26 acts of thievery, and three girls, who were members of last fall's very successful soccer team, seniors Mairead McKeary and Hannah DeMars, and sophomore Lindsey Pace accounted for more than half of them among the 10 Cougars, who managed to get involved in the act of thievery.

**December 27, 2013:** Westfield seniors Natalie Marcotullio and Gabby Stravach finished 1-2 in the 800-meters with respective times of 2:26.94 and 2:27.53, while SPF Raider Jessica Banasiak finished sixth with a time of 2:31.98 at the Drew Invitational.

**December 28, 2013:** Westfield Blue Devils John Fuller, Matt Barber and Nick Velez claimed individual titles at the Roselle Park Invitational Tournament in Roselle Park. In the 113-lb title bout, Fuller scored a takedown on Jonathan Silva (Hanover Park) then pinned him in 2:25 using an arm bar and a half nelson.

Barber's championship bout was with a familiar foe in Panther Bobby Vail, who took a 2-0 lead with a first-period takedown, but Barber escaped. Barber added another escape in the second period to knot the score, but Vail took a 3-2 lead with an escape in the third period. Barber came back to score a takedown with :08 remaining to win, 4-3. Velez did wrestle a smart match with

Roselle Park Panther Pete Hilburn. After a scoreless first period, Hilburn escaped to take a 1-0 lead. Velez escaped early in the third then added a turn-in double-leg takedown to win, 3-1.

**December 27, 2012:** True teamwork presented itself in glaring fashion as senior point guard Xavier Noel-Brooks dished out 10 of his team's 20 assists in the SPF boys basketball team's 62-51 victory over the Bishop Ahr Trojans in the first round of the Keith Benovengo Tournament in Scotch Plains. Noel-Brooks, who scored six points, also pulled down 10 rebounds, which led to his ability to set up senior forward Tom Bonacum, who netted 29 points, on fast breaks.

**December 27, 2012:** Senior Jeff Weiss began the momentum

and junior Corey Birch clinched the team victory as the Cranford wrestling team sent a clear message and toppled the No. 20-ranked Brearley Bears in Cranford. The 6-1 Cougars needed to get bonus points wherever they could and did, beginning with Weiss when he lifted Jordan Velez with a Claw and pried him to his back for the fall in 4:45 at 220-lbs. With the Cougars leading 35-12, Birch jumped up to 152-lbs and tore into Bear Eoghan Sovona recording four takedowns, a reversal and a pair of nearfalls to seize a 14-5, majority decision to seal the team victory.

**December 28, 2012:** Two Union County teams occupied the top-two spots when it came to team scores at the Panther

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David B. Corbin (January 2013 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**LOOKING FOR THE BACK POINTS...**Blue Devil Brian Bulger looks for back points in his 182-lb title bout with Shane Conlon of West Milford. Bulger pinned Conlon in 3:40 using a Jacobs' hook to an arm bar (December 28, 2012).



David B. Corbin (January 2014 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**ADEPT AT SLEIGHT OF HAND...**Cougar senior Mairead McKeary, right, was one of her team's "Chief Thieves" in the opening round game of the Cougar Classic against Kent Place on December 27, 2013.

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Invitational Wrestling Tournament in Roselle Park. The hosting Panthers took top honors with a 206 total and the Westfield Blue Devils finished second with 194 points. The Blue Devils sent seven wrestlers into the finals and emerged with two champions, Colin Barber (160-lbs) and Brian Bulger (182-lbs). In the title bout against Pat Van Duyne of West Milford, Barber got an early reversal and controlled Van Duyne throughout the remainder of the second period. Van Duyne escaped in the third period, but Barber nailed him with a lateral drop takedown to claim a 4-1 victory. In his title bout, Bulger took Shane Conlon (West Milford) to the mat twice in the first period with double-leg

takedowns, but he put the icing on the cake when he added another takedown and shifted to a Jacobs' hook tilt to an arm bar to pin him in 3:40. **December 27, 2011:** The Blue Devil wrestling team found enough traction to claim five individual champions and to place second at the Panther Invitational in Roselle Park. Top-seeded Mike Kalimtzis claimed the 120-lb crown with a 7-2 win over Joe Zecca (Hanover Park). Ellis Opoku grabbed the 145-lb title when he handled Mark Comayagua (North Plainfield). At 170-lbs, Mike DeLouisa pinned Steve Loevsky (Roselle Park) in 2:58 to claim the crown. Nick Knepper defeated Nick Haboj (Madison), 2-0, in the 195-lb finals for the title. Heavy-

weight Kyle Kania wrestled smartly to defeat Javier Cruz (Piscataway), 4-1, for the title. **December 28, 2011:** Free throw shooting percentage surely played a major role when the Blue Devil boys basketball team hit 22 of 28 from the line en route to a 56-47 victory over the Holmdel Hornets in the semifinal round of the Butch Kowal Tournament in Rahway. Nate Mitchell finished with 15 points, which included banging four 3-pointers. Sophomore forward Mike Androconis, however, was a killer not only at the line, hitting nine of 10 shots to finish with a game-high 17 points, but also under the boards with 10 rebounds. **December 29, 2011:** Outside shooting was ice cold in the first

half, so senior forward Morgan Miller came up with another idea. She began driving toward the basket and found the success that the Cougar girls basketball team needed to defeat the West Orange Mountaineers, 38-32, in the championship game of the Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament in Cranford. Miller finished with 20 points, including two 3-pointers and hitting four of six from the stripe. Jess McCoy led the team with five steals and added eight points. **December 29, 2011:** Despite an early jolt from the West Orange Mountaineers, the Cougar boys basketball team eventually found the right formula to come up with a 60-53 victory in the championship game of the

Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament in Cranford. Junior forward Reggie Green, who scored 10 of his team's 13 points in the first quarter, finished with 20 points and 15 rebounds. Stefan Fedorchak scored 17 points. Junior forward Kurt Rutmayer got underneath the boards with six rebounds and finished with 10 points. Point guard Sean Babos finished with 12 points and four assists. **December 28, 2010:** Senior point guard Sean Trotter pumped in a career-high 33 points, including two 3-pointers and nine free throws, to lead the 2-1 Cougar boys basketball team to a 75-70 victory over the North Plainfield Canucks at the Cru-

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David B. Corbin (January 2013 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**TOUGH MAN TO HANDLE...**Raider forward Tom Bonacum, No. 1, was very tough for Bishop Ahr to handle. Bonacum scored 29 points and had five assists, six rebounds and three steals (December 27, 2012).



David B. Corbin (January 2013 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**SHIFTING FROM THE JACOBS' HOOK...**Cougar Gavin Murray, top, shifts from a Jacobs' hook to a head smother to pin Brearley's Kevin Torres in 1:08 in his 132-lb bout (December 27, 2012).



David B. Corbin (January 2012 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**DRIVING TO THE BASKET...**Cougar Jess McCoy, No. 20, drives to the basket for a lay-up during the championship game with West Orange. McCoy finished with eight points and five steals. (December 29, 2011)



David B. Corbin (January 2012 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**DRIBBLING PAST A HORNET...**Blue Devil Keegan Hess, right, avoids getting stung as he dribbles past a Hornet defender during the Butch Kowal Tournament in Rahway on December 28, 2011.  
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Fred Lecomte (January 2006 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**MANEUVERING AROUND A RAM...**Raider Greg Bayard, left, maneuvers around Ram defenders in a John “Butch” Kowal consolation game. Bayard scored 11 points as the Raiders defeated Wardlaw-Hartridge, 73-32 (December 29, 2005).



Fred Lecomte (January 2006 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**HUGE ASSET IN PLAY MAKING AND ASSISTS...**Blue Devil Gab O'Leary, No. 10, drives toward the basket in the title game against Jonathan Dayton. O'Leary had seven assists and scored six points in the Blue Devils' 52-30 victory (December 30, 2005).

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

sader Classic tournament in Bound Brook. Reggie Green scored 13 points, Joey Papandrea netted seven points, Mark Osofsky nailed three 3-pointers for nine points, Kurt Rutmayer put up six points.

**December 28, 2010:** The Cougar girls basketball team evened its record to 2-2 with a 45-21 thrashing of the Livingston Lancers in the first round of the Mountaineer Tournament in West Orange. Jess McCoy bucketed 11 points and added two blocks, two steals and three rebounds. Kate McGovern netted 10 points. Sara Gugliucci finished with eight points. Brie Capece hit a pair of 3-pointers, Jenna Goeller had three points and Mairead McKeary had two points.

**December 28, 2010:** Westfield junior Mike Kalimtzis and senior Christian Barber won their respective weight classes at the Roselle Park wrestling tournament in Roselle Park. The Blue Devils placed fourth, just behind Hanover Park. The Howell Rebels repeated as champions and the hosting Panthers finished second. Seeded first at 103-lbs, Kalimtzis claimed the title with a 6-1 victory over Anthony Arce (Hanover Park). Seeded first at 152, Barber put on a takedown clinic in the finals to seize a 12-4, majority decision over Howell's Zach Bohm. Brian Bulger placed second at 160-lbs. Ellis Opoku placed second at 140 lbs. with a 9-6 victory over Anthony Bassolino (Hanover Park) and a 7-0 win over Phil

Woods of Roselle Park, before loosing by fall to Cole Cameron of Howell. At 135 lbs., Nick Rotundo pinned Jack Weinberg (West Milford) to reach the finals where he was defeated by Roselle Park Panther Nick Longo.

**December 29, 2010:** Raider juniors Mike Steinfeld and Sean Cannon placed first and second, respectively, in their weight classes at the John Goles wrestling tournament at Warren Hills High School in Washington. Seeded second at 140 lbs., Steinfeld defeated Aron Sabino (West Morris), 7-2, to claim the title. Cannon dropped a 3-2 decision to North Hunterdon's Chris Cancelliere in the 145-lb title bout. Heavyweight Anthony Tufaro claimed third place and improved

to 6-1 when he settled Zach Krulan (West Morris) in 5:37.

**December 30, 2008:** Senior John Barnes became the first Blue Devil wrestler to win an individual title at the Panther Invitational Tournament held in Roselle Park since Robby Mench won the 103-lb title on the same date in 2003. In the 130-lb title bout, Barnes hit a smooth barrel roll and added a pair of single-leg takedowns to grab a 7-2 decision over Evan Poole of West Milford. Senior Nick DeFreitas reached the finals and placed second at 125-lbs.

**December 30, 2008:** Kaylin Jaichon put up 13 points and pulled down 11 rebounds to lead the Raider girls basketball team to a 47-25 thrashing of Vestavia,

Ala. to place fifth in the KSA Tournament in Orlando, Fla.. Laura Degnan sank 10 points and Jackie law had nine points, 12 rebounds, four assists, three steals and two blocks.

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